



**unesco**

World Heritage Convention

**46 COM**

**WHC/24/46.COM/5A**

Paris, 7 June 2024

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**

**Forty-sixth session  
New Delhi, India  
21-31 July 2024**

**Item 5A of the Provisional Agenda:  
Report of the World Heritage Centre on its activities and the implementation of the  
World Heritage Committee's Decisions**

**Summary**

This document contains a non-exhaustive overview of activities and results achieved in implementing the Decisions and Strategic Objectives in conjunction with the Expected Result as defined in the approved 41 C/5 and 42 C/5 Programmes since the extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023). Focus has been placed on the results of activities not otherwise covered in working and information documents prepared for the 46th session, in line with Decision **45 COM 5A**.

More detailed information about all World Heritage Centre activities is available in Document WHC/24/46.COM/INF.5A as well as at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/activities>.

***Draft Decision: 46 COM 5A, see point VII***

*This document should be read in conjunction with Document WHC/24/46.COM/INF.5A*

## Contents

<b>I.</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>DUTIES, STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>III.</b>	<b>ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED AND RESULTS ACHIEVED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD (OCTOBER 2023-MAY 2024) .....</b>	<b>3</b>
A.	PI 1: NUMBER OF MEMBER STATES PROTECTING AND MANAGING THEIR WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1972 CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE AND THE 2011 RECOMMENDATION ON THE HISTORIC URBAN LANDSCAPE, AND THROUGH UNESCO'S COOPERATION AND INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE.....	3
A1.	GOVERNING BODIES .....	3
A2.	CAPACITY-BUILDING .....	5
A3.	CIVIL SOCIETY AND COMMUNITIES.....	7
A4.	CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT / SDGS.....	12
B.	PI 2: NUMBER OF MEMBER STATES SUPPORTED IN THE IDENTIFICATION AND PREPARATION OF POTENTIAL WORLD HERITAGE SITES FOR NOMINATION .....	18
B1.	TRENDS AND A FEW STATISTICS ON NOMINATIONS .....	18
B2.	TRENDS ON TENTATIVE LISTS .....	18
B3.	SUPPORT TO TENTATIVE LISTS AND TO THE PREPARATION OF NOMINATION DOSSIERS .....	19
<b>IV.</b>	<b>SYNERGIES WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS AND PROGRAMMES .....</b>	<b>19</b>
A.	CULTURE CONVENTIONS AND PROGRAMMES.....	19
B.	BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS AND PROGRAMMES .....	20
<b>V.</b>	<b>KEY CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>VI.</b>	<b>CONSULTATION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES (IIBS) ON THE DRAFT 43 C/5 FOR 2026-2029 .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>VII.</b>	<b>DRAFT DECISION.....</b>	<b>24</b>

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. To align with the reporting processes of the Governing bodies of the different Culture Conventions, the following information was streamlined to emphasize the synergies between conventions while highlighting the overall strategic assessment of the Secretariat's activities, its keys achievements and challenges encountered.

## II. DUTIES, STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE

2. As Secretariat of the World Heritage Convention, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (hereinafter also referred to as the "Secretariat") is coordinating all matters related to World Heritage within UNESCO. Its main duties are to ensure the day-to-day management of the Convention, organize sessions of the Governing bodies of the Convention, assist and provide support and advice to States Parties in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.
3. Currently, the World Heritage Centre comprises 28 established posts financed under the UNESCO Regular Programme (2 posts at Director's level, 17 Professional posts and 9 General Service staff posts) to serve the 195 States Parties. The Professional staff (17 posts) are distributed among the Policy and Statutory Meetings Unit (2 posts), the Nominations Unit (1 post) and the five Regional Units and the Natural Heritage Unit (14 posts). Together, they implement numerous activities, as reported in parts III and IV below, to ensure the proper implementation of the World Heritage Convention and follow-up on the decisions adopted by its governing bodies.
4. In addition, 29 positions are being financed through voluntary/in-kind resources. Several of these positions are financed thanks to the generous support provided by the States Parties of Austria, China, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Norway, Spain, Republic of Korea via secondments, Junior Professional Officers, Project appointments under extra-budgetary projects or through contributions to the sub-account for Human Resources.
5. Regarding **Knowledge management**, the databases of Nominations and State of conservation developed by the World Heritage Centre and available on its website make it an established global heritage reference. In 2023, the World Heritage Centre's website (<https://whc.unesco.org>) represented 32% of the page views, and 28% of the visits to all UNESCO websites (source of data: Googleanalytics)(however, due to a global change in Googleanalytics, 2023 data are only available from 14 June to 31 December 2023).
6. In terms of **Communication and outreach**, social media is a significant part of the communication and outreach activities of the Secretariat, with Twitter, Facebook and Instagram being used as platforms for disseminating information about World Heritage news, activities, calls for proposals, and capacity-building. Weekly posts about World Heritage were shared across UNESCO's media platforms (11 177 995 total followers) in English, French, Russian and Spanish. A special issue of the **World Heritage Magazine** featuring World Heritage sites in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was published and widely distributed during the extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee (Riyadh, 2023) in collaboration with the Saudi authorities. An issue of World Heritage highlighting new sites inscribed during the extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023) of the World Heritage Committee will be published in June 2024 and a special issue of the magazine featuring World Heritage sites in India will also be published on the occasion of the 46th session (New Delhi, 2024) in collaboration with the Indian authorities and widely disseminated.

7. The World Heritage Centre has continued managing the existing **partnerships**. It has to be noted that the long-standing partnership with Kobis Graphis to produce the Panasonic World Heritage Calendar came to an end, and States Parties were informed.

### **III. ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED AND RESULTS ACHIEVED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD (OCTOBER 2023-MAY 2024)**

8. The activities of the World Heritage Centre since the extended 45th session of the Committee (Riyadh, 2023) support the current Medium-Term Strategy (2022-2029) and Output 5.CL1 : **“Member States’ capacities strengthened to identify, protect and manage tangible heritage”** of the Outcome 5 under Major Programme IV: **“Enhance the protection and promotion of the diversity of heritage and cultural expressions”**, as approved in the Programme and Budget for both 2022-2023 (41 C/5) and 2023-2024 (42 C/5):

9. The Output 5.CL1 has 2 Performance Indicators (PI) defined in the 41 C/5 and 42 C/5, as follows:

PI 1 Number of Member States protecting and managing their World Heritage properties in the framework of sustainable development, through the implementation of the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, and through UNESCO’s cooperation and international assistance.

PI 2 Number of Member States supported in the identification and preparation of potential World Heritage Sites for nomination.

10. Special attention is paid to UNESCO’s two global priorities, Africa and Gender Equality, in all activities of the Secretariat, as well as to priority target groups, youth and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Furthermore, for improved legibility of these priorities, a specific section has been integrated in the present document (see Section A.4.8 below). In this regard, an Item related to Priority Africa is inscribed on the Agenda of the World Heritage Committee since 2018 and more information can be found in Document WHC/24/46.COM/5C related to Priority Africa.

11. The Secretariat undertook a large number of activities, which are listed in Document WHC/24/46.COM/INF.5A. The main results are underlined below and illustrated with a non-exhaustive list of concrete examples.

#### **A. PI 1: Number of Member States protecting and managing their World Heritage properties in the framework of sustainable development, through the implementation of the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, and through UNESCO’s cooperation and international assistance.**

##### **A1. Governing Bodies**

12. With 195 States Parties, the World Heritage Convention nears universal recognition, as one of the most ratified legal instruments in the world.

13. The extended 45th session of the Committee was held from 10-25 September 2023 in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the Chairpersonship of Dr. Abdulelah Al-Tokhais. Its agenda covered an additional year due to the absence of a session in 2022. This session examined 50 nominations, including three “sites of memory”, and adopted 262 decisions concerning the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger. The session also discussed major

issues such as “Priority Africa: a Strategy for World Heritage” or the revision of the World Heritage Capacity-building Strategy (see <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/45COM>).

