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# World Heritage

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WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

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**Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda: Follow-up to the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy and Progress report on the World Heritage-related Category 2 Centres**

**6: Follow-up to the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy and Progress report on the World Heritage-related Category 2 Centres**

## SUMMARY

By Decision **43 COM 6**, the World Heritage Committee requested the World Heritage Centre and ICCROM to submit a progress report on the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy and the activities of the Category 2 Centres under the auspices of UNESCO related to World Heritage, for examination by the Committee at its 44th session in 2020. This document includes a progress report covering a period from July 2019 to June 2021.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 6**, see Point IV.

## **I. FOLLOW UP TO THE CAPACITY- BUILDING STRATEGY**

1. The World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy (WHCBS) was approved by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session (Paris, 2011) (Decision **35 COM 9B**). The Strategy was developed by the World Heritage Centre in collaboration with ICCROM, IUCN, ICOMOS and other capacity-building partners, such as Category 2 Centres under the auspices of UNESCO in various regions of the world. The work was made possible by contributions from the World Heritage Fund and the Swiss Government, which also provided professional expertise.

### **A. Implementation of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy**

2. Since the adoption of the WHCBS, the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and capacity-building partners have been working to implement capacity-building activities at both the regional and international levels to address the needs of heritage practitioners, institutions and other networks and communities. Reinforcement of the capacity-building pillar of the Convention continues to be a priority to equip States Parties with the relevant expertise to protect and manage their sites, as well as to ensure a representative, credible and balanced World Heritage List. The central importance of the capacity-building programmes in the implementation of UNESCO's cultural Conventions has also been underscored by the 2017 UNESCO IOS Evaluations. Despite an uneven picture across the cultural Conventions, many States Parties have integrated key provisions into national legislations, policies and strategic frameworks including, in some instances, cross-cutting domains of importance for sustainable development.
3. In this context, the World Heritage Centre participated, between 2018 and 2020, in the Inter-agency Meeting of Capacity-Development Coordinators of Biodiversity-related Convention Secretariats and Relevant International Organizations, with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) leading this group. Convention Coordinators from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions<sup>1</sup> and IUCN are also members of this group. The WHCBS and the progress made with its implementation as well as the World Heritage Leadership Programme were presented to this group, which is currently developing a long-term strategic framework for capacity development to support the implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.
4. Meanwhile, the World Heritage Centre has developed a dedicated webpage on World Heritage Capacity Building (which will be available at the following link <https://whc.unesco.org/en/capacity-building/>). This webpage aims to support capacity-building activities in the States Parties by effectively communicating the work of the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and related stakeholders on the activities, tools, best practice examples and partners for capacity building. The webpage will actively promote capacity building as a core activity that needs to be strategically addressed, and the resources provided will encourage and assist States Parties in

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<sup>1</sup> Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), International Whaling Commission (IWC) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

introducing policies and regulations on World Heritage capacity-building and training and implementing them.

5. In partnership with the UNESCO Office in Beirut and the Directorate General of Antiquities in Lebanon, ICCROM-Sharjah held a training workshop on “Enhancing World Heritage Management Skills for Heritage Professionals in Lebanon” in Sharjah, UAE, in December 2020. Building on a previous workshop held in Lebanon in February 2019, the workshop aimed to provide a better understanding of and tools for the development of integrated and sustainable World Heritage management plans in the participants’ own context. Furthermore, as a response to the request from Egypt, ICCROM-Sharjah provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities regarding World Heritage Tentative List and nomination processes. Additionally, in cooperation with ARC-WH, ICCROM-Sharjah conducted a workshop on World Heritage Management, including risk management, for Yemeni professionals in Bahrain in February 2020. With the launch of the Masters programme on cultural heritage conservation management implemented in partnership with the University of Sharjah, World Heritage was part of the curriculum and a special course was conducted in collaboration with ARC-WH in March 2020. The two-year Masters course addresses various conservation issues ranging from theory and documentation of cultural heritage to the management of historic cities and site conservation methods and techniques.
6. Regarding the physical conservation of built heritage, including at World Heritage properties, ICCROM continues to organise courses and seminars related to specific materials. The second international course on wooden architecture conservation and restoration took place in September 2019 at the Open Air Museum on Kizhi Island, Russian Federation, with financing from the European Union, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Finland. A course on Conservation and Management of Wooden Structures took place in Nara, Japan, from 4 September to 3 October 2019, jointly organized by the Agency for Cultural Affairs of Japan (Bunkacho), the Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU), ICCROM, and the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties (Tokyo and Nara), in cooperation with the Japanese Association for Conservation of Architectural Monuments (JACAM), the Japan Consortium for International Cooperation on Cultural Heritage (JCIC-Heritage) under the auspices of Japanese National Commission for UNESCO, the Nara Prefectural Government and the Nara City Government. An international meeting on evaluation criteria applied in stone conservation treatments took place in Mexico City in November 2019, organized by the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, in collaboration with the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and ICCROM. In 2020, these capacity-building activities were changed to online formats. An online course on Investigation, preservation and management of Archaeological sites took place in September 2020, jointly organized by the Bunkacho, ACCU, ICCROM, and the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties (Tokyo and Nara), JCIC-Heritage and with support from the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO, the Nara Prefectural Government and the Nara City Government. A workshop on good practices for disaster risk management of cultural heritage was organised by Ritsumeikan University and ICCROM from 8 to 10 October 2020. An online seminar on criteria and principles applied to stone conservation was organized by the Instituto del Patrimonio Cultural de España, the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (Mexico) and ICCROM.
7. UNESCO Chairs are a long-standing part of the WHCBS and continue to function in their capacity as providers of capacity building for World Heritage. Current reporting on World Heritage-related UNESCO Chairs can be found on the dedicated online platform for the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme (<https://en.unesco.org/unitwin-unesco-chairs-programme>), as well as on the World Heritage Centre’s webpages on specific programmes.

