

ICCROM activities in support of the World Heritage Convention 1996-98

INTRODUCTION

In 1996 in Mérida, at the 20th session, the World Heritage Committee established ICCROM's role as priority partner regarding training, in order to avoid duplications and guarantee the quality and efficiency of training activities in support of World Heritage sites.

During the past years, ICCROM's activity in support of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention has been articulated through eight lines of action:

- I. Site evaluation and monitoring activities;
- II. Technical assistance and consultancy;
- III. Publications;
- IV. World Heritage site management projects;
- V. Regional and international activities within ICCROM's programme;
- VI. Training strategies;
- VII. Training proposals evaluation;
- VIII. Meetings.

The following chapters describe these actions, constituting a brief report of activities regarding 1996 and 1997 and a workplan for 1998.

I SITE EVALUATION AND MONITORING ACTIVITIES

Site evaluations for nominations of cultural heritage sites to the World Heritage List and monitoring activities are normally coordinated and carried out by ICOMOS. Occasionally ICCROM is invited to participate in such evaluations, in which case the requesting party reimburses expenses, while ICCROM provides the collaboration of its staff free of charge, subject to availability.

1996

I.a Evaluation mission to Pienza, Italy, 13 January, 1996

At the invitation of ICOMOS, J. Jokilehto carried out a mission to assess the conservation management and protection of the historic centre of Pienza, Italy. The mission was related to the nomination of this site for inclusion in the World Heritage List.

II TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CONSULTANCY

ICCROM provides technical assistance related to the implementation of the World Heritage Convention when so requested by the States Parties, as forwarded to us by the World Heritage Centre and subject to ICCROM's possibility of replying to such request. In these cases, the expenses of ICCROM's involvement are reimbursed by the World Heritage Fund.

ICCROM also has its own technical assistance programme, providing small material and instruments upon request from Member States. Since several years ICCROM has been accorded a contribution from the World Heritage fund, destined to such assistance directly benefiting World Heritage Sites.

1996

II.a Consultancy Mission to Serra da Capivara, Piaui, Brazil, 18-26 June 1996

The national park of "Serra da Capivara" is located in the north-east of Brazil and the south-east of the State of Piaui. In 1991 the park was inscribed on the World Heritage List.

The mission, requested by the World Heritage Centre, had the following objectives: (1) to discuss/evaluate general problems related to the conservation of a number of selected rock art sites; (2) to discuss/evaluate the conservation experience of the local conservation team and the results of scientific studies; (3) to discuss potential methods of preventive and curative conservation; (4) to make proposals for necessary actions including managerial aspects, such as the creation/training of a local conservation team. Proposals for short and mid-term actions were made and contacts with both UNESCO and the local project team are continuing.

Mission costs were reimbursed by the World Heritage Fund for an amount of US\$ 5,000.

II.b Technical Assistance Programme

In 1996 TAP fulfilled requests of small or medium value in a capillary action, generally for equipment whose commercial value ranged between US\$ 2,000 and US\$ 6,000 from institutes with a strategic national or regional position.

The principles that guide the TAP are as follows: (i) non-profit private or public institution, (ii) justified need for request (scientifically/technically), (iii) request deemed appropriate by ICCROM staff/network, (iv) requested assistance to ensure significant long-term improvement of the situation and tangible results, (v) existence of an institutional framework, (vi) availability of professional skills to ensure appropriate use of technical assistance, and (vii) compliance with application procedures. Limitations and priorities can be summarized as follows: financial limitations, priority to low-or middle income countries and to emergencies.

The contribution from the World Heritage Fund to the TAP was US\$ 25,000 for 1996.

1997

The same amount was granted by the World Heritage Committee in 1997.

1998

A request has been submitted to the World Heritage Committee for a contribution of US\$ 25,000 also for 1998.

III PUBLICATIONS

Several of ICCROM's technical publications benefit the management and conservation of cultural sites of the World Heritage List directly or indirectly. Some publications are particularly inspired by or have been conceived with particular regard to the problems of World Heritage Sites. Besides the already popular *Management Guidelines for World Heritage Sites*, by B.M. Feilden & J. Jokilehto, (I° 1991) of which a II° edition is scheduled in early 1998, other manuals and guidelines have been initiated in the same context. In particular *Safeguarding Historic Ensembles in a Time of Change: A Management Guide*, and *Risk Preparedness for World Cultural Heritage*, both by Herb Stovel, and *Recording, Documentation and Information Management of Cultural Resources*, by Robin Letellier. All these publications profit by the collaboration with ICOMOS and UNESCO. The following indication includes those which benefit from WHF support.

