

**Thematic Framework for World Cultural Heritage in the Pacific
5 – 8 September 2005, Port Vila, Vanuatu**

REPORT



Nordic World Heritage Foundation

Vanuatu Kaljoral Senta
Vanuatu Cultural Centre



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

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1. Introduction

The present document is the outcome of the meeting held at Port Vila, Vanuatu, from 5 to 8 September 2005, on a thematic framework for nominating cultural heritage properties in the Pacific for inscription on the World Heritage List, and reflects the ideas and recommendations formulated by the participants. The meeting was organised by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Cluster Office in Apia, Samoa and the Vanuatu Cultural Centre with funding from the Nordic World Heritage Foundation in Norway, World Heritage Fund, and the technical contribution of the Department of Conservation of New Zealand. It was attended by 32 participants representing 12 States Parties to the Convention from the Pacific Islands, as well as by representatives and experts from ICOMOS, ICCROM, United Nations University, University of South Pacific, New Zealand, Australia, the UNESCO Apia Office and the World Heritage Centre. The Program and full list of participants are annexed to this Document.

The purpose of the meeting was to:

1. Gain consensus from Pacific Island Countries and Territories on appropriate regional themes for nomination of sites of cultural value;
2. Agree on the methodology to be used to undertake thematic studies; and
3. Identify those who will take responsibility for the studies.

These objectives, as well as the need for a consultative meeting in order to achieve them, had been established by the States Parties of the Pacific Region during the Workshop held at Tongariro (New Zealand) in October 2004, and accordingly included in the resulting Action Plan¹, as one of the means to improve the representation of the heritage of the Pacific on the World Heritage List.

The identification of regional cultural themes and the following elaboration of thematic studies are to assist States Parties from the Pacific Region in selecting sites to be included in Tentative Lists and developing comparative analyses to support Nomination Files for the inscription of cultural properties on the World Heritage List.

It is important to stress that the themes identified in this document are not prescriptive, but present a guiding framework to orient States Parties of the Region in developing their Tentative Lists and nominations. As always a State Party may nominate a property which does not fall within any of these themes.

For the purpose of this Document, thematic studies should be understood as comprehensive studies of regional or global scope concerning a particular type of cultural heritage site relevant to the Pacific Region. Such a study could then constitute the background against which a comparative analysis could be carried out to assess the

¹ Cf. *Action Plan for the Pacific-2009 Program*, Activity 2.5.1, on <http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/activities/projects/project-64-01.pdf>

Outstanding Universal Value of a specific site of the same type proposed for World Heritage listing.

In doing so, a thematic study would identify the main characteristics and cultural values of the generic type of heritage site from a World Heritage perspective, examine a select number of representative examples included or not included in the World Heritage List, determine possible gaps in the latter and, with reference to the *Operational Guidelines*, indicate the criteria under which such sites might be nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List.

A thematic study, therefore, does not establish a hierarchy among sites across the Pacific, but simply provides a conceptual framework to assist States Parties in defining the cultural significance of a specific property and to situate it within the regional and global context. A comparison among similar sites would be only carried out at the stage of the individual nominations, within the framework of the “Comparative analysis” required in the format of the Nomination File (*Operational Guidelines, Annex 5*). This analysis would also take into account the state of conservation of the properties compared, as well as their authenticity and integrity.

In the past, most nominations have proceeded and been inscribed without the benefit of widely based thematic studies. However, there is currently pressure to improve the rational/theoretical basis of WH inscriptions, and the glaring need to improve representation around the world. Thematic studies are one way to achieve greater fairness and rigour in the process of nominations and inscription. The Pacific provides opportunity to apply a more rigorous approach in a region which is still not represented, thus ensuring that sites proposed really meet the requirement for OUV.

