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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
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**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Thirty-eighth session

**Doha, Qatar
15 – 25 June 2014**

Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda: Periodic Reports

10B: Progress Report on Periodic Reporting in all other regions

SUMMARY

This document contains a summary of follow-up activities of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting for: Asia and the Pacific (Section I), Africa (Section II), the Arab States (Section III) and Latin America and the Caribbean (Section IV).

Draft Decisions:

38 COM 10B.1 *see Section I;*

38 COM 10B.2 *see Section II;*

38 COM 10B.3 *see Section III;*

38 COM 10B.4 *see Section IV.*

I. FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES ON THE SECOND CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

A. Follow-up activities

1. At its 36th session (Saint Petersburg, 2012), the World Heritage Committee endorsed the report on the second cycle of Periodic Reporting in Asia and the Pacific and the regional Action Plans prepared by the States Parties during the meetings in Suwon, Republic of Korea, for Asia (<http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/activities/documents/activity-682-1.pdf>), and in Apia, Samoa, for the Pacific (<http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/activities/documents/activity-682-2.pdf>). Subsequently, a number of activities were organised to implement **Decision 36 COM 10A** in cooperation between States Parties, the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Field Offices, and the Advisory Bodies. These were reported to the Committee at its 37th session in June 2013. Despite the current financial difficulties, the following activities have been organised since July 2013, using extra-budgetary resources or partner institution contributions.
2. A sub-regional workshop was organized from 27 to 30 November 2013 in Suva, Fiji, as a follow-up to the Periodic Reporting exercise. It was hosted by the Fijian authorities and financially supported by the Australian Funds-in-Trust and the international assistance of the World Heritage Fund. More than 40 experts and representatives from 13 Pacific States Parties, the Advisory Bodies, regional partner organizations such as the Secretariat of Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Pacific Islands Museum Association (PIMA), the University of the South Pacific (USP), UNESCO Field Offices and the World Heritage Centre participated in the workshop. The workshop reviewed the progress towards the implementation of the Pacific World Heritage Action Plan (2010-2015) and the establishment of the Pacific Heritage Hub (PHH), also providing advice for their further follow-up.
3. As a follow up to the Suwon Action Plan for Asia, the International Symposium on "Revisiting Kathmandu: Safeguarding Living Urban Heritage" was organised from 25 to 29 November 2013 by the UNESCO Kathmandu Office, in collaboration with the Department of Archaeology of Nepal, ICOMOS Japan and the category 2 centre *World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region* (WHITR-AP). More than 140 participants from 22 countries gathered in the Kathmandu Valley for a fruitful discussion on four correlated themes: authenticity, management, community involvement and disaster risk management. Working sessions were organized at four component parts of the World Heritage property in cooperation with local authorities, enabling participants to carry out in-depth discussions with local professionals during site visits. The symposium resulted in the Kathmandu Statement, which captures the outcomes of the discussions on the above four themes. This regional exchange stressed the common challenges associated with living urban heritage in the Asian context and called for collaborative efforts in developing appropriate strategies and approaches for sustainable conservation and management of living urban heritage.
4. In line with World Heritage Committee Decisions 36 COM 10A and 37 COM 10 C.1, WHITR-AP, a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, was encouraged by the World Heritage Centre and ICCROM to develop a regional Capacity-building Strategy and associated programmes for the Asia and the Pacific region. In line with the priorities identified in the second cycle of Periodic Reporting, a questionnaire was circulated to national World Heritage focal points in the region, with the aim of designing and implementing relevant programmes to be provided by WHITR-AP and other providers of capacity building. WHITR-AP has finalised a Capacity-building Strategy and associated programmes for Asia and the Pacific document, which sets

forth strategic objectives for regional capacity building actions and includes associated programmes for their implementation. It includes an inventory of capacity building activities provided in the region and encourages information sharing and cooperation. The full document is available at: (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/682/>).

