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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
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Report

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English and French only

REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE ON ITS ACTIVITIES

OUTLINE

Source: Article 29.3 of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage stipulates that “the Committee shall submit a report on its activities at each of the ordinary sessions of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization”.

Background: The Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the World Heritage Committee, was established by the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by the General Conference at its 17th session on 16 November 1972.

Purpose: This document presents the report concerning the main activities and decisions taken by the World Heritage Committee since the eighteenth 18th session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention held from 7 to 9 November 2011. Information related to the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee (16-27 June 2013, Phnom Penh, Cambodia) is included.

I. Overview and structure of this document

1. This document is intended to provide the UNESCO General Conference with information regarding the main activities and decisions taken by the World Heritage Committee since the 18th General Assembly of States Parties (7-9 November 2011) in the implementation of the Convention.

2. In order to better present the varied information contained in this document, the main activities and decisions of the World Heritage Committee have been grouped according to its Strategic Objectives. The Strategic Objectives, adopted by the Committee at its 26th session (Budapest, 2002), are the following:

- (a) strengthen the **credibility** of the World Heritage List;
- (b) ensure the effective **conservation** of the World Heritage properties;
- (c) promote the development of effective **capacity-building** in States Parties;
- (d) increase public awareness, involvement and support for World Heritage through **communication**.¹

3. To the four Strategic Objectives mentioned above (also called “4 Cs”), the Committee, at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), decided to add a “Fifth C” for “Communities” which reads as follows: “To enhance the role of communities in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention” (Decision 31 COM 13B).

II. Background information

A. Number of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention

4. As of May 2013, there are 190 States Parties to the Convention.² Since the 18th General Assembly in 2011, Brunei-Darussalam, Palestine as well as Singapore have joined the Convention.

B. Current Members of the World Heritage Committee and Bureau

5. **21 members:** Algeria, Cambodia, Colombia, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Germany, India, Iraq, Japan, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Qatar, Russian Federation, Senegal, Serbia, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, United Arab Emirates.

Their terms of office are:

Until the **end of the 37th session of the General Conference** (2013): Cambodia, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Iraq, Mali, Mexico, Russian Federation, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, United Arab Emirates;

Until the **end of the 38th session of the General Conference** (2015): Algeria, Colombia, Germany, India, Japan, Malaysia, Qatar, Senegal, Serbia.

¹ See Decision **26 COM 17.1** (Budapest, 2002).

² The list of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention is available at the following web address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/>.

Composition of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee since July 2011

JUNE 2011-JULY 2012	JULY 2012-JUNE 2013	JUNE 2013
Chairperson: H.E. Ms Eleonora MITROFANOVA , Russian Federation	Chairperson: H.E. Dr SOK AN , Cambodia	Chairperson: H.E. Sheika AL MAYASSA BINT HAMAD AL-THANI , Qatar
Rapporteur: Ms Beatriz , Hernández Narváez , Mexico	Rapporteur: Ms Jasna Zrnovic , Serbia	Rapporteur: Mr Francisco J. Gutierrez , Colombia
France	Algeria	Algeria
Malaysia	Colombia	Colombia
Mexico	Senegal	Germany
South Africa	Switzerland	Japan
United Arab Emirates	Thailand	Senegal

C. Number of reserved seats in the World Heritage Committee

6. As per paragraphs (b) and (c) respectively of the Rule 14.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention: In case one or more electoral group(s), as defined by the UNESCO General Conference at its most recent session, might have no State Party in the composition of the next Committee, one seat per such electoral group(s) shall be reserved; notwithstanding, at each election, one seat shall be reserved for States Parties with no property on the World Heritage List.

D. World Heritage Statutory Meetings since the 18th General Assembly (7-9 November 2011)

SESSION	VENUE	DATES	DOCUMENTS PREPARED
36th session of the World Heritage Committee (36 COM)	Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation	24 June-6 July 2012	39 working documents/ 16 information documents (WHC-12/36.COM)
37th session of the World Heritage Committee (37 COM)	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	16-27 June 2013	36 working documents/ 16 information documents (WHC-13/37.COM)
TOTAL: 75 working documents/32 information documents			(107 documents in total)

E. Strengthening the credibility of the World Heritage List

Nominations to the World Heritage List

Inscription of properties on the World Heritage List since the 18th General Assembly (2011):

Region	New cultural properties	New natural properties	New mixed properties	Total
Africa	3	3	0	6
Arab States	4	0	0	4
Asia/Pacific	11	4	1	16
Europe/North America	15	2	0	17
Latin America/Caribbean	1	1	0	2
TOTAL	34	10	1	45

7. The total number of properties on the World Heritage List as of July 2013 is 981 (759 cultural, 193 natural and 29 mixed).³ These properties are located in 160 States Parties (i.e. 30 States Parties have no property inscribed on the World Heritage List). One hundred and seventy one States Parties have submitted Tentative Lists of properties they may decide to nominate in future years.

