



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

World Heritage

44 COM

WHC/21/44.COM/5B

Paris, 4 June 2021

Original: English

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Extended forty-fourth session

**Fuzhou (China) / Online meeting
16 - 31 July 2021**

**Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda: Reports of the World Heritage Centre and
the Advisory Bodies**

5B. Reports of the Advisory Bodies

SUMMARY

This document contains the brief summary reports of the Advisory Bodies on their activities since the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee, as follows:

- I. ICCROM
- II. ICOMOS
- III. IUCN

Draft Decision: 44 COM 5B, see Part IV.

I. REPORT ON ICCROM ACTIVITIES

A.1. Introduction

1. Following the request of the World Heritage Committee, this brief report outlines the key areas of ICCROM's work on the World Heritage Convention for the period from May 2019 to June 2021. ICCROM (underwent a restructuring process in January 2020) support to the Committee during this period has been provided principally by Joseph King (Unit Director, Partnerships and Communication), Valerie Magar (Unit Manager - Programmes), Zaki Aslan (Director of the ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Conservation Centre), Eugene Jo (Programme Manager – *World Heritage Leadership*), Fujio Ichihara (Project Manager, Programmes Unit), Rohit Jigyasu (Programme Manager, Programmes Unit), Elena Incerti Medici (Senior Administrative Assistant) and Elisa Ortiz (Programmes Assistant) with collaboration from other ICCROM staff, all under the direction of ICCROM Director-General, Webber Ndoro. Members of the ICCROM network also contribute to support these activities. In addition to its direct work on the Convention, ICCROM also has a project within its own Programme of Activities and Budget (2018-2019) covering its work on World Heritage within a larger programme entitled, "Integrating Cultural Heritage Conservation in Social, Economic, Urban and Environmental Planning". This programme provides capacity-building for professionals from Member States to improve both conservation at World Heritage properties and further the Sustainable Development principles as found within the *Policy on the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention*. The programme also uses knowledge developed within the World Heritage system to better conserve cultural heritage properties more generally. Another project within this programme is the *World Heritage Leadership Programme*, a partnership of ICCROM, IUCN and the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment in collaboration with ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre, which has become a Flagship Programme within ICCROM's current Programme of Activities and Budget (2020-2021) (see more information below).

A.2. 43rd and extended 44th sessions of the World Heritage Committee

2. ICCROM attendance at the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee was led by the Director General, Webber Ndoro, and included Joseph King, Eugene Jo, Fujio Ichihara, Zaki Aslan, Rohit Jigyasu and Abdullah Hallawah. In addition, ICCROM participated in a number of meetings and activities in preparation of the 43rd and 44th sessions of the Committee, including World Heritage Information meetings and meetings of the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre, both *in presentia* or online in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic (Paris, May 2019; Paris, September-October 2019; January 2020; November 2020; February 2021). ICCROM has also attended, where appropriate, meetings of the Ad-Hoc Working Group of the World Heritage Committee. ICCROM coordinated the organization of side events, including a side event followed by the ICCROM-Medina exhibition of Historic Cities in the Arab States region for the 43rd session. The side event also featured several aspects of ICCROM's programmes and activities. In the framework of the extended 44th session, ICCROM has also coordinated the Site Managers Forum in an innovative online format. ICCROM has also attended the 14th and 15th Extraordinary Sessions of the World Heritage Committee held online in 2020 and 2021.

A.3. Nominations to the World Heritage List

3. Taking note of Committee Decision **39 COM 13A** paragraph 9, ICCROM was invited by ICOMOS to attend the ICOMOS World Heritage Evaluation Panel as a non-voting

member. Due to budgetary constraints, and in keeping with the Committee's stated priority for conservation, ICCROM has not attended any panel meeting during the reporting period.

A.4. Monitoring of state of conservation of World Heritage properties

4. ICCROM has been involved in the preparation of state of conservation (SoC) reports for the extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee. Towards this end, ICCROM led in the drafting of some reports, and commented on reports prepared by ICOMOS, IUCN and the World Heritage Centre. ICCROM also participated in the drafting meetings for SoC reports that took place in preparation for the 44th session of the Committee. ICCROM participated in seven reactive monitoring missions to five World Heritage properties: Laetoli Footprints Museum of Ngorongoro property (meeting in Paris) and Stone Town of Zanzibar in Tanzania, Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa in China, Valley of Kathmandu in Nepal, Lamu Old Town in Kenya, Forts and Castles, Volta, Greater Accra, Central and Western Regions in Ghana. For this latter property, ICCROM also took part in an Advisory mission to Accra and St. George's and Elmina Castles. ICCROM is further working with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and State Parties in meetings organized on an ad hoc basis regarding the SoC of the Stone Town of Zanzibar following the partial collapse of the House of Wonders, and the Rock-Hewn Churches, Lalibela in Ethiopia in regard to proposals for the shelters for the churches.

A.5. Periodic Reporting

5. ICCROM continues to participate actively when requested in activities of the Periodic Reporting process, and in particular, the activities related to the reflection on the preparation of the Third Cycle. ICCROM has been actively engaged in the workshop for the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise in Africa and the Asia and the Pacific regions in close coordination with both the African World Heritage Fund and the relevant regional desks within the World Heritage Centre respectively. ICCROM has also engaged actively with the capacity-building activities undertaken in preparation for the APA region Periodic Reporting.

