CARIBBEAN ACTION PLAN 2004-2014

Introduction

At a meeting of the Caribbean sub-region held in Haiti in June 2003 it was agreed to formulate an Action Plan for the Caribbean to support the Periodic Report on the Application of the World Heritage Convention in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is to be presented to the World Heritage Committee at its annual meeting in July 2004.

The Action Plan is to take into account the 4 Cs as adopted by the World Heritage Committee in the Global Strategy, namely: **Credibility, Conservation, Communication** and **Capacity Building**. The elements of an Action Plan based on these 4 Cs had been outlined at the Haiti meeting, and the first three provide the basis for this elaboration of an Action Plan for the period 2004-2014.

CREDIBILITY

Discussion: The terms "heritage", "authenticity" and "integrity" need to be clearly defined. While the former is universally understood as referring to the cultural and natural legacy of the past; the other two speak to "values" and must be interpreted within the context of the Caribbean. Such an interpretation can be aided and informed by the preparation of comprehensive inventories of natural and cultural heritage; and the discussion must first be engaged at national levels.

Recommended Actions

1. Each delegate to the St. Lucia meeting is to present within two weeks a report of the meeting to the respective States Parties, to include the following proposals:

(a) that there be held a national consultation on "Heritage, Authenticity and Integrity", to take place by September 2004;

(b) that the preparation of national inventories of natural sites and cultural heritage sites and monuments be finalized (all the required technical formats having already been formulated by CARIMOS and CCA).

2. The World Heritage Committee is to write to the States Parties recommending such national consultations on Heritage, Authenticity and Integrity and providing guidelines for such consultations.

3. The World Heritage Committee is to convene, by March 2005 ideally or not later than June 2005 (bearing in mind the necessity of procuring funding) a sub-regional consultation on "Heritage, Authenticity and Integrity" involving selected regional experts; and representatives of the States Parties, The World Heritage Committee, ICOMOS and IUCN. Such a Consultation/Conference should also review the status of national inventories of the States Parties with the view to identifying challenges and ways and means of overcoming these.

TENTATIVE LISTS AND THEMATIC STUDIES

Discussion Under the general concept of **CREDIBILITY**, "**Tentative List**" and "**Thematic Studies**" were examined. The following principles were accepted:

- tentative lists must satisfy the World Heritage criteria and demonstrate universal value, authenticity and integrity;
- tentative lists were to be regarded as tools for the World Heritage Committee and also for the States Parties. Thus, if the same or similar properties from around the world appeared in large numbers on tentative lists, few would stand a chance for nomination – hence the desirability of the harmonization of the lists;
- tentative lists were not necessarily to be fixed, although it was not desirable that they be changed frequently;
- one should move beyond the definition of "heritage" as being synonymous with "antiquity": the NASA space station and the Tuff Gong music studies were given as examples of modern monuments which are of national and even universal heritage value.

It was revealed that an expert meeting to establish a tentative list of Caribbean archaeological sites had been convened. It was also pointed out that some States Parties had not yet presented tentative lists and may be at a disadvantage if their sites were similar to those which had already presented tentative lists; but an "artificial" or provisional deadline or November 2004 had been established so as to allow time for such newcomers to get on board.

Recommended Actions

1. State Party representatives are to review the harmonized tentative lists produced by the meeting in St. Vincent and the Grenadines held in November 2003; and other States Parties not represented were encouraged to add to the list, those sites to be considered for serial nomination.
2. States Parties are to request the World Heritage Committee to circulate their tentative lists among their colleague States Parties of the Caribbean region.
3. Various thematic studies undertaken for Latin America and the Caribbean or resulting from workshops and experts' meetings are to be compiled and circulated to States Parties in advance of the Consultation/Conference proposed for Mach 2005.
4. The Slave Route Sites of Memory project is to be designated as a priority theme in which follow-up research be facilitated by The World Heritage Committee in collaboration with one or more regional institutions such as the University of the West Indies and organizations such as The Association of Caribbean Historians; to be completed by June 2005.

CONSERVATION/MANAGEMENT

Discussion It was accepted that the formulation of Management Plans were to involve community participation and seek to create employment opportunities and alleviate poverty. Further, strategies were to be developed for procuring international and regional funding assistance and for engaging private sector collaboration.