5. At its 37th session (Paris, November 2013), the UNESCO General Conference approved the establishment in Dehradun (India) of a Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for the Asia and the Pacific Region, as part of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO. The related Agreement, showing India's commitment to the protection of the world's natural heritage through its support of the new centre, is expected to be signed shortly by the Director-General of UNESCO and the Government of India. In this regard, capacity building and training activities on natural heritage in Asia and the Pacific will be further expanded by the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and this category 2 centre.
6. In collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, WHITR-AP and ICCROM continue to organise training activities to support the implementation of the Suwon Action Plan. In October 2014, a training workshop on Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) will be held in Viet Nam at the World Heritage properties of the Central Sector of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long, Hanoi, and Ha Long Bay, Quang Ninh Province. This workshop will be run in collaboration with the UNESCO Hanoi Office and Viet Nam's Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism. The workshop aims to provide participants with knowledge of management requirements for World Heritage properties and to discuss reporting and monitoring requirements, including State of Conservation reports and their implications for States Parties and site managers. In addition, the workshop will offer up-to-date knowledge and skills for using Heritage Impact Assessments as tools for evaluating impacts arising from various factors affecting heritage in general, and World Heritage properties in particular.
7. To further enhance regional cooperation, the International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (HIST, China), a category 2 centre hosted by the Centre of Earth Observation and Digital Earth (CEODE) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and affiliated with the Natural Sciences Sector of UNESCO - but which is also related to World Heritage - has initiated cooperation with World Heritage properties, such as Angkor in Cambodia. This partnership aims to collect baseline remote sensing data on the property and its surroundings, including on components as the development of a spatial database of the sites, the establishment of 3D and GIS information for the property, policy recommendations for heritage protection and sustainable development and training of heritage management professionals.

B. Draft Decision 38 COM 10B.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/10B,
2. Recalling decisions **36 COM 10A** and **37 COM 10 C.1**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint Petersburg, 2012) and 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013) respectively,
3. Welcomes the progress made in the follow-up of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Asia and the Pacific region;

4. Notes with appreciation the contribution of the Government of Australia to the organization of a sub-regional workshop in the Pacific for the follow-up of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting;
5. Also notes with appreciation the contribution of the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITR-AP), a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, to the implementation of integrated capacity building activities for the follow-up to the second cycle of Periodic Reporting; and the International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (HIST, China) for its initiative in promoting regional cooperation on World Heritage in Asia and the Pacific;
6. Encourages the Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region, established as part of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, to support capacity building and training activities for natural World Heritage in the region;
7. Calls upon Asia-Pacific States Parties to actively implement the Regional Action Plans and also encourages them to intensify their contributions to the implementation of follow-up activities while working closely with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
8. Further reminds States Parties which have not already done so to submit their Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value by **1 February 2015** at the latest, as well as clarifications of boundaries by **1 December 2014** at the latest;
9. Requests the World Heritage Centre to present a progress report on the implementation of the Action Plans for Asia and the Pacific region at its 39th session in 2015.

II. FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES ON THE SECOND CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING FOR AFRICA

A. Follow-up activities

1. Following the Committee's endorsement of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Africa Region and the regional Action Plan (Saint Petersburg, 2012), activities have continued to be organized to implement Decision **36 COM 10A** in cooperation with States Parties, the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Field Offices, and the Advisory Bodies. An update on the status of implementation of the Action Plan 2012 – 2017 for the Africa Region can be found on the following link: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/africa/>.
2. Highlights of activities undertaken since mid-2013 within the framework of the 2012-2017 Action Plan for Africa and its Regional Capacity Building Programme include:
 - a) In the framework of the three-year project "Implementation Programme of Second Periodic Report in Africa" for cultural heritage financed by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF):
 - i) Nomination training courses in Uganda (August 2013) and Cote d'Ivoire (November 2013);
 - ii) Risk-preparedness training workshops in Tunisia and Mauritius (both in November 2013);

- iii) Entrepreneurship training workshops in Ghana and Senegal (both in May 2014);
- b) In the framework of the “Africa Nature Programme,” financed by the Governments of Flanders (Belgium), Spain and the Netherlands and the MAVA Foundation:
 - i) Guidelines for engaging local communities in the conservation of natural World Heritage have been developed and tested in Kenya, Cameroon and Ethiopia. Their publication is foreseen in 2014, see: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/series/>;
 - ii) The “Enhancing our Heritage” management effectiveness assessments have been carried out at 10 African World Heritage sites;
 - iii) A World Heritage knowledge-sharing network was initiated, and a dedicated web site for the Africa Nature programme was developed: (<http://papaco.org/gb/>);
- 3. A training workshop on climate change adaptation for African natural World Heritage sites, and the final workshop for the pilot phase (2012-2014) of the Africa Nature Programme were held in Kenya in May 2014.