2. Acknowledgments

The participants wish to express their sincere gratitude to the authorities of Vanuatu, and particularly to Mr. Ralph Regenvanu, Director of the Vanuatu Cultural Centre and his staff as well as to the Chief Murmur and the community of the Mangaliliu Village, for the smooth organization of the meeting and the warm hospitality received during their stay in Port Vila and visit to the site of Roi Mata. Thanks should go also to the Department of Conservation of New Zealand and its expert Kevin Jones for the valuable scientific contribution to the preparation of the meeting and throughout its duration, as well as to Dr. Anita Smith for her precious advice and technical input in the discussions. We are grateful to UNESCO Cluster Office in Apia, Samoa, in particular Peta Eteuati and Mali Voi for providing logistical support in organizing the workshop. The participants are grateful for the generous and essential financial support to the workshop of the Nordic World Heritage Foundation. They also wish to thank ICOMOS and ICCROM, Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee for cultural heritage, for sending their representatives and contributing to the meeting.

3. Regional themes for World Cultural Heritage in the Pacific

Table I (page 8), indicating a possible thematic framework applicable to the World Cultural Heritage of the Pacific, was developed and agreed upon by the participants in the meeting. In elaborating this table the participants took into consideration a number of reference documents. These included the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*; the thematic framework adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 1994 and 1999²; the thematic framework applied by ICOMOS for its analysis of the World Heritage List and Tentative List³ and that used by the US National Park Service⁴; the definitions of site-types identified in the ICOMOS Scientific Committees Report of Zaragosa; as well as the reports of a number of previous relevant regional meetings organized by the World Heritage Centre⁵. All this information had been compiled and rearranged by Mr. Kevin Jones in a Working Paper distributed to all participants prior to the meeting in Port Vila. The Working Paper contained as well a provisional thematic framework as a basis for discussion.

The Table is structured in four columns, from left to right, starting with broader themes characterizing the major human and cultural phenomena of the Pacific, then moving to sub-themes which refer to more specific cultural “stories” of the region (column 2), then passing to types of sites that are more commonly associated to those particular themes and sub-themes (column 3), and finally (column 4) suggesting specific sites in the Pacific Islands Countries and Territories that might reflect and embody those cultural themes in an outstanding way. Specific sites may appear under more than one theme if appropriate (e.g. Kuk (PNG) and Taputapuatea (French Polynesia)).

Considering the short time available during the meeting for its elaboration, the participants recognized that this thematic framework would need some adjustment, and suggested that future reviews should take into account the experience of each State Party in using it when revising or preparing Tentative Lists and Nominations.

Sites highlighted in bold and underlined were indicated by the participants as the priority, within their respective Countries and Territories, for developing a nomination for inscription on the World Heritage List.

² Cf. Documents WHC-94/CONF.003/INF.6 and WHC-99/CONF.206/5, available on the web site of the World Heritage Centre at <http://whc.unesco.org>

³ http://www.international.icomos.org/world_heritage/whlgaps.htm

⁴ Available on <http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/categrs/index.htm>

⁵ These included the Regional Thematic Meeting on Asian Rice Culture and its Terraces Landscapes, Manila (Philippines), 28 March – 4 April 1995; the Asia-Pacific Workshop on Associative Cultural Landscapes, Australia, 1995; the 2nd Global Strategy Meeting: Identification of World Heritage Properties, Suva (Fiji), 15 – 18 July 1997; the 3rd World Heritage Global Strategy Meeting for the Pacific Islands Region, Port Vila (Vanuatu), 24 – 27 August 1999; the UNESCO Thematic Expert Meeting on Asia-Pacific Sacred Mountains, Wakayama City (Japan), 5 – 10 September 2001. Reports of some of these meetings are available on the web site of the World Heritage Centre.

a) Definition of main themes

The three major human and cultural phenomena identified in the left column of Table I are:

1) Early Human expansion and innovation in the Pacific

The large “continental” islands of the Western Pacific were settled as long ago as 40,000 years. The evidence of this period is in the form of rock shelter sites and stone artifacts, or open sites such as the Huon Peninsula, in Papua New Guinea. Some of these earliest people domesticated and improved root crops and tree crops. By 3500-3300 years ago, on the northern island margins of New Guinea, a new type of pottery, Lapita, is evident. This marks the arrival of people of ultimate South East Asian origin, skilled sea voyagers who in a few centuries settled for the first time the western part of remote Oceania, before the central and marginal Pacific over the succeeding millennia.