8. ICCROM continues to update information on regular training opportunities for World Heritage and for cultural heritage conservation in general as well as meetings, seminars, workshops, and other events and activities related to heritage conservation. This information is made available on the ICCROM website and social media (Facebook and Twitter). These sources also contain significant information on conservation issues as well as educational and job opportunities in conservation.

## **B. World Heritage Leadership Programme**

9. The ICCROM/IUCN *World Heritage Leadership Programme*, which started in 2016, aims to build the skills of practitioners working through the World Heritage Convention. It considers the totality of conservation practice, so that World Heritage can provide leadership to achieve innovation and excellence within the conservation sector. The World Heritage Leadership programme integrates nature and culture from the outset, focusing on areas where World Heritage has the most compelling potential to address pressing challenges, such as climate change and impacts from development. Detailed information on the implementation of the World Heritage Leadership Programme can be found in working document *WHC/21/44.COM/5B*.
10. The Programme supports the contribution of World Heritage properties to sustainable development, as foreseen in the *Policy for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention*. The Programme is a partnership between ICCROM and IUCN, working in cooperation with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, and it is supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment. Additional partners, such as the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) and the Cultural Heritage Administration of the Republic of Korea (CHA), have joined to support individual Programme activities. Other capacity-building partners, such as universities and Category 2 Centres, are also collaborating on specific activities of the programme or allied activities.
11. Core and long-term activities include the revision of the World Heritage management manuals and the creation of a web-based learning platform. The programme operates on five modules namely, Effective management, Resilience, Impact Assessment, Learning Sites and Leadership Networks. Key outputs for this period include:
  - a. Effective Management
    - i. Development of the “Integrated Manual for Managing World Heritage” (draft title), which in turn will feed the web-based platform,
    - ii. Course on People Nature Culture (PNC), a two-week course in Sri Lanka (November 2019), with the support of CHA,
    - iii. Preparation of an online course on People Nature Culture to be held from August to October 2021 for the Asia Pacific region (<https://www.iccrom.org/courses/asian-regional-course-people-nature-culture-2021>),
    - iv. Testing of the enhanced “Our Heritage Toolkit” (EOH) in multiple locations across diverse typologies of properties, and revisions to the existing toolkit for the use across all World Heritage sites. Development of a step-by-step guidance text to make sure that practitioners on the ground will be able to utilize the tool by themselves, with the support of the FOEN,
  - b. Resilience
    - i. Ongoing revision of the Resource Manual *Managing Disaster Risks* to include aspects on Climate Change adaptation,
    - ii. Online Course on “Understanding People, Nature, Culture: Heritage Management for Building Resilience of Traditional Living Settlements”

from February to June 2021, 5 selected projects receiving grants from scholarship offered by the Government of China,