14. The 24th session of the General Assembly in November 2023 held in presentia at UNESCO’s Headquarters also discussed major issues and adopted by consensus the updated version of the Policy Document on climate action for World Heritage. It also adopted a revision of its Rules of Procedures as part of the Culture Sector’s effort to harmonize the equivalent rules for the seven assemblies of the culture conventions, and proceeded to elections to the World Heritage Committee (see <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/24GA/>).
15. During its 19th extraordinary session held in presentia at UNESCO Headquarters on 23 November 2023, in the margin of the 24th session of the General Assembly, the Committee elected the Bureau of its 46th session as follows: Chairperson: H.E. Mr Vishal V. Sharma, India; Vice-Chairpersons: Bulgaria, Greece, Kenya, Qatar, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; and Rapporteur: Mr Martin Ouaklani, Belgium. It also decided that its 46th session would take place in India tentatively in July 2024 (see <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/19EXTCOM/>). After confirmation from the Indian authorities and in consultation with the UNESCO Director-General, the exact dates and venue of the session (21-31 July 2024, New Delhi, India) were announced to all States Parties on 8 January 2024 through a communication from the Director of the World Heritage Centre.
16. Near 80 working and information documents were prepared by the Secretariat for these statutory meetings. The Decisions/Resolutions reports and related documentation were also made available online and can be consulted at the above-mentioned web addresses.
17. Through the organization of Orientation sessions for Committee Members and Information sessions for all States Parties, the World Heritage Centre continues to support the preparation of Committee Members and States Parties for the forthcoming sessions of the Committee and provides them with a better understanding of major statutory processes such as the Nominations and Reactive Monitoring processes, and of procedural matters (notably on motions and voting procedures). The first Orientation session in view of the 46th session of the Committee, is scheduled to take place on 10 June 2024, in conjunction with the Information session and a budget briefing, as requested by the Committee.
18. The World Heritage Centre also ensured the smooth organisation as well as preparation of the relevant documentation to facilitate the work of Open-ended Working Groups and Working Groups that have been established by the Committee and/or by the General Assembly:
  - a) the Open-ended Working Group of States Parties, established by the General Assembly in 2021, with the mandate to develop the final version of the Policy Document on Climate Action for World Heritage and proposals for its effective implementation met twice between July and November 2023 (see <https://whc.unesco.org/en/climatechange/>). The resulting draft of the updated Policy Document was presented to the General Assembly of States Parties at its 24th session in 2023 and adopted by consensus (see Resolution [24 GA 8](#)).
  - b) The World Heritage Centre also ensured the preparation of the relevant documentation to facilitate the work of the meetings of the Open-ended Working Group of States Parties, established by the Committee at its extended 45th session (Decision [45 COM 11](#)) with the following mandate: i) Consider the necessary improvement aiming at reducing the gap of the representation of States Parties on the World Heritage List and enhancing the balance of the List; ii) Propose solutions to the technical evaluation requirements, including improving capacity building activities; iii) Explore the possibility of using additional service providers; and iv)

Propose sustainable solutions to the financial requirements of the nomination process to implement the above including the Preliminary Assessment. The Working Group held a meeting on 9 February 2024 to elect its Bureau (Chairperson: Mr Mohammad Alaidaroos, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Vice-Chairpersons: Germany, Kenya, Philippines, Poland; and Rapporteur: Ms. Chafica Haddad, Grenada), and two 2-day meetings on 25-26 April and 22-23 May 2024 to start its reflection and make concrete recommendations to the Committee on the major themes it identified in fulfilment of its mandate (see also Document WHC/24/46.COM/11).

## **A2. Capacity-building**

19. At the heart of the World Heritage Centre's mission, lies the imperative to ensure the sustainable management and protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage properties. Capacity building activities conducted by the World Heritage Centre stand as a cornerstone in this endeavour, fostering a network of empowered stakeholders equipped with the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to safeguard the properties effectively. By investing in capacity building initiatives, the World Heritage Centre not only strengthens the resilience of local communities and site managers but also fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility towards these shared heritage sites. These activities serve as catalysts for sustainable development, fostering collaboration, innovation, and the transmission of knowledge.
20. For instance, UNESCO, in close collaboration with the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) and the Advisory Bodies, has undertaken significant efforts to enhance the capacities of African experts in sustainable conservation and effective management. One notable initiative is the Mentorship Programme for African Heritage professionals (2021-2024), with the objective to train more African heritage experts working in the World Heritage system and establish a roster of local professionals who could support the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Africa and hence, contributing to implementing the Strategy for World Heritage in Africa (see Document WHC/24/46.COM/5C). As of April 2024, 40 African mentees (20 men and 20 women) have already been enrolled, another 20 mentees (10 men and 10 women) will be trained starting mid-2024.
21. Moreover, with financial support from the government of Australia Official Development Assistance (ODA), the Secretariat will further support African States Parties currently under-represented or non-represented on the World Heritage List by training their local experts and professionals in the preparation of nomination dossiers.
22. In response to the growing demand for impact assessments in the Africa region, UNESCO, ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN jointly organised a capacity-building workshop in Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in Mauritius in October-December 2023. The workshop also benefited from the ICCROM-IUCN World Heritage Leadership programme. In line with the Strategy for World Heritage in Africa to implement Flagship Programme 3 "Fostering cultural heritage and capacity development" (Global Priority Africa), the workshop was also part-funded by the Government of Mauritius and UNESCO and was based on the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, published in 2022. It benefitted 30 participants from Mauritius including both public and private sectors, as well as sites managers from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania. Plans are underway to replicate this workshop in other sub-regions of Africa through targeted fund mobilization efforts.
23. Similarly, UNESCO has been collaborating with African academic institutions to support the development of heritage curricula and vocational programmes. Efforts such as the joint initiative with the UNESCO Chair on African Heritage Studies and Sustainable Development at the University of Botswana and the Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar

aim to mobilize African academia to strengthen institutional capacities and integrate heritage conservation into higher education. Through these partnerships, UNESCO seeks to increase the number of African experts working in the field of heritage and promote the integration of heritage conservation into higher education curricula.

24. In the Arab States region, several capacity-building workshops have also taken place over the reported period, covering a wide range of topics essential for effective heritage management (Site management and Conservation planning; Elaboration of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR); the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), etc.). For example, a Training Workshop on “Strengthening World Heritage Site Management Planning in Egypt” was organized on 10-14 December 2023 in Luxor, Egypt, in collaboration with ICOMOS, and with the support of the government of France. With particular focus on ‘Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis’ (Egypt), site managers and practitioners concerned with the management, conservation and planning of World Heritage properties in Egypt, were provided with a global perspective on heritage management.
25. Moreover, UNESCO's commitment to capacity building extends to fostering transnational cooperation, as evidenced by the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust project ‘Enhancing Transnational Cooperation and Fostering Peace: Natural and Mixed World Heritage in Asia’, an online expert workshop organized by the World Heritage Centre on 6 July 2023 as the first step to address existing challenges and opportunities for transboundary and transnational conservation and to identifying existing knowledge and capacity gaps, along with priorities for potential natural and mixed transnational sites in Asia (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/2584>).
26. Furthermore, in Europe and North America, capacity-building workshops play a crucial role in enhancing the effectiveness of World Heritage management. For instance, with limited resources and thanks to the support of Germany, Ireland and Italy, the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in Europe and North America provided the framework for two consultations of national focal points, one for Southeastern Europe and one for the region as a whole, in October and December respectively. These workshops, organised in close cooperation with the three Advisory Bodies, served to prepare the Regional Action Plan to be presented at the present session, based in particular on the results of the Periodic Reporting. They also served to introduce the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, the Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit 2.0 and the online Guidance for Wind Energy Projects in a World Heritage Context. On both occasions, and on the basis of the results of the Periodic Reporting, regional and sub-regional capacity building needs and priorities were identified and reflected in the Regional Action Plan.
27. UNESCO, through the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust ‘Support for Ukraine in Culture and Education through UNESCO: Emergency Response for World Heritage and Cultural Property: Damage Assessment and Protection’, in close cooperation with ICOMOS and ICCROM, continues to strengthen Ukraine’s capacity to address urgent cultural heritage protection and recovery through the development of emergency preparedness and mitigation plans. In July 2023, a five-day training was organised in Kyiv for 20 cultural heritage resource professionals from eight regions of Ukraine, including managers of World Heritage and Tentative List sites, in disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness, as well as advanced documentation on the state of conservation of cultural heritage sites. The training was organised to support early, medium and long-term recovery efforts in Ukraine.
28. Furthermore, between December 2023 and April 2024, UNESCO, in cooperation with ICOMOS, organised four online workshops to train 12 cultural heritage professionals identified by the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy (MCIP) to develop a

rehabilitation plan for the urban historic centre of Chernihiv, including the Tentative List site 'Historic Centre of Chernihiv, 9th-13th Centuries'. The workshops focused on providing methodologies, tools and recommendations that could be applied to the plan through the approach of the UNESCO 2011 Recommendation and people-centred planning for urban rehabilitation. A UNESCO/ICOMOS field mission to Chernihiv took place on 18-22 March 2024 to further accompany and support cultural heritage professionals from the MCIP, the National Preserve, the Regional Administration and the city in the development of this plan, to provide a methodology for emergency preparedness and mitigation plans, and to develop recommendations/guidelines on the urban morphology to be preserved. This will be followed by a second UNESCO/ICOMOS field mission to Chernihiv to document a selection of cultural properties, including 3D-scanning documentation and photogrammetry to provide the best possible overview of the sites, an essential part of the development of a recovery plan.