The first settlements in the Western Pacific, that occurred between 40,000 and 3000 years ago, are not known in the tradition of the indigenous people of Papua New Guinea across the Ocean to New Caledonia and West Polynesia. For the last phases of settlement in the Polynesian triangle from Hawaii, to Rapa Nui and to New Zealand, there is often a remarkable convergence of tradition and archaeology, confirming the arrival of people as recently as 800 years ago in New Zealand.

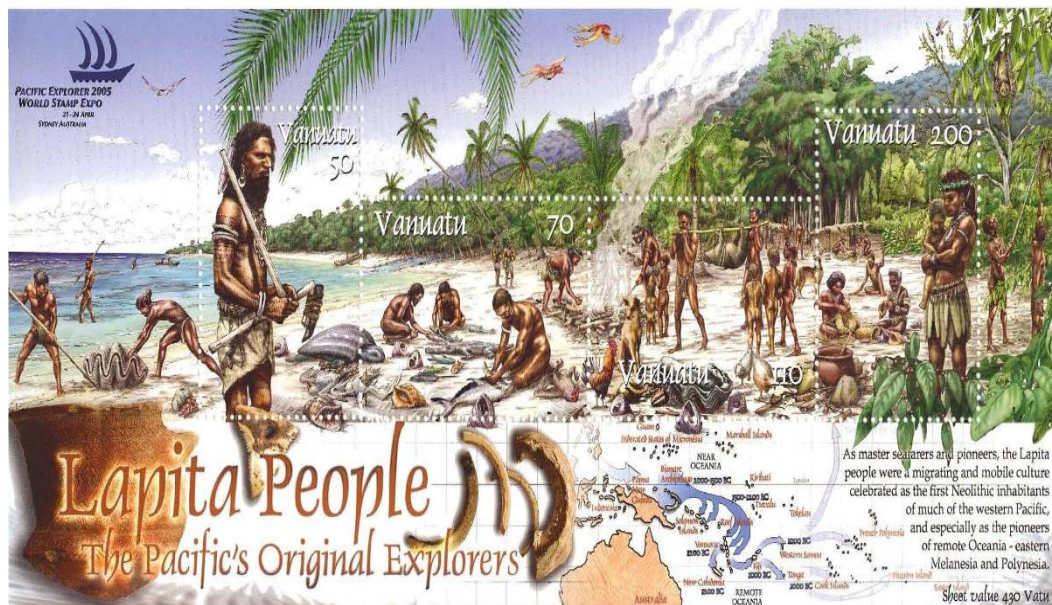
2) Pacific Societies

This is a theme in which intangible associations are important and yet where remarkable monumental sites and cultural landscapes can help focus nominations and inscription on the World Heritage List. The intangible associations relate to issues of religious belief and the reinforcement of social structures that have attracted international attention, such as Melanesian “big man” societies and the Polynesian chiefdoms. In some cases the whole of small atolls (for example in the Tuamotu archipelago) or the periphery of larger islands (Rapa Nui) is taken up with ceremonial centers that form a continuous landscape. Nan Madol (FSM), is a Micronesian site that would also fit within a Pacific-wide serial listing of ceremonial sites. Among the cultures of the Pacific there seem to be many common features. Some may be related to ancestral traditions, other to the environment. Origin stories, stories of voyaging and navigation, places of the dead can often be centred in ceremonial sites or cultural landscapes, some with distinct and remarkable monuments such as Lapaha (Tonga) or the Moai of Rapa Nui (Easter Island, Chili). This theme covers as well the specific adaptation and modes of subsistence developed by humans within the particular environment of the Pacific. These resulted in organically evolved cultural landscapes and seascapes, both fossil and living, related to cultivation, fishing and the management of other resources.

3) Pasifika Encounters

The initial contacts between European and Pacific countries transformed the settlement patterns of the latter and led to small and large trading centers, tragedies such as the spread of disease and the intensification of warfare and of a sustained international fascination with the idea and the image of the Pacific.

These themes can be extended to “fatal impact” accounts of the encounter – the introduction of disease to vulnerable populations, trade in muskets and other consequences of contact. It is possible to concentrate on settlements, but it should also be borne in mind that the opportunity to trade and interact with Europeans created vast changes in the Pacific communities. Trade alone was greatly sought after and created competition amongst indigenous communities for access to landing/port areas. Contact with Europeans changed settlement patterns, economies and religious life, and may be able to be marked as World Heritage.



