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Annual Report 1997

Nordic World Heritage Office

Introduction

For an in dept description of the Nordic World Heritage Office (NWHO), background for the establishment, status, organisation, relations between NWHO and WHC, etc., please see the Annual Report for 1996 to the World Heritage Committee's twentieth session in Merida; WHC 96/CONF.202/14D.

As a framework, the goals of the office is based on an Agreement between UNESCO and the Norwegian Government from June 1995, article 3, and on the Strategy 1996-98 adopted by the NWHO Board in February 1996.

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES:

The following NWHO Annual Report for 1997 is based on and organised according to the headlines of our 1997 Work Plan. Our main goals are reflected as headlines in bold. The according activities are shown in italics. Then follows our accomplished work on each task.

(N) is marked for Nordic related activities, (I) is marked for international related activities.

1.0 To deepen the understanding of humankind/nature/culture relationships and of the concept of sustainable development and heritage conservation.

ACTIVITIES:

(N) 1.01 To develop an approach to Nordic Urban Design Guidelines for historic cities.

NWHO was invited to support the project «Urban Design Guidelines», initiated by The World Bank and UNESCO to propose guidelines on urban matters in historic cities. Six cities were selected by the World Bank as priority cities for case studies. NWHO was asked to support the project with a Nordic approach and to develop a draft on a methodology for case studies on sustainable historic cities. This project was presented to our Advisory Board in March 1997. The Advisory Board approved the methodology on case studies, but expressed its scepticism to a global approach to such a complex subject. NWHO was asked to develop a Baltic - Nordic approach to the subject under the headline of Sustainable Historic Cities.

(I) 1.02 Develop Urban Design Guidelines for World Heritage Cities together with WHC and the World Bank.

The idea to develop a model for case studies in a regional context, was launched in order to establish new knowledge within the field, and under the headline, of Sustainable Historic Cities, SHC. A seminar among invited experts arranged in Oslo,

April 1997, discussed the drafted methodology and structure for case studies. The case studies will be arranged as twin studies between main traditions of urban governance, within the Baltic and the Nordic region. The model for studies and environment impact assessment are dealing with three main issues: Values (what values are regarded as essential within a given urban setting?); Development (what are the basic tendencies of development that influence the urban fabric?) and; Management (how are the city governed according to city values and on going development?). The State parties in the Baltic area will be informed during a seminar arranged by NWHO in Riga this autumn. Tallinn (Estonia) and Visby (Sweden) are recommended as subjects for the first case study.

2.0 To promote and encourage implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

ACTIVITIES:

(N) 2.01 To support the implementation of Vilnius Old Town Revitalisation Strategy Project

NWHO has participated and supported several meetings in Vilnius (and Riga) arranged by WHC, as a result of requests from the State parties of Lithuania and Latvia. In Vilnius NWHO supported the report «Vilnius Old Town Revitalisation Strategy», and the international Donors and Investors conference February 1997. NWHO did also offer to support the establishment of Old Town Revitalisation Agency - OTRA, in order to co-ordinate the implementation of revitalisation strategy and to design special arrangement for private - public partnerships in order to protect and develop the outstanding historical values of Vilnius.

(N) 2.02 To support the reorganisation of the public sector in the Baltic States and the St. Petersburg region in order to establish a good and effective management of the World Heritage environment and properties.

NWHO participated at a conference in St. Petersburg April 1997, arranged by The World Bank, The City Administration and the project bureau: «Strategic Plan for St. Petersburg». About 50 participants were present, of which 16 were international specialists. This seminar represented the first of many thematic approaches to a very complex issue. The subject discussed at the seminar was: «Legislation of historic preservation and real property development; international practice». The paper given by NWHO was «The Nordic model for legislation on sustainable development».

NWHO has visited several cities and villages within the Baltic area. NWHO supports a project trying to implement the Danish information system «Inter Save» in Estonian and Latvian villages. The result of this project can give some indications to the question whether it is useful, or even possible, to transform one system of planning and information, from one county to another. Since the «Inter Save» system has been offered to Vilnius and Riga, cities of great complexity, NWHO look forward to analyse the experiences from small scale projects, to be developed in the future.

(N) 2.03 Establish Nordic support to Riga Old Town and Waterfront Redevelopment Project.

