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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-ninth Session

Durban, South Africa

10-17 July 2005

Item 21 of the Provisional Agenda: Other business

Publication of “Principles for the protection and conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and interventions situated within their buffer zones” – table of contents and detailed budget

SUMMARY

Decision 7 EXT.COM 13 requested the World Heritage Centre to a) develop, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, as part of the World Heritage Paper Series, a publication on "*Principles for the protection and conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and interventions situated within their buffer zone*"; and b) submit at its 29th session (Durban, 2005) an information document with a table of contents and a detailed budget for the financing through extrabudgetary resources of this publication.

This document presents a preliminary proposal for implementing this decision.

Draft Decision : 29 COM 21, see point II.

I. Background

A. Original proposal

1. In November 2001, at the 5th extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee, the Chairperson Ms Cristina Cameron stressed the need to improve guidance of the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* on a world-wide level by developing principles for World Heritage conservation or a World Heritage Charter for Conservation.
2. This proposal was discussed at the 6th extraordinary session in March 2003, when the Committee, through its Decisions **6 EXT.COM 5.2** and **6 EXT.COM 5.3**, requested the World Heritage Centre to submit publication plans for guidance documents for the protection of World Heritage properties that would supplement the *Operational Guidelines*. It was indicated that these documents could include detailed guidance on the nomination and management of certain types of World Heritage properties, case studies of best practices, or guidance on other particular related issues.
3. At the 7th extraordinary session in December 2004, the Centre was requested to develop, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, a publication on "*Principles for the protection and conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and interventions situated within their buffer zone*", and to present a table of contents and a detailed budget for this publication to the 29th session of the Committee. It was specified that the financing of this publication should come from extrabudgetary resources.
4. Fundamental principles for the protection of World Heritage properties can indeed be considered as an important tool for site managers and national authorities. Such principles would complement the provisions of the *Operational Guidelines* dealing with Protection and Management (chapter II.F, paragraphs 96-102). While these provisions deal with legislative measures, boundaries for protection, buffer zones, management systems and sustainable use, the *Principles* should provide basic standards for a values-based management of World Heritage properties. Applying these principles could be considered as the key to sound cultural and natural resource management.
5. A number of countries around the world have established such principles and charters, e.g.: the *Burra Charter* (the Australia ICOMOS charter for the conservation of places of cultural significance); the *Australian Natural Heritage Charter*; the *US National Parks Service, Secretary for the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation*; the *Parks Canada Guiding Principles and Operational Policies*, and others. A number of guidelines contained in the principles adopted by different countries are indeed of very similar content, proving that common denominators can be applied across country borders.

6. The tentative table of contents of the *Principles*, as proposed further down in this document, has been shared with Ms Christina Cameron and with the Advisory Bodies, and will be further discussed at the forthcoming Advisory Bodies' meeting planned for September 2005.
7. After a first round of consultations with the Advisory Bodies, the World Heritage Centre considers that it will be necessary to hold more extensive consultations with World Heritage experts world-wide. Such consultations could be obtained either by organizing an experts' workshop or through a circular letter asking for States Parties' input. The results of this second round of consultations would lead to the preparation of a draft set of *Principles* to be submitted for validation by the Committee at its 30th session (2006).
8. Following the Committee's validation, the publishing of the *Principles* could be planned for the end of 2006/beginning 2007, provided that an extrabudgetary funding source has been identified. The publication would appear as part of the *World Heritage Papers Series*.

B. Tentative table of contents of the "*Principles for the protection and conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and interventions situated within their buffer zone*"

1. Introduction
2. Who are these *Principles* for
3. Definitions of main terms used
4. Values-based management
5. Principles of protection
6. Principles of conservation
7. Principles of understanding and interpretation
8. Principles of integrity and authenticity
9. Managing change
10. Sustainable use and development
11. Public benefit
12. Case studies on best practices

Throughout the publication, references should be made to the relevant provisions of the *Convention* and the *Operational Guidelines*. The publication should not be overly lengthy: 50 pages should be targeted.

C. Tentative budget

9. The elements for a tentative budget for the preparation of the text and the production of a 100-page publication (50 pages in English/ 50 pages in French) in two colours are as follows:

- a) Organization of an Expert Meeting
US\$30,000
- b) Creation and work of a Board of contributors, including drafting
US\$20,000
- c) Translation and copyediting
US\$3,200
- d) Layout (text only / no photographs)
US\$2,000
- e) Paper and printing (2,000 copies in English and 2,000 in French)
US\$6,000
- f) Diffusion / mailing
US\$3,000

Total: US\$64,200

II. Draft Decision

Draft Decision : 29 COM 21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-05/29 COM/21*
2. *Recalling its Decision 7 EXT.COM 13, adopted at its 7th extraordinary session (UNESCO, 2004)*
3. *Noting the proposed way forward to develop, as part of the World Heritage Papers Series, a publication on "Principles for the protection and conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and interventions situated within their buffer zone",*
4. *Requests the World Heritage Centre to proceed, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, with the preparatory work on this publication;*
5. *Further requests the World Heritage Centre to identify extrabudgetary funding for the preparation and production of this publication.*