A.6. Capacity-Building for World Heritage

6. ICCROM has continued to collaborate with IUCN, ICOMOS, and the World Heritage Centre on capacity-building issues, and in particular in the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy. The important six-year programme entitled *World Heritage Leadership Programme* is currently in implementation. Developed by ICCROM and IUCN, it was launched in 2016 with the financial support of the Ministry of Climate and Environment of Norway, and now includes the Republic of Korea and Switzerland as activity partners. The programme focuses on the interlinkages in management of cultural and natural heritage with a concern for achieving sustainable development. The programme is delivered jointly with IUCN in collaboration with ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre. Activities during this period included the implementation of the Enhancing our Heritage toolkit in diverse sites in Chile, India, Switzerland, Senegal and Palau, the implementation of the "Asian Regional Course on Promoting People-Centred Approaches to Conservation of Nature & Culture" in Sri Lanka in November 2019, an activity supported by the Cultural Heritage Administration of the Republic of Korea, and the "*Understanding people, nature, culture: Heritage Management for building resilience of living traditional settlements*" delivered in an

online modality in collaboration with SEAMEO-SPAFA and Ritsumeikan University in February-June 2021. The 3rd World Heritage Site Managers' Forum was also organized together with the World Heritage Centre and the Republic of Azerbaijan. The *World Heritage Leadership Programme* launched the Nature-Culture Thematic Community on the *PANORAMA: Solutions for a Healthy Planet Partnership* platform that curates and hosts successful management practices collected from the ground, that documents and promotes verified examples of inspiring, replicable solutions across a range of conservation and sustainable development topics, enabling cross-sectoral learning and inspiration. The *World Heritage Leadership Programme* has undergone a mid-term review in the first half of 2020 which concluded that the wide range of activities implemented by the programme is proceeding well, and has shown concrete changes and positive impacts where the target beneficiaries have emphasised the added value for site managers and the programme addressing the relevant issues on the ground. The programme has issued a management response to the evaluation conducted and is working towards adopting prioritized actions for improving the delivery.

7. As the 2011 World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy marked its 10th anniversary in 2021, the World Heritage Committee by Decision **43 COM 6** requested ICCROM to carry out a results-based evaluation of the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy (WHCBS), consulting Category 2 Centres and other capacity-building partners, for examination by the Committee at its 45th session, pending the provision of additional funding.. However, additional funds were not received to facilitate a full-fledged evaluation of the WHCBS. Although there are limitations of the scope due to lack of funding, ICCROM instead has conducted an in-house, desk-based internal review to provide a preliminary overview of the implementation of the Strategy. The details of the internal review and its findings are provided in Document WHC/21/44.COM/6 related to the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy . In 2020, ICCROM began a Heritage Recovery Programme in Mosul, a two-year capacity-building programme organized in collaboration with UNESCO and with the financial support of the Government of the United Arab Emirates and the European Union. The Programme has been designed to strengthen the skills of local heritage professionals and craftspeople through training and hands-on technical practice. It will be taught in Arabic and will consist of two tracks.
8. ICCROM continues to update its events database, the classifieds section of its website, and its social media presence as a means of ensuring the dissemination of information on World Heritage capacity-building and other activities to a wider audience.
9. ICCROM works with Category 2 Centres and other regional institutions to strengthen capacity-building at the regional and sub-regional levels. This work includes on-going partnerships with the AWHF, WHITR-AP, ARC-WH, C2C Lucio Costa Centre, and Zacatecas C2C to name a few. Partnerships include sitting on governing or advisory boards, providing advice on the development of capacity-building strategies at the regional and sub-regional levels, and partnership in the implementation of some activities. ICCROM also attends the annual meeting of the Category 2 Centres.
10. ICCROM also continues to lecture on invitation at a number of World Heritage related master degree training programmes including the Masters in World Heritage and Cultural Projects for Development at the Turin School of Development (part of the ILO International Training Centre). ICCROM also worked with Tsukuba University in Japan on a series of capacity-building workshops on Nature-Culture Linkages in Heritage Conservation.
11. ICCROM is also undergoing a revision of its Course on Conservation of Built Heritage, with the aim of strengthening approaches to more sustainable conservation and to Sustainable Development.

12. ICCROM's new programme *Youth Heritage Africa* aims to create economic value, invest in social and human capital, and foster innovation and creativity within the heritage sector in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and the aspirations of the African Union's Agenda 2063.
13. Finally, ICCROM, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and other Advisory Bodies, was responsible for the development and implementation of World Heritage Orientation Sessions as requested by Committee members. Orientation Sessions include those linked to the World Heritage Information Meetings in Paris in May and those linked to the opening of the World Heritage Committee session. ICCROM is also responsible for organizing the Advisory Body space at the World Heritage Committee meetings. This space is used for information sharing and discussion on a number of key issues of interest to those people attending Committee sessions.
14. For more information on capacity-building activities, see document WHC/21/44.COM/6.