“The Lapita Explorers” – by Vanuatu Post and Vanuatu Cultural Centre. Artwork by Lucas Kukler in consultation with Andrew Hoffmann and Richard Shing.

Themes	Sub-themes	Site types	Specific sites
1. Early human expansion and innovation in the Pacific	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early settlement of Near Oceania • Early Austronesian movement (Lapita, Western Micronesian expansion) • Settlement of the Eastern Pacific • Navigation and voyaging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lapita sites ▪ Archaeological sites ▪ Burial sites ▪ Anthropogenic landscapes ▪ Canoe landings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lapita sites in PNG, Vanuatu, Solomons, New Caledonia, Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, Wallis and Futuna ➤ Huon Peninsula –Pleistocene settlement ➤ Talasea obsidian quarries and trade ➤ <u>Kuk horticultural site (PNG)</u> ➤ Stone Money (FSM) ➤ Sigatoka Dunes (Fiji) ➤ <u>Te Po, Taputapuatea (French Polynesia)</u>
2. Pacific societies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Origin stories • Warfare and peace-making • Traditional Settlements • Places that represent the origin and development of social structures • Nation building • Paths to and places of the afterlife • Trade and exchange • Stories associated with mythical or historic figures • Tapu/noa (tabu) • Landscape modification • Pacific cultivation • Fishing • Resource management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • traditional buildings e.g. fales • Habitation sites • Mound sites Fortifications • Associative Cultural Landscapes • Places of the dead • Places of exchange • Meeting places • Religious places • Ceremonial places • Places of storage • Places of traditional sports • Cultural routes • Men’s Sites • Women’s Sites. • Fishing sites • Dry and wet horticultural landscapes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Traditional long houses (PNG) ➤ <u>Star mounds (Samoa)</u> ➤ Pulemelei (Samoa). ➤ <u>Imeong landscape (Palau)</u> ➤ Manono . ➤ Burekalou. ➤ <u>Lapaha, Royal Tombs of Tonga</u> ➤ Ha’among a Maui (trilithon) (Tonga) ➤ <u>Nan Madol (FSM)</u> ➤ <u>Te Po, Taputapuatea (French Polynesia)</u> ➤ <u>East Rennell (Solomon Islands)</u> (cultural values) ➤ <u>Maungakiekie One Tree Hill (New Zealand)</u> ➤ <u>Kanak Landscapes (NC)</u> ➤ Volcanoes of Vanuatu. ➤ Stone Money (FSM). ➤ <u>Roi Mata cultural landscape (Vanuatu)</u> ➤ Hero’s marks (French Polynesia). ➤ Vanuatu rock art sites. ➤ <u>Kuk (PNG)</u> ➤ Maewo Taro irrigation (Vanuatu). ➤ Sigatoka Dunes (Fiji) ➤ Bwabwai
3. Pasifika Encounters (post European contact)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movements of People • Labour Trade • WW I and II, Cold War • Missionary endeavour • Exploration of the Pacific • Indigenous responses • Colonisation • Commerce and trade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mission sites ▪ Colonial settlements ▪ Plantations, mines ▪ Convict sites ▪ Maritime Infrastructure ▪ Shipwrecks ▪ Archaeological sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>Levuka (Fiji)</u> ➤ <u>Banaba/Ocean Island (Kiribati)</u> ➤ <u>Bikini Atoll (RMI)</u> ➤ <i>President Coolidge Shipwreck (Vanuatu)</i>

Table I – Thematic Framework for World Cultural Heritage in the Pacific

b) Priority for thematic studies

Based on the thematic framework shown in Table I above, the participants proceeded to identify a number of subjects for possible thematic studies. A list of these subjects, resulting from an initial brainstorming among the participants, is shown in Table II here below. Those marked with an asterisk were mentioned by more than one participants.