Inscription of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger since the 18th General Assembly (2011)

Committee Session	Number of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger	Number of properties removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger
36 COM (Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, 2012)	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) • Timbuktu (Mali) • Tomb of Askia (Mali) • Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobello-San Lorenzo (Panama) • Birthplace of Jesus, Church of the Nativity and the pilgrimage route, Bethlehem (Palestine) 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines) • Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan)
37 COM (Phnom Penh, 2013)	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solomon Islands, East Rennell • Ancient City of Damascus (Syria) • Ancient City of Bosra (Syria) • Site of Palmyra (Syria) • Ancient City of Aleppo (Syria) • Crac des Chevaliers and Qal'at Salah (Syria) • Ancient Villages of Northern Syria (Syria) 	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bam and its Cultural Landscape (Iran)

³ The World Heritage List is available on the web at the following address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/>.

8. The total number of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger as of July 2013 is 44 (26 cultural and 18 natural).⁴

Deletion of properties from the World Heritage List

9. None since 2009.

Global strategy for a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List

10. International, interregional and regional meetings and workshops have been organized for the implementation of the Global Strategy: Details of all these activities have been included in documents WHC-12/36.COM/5A and WHC-13/37.COM/5A.

F. Ensuring the effective conservation of World Heritage properties

State of conservation reports of World Heritage properties examined by the Committee since the 18th General Assembly (2011)

36 COM	LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER	WORLD HERITAGE LIST
Africa	14	19
Arab States	5	11
Asia/Pacific	6	20
Europe/North America	4	37
Latin America/ Caribbean	6	19
TOTAL	35	106

37 COM	LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER	WORLD HERITAGE LIST
Africa	16	18
Arab States	6	15
Asia/Pacific	4	23
Europe/North America	5	40
Latin America/ Caribbean	7	23
TOTAL	38	119

Approved International Assistance (IA) from the World Heritage Fund since the 18th General Assembly (2011) as of July 2013

REGIONS	NUMBER OF STATES PARTIES TO REQUEST IA	NUMBER OF REQUESTS	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROVED (in USD)
Africa	8	9	351,946
Arab States	1	1	30,000
Asia and Pacific	5	5	139,262
Europe and North America	0	0	0
Latin America & Caribbean	5	5	96,891
TOTAL	19	20	618,099

⁴ The list of World Heritage in Danger is available on the web at the following address : <http://whc.unesco.org/en/danger/>

Periodic reporting

11. The final report on the results of the second cycle of the periodic reporting exercise for Asia and the Pacific; the progress report on the follow-up of the first cycle and preparation of the second cycle of the periodic reporting exercise for Europe and North America; the progress report in the periodic reporting exercise for Latin America and the Caribbean as well as the follow-up of the second cycle of the periodic reporting exercise for Africa were presented to the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee (Saint-Petersburg, 2012). The final report on the results of the second cycle of the periodic reporting exercise for Latin America and the Caribbean, the progress report on the second cycle of the periodic reporting exercise for Europe and North America, as well as the follow-up of the second cycle of the periodic reporting exercise for the other regions were presented at the 37th session of the Committee.

Reinforced monitoring mechanism

12. As per Decision **31 COM 5.2**, the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism is a constant cooperative process with the State Party concerned.

13. At its 36th session (Saint Petersburg, 2012), the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism (RMM) was newly applied to the World Heritage property of Timbuktu in Mali. The RMM continues to be applied to the following properties:

- Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan)
- Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of Congo)
- Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of Congo)
- Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of Congo)
- Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of Congo)
- Manovo Gounda St. Floris National Park (Central African Republic)
- Temple of Preah Vihear (Cambodia)
- Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Serbia)

14. At its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013), the Committee decided to continue applying the RMM to the above-mentioned properties and decided to add the Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of Congo) to this List.

International conferences and symposiums

15. A number of international conferences and symposiums focused on various World Heritage issues were organized by the World Heritage Centre or with the Centre's assistance. An inventory of these activities is included in document WHC-13/37.COM/5A. A specific report on the 40th anniversary celebrations has been presented to the 37th session of the Committee (document WHC-13/37.COM/5E) and will be presented as well to the 19th session of the General Assembly.