29. Among diverse capacity-building activities also focusing on the self-evaluation of World Heritage management effectiveness, a training based on the application of the Enhancing the Heritage toolkit 2.0 was organized from September to December 2023, led by ICCROM for World Heritage sites managers in Mexico, Peru, and Dominican Republic. In April 2024, a similar online international course was organized in English language, for the Caribbean Small Islands Developing States (SIDS).
30. The World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and its Scientific Working Group on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds, Ramsar Secretariat, FAO and IUCN, have organized a series of regional capacity building webinars on avian influenza and protected areas with the financial support of the Swiss Federal Office for Environment (FOEN) (see <https://whc.unesco.org/en/events/1779>) (see further details in Section B.1).
31. The World Heritage Centre, ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN are engaged in a joint project aimed at developing a toolkit on climate action for World Heritage. The project is initially funded by the government of Australia and coordinated by the World Heritage Leadership programme.
32. In partnership with the principality of Monaco, work is underway to explore how blue carbon credits could potentially fund conservation activities in World Heritage marine sites. A first capacity building workshop was held in late September 2023 on this theme. The workshop, organized in partnership with the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), brought together marine protected area practitioners from around the world and leading players in the carbon credit markets, who shared first-hand insights into how blue carbon credits work to bring finance to marine protected areas around the world and their communities.

### **A3. Civil society and communities**

#### *A3.1 Education activities, or projects having a specific component on youth*

33. The World Heritage Centre, through its World Heritage Education Programme and its diverse range of activities and initiatives, supported the capacities of States Parties in furthering heritage education and awareness among youth globally, the Programme continued to mobilize local communities (through NGOs, youth organizations, institutions, etc.) to work alongside World Heritage Site Managers, UNESCO National Commissions and UNESCO Permanent Delegations and implement hands-on conservation activities at the sites. In a concerted effort to incorporate World Heritage into early education systems, the Programme continued to provide support to States Parties (through their National Commissions) towards educational resource kits in national and regional languages.



34. In its commitment to nurturing a new generation of heritage professionals, the Programme collaborated closely with States Parties to organize regional and international capacity-building trainings to provide in-depth expertise on conservation challenges along with a platform for intercultural exchange and mutual learning for the youth. A prime example of this collaboration is the World Heritage Young Professionals Forum 2023, convened as part of the extended 45th session of the Committee (Riyadh, 2023), organized in Riyadh and the 'Al-Ahsa Oasis' with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the theme of "Looking Ahead: The Next 50 Years of Protecting Natural and Cultural Heritage" in September 2023, which gathered 34 young professionals from 33 countries. Participants discussed the impacts of climate change; of tourism at heritage destinations; the imminent need for a balanced representation in the World Heritage List, and the growing opportunities of the digital dimensions of heritage and attended multiple discussions, lectures, group work and site visits, led by local and international heritage experts (see <https://whc.unesco.org/en/whypf2023/>).
35. Additionally, the World Heritage Volunteers (WHV) Initiative played a pivotal role in actively involving youth and local communities in preservation activities through the implementation of 70 action camp projects in 2023 at 62 World Heritage properties and sites on the Tentative Lists, by 54 organizations in 31 countries (see <https://whc.unesco.org/en/whvolunteers/>).
36. With the aim to better integrate World Heritage into early-education curricula and to translate the [UNESCO Global Framework for Culture and Arts Education](#) into action, the programme is developing the update of the "World Heritage in Young Hands" Kit (open access), and its adaptation into interactive digital technology and open learning, which was last revised in 2002, in collaboration with UNESCO Associated Schools Network at the Education Sector.
37. An innovative activity in the field of communication is a trilingual podcast series on World Heritage preservation. Financed by Brazil and realized by the World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Field Office in Brasilia, this podcast is meant to reach out new audiences among young people. The first three episodes of the podcast, launched in the second trimester of 2024, focus on the themes of Climate Change, Transatlantic Slave Trade, and Transboundary Cooperation.
38. Furthermore, the "eDNA Expeditions" is a global, citizen science initiative that helps measure marine biodiversity, and will give a first glimpse of how climate change might impact distribution patterns of marine life, across marine World Heritage sites. 22 marine sites joined the initiative, and over 250 children and youth participated in the eDNA sampling campaigns. The project is implemented by the World Heritage Centre Marine Programme (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/marine-programme/>) in collaboration with the IOC and financed by the government of Flanders (Belgium). (<https://www.unesco.org/en/edna-expeditions>).

#### *A3.2 Collaboration with NGOs or foundations*

39. As is the practice every year, the World Heritage Centre participated in a series of meetings organized by World Heritage Watch (<https://world-heritage-watch.org/content/>), where civil society actors presented their perspective on the state of conservation of a number of World Heritage properties.
40. Conservation NGOs have been supporting many project activities led by the World Heritage Centre; they acted as implementing partners and provided technical expertise and additional financial and in-kind resources. Examples are Fauna and Flora International (FFI) partnering with UNESCO for the implementation of the Rapid Response Facility (RRF) (see <https://whc.unesco.org/en/rapidresponse/>), the World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Ripple Africa,

African Parks Network (APN), African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), Virunga Foundation and many others.

### A3.3 Site Managers' Forum and Site Managers' networks

41. The Archaeological Survey of India (attached office of the Indian Ministry of Culture, as Host Country of the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee, the World Heritage Centre, ICCROM and IUCN, under the World Heritage Leadership Programme, and in partnership with the Aga Khan Trust for Culture are organizing the 6th edition of the World Heritage Site Managers' Forum, in New Delhi, India, on 18-25 July 2024, with the theme: "Heritage and communities: inclusive and effective approaches for the sustainable management of World Heritage properties". A hundred World Heritage site managers from across the globe will participate in this Forum aimed to create opportunities for the empowerment of site managers in expanding their networks as well as exchanging knowledge and experiences at an international level (see <https://whc.unesco.org/en/whsmf24> for further details).
42. In close collaboration with the AWHF, the African Site Managers Network (ASMN) was established in 2022, as a regional networking platform to enable site managers of World Heritage properties in Africa to share experiences, enhance networking and improve their capacity in implementing the Convention. UNESCO facilitated the organization of the election of the Permanent Committee, elected for a 2-year term (2022-2024), as well as that Committee's regular online meetings and its participation in events such as the 2023 celebration of African World Heritage Day on 5 May. Members of the Permanent Committee (including the President, Vice President and Secretary General) participated in the 5th edition of the World Heritage Site Managers' Forum held in Riyadh in 2023, and co-organized by the World Heritage Centre. With the financial support provided to UNESCO by the government of France, the Permanent Committee is engaging in discussions with the Réseau des Grands Sites de France (RGSF) to draw on its experience organising such kind of networking, in particular, in developing training programmes on the management and sustainable conservation of African sites.
43. In order to promote a better understanding of the role, responsibilities, challenges and needs of World Heritage Site Managers and their interactions with States Parties, international organisations and communities that live in or around World Heritage sites, George Town World Heritage Incorporated, which manages the World Heritage property 'Melaka and George Town, Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca' (Malaysia), organized an international symposium "We are Site Managers" from 1 to 5 March 2024 in George Town, Penang to which UNESCO actively participated, including the UNESCO Jakarta Office for the opening of the Symposium, and provided insights in several sessions (see <https://gtwhi.com.my/we-are-site-managers-international-symposium>). UNESCO also financially supported the participation of the President of the ASMN in this Symposium, as a panellist to highlight some of the opportunities and challenges that African site managers face. The symposium concluded with the adoption of the "George Town Declaration", which aims to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by engaging in an inclusive, meaningful community-based approach to World Heritage site management (see the full text at <https://gtwhi.com.my/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/WASM-20240305-George-Town-Declaration-Final.pdf>).
44. Through its World Heritage Marine Managers network, the World Heritage Marine Programme connects 50 marine site managers on a daily basis to share solutions and improve conservation outcomes, notably to share best practices and success stories on how to deal with invasive species, how to assess climate vulnerability, how debt-for-nature swaps can finance conservation, or how to prepare for an event of coral bleaching. In October 2023, managers from these sites were brought together in the 'Wadden Sea' World Heritage site (Kingdom of the Netherlands, Denmark, Germany) for the 5th UNESCO World Heritage Marine Managers Conference during which managers

and key global experts discussed critical challenges and solutions in protecting ocean biodiversity. Key topics included building resilience in the face of climate change, managing invasive species, sustainable financing and engaging youth, volunteers and indigenous peoples and local communities. A summary document of the outcomes of the conference is being developed for publication in June 2024.

