

Report for the extended 45th Session of the World Heritage Committee

(Riyadh, 10-25 September 2023)

Reporting period: July 2021 to June 2023

1. General information

- Name of the Centre:

Regional Institute of World Heritage in Zacatecas under the auspices of UNESCO (IRPMZ)

- Name and contact information of the Acting Director/Head:

Carlos Augusto Torres Pérez
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Phone: +52 492 909 02 53

- Designated Focal Point(s) (name, title and contact information):

Carlos Augusto Torres Pérez
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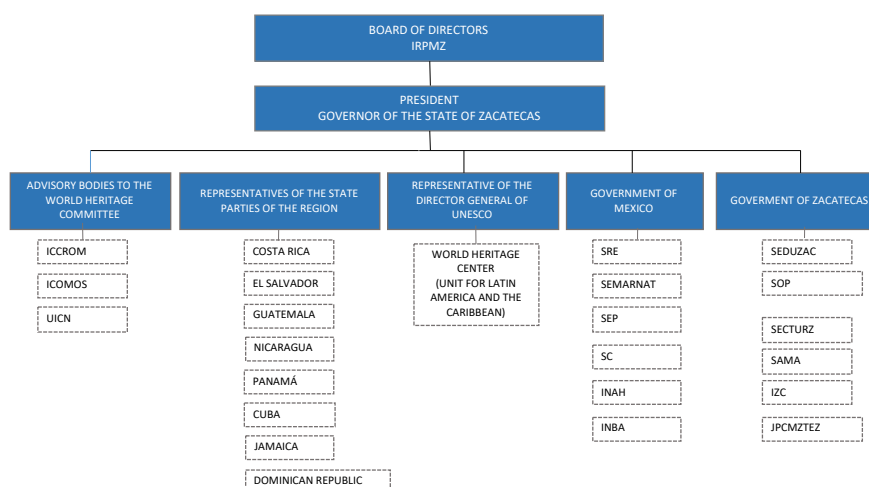
Erika Ofelia Rentería Ruíz
Technical Secretary IRPMZ
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- Website of the Centre (if available):

<https://irpmzcc2.org/>

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

Governing Board:



Staffing:

NAME	FUNCTION
Torres Pérez Carlos Augusto	General Director
Rentería Ruiz Erika Ofelia	Technical Secretary / Cultural Heritage
Martínez Becerra Clara	Director's assistant
Rodríguez Márquez Raúl Eduardo	Documentation Center
Hernández Ramírez Daniel	Natural Heritage
Martínez Robles Janet	Information Technologies and Social Networks
Galindo Rivera María Angelica	Administrative coordinator
Perea Gallegos Verónica	Administrative assistant
Martínez Mendiola Jaira Lizeth	Administrative assistant
Campos Ávila Verónica Lucia	Administrative assistant
Cipriano Carlos francisco	Security
Pacheco López Mariana	Maintenance and cleaning
Mauricio Núñez Christian Alejandro	Maintenance and operational support

- Budget assigned for the operation to the IRPMZ per year = **\$360,447.99 USD** (funds from the government of the state of Zacatecas, Mexico).
- Currently, the IRPMZ houses its offices and is assigned to the property called "Casa del Conquistador", owned by the ZACATECAS state government and located at Calle Juan de Tolosa No. 831, Historic Center of Zacatecas, Mexico. (Article 13 amended agreement).

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

In September 2021, the IRPMZ received the Evaluation Report of the World Heritage Center with a positive opinion for the continuity of the Institute as a Category 2 Center under the auspices of UNESCO, from which derives the need to renew the agreement from 2014 to through a tripartite model between UNESCO, the Government of Mexico and the IRPMZ.

Since then, a series of follow-up meetings have been held between the parties to determine the terms in which said agreement must be formalized in accordance with the provisions of the model contained in the 2019 strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centers under the auspices of Unesco approved by the General Conference (40 C/Resolution 99).