16. A **strategic action plan and vision** to guide the implementation of the World Heritage Convention over the decade 2012-2022 has been adopted by the 18th General Assembly of States Parties (UNESCO, 2011). At its 36th session, the Committee welcomed the progress made in drafting the implementation plan by the World Heritage Centre and the advisory bodies and the efforts to further define various activities contained in the draft implementation plan. The Committee requested that the outcome and progress in the implementation of the strategic action plan be presented to the General Assembly at its 19th session in November 2013 for its consideration.

G. Promoting the development of effective capacity-building in States Parties

Global Training Strategy

17. Over the past biennium, the World Heritage Centre and the advisory bodies, in close cooperation with States Parties and relevant category 2 centres, have undertaken a number of activities which contributed directly to the implementation of the World Heritage for Capacity Building Strategy (WHCBS), adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session (Paris, 2011). These included programmes aimed at strengthening regional and national institutions responsible for heritage protection, training initiatives targeting professionals and youth and the development of new guidance materials.

Education activities

18. A number of international World Heritage youth fora, youth volunteer projects and international as well as regional workshop and training courses were organized by the World Heritage Centre or with the Centre's assistance to develop educational activities related to World Heritage (an inventory of these activities are included in document WHC-12/36.COM/5A and WHC-13/37.COM/5A).

19. New translations and adaptations of the World Heritage in Young Hands Educational Resource Kit for Teachers were undertaken in FYR Macedonia in close collaboration with the concerned Member State and the interactive DVD version in English of the kit has been finalized while the version in French is currently in production.

20. Four new episodes of the Patrimonito's World Heritage Adventures cartoon series were produced in close collaboration with the concerned Member States of Peru, Lebanon, Republic of Korea and China, on the themes role of communities and sustainable development.

H. Increasing public awareness, involvement and support for World Heritage through communication

Awareness-raising

21. In 2012, the World Heritage website <http://whc.unesco.org> received an average of 26,767 visits per day. Traffic to the World Heritage website has increased by 20%, from 8,106,854 visits in 2010 to 9,796,892 in 2012.

22. The e-mail newsletter "World Heritage Information" was sent in November 2011 and in April, July and November 2012 in French or English to some 80,000 World Heritage Centre website members.

23. Articles and interviews on world heritage have been published through working with numerous national and international well-known media.

24. In the framework of the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, more than 70 events were organized worldwide in 47 countries and a series of communication components were developed by the World Heritage Centre to promote the anniversary year. A detailed report on the celebrations is presented in document WHC-13/37.COM/5E and as a brochure "Looking forward".

Publications

25. In 2011-2012, 100,000 world heritage maps were produced and disseminated in English, French and Spanish in partnership with the Russian Federation and National Geographic (including 20,000 copies in Russian and 10,000 in Korean) and 71,000 copies in 2012-2013 in partnership with *National Geographic* and Cambodia.

26. Six new publications were issued in the World Heritage Papers Series:

World Heritage Papers Series

- No. 30, Adapting to change: the state of conservation of World Heritage forests in 2011 (English only);
- No. 31: Community Development through World Heritage (English only)
- No. 32. Assessing Marine World Heritage from an Ecosystem Perspective: the Western Indian Ocean (English only)
- No. 33. Human Origin sites and the World Heritage Convention in Africa (English only)
- No. 34. World Heritage in a Sea of Islands Pacific 2009 Programme (English only)
- No. 35 Understanding World Heritage in Asia and the Pacific: The Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting 2010-2012 (English only).

27. Seven issues of the quarterly magazine *World Heritage* (issues 62 to 68) were published between February 2012 and June 2013.

28. The 2012 and 2013 editions of the UNESCO World Heritage Desk Diary were published, for sale and limited free distribution.

29. In the context of the 40th anniversary, a volume of case studies on World Heritage, Sustainable development and local communities entitled *World Heritage: Benefits Beyond Borders* was co-published with Cambridge University Press. A book entitled *African World Heritage, a remarkable diversity* has also been launched during the celebrations of the 40th anniversary.

30. The World Heritage Resource Manual Series continues with a new title, translations of manuals and some printed versions: *Preparing World Heritage Nominations* (updated version 2011), translated into Arabic, printed in French and English; *Managing Natural World Heritage* printed in French and English.

Bilateral agreements with States Parties and partnerships

31. Since 2011, bilateral agreements have been concluded or continued with 17 States Parties and the European Commission, while the World Heritage Centre has consolidated and/or established 19 partnerships with private sector companies and foundations. The Centre manages all the agreements in cooperation with UNESCO Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP) and reports to the World Heritage Committee about each on-going partnership. An inventory of on-going and envisaged partnerships with the private sector is presented to the Committee in document WHC-13/37.COM/5D.

32. Furthermore, seven Memoranda of Understanding are currently implemented with universities, out of which two have been established since 2011.