- c. Impact Assessment
    - i. Revision of the Guidance on World Heritage Impact Assessments,
    - ii. Targeted workshops and courses on impact assessment in collaboration with the UNESCO Offices in Ramallah and Bangkok, and supporting capacity-building activities for the Periodic Reporting exercise,
  - d. Learning sites
    - i. Establishment of the Nature-Culture thematic community within the PANORAMA Platform to promote case studies,
    - ii. A total of 23 new case studies curated to document integrated management practices from diverse World Heritage properties,
  - e. Leadership Networks
    - i. Organization of the Third Site Managers Forum in conjunction with the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee (Baku, 2019),
    - ii. Preparation of the Fourth Site Managers Forum in an online modality, in conjunction with the extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee.
12. New collaborations have been formed to implement the work on the Learning Sites module. “PANORAMA – Solutions for a Healthy Planet” is a partnership initiative to document and promote examples of inspiring, replicable solutions across a range of conservation and sustainable development topics, enabling cross-sectoral learning and inspiration. A new nature-culture thematic community has been established as part of PANORAMA, coordinated by ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN, where 23 case studies were collected through the Leadership Programme and were uploaded; new case studies will continue to be uploaded (<https://panorama.solutions/en/portal/nature-culture>).
13. The Programme has been continuing its work to compile a more practical and user-friendly guidance for conducting impact assessment on World Heritage that can be used across natural and cultural properties, using a framework that can be applied to both natural and cultural properties and to small- or large-scale projects, either within broader environmental impact assessments (EIA), or used as a stand-alone assessment. More details about the upcoming guidance are provided in Document *WHC/21/44.COM/7*.
14. On the occasion of the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee, the Government of Azerbaijan hosted the Third Site Managers Forum, organized by the World Heritage Centre and the ICCROM-IUCN World Heritage Leadership Programme, in partnership with ICOMOS. Over 60 site managers from 41 States Parties attended the eight-day Forum, given under the theme of “Towards sustainable heritage management.” The host country generously funded 25 participants from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), which greatly enhanced a diverse and balanced representation of site managers from around the world.
15. On the topic of linking cultural and natural heritage conservation and management, in addition to the World Heritage Leadership Programme and the ICOMOS/IUCN Connecting Practice programme, the UNESCO Chair on Nature-Culture Linkages at Tsukuba University (Japan) has teamed up with IUCN, ICCROM, ICOMOS, and the World Heritage Centre to host a series of courses since 2016. The most recent course was held from 24 September to 4 October 2019 and covered the subject of CultureNature Journeys (CNJ) in Heritage Conservation in Asia and the Pacific: Mixed

Cultural and Natural Heritage. The publication is currently being compiled for publication in the World Heritage paper series.

16. The World Heritage Leadership Programme has carried out a mid-term evaluation in the first half of 2020. The evaluation 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. Overall key actions in response to the evaluation are to improve the set of indicators to measure impacts of the programme and to enhance the collaborative working methods through means of formalizing partnerships and ensuring the official status of knowledge products. Details of the evaluation recommendations and the management response can be found in the programme webpage (<https://www.iccrom.org/section/world-heritage-leadership>).

### C. Regional Capacity-Building Strategies

17. As part of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy, the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies, Category 2 Centres and interested States Parties have also been working on the development and implementation of regional capacity-building strategies:
  - a) In the region of **Asia and the Pacific**, training and capacity-building workshops were held online due to COVID-19. The workshop “UNESCO Processes of World Heritage Properties in Kazakhstan: Management, Reporting and Monitoring” was held online on 18 June 2020, with the aim to raise the awareness and develop the capacity of local authorities, city developers and managers of World Heritage properties in Kazakhstan.
  - b) Launched almost two decades ago, the Community Management of Protected Areas for Conservation (COMPACT) initiative offers a proven model for promoting sustainable development near and within World Heritage properties, while engaging indigenous and local communities in conservation and governance of these globally important landscapes. Building on this experience, the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) and the World Heritage Centre planned a joint COMPACT Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop for 25 participants aimed at launching a multi-year effort to extend the COMPACT model in the region. The SGP and WHC planned to organize this four-day workshop in Lijiang, China in July 2020 in conjunction with the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee. Due to the postponement of the session and the COVID-19 pandemic, alternatives for this meeting are still under consideration at the time of writing this document.
  - c) With financial support from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust, the UNESCO Office in Bangkok and the Asia-Pacific Unit of the World Heritage Centre organised, between November 2020 and April 2021, a series of on-line training courses on ‘Sustainable Heritage Management: new challenges, new competences for site managers and national experts in South-East Asia’. These activities aimed to strengthen competencies for World Heritage site management in Asia and enhance technical and management capacity among professional staff.
  - d) Thanks to financial support from the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust, a project entitled “Capacity Building Ahead of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in Asia and the Pacific” has been implemented since 2019 by the Asia -Pacific Unit.

The project aims to provide Asia-Pacific National Focal Points and Site Managers with theoretical and practical training on the Periodic Reporting exercise and core topics of the Convention. Between September 2020 and March 2021, the World Heritage Centre organized a total of 16 online training sessions to cover topics raised in the Periodic Reporting questionnaire as well as other important aspects and elements highlighted by the World Heritage Committee. Together with the UNESCO Field Offices in the Asia-Pacific region, Category 2 Centres and the Advisory Bodies, these capacity-building activities equipped the National Focal Points for Periodic Reporting and World Heritage site managers in the region with sound knowledge and experience to undertake the exercise in the Asia-Pacific region. The recordings and PPT presentations made at the on-line training sessions have also been disseminated to the experts and site managers (see also Document *WHC/21/44.COM/10D*).

