

Action Plan for World Heritage in Latin America 2004 - 2014

The below Action Plan for World Heritage in Latin America was adopted at the Periodic Reporting Meeting for Latin America (Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 25 to 27 October 2004) and edited to include comments received from participants. It should be read in conjunction with the Strategic Framework for Action and Regional Action Plan for World Heritage presented in chapter 6 of the regional periodic report and endorsed by the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-eighth session (decision 28 COM 16).

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1. Crosscutting strategic objective: Improve the overall framework for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention

Expected outcome

- Strengthened institutional and legal arrangements for heritage conservation and management.
- Established inter-institutional and inter-sectoral cooperation.
- Integration of heritage conservation and management in territorial and development planning.
- Recognition of the role of heritage as an essential component in the life of the communities.
(Art. 5 of Convention)

Action	Responsibility ¹	Priority	Timeline
<i>Broad participation in heritage conservation and management</i>			
1.1. Invite States Parties to adhere to other international, regional and sub regional instruments for the protection of natural and cultural heritage.	WHC	1	2006
1.2. Undertake appropriate tasks before corresponding government entities to ratify international instruments.	States Parties	1	2006
1.3. Improve interactive and permanent communication amongst all stakeholders linked to the World Heritage Convention.	WHC States Parties	1	2007
1.4. Identify best practices on the involvement of non-governmental organizations and community organizations in heritage conservation and management and disseminate them within the region	States Parties WHC	1	2008
1.5. Involve non-governmental organizations and community organizations in heritage conservation and management.	States Parties	1	2006
<i>Institutional Arrangements</i>			
1.6. Establish mechanisms for larger coordination and collaboration amongst agencies and sectors associated with World Heritage within the States Parties, such as the Creation of National World Heritage Committees.	States Parties	1	2006
1.7. Create mechanisms for larger coordination and collaboration amongst agencies and sectors associated with World Heritage properties, such as the creation of World Heritage site commissions.	States Parties	1	2006
1.8. Promote participatory processes for the conservation and management of World Heritage properties so as to broaden and enhance the framework for analysis, assessment and decision-making, based on a larger diversity of visions, know-how and experience of different social actors.	States Parties	1	2005

¹ WHC: Includes the World Heritage Committee, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

States Parties: includes institutions with management authority and World Heritage site managers.

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General Policies for World Heritage			
1.9. Inscribe heritage conservation in political agendas on the national and international level.	States Parties	1	2008
1.10. Encourage the participation of the sciences in heritage conservation, promoting that results from research are accessible, widely disseminated and applicable to the field.	States Parties	1	2007
1.11. Develop agreements and promote cooperation amongst diverse government agencies, site commissions and universities.	States Parties	1	2008
1.12. Promote institutional strengthening in heritage agencies.	States Parties	1	2007
1.13. Generate and strengthen financial mechanisms for sustainable heritage conservation and management.	States Parties	1	2007
1.14. Promote the World Heritage Convention as a tool for respect for cultural and natural diversity in the region.	States Parties	1	2010
1.15. Review the effectiveness and appropriateness of national legal and institutional frameworks and policies for cultural and natural heritage conservation and management.	States Parties	1	2008

2. Strategic Objective of the World Heritage Committee: Strengthen the Credibility of the World Heritage List

Expected outcome

- Updated heritage inventories.
- Establishment and harmonisation of Tentative Lists on the sub-regional level.

Action	Responsibility	Priority	Timeline
General Framework			
2.1. Develop (sub-) regional and national workshops to promote the reflection on the basic concepts of the Convention and the Operational Guidelines: authenticity and integrity, significance, outstanding universal value, etc.	WHC States Parties	1	2006
National Inventories			
2.2. Update national inventories and Tentative Lists to duly attain a larger representativity of categories and types of properties, and promote the participation of different social actors in said process (institutions, advisory bodies, local agencies and communities).	States Parties	1	2007
2.3. Systematise heritage information using geographic information systems so as to improve national inventory and Tentative List tasks.	WHC States Parties	2	2008
Thematic Studies and Expert Meetings			
2.4. Develop seminars, courses and workshops on: 1. Relationship between biodiversity and cultural diversity and the tangible and intangible dimensions of heritage. 2. Relationships between conventions, regional agreements and programmes related to heritage safeguarding: WH, CBD, Intangible heritage, Illicit Traffic, CITES, the Hague Convention, Ramsar, MAB, etc. 3. Evolution of concepts and application of World Heritage Convention. 4. National Inventories and Tentative Lists. 5. Harmonisation of Tentative Lists and the establishment of the World Heritage List. 6. Emerging themes: cultural landscapes, modern heritage, management	WHC States Parties	1	2005-2008