A.7. Resource Manuals

15. The *World Heritage Leadership Programme* continues work on the integration of the two manuals, *Managing Cultural World Heritage* and *Managing Natural World Heritage* into a single web based platform, which will provide integrated approaches to management of World Heritage. The manual aims for the integration of Nature-Culture linkages and people centred approaches to management of World Heritage, but also providing the paradigm shift of placing Heritage Conservation at the heart of Sustainable Development.
16. Work also continues under the *World Heritage Leadership Programme* on a revision of the manual on disaster risk management at World Heritage properties that takes into account impacts of Climate Change and integration with overall management planning. ICCROM has also been actively engaged in drafting and finalizing the updated World Heritage Climate Change Policy document initiated and led by the World Heritage Centre.
17. Within the framework of *World Heritage Leadership Programme*, ICCROM is coordinating the revision of the World Heritage Impact Assessment Guidance document together with ICOMOS and IUCN, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre (see document WHC/21/44.COM/6 and also document WHC/21/44.COM/7). The Guidance document answers to the Policy on the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention (2015), to offer guidance on the process of sound decision-making for World Heritage properties facing developmental proposals. The Guidance can help to evaluate effectively the positive or negative impacts of potential development projects to protect Outstanding Universal Value but also harness sustainable proposals for the future.

A.8. International Assistance

18. ICCROM reviewed and advised on all International Assistance requests made by States Parties for cultural and mixed properties, and participated in the International Assistance Panel meetings during the reporting period.

A.9. Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value

19. Not applicable to ICCROM's role with the World Heritage Convention.

A.10. Thematic Studies and Other Initiatives

20. As these are linked to the nomination process, ICCROM does not participate in thematic studies.
21. ICCROM has been working with ICOMOS on a joint project for Analysis of Case Studies in Recovery and Reconstruction. The project responded to one of the recommendations from the Warsaw Recommendation on Recovery and Reconstruction of Cultural Heritage. The work was completed in 2021 and the three volumes can be found online at the ICCROM and ICOMOS websites. More information can also be found below in ICOMOS' report.

A.11. Other Technical Meetings

22. Over the course of the reporting period, ICCROM has participated in a number of technical meetings and sessions called by the World Heritage Centre, States Parties, and/or other partners. These include the expert meetings on Reforming the World Heritage Nomination Process, the expert meetings on sites associated with recent conflicts, the meetings of the open-ended working group of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention on a Code of Conduct or a Statement of Ethical Principles or equivalent text, and the meetings of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Preliminary Assessment, as well as other technical meetings.

II. REPORT ON ICOMOS ACTIVITIES

A.1. Introduction

23. ICOMOS reaffirms its commitment to serve the World Heritage Committee and to assist it to address the challenges that the implementation of the World Heritage Convention is facing.
24. ICOMOS gratefully acknowledges the spirit of collaboration which generally prevails between the Advisory Bodies, UNESCO and the States Parties, and also the value of the work that is carried out conjointly with ICCROM, IUCN and the other partner organizations.

A.2. 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee

25. ICOMOS was represented at the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee (Baku, June 2019) by a solid delegation. The Advisory Body assisted in the preparation of the working documents for the Committee with the World Heritage Centre, and at the orientation session of the World Heritage Committee with ICCROM and IUCN.
26. ICOMOS presented its work on the evaluation of nominations of cultural and mixed properties, on the Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value, and on the monitoring of the state of conservation of properties. It also contributed to discussions on other items on the agenda: the revision of the *Operational Guidelines*, Sustainable Development, the Policy Guidelines, Upstream process as well as the Periodic Reporting.
27. Side events were organized on the following topics: Connecting Practice, Climate Change, Evaluation Process and ICOMOS Thematic Studies.
28. Meetings with States Parties and the World Heritage Centre were organized to discuss the state of conservation of properties.

A.3. Nomination proposals to the World Heritage List

29. For the 2020 cycle, ICOMOS evaluated 17 nominations to the World Heritage List, 4 referred back nominations, 9 minor modifications/creation of buffer zones and 7 provisional statements of OUV, which will be presented at the extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee.
30. For the 2021 cycle, ICOMOS evaluated 19 nominations to the World Heritage List and 6 minor modifications/creation of buffer zones, which will be presented at the extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee. The 2021 cycle was particularly challenging in view of the exceptional circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Late technical evaluation missions carried out on an exceptional basis in December 2020 and January 2021 and 2 extraordinary sessions of the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel held in January 2021 were ICOMOS' response to a Decision by the 14th Extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee to propose an exceptional extension of the deadlines in accordance with the Operational Guidelines (Decision 14 EXT. COM 4 point 6) and without creating a precedent for the completion of pending Evaluation missions for 2021 nominations. Thanks to the great efforts and the cooperation between the ICOMOS Evaluation Unit, the ICOMOS mission experts and the nominating States Parties, all technical evaluation missions were carried out and all nominated sites evaluated, apart from one nomination due to security reasons. Hence, ICOMOS expresses its gratitude to all the experts involved in the Evaluation Process as well as to the nominating States Parties for the efforts made in this difficult period. However, this situation also generated important additional workload and delays in the usual working calendar for completion of the evaluation texts. The difficulties in organizing the evaluation missions were so considerable that in some cases the missions almost had to be cancelled. ICOMOS therefore draws the attention of the World Heritage Committee to the risks that some technical evaluation missions may not be able to take place in the 2022 cycle, depending on the development of the pandemic situation.
31. The new arrangements for dialogue with States Parties have continued to be fruitful in clarifying issues as well as being helpful for elucidating facts. However, what this process has highlighted is the fact that, even though a State Party may receive advice from ICOMOS earlier than previously, there is still limited time available under the current evaluation timetable established by the *Operational Guidelines* for both parties to work together to resolve more major issues with a dossier that may require reformulation, even if the State Party expresses a willingness to do so.
32. ICOMOS produced a second paper on sites associated with memories of recent conflicts in response to the World Heritage Committee Decision **42 COM 5B**, which has been prepared on the basis of an extensive consultation exercise. This paper attempts to address issues raised in the first paper and to consider how the World Heritage Convention might accommodate sites associated with memories of recent conflicts, or whether there are doctrinal issues that might preclude such accommodation. It is posted on the ICOMOS website.
33. ICOMOS welcomes the current on-going reform of the Nomination process and has been deeply engaged in the reflection led by the World Heritage Centre on this topic.