- e) The World Heritage Centre also organized on-site activities and training workshops in Tajikistan and in Turkmenistan in 2019, in the framework of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust project “Support for the Silk Roads World Heritage Sites in Central Asia (Phase II)”. Other capacity-building activities, such as on-line Masterclass/Training Workshops on World Heritage conservation, are also being planned for Bangladesh and Uzbekistan in the second half of 2021 to address specific conservation issues relating to cultural and natural World Heritage properties.
- f) In the **Latin America and the Caribbean** region, workshops and capacity-building activities were organised in Colombia, Cuba, Haiti and Mexico, in close cooperation with the Category 2 Centres and Field Offices. Activities aimed to reinforce the capacities of site managers, Focal Points and other key stakeholders and communities on priorities identified for both sub-regions of Central America and the Caribbean. This especially concerned the strengthening of the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*, updates to Tentative Lists and the management of sustainable tourism and conservation for World Heritage properties.
- g) The sub-regional workshop "Sustainable Tourism Strategy" was carried out in Bridgetown, Barbados, from 20 to 22 April 2020 in cooperation with the University of the West Indies, Barbados, the National Commission for UNESCO, and the UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean, within the framework of the World Heritage Programme of Small Islands States and the World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme. The workshop contributed to strengthening the capacities of site managers and other key stakeholders and communities for the planning and management of sustainable tourism in the Caribbean. Academic institutions, universities, the Caribbean Tourism Organization and the Caribbean Development Bank were among the partners and beneficiaries of the initiative.
- h) Also in the Caribbean, the project “Préservation du patrimoine et appui au secteur touristique” (PAST – Preservation of heritage and support to the tourism sector) in Haiti, financed by the World Bank (approx. USD 2.5 million), has entered its second phase in July 2019, focusing on a number of assistance and capacity-building in diverse areas including sustainable tourism, conservation and management of the World Heritage property National History Park – Citadel, Sans Souci, Ramiers.
- i) An extra-budgetary project funded by the German Foreign Office for International Cooperation is being implemented in Costa Rica to strengthen the capacity of local communities, particularly youth and indigenous people, in the conservation of the World Heritage property ‘Pre-Columbian Chiefdom Settlements with Stone Spheres of the Diquís’. A national seminar was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on the topic

of strengthening capacities of site managers for risk management at World Heritage properties. A 5-day high-level exchange of good practices between Belize and Australia for reefs protection was organized to bolster expertise in World Heritage conservation. The exchange visit marked a highlight of the 2018 International Year of the Reef, an initiative from the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), jointly co-chaired by the governments of Monaco, Australia and Indonesia until mid-2020. (For capacity-building activities in the Latin America region, see also Document *WHC/21/44.COM/5A*.)

- j) The **Europe and North America** Unit continued capacity-building initiatives related to heritage impact assessments, particularly in the context of energy transition, with the support of France and the Netherlands. One initiative aims to strengthen the methodological and analytical validity of impact studies conducted by States Parties, particularly regarding the visual impact of wind farms near World Heritage properties. The publication of this work funded by France, entitled “World Heritage and Wind Energy Planning: Protecting Visual Integrity in the Context of Energy Transition - Innovative Practices from Four European Countries”, will be available in the working languages of the Convention. In parallel, a project entitled ‘Guidance Tools for Renewable Energy Projects’, funded by the Netherlands, has started with the organization of a workshop hosted by Portugal. The workshop provided an opportunity for States Parties from the region to share their experiences and challenges concerning the installation of wind farms in or near World Heritage properties. UNESCO focused on the analysis of the values of World Heritage properties and the needs related to their protection. The workshop also provided an opportunity to take stock of the expectations of States Parties about the planned guidance tool.
- k) The **Africa** Unit organised training and workshops to strengthen the capacity of the States Parties, particularly in relation with two key aspects of management and promotion of the World Heritage properties in the region: safeguarding of transboundary heritage sites for sustainable development, and applying new technologies for the management and monitoring of natural resources. The following three capacity-building workshops were organised in the region:
- Safeguarding of transboundary heritage sites for sustainable development and peace in Africa;
  - Training Workshop on Application of New Technologies for the Monitoring and Evaluation of Natural Resources in Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage sites;
  - Capacity-building workshops for the MAB Programme and World Heritage Convention Focal Points from the Lake Chad Basin, held at the Senegal River Delta Transboundary Biosphere Reserve.
- l) In close collaboration with the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), the World Heritage Centre also coordinated one study and four workshops aiming to empower the States Parties in the preparation of solid and credible nomination dossiers, in order to improve the representation of cultural and natural heritage from Africa on the World Heritage List:
- A thematic gap study followed by a virtual validation meeting on priorities for World Heritage Listing in Africa;
  - A virtual Tentative Listing workshop gathered 20 participants from 10 African States Parties working on updating their national Tentative Lists;
  - A Francophone Nomination Training Course in Benin (November 2020) gathered 13 participants from 6 African States Parties working on 6 nomination projects;