1995

III.a. Guide de gestion des sites du patrimoine culturel mondial

The French edition of these popular management guidelines for World Heritage sites. By B.M. Feilden & J. Jokilehto, 1996. viii + 127p.p. ISBN 92-9077-135-6.

The total budget of the project amounted to US\$ 10,000 with a contribution by the World Heritage Fund of US\$ 6,900. This covered costs for the translation and the design and layout of the publication. The World Heritage contribution was from the 1995 budget, but the publication was concluded in 1996.

1996

III.b. Recording, documentation and Information Guidelines for Cultural World Heritage Sites, 1997-98

By Robin Letellier. The total contribution by the World Heritage Fund amounted to US\$ 15,000 from the 1996 budget. The publication is being finalized at the end of 1997.

1998

III.c. Conservation Architects Laboratory Manual, 1998

The estimated budget of the project is US\$ 20,000. A request for a contribution of US\$ 10,000 for 1998 has been submitted to the World Heritage Committee.

IV. WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

ICCROM often collaborates with local authorities in the implementation of conservation or especially training projects that have regional or international impact. ICCROM's experience with the organization of regional and international activities enhances such projects, providing a basic guarantee for quality and the support of ICCROM's international professional network. Normally ICCROM encourages the State(s) Party(ies) concerned to apply directly to the World Heritage Committee for support if the projects have specific benefits for World Heritage Sites. In some cases, when the request fits in a larger project already managed through ICCROM, or when the State Party has some administrative difficulties in preparing the request in a timely manner, such requests for support are forwarded to the World Heritage Committee by ICCROM.

Listed here are only those projects for which ICCROM had formulated the request for support from the World Heritage Committee. However, ICCROM has also provided other projects, implemented with World Heritage Fund support, with its contribution.

1996

IV.a. Conservation of the Royal Palaces of Abomey

In 1993, in the framework of the Abomey I project, a campaign of preventive conservation of collections started. From 1994 to 1997, with Abomey II, a coordinated action was carried out on the architecture and collections. The conservation of structures was implemented with traditional techniques and the participation of local population. Several partners worked together on the Museum-Palaces of Kings Ghezo and Glélé.

A first literature research was carried out in 1995. This allowed to constitute a list of 133 references on the palaces and 94 documents of this list. These are historic technical references necessary to work out a management and conservation plan for the Palaces.

The World Heritage Fund contributed with US\$ 33,000 in 1995 and US\$ 20,000 in support of Phases I and II of this project which was coordinated by ICCROM and mainly financed through a UNESCO trustfund by the Italian government for a total budget of over US\$ 300,000.

1998

The Permanent Delegation of Benin, in behalf of the Government of Benin, introduced a proposal to the World Heritage Committee for support to Phase III of the "Conservation of the Royal Palaces of Abomey" project in 1998 of US\$ 20,000, on an estimated total budget of US\$ 243.500

V REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES WITHIN ICCROM'S PROGRAMME

Many projects within ICCROM's programme, in particular training activities, have a significant benefit for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in many ways: World Heritage Sites are often presented and discussed in courses as case studies or during site visits; they can be important models regarding conservation management; course participants are professionals with a direct or indirect responsibility for the management and conservation of World Heritage Sites; in cases when the courses are organized outside ICCROM and in partnership with local authorities, they contribute considerably to the strengthening of the local institutions that have a responsibility for World Heritage Sites in their country.

In 1996 and 1997 the ICCROM training activities included the Scientific Principles of Conservation International Course (SPC96), the Architectural Conservation International Course (ARC96), the Mural Painting Conservation International Course (MPC96), held in Rome; the Examination and Conservation of Architectural Surfaces (ASC96), held in Austria; the Conservation of Paper in Archives Regional Course for Latin America, held in Chile; the Conservation and Management of Earthen Archaeological and Architectural Heritage, Pan American Course (PAT96), held in Peru. At the same time the first edition of *Le cours de Tunis de formation des architectes du patrimoine* was completed in 1996 in Tunis, and *Les séminaires de spécialisation sur la conservation du territoire et de l'architecture* were held and in Rome in the framework of NAMEC programme. Part of them profited by the contribution of the World Heritage, as it is detailed below.