Table II – Possible subjects for thematic studies in the Pacific

	Subject for a thematic study
*	Lapita expansion
	Archaeological sites of the Austronesian movement in Micronesia
*	Cultural Landscapes associated to origin stories in the Pacific (also navigation stories)
*	Sites related to Pacific cultivation/arboriculture/Taro irrigation across the Pacific
*	Cultural Landscapes associated to mythic/historical figures
	Mound sites of traditional sports, burials, navigation markers (Samoa, Fiji, Tonga)
	Places associated to the path to afterlife in the Pacific
	Sites related to fortification and warfare across the Pacific
*	Places associated with the origin and development of social structures in the Pacific
	Sites related to trade and exchange (Fiji, Samoa and Tonga)
	Traditional settlements of the Polynesian outliers
	Sites associated with the Cold War and Nuclear testing (Kiribati, Marshall Isl.)
	Habitation landscapes and sites associated with the management of resources
	Sites related to navigation across the Pacific
	Shelters, Guest-houses, trade buildings
	Monumental architecture (e.g. Nan Madol)

Out of the subjects included in Table II, the participants then identified the following three thematic studies as priorities for the Pacific Region:

1) Associative Cultural Landscapes of stories that explain the origin and development of social structures in the Pacific

All Pacific societies have traditions and stories which relate to discovery and/or origins. These can sometimes be related to particular historical figures who have achieved epic deeds in particular districts and seas. Traditions not only give accounts of the way people originate, but also they show how particular individuals have reformed and governed their societies in ways that are recognizable today. They formed the Pacific social structures and associated traditional ceremonies. The association of the landscape with these deeds provides candidates for remarkable associative cultural landscapes or mixed cultural and natural sites of outstanding universal value.

2) Cultural Landscapes related to cultivation in the Pacific

There are remarkable achievements of Pacific societies in adapting natural resources such as plant materials and the manipulation of environments to enable survival of human society in restrictive small areas. Not only were many tree crops adapted to island environment, but root crops were developed and used in highly varied and sometimes restricted land settings. This has resulted in cultural landscapes such as the irrigated Taro landscape, with remarkable achievements in channeling and using scarce fresh water resources that might be of outstanding universal value.

3) Lapita expansion

The settlement of the Pacific involved the settlement of one third of the surface of the globe. The ancestors of the modern Pacific peoples progressively invented and practiced remarkable wide ocean voyaging vessels and navigation skills. These enabled the oldest Oceanians (over forty thousand years ago) to cross the water barriers between island south east Asia (Indonesia), west to New Guinea and then the Solomon Islands. The particular sub-theme listed here covers the Austronesian settlement of near Oceania and the discovery of western remote Oceania (the region from northern Papua New Guinea through the Solomons to New Caledonia, Fiji and West Polynesia) (3 500-2 900 y BP).

In selecting the three thematic studies, the participants tried to choose the topics that will be of the greatest use to a number of States Parties, based on their identification of priority sites for nominations (see fourth column in Table I). They also agreed not to give priority to studies requiring a large amount of new primary research, or to those where there is already a substantial body of published research easily accessible.

In this respect, the last Thematic Study identified, i.e. the Lapita Expansion, raised some reservations from some of the participants as it is one of the best researched and documented cultural phenomena within the Pacific Region. The Lapita Expansion, it was stressed, could indeed constitute the theme underpinning a serial, trans-boundary nomination from various countries of the Pacific, without the need for a previous thematic study. If resources were available, through the World Heritage Fund or other sources, they could be used to support the process of consultation among the concerned States Parties and the actual elaboration of the documentation required for the Nomination File.

4. Methodology for the elaboration of the thematic studies

Thematic studies provide a regional or global context in which to locate the cultural values of a site that a State Party is considering for nomination and background for identifying sites that may be relevant for inclusion in comparative analyses.

According to the *Operational Guidelines* (paragraph 3.c, ANNEX 5), a comparative analysis should:

“...outline the similarities the nominated property has with other properties and the reasons that make the nominated property stand out. It... should aim to explain the importance of the nominated property both in its national and international context.”

Thematic studies, in this context, provide a means by which similar sites may be identified and compared. They are particularly useful when a relatively “new” type of property is nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List, to assist States Parties and the World Heritage Committee in establishing a framework to determine the importance and value of specific sites with respect to the whole cultural phenomenon they represent. The World Heritage Committee has in the past requested ICOMOS to carry out a number of thematic studies to orient its decisions on the nomination of certain types of sites⁶.