A.4. Upstream Process for nominations and Tentative Lists

34. ICOMOS has been active in extending its collaboration with States Parties on upstream work and, more in general, advice work. These activities are reported in document WHC/21/44.COM/9A.
35. ICOMOS took part in coordination sessions with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN on the implementation of the Upstream requests submitted by States Parties (June and

September 2019, June 2020, November 2020 and January 2021). These meetings were helpful to agree on basic principles on how to address the requests in a more coherent and efficient manner and to ensure their follow up.

36. ICOMOS has been asked by the World Heritage Centre to draft some guidance on the Upstream support which can be provided by the Advisory Bodies on developing or revising Tentative Lists. This document was completed in July 2020 (English version) and October 2020 (French version) and was made available by the World Heritage Centre to States Parties.

A.5. Monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage properties

37. ICOMOS has contributed to reports on the monitoring of the state of conservation of cultural and mixed properties relating to the 2020 and 2021 cycles to be presented at the extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee.
38. ICOMOS carried out and prepared reports for 10 Reactive Monitoring missions for the extended 44th session. At the request of the States Parties, ICOMOS has carried out 6 Advisory missions. Due to exceptional circumstances, 5 Reactive Monitoring missions and 4 Advisory missions had to be postponed.
39. ICOMOS is providing support in consultation with the World Heritage Centre to the States Parties of the Syrian Arab Republic, Libya and Iraq in the preparation of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of properties from the World Heritage List in Danger (DSOCR) and their related corrective measures.
40. The Advisory Body took part in many online consultation meetings organised by the World Heritage Centre with States Parties on aspects of the state of conservation of their properties.
41. In addition, the World Heritage Centre consults with ICOMOS on a regular basis throughout the year on problems or threats regarding properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. Additional research work has been carried out, notably via ICOMOS networks, documents have been examined and written technical reviews have been sent to the World Heritage Centre.
42. As the number of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List continues to rise, so do the number of threats and issues that need to be addressed. ICOMOS notes that as only a very small proportion of inscribed properties can be covered by SoC reports (a proportion that falls each year). More and more issues have to be addressed outside the Committee.
43. Following examination of the evaluation of the Reactive Monitoring process by the 43rd session of the Committee, the Advisory Body commented the draft implementation matrix of the recommendations.
44. ICOMOS has closely collaborated with ICCROM, IUCN and the World Heritage Centre on a new World Heritage Impact Assessment Guidance document within the framework of the *World Heritage Leadership Programme*, contributing to development of a revised integrated draft and providing feedback from more than 40 ICOMOS experts and committees (see also document WHC/21/44.COM/7).
45. The Advisory Body is contributing to the development of a guidance tool for renewable energy projects within and near World Heritage properties initiated by the World Heritage Centre.
46. The Advisory Body supports the preparation of guidance on fire prevention and response for heritage sites and museums.

A.6. Periodic Reporting

47. The Advisory Body participated actively in the activities coordinated by the World Heritage Centre for the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Arab States, Africa and Asia and the Pacific regions.

A.7. Capacity-Building

48. ICOMOS contributed to the implementation of the *World Heritage Leadership Programme*, coordinated by ICCROM and IUCN, attending various meetings (see paragraph 6).
49. ICOMOS has continued its collaboration with the Category 2 Centres, and a pilot Workshop on Strengthening Capacities of World Heritage Francophone Professionals in the Arab Region for Cultural and Mixed sites was organized in December 2019 in Morocco by ARC-WH and ICOMOS, with the collaboration of ICCROM and IUCN (see also document WHC/21/44.COM/6). An online workshop was organised in December 2020 as a second phase of the previous workshops (Bahrain, 2018, and Rabat, 2019).

A.8. International Assistance

50. ICOMOS has considered all the requests for International Assistance for cultural and mixed properties that were submitted to it and participated in the Panels that examined these requests in 2020 and 2021. Over the same period, it also examined International Emergency Assistance requests.