ICCROM's capacity building action as a specialized agency to the benefit of cultural heritage conservation in general has obviously always had a considerable impact on the capacity building in States Parties in relation to the World Heritage Convention. A contribution from the World Heritage Fund to such activities is important to enhance the attention given to the specific aspects related to the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. Thus the complementarity of the action under the World Heritage Convention and ICCROM's action can be fully exploited and the impact of investments of both organizations maximized.

1996

V.a Pan-American Course on the Conservation and Management of Earthen architecture and Archaeological Heritage (PAT-96)

Trujillo, Peru, 10 November-13 December, 1996

Project preparation included the design of a course curriculum which integrated management issues to those related to the conservation of earthen archaeological sites.

The project aimed at promoting (i) a methodological, scientific and interdisciplinary approach to the subject, (ii) the development and execution of management plans, (iii) communication among disciplines responsible for conservation of such sites; and, (iv) professional and institutional awareness concerning the study, conservation and management of earthen architectural and archaeological heritage.

The event was held on site in Chan-Chan and Trujillo in Peru and attended by 24 participants from different countries: Peru, Salvador, Bolivia, Portugal, Argentina, Cuba, Paraguay, Colombia, Venezuela, USA, Brazil and Ecuador. A follow-up activity is planned for 1999.

The total budget of the project amounted to US\$ 820,000 with a contribution from the World Heritage Fund of US\$ 40,000. This contribution was used to provide scholarships for the participants covering their accommodation costs.

1996

V.b Regional Course for European Conservation Professionals on the Examination and Conservation of Architectural Surfaces (ASC-96)

Mauerbach, Austria, 28 August-18 October 1996

This pilot course was developed and organised in close collaboration with the Austrian Federal Office for the Care of Monuments (BDA). The course was attended by a multidisciplinary audience of sixteen mid-career conservation professionals from different European countries with specific experience in the field and working for national institutions for the preservation of monuments. An important aspect of the learning process was the organisation of a practical project on selected facades of the baroque time at the Carthusian Monastery of Mauerbach, where the course was held.

Participants agreed with the objectives of the course, which according to the results of questionnaires were widely achieved. These objectives were: (1) to provide a contextual, systematic and coherent overview on architectural surfaces, (2) to offer up-to-date information on all aspects (technical and philosophical) related to the conservation of architectural surfaces, especially facades, (3) to improve communication abilities among professionals from various disciplines involved in the conservation of architectural surfaces, (4) to create a forum for discussion with active involvement of participants, (5) to encourage regional networking amongst professionals and institutions active in the field.

The specific expertise of the BDA in this field contributed essentially to the success of this programme which is now being carefully evaluated in view of a re-organization in 1998.

The total budget of the project amounted to US\$ 110,000 with a contribution by the World Heritage Fund of US\$ 20,000 towards scholarships for the participants.

1997

V.c International Workshop for an Integrated Approach to Urban Conservation Management (ITUC-97)

Rome, Italy, 28 February - 25 April 1997

The workshop was attended by an international group of 19 mid-career and senior professionals involved in the management of historic areas or teaching at universities. Most of the participants were associated in some way with cities on the World Heritage List. The workshop, developed in co-operation with a target group of experts and potential participants, became a moment of reflection in order to define concepts and values, to compare the planning requirements of different types of areas in relation to their cultural environment, and to identify the effectiveness of planning processes. The workshop discussed potential models for regional initiatives, the development of relevant management guidelines, and it established an international network of professionals. Particular attention in the workshop was given to relational skills and conflict-solving techniques, emphasizing participation of all sectors of the population in the conservation planning process.

In conjunction with the above-mentioned workshop, an expert meeting was held from 14 to 16 April which included 13 internationally recognised professionals in the field of conservation planning. This expert meeting allowed workshop participants to take advantage of a broad range of knowledge in discussing the development of strategies for territorial and urban conservation planning in selected regions. The meeting also allowed ICCROM to carry out an assessment of the workshop, and to receive concrete recommendations for the continuation of its programme activities in this area of cultural heritage protection.

The total budget of the project amounted to about US\$ 160,000 with a contribution by the World Heritage Fund of US\$ 30,000. This contribution covered the costs of 11 international lecturers, the production of didactic materials and per diems of participants to the experts meeting.

