



unesco

World Heritage Convention

45 COM

WHC/23/45.COM/5B

Paris, 4 July 2023

Original: English

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

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION
OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

Extended forty-fifth session

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

10 – 25 September 2023

**Item 5B of the Provisional Agenda:
Report of the Advisory Bodies**

Summary

This document contains brief summary reports prepared by the Advisory Bodies on their activities since the extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee, as follows: Section I: ICCROM; Section II. ICOMOS ; Section III. IUCN.

It should be noted that a revised synthetic structure of this Document is proposed in order to reflect more clearly both the activities undertaken under the advisory services contracts established under the World Heritage Fund, under other contracts established by the World Heritage Centre and undertaken under other funding sources. This structure has been discussed between the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies and also takes into account all the work undertaken by the Advisory Bodies in the framework of their contracts, including tasks performed under unfunded mandates.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 5B, see part IV

I. REPORT BY ICCROM

A. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

1. Following the request from the World Heritage Committee, this report outlines the key areas of ICCROM's work on the World Heritage Convention for the period from July 2021 to March 2023. During this period, support to the Committee has been provided by Joseph King (Senior Director), Valerie Magar (Unit Manager - Programmes), Zaki Aslan (Director of the ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Conservation Centre), Eugene Jo (Programme Manager – *World Heritage Leadership*), Hirofumi Ikawa (Project Manager, Programmes Unit), Rohit Jigyasu (Programme Manager, Programmes Unit), Espéra Donouvossi (Project Manager, Programmes Unit) Elena Incerti Medici (Senior Programmes 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.
2. In addition to its direct work on the Convention, ICCROM also includes activities within its own Programme of Activities and Budget (2020-2021 and 2022-2023) covering its work on World Heritage, particularly through its programme on Sustainability and Built Heritage, and through its flagship Programme 'World Heritage Leadership', a partnership of ICCROM, IUCN and the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment, in collaboration with ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre. Specific activities are described below.

B. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES THAT RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND

3. The activities undertaken in support of World Heritage include participation in statutory meetings of the Convention, as well as *ad hoc* meetings and workings groups.

World Heritage Committee meeting

4. ICCROM attended on-line the extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and ICCROM contributed to all relevant items on the agenda, including the Budget Working Group (16-31 July 2021).
5. ICCROM participated in the first meeting of the Bureau of the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee (8 July 2022).
6. ICCROM participated in the online 17th extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee (12 December 2022).
7. ICCROM participated in the online 18th extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee (24-25 January 2023).

Nomination proposals to the World Heritage List

8. ICCROM participated in the two sessions of the ICOMOS panel for the evaluation of nominations to the World Heritage List, as a non-voting member (22 – 29 November 2022, 8 – 10 March 2023).

Monitoring the State of Conservation

9. ICCROM contributes to the monitoring of the state of conservation of World Heritage properties, contributing to the discussions, drafting and reviewing of state of conservation (SOC) reports of cultural and mixed properties, in collaboration with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and IUCN. ICCROM also participated in a meeting to define the Desired state of conservation (DSOCR) for Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic).

ICCROM has also worked with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and the State Party in meetings organized on an *ad hoc* basis regarding the Rock-Hewn Churches, Lalibela in Ethiopia in regard to proposals for the shelters for the churches. ICCROM also participated in meetings organized by the World Heritage Centre, with ICOMOS and IUCN, regarding the state of conservation of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (United Republic of Tanzania). ICCROM is also a member of the International Advisory Committee for the World Heritage Properties of Uzbekistan and attended the first technical session on-line from 12 –13 July 2022. ICCROM also participated in the joint WHC/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring missions to Berat and Gjirokastra (Albania) and to Abomey (Benin), and in the joint WHC/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory missions to Notre-Dame (Paris, Banks of the Seine)(France), Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Medina of Sousse, of Kairouan and of Tunis (Tunisia) and Royal Tombs of the Joseon Dynasty (Republic of Korea).

International Assistance

10. ICCROM reviewed and provided advise on International Assistance requests for cultural and mixed sites and participated in the online panels organized by the World Heritage Centre, with ICOMOS and IUCN (25 January 2022, 26 April 2022, 16 January 2023, 17 April 2023).

General Assembly

11. ICCROM participated in the 23rd session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention(UNESCO, 24-26 November 2021).

Draft Policy Document on Climate Action for World Heritage

12. ICCROM has been engaged in contributing to the reflection and review of the Draft Policy Document on Climate Action for World Heritage. ICCROM participated in the online meeting of the Open-ended Working Group in relation to Resolution **23 GA 11** concerning Climate Change and World Heritage (22 March 2022) and in the online Panel of experts in relation to Decision **44 COM 7C** concerning Climate Change and World Heritage (30 March-1 April 2022).

Periodic Reporting

13. 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 was also supporting the Periodic Reporting in the Asia Pacific (APA),in the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and in the Europe and North America (EU-NA) regions.

C. SUMMARY OF OTHER ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN SUPPORT OF WORLD HERITAGE

14. ICCROM has continued to collaborate with IUCN, ICOMOS, and the World Heritage Centre, as well as Category 2 Centres, particularly for capacity building activities. All activities marked as WHL ('World Heritage Leadership') activities below were delivered jointly by ICCROM and IUCN.

Capacity building

15. ICCROM delivered capacity building for protection, conservation and promotion of tangible heritage in Tyre, Lebanon (10 May to 31 December 2021).