It is important to maintain a distinction between ‘**theme**’ (eg. the development of horticultural practices) and ‘**site type**’ (e.g. irrigation terraces or gardens), recalling that the tangible cultural heritage associated with a particular cultural theme may be diverse and include more than one of the site types or sub-types as defined by the *Convention*. In communicating the values of a place it is indeed common to describe it as a particular type of site. For this reason, a thematic study is usually focused on a particular type of heritage property within a defined cultural context. Among the thematic studies carried out so far by ICOMOS are historic canals, bridges, hominid fossil sites, classical theatres and amphitheatres, rock art sites, etc. Within the three above-mentioned themes selected as priorities for the elaboration of thematic studies, it would be useful therefore to concentrate on specific site types.

There are no recognised or agreed models for how to undertake a thematic study. The following is a summary of the process that could be used to develop a thematic study, once a specific theme has been identified⁷.

⁶ These can be found at the following web link: <http://www.icomos.org/studies/>

⁷ This methodology derives from the exercise carried out in the framework of the elaboration of a comparative analysis for the site of Levuka, Fiji.

a) Identify, according to the categories of the World Heritage Convention, what type of site is under consideration

Article 1 of the World Heritage Convention says:

“For the purposes of this Convention, the following shall be considered as “cultural heritage”:

- *monuments: architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features;*
- *groups of buildings: groups of separate or connected buildings which, because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape, are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science*
- *sites: works of man or the combined works of nature and man, and areas including archaeological sites which are of outstanding universal value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological point of view.”*

Using the WH categories and sub-categories of cultural heritage places you will need to identify the specific site type(s) that you consider will most likely reflect the Pacific regional theme under consideration. For example, if the theme was “European colonisation in the Pacific”, then “colonial port towns” would have been a possible type of site to consider, representing the following category of property as defined in Annex 3 of the Operational Guidelines:

- *historic towns which are still inhabited and which have developed and will continue to develop under the influence of socio-economic and cultural change*
- *Towns that have evolved along characteristic lines and have preserved, sometimes in the midst of exceptional natural surroundings, spatial arrangements and structures that are typical of the successive stages in their history*

b) Review similar sites types inscribed on the World Heritage List

This is important in order to identify gaps in the representivity of sites of a similar type (eg associative cultural landscapes, fortifications, traditional settlements) already inscribed on the WH list. It involves reviewing and summarising:

- i) the values for which sites of this type have been inscribed on the WH list, if any
- ii) the World Heritage criteria against which these sites have been inscribed.

Are all regions and time periods represented by the sites of this type already inscribed on the World Heritage List? Which of the World Heritage criteria are most commonly used to express the Outstanding Universal Value of sites of this type?

c) Review literature on the Pacific regional theme under consideration paying particular attention to the associated cultural heritage

This literature may include academic publications, scientific papers, histories, historical documents, oral histories and, importantly, should include identifying and talking to people (specialists and local people) who have knowledge of the area. If appropriate, literature related to the selected theme from outside the Pacific region should be also included (for example in relation to the development of Pacific horticulture, literature on early agriculture in the Middle East or South America should be considered).

The aim of the review is to establish the general and specific characteristics of the theme and describe the diversity of the values associated within this theme

d) On the basis of the review generate a list of recognised site types and examples of each in the Pacific

Given that many sites can be said to express a particular theme this review should enable the following questions to be answered: What Pacific site types reflect this theme? How do the sites vary? Which specific aspects of the general theme do they reflect? How is this visible in the tangible evidence?

e) Select a sample of these sites that represent the diversity of sites expressing the theme within the Pacific region

For each site provide:

- i) a description
- ii) a summary of the cultural values
- iii) a statement of how these values fit within the regional Pacific theme under consideration
- iv) the WH criteria appropriate for the site
- v) an evaluation of the integrity and condition of the site

5. Possible resources for the elaboration of the thematic studies

The elaboration of the above mentioned thematic studies will require substantial resources, both in terms of funding and expertise. A large corpus of knowledge would have to be consulted, including published literature, data-bases, web-sites, World Heritage documents etc. which may not be all available outside major Universities in developed countries of the region. Moreover, a number of site visits may be required to integrate existing knowledge with information specifically relevant to World Heritage issues.