- A virtual Francophone Nomination Workshop for Advanced dossiers gathered 12 participants from 4 States Parties and working on 4 nomination dossiers;
  - A virtual Anglophone Nomination Workshop for advanced dossier gathered 15 participants from 6 States Parties and working on 4 nomination dossiers.
- m) As part of the collaboration between the African World Heritage Fund, the École du Patrimoine Africain (EPA), the World Heritage Centre and ICCROM, three workshops were organised for nominations dossiers:
- **World Heritage Nomination Workshops for Advanced Dossiers (Anglophone participants)**, 10–17 September 2020 – organised online together with EPA and AWHF.
- The workshop consisted of hands-on exercises aiming at evaluating the state of readiness of advanced nomination dossiers and assist States Parties in addressing outstanding issues. It gathered participants from five countries (Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe), and six nominations dossiers were examined by resource persons and experts from Botswana, Kenya, South Africa and Zimbabwe.
- **World Heritage Nomination Workshop for Advanced Dossiers (Francophone participants)**, 24 September – 1 October 2020 (online)
- The workshop aimed to review the listing proposals to quantify the remaining work and establish a work plan to guide the mentor-monitoring phase. Twelve participants from four countries with four nomination projects (Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Madagascar). Four Action Plans were developed by participants for technical and financial assistance from AWHF and the World Heritage Fund. An additional 25 African Young Heritage Professionals were invited as guests to attend the online workshop and gain some knowledge on nomination dossier preparation.
- **7th Edition of World Heritage Nomination Training Workshop (Francophone participants)**, 9–27 November 2020, Benin, EPA
- The three-week training workshop aimed at improving the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* in Francophone countries by strengthening the skills of cultural and natural heritage professionals. Thirteen participants from nine countries (Benin, Burkina-Faso, Cameroon, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Mali and Senegal) were trained on conceptual World Heritage environment and nomination dossiers, disaster risk management, community engagement and generation of revenue. Six nomination dossiers from seven countries were revised and areas for improvement identified.
- n) Financial support for a capacity-building programme on World Heritage nomination projects in the Africa region, capacity building in risk management and protection systems in Africa, and the promotion of World Heritage sites are also being provided since January 2021 in five Eastern African countries. Support is also provided for training on risk management for site managers of the World Heritage properties of the Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (Uganda); Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin), Koutammakou and the Land of the Batammariba (Togo); Historic Town of Grand-Bassam (Côte d'Ivoire), Island of Saint-Louis (Senegal) and the Stone Town of Zanzibar (the United Republic of Tanzania) with the support of Oman and the People's Republic of China.
- o) In the **Arab States** region, capacity-building activities were developed and implemented by the World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with UNESCO Field Offices, Advisory Bodies and the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH). Activities undertaken have mainly focused on supporting States Parties in

developing and implementing corrective measures and the Desired state of conservation for the removal of properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as well as on the elaboration of Tentative Lists. A workshop on strengthening capacities of World Heritage Professionals in the Arab Region for cultural and mixed sites took place in Rabat, Morocco, in December 2019, organised by ARC-WH and ICOMOS in collaboration with IUCN and ICCROM.

- p) An international workshop on the “Practical Application of the *Salalah Guidelines for the Management of Public Archaeological Sites*” was held in Oman, 16-19 September 2019. Organized by the Office of the Advisor to His Majesty the Sultan for Cultural Affairs and ICOMOS Oman, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, the workshop focused on the application of the *Salalah Guidelines* by examining different case studies and holding panel sessions on tourism, community participation, new technologies and challenges.
- q) In 2020, ICCROM kick-started the Heritage Recovery Programme in Mosul, a two-year capacity building programme organized in collaboration with UNESCO, with the financial support of the Government of the United Arab Emirates and the European Union (see <https://www.iccrom.org/news/iccrom-kickstarts-heritage-recovery-programme-mosul-iraq>). With the goal of fostering community reconciliation through the recovery of the environment and the rehabilitation of the city’s heritage sites, the programme seeks to ensure long-term sustainable livelihood opportunities for Moslawi people and prosperity for the future. The Programme has been designed to strengthen the skills of local heritage professionals and craftspeople through training and hands-on technical practice. Taught in Arabic, it consists of two tracks, one focusing on building capacity for professional development and the other on reviving and upgrading building crafts.

## **II. PROGRESS REPORT ON WORLD HERITAGE-RELATED CATEGORY 2 CENTRES ACTIVITIES**

- 18. Detailed progress reports on all activities carried out by the Category 2 Centres can be found at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/category2centres/>. The reports include a table indicating programmes and activities that are implemented or planned within the framework of the WHCBS.
- 19. The Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for the Asia and Pacific Region at Wildlife Institute of India (WII) continues to contribute to the strengthening of capacities in the conservation and management of World Natural Heritage. In addition to supporting an internship programme for students and young professionals and a Masters Course in Heritage Conservation and Management, WII offered eight capacity-building and training programmes on World Natural Heritage during late 2019. In 2020 and early 2021, WII undertook activities both online and, when possible, offline, including documentation on potential sites and the Masters Course on Heritage Conservation and Management. The Centre conducted seven capacity-building programmes on World Natural Heritage, ranging from international webinars on Disaster/Pandemics and on Climate Change Adaptation Planning; national workshops on World Heritage for nature guides, identifying potential World Heritage Sites, and OUV analysis for World Heritage properties. In particular, the Centre has been integrally involved in the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise for India/Asia region. WII participated in all online training sessions conducted by WHC, made presentations on its Periodic Reporting and Management Planning experience, and has conducted both online and offline training sessions for site managers in India.