#### *A3.4 Work with communities / Indigenous peoples*

45. The World Heritage Centre and the three Advisory Bodies were invited by the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on World Heritage (IIPFWH) to participate in the international expert workshop on recognizing and respecting Indigenous Peoples' heritage values in World Heritage sites in Geneva (Switzerland) from 16 to 18 January 2024. In its Decision **45 COM 5D**, the Committee welcomed the intent of the IIPFWH to organise this workshop, invited States Parties to contribute financially to this event and requested the Secretariat to include a report on it at its present session. The workshop was supported by the government of Australia and the World Heritage Fund. The IIPFWH invited a majority of indigenous experts to the workshop, the three United Nations mechanisms on indigenous issues (Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) and Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)), the UN Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights and two representatives of Member States (Australia and Norway). The main objective of the workshop was to discuss Indigenous Peoples' concerns about the lack of recognition, respect and protection of Indigenous Peoples' heritage and values in many World Heritage properties.
46. The purpose of the workshop was to develop recommendations from indigenous experts on measures to enable and support more consistent and appropriate recognition of Indigenous Peoples' values and relationship with the land in the OUV and management of World Heritage properties, and to facilitate the recognition of culture-nature linkages on inscribed properties. At the time of writing, the outcome document of the workshop is being finalised by a drafting group of indigenous experts appointed by the IIPFWH. It is expected to contain a series of recommendations under seven themes: The refinement of the interpretation of the OUV concept and the evaluation of the criteria, the recognition of the nature/culture interconnectedness and the application of the criteria, the alignment of the World Heritage Convention with the human rights-based approach, the operationalisation of free, prior and informed consent, the participation of indigenous peoples in World Heritage Convention processes that directly affect them, the establishment of independent grievance and redress mechanisms for human rights violations in areas protected under the Convention and the development of capacity-building programmes to support the participation of indigenous peoples in the Convention processes and a better overall understanding of the rights of indigenous peoples. It is hoped that it will provide a basis for defining cooperation, agreeing solutions and working positively and collaboratively between IIPFWH, the Advisory Bodies and the Secretariat together with the Governing Bodies and States Parties to bring about change both at the international level and on the ground.
47. Under the Capacity-building programme for World Heritage nominations in the Africa Region (Japanese Funds-in-Trust), community consultation workshops were conducted in Sierra Leone and Guinea Bissau engaging stakeholders, including local communities, during the preparation of the nomination dossiers of the two States Parties, that were submitted in January 2024.
48. In December 2023, the World Heritage Centre organized the 3rd Coordination Group meeting on 'Post COVID-19 World Heritage Site Management: Integration of Conservation, Tourism and Local Livelihood Strategies at World Heritage Sites', funded through the UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust. This project included properties such as the 'Maya Site of Copan' in Honduras, 'Cidade Velha, Historic Centre of Ribeira Grande'

in Cabo Verde, 'Trang An Landscape Complex' in Viet Nam, 'Medina of Sousse' in Tunisia. For example, in Cabo Verde, the project provided training to over 100 entrepreneurs and community leaders, with an emphasis on informal commerce dominated by single women and heads of households. This led to the identification of challenges and the need for further training, empowerment programmes, and technological adoption. For that, two workshops conducted in August and September 2023 contributed to the sustainable development of Cidade Velha's local economy post-COVID-19, including also a focus on leveraging new technologies for innovation in the tourism sector.

49. Thanks to the government of Norway's contribution to the World Heritage Fund, community support programmes were strengthened in 10 World Heritage properties in Africa. For instance, a community-driven emergency programme in the 'Virunga National Park' in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) focused on protecting mountain gorillas, while establishing a structured local decision-making mechanism ("Dja actors' Forum") in the 'Dja Faunal Reserve' in Cameroon. In 'Lake Malawi National Park' in Malawi, 34 local management committees with almost 400 members from the park's neighbouring communities led activities to enhance sustainable co-management of the fish resources as a key livelihood resource and a heritage asset, by empowering the local communities, through community-based Beach Village Committees and Village Natural Resource Committees, within the National Park and in its immediate surroundings, also improving protection of the property.
50. UNESCO, supported by the government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, is aiding Mozambique in developing a local management and development plan for Macuti Town to supplement the implementation of the existing planning instruments, including trainings on the conservation and management of historic urban landscapes for 50 community leaders of different neighbourhoods of the Island of Mozambique. A training on the draft local management plan and best practices manual prepared in April 2023 will also be provided to the youth on the good practices for the conservation of the Island of Mozambique, as well as a capacity building workshop on the promotion of sustainable tourism and entrepreneurship directed to the local communities and associations of the Island, so as to promote the development of income-generating activities towards local communities.
51. In the framework of the project "Heritage and Creativity for AIUla's Sustainable Development", implemented through the partnership between UNESCO and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Royal Commission for AIUla (RCU), activities have been implemented, focusing on enhancing World Heritage storytelling for communities and visitor experience.

#### *A3.5 Level of women's engagement in the field of World Heritage conservation in collaboration with UNESCO*

52. In collaboration with the Kilimanjaro National Park (KINAPA) authority, UNESCO has implemented a project titled "Empowering young women and men for adaptation to climate change at the Kilimanjaro National Park World Heritage site" funded by [the Netherlands Funds in Trust](#) (NFIT) from 2022 to 2023. Through the project, scientific and traditional data (local knowledge) on the impacts of climate change on nine villages adjacent to the park were collected. Some of the key findings included the provision of conservation education awareness on climate change, strengthening the conservation of forests and discouraging farming to water sources.
53. Furthermore, in order to support initiatives and develop capacity on projects that promote World Heritage conservation and sustainable development, the World Heritage Centre engaged 15 women from women's associations in villages surrounding the Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary (Senegal) by training and providing them with a set of equipment

consisting of 66 pairs of gloves, 30 waterproof overall protective suits with boots, and 53 cutting sickles and machetes, to facilitate their working conditions within the World Heritage properties, in particular the collection, storage and processing to transform typha into materials for the manufacturing of mats. The process creates additional economic resources for them but also indirectly reduces the abundance of invasive species in the World Heritage property.

#### **A4. Conservation and Sustainable Development / SDGs**

*(this section A4. should be read in conjunction with Document WHC/24/46.COM/7)*

##### *A4.1 Emergency situations*

54. In the face of ongoing armed conflicts and natural disasters, safeguarding World Heritage properties remains a paramount concern for UNESCO. From rehabilitation efforts in conflict-affected regions to post-disaster assessments and capacity-building initiatives, the World Heritage Centre's interventions aim to mitigate the impact of these crises on cultural and natural heritage across all regions (also see Document WHC/24/46.COM/7).
55. Armed conflict situations continue to pose a threat to World Heritage sites in Africa. In Mali, the rehabilitation of cultural heritage has been continued with funding from the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH) for the 'Tomb of Askia' and for the 'Cliff of Bandiagara (Land of the Dogons)' in response to the recommendations of the 2019 UNESCO Emergency evaluation mission. In 'Timbuktu', the project for the rehabilitation and enhancement of protected buildings, financed by the Trust Fund for Victims of the International Criminal Court (ICC), permitted the undertaking of important conservation works on the cemeteries hosting some of the mausoleums and the initiation of the installation of public lighting and the plantation of trees. Moreover, due to continuing deterioration of the security situation in 'Virunga National Park' (DRC) and the transboundary 'W-Arly-Pendjari Complex' (Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger), affected by the presence of militant groups, UNESCO has increased its funding for conservation and management activities in these properties through the contribution of the government of Norway.
56. As part of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust 'Support for Ukraine in Culture and Education through UNESCO: Emergency Response for World Heritage and Cultural Property: Damage Assessment and Protection' and in line with the Action Plan for Ukraine coordinated by UNESCO with the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy and more than 40 international and national partners, UNESCO, in close cooperation with ICCROM, organised an online consultation of more than 150 national and international stakeholders to discuss existing methods of damage and risk assessment in Ukraine. This resulted in a methodology and a form for on-site assessment of damage and risks to immovable cultural property, adapted to the Ukrainian context, in accordance with the national legal framework and by aligning it with international standards for documenting damage to immovable heritage, planning interventions and facilitating cost estimates, including for World Heritage properties. Based on the unified methodology, a five-day in-person workshop, including on-site exercises at a historic building located in the buffer zone of the World Heritage property 'L'viv - the Ensemble of the Historic Centre', was held in L'viv for 20 Ukrainian professionals from 14 regions of the country, including World Heritage and Tentative List site managers, to improve their skills in risk management and post-damage documentation of cultural property. Subsequently, a joint UNESCO/ICCROM mission carried out on-the-spot damage assessments at seven priority sites in the Tentative List 'Historic Centre of Chernihiv, 9th-13th Centuries'. The results of the assessments were presented to the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy in December 2023 to inform future repair/restoration activities as well as the

development of the Rehabilitation Plan for the Urban Historic Centre of Chernihiv by Ukrainian cultural heritage experts.