16. WHL co-organized the online World Heritage Site Managers Forum coordinated by the World Heritage Leadership Programme (7-13 July 2021).
17. ICCROM delivered a Disaster Risk Management Course with the Category II Centre in Zacatecas (Mexico) aimed at managers and focal points from the LAC region (19-20 July 2021).
18. WHL delivered the People Nature Culture Course implemented for 20 online sessions for the Asia-Pacific region (16 August-20 October 2021).
19. Meetings with Albania and partners for Management planning for Berat and Gjirokastra (Albania), with an ongoing International Assistance project (September 2021-March 2023).
20. WHL implemented the World Heritage Impact Assessment Course with WHITRAP (1-9 November 2021).
21. ICCROM implemented the World Heritage Nomination Training Course in Tanzania, in collaboration with the African World Heritage Fund (1-9 December 2021).
22. WHL implemented an online course on World Heritage with a special focus on China (10-14 January 2022) together with the Chinese National Administration of Cultural Heritage and the Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage.
23. WHL delivered the course on Improving Management Effectiveness in African World Heritage Properties (2021-22), in collaboration with the Africa Unit of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (6 December 2021-30 April 2022).
24. WHL implemented the online training on the preparation of Heritage impact Assessments for World Heritage properties for Arab States (6 and 9 December 2021).
25. ICCROM participated in the Tentative List Capacity Building Task Force meeting (20 January 2022).
26. WHL delivered the People Nature Culture Course in Spanish for the LAC region, implemented for 12 online sessions in collaboration with WHC LAC(2-28 February 2022).
27. ICCROM participated in the official launch of the The Mentorship Programme for African Heritage professionals (2021-2024) (16 February 2022).
28. ICCROM delivered a two-week module on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the framework of the Saudi Experts Programme organized by the ICCROM Regional Office in Sharjah. Lectures delivered by various ICCROM partners including UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ARC-WH in Bahrain, ICOMOS and IUCN (17 February-5 March 2022).
29. WHL delivered a Spanish language webinar on the Guidance and Toolkit on Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context for the LAC region in March 2022.
30. WHL delivered both online and in-person capacity building on World Heritage Impact Assessment for all World Heritage properties in Norway together with the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage and Norwegian Environment Agency (March-May 2022).
31. WHL implemented the Advisory Bodies Networking Activity to share updated information and build capacity amongst the Advisory Bodies and Category 2 Centres focusing on the resources on impact assessment and the Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit 2.0.(EOH 2.0) (11, 13, 17, 19 May 2022)
32. WHL delivered the Capacity Building on World Heritage Risk Management in the Arab Region in Manama (Bahrain) together with ARC-WH (24-28 July 2022).

33. WHL delivered the Managing World Heritage – People, Nature, Culture course in the Republic of Korea in collaboration with the Korean Cultural Heritage Administration and Korea National University of Cultural Heritage (2-11 August 2022).
34. WHL convened the World Heritage Leadership Forum in Bergen, Norway to mark the finalization of Phase 1 and setting the foundation of a renewed Phase 2 (2023-2028), from 21 to 22 September 2022. The Forum commemorated the 50th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, and the signing of the Phase 2 Agreement for World Heritage Leadership.
35. WHL implemented the People Nature Culture (PNC) Forum in Suwon, Republic of Korea to evaluate the results and impacts of the PNC courses, as well as advance discussions on the services and benefits of World Heritage (10-12 October 2022).
36. WHL implemented the online Training of Trainers on Impact Assessment in a World Heritage context for the Arab States region in collaboration with ARC-WH (17-19 October 2022).
37. WHL delivered together with ARC-WH, Strengthening Risk Management Leadership in the Arab Region (phase 2) over 5 workshop sessions (21 November 2022 - 14 February 2023).
38. WHL delivered the course on Impact Assessment in a World Heritage context for Saudi Arabia together with ARC-WH in Hail, Saudi Arabia (20-24 November 2022).
39. WHL delivered an EOH 2.0 workshop with Robben Island, South Africa (11-13 January 2023), and a World Heritage management capacity building in Germany (23 January 2023).
40. WHL implemented the online Managing World Heritage – People Nature Culture 2023 course in English over 8 sessions (13-23 February 2023).
41. WHL delivered the Climate Action for World Heritage: Advanced Workshop on World Heritage Risk Management in the Arab States Region with ARC-WH in Bahrain (5-9 March 2023).
42. WHL delivered the online course on Impact Assessment in a World Heritage context (13-15 March 2023).
43. WHL collaborated with the UNESCO WHC/EUR-NA Unit on implementing the workshop on Transition to Renewable Energy in the World Heritage Context at UNESCO (22-23 March 2023).
44. WHL delivered the online Managing World Heritage – People Nature Culture 2023 course in Spanish for the LAC region in collaboration with Zacatecas and the UNESCO WHC/LAC Unit over 6 sessions (19-26 April 2023).
45. WHL delivered the online Training of Resource People on Impact Assessments in a World Heritage context together with WHITRAP (8-10 May 2023).
46. ICCROM has been delivering the [Heritage Recovery Programme in Mosul](#), a two-year capacity building programme organized in collaboration with UNESCO and the University of Mosul and with the financial support of the Government of the United Arab Emirates and the European Union. The first course for Track 1, focusing on architectural conservation, started in January 2022; 25 young architects and engineers graduated from the first nine-month cycle in January 2023. A second cycle initiated in January 2023. The first course for Track 2, aimed at craftsmen and focusing on alabaster started in April 2022; 79 craftspeople graduated in traditional and modern carpentry, blacksmithing, stone masonry, and alabaster work.
47. ICCROM revised the curriculum of its Course on Conservation of Built Heritage, with the aim of strengthening approaches to more sustainable conservation and to Sustainable

Development. The course is being implemented in Rome from March to June 2023, with 18 participants from 18 countries.

48. 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.

Code of conduct or Statement of Ethical Principles or equivalent text

49. ICCROM participated in meetings of the Open-ended Working Group which developed the Declaration of principles to promote international solidarity and cooperation to preserve World Heritage adopted by the General Assembly of States Parties (20 and 27 September 2021, 4 and 26 October 2021).

Evaluation of the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy

50. ICCROM continued collaboration with the World Heritage Centre on the implementation of the evaluation of the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (WHCBS), including participation in meetings as part of the WHCBS Evaluation Reference Group. More detailed information on this specific question can be found in Document WHC/23/45.COM/6.

