

# 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)**

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**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 5<sup>th</sup> ARC-WH governing board meeting was held on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 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**

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

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

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

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

**4. Website of the Centre :**

[www.arcwh.org](http://www.arcwh.org)

**5. Designated Focal Point:**

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