1997

V.d Regional Course for Latin America and Caribbean on Scientific Principles of Conservation

Belo Horizonte, Brasil (dates to be confirmed)

The Regional Course for Latin America and Caribbean on Scientific Principles of Conservation aims at strengthening the understanding of basic scientific principles relevant to different materials, the deterioration processes they undergo and the governing principles of different conservation and restoration treatments. The specific characteristics and problems of Latin American heritage and training on these issues will be addressed, and the reinforcement of a network of Latin American conservation professionals will be a special concern. The course also aims at being a platform for dialogue between the Latin American conservation professionals and the international conservation community.

The course is addressed to conservators/restorers and conservation scientists from Latin America (16 maximum), with at least 3 years of practical experience in the field of materials conservation, working for non-profit institutions, with preference given to heads of conservation teams and/or persons involved in training activities and/or research.

The course will build further on the experience gained in the first regional SPC course organised in 1995 with the same partners, strengthening further the institutional capacities in the region.

The total budget of the project amounts to US\$ 206,000 with a contribution by the World Heritage Fund of US\$ 30,000 towards scholarships for accommodation costs of participants. Due to unexpected delays beyond control of ICCROM and the organizers, the course has had to be rescheduled and will be held in the first half of 1997.

1998

V.e Urban Conservation Workshop (ITUC-NERP)

Vilnius, Lithuania, 1998

A proposal of contribution for 1998 has been introduced to the World Heritage Committee for US\$ 20,000, to cover part of lecturers costs, the production of didactic materials and scholarships for participants.

V.f Urban Conservation Seminar (NAMEC-ITUC)

Fez, Morocco, 1998

A proposal of contribution for 1998 has been introduced to the World Heritage Committee of US\$ 15,000, to cover participants' per diems and publication of the meeting report.

V.g Rock Art Preservation - First pilot region

Southern Africa, 1998

A proposal of contribution for 1998 has been introduced to the World Heritage Committee of US\$ 20,000, to cover part of the costs for the organisation of an experts' meeting.

V.h Conservation of Historic and Archaeological Mosaics

Feasibility study, 1998

A proposal of contribution for 1998 has been introduced to the World Heritage Committee of US\$ 20,000, to cover costs of travel and accommodation for participants in meetings.

VI. DEVELOPMENT OF TRAINING STRATEGIES AND A REFERENCE FRAMEWORK

The use of limited resources for training must be optimized by careful selection and design of projects. This is only possible through good knowledge about available training opportunities and needs, which has to be combined to formulate appropriate training strategies. This is especially important when two organizations like ICCROM and the World Heritage Convention, having different membership, statutes and objectives, decide to join efforts in order to use their resources in a synergetic way. Such knowledge and strategies constitute an indispensable decision-making tools for both organizations separately, as well as for joint action. They are also necessary as a reference framework for the evaluation of requests for training assistance from Member States and States Parties (see under point VII). These issues were considered and confirmed at the World Heritage Committee meeting in December 1996 in Mérida, where the importance of coordination and collaboration between both organizations in the area of training has been stressed.. Therefore ICCROM considers the establishment of such a framework a high priority and requests the further support from the World Heritage Committee.

1996

VI.a. Expert Meeting on Training Strategies for Cultural Properties

Rome, Italy, 19-21 September 1996

At the invitation of the World Heritage Centre and ICCROM, and in accordance with the discussions held at the XIXth session of the World Heritage Committee in December 1995 on Training Strategies for Cultural Properties, an expert meeting was convened in Rome, at ICCROM from 19 to 21 September 1996. Seven experts submitted regional analyses of training needs and strategic approaches for Latin America, Asia, the Arab states, the Baltic states, and Africa. Observers from the Universities of York and Leuven reported on the basis of their training experience. Papers were also presented by ICOMOS, the University of Montreal, and ICCROM which presented papers on training needs in the Maghreb region, the Pacific, and Western and Central Asia as well as on on-going thematic projects. Under the umbrella of the GAIA Project - which is a partnership between ICCROM and CRATerre-EAG - a strategic approach for Sub-Saharan Africa was presented. Common principles and parameters for an overall training strategy were discussed in addition to the individual regional reports. A proposed strategic framework was developed based on all the presentations, and a series of recommendations aimed at States Parties, local governments, funding agencies, and training institutions was advanced.