20. The World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITRAP) and UNESCO have completed all necessary steps for the renewal and entry into force of the C2C agreement as of May 2020. Prior to its entry into force, WHITRAP Beijing underwent internal reorganization in July 2019, followed by a meeting of the WHITRAP Governing Board in September 2019. WHITRAP supported the Third Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise organized by WHC through trainings at regional and national level. WHITRAP also hosted series online symposiums on 'The Historic Urban Landscape Approach: Integrating Urban Heritage Conservation with Urban Development in Planning Process in Asia' in October 2020 and on the 'Impact of COVID-19 on World Cultural Heritage Sites and Moving Forward' in November 2020. In addition, WHITRAP provided technical guidance in Nomination, Management Planning, Impact Assessments as well as World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Strategy to the World Heritage properties in China, such as Ancient City of Pingyao, Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area, the Great Wall, Jiuzhaigou Valley Scenic and Historic Interest Area.
21. The International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (HIST) continues its mission to develop and promote space-technology applications on the identification, conservation, monitoring and management of World Heritage sites. From 29 December 2019 to 5 January 2020, with the support of the China-Myanmar joint project for the Monitoring and Protection of the Bagan World Cultural Heritage Site, HIST technicians visited the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch) of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Myanmar, to carry out the annual joint field survey. Twenty staff members of the Bagan sites acquired preliminary skills for data collection using unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) and treatment for the benefit of the monitoring and sustainable development of the Bagan World Heritage site. HIST signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the International Institute for Central Asian Studies (IICAS) on 26 March 2020 to establish a mechanism for collaboration towards mutual interests. Under this MOU, HIST and IICAS held several detailed discussions to address challenges and formulate plans for the monitoring and protection of 33 component sites of the World Heritage property 'Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang'an-Tianshan Corridor'. Furthermore, under the coordination of the World Heritage Centre, a collaboration proposal was also initiated between HIST and the ICOMOS International Conservation Center-Xi'an (IICC-X), the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee of the Silk Roads project, on nomination, monitoring, conservation and management of heritage sites along the Silk Road.
22. On 13 October 2020, HIST organized a Training Workshop on the Application of Space Technologies for Post-Disaster Restoration of World Heritage sites to mark the International Day on Disaster Risk Reduction and improve capabilities of managers, professionals and researchers from UNESCO-designated sites. Some 50 participants from ten Chinese natural World Heritage sites attended a week-long training on remote sensing fundamentals, UAV operations, other applications of space technologies for disaster reduction.
23. The UNESCO General Conference, at its 40th session in 2019, approved the establishment of the International Centre for the Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites (Sejong, Republic of Korea) as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO. It authorized the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement, and the World Heritage Centre is currently following up with the host country. The Agreement will be signed in the summer of 2021. Meanwhile, this International Centre organized a series of Webinar on the interpretation of World Heritage in 2020 and 2021.

24. The African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, organised several activities to strengthen the capacity of site managers and National Focal Points for the management and conservation of the African World Heritage properties, the inclusion of World Heritage in sustainable economic growth, and the promotion, networking and developing partnerships related to the safeguarding of the African World Heritage. Several activities were organised, including:
- A series of online meetings and workshops, from February 2020 to February 2021, in the framework of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting Exercise in Africa. That fruitful collaboration assisted site managers and National Focal Points to reach 100% completion of the Sections I and II of the online questionnaires. An Action Plan was also developed (see also Document *WHC/21/44.COM/10B*);
  - The celebration on 5th May 2020 of the African World Heritage Day through a webinar on the theme “Youth, Entrepreneurship and Heritage Sustainability in Africa in times of COVID 19”. The webinar brought together 217 participants representing a wide range of African World Heritage stakeholders including policy makers, youth, private sector, site managers and local community representatives to reflect on the impact of COVID-19 on the lives and livelihoods of African communities, heritage sites, heritage professionals and organizations. The celebration was used as an occasion to launch a social media campaign on World Heritage Sites in Africa;
  - A series of publications including the proceeding of the workshop held in August 2019, with the Centre and the University of Kent (United Kingdom), University of Cape Town and Robben Island Museum (South Africa), on the title “World Heritage and Sustainable Development in Africa: Implementing the 2015 Policy”. A booklet was also published on “Youth and World Heritage Sustainability in Africa” highlighting the outcomes of the youth fora organized in 2016 (Robben Island, South Africa), 2017 (Loropeni Ruins, Burkina Faso), 2018 (Mozambique Island, Mozambique) and 2019 (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia). A coffee table book titled *From Angola to Zimbabwe: World Heritage Sites in Southern Africa* was also published with UNESCO regional office in Southern Africa presenting World Heritage sites and sites on the tentative lists in the SADC region;
  - 4 Conservation Grants and 4 World Heritage Research Grants were awarded (Moses Mapesa Educational Grant);
  - A series of virtual meetings on new programmes such as Modern heritage of Africa and Our World Heritage in preparation of the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention in 2022.
25. Within the framework of the new ICCROM-Africa Programme on Youth and Heritage in Africa, the School of African Heritage and AWHF organised a series of capacity-building activities, including workshops on World Heritage Nomination Course and Virtual Exhibitions in Museums.
26. The sub-regional capacity-building workshops implemented by the Category 2 Centres in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) were in line with the objectives and priorities concerning key actions: strengthening the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, updating Tentative Lists and reinforcing sustainable tourism and community participation, all established in the regional Action Plan for World Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean (PARALC, 2014-2024), the sub-regional Action Plan for World Heritage in South America (PAAS, 2015-2020) and the Action Plan for World Heritage in Mexico and Central America (PAMAC, 2018-2023). All activities ensured the involvement of all relevant stakeholders and strove to place community participation at the centre of conservation and management. Furthermore, the