Publications

51. Through the World Heritage Leadership Programme, and in collaboration with all partners, a series of publications are being finalized, in particular the Guidance and Toolkit on Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context (July 2022).
52. The World Heritage Leadership Programme, in collaboration with all its partners, is continuing work towards a complete update and merging of the currently separate manuals on managing cultural and natural World Heritage (*Managing Cultural World Heritage* and *Managing Natural World Heritage*), the revision of the Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit 2.0 for conducting management effectiveness assessment on World Heritage properties and an update on the manual on Disaster Risk Management, taking into account impacts of Climate Change and integration with overall management planning.

Other meetings

53. ICCROM participated in an online meeting on climate change and World Heritage, organized by the Category 2 Centre in Zacatecas (2 August 2021).
54. ICCROM supported the establishment and official launch of the Network of African World Heritage Sites Managers, in Abomey, Benin (21-22 November 2021)
55. ICCROM participated in the Open-ended Working Group meeting on Recent Conflicts (26 January 2022, 23 February 2022, 24 March 2022).
56. ICCROM participated in the Renewable Energy Guidance meeting (21 February 2022).
57. ICCROM made a presentation on “Visions from the Civil Society - 50 Years of World Heritage - What Has Been Achieved - What Has Not Been Achieved - What Has to be Done in the Face of this War?” as part of: 50 Years World Heritage Convention - Times of Peace, Conflict and War: International Conference on the Future of the World Heritage Convention in Berlin (Germany) (4 November 2022).
58. ICCROM made a presentation on “The Directions of Heritage Interpretation in World Heritage Policy” as part of the 2022 WHIPIC Online Lecture and Webinar Series: On World Heritage Interpretation and Presentation - The Closing Webinar (10 November 2022).

59. ICCROM participated in the meeting “The Next 50: The Future of World Heritage in Challenging Times - Enhancing Resilience and Sustainability” in Delphi (Greece) (16-18 November 2022e).
60. ICCROM participated in the Nature-Culture Summit as part of the Convention on Biodiversity COP15 in Montreal (Canada) (11-12 December 2022).

D. CONCLUSIONS

61. Although the activities in the first period were somehow disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, ICCROM managed to deliver advice and particularly a series of capacity building activities, mostly delivered online and in diverse languages.
62. In addition to its direct activities with the World Heritage Convention, as an Advisory Body, ICCROM continued to strengthen the implementation of the Convention through its various programmes, particularly the World Heritage Leadership Programme, but also its Youth Heritage Africa programme, its ATHAR Programme, and its prospective activities in Latin America and the Caribbean and on Sustainable Built Heritage.
63. More detailed information on capacity-building activities can be found in Document WHC/23/45.COM/6.

II. REPORT BY ICOMOS

A. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

64. ICOMOS reaffirms its commitment to serve the World Heritage Committee and to assist it to address the challenges that the World Heritage Convention is facing.
65. As in the past, ICOMOS has worked in the spirit of collaboration that must prevail between the Advisory Bodies, UNESCO and the States Parties, and acknowledges the value of the work that is carried out conjointly with ICCROM, IUCN and the other partner organisations. ICOMOS thanks as well its experts from national Committees, International Scientific Committees and Board members who provide significant support on a voluntary basis to the work that is delivered.
66. ICOMOS thanks the States Parties in particular for the invitation to participate in the exchanges, which took place within the framework of the *ad hoc* working group in conformity with Decision **44 COM 14** and for the opportunity, which it was given to bring clarifications on its working methods and the financial challenges it must face to accomplish its work.

B. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES THAT RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND

World Heritage Committee meetings and General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention

67. ICOMOS was represented at the extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee (Fuzhou/Online, 2021) by a solid delegation, and assisted the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in the preparation of the working documents for the Committee, with ICCROM and IUCN.
68. 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, sites of memory associated with recent conflicts, Sustainable Development, the Policy Guidelines, the Upstream Process, the *Draft updated Policy Document on Climate Action for World Heritage*, and Periodic Reporting.
69. ICOMOS participated also in the 23rd session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention (UNESCO, 24-26 November 2021).
70. ICOMOS participated in the first meeting of the Bureau of the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee (8 July 2022).
71. ICOMOS participated in the online 17th extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee (12 December 2022).
72. ICOMOS participated in the online 18th extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee (24-25 January 2023) and presented its work on three nominations which were inscribed under emergency procedure: Rachid Karami International Fair – Tripoli (Lebanon), The historic center of Odesa (Ukraine) and Landmarks of the Ancient Kingdom of Saba, Marib (Yemen).

Nomination proposals to the World Heritage List

73. For the 2022 cycle, ICOMOS evaluated 19 nominations to the World Heritage List, one referred back nomination, seven minor modifications/creation of buffer zones and

11 provisional Statements of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV). For the 2023 cycle, ICOMOS evaluated 19 nominations to the World Heritage List and 10 minor modifications/creation of buffer zones. ICOMOS was requested by the World Heritage Centre to proceed with the evaluation of four pending sites of memory associated to recent conflicts. The work schedule had to be shortened and the normal evaluation process, as described by Paragraph 168 of the Operational Guidelines had, de facto, to be adapted. This work will be presented at the extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee.

74. The 2022/2023 cycle continued to be challenging, in particular due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to the efforts of and the cooperation between the ICOMOS Evaluation Unit, the ICOMOS mission experts and the nominating States Parties, almost all the technical evaluation missions were carried out and all nominated sites evaluated. 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.
75. Two extraordinary ICOMOS Panel sessions had to be organised to assess the nominations submitted under emergency procedure, as well as one extraordinary session to assess the nominations related to sites of memory associated to recent conflicts.
76. 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 also highlighted is 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 dossiers that may require reformulation, even if the State Party expresses a willingness to do so.

Therefore, ICOMOS welcomes the adoption of the reform of the Nomination process and has been deeply engaged, with IUCN and the World Heritage Centre, in the preparation of the implementation of the Preliminary Assessment to start in September 2023. Upstream process for Nominations and Tentative Lists

77. ICOMOS has been active in extending its collaboration with States Parties on upstream work and advice work in general. These activities are reported in Document WHC/23/45.COM/9A.
78. On Tentative Lists, and as follow up to the publication of the *Guidance on Developing and Revising World Heritage Tentative Lists*, ICOMOS has developed, in cooperation with IUCN and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the operationalization of the modules presented in this guidance, in particular Module 2.

Monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage properties

79. ICOMOS has contributed to the drafting of 105 and 76 review of reports on the monitoring of the state of conservation of cultural and mixed properties relating to the 2022 and 2023 cycles to be presented at the extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee. ICOMOS carried out and prepared reports for 10 Reactive Monitoring missions and an Advisory mission for the extended 45th session. At the time of drafting this report, eight Reactive Monitoring missions are planned to be undertaken.
80. ICOMOS continues to provide 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 the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and their related corrective measures.

81. The Advisory Body took part in numerous online consultation meetings organised by the World Heritage Centre with States Parties on aspects of the state of conservation (SOC) of their properties, such as those concerning the Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria), the Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin), and the Archaeological Areas of Pompei, Herculaneum and Torre Annunziata (Italy). In addition, the World Heritage Centre consults 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. As with other activities, the funding currently available to support this work does not correspond to the level of contributions provided, a problem, which is particularly pronounced here.
82. 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 framework of the Committee sessions and benefit from consultations with States Parties.

Periodic Reporting

83. The Advisory Body participated actively in the activities coordinated by the World Heritage Centre for the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe and North America regions.

International Assistance

84. 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 2022 and 2023. Over the same period, it also examined International Emergency Assistance requests.

Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value

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

Participation in technical meetings

86. Over the course of the reporting period, ICOMOS 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 meetings of the *ad hoc* working group in conformity with Decision **44 COM 14**, the meetings of the Open-ended working group of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention in conformity with Resolution **23 GA 11**, the meetings of the Open-ended working group in conformity with Decision **44 COM 8**, and the bi-annual meetings between the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, as well as other technical meetings. They also include numerous bilateral meetings with representatives or experts of State Parties in the framework of evaluation, upstream or monitoring activities. These meetings are mentioned here although ICOMOS participation and contribution to them remains mostly unfunded. It is a major concern for ICOMOS, whose financial resources are limited, that this substantial work is not funded by UNESCO.

C. SUMMARY OF OTHER ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN SUPPORT OF WORLD HERITAGE

Climate change and sustainable development

87. In the reporting period, ICOMOS continued to prioritize climate change in World Heritage work, emphasising the importance of addressing climate impacts, preparing for inevitable losses and damage, and championing the role that World Heritage can play in driving greenhouse gas mitigation and achieving the ambitions of the Paris Agreement. One of the main focuses of the period was the organisation of the International Co-Sponsored Meeting on Culture, Heritage and Climate Change (ICSM-CHC), organized by ICOMOS and UNESCO and co-sponsored by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which took place online from 6-10 December 2021. Its scientific outcomes provide a unique framework for bringing together heritage experts and climate scientists to review the state of knowledge of connections between culture, heritage and climate change and inform the IPCC's forthcoming 7th assessment cycle. Most of the key published results of the project are available online at the following link: <https://www.cultureclimatemeeting.org/>
88. ICOMOS also continued to make cultural heritage visible in the international sustainability arena. The ICOMOS document 'Heritage and the sustainable development goals: policy guidance for heritage and development actors' was published in March 2021. A French translation was published in October 2022, a Portuguese translation in April 2023 and a translation into Arabic will be soon available. Another example that can be cited is the collaboration between ICOMOS and the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) on 'Integrating the Policy Document on World Heritage and Sustainable Development and the 2030 Agenda into the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Arab States'.
89. ICOMOS' participation in the MONDIACULT conference, and in particular in the five regional consultations organised between December 2021 and February 2022, has also been an important goal. ICOMOS attended the world conference hosted by Mexico in September 2022.

Capacity Building

90. ICOMOS contributed to the implementation of the World Heritage Leadership programme coordinated by ICCROM and IUCN, through attending various meetings and contributing to the following new tools: the *Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit 2.0*, the World Heritage Glossary, and the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context*, including 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).
91. ICOMOS has continued its collaboration with the Category 2 Centres, through its participation in two World Heritage Nomination Workshops for Advanced Dossiers, organised by the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) in September 2021 and October 2021, and a Workshop on Strengthening Capacities of World Heritage Professionals in Africa that was organised in May 2022 in South Africa by AWHF and ICOMOS, with the collaboration of ICCROM and IUCN. ICOMOS has organised with ARC-WH a capacity building programme for World Heritage Professionals in the Arab States Region that was held in Egypt in February 2023. Another workshop was organised in Azerbaijan in May 2023, by the State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan and ICOMOS to strengthen World Heritage knowledge from heritage professionals from the Central, Eastern-, South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regions and to help understand the World Heritage system and prepare them to work within this framework.

92. ICOMOS was a key partner of the CVI (Climate Vulnerability Index) Africa Project, which was strongly focused on local capacity building within Tanzania, Nigeria and other LMIC countries in Africa. It aimed at improving preparedness measures for African cultural heritage sites and communities. In a similar way, ICOMOS is now the coordinating partner of the Preserving Legacies Project, which aims at empowering heritage sites' professionals and communities with the scientific and technical training to adapt and build resilience to climate change. The first two countries where the project is implemented are Jordan and the Philippines.
93. ICOMOS continues to participate in and organise expert workshops. With regard to the Arab States region, ICOMOS organised, in collaboration with ICCROM, an online technical workshop on Heritage Impact Assessment for Historic Cairo (Egypt) and participated in an online capacity building workshop on World Heritage Impact Assessments for the Arab States Region with ICCROM and IUCN. In addition, ICOMOS will offer technical assistance to the State Party of Iraq through a workshop on preparing Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value, and to the State Party of Egypt on Heritage Impact Assessments. With regard to the Asia and the Pacific region, ICOMOS participated in webinars for World Heritage managers in Central Asia and the online International Seminar on Protecting Prehistoric and Historic Sites: Introduction to Heritage Impact Assessment, organised by the State Party of Malaysia. As regards the Europe and North America region, ICOMOS participated in two online seminars concerning the Ancient City of Nessebar, organised by the State Party of Bulgaria in line with the request of the World Heritage Committee.