B. Draft Decision 38 COM 10B.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/10B,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 10A**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint Petersburg, 2012), and Decision **37 COM 10C.2** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom-Penh, 2013),
3. Welcomes the progress made in the follow-up of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Africa Region;
4. Notes with appreciation the financial contribution of the Governments of Norway, Flanders (Belgium), Spain, South Africa and the Netherlands, as well as UNDP/GEF Small Grants Programme and the MAVA Foundation to activities carried-out in the framework of the implementation of the Action Plan for the Africa Region and its Regional Capacity Building Programme;
5. Calls upon State Parties to financially and technically support the implementation of the Regional Action Plan for the Africa Region through follow-up activities with the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and the African World Heritage Fund;
6. Reiterates its request to State Parties to submit their national plans and budgets to the World Heritage Committee as indicated in the Expected Result 1 of the Action Plan for 2012-2017, and in accordance with the Management and Conservation Plans of the properties, in order to protect their Outstanding Universal Value;
7. Further reminds States Parties which have not already done so to submit their Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value by **1 February 2015** at the latest, as well as clarifications of boundaries by **1 December 2014** at the latest;
8. Requests the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, and with the support of States Parties, to continue its efforts to coordinate and implement the Regional Capacity Building Programme according to the Action Plan 2012-2017;

9. *Also requests the State Parties, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to pay special attention to the management of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger due to armed conflict;*
10. *Further requests the World Heritage Centre to present a progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan for the Africa region at its 39th session in 2015.*

III. FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES ON THE SECOND CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING FOR ARAB STATES

A. Follow-up activities

1. The Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Arab States was presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010). During its 35th session (Paris, 2011), the Committee approved the Regional Programme prepared by the Arab States with the support of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.
2. Following the Committee's Decision **35 COM 10C.3**, Natural Heritage Focal Points were designated by several countries at the Regional Workshop for Natural Heritage Focal Points (Amman, 2011), and at the Regional Meeting of the Focal Points for Cultural and Natural Heritage (Manama, 2012).
3. Several States Parties (Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Tunisia) have established national bodies for World Heritage, or are in the process of establishing them following a letter of the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee in 2011.
4. The Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), established as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, has supported financially the implementation of activities in 2013 related to the priorities defined by the Regional Programme: Revision of tentative lists, preparation of nomination files, management and conservation of World Heritage properties and improvement of access to information relating to the *Convention*.
5. A brainstorming workshop was held in April 2013 in the Old City of Suakin (Sudan) on the possibility of nominating the site for inscription on the World Heritage List.
6. A second expert meeting on the preservation of modern urban and architectural heritage in the Arab world was organised in Rabat (Morocco), in May 2013. The two objectives of the meeting were to continue consideration of the definition of modernist heritage and to decide which actions must be implemented in the short term to promote and preserve it.
7. The second Regional Meeting of the Focal Points for Cultural and Natural Heritage was held at the headquarters of the ARC-WH in Bahrain in November 2013. This meeting confirmed the need to gather all focal points once a year, in order to reinforce the exchange of good practices and the cooperation between States Parties, the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and the ARC-WH.
8. At its third meeting, on 4 February 2014, the Governing Board of the ARC-WH approved a new strategy and financing programme of up to USD 1,595,000 for activities in the Arab States. The new strategy puts an emphasis on natural heritage in the region, as well as on the World Heritage properties in danger.
9. The World Heritage Cities Programme has allowed to further the implementation of the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape in the Arab States. The first workshop was held in Muharraq (Bahrain) in April 2013, and showed the potential of

this standard-setting instrument for the conservation of urban ensembles. A regional workshop, held in Sfax (Tunisia) in December 2013, allowed for the testing of an approach centered on the historic urban landscape upstream of the nomination process to the World Heritage List. In February 2014, a training workshop on the Recommendation was organized in Kuwait. A regional meeting on the implementation of the Recommendation in the Arab States was held in Rabat (Morocco) in December 2013, in the interest of considering the political, socio-economic and cultural issues surrounding the development of urban historic ensembles, and the sustainability of that development. The participants adopted an action plan for the implementation of the Recommendation.

B. Draft Decision 38 COM 10B.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined document WHC-14/38.COM/10B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **35 COM 10C.3**,*
3. *Takes note of the progress accomplished in the follow-up of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Arab States and encourages them to continue their efforts in the implementation of its recommendations;*
4. *Commends the States Parties of the Arab Region for their commitment and thanks all focal points for their effective participation and involvement;*
5. *Notes with satisfaction the increased number of focal points designated for issues related to natural heritage and reiterates its request to those States Parties that have not yet done so yet to designate a focal point for nature;*
6. *Further encourages the States Parties to follow the recommendation of the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee (June 2011), in her letter to the Arab States regarding the establishment of national entities for World Heritage;*
7. *Also encourages the States Parties to continue in the implementation of the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, in order to enhance the conservation of urban ensembles inscribed on the World Heritage List;*
8. *Notes with appreciation the commitment and important financial contribution of the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), based in Bahrain, to projects aiming at developing the implementation of the Convention in the Arab States and invites the Arab States to reinforce their cooperation with the ARC-WH;*
9. *Further reminds States Parties which have not already done so to submit their Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value by **1 February 2015** at the latest, as well as clarifications of boundaries by **1 December 2014** at the latest.*