Recommended Actions

1. A meeting is to be convened within the next three years of managers of natural and cultural heritage sites, for the purposes of exchanging intelligence, sharing experiences, and forging closer collaboration.
2. Efforts are to be made to establish communication with national and regional agencies and international agencies working in the region so as to discover, what they may be doing in the areas of heritage conservation, management and training and how such efforts could be integrated; such efforts to include: a CTO proposed project for a meeting of managers of world heritage and potential world heritage sites, which meeting should specifically include as well representatives from territories and states who are relative newcomers to the World Heritage process; the OAS STEP Programme; the training programme of the Antigua National Park Authority; CCA; and The Association of Caribbean States.
3. The World Heritage Committee is to identify and distribute training manuals in heritage conservation and management, and in risk preparedness and mitigation.
4. The World Heritage Centre is to facilitate the preparation of a manual for best practice management of natural and cultural sites.
5. The States Parties, in conjunction with The World Heritage Committee are to be urged to request of UNESCO that the Caribbean office (located in Jamaica) be strengthened so as to facilitate the co-ordination and implementation of action plans related to The World Heritage strategic objectives in the Caribbean.
6. The State Party representatives are to lobby their respective governments and/or Disaster Management and Response Agencies to incorporate natural sites and cultural heritage sites within their national programmes and be responsive to the particular circumstances of such sites. Further, the State Party representatives and/or the National Commissions are urged to request The World Heritage Committee to write to the States Parties towards achieving the same actions.
7. The World Heritage Committee is to seek further information regarding the intent of the Dominican Republic to establish a training and reactive center for disaster management, mitigation and response for cultural properties to serve the Caribbean region; and the State Parties are to be encouraged to express support for such an initiative of the Dominican Republic.
8. State Party representatives and/or the respective National Commissions are to propose to their respective governments that they request The World Heritage Committee to intervene and facilitate the release by European countries, of information and copied documentation pertaining to natural and cultural heritage sites of their former (and current) colonies in the Caribbean.
9. States Parties are urged to seek assurance of The World Heritage Committee that every effort would be made to provide funding assistance for the implementation of the foregoing actions.

COMMUNICATION

Discussion It was recognized that some of the issues covered before could readily be considered under the category of **COMMUNICATION**, and that their necessarily were overlaps in other areas.

Recommended Actions

1. The UNESCO 'Associated Schools Network Programme' is to be revisited and its product: "World Heritage in Young Hands" is to be reviewed and modified so as to project Caribbean images and content.
2. State Party representatives are to activate E-networking among members, and endeavour to sustain the communication network, for which the tools and facilities are widely accessible.
3. A consultancy is to be established within the next three years towards the preparation and development of a multimedia World Heritage Communication Plan targeted at the people and the various constituent groups of the region, in particular, the youth. This plan is to be presented at a workshop for managers, resource persons and the media; such a workshop to include the transmission of communication skills to managers.
4. The World Heritage Committee is to compile and periodically update an inventory of natural and heritage site mangers, State Party representatives and other resource persons of the Caribbean region.
5. State Party representatives are to promote the establishment of World Heritage Committees in their respective states and territories.
6. The National Commissions of the respective states and territories are urged to be more pro-active in the dissemination of information to stakeholders, particularly to communications from the World Heritage Committee; and should actively promote the mission of World Heritage.

DEVELOPMENT of a CARIBBEAN CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

Structure of Workshop:

a) Discussion on the Haiti-Guadeloupe proposal for an *Ecole Carabienne du Patrimoine* (ECP, or Caribbean School of Heritage)
b) Discussion on the recommendations of the Training Needs Survey and Periodic Report
c) Proposal for further development in biennium 2004-2005 sponsored by UNESCO

Discussion on the Haiti-Guadeloupe proposal for ECP

- ECP proposal is part of finalized 1st phase of feasibility study, 2nd phase is going to be launched
- 2 options: a fixed pedagogic/administrative unit with outlying units in various Caribbean countries; or a rotating pedagogic/administrative unit
- Only traditional skills improvement related to crafts? Is a current focus, but the proposal aims to cover whole range of conservation-related activities
- Current political situation in Haiti? Has little influence, since it is focused on implementation all around the Caribbean
- Language problem? 2ntd phase of feasibility study aims to take into consideration coverage of the different geo-cultural sections of the region. Furthermore, any Programme design would encounter this challenge

Recommendations of the Training Needs Survey and Periodic Report

- Is another, new institution needed? Any new initiative should pull existing structures and initiatives together. Flexibility is the key word. Needed is a **network** to deliver a **variety of training courses** that needs to be coordinated.
- Currently much overlap and duplication
- Any new initiative should screened on what it brings into the current existing palette of initiatives
- Core of a training network: university for accreditation
- Existing institutions and organizations that deliver need to be strengthened and publicize their activities and results
- Where gaps exist, institutions or organizations need to be invited or created