Thematic Studies/Reports

94. ICOMOS has published in October 2021 a study, jointly prepared with ARC-WH, entitled *Exploring Cultural Heritage of the Arab Region: Potential offered for a more balanced World Heritage List*, and has published two thematic studies – *The Cultural Heritages of Water in the Tropical and Sub-Tropical Eastern and Southern-Eastern Asia* and *Tea Landscapes of Asia* – and prepared a Silk Roads Scoping Study on further work to define the scope and extent of the main silk roads routes in consultation with the States Parties of China, the Republic of Korea and Japan.
95. A report on *Sharing experience on Transnational Serial Nominations in Europe* has been published as a result of an ICOMOS Europe Initiative. The lessons learned and suggestions collected through this report can be seen as a first contribution to further stimulate reflection on the opportunities and challenges inherent to this type of nomination and on the pre-conditions for achieving a sustainable project, able to further develop its vitality after inscription.
96. ICOMOS contributed to the Sub-regional Meeting for South Asian Silk Roads Transboundary Serial Nomination and Cultural Landscape Initiative, Kathmandu, Nepal (6-7 December 2021) and prepared a Scoping Paper on defining and assessing further routes and corridors in the context of the Silk Roads Thematic Study covering Eastern Asia in 2022 (available in UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust Final narrative report Support for the Asian Silk Roads World Heritage Serial and Transnational Nomination(s) - PHASE II 2018-2022).
97. ICOMOS is currently developing a Scoping Study on Maritime Silk Roads Trade Routes, thanks to the support of the State Party of China, to explore the various options for the way these routes might be recognised on the World Heritage List as a global network.

Connecting Practice

98. Within the joint ICOMOS and IUCN project of Connecting Practice: Defining new methods and strategies to support Nature and Culture through engagement in the World Heritage Convention, a new resource for the heritage field entitled *A Commentary on*

Nature-Culture Keywords was published and is intended to serve as a basis for the common understanding of relevant terms among cultural and natural heritage professionals. The fourth phase of the project is currently underway and focuses on applying resilience thinking to the planning and management of World Heritage properties. It can also be noted that ICOMOS participated in the Nature-Culture Summit as part of the Convention on Biodiversity COP15 in Montreal (Canada) (11-12 December 2022)

Advisory Assistance/Upstream Advice

99. Upon recommendation of the World Heritage Committee, ICOMOS has carried out three Advisory missions in relation to state of conservation (in Auschwitz Birkenau, German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp (1940-1945), Poland; Rabat, Modern Capital and Historic City: a Shared Heritage, Morocco; Paris, Banks of the Seine, France).
100. At the request of States Parties, ICOMOS has carried out ten Advisory missions to properties to assist with conservation and development projects: Rhaetian Railway in the Albula/Bernina Landscapes, Switzerland component; Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region, North Macedonia component; Acropolis, Athens, Greece; Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Bryggen, Norway; Butrint, Albania; Gelati Monastery, Georgia; Historic Centre of Lima, Peru; Medina of Sousse, Tunisia and Royal Tombs of the Joseon Dynasty, Republic of Korea.
101. Following the request of the World Heritage Committee to develop a Master Plan for the Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands (Russian Federation), ICOMOS has been invited by the State Party to provide advisory assistance for the elaboration of the plan and assess conservation and rehabilitation projects.
102. ICOMOS, as a member of the International Advisory Committee for the World Heritage Properties of Uzbekistan and as an observer to the Palmyra International Scientific Task Force, attended related technical meetings.
103. At the request of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS has provided advice within the Upstream Process to the following States Parties (Germany, Madagascar, Malta, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Turkey, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Serbia).

D. CONCLUSIONS

104. Over the course of the reporting period, ICOMOS has continued to serve the World Heritage Committee and to carry out its obligations within the framework of the World Heritage Convention, with regard in particular to the evaluation of nominations to the World Heritage List, the monitoring of the state of conservation of World Heritage properties, the review of Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value and International Assistance requests, and participation in periodic reporting and numerous technical meetings..

e

105. ICOMOS remains at the disposal of States Parties to continue to make every effort to provide assistance through the provision of expert and capacity building workshops, upstream advice and advisory assistance, with particular reference to those properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.
106. Serving the World Heritage Convention is at the heart of ICOMOS missions. Its entire network of experts is deeply committed to it. However, it is a growing concern for our organization that insufficient financial resources are currently devoted to the

implementation of the Convention through the Word Heritage Fund. This situation is a source of fragility for a system whose sustainability is threatened.

III. REPORT BY IUCN

A. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

107. In view of the continued budgetary pressures, IUCN has kept this report to the Committee very short and synthetic. Fuller information on IUCN's work on the World Heritage Convention is available at <https://www.iucn.org/our-work/topic/world-heritage> to complement the brief report below, and IUCN is pleased to provide further information upon request on any aspect of its work.
108. With respect to the context of IUCN's World Heritage work, the attention of the Committee is drawn to the Advisory Body'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 https://www.worldparkscongress.org/about/promise_of_sydney#:~:text=The%20Promise%20of%20Sydney%20is%20the%20rallying%20point%20around%20which,their%20wn%20personalised%20%27Promise%27.. IUCN's current Programme for the period 2021-2024 was adopted by IUCN Members in February 2021 and sets its ambition in a decadal timeframe (2021–2030) (<https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/49292>). Through its new Programme, IUCN aims to 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 is emphasized.
109. IUCN has undergone a significant process of institutional reform of its global programme which now sees IUCN's work on World Heritage positioned as part of a new larger team focused on Heritage and Culture. This team forms part of a new Centre for Society and Governance in IUCN, thus providing a different and broader context for IUCN to engage in World Heritage going forward. In parallel with this significant reform, IUCN commissioned an external strategic review of its engagement with the World Heritage Convention, which makes eight recommendations to guide IUCN's future work. The IUCN response to the Review will be communicated to the World Heritage Committee when available.
110. During 2021-2022, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact IUCN's work on field projects, capacity building and knowledge-based work to varying degrees. Many projects were able to be adapted to the different approaches required by the pandemic and the acceleration of online platform technologies opened up different modalities for participant engagement in the IUCN Programme, including in some cases facilitating increased contributions. The pandemic also required flexibility and adaptation to ensure IUCN's engagement with major global events and processes and many meetings have had to be rescheduled.
111. Despite the uncertainties imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, IUCN was pleased to be able to stage its quadrennial World Conservation Congress (Congress) in Marseille (France) in September 2021. The event included a rich programme of World Heritage related sessions which were conducted as in-person, online or hybrid sessions. A Marseille Manifesto was adopted by the Congress and provides an important blueprint for global conservation in the next decade. Several high-profile World Heritage events were conducted in partnership with UNESCO, ICOMOS, ICCROM and World Heritage partners. More information on the scope of World Heritage related events at the Congress can be found at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/2336#:~:text=TheIUCN%20World%20Conservation%20Congress,through%20events%2C%20exhibits%20and%20forums> and <https://www.iucncongress2020.org>

