

Report for the 40th Session of the World Heritage Committee

Istanbul (Turkey), 10 to 20 July 2016

Date of the Report: 01/05/2015

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

Address: P. O. Box 95912 Manama – Bahrain

Telephone: + (973) 17001004

Director: Dr.Mounir Bouchenaki

1. Institutional and operational structure of the Centre :

The ARC-WH is an autonomous and independent legal entity at the service of Arab Member States. The Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) is guided and supervised by a Governing Board renewed every two years. The Board meets in ordinary session at regular intervals, at least once per calendar year.

2. Updates on the management of the Centre :

The 5th ARC-WH governing board meeting was held on February 14th, 2016. The governing board emphasized on the important role that ARC-WH plays in the safeguarding of Arab World Heritage sites in danger, it also noted that ARC-WH should continue supporting state parties in their efforts in preparing nomination files of potential World Heritage sites. The governing board adopted a number of programmes and activities for the upcoming year which included capacity building Workshops and Seminars for Arab experts in both cultural and natural heritage.

3. Programs and activities implemented since April 2015 and planned for the current year

N.	Title of the activity	Reference to WHCBS¹
1	Technical support to the potential nomination of Al-Ahsa Province, Saudi Arabia	2.6
2	Exploring the potential of natural heritage within Khor al Udaid, Qatar	2.7

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

3	Supporting the upstream process of Hawar Island,Bahrain	2.2
4	Field visit to Erbil Citadel, Iraq	3.6
5	Technical guidance and support to the management plan of Wadi Rum, Jordan	4.9
6	Technical visit and meetings with officials concerning support to Mauritania's Cultural and Natural Heritage	4.9
7	Comparative analysis workshop for Natural Heritage	2.2
8	Risk Preparedness workshop	4.5
9	Technical visit to Wadi al Hitan Natural World Heritage site, Egypt	4.9
10	Historic Cities and Urban Regeneration Conference	8.1
11	Bahrain-European Environmental Week	7.1
12	Launch of Climate Change Case Study	4.1
13	Publication of Tabe'a II Report	4.1
14	Iraqi Marshlands Case study	2.1
15	Arab Tourism Day	7.3
16	World Tourism Day	3.7
17	Partnership with the University of Bahrain	9.2
18	Arabic Language Day (Exhibition on Arab Scientists and World Heritage Cities)	8.3
19	Cultural Heritage Art Workshop	8.2
20	Merging Natural and Cultural Management plans of the Iraqi Marshlands.	2.2
21	Iraqi Marshlands Exhibition	1.1
22	Support to Amal in Heritage programme	8.3
23	World Heritage Volunteers Programme "Qalaat al Bahrain" World Heritage Site	8.2
24	Fund Raising Event for the Natural World Heritage site of Socotra, Yemen	10.8
25	Socotra Emergency plan meeting	4.5
26	Training Course on the Management of Cultural Heritage sites in the Arabian Gulf.	4.3
27	Launch of the Natural Heritage library	10.5
28	"Eye on Heritage" film screening of several documentaries of Arab World Heritage sites.	10.6
29	Memorandum of Understanding with Life Beyond Tourism Foundation	7.3
30	International Conference " Investing in Culture"	8.1
31	Support to the nomination file of Sanganeb National Park, Sudan.	2.5
32	Technical assistance to the conservation plan of Banc d'Arguin National Park, Mauritania.	4.9
33	Assessment and harmonization of Morocco's tentative list	2.3

34	Training and introduction on the World Heritage convention to Iraqi experts	8.2
35	International Conference " World Heritage sites and Museums"	8.1
36	#Unite4Heritage Exhibition	8.3

4. Website of the Centre :

www.arcwh.org

5. Designated Focal Point:

Sh.Khalifa al Khalifa

Deputy Director of ARC-WH

Tel: +(973) 17003224

k.alkhalifa@arcwh.org