Proposal for further development

- The World Heritage Committee has allocated USD 75,000 for the biennium 2004-2005 for the development of the Caribbean Capacity Building Programme
- Participants identified that what is needed is a Programme that covers both natural and cultural heritage preservation training, that covers the English, Spanish, French and Dutch speaking regions and territories, and that fills the gaps and minimizes overlap
- The Training Needs Survey has identified that currently a mechanism to link existing initiatives and to sustain those links is lacking, while A LOT of work is going on
- Thus, as a first start, is proposed the establishment of a coordination unit (administrative and, if needed, pedagogic) with an "embryonic" network of existing organizations and institutions with proven track record in conservation training and capacity building, such as the post-graduate school in Santo Domingo (part of the National University Pedro Henriquez Ureña), branches of the University of the West-Indies, the University of Antilles Guyana (UAG) in Guadeloupe, CENCREM in Havana, among others
- The Board of this Unit should consist of members representing each language group

- The coordination unit receives and screens further additions to the network on a set of criteria that should include proven track record, curriculum on offer that would fill gaps, availability of sustainable resources, possibilities for exchange of scholars and professionals, etc.
- In this context, the ECP proposal, with a fixed administrative unit in Guadeloupe, could be utilized to further explore this idea, taking into consideration certain adaptations to be made, which include among others:
    - Coverage of natural heritage conservation training next to cultural heritage
    - Take into account the different traditions and experiences in heritage conservation training that already exist in the wider region
    - Institutions in the network should take the World Heritage Convention into their programming
    - Representation of each language group into decision making structure

PROPOSAL

1) To investigate possible structures as a coordinating structure for a Caribbean network of which the ECP proposal is one option and to see if the identified needs and proposed adaptations of the outcomes of the UNESCO consultant's Survey and the findings of this meeting can be included in this proposal
2) When under investigation and further development, regional consultation on a regular basis should be undertaken, with allocated resources
3) The development of a Terms of Reference should be undertaken at the earliest, which should be circulated widely for discussion and approval
4) As a first starting point, an "embryonic" network of existing organizations with a broad curriculum in conservation training can be proposed, which can be extended in the course of the further development of the network
5) To develop a set of screening and admission criteria for new members of the network
6) To develop fund raising strategy
7) To develop modalities for allocation of funding to administrative unit and outlying training units

Additional remarks made by the complete group of participants included the need to inform the Haiti-Guadeloupe team (Governments and consultants) of the outcomes of the St. Lucia Conference and to ensure future coordination of activities.

Clarification has to be provided on the cost of the 2nd phase of the feasibility study and who's going to pay for this. Transparency and full participation in the further development of this proposal is mandatory.

The notion of "capacity building" has to be understood as covering all of the institutional, legislative and operational arrangements involved in the process of heritage conservation, including the informal aspects of training and its impact at the community level. The Training Needs Survey was a first phase of this broad spectrum.
Furthermore, a statement should be prepared on what constitutes "World Heritage training".

In light of the above, the mandate of the UNESCO consultants could be extended to work in close cooperation with the ECP consultants from Haiti-Guadeloupe to develop the above in the course of the biennium.

DECLARATION OF CASTRIES

We, the representatives of Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Netherlands Antilles, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & The Grenadines, Suriname, and Turks & Caicos Islands; having met from February 23 to 27, 2004, in Castries, Saint Lucia, at the *Conference on the Development of a Caribbean Action Plan in World Heritage,* came, once again, face to face with the realities of Caribbean people living in **a** Globalised Environment which is less than sympathetic to the vulnerabilities of the Caribbean and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the region;

Taking note of our realities which include poverty rates of 25 – 30%, indigence of over 20%, unemployment and under-employment rates which exceed 20%, and high illiteracy rates;

Recognising the scarcity of trained heritage professionals in the Caribbean in the field of cultural and natural heritage;

Realising that we are vulnerable to natural disasters and a globalised environment characterized by open competition and trade liberalization;

Agreeing that we are searching for a sustainable development paradigm based on the principles of equity and participation, and a Caribbean Vision of 'unity in diversity';

Agreeing further that our ability to survive as Caribbean and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) will depend on developing a new paradigm which is driven by strategies that take into consideration our diverse natural and cultural resources, our inspiring landscapes, our climate, our unique identity and the resilience and creativity of our people who have overcome centuries of hardship and exploitation;

Taking cognisance of the World Heritage Convention of 1972, which establishes a List of the World's natural and cultural heritage; promotes and supports the identification of natural and cultural heritage sites; prescribes high standards of conservation, community participation and sustainable management; and provides training;

Acknowledging the CARICOM Regional Cultural Policy of 1997 and the Saint George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS;

Recalling the contribution made by the Global Strategy Action Plan for the Caribbean, which recognized the under-representation of the Caribbean on the World Heritage List;