IV. FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES ON THE SECOND CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

A. Follow-up activities

Pursuant to Decision **37 COM 10A** adopted by the World Heritage Committee during its 37th session and based on the results of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise for Latin America and the Caribbean, the States Parties in the Region, in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, Advisory Bodies and category 2 centres, held a regional meeting in Brasilia from 23 to 25 April 2014 to elaborate the 2014-2024 Regional Action Plan. This meeting was organized with the support of the Brazilian government through the National Institute for Historic and Artistic Heritage (IPHAN). This meeting was a crucial step in achieving the objectives set in the Periodic Reporting exercise, not only to create a platform for discussion in order to identify priority lines of action at regional level, but also to define specific activities related to conservation, management, capacity-building and regional cooperation, which reflect the region's needs and its specificities in the field of World Heritage.

The Action Plan included in Annex I will guide efforts towards protecting and promoting the Region's World Heritage in order to respond to its specific needs. Special emphasis will be given to priorities and resources identified throughout the process. Cooperation and networking which has been reinforced during the aforementioned process are considered by States Parties as fundamental for the implementation of the Action Plan. The protection of World Heritage will be supported by synergies within the region to contribute in achieving the goals established by the identified regional lines of action. The process also illustrated the diversity in the needs and situations affecting the Management and Conservation of World Heritage in the region. Each of the three sub-regions (Mexico and Central America, the Caribbean and South America) has already started defining the main lines of action of their respective sub-regional Action Plan. A first meeting to elaborate the action plan for the Caribbean is scheduled for the second half of 2014 in Cuba. Representatives from the UNESCO category 2 centre for World Heritage in Zacatecas (Mexico) and the UNESCO Lucio Costa category 2 centre for the Management of Heritage in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) took part in the meeting on the elaboration of the regional Action Plan. In accordance with Decision **37 COM 10A**, they started coordinating their activities to implement the Capacity-building Strategy and the associated programmes.

B. Draft Decision 38 COM 10B.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined document WHC-14/38.COM 10B,
2. Recalling Decision **37COM 10A** adopted at the 37th session (Phnom Penh, June 2013),
3. Congratulates the States Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean Region for their efforts to continue follow-up actions to the exercise of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for Latin America and the Caribbean, and adopts the 2014-2024 regional Action Plan;

4. Notes with appreciation the support of the Government of Brazil and the National Institute for Historic and Artistic Heritage (IPHAN) in organizing the regional meeting "Towards defining an Action Plan for World Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean", in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Office in Brasilia, the Advisory Bodies and the category 2 centres of the Region;
5. Encourages States Parties and all other World Heritage partners and stakeholders in Latin America and the Caribbean to cooperate actively to ensure the implementation of the Action Plan;
6. Calls upon the States Parties from the Region to support the implementation of the 2014-2024 Action Plan and also encourages them to provide technical and financial resources at national level for its implementation;
7. Also encourages States Parties to continue working, in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, Advisory Bodies and the Region's category 2 centres, to develop sub-regional action plans, based on the Action Plan and taking into consideration the specific needs of each sub-region ;
8. Acknowledges the progress made by the States Parties of Mexico and Brazil in effectively establishing the UNESCO category 2 centre for the World Heritage in Zacatecas, Mexico, as well as the UNESCO Lucio Costa category 2 centre of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and strongly encourages them to continue their efforts in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, States Parties and Advisory Bodies to initiate a capacity-building programme for the management and conservation of World Heritage in the region;
9. Also calls upon States Parties from other regions to support the efforts of the Latin American and the Caribbean Region in implementing the Action Plan, in the spirit of the international cooperation promoted by the World Heritage Convention;
10. Further reminds States Parties which have not already done so to submit their Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value by **1 February 2015** at the latest, as well as clarifications of boundaries by **1 December 2014** at the latest;
11. Requests the World Heritage Centre to provide information on the progress made in the implementation of the regional Action Plan and sub-regional action plans at its 40th session in 2016.

ACTION PLAN FOR WORLD HERITAGE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (2014-2024)

The current Regional Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean for 2014-2024 has been elaborated by the State Parties of the Latin America and the Caribbean Region in close collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, the Category 2 Centres of the Region and the World Heritage Centre issued on the outcome of the Regional Meeting “Towards an Action Plan for World Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean”, which took place in Brasilia (Brazil), 23-25th April 2014. This document responds to the request made by **Decision 37COM 10A**, adopted by the World Heritage Committee in its 37th session in Phnom Penh in June 2013.