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guidelines and methodologies, etc.			
<i>Tentative Lists</i>			
2.5. Promote regional cooperation and integration through trans-boundary and serial properties, cultural itineraries, etc., for larger understanding of significance and authenticity of properties and for revitalising relationships that contribute to their sustainability.	WHC States Parties	2	2006
2.6. Publish updated Tentative Lists on the World Heritage Web site.	WHC	2	2007
<i>Nominations for the World Heritage List</i>			
2.7. Prioritise nominations of properties in under-represented categories that contribute to a balanced representation of the cultural and natural diversity of the region.	States Parties	1	2005
2.8. Promote nominations of transboundary and serial properties to promote integration and regional cooperation (e.g. Qhapac Ñan, East Pacific Marine Corridor, etc.)	States Parties	1	2006

3. Strategic Objective of the World Heritage Committee: Ensure the effective conservation of World Heritage properties

Expected outcome

- World Heritage sites as examples of best practices and methodological approaches.
- Integrated, appropriate and value-driven management of heritage properties.
- Heritage conservation and management practices as tools for integrated development of communities.

Action	Responsibility	Priority	Timeline
<i>World Heritage conservation as a tool for heritage conservation and management</i>			
3.1. Compile reference materials and documentation about values, significance, authenticity, integrity and site management and make it available to States Parties and site managers.	WHC	1	2005
3.2. Develop workshops on emerging themes such as significance assessment, authenticity and integrity.	WHC	1	2005
3.3. Establish statements of significance for World Heritage properties.	States Parties	1	2006
3.4. Identify, analyse, systematise and disseminate best practices in conservation and management of cultural and natural heritage.	WHC	2	2007
<i>Heritage conservation and management practices</i>			
3.5. Review documentation and cartography in the dossiers of World Heritage Properties to identify gaps and needs.	WHC	1	2005
3.6. Complete, revise and update documentation and cartography of World Heritage properties and their buffer zones based on identified gaps and needs and on established guidelines for the nomination of sites for inscription on the World Heritage List.	States Parties	2	2005
3.7. In accordance with procedures established by the World Heritage Committee, advance on the re-nomination of World Heritage properties that require revisions to the boundaries and/ or buffer zones and to the values and significance that warranted their inscription.	States Parties	2	2008
3.8. Develop (a) regional training workshop(s) on the management of the cultural and natural heritage and risk preparedness as required.	WHC	1	2006

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3.9. Develop strategies to formulate, complete or update management plans for World Heritage Properties, seeking their integration in territorial and development planning.	States Parties	1	2006
3.10. Formulate/ complete/ revise management plans for all sites inscribed on the World Heritage List according to established guidelines and standards to ensure their effectiveness.	States Parties	1	2010
3.11. Establish inter-institutional and inter-sectorial collaboration mechanisms for heritage management, for example National World Heritage Committees, Site Commissions, etc.	States Parties	2	2008
3.12. Generate and strengthen financial mechanisms to improve heritage conservation and management.	States Parties	1	2005
3.13. Increase, in quantity and quality, human resources to enhance heritage conservation and management practices.	States Parties	1	2005
Monitoring, evaluation and reporting			
3.14. Compile basic information for inscribed properties: nomination dossier, evaluation from Advisory Bodies, World Heritage Committee decisions, reactive monitoring reports, periodic reports, etc., as baseline documentation to systematise monitoring and management at sites.	States Parties	1	2005
3.15. Compile reference materials/ documentation on monitoring and evaluation and make it available to States Parties and site managers to promote adequate and continuous monitoring.	WHC	1	2006
3.16. Undertake workshops for the identification and development of key indicators for monitoring, widely disseminating their applicability as tools for qualitative and quantitative evaluation of the efficacy of management and for adaptive management.	WHC	1	2007
3.17. Revise and integrate methodologies in management plans for objective monitoring and evaluation of World Heritage Properties.	States Parties	1	2010
3.18. Promote the participation of Advisory Bodies in objective monitoring and evaluation to foster dialogue between them and States Parties.	States Parties WHC	2	2006

4. Strategic Objective of the World Heritage Committee: Promote the development of effective capacity building in the States Parties

Expected outcome

- Improved institutional and stakeholders capacities for heritage conservation and management.
- Continuity in institutional and technical capacities.

Action	Responsibility	Priority	Timeline
Capacity building strategies and programmes			
4.1. Develop a preliminary inventory of training opportunities and installed capacities, with emphasis on heritage management and risk preparedness, to set the basis for Regional Training Strategies.	States Parties	1	2005
4.2. Define target groups for training: decision-makers, site managers, heritage professionals and specialists, local communities, etc, and tailor training initiatives accordingly.	States Parties	1	2005
4.3. Develop an expert meeting on training and capacity building to evaluate and formulate training programs on heritage management.	WHC	1	2005
4.4. Design a capacity building program for site management, based on identified successful experiences in the region with special components, as required, for disaster preparedness.	WHC	2	2006