This activity was carried out with a contribution of US\$ 20,000 from the World Heritage Fund.

1997

VI.b. Training Strategies for Conservation of Immovable Heritage in sub-Saharan Africa

An Ongoing Joint Project of The World Heritage Centre, ICCROM, and CRATerre-EAG

Following the expert meeting on training strategies held at ICCROM in September 1996, and in accordance with the decision of the World Heritage Committee at its XX session in December of that year, ICCROM is undertaking, jointly with the World Heritage Centre and CRATerre-EAG, a programme for the development of training strategies for immovable heritage in Sub-Saharan Africa. The programme is being developed within the framework of the document, *Stratégie de formation pour les sites du patrimoine culturel immobilier en Afrique au Sud du Sahara*.

The principal aim of the programme is to contribute to the improvement of the current state of conservation of the immovable cultural heritage of sub-Saharan Africa through the creation of a training strategy which will increase knowledge and awareness of this heritage and build capacity for its safeguarding. It will be carried out through the implementation of an umbrella "framework project" and a series of individual site projects at places within the region.

Activities in 1997 include the elaboration of a "Protocole d'Accord" between the three organisations outlining the general framework for the project, and a coordinating meeting to begin discussions on the modalities of the project. A mission to the region of East Africa will also be carried out as a means of developing one of the possible site projects, a regional network for training to be based in Mombasa, Zanzibar, and Bagamoyo, three cities in the region.

Due to scheduling problems, the formal initiation of the project has been delayed from the fall of 1997 to early 1998. The first activity is foreseen to be a meeting in Abidjan, Ivory Coast which will launch the project by bringing together a group of African conservation professionals to discuss the framework as it has been created and to continue to develop the strategy to meet the training needs found in the region.

The total budget of the project amounts to US\$ 70,000 with a contribution by the World Heritage Fund of US\$ 50,000.

1998

VI.c Training strategy development and tools for the assessment of requests, 1998

After the initial development of a training strategy for sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe are priority regions for continuing this work. The estimated budget of the project is US\$ 100,000. A request has been submitted to the World Heritage Committee for a contribution of US\$ 50,000 in 1998.

VI.d Archaeological Sites in the Near and Middle East Experts meeting, 1998

The estimated budget of the project is US\$ 60,000. A request has been submitted to the World Heritage Committee for US\$ 20,000 in 1998.

VII EVALUATION OF REQUESTS FOR TRAINING ASSISTANCE

The World Heritage Committee established at its December 1996 meeting that ICCROM be consulted concerning all requests for training assistance, in order to insure the quality and efficiency of such training projects within the framework of adopted training strategies.

In order to accomplish this task, the further development of training strategies as described under point VI is required.

1997

During September and October 1997, several requests from States Parties for training assistance were forwarded to ICCROM for evaluation, at different moments. Considering the tight deadlines, ICCROM has been able to review such requests only briefly, and it has not been possible to compare them with each other or with other available training resources. No fees have been charged for these evaluations.

1998

Besides further work on the training strategy as a reference framework, also a proper procedure will need to be established for the evaluation of such requests. Similar to the procedure for evaluation of sites, this procedure will have to include guidelines concerning deadlines, format of requests, type and depth of evaluation requested from ICCROM, type of interaction between ICCROM and the requesting party, etc. The procedure will need to be developed in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Bureau, as well as with the other Advisory Bodies where relevant, and can be presented to the World Heritage Committee in December 1998.

Developing the procedure will involve ICCROM's staff time and likely some travel and meeting costs. Before such a procedure is in place it is difficult to estimate what the costs of evaluation of requests would be for ICCROM. ICCROM requests approval of the principle that such costs, due

to ICCROM's structural role in relation to the World Heritage Convention be reimbursed by the World Heritage Fund eventually on the basis of a forfait.

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VIII MEETINGS

Besides the regular participation of ICCROM's representatives in the World Heritage Committee and Bureau meetings, ICCROM also regularly attends in the semestrial coordination meetings of the Advisory Bodies with the World Heritage Centre, as well as relevant technical meetings for the development of thematic studies. Till now ICCROM has carried all its costs for attending such meetings. These are estimated at about US\$ 10,000 yearly.

ICCROM requests that also these costs be covered by a structural contribution from the World Heritage Fund, as under VII.