The Action Plan constitutes a specific agenda that will serve mainly to promote regional cooperation, to reinforce synergies and to strengthen coordination of the Latin America and the Caribbean World Heritage Community’s efforts. The Action Plan has been designed in response to the specific context and needs identified by State Parties, and formulated into priority actions and activities for the next decade.

This regional Plan provides a common framework on the priority actions and activities of the region as a whole; thus it may not necessarily reflect the position and the specific needs of each State Party.

I. REGIONAL CONTEXT

So far, 32 countries in the region have ratified the World Heritage Convention and there are 129 properties inscribed on the World Heritage List: 90 cultural properties, 36 natural properties and 3 mixed properties recognized for their Outstanding Universal Value. The Latin America and the Caribbean Region possesses a rich and diverse cultural and natural heritage as well as diverse social, political and economic conditions. Despite the economic growth of many of its countries, poverty and unequal income distribution still affects the region. It can also be said of the diversity of institutional situations concerning heritage policies of each country.

II. OBJECTIVES

As well as providing a framework to promote regional cooperation, the strengthening of synergies and the coordination of the efforts of the Community of World Heritage in the region, the Action Plan furthermore wishes to define an experimental strategic action programme, in order to generate good practices in the region.

The Action Plan is structured around the strategic objectives for the implementation of the Convention, synthesized in the Budapest Declaration on World Heritage (adopted in 2002), which were reaffirmed and finalised in 2007:

- Strengthen the **Credibility** of the World Heritage List, as a representative and geographically balanced testimony of cultural and natural properties of Outstanding Universal Value; ensure the effective **Conservation** of World Heritage properties;
- Promote the development of effective **Capacity-building** measures, including assistance for preparing the nomination of properties to the World Heritage List, for the understanding and implementation of the World Heritage Convention and related instruments;
- Increase public awareness, involvement and support for World Heritage through **Communication**.

- Enhance the role of **Communities** in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

The overall goal that brings together all the others is that heritage can be a factor of sustainable development that contributes to: a) improve the quality of life of the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean b) poverty reduction c) gender equality and d) to promote cultural and natural diversity.

III. GENERAL STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Cooperation:

Cooperation is an essential guiding principle for the implementation of the Plan. It involves the implementation of priority regional actions, to provide synergies between countries and the World Heritage sites in the region, whilst taking into account the cultural, social, political and economic diversity, reinforcing the principles of South-South cooperation and stimulating North-South cooperation in the development of those actions.

Funding:

In order to ensure the viability of this Action it is necessary to use mechanisms that integrate expected actions into governmental, intergovernmental and other agencies' agendas, articulating national, regional and international strategic partnerships.

Pilot projects:

The plan proposes the development of pilot projects that reflect the priorities of the region and represent testing grounds, with the aim of developing good practices in the conservation and management of World Heritage. These projects are seen as strategic for cooperation and furthermore as an opportunity to implement its strategic objectives. The pilot projects would be selected by taking into consideration general criteria, including: how they meet the needs of one of the prioritized categories, how they meet the agreed principles of the Plan, how they contribute to the development of the five strategic objectives of the Convention and how it benefits from an effective participation of the State Party for its implementation. Specific criteria will be defined at a sub-regional level and must correspond to the defined prioritized categories and rely on the World Heritage Programs already in place.

Monitoring:

The implementation of the Action Plan will be monitored by the World Heritage Centre with the States Parties at a sub-regional level every three years at least, in order to identify the current strengths and points of weakness and to propose the necessary adjustments to achieve the objectives. Indicators for different actions and performance targets will be defined in subregional plans.

IV. REGIONAL PRIORITIES

The Plan provides challenges identified in one or more sub-regions of Latin America and the Caribbean, considered as regional priority issues by the States Parties. In addition, the Plan provides information on some heritage categories considered relevant for the region; special attention will be given to them in the next decade.

1. Education, communication and information

Education in a very large sense has been identified as a necessity to improve the comprehension, conservation and management of cultural and natural heritage. Therefore, it is essential to develop outreach activities at all levels and particularly targeting different groups in society (civil society, including children and young people, local, traditional and

indigenous communities, managers and political decision-makers, etc.), with the purpose of raising awareness of the sentiment and the value of cultural and natural heritage as an identity factor and a tool for development.

2. Integrated heritage management

States Parties in the Region have identified the urgent need to establish and improve mechanisms and tools that contribute to effective and sustainable heritage management based on an integrated perspective. Questions related to management indicators, integrated management approaches for natural sites containing cultural components or vice versa, and governance and public use management are joined by another fundamental element: that of disaster risk management (analysis, prevention and mitigation).