A.9. Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value

51. ICOMOS has studied and reviewed the Retrospective Statements of OUV that were submitted to it, in accordance with the timetable for this set by the World Heritage Committee.

A.10. Thematic Studies

52. The Advisory Body is currently working on several thematic studies as follows:
 - *Cultural Heritages of Water in the Tropical and Sub-tropical Eastern and Southern Eastern Asia*. It would constitute the second volume of the Thematic Study on the Cultural Heritages of Water. ARC-WH has translated the first volume, *Cultural Heritages of Water in the Middle-East and the Maghreb*, into Arabic, which was presented during the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee in Baku;
 - *Tea Landscapes of Asia* (in progress).
 - ARC-WH and ICOMOS jointly prepared a study entitled *Exploring Cultural Heritage of the Arab Region - Potential offered for a more balanced World Heritage List* which is the outcome of desk work, the consultation of a group of international experts and an online workshop gathering specialists on and from the region.
 - With the support of the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Body launched a Silk Roads Scoping Study on further work to define the scope and extent of the main silk roads routes.

A.11. Other Technical Meetings

53. ICOMOS participated in several technical meetings organized by the World Heritage Centre, including the expert meetings on the Reform of the World Heritage Nomination process (November 2019, January and February 2020), and the expert meetings on sites associated with recent conflicts (December 2019 and January 2021), the meetings of the open-ended working group of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention on the Code of Conduct or a Statement of Ethical Principles or equivalent text, (16 February 2021 and 30 March 2021) and the meetings of the Ad-Hoc working group on Preliminary Assessment (10 February, 10 March and 22 April 2021).
54. ICOMOS took part in the meetings of the Advisory Bodies with the World Heritage Centre. It participated in the Advisory Bodies meeting with the World Heritage Centre (October 2019, January 2020, November 2020 and February 2021).
55. ICOMOS was represented at the 22nd session of the General Assembly of the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention (UNESCO, 27-28 November 2019) and at the 13th, 14th and 15th extraordinary sessions of the Committee (UNESCO, 28 November 2019, 2 November 2020, 29 March 2021).
56. The Advisory Body will take part in the meetings organized in relation to the extended 44th session of the Committee (Information and Orientation) and the Site Managers Forum.
57. ICOMOS attended the 8th and 10th international NGO Forum on World Heritage at Risk (Paris, 20 January 2020 and March 2021).

A.12. Climate Change and Sustainable Development

58. In 2020, the ICOMOS Triennial General Assembly declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency, calling for urgent action to safeguard the world's heritage from climate change, through adaptive management as well as implementation by all relevant actors of a precautionary approach to limit global warming to 1.5°C. Accordingly, ICOMOS continued to prioritize climate change in World Heritage work, emphasizing addressing climate impacts, preparing for inevitable losses and damage, and championing the role World Heritage can play in driving greenhouse gas mitigation and achieving the ambitions of the Paris Agreement.
59. Further to Decision **40 COM 7**, an International Meeting on Culture, Heritage and Climate Change, co-sponsored by UNESCO, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and ICOMOS, with the support of donors including the Swiss Federal Office of Culture, the Chinese National Administration of Cultural Heritage and the German Federal Environmental Foundation, will take place at the end of December 2021 and will review the state of knowledge and practice regarding connections of culture, heritage and climate change in order to inform future actions and research plans..
60. ICOMOS has also prioritized innovation in heritage conservation practice to address the climate emergency. In 2020, ICOMOS joined with Google Arts and Culture and CyArk to launch 'Heritage on the Edge,' an online platform that uses videos, 3D models and story-telling to demonstrate ways to realize the power of heritage in telling the story of climate change from the vantage of World Heritage properties in Chile, Tanzania, the UK, Bangladesh and Peru. ICOMOS is a lead partner in the UK-funded CVI: Africa project, which is piloting the Climate Vulnerability Index for World Heritage properties in Africa. During a process initiated and led by the World Heritage Centre ICOMOS experts from over 20 countries contributed energetically to the development of the Draft updated Policy Document on the impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage properties, contained in Document WHC/21/44.COM/7C. ICOMOS also contributed to

the 'Report on Climate Change, Culture and Cultural Rights' issued by the UN Special Rapporteur in the Field of Cultural Rights.

61. As the [UN Decade of Action](#) begins, ICOMOS continues to make cultural heritage visible in the international sustainability arena, mainly through its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Working Group. Some examples include co-organizing side events at the UN High-Level Political Forum; distributing publicity kits on 'Heritage and SDGs' to delegates at the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee in Baku; [signing a Memorandum of Understanding with UN-Habitat](#) and organizing sessions during the 10th World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi; co-authoring the report '[Culture in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda](#)' with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and other partners of the #Culture2030Goal campaign; creating a [webinar series](#) dedicated to heritage and sustainable development; and developing the ICOMOS report, '[Heritage and the Sustainable Development Goals: Policy Guidance for Heritage and Development Actors](#)', which was launched to the public in March 2021. ICOMOS is supporting the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) in its sustainable development programme in 2021, which will include a series of regional workshops that will continue to 2022.