57. Following Storm Daniel that hit the northeastern part of Libya on 10 September 2023, UNESCO organized two missions in October and November 2023, with support from the Heritage Emergency Fund. The missions aimed at carrying out a rapid post-disaster assessment of selected cultural properties, including the World Heritage property 'Archaeological Site of Cyrene'. Based on a rapid assessment of condition and the identification of urgent actions, as well as the medium- and longer-term needs, an action plan has been developed to support recovery and sustainable conservation management.

#### *A4.2 Properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger*

58. The World Heritage Centre has continued its support to activities that strengthen management and conservation of World Heritage properties in Africa, notably natural heritage properties and those severely threatened, thanks to the financial contribution of the [government of Norway](#) to the World Heritage Fund. This support is directed across 20 natural, 7 cultural and 3 mixed World Heritage sites in Africa, 14 of which are included on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Among the activities, sites have received support in finalising and operationalising their programmes of corrective measures and developing the DSOCR.
59. Capacity-building activities, carried out together with the Advisory Bodies, also contributed to the implementation of a strategy regarding properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in view of their removal from this List, notably in the Africa and Arab States regions. In Africa, a series of sub-regional workshops has been organized since 2022 with precious support from Norway and China, in cooperation with the AWHF, in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and in Senegal to support the process of developing corrective measures and finalising the Desired state of conservation for the removal of properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). The last workshop of this series was held in Nairobi (Kenya) in April 2024, following for example a technical workshop in Conakry in December 2023 for 'Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve' (Côte d'Ivoire/Guinea) bringing together representatives of the two States Parties.
60. The provision of technical support to States Parties of the Arab States region for the elaboration of the DSOCR and the related corrective measures have continued, particularly for Syria and Iraq.
61. For the World Heritage property 'East Rennell' (Solomon Islands), projects focused on developing sustainable livelihoods for local communities. These activities were funded by the UNESCO/Kingdom of the Netherlands and UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust and are directly contributing to achieving the DSOCR. A scoping study with local communities to develop livelihood activities and consultation meetings with communities and other stakeholders are scheduled to take place in May/June 2024.

#### *A4.3 Conservation / management activities at other sites*

62. The above-mentioned financial contribution of the government of Norway also helped in organising training and activities to strengthen management and sustainable conservation of 16 World Heritage properties in the Africa region, as well as initiatives aiming to mitigate the impacts of development projects on the OUV of properties, such as awareness-raising activities for stakeholders.
63. In view of providing innovative tools for enhancing World Heritage virtual accessibility and conservation, UNESCO launched the Dive into Heritage platform, which leverages digital technologies to safeguard and promote World Heritage sites and their related

intangible heritage. During its Pilot Phase (2022-2024), the project focuses on a curated selection of sites in the Arab States region, with the aim to extend the platform to additional properties and regions in future phases. Thus far, the project has successfully digitized 10 World Heritage sites in 3D (one site fully documented by UNESCO and existing digital data of nine sites optimized for web use). Additionally, an offline prototype of the platform has been developed, allowing for testing and refinement before its launch. The project is generously funded by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

64. In the region of Asia and the Pacific, a Reactive Monitoring mission was carried out to the World Heritage property 'Archaeological Ruins at Moenjodaro' (Pakistan), at the request of the Committee. Additionally, two Advisory missions were organised: one to 'Thang Long Citadel, Hanoi' (Viet Nam) to assist the State Party with the conservation of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and attributes in the context of a potential demolition; and another one to the 'Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains' (China) to help with boundary clarifications and advice on development and tourism projects.
65. Conservation Plans and Disaster Risk Reduction strategies were developed for World Heritage properties in Afghanistan and Pakistan and submitted to the World Heritage Centre.
66. In view of providing innovative tools for enhancing World Heritage conservation, the World Heritage Centre is preparing the second phase of the World Heritage Online Map Platform, a web-based Geographic Information System (GIS) for World Heritage properties (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/wh-gis/>), launched at the extended 45th session of the Committee in 2023, and developed with the support of the Flanders Trust-Fund (FUT) at UNESCO and co-funding from the government of Sweden. The second phase of the project will integrate new datasets and analysis tools related to factors affecting properties based on the State of Conservation Information System (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>). Initially developed with World Heritage properties located in the Europe region, the platform is now being expanded to include World Heritage properties in Africa.

#### *A4.4 Impact assessments for World Heritage properties prepared by States Parties*

67. With the aim to reinforce capacity building and quality assurance for Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) and Environmental and Social Impact Assessments for World Heritage properties, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between UNESCO, IUCN and the Kingdom of the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) in December 2023 (also see <https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/2647>).
68. The State Party of Zimbabwe submitted a 'Heritage Impact Assessment Rehabilitation and Development of the Great Zimbabwe World Heritage Site Project' in October 2023 to the World Heritage Centre aimed to evaluate the potential impact of proposed rehabilitation and infrastructure development projects on the property's OUV and other significant values. This was subsequently subjected to a technical review by ICOMOS.
69. Between September 2023 and April 2024, six Impact Assessments (IAs) were prepared by States Parties from the Arab States region and received by the World Heritage Centre for technical review.
70. In the Asia and the Pacific region, States Parties of Australia, Japan, Nepal and the Republic of Korea commissioned and submitted to the World Heritage Centre impact assessments for projects at World Heritage properties, hence complying with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines and/or at the request of the Committee. However, at the time of writing the present document, more submissions are expected.

71. Although not all IAs have been undertaken in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, there is a noticeable increase in their preparation and submission to the World Heritage Centre. Further site-specific training workshops seem needed. In the framework of the above-mentioned MoU, the first SEA coaching was provided by NCEA to the World Heritage property 'Dong Phayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex' (Thailand) in March 2024, followed by an online training session on the baseline assessment of values and attributes, jointly organised by ICCROM, IUCN and the World Heritage Centre.
72. As for the Europe region, the European Union's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU) demands that major building or development projects in the EU must first be assessed for their impact on the environment. This must be completed before a project can start. In addition, the majority of countries in the region use impact assessment procedures quite systematically in relation to projects that relate to a World Heritage property. Although the World Heritage Centre receives only a fraction of these impact assessments, 31 impact assessments Technical Reviews have been received by the Europe and North America Unit of the World Heritage Centre during the reporting period.

#### *A4.5 Management plans for World Heritage properties prepared / revised by States Parties*

73. Thanks to International Assistance funding, the first-ever Integrated Management Plan for the 'Forts and Castles, Volta, Greater Accra, Central and Western Regions' (Ghana) was developed and benefitted from two technical reviews by ICOMOS. As part of the ongoing processes, the World Heritage Fund is also supporting the review and updating of the Joint Integrated Management Plan (JIMP) for the 'Mosi-oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls' (Zambia/Zimbabwe) that is intended to be finalized in 2024; as well as the development of the general Management Plan for 'Mana Pools National Park, Sapi and Chewore Safari Areas' (Zimbabwe).
74. In the Africa region, the World Heritage Centre provided support for the elaboration or the review of conservation and management plans for World Heritage properties located in Botswana, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Kenya and Mozambique, through various means, notably International Assistance and voluntary contributions.
75. Between September 2023 and April 2024, one Management Plan has been submitted in the Arab States region for technical review (based on the revision of a previous draft), though many States Parties have informed that the process of preparation of the requested Management Plans was ongoing. Capacity building and support is needed in this regard.
76. In the region of Asia and the Pacific, six management plans were prepared and/or revised by States Parties and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies for properties in Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam.
77. According to the draft regional Periodic Report for the Europe and North America region (Third cycle – also see Document WHC/24/46.COM/10A), 71% of all properties have a Management Plan in place, but many site managers report that it is a challenge to fully implement it.

#### *A4.6 Establishment / Revision of national Policies*

78. The State Party of Somalia has recently developed its first "National Legislation on the protection of Natural and Cultural Heritage in Somalia" through an International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund granted in 2021.