In the light of the above, it appears that the thematic studies would most likely have to be carried out by experts, NGOs or Universities or Government Departments within the Pacific Islands, Australia or New Zealand. Specifically at this stage of the effort, institutions from the Pacific Islands and Pacific Rim should take the lead in providing expertise and resources, to expand the knowledge frontier in an attempt to define World Cultural Heritage. Alternatively, the elaboration of these studies could be commissioned to ICOMOS International, the Advisory Body to the World Heritage Committee for cultural heritage, which could undertake it through its regional professional network. The studies could be implemented under contract for the World Heritage Centre, or executed directly.

Funding for perhaps one or two of such studies may be obtained through the World Heritage Fund, if the Committee approves them as a priority within the activities to be carried out in the framework of the Program Pacific-2009. Other sources of funding that might contribute to these thematic studies might include Governments of States Parties supporting the implementation of the Convention in the Pacific (such as Australia, New Zealand, Italy, Spain, and Japan,), or institutions such as the Nordic World Heritage Foundation. In-kind support (i.e. in terms of expertise) might be also provided by Australia and New Zealand.

6. Capacity Building and networks for Pacific Islands Countries and Territories

This aspect could not be discussed due to lack of time. A presentation was made by a representative of the University of South Pacific (USP) on existing programmes within Universities of the Pacific Islands⁸.

The meeting provided also an opportunity for consultation among cultural heritage experts among the Pacific on the launching of a Pasifika-ICOMOS initiative (i.e. a regional ICOMOS Committee on the model of those currently existing at national level), and a written document outlining its possible objectives and scope was circulated. If agreed by a certain number of persons, Pasifika-ICOMOS could be presented at the

⁸ These include the University of the South Pacific, the University of Papua New Guinea, the University of Hawai'i, the University of the Ryukyus (Japan), the University of French Polynesia and that of New Caledonia.

forthcoming General Assembly of ICOMOS (October 2005, Xi'an, China) and become a platform for exchange among professionals on matters of common concern, including World Heritage issues.

Australia ICOMOS also made a presentation and offered support to colleagues from the Pacific. A number of resources developed by Australia ICOMOS were also presented (i.e. the Burra Charter and other materials, such as a Training Program for Heritage Managers on CDs, developed in collaboration with UNESCO). ICOMOS New Zealand would also take an interest in supporting the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Pacific.

The ICCROM representative introduced a variety of available models for training and capacity buildings that can be organized for individual countries and indicated the willingness of his Organization to help this region, not only concerning World Heritage activities but also in the field of cultural heritage conservation in general.

Participants agreed that this subject should be discussed further. The WHC has a web site which includes information on heritage in the Pacific, reports from Periodic Reporting exercises, major events, meetings and projects.

7. Next Steps

As a follow-up to this meeting, a number of steps were identified, including:

- The World Heritage Centre, States Parties and other partners in the region try to identify resources for carrying out thematic studies.
- In parallel, States Parties prepare or revise their Tentative Lists and start developing nominations of sites identified as priorities in Table 1, if necessary requesting Preparatory Assistance under the World Heritage Fund through the World Heritage Centre⁹. Nominations should be prepared at the same time as the longer term strategic thematic studies are being initiated and carried out.
- The objective is to have all States Parties having prepared their Tentative Lists and nominated at least one property for inscription on the World Heritage List by 2009. By 2007 (31st Session of the World Heritage Committee in Auckland, New Zealand), it would be important to have at least two sites from the Pacific Region nominated for inclusion on the WH List (this means that the Nomination Files must be submitted to the WH Centre by 1 February 2006 at the latest).

⁹ For three sites (Kuk, Roi Mata and Levuka), WHC has provided financial support through WH Fund in the current biennium. Preparatory Assistance is available starting from 2006 for other sites (see modalities for submitting requests of International Assistance in the *Operational Guidelines*).

- In Auckland, on the side of the main sessions, it may be envisaged to organize an exhibition and panel discussions on potential World Cultural Heritage sites from the Pacific Region, drawing from draft nominations, the thematic framework and the particular thematic studies identified during this meeting. States Parties of the Pacific, in this context, should ensure their participation in the Session and might contribute materials and photographs concerning the sites and themes listed in Tables I and II.

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5 – 8 September 2005, Port Vila, Vanuatu

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