

Sub-regional Meeting on the Caribbean Action Plan for World Heritage 2014-2019

26 – 28 November 2014

Havana, Cuba

DRAFT CONCEPT PAPER

Background

The Final Report on the results of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting Exercise for Latin American and the Caribbean (Decision 37COM.10A) was presented to the World Heritage Committee for approval at its 37th session in Phnom Penh, Cambodia (16 -27 June 2013).

Based on the results of the Final Report, States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the support of the Advisory Bodies of the Convention, began to develop the outline of the Action Plan for the next decade 2014-2024 in response to the specific context of the region and the needs identified.

The regional meeting *Towards an Action Plan for World Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean 2014-2024* organized in Brasilia (April 2014) meant a crucial step in achieving the proposed objectives of the Periodic Reporting exercise. It was not only the scenario for generating a platform for discussion to identify priority lines of action at the national, regional and sub-regional levels, but also for defining specific activities related to conservation, capacity-building and regional cooperation that reflect the region's needs and specificities in terms of World Heritage.

The Regional Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean for 2014-2024 was adopted by the World Heritage Committee (Decision 38COM.10B.4) at its 38th session in Doha, Qatar (15-25 June 2014). The World Heritage Committee also encouraged 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.

The Second Periodic Report on the Implementation of the 1972 World Heritage Convention in Latin America and the Caribbean also recognized the important role of the Caribbean Capacity Building Programme (CCBP) in the identification, conservation and management of cultural and natural heritage of Caribbean States Parties. It also highlighted the need to intensify training on managing sites.

The UNESCO Regional Office for Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean, in Havana, in close coordination with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Offices in Kingston and Port-au-Prince, is the responsible for the implementation of the CCBP. In the first three-month period of 2014, UNESCO Havana evaluated the impact of the CCBP and the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the sub-region. The results and recommendations of the evaluation were disseminated in the *Meeting on Caribbean Capacity Building Strategy* organized in Philipsburg, St. Maarten (8-13 May 2014) and in the magazine *Culture & Development* no.11, pages 32–103, published by UNESCO Havana.

The Caribbean Action Plan for the next five years shall take into account the results of the meeting in Brazil that led to the new Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean 2014-2024 approved by the World Heritage Committee, the recommendations made in the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise on the implementation of the Convention in the region and in the CCBP evaluation, and the Philipsburg Declaration adopted in St. Maarten. It also considers the special declarations adopted in January 2014 by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), respectively, on *Culture as a promoter of human development* and on *Small Island Developing States (SIDS)*, to enhance the inter-regional exchange of experience among the Caribbean and the Pacific.

The meeting

The Sub-regional Meeting on the Caribbean Action Plan for World Heritage 2014-2019 will be held in Havana, Cuba, from 26 to 28 November 2014. It will call Focal Points for World Heritage from States Parties, Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS-ICCROM-IUCN), Universities, and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and UNESCO Offices in Havana, Kingston and Port-au-Prince.

Objective

The objective of the meeting is to develop and approve the Sub-regional *Caribbean Action Plan for World Heritage 2014-2019* and its capacity building programme (CCBP). The representatives of the States Parties will transmit to their governments the approved Caribbean Action Plan 2014-2019 for its implementation and integration in the policies of the country.

The meeting also aims at enhancing regional cooperation and inter-regional exchanges among SIDS from Caribbean and the Pacific and improving the CCBP network.

Organization of the meeting

The agenda of the meeting is structured around eight thematic debates about six themes identified as needs and priorities in the sub-region, which contribute to the strategic objectives for the implementation of the Convention (Credibility, Conservation, Capacity-building, Communication and Communities):

1. Conservation and Management
2. Climate change impacts and risk management
3. Community participation
4. Sustainable tourism
5. Capacity building
6. Alliances and network
7. Nominations and Tentative Lists

Each debate is introduced and chaired by an expert and its summary will be provided by another expert. The capacity building theme will be discussed during three working sessions in order to debate and validate the Caribbean Capacity Building Programme for World heritage (CCBP).