#### A4.7 Sustainable Development / SDGs

79. During the reporting period, significant resources have been devoted to advancing the objectives outlined in the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation. In the framework of the World Heritage Cities Programme, a new publication entitled "[Urban Heritage for Resilience](#)" was released in November 2023, reflecting the analytical results of the third consultation with Member States on implementing the 2011 Recommendation. It addresses the management of historic cities and settlements in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a particular focus on climate resilience. During the consultation, reports were invited both from national authorities as well as local authorities. Notably, 125 cities, more than half of which have World Heritage properties or sites on the Tentative List, responded to the consultation.
80. Responding to a long-standing request from the World Heritage Committee for "a guidance document on urban heritage" based on the approach of the 2011 Recommendation, the [UNESCO Urban Heritage Atlas](#) has been developed and launched in February 2024. This digital tool serves as a cultural mapping platform, documenting and mapping urban heritage studies using analytical narrative and visuals along with detailed and analytical geo-referenced maps. It aims at educating and raising awareness about urban heritage for all stakeholders, while supporting professionals directly engaged with the historic urban area in better protecting and managing them. The Atlas will soon be accompanied by a Resource Manual titled "Managing Urban Heritage: A Resource Manual for the Implementation of the HUL Recommendation", currently under development, to provide guidance for national and local authorities on the implementation of the 2011 Recommendation while also advancing sustainable development and climate resilience with the protection of urban heritage. Developed in consultations with the Advisory Bodies, international experts, relevant UNESCO Chairs, this Manual has been based on the outcomes of the recently completed third Member States consultation on the implementation of the 2011 Recommendation including its thematic areas, as well as the outcomes of 11 major international expert meetings and its 10th Anniversary Celebrations. Further consultations with the Advisory Bodies, international experts and UNESCO Chairs were held in September 2023 and January 2024 to refine this tool, which also included discussions on the development of the "Managing Urban Heritage Resource Manual".
81. In the Arab States region, the project "Capacity building for the integration of the 2011 Recommendation and sustainable development policies in the management of medinas in Tunisia" was launched in December 2023, with funding by the government of France. Similarly, activities took place in the 'Medina of Sousse' (Tunisia) in relation to the "Post COVID-19 World Heritage Site Management: Integration of Conservation, Tourism and Local Livelihood Strategies at World Heritage Sites", funded by the Japan FIT.
82. Building on the 2015 Policy for Integrating a Sustainable Development Perspective into the World Heritage Convention Processes and the 2023 Policy Document on Climate Action for World Heritage, adopted by the General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention, the World Heritage Centre, in close cooperation with the Advisory Bodies, continues to develop guidance to assist States Parties in striking a balance between meeting the growing and legitimate demand for renewable energy and the equally imperative need for protection. Renewable energy is one of the key solutions for mitigating climate change, and significantly increasing its share in the global energy mix by 2030 is one of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The World Heritage Centre is therefore committed to developing the necessary tools to support and guide the required dialogue between all stakeholders. Following the online Guidance for Wind Energy Projects in a World Heritage Context (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/wind-energy/>), published with the support of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the World Heritage Centre has started a reflection to extend the existing guidance to solar energy.

An expert meeting was organised by the Walloon Heritage Agency (Agence wallonne du Patrimoine) in March 2024 to set the framework for the development of communication tools.

83. Additionally, the digital platform [World Heritage Canopy](#), showcasing heritage-based solutions for sustainable development with innovative strategies and practices that integrate heritage conservation with sustainable development, has continued to provide capacity building and awareness raising with its good practices including for climate action.
84. Recognizing outstanding efforts to safeguard and manage the Budj Bim cultural landscape in south-east Australia, building on more than six millennia of Indigenous custodianship, the UNESCO-Greece Melina Mercouri International Prize for the Safeguarding and Management of Cultural Landscapes (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/culturallandscapesprize/>) was awarded to the Gunditjmara community in 2023. Meanwhile, an important and innovative project with a large regional scope was started in early 2024, entitled “Latin America and the Caribbean: Strengthening Capacities for Resilient Communities through Sustainable Tourism and Heritage Safeguarding”, financed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, aims to enhance preservation of both tangible and intangible heritage, and foresees a number of activities for the next three years. In this framework, a workshop for World Heritage site managers took place in Oaxaca, Mexico, in May 2024.
85. As an interesting example of collaboration with the UNESCO Chairs, a regional online workshop should be mentioned, convened to share experiences and orientations for the implementation of the Regional Action Plan for World Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean. Organized by the UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Tourism (UNTREF) in Argentina, with the support of the UNESCO Office in Montevideo and the WHC/LAC Unit, this workshop took place on 19 and 21 March 2024, with the interactive participation of over 100 World Heritage managers, focal points and academics members.
86. In the realm of coral reef preservation, the Resilient Reefs Initiative, supported by an initial investment of USD 10.5 million and led by a private-public consortium including UNESCO, is focusing on building local capacity to address climate change impacts in four World Heritage-listed coral reefs: ‘Ningaloo Coast’ (Australia); ‘Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System’ (Belize), ‘Lagoons of New Caledonia: Reef Diversity and Associated Ecosystems’ (France) and ‘Rock Islands Southern Lagoon’ (Palau). Through strategic partnerships and funding support, the initiative has successfully launched resilience strategies tailored to each site, marking significant milestones in ongoing conservation efforts. Thirty impactful projects have been initiated across these sites, aiming to enhance reef resilience and involve local communities in conservation activities. These collaborative efforts have not only strengthened the capacity of local stakeholders and government bodies but have also garnered support from a diverse range of stakeholders, benefiting over 300,000 individuals reliant on healthy reef ecosystems for their well-being and livelihoods. The initiative aligns with several Sustainable Development Goals, notably SDG14 (related to ocean conservation), SDG13 (focused on climate action), and SDG11 (aimed at protecting cultural and natural heritage). In complement, UNESCO continues implementation of its partnership with the Global Fund for Coral Reefs to support resilience-building activities in developing countries and actively works together with the Fund to channel investment to World Heritage-listed coral reefs.

#### *A.4.8 Special focus on UNESCO global priorities and priority target groups (Africa, Gender, SIDS and Youth)*

87. Africa remains one of the two Global Priorities of UNESCO's agenda together with gender equality. For each Global Priority, a specific strategy has been developed to complement UNESCO's Medium-term Strategy. Therefore, the activities conducted by

the World Heritage Centre in the Africa region over the reported period are fully in line with the UNESCO Operational Strategy for Priority Africa 2022-2029 (see also Documents WHC/24/46.COM/INF.5A and WHC/24/46.COM/5C).

88. UNESCO has also continued to provide capacity building and technical assistance to Member States in relation with the 2011 Recommendation, including in priority areas such as Africa and SIDS. For example, In Africa, UNESCO is working with Côte d'Ivoire ('The historic town of Grand Bassam') and Togo ('Koutammakou, Land of the Batammariba') to develop guidelines to facilitate the management and conservation of these properties in line with the 2011 Recommendation. In Tunisia, a capacity-building project on HUL for the management of medinas was launched by the UNESCO Office for the Maghreb in collaboration with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs of Tunisia in December 2023.

## **B. PI 2: Number of Member States supported in the identification and preparation of potential World Heritage Sites for nomination**

### **B1. Trends and a few statistics on Nominations**

89. Following the inscription of 42 new properties on the World Heritage List (9 natural and 33 cultural) by the Committee at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023), the World Heritage List currently counts 1,199 properties across 168 States Parties, of which 933 are cultural, 227 natural and 39 mixed. At the same session, the Committee also approved five significant boundary modifications of properties already inscribed on the List.
90. Concerning the geographical distribution of inscriptions, the trend has been that more properties have been inscribed from the Europe and North America and the Asia and the Pacific regions than from the other three regions. In terms of categories of properties inscribed, there has been a predominance of cultural properties over the other two categories (natural and mixed). Over the last ten years, the number of nominations withdrawn has varied between five and ten per year, but no trend in their geographical distribution has been observed.
91. In 2024, the World Heritage Centre received 37 nomination dossiers (27 cultural and 10 natural) by the annual deadline. Out of these, 32 (25 cultural and seven natural) were considered as "complete" in conformity with Paragraph 132 and Annex 5 of the Operational Guidelines. The trend observed over the years has been for Europe and North America and Asia and the Pacific to submit more nomination dossiers than the other regions. Concerning completeness of nomination dossiers, the trend observed in the recent years has been for States Parties from all regions to submit nomination dossiers that are considered incomplete following the completeness check carried out by the Secretariat.
92. As of 15 September 2023, the first voluntary deadline for the submission of Preliminary Assessment requests, a total of 24 requests were received (11 cultural, 11 natural and 2 mixed) from all the regions. The list of all the requests is included in information Document WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8.

### **B2. Trends on Tentative Lists**

93. Regarding Tentative Lists, the trend in the categories of sites proposed for inclusion is clear, with a very high proportion of cultural sites. However, no trend is observed in the geographical distribution of submissions, with a great variation over the years.