In February 2022, according to the periods established in the 2014 Agreement, the management of the General Director José Francisco Román ends. In August 2022, the Board of Directors met in extraordinary session to elect a new director in the person of Carlos Augusto Torres, fulfilling with the transition stage to continue with Institute's activities.

This led to the design of the 2023 Work Plan, which was drawn up in close collaboration with the UNESCO World Heritage Center through the Unit for Latin America and the Caribbean. The work plan was presented to the Board of Directors at the ordinary session held on February 2, 2023, which was unanimously approved.

Once approved, a series of meetings were held in the countries of the subregion of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean with the purpose of exposing the work plan and presenting the new management of the IRPMZ.

4. Main programmes and activities implemented since June 2021 and planned for the current year

In September 2021, the IRPMZ received the Evaluation Report from the World Heritage Center with a positive opinion for the continuity of the Institute as a Category 2 Center under the auspices of UNESCO.

Throughout the year 2022 a Cycle of Conferences was held on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Convention on the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage in online mode.

In August 2022, after receiving the Evaluation Report with a positive opinion for the continuity of the Institute as a Category 2 Center under the auspices of UNESCO, the Board of Directors met in extraordinary session to elect a new director, fulfilling with the transition stage to continue with Institute's activities.

This led to the design of the 2023 Work Plan, which was drawn up in close collaboration with the UNESCO World Heritage Center through the Unit for Latin America and the Caribbean, and was raised mainly in response to the recommendations indicated in the Evaluation Report, and regarding to the pending issues related to the Action Plan for World Heritage in Mexico and Central America (PAMAC) 2018-2023.

This Work Plan is made up of a total of 27 activities and contemplates the implementation of an "**Action Plan for Strengthening Capacities in the Subregion**", which has a short and medium term vision. The Action Plan is established under the cooperation between the Unit for Latin America and the Caribbean of the UNESCO World Heritage Center (WHC LAC), the Regional Institute of World Heritage in Zacatecas (IRPMZ), the World Heritage Leadership (WHL) from ICCROM and IUCN.

The cooperation aims to develop and implement capacity building activities under the themes of:

1. Effective Management of World Heritage
2. Disaster Risk and Resilience
3. Impact Evaluation

This Work Plan was presented on February 2, 2023 to our Board of Directors, and once approved, a series of meetings were held in the countries of the subregion of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean with the purpose of exposing it, update the directory of Managers and Focal Points of World Heritage Sites, as well as create a space for dialogue to learn about the conditions in which each of the States Parties are. The results of these 7 meetings, in which more than 90 stakeholders participated, allowed us to obtain a general pulse on the interests and needs related to world heritage in the subregion. These elements will undoubtedly contribute to the design and implementation of future action plans or collaborations.

Since then and throughout this year, various activities derived from the "**Action Plan for Strengthening Capacities in the Subregion**" have been carried out:

- **First Stage:** from April 19 to 21 and 24 to 26, it was held in collaboration with ICCROM, IUCN, the UNESCO World Heritage Center, the Cultural Heritage Administration of the Republic of Korea and the National University of Cultural Heritage from Korea the "**Online Course on World Heritage Management: People Nature Culture**".

More than 50 people participated in the work sessions, aimed mainly at managers of World Heritage sites, of which almost 40% corresponded to the sub-region of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. Among the topics that were addressed were the values and attributes associated with heritage sites, governance, legal frameworks, monitoring, and community participation in heritage management. The participating countries of the Central America and the Caribbean subregion were Cuba, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica and Guatemala.

- **Second stage:** from June 28th to 30th, the “**Regional Training Course for Latin America and the Caribbean on Evaluation of the Effectiveness of World Heritage Management**” was held, organized by the UNESCO World Heritage Center, ICCROM, IUCN, the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment and the IRPMZ. More than 60 people participated, organized into 15 multidisciplinary teams.