procedures for the assessment in view of the agreement renewal for the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas were initiated in order to continue the activities of this institution as a Category 2 Centre focused on capacity-building activities for the sub-regions of Central America and the Caribbean.

27. In close collaboration with the LAC region, the Category 2 Centre in Zacatecas organized two capacity-building workshops in 2019, in the framework of the sub-regional PAMAC. The first, 'Basic Concepts of the World Heritage Convention', was held in Mexico City in August 2019. The second, 'Updating and Harmonization of Tentative Lists', was held in Havana, Cuba, in November 2019, with the participation of States Parties from Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean sub-region. Approximately 35 National Focal Points and site managers benefited from these workshops, which also involved the participation of representatives of WHC and the Advisory Bodies. In the first semester of 2020, a sub-regional workshop was held in Mexico City on the topic of Community Participation in Sustainable Tourism Policies and Strategies directed to the National Focal Points, academics and other experts. In October 2020, an online International Seminar on World Heritage cultural routes was held to sensitize participants and to promote capacity-building in the region. In April 2021 another online international seminar on 'World Heritage and Maya Civilization: Challenges and alternatives' was organized, bringing together experts and specialists from the sub-region.
28. The Category 2 Centre 'Lucio Costa' in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, also organized one sub-regional capacity-building workshop on community participation and sustainable tourism, which was held in Popayán, Colombia, in November 2019. The Centre 'Lucio Costa' also included a set of capacity-building modules in its recently approved, 2-year work plan. In December 2019, a regional seminar on Participatory Management was held in São Cristóvão, Brazil. In the course of 2020, the Centre 'Lucio Costa' translated three World Heritage Papers into Portuguese.
29. The Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), based in Bahrain, has been engaged with the World Heritage Centre in implementing the Third Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise in the Arab States region, which was launched in September 2018. Following the organization of several workshops and the completion of the online questionnaire by the States Parties in July 2019, the World Heritage Centre and ARC-WH have worked closely together for the preparation of the regional Periodic Report and a framework Action Plan for the coming six years. (see also Document *WHC/21/44.COM/10A*.) ARC-WH has been implementing, in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, the activity "Mitigation of hurricane impacts on endemic and threatened plants of Socotra Archipelago" in Yemen, supported by the World Heritage Fund. Additionally, the Centre has supported the translation of technical and statutory documents into Arabic. Among its activities, ARC-WH carried out a Regional Gap Analysis Study for a More Balanced Representation of World Heritage sites in the Arab States and has initiated a regional needs assessment, including a strategic analysis in relation to natural heritage, with a focus on States Parties' priorities and needs. ARC-WH has also pursued awareness raising, particularly through engagement with local communities and youth, capacity building in the management of World Heritage sites and the organization of two webinars on "Cultural Heritage and People: Building Resilience in the Superimposed Trauma" (21 December 2020), and "Cultural Heritage and People in the Post-Trauma Processes: Building Resilience through Integrated Reconstruction and Recovery of Heritage" (9 March 2021). In collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, the meeting on "World Heritage in Danger in the Arab States Region - Processes and Actions" was organized on 23 November 2020.