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4.5. Make available to States Parties and site managers of World Heritage Properties publications and manuals edited by UNESCO and Advisory Bodies regarding heritage management.	WHC	1	2005
4.6. Organise brief, intensive training courses on priority themes: application of the Convention, of international documents and tools regarding heritage conservation and management, etc.	WHC	1	2005
4.7. Make appropriate use of evaluation and monitoring reports for capacity building purposes.	WHC States Parties	2	2006
4.8. Disseminate results of regional workshops and meetings and their use for training opportunities in the local, national and regional scale.	WHC States Parties	2	2006
4.9. Promote research, based on identified needs, on heritage themes and share results amongst interested World Heritage parties.	States Parties	2	2007
Capacity building in States Parties			
4.10. Develop comparative analysis of legal tools for heritage conservation in the States Parties from the region to advance experience exchange (through publications and seminars) and improve and update legal practices.	WHC States Parties	2	2006
4.11. Strengthen institutions related to heritage management.	States Parties	2	2010
4.12. Develop strategies and stimuli to guarantee the continuity of trained heritage professionals and specialists associated with heritage management.	States Parties	2	2006
4.13. Develop systems that ensure continuous training for communities related to heritage sites and related cultural expressions.	States Parties	1	2008
4.14. Evaluate the need and feasibility of establishing a roster of available experts, in specific themes, for the region.	WHC	2	2006

5. Strategic Objective of the World Heritage Committee: Increase public awareness, involvement and support for World Heritage through communication

Expected outcome

- Adequate dissemination of the objectives, concepts, and implications of the Convention and its Operational Guidelines.
- Improvement in formal and informal education in different levels on heritage issues.
- Strengthened communication and exchange in different levels.

Action	Responsibility	Priority	Timeline
Awareness building			
5.1. Develop national strategies for heritage communication and outreach in each State Party.	States Parties	1	2005
5.2. Distribute dissemination materials on the Convention (in digital format) for States Parties to use and reproduce as needed.	WHC	1	2005
5.3. Implement a regional workshop on site interpretation and presentation.	WHC	2	2007
5.4. Develop a regional workshop for the media to raise awareness on heritage and its protection and to foster collaboration and support in conservation and management endeavours.	WHC States Parties	2	2006
5.5. Institutionalise recognitions for NGO's, foundations, communities, media, etc., for distinguished contributions to heritage conservation and protection.	WHC States Parties	2	2008
5.6. Declare an International World Heritage Day.	WHC	1	2006

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5.7. Develop a Regional Forum for World Heritage to promote partnerships under a vision of "shared heritage, common responsibility".	WHC	1	2010
Education			
5.8. Strengthen and adapt to the realities and needs of each country the World Heritage in Young Hands programme as a tool for communication and education for conservation and development.	States Parties	1	2007
5.9. Promote the inclusion of heritage themes in education curricula in all levels.	States Parties	1	2006
5.10. Promote research projects on cultural and natural heritage and widely disseminate their results to foster understanding, valorisation and social appropriation of heritage.	States Parties	1	2010
Networking			
5.11. Structure in the World Heritage Centre's web page an informative section for the Latin American region available in Spanish.	WHC	1	2005
5.12. Promote the use of the web page as a forum for discussion and experience exchange.	WHC	1	2006
5.13. Relate World Heritage dissemination efforts in Latin America with existing initiatives in the region.	WHC	2	2005

6. Framework for the implementation of the Action Plan

Strategies

- Establish a regional coordination structure between the World Heritage Centre and States Parties for the implementation and monitoring of the Action Plan.
- Coordinate on the national level to implement the Action Plan and to manage the participation of interested parties: Advisory Bodies, non-governmental organizations, local communities and better use existing agencies and institutions (tourism, natural resources and environment, national parks, education, foreign affairs, etc.)
- Distribute the summary Periodic Report and the States Parties periodic reports, within the States Parties, amongst agencies and institutions with heritage mandates for wider dissemination and knowledge.
- Coordinate for the implementation of proposed actions amongst institutions on the national level and site managers and promote strategic alliances amongst different stakeholders.

Potential partners

- Advisory Bodies: ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM
- Local institutions and institutions with regional mandates (ICA)
- Specialised institutions in States Parties: national parks, geographical institutes, conservation centres, National Commission for Space Activities (CONAE), etc.
- Training entities: public and private universities, centres such as CATIE, etc.
- Institutions related to heritage management
- Institutions with related mandates (tourism, education, culture, environment, etc.)
- National and international non-governmental organizations related to heritage (World Wildlife Fund (WWF), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), The Getty Conservation Institute (GCI), World Monuments Fund (WMF), amongst others.

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- Intergovernmental organizations: Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI), Organization of American States (OEA), Convenio Andrés Bello (CAB), etc.

Funding

- Promotion of the Latin America and Caribbean Action Plans amongst potential donors (World Bank, Inter American Development Bank, United Nations Foundation, foundations, technical cooperation agencies, etc.)

Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms

- Periodic evaluation on the level of implementation of proposed actions through annual written reports, based on key indicators that will allow for an objective, qualitative and quantitative measurement of the rate of progress.
- Evaluation workshop in 2008.