A.13. Connecting Practice

62. Within the joint ICOMOS and IUCN project on *Connecting practice: Defining new methods and strategies to support Nature and Culture through engagement in the World Heritage Convention*, a questionnaire for World Heritage site managers was launched at the Site Managers Forum of the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee on the understanding and integration of cultural and natural concepts into management of World Heritage properties and how to strengthen their resilience. The outcomes of the third phase of this project has been summarized in a Final Report that will be made available on the ICOMOS website.

A.14. Post-Trauma Recovery and Reconstruction

63. The interim ICOMOS Guidance on Post-trauma Recovery and Reconstruction for World Heritage cultural properties that was drafted in 2016 has now been translated into four languages (<https://www.icomos.org/en/178-english-categories/news/8756-icomos-guidance-on-post-trauma-recovery-and-reconstruction-for-world-heritage-cultural-properties-document>). One of the aims of this guidance was to spur further discussion and prompt the collection of case studies. It will now be finalized, building on the key lessons learnt and the crosscutting issues that emerged from the case studies, and providing insights to advance understanding of post-trauma recovery and reconstruction from a cultural heritage perspective.
64. The Joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Project "Analysis of Case Studies in Recovery and Reconstruction" was completed in March 2021. This fruitful collaboration with ICCROM had been launched in 2019, following on Decision **42 COM 7** to direct the attention of Advisory Bodies towards the examination of case studies, providing an important impetus. The project involved the commissioning of a range of case studies, chosen to represent a comprehensive set of factors - geographical, cultural and causal. The causal factors include both natural occurrences and human conflict. It was managed through a joint Working Group comprising members of both organizations and administered both through the ICOMOS Secretariat and the ICCROM-Sharjah Regional Office. Published in two volumes (<https://openarchive.icomos.org/id/eprint/2447/>), the publication includes 11 case studies addressing issues of post-trauma recovery and reconstruction – from the preservation of vernacular architecture in rural Chile in the aftermath of an earthquake, to the reconstruction of a traditional royal complex in Rwanda following continuous

systems of conflict. The case studies follow the framework of the ICOMOS Matrix for the Compilation of Case Studies. This valuable tool provides a solid structure for in-depth analysis and a well-founded basis for the contrast and comparison of diverse experiences. The final report also highlights cross-cutting issues in post-trauma recovery and reconstruction, including the engagement of local populations; the need for continuous and ongoing responses; the sustainability of measures and relationships and lasting impacts; and the ownership of outcomes.

65. ICOMOS, together with UNESCO and ICCROM, cooperated to organize an expert workshop on World Heritage and urban issues, co-hosted by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan, and Kyushu University in Japan. The workshop aimed at identifying a way forward in developing possible tools for the management of World Heritage properties specifically in urban contexts including historical city centres, paying due attention to the linkage between heritage conservation and the larger frameworks of urban development. The workshop took place in Fukuoka, Japan (14-17 January 2020). A survey was conducted in advance. The City of Kyoto was presented as a case study. A site visit to Tomo Town, in Hiroshima, was organized. Key discussions focused on how to operationalize the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL Recommendation) in the World Heritage context. The participants adopted the Fukuoka Recommendation, which includes a matrix as an implementation tool. Discussions on this crucial issue should be further continued by relevant stakeholders.

III. REPORT ON IUCN ACTIVITIES

A.1. Introduction

66. In view of the continued budgetary pressures, it has again been requested that IUCN's reports to the Committee to be very short and synthetic. Further information on IUCN's work on the World Heritage Convention is available at www.iucn.org/worldheritage to complement the brief report below, and IUCN is pleased to provide further information upon request on any aspect of its work.
67. IUCN, like all organizations, has been significantly affected by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, with its profound impacts on the global economy and societal cohesion. IUCN's network-wide field projects, capacity-building and knowledge-based work have been impacted to varying degrees, as has its engagement with major global events and processes due to the postponement and/or cancellation of many international meetings. Impacts were felt across all preparations and events linked to the anticipated critical year of 2020, when the renewal of global targets to conserve biodiversity and tackle the extinction crisis, and advancement of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change had been anticipated. Many of these events have been moved into 2021 or beyond. IUCN has been working across its membership to respond to the COVID-19 emergency and is prioritizing the need for channelling a sizable proportion of recovery investments to nature, and nature-based solutions. Through its Nature-based Recovery initiative, IUCN aims to mobilise its Members and partners around this common ambition in response to this unprecedented crisis. This has included working with UNESCO and the other Advisory Bodies on the impact on World Heritage properties. IUCN has also been actively adapting to the new operating environment with many activities moving to virtual platforms. The IUCN World Conservation Congress, originally scheduled for June 2020 has been postponed twice and is now planned from 3-11 September 2021 in Marseille, France.
68. By way of further background, the attention of the Committee is drawn to IUCN's policy base of resolutions (<https://portals.iucn.org/library/resrec/search/>) and the position adopted by the last IUCN World Parks Congress also remains relevant and can be

consulted at <http://www.worldparkscongress.org/downloads/approaches/ThemeW.pdf>. IUCN's new Programme for the period 2021-2024 was adopted by IUCN Members in February 2021. The Nature 2030 IUCN Programme for the first time, sets its ambition in a decadal timeframe (2021–2030) and is a call for mobilisation to the entire Union (<https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/49292>). Through its new Programme, IUCN will ensure World Heritage is positioned as a key tool to address the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which in turn will act as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The potential for World Heritage properties to be exemplars of good conservation practice and agents of change will be emphasized.