### **B3. Support to Tentative Lists and to the preparation of Nomination dossiers**

94. In the framework of the “Capacity-building programme for the nomination of World Heritage sites in the Africa Region”, supported by UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust, the World Heritage Centre has provided technical support to assist 10 States Parties of the region with no site on the UNESCO World Heritage List. In January 2024, the State Party of Eswatini submitted its Tentative List. Furthermore, in the framework of “the Sultanate of Oman Programme: Supporting capacity-building for nomination projects and promotion of World Heritage Sites in East Africa”, five countries (Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Somalia and the United Republic of Tanzania) are supported in revising their Tentative List towards developing the Nomination dossiers. Somalia has submitted its Tentative List in Mars 2024. With the provided support, Madagascar and Comoros are currently in the process of developing their nomination dossiers for the Catholic Mission of Ambodifotatra and the Historic Sultanates of Comoros, respectively. These dossiers are anticipated to be submitted in January 2025.
95. As a follow-up of the recommendations of the feasibility study launched in December 2023 of a transboundary extension of the ‘Okavango Delta’ (Botswana) to Angola and Namibia, the World Heritage Centre is also providing technical support to the States Parties of Angola, Botswana and Namibia for the revision of their Tentative Lists.
96. In close collaboration with AWHF and the Advisory Bodies, and with support from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust and the government of France, UNESCO supports African States Parties to harmonise their Tentative Lists to include sites related to modern heritage of Africa, through the development of pre-nomination guidelines and case studies.
97. A preliminary assessment of an update to the Tentative List of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea was also initiated, financed through International Assistance granted under the World Heritage Fund, and is being carried out with the support of international experts, in close cooperation between the World Heritage Centre and the State Party.
98. Thanks to the assistance provided through the above-mentioned UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust Capacity-building programme, two States Parties, Guinea-Bissau (for the Coastal Ecosystems of the Bijagós Archipelago) and Sierra Leone (for the Gola-Tiwai Complex), successfully developed and submitted their inaugural nomination dossiers in January 2024 which were considered complete (see Document WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B.3).
99. Additionally, the World Heritage Centre has also supported the finalization of Nomination dossiers of several sites, notably the Nomination dossier of Maputo National Park in Mozambique as a transboundary extension of the ‘iSimangaliso Wetland Park’ (South Africa), the Cultural Landscape of Diy-Gid-Biy and the Mandara Mountains in Cameroon as well as the Mount Mulaje Cultural Landscape in Malawi. These Nomination dossiers were all submitted by 1 February 2024 (see Document WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B.3).
100. The World Heritage Centre has also initiated consultations with key partners for the preparation of a study on gaps in the World Heritage List for natural heritage in the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

## **IV. SYNERGIES WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS AND PROGRAMMES**

### **A. Culture Conventions and Programmes**

101. The World Heritage Centre supported the organisation of the Naples Conference on Cultural Heritage in the 21st century, 27-29 November 2023, in Naples (Italy) (see <https://whc.unesco.org/en/events/1772>). The Conference, which saw the participation of

the Director-General and the Assistant Director-General for Culture, was the first major event bringing together the 1972 Convention on the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, following the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development organised in Mexico in September 2022 ('MONDIACULT2022'). The Conference celebrated heritage in its diverse forms, fostering enhanced and new forms of safeguarding through active participations of communities. Reflecting on the achievements of the two Conventions, discussions centred around the potential of heritage as a driver of sustainable development, peace and stability. A diverse array of global cultural stakeholders as well as renowned thinkers and community leaders contributed to the discussion of the Conference, which resulted in the adoption of a Call for Action, "The Spirit of Naples" (see full text at [https://www.unesco.org/sites/default/files/medias/fichiers/2023/11/UNESCO\\_CALL\\_FOR\\_ACTION\\_NAPLES.pdf](https://www.unesco.org/sites/default/files/medias/fichiers/2023/11/UNESCO_CALL_FOR_ACTION_NAPLES.pdf)).

102. At the UNESCO Culture Sector level, an internal working group was established on the periodic reporting on the Culture Sector's conventions subsequently to the 219th session of the Executive Board in March 2024. Monthly meetings are planned to foster synergies between different conventions, recommendations, and programmes (also see Document WHC/24/46.COM/10C for further details).

## **B. Biodiversity-related Conventions and Programmes**

### **B1. Collaboration with other biodiversity-related Conventions and programmes**

103. In January 2024, State Party representatives from South Africa, India, Belgium, Mexico and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN participated in the Bern III Conference on Cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) led by UNEP, chaired by Sweden and Mexico, and funded by the government of Switzerland, with the aim to promote the use of synergies among Parties and Convention Secretariats in implementing the GBF. The conference brought together representatives of parties and secretariats of 16 multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and a range of other stakeholders, organizations and individual experts, and resulted in concrete ideas for increased collaboration among MEAs at global, regional and national levels. The meeting was flagged on UNESCO's [website](#), and the documents and reports of the meeting are available online. Among these, are a co-chairs paper with options for enhanced collaboration to strengthen the policy, engagement and implementation of the GBF, an information paper cross-mapping MEA strategies and identifying key entry points for cooperation, and a compilation of case studies. During the meeting, UNESCO raised the flagship [study](#) published in August 2023 on the contribution of the World Heritage Convention in biodiversity conservation. The documents to the meeting as well as the report, once it is finalized, will be available at a dedicated website (<https://www.unep.org/events/conference/bern-iii-conference-cooperation-among-biodiversity-related-conventions> ).
104. As a follow up to Decision **45 COM 7.2** by which the Committee welcomed the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal GBF, the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, is planning to organise an expert meeting end of 2024 involving States Parties to the Convention to identify and further develop coordinated actions on World Heritage and the GBF, as requested by the Committee. The World Heritage Centre is currently looking for additional funding to organize this meeting. This works builds on the flagship study "World Heritage: A unique contribution to biodiversity conservation" (available at <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000385392>) published in August 2023, and which included guidance on how to integrate World Heritage into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

105. In December 2023, the World Heritage Centre received an earmarked contribution to the World Heritage Fund from the Swiss Federal Office for Environment (FOEN) to support further work to advance on synergies with the other biodiversity-related Conventions.
106. The World Heritage Centre has also continued to strengthen its cooperation with the other biodiversity-related Conventions. The World Heritage Centre is a partner to the new Global Partnership on Ecological Connectivity, which was launched at the COP of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) (Uzbekistan, 12-17 February 2024). Following the signature of a new MoU with the CITES Convention, discussions were held to improve coordination on issues of common interest, such as the conservation of the vaquita porpoise, flagship species of the World Heritage sites islands and protected areas in the Gulf of California, Mexico. Several meetings were also held with the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance on avenues for strengthening cooperation.
107. Avian influenza is now affecting World Heritage sites in all regions of the world. In 2024, for the first-time, cases of avian influenza causing significant mortality of both species of birds and sea mammals have been recorded in sites in Latin America, including Galapagos Islands (Ecuador) and Peninsula Valdes (Argentina). In order to prepare site managers for this new and emerging threat, the World Heritage Centre, with financial support from the Swiss FOEN, is organising a series of three webinars in April and May 2024 on the avian influenza and its effects on internationally designated UNESCO World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves and Ramsar sites (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/events/1779>). The webinars are organised in collaboration between the World Heritage Centre, the MAB Programme, the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the CMS-FAO Co-convened Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds, the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, and IUCN. The webinars are recorded online, and present guidance for States Parties and site management authorities on actions they can take to curb the spread of the bird flu and protect wildlife.
108. UNESCO has been working with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in the Joint Programme of Work on the Linkages between Biological and Cultural Diversity since the inception of the programme in 2010. The Joint Programme, under the leadership of the CBD, UNESCO and IUCN, was renewed by decision [COP-15 Decision 15/22](#) on Nature and Culture during the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) to the UN CBD in December 2022, in Montreal, Canada, under the joint presidency of China and Canada. Planned activities include the preparation of UNESCO's contribution to COP16 to be held in Cali, Colombia, and the organization of the Nature and Culture Summit to be held before or during COP16.

## **B2. Collaboration with other UNESCO programmes**

109. The [UNESCO Earth Network](#), a multi-partner Trust Fund initiated with the support of the government of Italy and implemented jointly by the relevant UNESCO programmes, has continued to support custodians of UNESCO-designated sites and elements of intangible cultural heritage in biodiversity conservation, environmental sustainability, and ecosystem restoration. Beneficiary sites include the Asante Traditional Buildings (Ghana) and 'East Rennell' (Solomon Islands) World Heritage properties. The Earth Network has also offered Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), including on the "One Health Approach" exploring the link between environmental and human health.
110. The World Heritage Centre is collaborating with the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) of UNESCO in the implementation of joint activities in view of the 2025 International Year of Glaciers' Preservation. Joint activities include the preparation of a comprehensive global outreach and awareness campaign and support to the implementation of scientific research and monitoring initiatives as well as sustainable measures and best practices for the preservation of glaciers in World Heritage sites.