112. IUCN also co-convened the second Asia Parks Congress in Kota Kinabalu (Malaysia) in May 2022, and the first Africa Protected Areas Congress in Kigali (Rwanda) in July 2022. Engaging World Heritage side events were held in both congresses on the intersection between conservation and development through the participation of Indigenous Peoples Organisations, States Parties, NGOs and other experts.
113. The activities reported under the above paragraphs have been funded through IUCN's own resources, including extrabudgetary fund raising.

B. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES THAT RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND

IUCN notes that many activities reported in this section also received financial support beyond the World Heritage Fund.

World Heritage Committee meeting

114. IUCN attended the extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee (Fuzhou/online, 2021). Thanks to an effective and diverse delegation, IUCN contributed fully to all relevant items of the Committee session, including its Budget Working Group. IUCN extends its sincere thanks to the host country, the Peoples Republic of China, to the World Heritage Centre and all other UNESCO departments involved for the excellent organisation of the Committee amid the challenging conditions posed by the global pandemic. IUCN was pleased to collaborate with the World Heritage Centre and the other Advisory Bodies in adapting to maintain momentum during the global pandemic. Whilst it proved possible to conduct the Committee session, IUCN notes significant concerns regarding the online format, particularly the inability to interact with Committee members and other actors in person, and the challenges of the lack of bilateral meetings and lack of side events reduced the effectiveness of the session, and in particular the opportunities for dialogue. The extended 44th session highlighted again, and even more starkly, the increasing departure of Committee decisions from technical advice and is further discussed below.

Evaluation of properties and upstream support

115. IUCN completed evaluations of all nominations under natural criteria in all cases where an evaluation mission was possible in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. IUCN has continued to apply maximum flexibility with its working methods to accommodate field missions and the evaluation process. All but two evaluation missions for the 2021/2022 cycle took place between October and December 2021. Two mixed sites evaluations require joint consideration by IUCN and ICOMOS; however, the concerned States Parties requested that the missions be postponed due to the pandemic. Two missions from the 2020/2021 cycle remain to be completed, one delayed due to COVID-related travel and health advice and the other due to security concerns. One of these pending mixed site missions has been implemented as part of the 2022/2023 evaluation cycle. It is hoped that the remaining backlog of three evaluations can be implemented as soon as the situation allows missions to be invited. Two of these missions are now scheduled to take place in May and June 2023. Travel expenses for evaluation missions remained within the allocated budget; however, IUCN stresses this was only possible thanks to the voluntary support of several nominating States Parties, and IUCN experts.
116. The meetings of the IUCN World Heritage Panel for the 2021/2022 cycle were all held online in December 2021, January and March 2022. In spite of delays in the implementation of field evaluation missions, the Panel completed all of its required work in terms of the evaluation of all nominations under natural criteria that could be visited in the field as well as consideration of policy issues. In the 2022/2023 cycle, the Panel met in person again in January 2023, and online in March 2023. Input from UN Environment

World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) was provided to this process according to the established processes and requirements of the evaluation working methods.

117. IUCN responded to all formal site-specific upstream requests in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS as appropriate and considering available budgets. IUCN also participated in a task force on operationalising the Guidance on Developing and Revising World Heritage Tentative Lists, jointly with ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre. The Committee's attention is also referred to Document WHC/23/45.COM/9A, which contains further details on upstream support, as well as to point 103 in this document relating to new resources relevant to upstream support.

Monitoring the State of Conservation

118. IUCN provides direct financial and in-kind support to enable the work to monitor the state of conservation (SOC) of World Heritage properties to be undertaken, without which the work requested by the Committee could not be implemented.
119. Regarding the extended 44th Committee session, IUCN recalls the increasing departure of Committee decisions from technical advice provided on the state of conservation of natural and mixed World Heritage properties, specifically regarding the inclusion of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger and removal from the World Heritage List.
120. For the extended 45th session of the Committee, IUCN contributed to the drafting of around 95 SOC reports for natural and mixed properties, included in Documents 7A, 7B and Adds, in collaboration with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM. Importantly, although this session covers reports from both 2022 and 2023, the postponement of the Committee in 2022 resulted in the need to revise and update a significant number of the SOC reports drafted in 2022, in order to reflect updated information on the state of conservation provided by States Parties and third parties since the last session. This complexity required additional coordination and capacity from the Secretariat and Advisory bodies. Broader issues related to the state of conservation of these properties are addressed in general Document WHC/23/45.COM/7.
121. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all Reactive Monitoring missions were postponed between March 2020 and December 2021, as agreed with the World Heritage Centre and the other Advisory Bodies. The hiatus in missions, as well as ongoing impacts of the global situation, budgetary and logistical constraints, and outstanding invitations from States Parties, resulted in a significant backlog of missions. Following the resumption of mission implementation in 2022, the backlog is being addressed within the capacity of the Secretariat and Advisory Bodies, and considering the aforementioned constraints. In 2022 and 2023, IUCN organised, with the World Heritage Centre for joint missions, eight Reactive Monitoring missions (W-Arly-Pendjari Complex (Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger); Mosi-oa-Tunya / Victoria Falls (Zambia, Zimbabwe); Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary (Senegal), Great Barrier Reef (Australia); Komodo National Park (Indonesia), Lake Malawi National Park (Malawi); Wood Buffalo National Park (Canada); Keoladeo National Park (India)) and two IUCN Advisory missions (West Norwegian Fjords – Geirangerfjord and Nærøyfjord (Norway); Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex (Thailand)). IUCN also contributed to the ongoing planning of missions that are yet to be completed following logistical complexities, armed conflict and outstanding State Party invitations).
122. IUCN continues to receive a growing number of requests from States Parties for increasingly complex technical reviews under Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, such as Environmental Impact Assessments, Strategic Environmental Assessments and management related documents, which impact on IUCN's capacity, and are beyond current budgetary provision.