### III. EVALUATION AND WAY FORWARD

30. Since the adoption of the WHCBS, the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and capacity-building partners have been working closely to implement capacity-building activities at the international, regional and local/site levels to address the challenges and needs of World Heritage practitioners, institutions (including decision and policy makers) and other networks and communities, including civil society at large. The reinforcement of the capacity-building pillar of the Convention continues to be a priority in order to equip States Parties and all partners, including World Heritage site managers, with the relevant expertise to protect and manage their cultural, natural and mixed World Heritage properties. This also ensures that the World Heritage List can be representative, credible and balanced, while also reinforcing the credibility of the 1972 *World Heritage Convention* as a whole.
31. As the WHCBS reaches its 10-year anniversary in 2021, the World Heritage Committee, in its Decision **43 COM 6** (Baku, 2019), requested an evaluation of the strategy as follows:
  - a. a results-based evaluation of the implementation of the WHCBS, in consultation with Category 2 Centres and other capacity-building partners, for examination in 2021;
  - b. a review of the progress and outcomes of the WHCBS, based on the above-mentioned evaluation, for examination by the Committee in 2022.
32. Decision **43 COM 6** also invited States Parties to contribute extra-budgetary funding to carry out this evaluation. However, no extra-budgetary funding has been received yet for this evaluation exercise, which consequently has not started. Therefore, it was not possible to present the evaluation to the Committee at the present session. To enable the commissioning of this evaluation, States Parties could be invited again to contribute financial resources through earmarked contributions to the World Heritage Fund, and/or by making extra-budgetary funds available to the World Heritage Centre. Another possibility would be to provide USD 30,000 as seed money under the 2020-2021 World Heritage Fund budget through a reallocation of funds, to be decided by the Committee at the present session (see Document *WHC/21/44.COM/14*) so that the evaluation can be submitted to the Committee for examination at its 45th session.
33. Although there are limitations regarding the scope due to lack of funding, in order to provide a foundation for the upcoming evaluation, ICCROM has conducted an in-house, desk-based Internal Review to provide a preliminary overview of the implementation of the Strategy. The Internal Review is a strictly document-based desk review and analyses the implementation of the WHCBS at international and regional levels. It has been developed based on the data extracted from working documents and reports submitted to the Committee since the adoption of the Strategy. It is important to note that the Internal Review does not provide hard statistical data about the individual actions of all the actors engaged in capacity building, but rather an overview of the actions taken and strategies adopted by each institution on an annual basis. The Internal Review concluded that: an in-depth, results-based evaluation needs to take place; a common data collection and evaluation framework equipped with a coherent indicator system for monitoring is needed for tracking the diverse capacity building activities; enhanced partnerships and the involvement of diverse actors are recommended; and a strengthening of networks and communication channels for capacity building is also needed. Details on the Internal Review and its recommendations can be found in the ICCROM webpage (<https://www.iccrom.org>).

34. If funding is made available in 2021, the results-based evaluation of the implementation of the WHCBS will be submitted to the Committee at its 45th session. The World Heritage Centre and ICCROM suggest to also define guidelines with a view to updating the WHCBS. Should the Committee decide so, the updated WHCBS would consequently be presented to the Committee for review at its 46th session.

#### IV. DRAFT DECISION

##### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 6**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/6,*
2. *Recalling Decision 43 COM 6, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Commends the progress made by the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies, the States Parties, Category 2 Centres under the auspices of UNESCO (C2Cs) related to World Heritage as well as the UNESCO Chairs with the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy (WHCBS), and notably the efforts to maintain and adapt capacity-building activities during the global COVID-19 pandemic;*
4. *Takes note of the implementation of the regional capacity-building strategies and initiatives, and calls upon States Parties and all concerned partners and stakeholders to follow up on the implementation of the strategies developed for each region;*
5. *Thanks the Governments of Norway, the Republic of Korea and Switzerland for the financial support they extended to the WHCBS and the World Heritage Leadership Programme, also thanks the Governments of the People's Republic of China and Oman for supporting World Heritage Capacity-building activities in Africa, and encourages States Parties and other stakeholders to continue supporting the implementation of the WHCBS by providing financial support and/or by reinforcing the human resources of the institutions involved;*
6. *Also recalling that Category 2 Centres under the auspices of UNESCO and UNESCO Chairs have the mandate of contributing to the implementation of the Organization's strategic priorities, programmes and global development agendas, notably through capacity building, welcomes the progress made by Category 2 Centres and UNESCO Chairs related to World Heritage with the implementation of their activities, also calls upon interested stakeholders to support these Category 2 Centres, UNESCO Chairs and their activities, and also encourages States Parties to make full use of the services and resources that Category 2 Centres provide, in a spirit of international cooperation;*
7. *Also takes note of the 10-year anniversary of the WHCBS in 2021 and, further recalling its request for an evaluation of the WHCBS, notes that no funding has been made available for this purpose to date, and therefore will consider reallocating USD 30,000 from the World Heritage Fund under item 14 of the agenda, to initiate the evaluation and update of the WHCBS;*
8. *Requests the World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with ICCROM, IUCN and ICOMOS, to submit a single, results-based evaluation of the outcomes of the WHCBS, for examination at its 45th session along with proposed guidelines towards an update of the*

WHCBS, and also requests that the updated WHCBS be presented, if funding allows, for review at its 46th session;

9. Reiterates its invitation to States Parties to contribute financial resources for the update of the WHCBS through earmarked contributions to the World Heritage Fund or by providing extra-budgetary support to the World Heritage Centre for this purpose;
10. Finally requests the World Heritage Centre and ICCROM to submit a progress report on the implementation of the WHCBS, for examination at its 45th session.