The summaries of the debates should include the challenges identified and possible recommendations for their addition in the final document of the *Caribbean Action Plan for World Heritage 2014-2019* and its capacity building programme (CCBP).

Themes

1. Conservation and Management

Do World Heritage properties maintain the values that merited inscription? Which are the internal or external factors which compromised the authenticity/integrity of World Heritage properties reported to be threatened? Are well understood World Heritage concepts of Outstanding Universal Value, significance, authenticity and integrity? Are appropriate inventories, lists and records to capture the diversity of the cultural and natural heritage at the national and local level? Have all World Heritage properties got updated management plans, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms? Who participate in the design, implementation and review of them? Are the staff and financing resources sufficient to ensure the adequate conservation and management of World Heritage properties?

2. Climate change impacts and risk management

Which are the effects of climate change in the Caribbean heritage? Why the growing concern for risk? Which are the lessons learnt in risk management that Caribbean and Pacific SIDS can share? Which are the current challenges and opportunities in improving risk preparedness for cultural heritage? Are the States responding to the climate change impacts on heritage? Do all World Heritage properties update emergency plans against risks? Is the heritage risk preparedness phase sufficient? Are the response and recovery phases satisfactory? Have cultural and natural management plans incorporated well-planned all-risk response? Do professionals from different fields (education, information, defense, etc.) work together against risks that affect heritage?

3. Community participation

Are local communities involved in the processes of identification, protection, conservation, management and monitoring of the World Heritage sites? Are they aware of the value of the World Heritage and the need to preserve it? Do the local communities participate in the processes to update the Tentative List and prepare nominations? What is the added value of the participation of local communities in these processes? Do their knowledge and practices contribute to improve the identification, conservation, management and monitoring of the World Heritage properties? Do the management plans take into account the intangible heritage values?

4. Sustainable tourism

Are the States aware of the fact that sustainable and diversified tourism is a real engine for economic, social and human development? Do the countries re-invest the economic benefits generated by tourism at heritage sites on their conservation and management? Have site managers the tools necessary to prevent tourism from affecting site conservation and outstanding values? Do the countries present cultural tourism alternatives more beneficial than those of the past? Are cultural and nature tourism modalities more developed? Are cultural routes established in the Caribbean? Do the States strengthen the Slave Route in the Caribbean? Are tourism statistics are sufficient?

5. Capacity building

Is the staff working in cultural and natural heritage protection, conservation and management sufficiently qualified? Is the CCBP adapted to Caribbean characteristics and needs? Is it well coordinated? What should be done to strengthen the CCBP network? Should the universities play a more relevant role in the programme? If new CCBP modules were published, what new topics would be relevant to cultural heritage management? Do you think the CCBP Web site could be improved? Should the CCBP incorporate e-learning tools or are the module support and workshop methodology appropriated?

6. Alliances and network

Is the Caribbean network of heritage experts functioning satisfactory? Are the universities increasing research into cultural and natural heritage identification, conservation, protection and management? Which is the role of the NGOs and private sector in heritage conservation and management? Is there an awareness-raising strategy for heritage conservation, protection and presentation actors? Do the mass media disseminate information regularly on properties and sites? Is this information rigorous? Are young people aware of the value of and the need to preserve World Heritage? Should school curricula and programmes at different levels incorporate more issues about cultural and natural heritage?

7. Nominations and Tentative Lists

What should be done at sub-regional level to contribute to the establishment of a more representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List? What are the main lacks and unbalances of in the World Heritage List inscriptions of the Sub-Region? How could the Tentative Lists be updated in a more coordinated and harmonized manner, to better represent the potential Outstanding Universal Value of the properties of the Caribbean? What are the needs, in terms of research, information sharing and governmental cooperation, to significantly work in favor of more balanced and diversified Tentative Lists, potentially conducive to new inscriptions on the World Heritage list? What are the categories of heritage that should be investigated and promoted in priority, namely at transnational level?