69. In November 2019, IUCN initiated in partnership with the support of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) and the Vilm International Academy for Nature Conservation a multi-partner expert workshop to define the unique contribution that World Heritage offers to the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The workshop produced a World Heritage and Post 2020 statement, supported by the World Heritage Centre, Advisory Bodies and other partners (https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/2019/post2020_statement_iucn_unesco_iccrom_icomos_icimod.pdf). IUCN continues to advocate for the unique contribution that World Heritage can make to address the interlinked global biodiversity and climate change crises. More details are included in document WHC/21/44.COM/7.
70. The work of the IUCN World Heritage Programme is also focused on complementing its advisory role to the World Heritage Committee with proactive programmes of support to States Parties, and to the large body of IUCN's members and partners, to optimize engagement in the Convention. A short summary of priority work includes (a) the continued development of the IUCN World Heritage Outlook with a launch of the updated conservation outlook assessments in December 2020 (elaborated further below); (b) proactive initiatives at the scale of regional gap analyses to promote work on possible priorities for World Heritage nominations including to inform national Tentative Lists; (c) initiatives within IUCN and active contribution to reform processes such as the operationalization of Preliminary Assessments which are under discussion to improve the quality of nominations and evaluation processes, (d) strengthening of IUCN's regional capacity and diversity in both its secretariat and its expert network, (e) continued work to promote strengthened rights-based approaches in relation to World Heritage sites and the benefits they provide to local communities and indigenous peoples; (f) further work with partners on the role of World Heritage in protecting wilderness and large land and seascapes and (g) ensuring the relevance of World Heritage to wider conservation efforts and the Sustainable Development Goals, helping to frame the World Heritage contribution to the Post 2020 global agenda. Linking across all of these actions, the role of the World Heritage Convention in leading practice to connect the conservation of cultural and natural heritage is a growing focus for IUCN. Priorities include the *World Heritage Leadership Programme* with its focus on more integrative approaches (see section I of this document and also document WHC/21/44.COM/6). The IUCN/ICOMOS partnership on Connecting Practice is implementing Phase 3, with the support of The Christensen Fund, under the coordination of ICOMOS. Finally, IUCN with the support of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment is advancing its work on integrating culture and nature into World Heritage focused management effectiveness tools, notably through update of the Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit, and linkage to the IUCN Green List Standard. IUCN invested in a senior role to develop a new Nature Culture Initiative during 2019-2020, focused on supporting these connections, and integrating cultural dimensions across IUCN's programmatic work at all levels. Connections are also being made with UNESCO and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and other partners, to promote these connections towards a new joint work programme on nature and culture as part of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. This work continues in 2021 with a widened focus for the IUCN World Heritage Programme.

71. IUCN acknowledges the continued and strengthening partnerships with UNESCO, ICCROM, ICOMOS and also with a range of partners and a number of States Parties to enable its work. IUCN acknowledges with thanks the very significant volunteer efforts of its members and expert commissions, without whose support our work would not be possible.

A.2. 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee

72. IUCN attended the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee with a diverse and effective delegation and contributed fully in all relevant items of the Committee's business, including the working groups on the budget and *Operational Guidelines*.

A.3. Nominations to the World Heritage List

73. IUCN completed evaluations of all natural and mixed nominations and presented its recommendations to the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee, in line with the requirements of the *Operational Guidelines*. This work has also been completed on time and as per the adjusted processes for the extended 44th session despite the uncertainties imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on international travel. IUCN applied maximum flexibility with its working methods to accommodate field missions, however, some evaluation missions were unable to be completed due to security and/or health concerns. Further consideration of these issues are developed in document WHC/21/44.COM/INF.8B2, in document WHC/21/44.COM/8 and in document WHC/21/44.COM/9A.

74. IUCN expresses its continued and increasing concern regarding the Committee's tendency to deviate from the technical advice of the Advisory Bodies. At the 43rd session some 83.7% of Advisory Body recommendations were modified by the Committee, mostly to push decisions to be more favourable for nominations and less rigorous on conservation commitments. Furthermore, the Committee, as happened twice at the 42nd session, again amended a recommendation for non-inscription to inscription. IUCN continues to believe this sets a concerning trend which unchecked threatens to undermine the credibility of the Convention.

A.4. Monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage properties

75. IUCN was tasked with the drafting of the majority of SoC reports on natural properties planned to be presented at the extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee.

