

Report for the 39 Session of the World Heritage Committee Bonn (Germany), 28 June to 8 July 2015

Date of the Report: 01/05/2015

Name of the Centre: Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH)

Address: P. O. Box 95912 Manama – Bahrain

Name of the Director/Head: Dr. Mounir Bouchenaki

1. Updates on the management of the Centre (Governing Board, Staffing, Operational funding and premises) – particularly on meetings of the Governing Board and key decisions adopted

The Advisory Committee met on January 2015 to put forth its recommendations to the Governing Board with regards to the performance of the centre. These recommendations highlighted the need to have a proactive approach in implementing the Convention in the region, in light of recent instability and conflict in a number of Arab States. The Committee also recommended improvements in communication with partners in addition to the need of implementing an effective fund raising strategy. The Governing Board, which met on February 2015, adopted all recommendations put forth by the Advisory Committee, and requested the Secretariat to incorporate these decisions in the plan of 2015.

2. Programs and activities implemented since June 2014 and planned for the current year

No.	Title of the activity	Reference to WHCBS ¹
1	Workshop on the Preparation of the World Heritage Nomination File of Wadi Al-Salam Cemetery in Najaf, Iraq – August 2014	2.2
2	A series of training workshops conducted by ARC-WH in partnership with UNESCO, WHC and ICCROM-ATHAR on “First Aid to Cultural Built Heritage in Syria”. (November-December 2014 and January, 2015)	4.5
3	First National Coordination Meeting for Natural Heritage in Qatar (September 17 th , 2014 Doha, Qatar)	2.6
4	Coordination meeting on Iraqi Marshlands World Heritage Nomination Process – June 2014	3.1
5	Development of Site Management Frameworks for the sites of Ur, Uruk and Tell Eridu in view of their inscription on the World Heritage List – December 2014	3.6
6	TABE'A programme upstream process on conservation of Socotra Archipelago – June 2014	7.1

¹ WHCBS stands for the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (see: <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2011/whc11-35com-9Be.pdf>)

7	Publication of an informative brochure on the current status of the historical City of Zabid – June 2014	10.5
8	Arab expert preparatory meeting to draft a unified Charter for the protection and promotion of Cultural Heritage in the Region – November 2014	10.7
9	Exhibition and Seminar – The IUCN World Parks Congress, Sydney, Australia – November 2014	10.3
10	Arabic Language Day – December 2014 (Exhibiting Timbuktu Manuscripts)	3.6
11	A series of workshops to develop a management plan for “The Ahwar of Southern Iraq and the Relict Landscape of the Mesopotamian Cities” – nominated site	2.2, 3.6
12	Symposium on Museums and communities – January 2015	10.3
13	Technical guidance and support provided to the conservation of the World Heritage site “Madain Salih”	3.1
14	Technical guidance and support provide to Al-Ahsa in Saudi Arabia as potential World Heritage Site – December 2015	2.6
15	Celebration of Arab Tourism Day, February 2015. Promote the World Heritage sites visited by renowned traveler Ibn Battuta	7.3
16	Global Comparative Analysis Workshop. Organized Jointly by ARC-WH, IUCN and WHC, 23-26 February 2015	2.2
17	Historic Cities and Urban Regeneration Conference. 23-24 March, 2015	3.7
18	Publication of the Regional Centre Annual Report	10.5
19	TABE'A report 2 published in English (June 2015)	10.6, 4.9
20	Translation of Enhancing our Heritage into Arabic, including development of 3 case studies for Wadi Al Hitan, Wadi Rum and Ichkeul	10.5, 4.4
21	Supporting Local Authorities in Qatar on the preparation of the Natural Heritage potential Nomination files	2.6
22	Technical guidance and support to the management plan of Wadi Rum (Jordan)	4.9
23	Support the recognition of Guelb er Richt (Mauritania) as a WH site	2.6
24	Support valuing and development of Natural and Cultural heritage of Ancient Cities (WH site) Project – Mauritania	7.1
25	Cooperation with Local Authorities in Bahrain on the preparation of Natural Heritage Nomination file (Hawar Island)	2.6
26	In cooperation with ICCROM Athar - Translation and publication of “Training guide on disaster risk management”	10.5
27	Launch of Distance learning program and e-platform for conflict-affected countries In the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) “Amal in Heritage”	10.6
28	Urgent Assistance to WH sites in danger - Rehabilitation of an urban area in Historic Zabid. The process of the preparation of implementation plans started in March 2015. The project was put on hold due to the current political instability in Yemen.	4.7
29	Natural Heritage in Arab Region – factsheets folder presenting each natural/mixed sites in the Arab Region	8.1
30	Global Marine thematic study – translation to Arabic, French and Spanish	10.5
31	Training workshop for nominating World Heritage and Man and Biosphere reserves	1.4

3. Website of the Centre:

www.arcwh.org

4. Designated Focal Point

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