

Report for the 41st Session of the World Heritage Committee (Kraków, 2-12 July 2017)

1. General information

- **Name of the Centre:** Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage
- **Address:** P.O. Box 75553, Manama, Bahrain
- **Telephone:** +973 1700 1004
- **Name and contact information of the Director/Head:** Dr. Shadia Touqan s.touqan@arcwh.org
- **Designated Focal Point(s) (name, title and contact information):** Ms. Reem Saleh, Outreach & Partnerships Specialist r.saleh@arcwh.org
- **Website of the Centre:** www.arcwh.org

2. Institutional and operational structure of the Centre (Governing Board, Staffing, Operational funding and premises)

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.

3. Updates on the management of the Centre – particularly on meetings of the Governing Board and key decisions adopted

Governing Board meeting took place in Bahrain on 26th February 2017, in which it adopted a number of programmes and activities planned for 2017. The Governing Board also welcomed the appointment of Dr.Shadia Touqan as the new Director of ARC-WH and thanked Dr.Mounir Bouchnaki for his efforts during his tenure.

4. Programs and activities implemented since April 2016 and planned for the current year

N.	Title of the activity	Reference to WHCBS ¹
1.	Technical guidance and support to the Management Plan of the Iraqi Marshlands (Ahwar), Iraq.	4.9, 1.1

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

2.	Workshop and development of the 'Socotra Response Plan'.	3.6, 8.3
3.	Fund raising event for the safeguarding of Socotra.	10.8, 3.3
4.	Human relief project to rehabilitate water harvesting points in Socotra, Yemen.	8.3
5.	Workshop to support phase III of <i>Amal in Heritage</i> programme.	3.6, 5.2, 10.6
6.	Renewal of IUCN - ARC-WH Partnership Agreement.	2.8, 4.8
7.	Launch of regional study on cultural practices in Ramsar and the World Heritage Sites in collaboration with IUCN and Ramsar.	1.4, 7.1
8.	Translation of 'Right Based Approach in the Management of World Heritage Sites'.	10.5, 8.4
9.	Public viewing of 'Eye on Heritage'.	8.2, 10.6
10.	Production of factsheets 'Desert World Heritage, and Marine World Heritage Sites in the Arab States' and Exhibition on 'Sand and Sea in the Arab Region' as Side Event during 40COM.	8.4, 10.5
11.	Technical visit to sites on the topic of UNESCO Geoparks Network, Mauritania.	1.4
12.	Technical support to the management of Banc d'Arguin National Park, Mauritania.	4.9
13.	Regional workshop on 'The role of the local communities in the management of World Heritage Sites in Arab states' in collaboration with WHC and Banc d'Arguin National Park, Mauritania.	8.3, 2.7
14.	Workshop on the preparation of the nomination for Diawling National Park, Mauritania.	2.2, 2.6
15.	Workshops on 'Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit' and 'Implementation of the Right-Based Approach' as well as a monitoring programme in the Banc d'Arguin National Park, Mauritania.	6.1, 3.3,

16.	Revision and update of the Arabic version of the UNESCO Operational Guidelines.	8.4, 10.5
17.	Technical visits and guidance regarding the management of the Wadi Rum Protected Area, Jordan.	3.3, 4.3
18.	Technical visit and support to Sanganeb Marine National Park and Dungonab Bay, Sudan.	3.3
19.	Technical contribution to the IUCN WCC workshop on 'World Heritage Upstream Processes and Beyond: Promoting Creative Approaches to Strengthen the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention' in Honolulu, Hawaii.	2.3
20.	Public seminar on the 'Introduction to World Heritage' in Manama, Bahrain.	8.2
21.	Technical visit to Saudi Arabia on the identification of potential natural World Heritage Sites.	2.5
22.	Technical contribution in the IUCN workshop on 'Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit Application to Cultural Heritage' in Gland, Switzerland.	4.3
23.	Regional Workshop on 'World Heritage Nominations: Application of the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SoOUV)' in Manama, Bahrain.	2.2
24.	Technical contribution to the workshop on 'Expert Workshop on the World Heritage and Sustainable Development – From Policy to Action' in Isle of Vilm, Germany.	3.7
25.	Technical contribution to the 3rd Technical Session held during the '5th Annual Coordination Meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage-related Category 2 Institutes and Centres'.	10.4
26.	Birdwatching event alongside the World Heritage Volunteers Programme at the World Heritage site 'Qal'at Al-Bahrain (Bahrain Fort)' in Manama, Bahrain.	8.2, 8.3
27.	Public viewing of 'Plastic Ocean'	10.6
28.	Technical visit to Palmyra, Syria.	4.9

29.	Production of IUCN <i>RedList</i> assessment in Bahrain.	3.3
30.	Workshop on the preparation of nominations for Babylon, Iraq	2.2
31.	Training on threats assessment for natural World heritage sites, with focus on the Iraqi Marshlands (Ahwar), Iraq	3.6, 4.5
32.	Technical visit to assess the management and conservation needs of Battir, Palestine	4.9
33.	Workshop on management of natural World Heritage sites, Palestine	4.3
34.	Technical guidance and support on the development of the management plan of Petra, Jordan	3.3