International Assistance

123. IUCN reviewed and advised on all International Assistance (IA) requests for natural and mixed properties that fell within its remit and participated in the four biannual IA Panel meetings (January and April, 2022 and 2023) with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM.

Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value (rSOUV)

124. IUCN has reviewed retrospective Statements of OUV, which were submitted to it, in accordance with the timetable for this set by the World Heritage Committee. No budgetary provision is made for this work in the World Heritage Fund.

General Assembly

125. IUCN actively participated at the 23rd session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention in November 2021 and was available for technical input as required.

Other meetings

126. Due to the global pandemic, most formal in-person meetings in 2021-2022 continued to be conducted online. IUCN attended all online meetings that were requested including all Advisory Bodies meetings, the Completeness Check meeting for new nominations, as well as relevant extraordinary sessions of the World Heritage Committee, and other regular meetings necessary for the implementation of the Convention. IUCN physically attended the 18th extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee in January 2023.

Ad hoc Working Group

127. The *ad hoc* Working Group is included here but is a largely unfunded activity regarding the World Heritage Fund. IUCN has actively contributed to the *ad hoc* Working Group established following the extended 44th Committee session with an extended mandate to address a range of issues including funding of the Preliminary Assessment process; transparency, efficiency and long-term financial sustainability of the Convention; and accessing additional advisory services with a view to improve geographical diversity. IUCN welcomes these timely reflections on such critical reform issues for the Convention and has participated in all meetings of the two Sub-Groups of the *ad hoc* Working Group as well as contributing significant written input, including to provide commentary on background information prepared by UNESCO. However, the fact that this important work is substantially unfunded is clearly of concern.

Draft Policy Document on Climate Action for World Heritage

128. The work regarding this Policy Document is included here but is substantively unfunded regarding the World Heritage Fund. IUCN continued to actively contribute to the review of the draft Policy Document on Climate Action for World Heritage. While the General Assembly did not adopt the updated Policy Document at this stage, IUCN considers this a vitally important policy given the impacts across all World Heritage properties and the urgency of action which is called for across the broader international community to tackle the climate emergency. IUCN worked to, wherever possible, provide consolidated input to the draft policy in collaboration with all Advisory Bodies and ensure the essential momentum needed to take action on the interlinked climate and global biodiversity loss challenge. IUCN will seek to continue to engage in the processes established via the Panel of experts and Open-ended Working Group to advance the above policy ahead of its anticipated adoption in 2023, resources permitting.
129. As with the *ad hoc* Working Group noted above, the mechanisms established to advance the draft Climate Change Policy Document involve considerable time and senior staff

resources at the busiest time of the annual Committee session preparation cycle and have no allocated funding to support them from UNESCO.

Periodic Reporting

130. The work supporting Periodic Reporting is included here but remains a substantively unfunded item under the World Heritage Fund. IUCN has therefore contributed, primarily from its own resources to the continued programme of Periodic Reporting, including engagement on the third cycle with focus on the Asia Pacific (APA), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), and Europe and North America (EUR/NA) regions. IUCN has worked in collaboration with its Oceania Regional Office in Fiji to support the development and implementation of the APA Regional Report and Action Plan, and has expressed its strong willingness to collaborate with UNESCO on proposals to support capacity development in the APA region. IUCN maintains focal points for World Heritage in all of its regional offices, although significant additional resources would be required to be able to meet the demands for support to the Convention.

C. SUMMARY OF OTHER ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN SUPPORT OF WORLD HERITAGE (INCLUDES ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE NOT FUNDED BY THE WH FUND)

Capacity-Building for World Heritage

131. Funding from the World Heritage Fund for capacity building by IUCN was cut to zero in 2012 due to budgetary restraints in UNESCO, and regrettably remains at zero in the previous and current biennia; thus, the commitment from IUCN to this effort relies entirely on extra-budgetary fundraising. Throughout 2021-2022 IUCN continued to implement the significant six-year programme, entitled World Heritage Leadership, which was launched in 2016 with the founding support of Norway, and now includes the Republic of Korea and Switzerland as supporting partners. The Programme has a site manager level focus and is founded on the idea of linking the conservation of nature and culture, with a focus on achieving sustainable development.. Phase I, which concluded in 2022, consolidated the work under five modules, and in 2023 entered Phase II to continue to build on the achievements, and extend partnerships with ICOMOS, the World Heritage Centre and a series of partners. The World Heritage Leadership programme will be reported on in greater detail under the relevant capacity development item on the Committee's agenda, and further information is also provided in ICCROM's report (see Section I of the present document).