The region is subject to high geographical and climatic vulnerability, which has considerable effects on World Heritage. Natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, torrential rains, fires, among others, have had significant impacts on several World Heritage properties in the Region. This highlights the existence of limited mechanisms and tools to assess, prevent and mitigate those impacts. Furthermore, human-induced hazards such as armed conflict were also considered important.

Priority actions regarding these issues will be addressed through capacity-building activities for disaster risk management and reduction, particularly concerning the increase of phenomena derived from **climate change**. Furthermore it is necessary to take measures not only to know how heritage can be preserved but also to take into account the way in which heritage can be used to improve resilience to natural and human-induced disasters.

3. Sustainable tourism in World Heritage sites

Although tourism is considered an opportunity for development and improving conservation of the World Heritage in the Region, the current context reveals that increasing tourism is one of the important threats that should be considered in management and conservation of World Heritage sites in the Region. A significant number report a spectacular increasing flow of visitors without having appropriate planning mechanisms and tools to deal with its effects, as well as an increase in threats related to the infrastructure and development services needed to satisfy the tourism demands. Increasing tourism has also led, in some cases, to gentrification and other social impacts, and in several World Heritage properties, the benefits of tourism have neither led to an improvement of the local population's living conditions nor to the creation of sustainable means of subsistence.

However, efforts are underway in the region that could provide valuable lessons on the challenges improving tourism management and developing tourism as an activity that contributes effectively to sustainable development. Efforts for that matter will progressively reinforce local participation as well as the capacities of all agents so that tourism can be a factor in heritage conservation and the sustainable development of local, traditional and indigenous communities.

4. Categories of Heritage

Urban Heritage

Population growth and urban densification present a challenge for the Urban Heritage of the region due to its impact on quality of life and especially, on certain vulnerable groups. It is necessary to cope with urgent pressure and, in particular, potential impacts of development projects.

Although progress has been made, the coordination of conservation plans with comprehensive urban and territorial planning remains a priority for the region, as well as the coordination of different spheres of management and joint responsibility for urban and heritage management.

Natural Sites

The immense wealth of Natural Heritage in the Region is currently not represented sufficiently in the World Heritage List. However, recent studies indicate that the region has great potential to fill the gaps regarding those properties in the List, ensuring its credibility and World Conservation. Marine Sites are a very important category of natural sites; a dedicated World Heritage Programme that targets this category of heritage can be helpful.

Moreover, management mechanisms and tools for Natural Sites have to be improved to ensure their conservation and a better awareness of their Outstanding Universal Value amongst the general public and, in particular, amongst local, traditional and indigenous communities.

Cultural Landscapes

As with Natural Sites, only 8 Cultural Landscapes are inscribed in the World Heritage List in LAC, which does not completely reflect the region's diversity. It is necessary to generate knowledge for improving understanding, conservation and management in this heritage category, as well as identification of possible nominations for inscription on the World Heritage List. Similarly, this category shares with the other priority categories the challenge of identifying appropriate management mechanisms and tools.

Archaeological Heritage

Archaeological remains in the region are also facing a series of challenges, from conservation to multidisciplinary management, and in particular issues related to tourism and large infrastructural endeavours. Furthermore, archaeological remains can be a particularly vulnerable category of heritage when are not of a monumental nature, because of the lack of recognition of its importance. Several World Heritage sites lack established general-planning tools to allow decision making. Therefore, the development of National Conservation Plans (or international, depending on the sites) has been requested through multidisciplinary criteria.

V. ACTION PLAN

Objective 1: Strengthen the CREDIBILITY of the World Heritage List					
Expected outcome:					
- Improvement of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention - Strengthening of the States Parties' involvement in processes of the World Heritage Convention - Update and harmonisation of the Tentative Lists in order to contribute to the Global Strategy					
Actions	Led by	Partners	2014-2018	2018-2021	2021-2024
Action 1: Reinforce implementation of the World Heritage Convention					
1.1.1- Develop education and outreach strategies at regional, sub-regional and national levels in relation to duties and benefits under the World Heritage Convention and the World Heritage concepts	SP	WHC AB			
1.1.2- Review the legislative and institutional frameworks and policies to determinate their effectiveness and appropriateness for cultural and natural heritage conservation and management, and for their improvement and harmonisation with the other national laws of each State Party	SP	WHC AB			
1.1.3- Develop/update tools in order to integrate World Heritage conservation into larger political and development agendas at the State Party and international levels.	SP	WHC AB			
1.1.4- Improve inter-institutional and inter-sectorial cooperation and involve non-governmental organizations and community organizations in heritage conservation and management.	SP	WHC			
1.1.5- Promote the World Heritage Convention as a tool for respecting the cultural and natural diversity of the region	SP WHC AB C2C UFO				
Action 2: Improve participation of the LAC region in the processes of the World Heritage Convention					
1.2.1- Promote the establishment and functioning of mechanisms for greater internal coordination and collaboration on conservation and management of the World Heritage, in accordance with the specific conditions of each State Party.	SP				
1.2.2- Promote effective coordination and communication between focal points and related agencies of each State Party to assure active participation in World Heritage programs	WHC	SP UFO			
Action 3: Update and harmonize tentative lists and improve nomination processes					
1.3.1- Complete and update national inventories and Tentative Lists to duly attain a larger representation of categories and types of properties	SP	WHC AB			