76. During the course of the reporting period, IUCN has continued its commitment to improve the conservation prospects of natural World Heritage sites through ongoing investment in the project "A Brighter Outlook for World Heritage", supported through further MAVA Foundation funding in 2019-2020. This project is supporting a third update of the IUCN World Heritage Outlook launched in December 2020 (<https://worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org/>), which revealed deteriorating trends across three assessment data sets on the overall conservation outlook for natural and mixed properties, on the escalating levels of threats and on the quality of protection and management. Climate change has become the threat affecting most natural World Heritage properties and less than half of all sites are assessed as having effective protection and management. IUCN is increasingly using the Outlook process to raise awareness on critical site threats and needs and to catalyse conservation action on the ground through a growing number of Outlook Partners who are committed to using the tool to further their work. IUCN again recalls that, whilst it has mobilised this additional support, this funding is not available to support statutory work advising the World Heritage Committee, which is expected to be supported by the World Heritage Fund.

IUCN continues to contribute to strategic discussions on ways to streamline processes and enhance the currently inadequate budgets to support the Convention's essential statutory processes and realize its potential. IUCN continues to consider that the current workload relative to available resources in this regard is unsustainable. The initiatives to improve upstream support are strongly supported and commendable. However, resourcing available from the World Heritage Fund remain out of step with this ambition.

A.5. Periodic Reporting

77. IUCN has contributed fully, and primarily from its own resources, to the continued programme of Periodic Reporting, including engagement on the Third Cycle with focus on the Arab States Region and Africa. IUCN has continued its partnership with the ARC-WH to support natural heritage in the Arab States, and with the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), with a particular focus on World Heritage in West and Central Africa. IUCN maintains focal points for World Heritage in all of its regional offices, although most require significant additional resources to be able to meet the demands for support to the Convention.

A.6. Capacity-Building for World Heritage

78. Funding for capacity-building by IUCN was cut in 2012 due to budgetary restraints in UNESCO, and remains at zero in the current biennium; thus, the commitment from IUCN to this effort relies entirely on extra budgetary fundraising. Throughout 2019-2020 IUCN has continued to implement the important *World Heritage Leadership programme* (see paragraph 6 and also document WHC/21/44.COM/6).

A.7. Resource Manuals

79. IUCN has continued to contribute to the future programme for review of the resource manuals and their translation. The *World Heritage Leadership Programme* is continuing work towards a complete update and merging of the currently separate manuals on managing cultural and natural World Heritage, and an update on the manual on disaster risk management. Work is also well advanced on a new guidance on Impact Assessment (see paragraphs 14, 15 and 16 as well as document WHC/21/44.COM/6).

A.8. International Assistance

80. Under the revised procedures, IUCN reviewed and advised on all International Assistance requests that fell within its remit and participated in the IA Panel.

A.9. Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value (RSOUV)

81. IUCN has studied and reviewed Retrospective Statements of OUV which were submitted to it, in accordance with the timetable for this set by the World Heritage Committee.

A.10. Thematic Studies and Other Initiatives

82. In the course of 2019-2020, IUCN continued to make significant progress on a number of thematic and technical studies with extra-budgetary support. Following the release of the thematic study on wilderness and large landscapes, IUCN is developing further work further advance the potential of the World Heritage Convention to support scaling up of conservation efforts including conservation of land and seascape led by indigenous peoples. A significant workshop was held in January 2020 in partnership

with International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Wild Heritage / Earth Island Institute and National Geographic to advance these ideas in the Hindu Kush Himalaya. IUCN also finalized its thematic study for Central Asia in January 2020 and a study on natural World Heritage in Africa: Progress and Prospects in April 2020. An update of the IUCN Geoheritage Thematic Framework, as previously requested by the World Heritage Committee, is well advanced through funding support from the Republic of Korea and planned to be launched at the extended 44th session of the Committee. Furthermore, amongst many IUCN publications of wider relevance to World Heritage, three new Best Practice Guides for the cultural and spiritual significance of nature, the conservation of geoheritage in protected and conserved areas, and connectivity conservation have been completed by IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas: <https://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/resources/iucn-wcpa-best-practice-guidelines-protected-area-managers-series>.

83. The establishment of the IUCN World Heritage Outlook Partners, launched at the 40th session of the Committee, brings together civil society organizations to raise conservation prospects of sites facing major threats through on-the-ground initiatives, with now nine leading conservation organizations confirmed as partners (<https://www.worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org/partners>). Efforts continue to actively recruit additional World Heritage Outlook Partners and to increase the number of site-focussed projects.
84. Within IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), a World Heritage Network is established and growing in size to become one of the largest networks within WCPA providing a stronger pool of expertise.

A.11. Other Technical Meetings

85. Noting the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, IUCN has participated in and/or organized jointly with the other Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre, the series of orientation sessions and awareness-raising sessions, together with internal coordination meetings, and has participated in the meetings of the ad-hoc working group as requested. IUCN was also pleased to actively contribute to the Expert Drafting Group on the reform of the Nomination process to operationalize the mechanics of this initiative into the *Operational Guidelines* the outcomes of which will be reported to the extended 44th session of the Committee.

IV. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 44 COM 5B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/5B,*
2. *Mindful of the efforts undertaken by the Advisory Bodies (ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN) to respond to the exceptional situation created by the COVID-19 pandemic,*
3. *Takes note with appreciation of the reports of the Advisory Bodies on their activities;*
4. *Also takes note of the progress made as well as of the challenges and gaps identified by the Advisory Bodies in the framework of the implementation of the Convention.*