Resource Manuals

132. IUCN has continued to contribute to the future programme for review of the resource manuals and their translation. The World Heritage Leadership Programme, in collaboration with its partners, is continuing work towards a complete update and merging of the currently separate manuals on managing cultural and natural World Heritage, an update on the manual on Disaster Risk Management, and in 2022 published a new comprehensive *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*, which has been fully endorsed by the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) and replaces the previous IUCN and ICOMOS guidance notes.
133. IUCN has also continued to publish regional studies that may support (a) the identification of potential future World Heritage nominations, (b) the state of conservation of existing World Heritage properties, and (c) the application of criterion (viii). [Leveraging the World Heritage Convention for conservation in the Hindu Kush Himalaya](https://www.iucn.org/news/world-heritage/202112/iucn-report-identifies-sites-world-heritage-potential-himalaya-and-beyond) (<https://www.iucn.org/news/world-heritage/202112/iucn-report-identifies-sites-world-heritage-potential-himalaya-and-beyond>), was produced by IUCN, [Wild Heritage](#) and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development ([ICIMOD](#)), and supported by the [National Geographic Society](#). *Tabe'a III: Nature-culture linkages, conflict and climate*

change impacts on natural heritage in the Arab region (<https://www.iucn.org/news/world-heritage/202112/conflict-and-climate-change-pressures-natural-world-heritage-arab-region>) is the third report of its kind since 2015, and the only publication documenting progress, challenges and opportunities for protecting outstanding natural areas in the Arab States through the World Heritage Convention. It is part of a cooperative programme by IUCN and the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH). The report *Geological World Heritage* (<https://www.iucn.org/news/world-heritage/202107/new-iucn-report-assesses-potential-more-geological-world-heritage>) was prepared with the financial support of the Republic of Korea's Cultural Heritage Administration and represents a profound update of a previous IUCN study on geological World Heritage from 2005.

Other IUCN supported work on World Heritage

134. IUCN invests significantly in World Heritage work as a founding partner to the Convention and its vision. IUCN's World Heritage work is focused on complementing its advisory role to the World Heritage Committee with proactive programmes of support to States Parties, and the large body of IUCN's members and partners, to optimize engagement in the Convention. A short list of priority work includes:
 - a) Continued development of the IUCN World Heritage Outlook with a view to using this knowledge product to raise awareness and drive improved conservation outcomes of natural World Heritage properties;
 - b) Undertaking field level projects to link IUCN World Heritage Outlook to the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas to synergize the application of these two IUCN tools;
 - c) 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 (a regional study is currently underway in the Pacific);
 - d) Initiatives within IUCN and active contribution to reform processes such as the operationalization and introduction of the Preliminary Assessment process to improve the quality of nominations and evaluation processes;
 - e) Strengthening IUCN's regional capacity and diversity in both its secretariat and its expert network;
 - f) 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;
 - g) Further work with partners on the role of World Heritage in protecting wilderness and large land and seascapes;
 - h) 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 Biodiversity Framework.
135. 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 continuing focus for IUCN as reflected in the restructured IUCN Centre for Society and Governance, noted above. .
136. IUCN wishes to place on record 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 its work would not be possible.

D. CONCLUSIONS

137. The Convention's 50th anniversary in 2022 provided an opportunity to review the Convention in the context of a significantly increased departure from the *Operational Guidelines* and the Advisory Bodies' advice in a growing number of landmark decisions. In IUCN's view, such decisions are resulting in both a clear loss for conservation outcomes for World Heritage sites and serve to undermine the reputation of the Convention in setting leading standards relevant to 21st century conservation norms and expectations. The challenges facing nature conservation are greatly different to those of the 1960s and 1970s, notably in terms of the scale of the acknowledged global environmental crisis, with climate change and biodiversity loss accelerating so rapidly. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to be very significant, and underline that the health of the environment is inseparable from culture and social justice.
138. As raised previously, IUCN remains deeply concerned at the growing number of unfunded and underfunded demands placed upon the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre. For example, there are currently no budget lines for regional support; for complex desk reviews of escalating demands in the framework of Paragraph 172; SOUV reviews; development of global strategies/thematic studies and/or the implementation of the global capacity building strategy; growing demands to contribute to intersessional work and the growing demands for upstream support. This situation results in reduced efficiency and delays in delivery, and lack of ability to respond to requests for support from States Parties, including in particular those in underrepresented regions. IUCN hopes the momentum of the 50th anniversary of the Convention may serve as a timely opportunity to find solutions to these chronic issues. Notwithstanding the need for enhanced resourcing, IUCN also considers that there is a need to set limits in terms of the work expected and move more decisively to manage expectations in line with available capacity. It is not sustainable to take on highly technical work that is not able to be adequately resourced, since this threatens the ability to consistently produce quality results.
139. IUCN is therefore of the view that a fundamental rethink is needed regarding the operation of the Convention, including its governance arrangements; the frequency and length of Committee meetings; the timelines and methods for the evaluation process, the implementation of upstream advice; and most importantly (but of least current attention) the systematic support needed for the conservation of World Heritage properties, including, as top priority those on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and the related issue of partnership development and fundraising. Transcending all of these issues is the need to look at the financing, capacity, effectiveness and working methods of the World Heritage Convention as a whole, including all of the current and potential sources of budget available, noting that the majority of the present funding is outside the World Heritage Fund. These are matters that will need to be considered by the Committee, including via the current wide-ranging mandate of the intersessional *Ad hoc* Working Group. IUCN's substantial track record and capacities, and our long-standing partnership with UNESCO, are available to reinforce the wider work and relevance of the World Heritage Convention.
140. The external Strategic Review commissioned by IUCN in April 2022 highlighted a number of areas in which IUCN can refresh and re-orientate its engagement with the Convention. The eight overarching recommendations include:
- a) Strengthening the inclusion and participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the Convention;
 - b) Positioning World Heritage to deliver the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;
 - c) Strengthening regional representations;

- d) Advocating for strengthened inclusion and participation of civil society in the Convention;
 - e) Developing a funding strategy to address the current funding gap;
 - f) Contribute towards strengthening the governance of the Convention.
141. The Strategic Review recognises IUCN's significant contribution of direct finance and in-kind support over the 2022-2023 Biennium to maintain the statutory work. Based on the findings of the Strategic Review, IUCN is developing a new World Heritage strategy to guide future work, and further information will be provided on this new strategy which is under preparation at the time of finalising the present report.

IV. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 45 COM 5B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/5B;*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 5B**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021);*
3. *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;*
4. *Takes note with appreciation of the reports of the Advisory Bodies on their activities;*
5. *Also takes note with appreciation of the continued contributions of Advisory Bodies, including financial and in-kind contribution, to ensure the proper implementation of the decisions of the World Heritage Committee as well as the proper implementation of the World Heritage Convention,*
6. *Further 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, and the range of issues reported by the Advisory Bodies that continue to require action and attention.*