Further recalling that the World Heritage Centre has organized ten regional and thematic expert meetings from 1996 to 2004 that have identified heritage sites and issues associated with the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Caribbean;

Reaffirming the Dominica Document 2001 that sets out a comprehensive vision on the heritage of the Caribbean and the application of the World Heritage Convention;

Strongly supporting the global strategic objectives in respect of Credibility, Conservation, Capacity Building and Communication, as articulated by the World Heritage Committee in 2002;

Observing that of US$7,000,000 granted to States Parties between 1979 and 2002 upon their request from the World Heritage Fund and disbursed through International Assistance to Latin America and the Caribbean, only 15% was spent in the Caribbean where at present 14 out of 31 States Parties to the Convention are located;

Acknowledging efforts to address this disparity by the World Heritage Committee and UNESCO through the allocation of extra budgetary and bilateral resources, particularly through the generous support of the Government of the United Kingdom, who provided financial support for this conference;

Call upon the Governments of Caribbean States Parties to:

(i) Provide the necessary financial, technical and administrative resources and structures required for States Parties to take full advantage of the benefits derived from the implementation of the World Heritage Convention;

(ii) Undertake national inventories of natural and cultural heritage sites, prepare Tentative Lists and Nomination Dossiers for the most outstanding of these sites, with financial and technical assistance which may be obtained from the World Heritage Fund and other sources;

(iii) Improve existing policies, legislation, and resource management systems within their countries;

(iv) Encourage the Governments of the Bahamas and Trinidad and Tobago to ratify the Convention at the earliest possible opportunity;

(v) Work together through appropriate mechanisms to enhance collaboration among Caribbean States Parties to the World Heritage Convention in the identification and preparation of properties for inscription on the World Heritage List, including serial, transboundary, and serial-transboundary nominations;

(vi) Endorse the Action Plan prepared by their representatives at the Saint Lucia Conference under the strategic objectives of *Credibility, Conservation, Capacity Building and Communication*;

(vii) Support and maximize opportunities for the implementation of the Caribbean Capacity Building Programme; and

(viii) Maintain a Caribbean presence on the World Heritage Committee by ensuring that a Caribbean States Party puts itself forward when St. Lucia steps down in 2005;

We also call upon the World Heritage Committee to:

(i) Approve the Periodic Report for Latin America and the Caribbean at its next meeting in 2004; and

(ii) Approve the related Action Plan and Capacity Building Programme and allocate the requisite funding for their implementation at its next meeting in 2004;

We encourage all States Parties to the World Heritage Convention to collaborate with each other in the implementation of the Caribbean Action Plan;

Finally, we call upon UNESCO to strengthen its organizational structure in the Caribbean Region and to assist in accessing all necessary technical assistance for implementation of the Action Plan;

We acknowledge with gratitude the significant contribution by the World Heritage Centre for the advancement of the World Heritage Convention in the Caribbean;

We also express our appreciation to the Government of Saint Lucia for hosting and efficiently coordinating this most important event and congratulate them on their efforts in giving visibility to Caribbean considerations on the World Heritage Committee.

Approved at Castries by the representatives of all States Parties and Associated States on the 27th day of February in the year Two Thousand and Four.

RESOLUTION ON
OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO the Caribbean and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the region
RE: WORLD HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Representatives of the Caribbean and Small Island Developing States gathered at the *Conference on the Development of a Caribbean Action Plan in World Heritage, February 23rd – 27th, 2004 at Castries, St. Lucia*, being mindful of the peculiarities and special circumstances of Caribbean and Small Island Developing States, resolve to call upon the World Heritage Committee to fully recognize the special status and realities of Small Island Caribbean States as has been pronounced through the Caribbean and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the region;

We declare that even in smallness, we possess rich diversity and resources, which have the potential to claim outstanding universal value;

Bearing in mind the diverse realities of the Caribbean region, which encompasses numerous Small Island States with extremely sensitive and vulnerable resources of significance to the heritage of humankind;

Considering that the resources residing within the Caribbean have been recognized by and accredited by the Ramsar Convention, the SPAW Protocol of the Cartagena Convention, and the Convention on Biological Diversity amongst others;

Having noted the options of serial, transboundary and serial-transboundary nominations;

Be it resolved that:

The representatives of the Caribbean States Parties and Associated States call upon the World Heritage Committee to note that we wish to explore fully the implications of these options and to report back to the World Heritage Committee in 2005;

Be it further resolved that:

We call upon the World Heritage Committee to appreciate that there is special value and uniqueness in the resources that exist within Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Caribbean States, and that consideration for inscription on the WH List be based on the existing criteria and objective merits.