Among the participating countries of the Central America and the Caribbean subregion were Cuba, Honduras, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic, who obtained information and tools that will benefit the management of their World Heritage sites.

- Work is already underway on the **Third Stage** of the training, in which three management teams will be chosen to receive personalized mentoring for the application of the “Improving Our Heritage 2.0” Toolkit at their world heritage sites. This stage is planned to be carried out between the months of September and December 2023.

One part of the objectives of the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (IRPMZ) is to promote capacity building, regional cooperation and the promotion of good practices, as well as encourage the dissemination of knowledge for a better application of the Convention on the Protection of the Cultural and Natural World Heritage of 1972 in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean.

In this sense, and as part of the international collaboration strategies:

- From June 5th to 16th the Course “**The Blue Helmets for Culture, Cultural Heritage in the event of catastrophes: risks and security interventions**”. More than 70 representatives from Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guatemala, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Mexico participated in the event.

The course was organized by the Organizzazione Internazionale Italo-Latino Americana (OIILA), the Italian Ministry of Culture (MIC), the Carabinieri Command Tutela Cultural Heritage Italo (CCTPC), the Fondazione per la Scuola (FONDAZ SCUOLA), the Secretariat of Culture of Mexico through the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) and the Regional Institute of World Heritage in Zacatecas (IRPMZ).

During the work sessions, the participants were trained to act in emergency scenarios linked to cultural heritage. Some of the issues addressed were the legislation in cases of patrimonial emergency, procedures for recovery, intervention, security and transport of cultural heritage (furniture, archaeological and archival) and the creation of specialized units against illicit traffic.

- From November 15th to 17th, the “**Camino Real de Tierra Adentro International Colloquium, Cultural Itineraries-UNESCO**” will take place in the city of Aguascalientes, Mexico, organized by the IRPMZ with the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH), the Autonomous University of Aguascalientes and the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior of the United States of America.

The Latin American and Caribbean region began with the work of the **Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting** in October 2021, and we are still going through this process that will conclude in 2023.

In this Third Periodic Report Cycle in our region, the role of the IRPMZ has undoubtedly been of greater relevance because we have not only been present, but have also contributed to logistical issues for the development of the work.

Specifically, in this Third Periodic Report Cycle:

1. We participated as observers in the "Workshop for World Heritage Site Managers in the Framework of the Third Cycle of the Periodic Reporting Exercise in the Latin American and Caribbean region", which was an online training held on March 10, 2022, where the way to fill out the online form was explained to the participants, and answering all doubts regarding the platform.
2. We participated in the National Meeting of Managers of World Heritage Mexican Sites, which was held online on November 22th and 30th, 2022. Focal Points and 21 Site Managers participated in this work session and where the main issues included were addressed in the questionnaires of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reports.
3. We participated as observers in a consultation meeting with the managers of world heritage sites on February 10th, 2023 in online mode, where the results of the analysis of the implementation of the Convention in the States Parties were presented, as well as the indicators of monitoring.
4. We participated in the final Workshop of national Focal Points entitled "Third cycle of the Periodic Reporting Exercise in Mexico, Latin America and the Caribbean" that took place on February 15 and 16, 2023 in online mode. It was at this event that the IRPMZ provided simultaneous interpretation from English to Spanish during the two days and collaborated as an observer.

From May 31th to June 2nd, 2023, the Regional Institute of World Heritage in Zacatecas (IRPMZ), participated in the **8th Annual Meeting of UNESCO Category 2 Centers**, convened on this occasion by the International Center for Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites under the auspices of UNESCO (WHIPIC), which took place in Sejong, Republic of Korea.

During the Meeting, the representatives of the IRPMZ presented the background of the Institute, the 2023 Work Plan, as well as the ways in which this organization has collaborated with the States Parties, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Center in the formation of the Third Cycle Periodic Report for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Finally, another of the significant results for the IRPMZ was obtaining for Zacatecas the headquarters of the International Meeting for the Coordination of Category 2 Centers to be held in 2025.