1.3.2- Promote regional cooperation and integration through trans-boundary and serial properties for greater understanding of the significance and authenticity of properties and for revitalising relationships that contribute to their sustainability.	SP	WHC AB			
1.3.3- Identify gaps in the region for the development of thematic studies and comparative studies	WHC AB	C2C			
1.3.4- Implement regional and sub-regional workshops for the harmonization of tentative lists	SP WHC AB	C2C			
1.3.5- Prioritize nominations of properties in under-represented categories that contribute to a balanced representation of the cultural and natural diversity of the region	SP				

Objective 2: Ensure the effective CONSERVATION of World Heritage properties

Expected outcome:

- World Heritage sites as examples of the best practices and methodological approaches.
- Improvement and implementation of the legal frameworks and management systems
- Definition of clear property boundaries and buffer zones
- Consolidation of existing properties through the development, review and implementation of management plans for the LAC region, ensuring that arrangements for the maintenance of the OUV are in place.
- Sustainable development as part of the management of World Heritage properties

Actions	Led by	Partners	2014-2018	2018-2021	2021-2024
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Action 1: Improve conservation and management of World Heritage properties

2.1.1- Implement regional training workshops on disaster risk management for World Heritage	WHC AB C2C	SP			
2.1.2- Finalize the review of boundaries and establishment of buffer zones and regulatory measures for properties in the region	WHC SP				
2.1.3- Develop a database of the properties in the region including cartographic data, and make it available on the website platform	WHC SP				
2.1.4- Promote the integration of World Heritage management at the different levels of planning	SP	AB			
2.1.5- Improve management plans and systems, including specific provisions for the protection of the OUV and key indicators for monitoring	SP	AB C2C			
2.1.6- Develop/update tools for integrating sustainable development in the conservation and management of World Heritage	SP WHC AB	C2C			
2.1.7- Develop/ update tools to assure the integration of sustainable tourism in the conservation and management of World Heritage	SP WHC				

	AB				
Action 2: Recognize the role of World Heritage as models for best practices in conservation and management					
2.2.1- Promote networking among heritage professionals in order to exchange lessons learned	WHC SP C2C	AB			
2.2.2- Encourage the participation of the sciences and technology in heritage conservation	SP				
2.2.3- Identify, analyse, systematize and disseminate the best practices in conservation and management of cultural and natural heritage.	AB C2C	WHC SP			
Action 3: Improve of management arrangements					
2.3.1- Strengthen existing financial mechanisms and tools and generate and explore new forms of financing for sustainable heritage conservation and management	SP				
2.3.2- Develop agreements and promote cooperation amongst diverse government agencies, site commissions and universities for the implementation of management plans	SP				
2.3.3- Strengthen the capacity in human resources in order to improve heritage conservation and management practices	SP C2C	AB WHC			
Objective 3: Promote the development of effective CAPACITY BUILDING in the States Parties					
Expected outcome: • Development of a regional strategy for strengthening capacity building on World Heritage conservation and management • Consolidation of the category 2 centers (C2C) as a regional reference • Establishment of databases in the regional languages as a basic tool to enhance conservation and management capacities in the region • Improvement of the existing networks for World Heritage • Increase in collaboration between national and international organisations • Integration of Capacity Building programme tools into the mechanisms of national cultural institutions.					
Actions	Led by	Partners	2014-2018	2018-2021	2021-2024
Action 1: Organise and develop information about conservation and management of World Heritage properties in the region					
3.1.1- Ensure the translation of guidance materials into Spanish, Portuguese, French and English	SP WHC AB C2C				
3.1.2- Maintain up-to-date information on key issues related to World Heritage conservation and management	SP WHC AB C2C				
3.1.3- Development of online modules to strength capacity building in World Heritage management and	AB	WHC			