111. During the UN Decade of Ocean Science led by UNESCO (2021-2030), the World Heritage Centre intends to strengthen its multidisciplinary cooperation with the IOC.
112. The World Heritage Centre has also initiated discussions with the UNESCO Natural Sciences Sector, in particular the Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (LINKS) Programme, to develop a joint proposal to support conservation efforts and improve local communities' well-being in the Lakes of Ounianga, a natural property in Chad, inscribed on the World Heritage List since 2012 but with very little attention to date.

### **B3. Other international cooperation in biodiversity conservation**

113. In view of updating a Memorandum of Understanding between UNESCO and FAO in November 2023, the World Heritage Centre, the Secretariat of the FAO Global Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) and ICCROM have shared experiences on monitoring and evaluation processes under the World Heritage Convention and the FAO GIAHS programme.
114. In 2023, UNESCO entered a partnership with UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on the Nature Facility, a multi-partner trust fund that will deploy blended finance solutions and investments for nature-positive economic transitions in the planet's most biodiverse areas, including natural World Heritage properties and their broader landscapes. Two pilot programmes have been initiated: the Kibira and Kahuzi-Biega Forest Sanctuaries Programme (respectively in Burundi and DRC), and the Tiger Ecosystem Bond Programme focusing on conservation of tiger ecosystems in Thailand and Malaysia.

## **V. KEY CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD**

115. The World Heritage Convention faces several significant challenges that impact its effectiveness and ability to fulfill its mandate. One pressing issue is the imbalance in representation on the World Heritage List, with certain regions, particularly Africa, the Arab States and Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), being underrepresented. This concern has been repeatedly raised during World Heritage Committee sessions, highlighting the need to bridge this gap without compromising the credibility of the List. While efforts are underway to address this issue, including through the establishment of the Open-ended Working Group of States Parties by the World Heritage Committee at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023) for which, the World Heritage Centre is fully mobilized (see Paragraph 18.b) above) (also see Document WHC/24/46.COM/11), resource allocation and conservation efforts remain key challenges in achieving a more balanced representation.
116. Another critical challenge is the need to integrate sustainable development principles into heritage conservation practices effectively. While initiatives and activities already demonstrate progress in this regard, balancing conservation goals with economic development and renewable energy demands remains complex. The development of tools like the ongoing efforts to extend guidance for renewable energy projects in a World Heritage context reflect the Convention's commitment to addressing this challenge. However, ensuring that these guidelines are effectively implemented at both national and local levels remains a significant undertaking.
117. Furthermore, financial and capacity constraints present persistent challenges to the effective implementation of conservation efforts. Initiatives, programmes and capacity-building projects aim to address these constraints by empowering local communities and building expertise among heritage professionals. However, limited funding and human resources hinder the scale and impact of these initiatives. For instance, the resources constraints that the World Heritage Education Programme faces not only affect the Programme's effectiveness but also undermine its capacity to mobilize youth, as one of

UNESCO's priority action groups, towards the protection, preservation and promotion of World Heritage. Moreover, the need for on-going training and capacity building, particularly in the realm of impact assessments for development projects, underscores the importance of sustained investment in heritage conservation efforts.

118. Additionally, the increasing technical complexity of conservation-related issues poses a challenge for the World Heritage Centre. As conservation efforts become more sophisticated, the need for specialized technical advice grows, requiring additional human and financial resources. However, meeting this demand comes at a considerable cost, further straining the World Heritage Centre's capacity to effectively address conservation challenges.
119. Finally, and as underlined in previous reports, limited human resources continue to be a major challenge for the Secretariat, impacting its ability to deliver in satisfactory conditions. Despite some most welcome reinforcement and contributions from States Parties mentioned earlier in the present document, the reliance on temporary staff is not sustainable in the long term and does not offset the regular statutory and operational workload of the Secretariat, which continues to expand. Indeed, with the growing number of properties on the World Heritage List, the growing number of factors affecting the properties, and the increasing requests from the Governing Bodies, there is a widening gap between available resources and the workload of the Secretariat. This mismatch undermines the Secretariat's capacity to adequately support States Parties and fulfill its duties under the Convention.

## **VI. CONSULTATION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES (IIBs) ON THE DRAFT 43 C/5 FOR 2026-2029**

120. According to Recommendation 74 of the Working Group on Governance (Document [39 C/70](#)) approved by the General Conference (39 C/Resolution 87), and in light of [42 C/Resolution 7](#), the present session of the World Heritage Committee is also invited to contribute in the process of the strategic reflection on future programmatic directions and priorities for the next quadrennium, namely the Draft Programme and Budget for 2026-2029 (43 C/5). The discussion may be guided by the proposed areas of reflection as contained in Document 42 C/7 (Section II) of the General-Conference of UNESCO. A synthesis report of the discussion, to be prepared by the Secretariat after the present session, will be reflected in the Sector's contribution to the Director-General's preliminary proposals on the draft 43 C/5, scheduled to be presented to the 220th session of the Executive Board in October 2024. The following areas of reflection may be taken into account in the framework of the debate:
  - **Trends, challenges and UNESCO's relevance in addressing them:** e.g., key global trends, opportunities and challenges relevant to the World Heritage Convention, etc.;
  - **UNESCO Global Priorities and Priority Groups:** e.g., strategic actions and investments to enhance the role and impact of World Heritage for Africa and Gender Equality, and priority groups, and thematic areas (SIDS, youth "Crisis preparedness and response", etc.);
  - **Thematic areas for action:** e.g., thematic priorities within the World Heritage Convention; opportunities for inter-disciplinary cooperation with other IIBs of UNESCO, etc.;
  - **Partnerships:** e.g., need to seek additional funding from different sources; strategy to mobilize additional funding; opportunities to forge new partnerships at country, regional and global levels in 2026-2029; opportunities to leverage both financial and non-financial, public and private resources, etc.



## VII. DRAFT DECISION

### Draft Decision: 46 COM 5A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/5A and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.5A,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 5A** and **45 COM 5A** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Takes note with appreciation of the activities undertaken by the World Heritage Centre over the past year in pursuit of Output 5.CL1 to ensure that “Member States’ capacities [are] strengthened to identify, protect and manage tangible heritage”, and the five Strategic Objectives of the World Heritage Committee;
4. Notes with appreciation that UNESCO organised, in close cooperation with the government of Italy, the Naples Conference on Cultural Heritage in the 21st century in November 2023, as the first major event bringing together the 1972 Convention on the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, thanks the government of Italy for its initiative, encourages the reinforcement of synergies between World Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage, and invites all World Heritage stakeholders to draw inspiration from the Call for Action ‘The Spirit of Naples’;
5. Commends the government of Norway for its continued substantial contribution to the World Heritage Fund to strengthen management and conservation of severely threatened natural World Heritage properties in Africa, including those inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger and calls on other States Parties to join this initiative;
6. Welcomes the continued efforts of the World Heritage Centre to collaborate and enhance synergies among UNESCO’s Culture conventions and the Biodiversity-related conventions and programmes towards the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), thanks the government of Switzerland for its funding to strengthen this work, and reiterates its requests to the States Parties to pursue such cooperation also at the national level, including in the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs);
7. Welcomes the proposed organisation of an expert meeting on World Heritage and the Kunming-Montreal GBF end of 2024, towards identifying and further developing coordinated actions on World Heritage and the GBF, and invites States Parties to contribute financially for this purpose;
8. Thanks all the States Parties that generously supported financially and/or in kind both the activities towards the implementation of the Convention, as well as the reinforcement of the human resources of the World Heritage Centre, and invites other States Parties to continue providing such support and increase it where possible;
9. Thanks the States Parties that have provided geo-referenced data of World Heritage properties for inclusion in the World Heritage Online Map Platform and encourages all States Parties to submit such data in order to fully benefit from the potential of this tool for monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage properties;
10. Takes note of the discussions held during its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024) regarding the UNESCO Mid-term Strategy (C/4) and the draft Programme and Budget (C/5) documents, in conformity with 42 C/Resolution 81, adopted by the General Conference at its 42nd session (UNESCO, 2023);

11. Requests the World Heritage Centre to present a report on its activities, including a result-based report on the Thematic Programmes, under Item 5A, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session.