conservation	C2C				
Action 2. Develop a capacity building strategy					
3.2.1- Develop sub-regional capacity building programmes	C2C SP	WHC AB			
3.2.2- Identify existing institutions, facilities, expertise and networks involved in capacity building for heritage conservation and management	SP C2C	AB WHC			
Action 3. Strengthen institutional capacity for heritage conservation					
3.3.1- Organise exchanges, conferences and field visits related to World Heritage for decision-makers	SP C2C	WHC AB			
3.3.2- Systematize existing information about the benefits of World Heritage conservation to support the decision-making process	SP C2C	WHC AB			
3.3.3- Develop pilot twinning project for site managers	SP	C2C			
Action 4: Promote the diffusion of knowledge related to World Heritage					
3.4.1- Develop courses, workshops and other training activities according to the needs of the Region	AB C2C	UFO SP			
3.4.2.- Strengthen and stimulate the role of Category 2 Centres and other training centres in capacity building	WHC AB SP	C2C UFO			
3.4.3.- Promote research on management and conservation and the identification of academic centres offering programmes on heritage	SP	C2C			
Objective 4: Increase public awareness, involvement and support to World Heritage through COMMUNICATION					
Expected outcome: • Broadened access to information about World Heritage • Improvement of participatory communication through appropriate national mechanisms to enhance collaboration amongst national and private institutions. • Creation/consolidation of regional heritage networks for sharing the best practices regarding communication. • Collaboration between relevant organisations at a national and international level and institutions responsible for conservation of heritage • Involvement of academic and research institutions in the communication, conservation and development of World Heritage					
Actions	Led by	Partners	2014-2018	2018-2021	2021-2024
Action 1: Develop strategies for communication related to heritage through appropriate mechanisms that enhance collaboration among national and private institutions					

4.1.1- Promote dialogue among national, regional, and local agencies and organisations, UNESCO and Advisory bodies.	SP	C2C UFO, WHC AB			
4.1.2- Strengthen communication about the properties' OUV and the importance of boundaries and buffer zones	SP	WHC C2C			
4.1.3- Compile and disseminate the best national practices in conservation and management of heritage	SP C2C	WHC			
4.1.4- Encourage the participation of academia in World Heritage conservation and promote the dissemination of research results	SP C2C	WHC			
4.1.5- Develop awareness-raising and outreach activities for targeted ages and socio-cultural groups, particularly youth, and coordinate them with the existing UNESCO education network (ASP, World Heritage in Young Hands...)	SP UFO	WHC			
4.1.6- Involve different media (conventional, traditional and new media) in raising awareness and outreach about World Heritage	SP	WHC			
Action 2: Create/consolidate regional heritage networks to enhance information sharing					
4.2.1- Promote periodic regional meetings and workshops for sharing experiences and ideas	WHC C2C SP	AB			
4.2.2- Encourage the exchange of information through networks, twinnings, workshops, and electronic platforms	WHC C2C	SP AB			
Objective 5: Enhance the role of COMMUNITIES in the identification and management of World Heritage.					
Expected outcome: Involvement of local and traditional communities and indigenous peoples in the management and conservation of World Heritage properties Development of sustainable opportunities for local and traditional communities and indigenous peoples to benefit from World Heritage Promotion of World Heritage social appropriation					
Actions	Led by	Partners	2014-2018	2018-2021	2021-2024
Action 1: Involve local and traditional communities and indigenous peoples in all processes of conservation and management of World Heritage properties					
5.1.1- Promote dialogue between the various stakeholders involved in World Heritage management and conservation	SP	UFO			
5.1.2- Develop management models focusing on successful community participation that ensures the sustainable conservation of the World Heritage and the protection of the interest of local and traditional communities and indigenous peoples	SP	WHC AB C2C			
5.1.3- Ensure the involvement of local communities in addressing the impacts of development	SP	WHC			

		AB C2C UFO			
5.1.4- Promote strategic partnerships among the communities involved, the different levels of government, the private sector and other agents of civil society to generate funding that will benefit communities and contribute to the conservation of heritage	SP	WHC			
Action 2: Develop sustainable opportunities for local and traditional communities and indigenous peoples to ensure that they benefit from development activities in the sites					
5.2.1- Create mechanisms and instruments to ensure the participation of involved local and traditional communities and indigenous peoples in the sharing of costs and benefits from the conservation and management of World Heritage	SP	WHC			
5.2.2- Promote actions to provide improved information and greater understanding to local and traditional communities and indigenous peoples concerning their rights and their duties in relation to the World Heritage Convention	SP	WHC C2C			

SP=States Parties

WHC=World Heritage Centre

AB=Advisory Bodies

C2C= Category II Centres

UFO= UNESCO Field Office

*The original Spanish version is available in <http://whc.unesco.org/en/lac/>