NWHO has participated in two meetings discussing the support of the following projects: Riga Old Town Waterfront, Urban transportation, Urban Rehabilitation Information System and Wooden Houses. NWHO are establishing Norwegian support concerning Wooden Houses. NWHO has also supported a seminar in Jurmala in an area close to Riga, (unique wooden architecture), with participants from the Nordic countries.

(N) 2.04 Monitoring of WH Sites. follows the initiatives of the Nordic countries to discuss the format of monitoring forms with WHC Monitoring seminar at Røros Sept. 97. (Nordic WH State of Conservation report)

- Evaluations:

Norway: The evaluation of the rock carving site of Alta is ongoing, based on the initiative of NWHO and the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage. ICOMOS Norway has been asked to carry out the evaluation, with additional expertise from Sweden. The evaluation is based on and inspired by the nomination format adopted by the WH Committee in Merida 1996, as well as the earlier proposed monitoring format from WHC. These formats are found most helpful in structuring the work and as a check list. The rock carving site of Tanum, Sweden, will draw on the experiences and the professionals involved in the evaluation of Alta.

Sweden:

Finland: (NB! - to be filled in)

Denmark:

- Monitoring seminar at Røros:

The monitoring seminar at Røros was held Sept. 19-21, during the annual Nordic Site Managers Meeting. A representative from WHC attended, partly financed by NWHO, to update the Nordic management at all levels on the status quo of the process of the work towards a final official WHC monitoring format. In addition there was group work to look at the possibilities of making a more detailed monitoring reports which might be used as a tool for national management e.g. on a yearly basis. To accomplish results on this more time would be needed, but valuable and interesting discussions were held. The ongoing evaluation work in Alta was presented.

(N) 2.05 Arrange, in co-operation with the State Party Iceland, a seminar in Iceland, August 1997, as a follow up to the report "Nordic World Heritage" from the Nordic Council of Ministers.

NWHO organised, in co-operation with the Government of Iceland, a seminar on «Nordic World Heritage» in Iceland August 11-13. The Nordic Council of Ministers provided financial support to the seminar. The main objective was to urge a follow-up of the report «Nordic World Heritage», and to encourage further Nordic co-operation

in this field. A total of 31 delegates from responsible Nordic authorities were present. Participation and lectures from Bernd von Droste WHC, IUCN and ICOMOS was of great importance. The final plenary discussion concluded with several recommendations on further Nordic co-operation in the field of the World Heritage Convention. A seminar report, prepared by NWHO, will be published by the Nordic Council of Ministers in November 1997.

(N) 2.06 Promotion.

2.06.1 Release a Coffeetable book on the Nordic Sites.

Σ The book will be released in mid October 1997, marking the 25th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention. The book may be obtained in English, Norwegian or Swedish. Director General Federico Mayor kindly contributed with a foreword to the book. NWHO has put a lot of effort into this work, which has turned out to be one of our major task this year. Press conferences will be held in Sweden and Norway upon the official release.

(N/I) 2.07. Information

- NWHO is continuously providing information material on World Heritage, to the interested public like the WH Information Kit, the WH Map and our own brochure and newsletters. The amount of questions received through e-mail is also increasing, especially from students, from the other Nordic Sites, and from others working in areas related to World Heritage.
- Our homepage is being updated. This has taken us very long, due to capacity problems at GRID-Arendal, which has the assignment.

NWHO has been invited by the Hungarian authorities to their conference marking the 25th anniversary of the Convention to give a speech on implementation of management plans in the Nordic Region, October 1-6 1997. We have delegated this mission and task to Jan-Gunnar Lindgren, site manager at the rock carving site of Tanum.

(N) 3.0 To initiate and strengthen contact and co-operation between the Nordic State Parties and World Heritage Site managers

ACTIVITIES:

3.01 Advisory board meeting

- The annual advisors board meeting was held March 10, 1997 which gave the framework for our activities through the adopted work-plan 1997.

3.02 Co-ordination of Nordic co-operation projects

Σ Practically all levels of site management in the Nordic countries have been involved in the Coffeetable book project. They have kindly contributed by receiving the author and photographer and by providing supplementing information to the texts.

3.03 Nordic Working Group. Co-ordination. Meetings. Reports. Action lists. Follow up.

Σ Meetings held in Helsinki Jan 9-10 and in Trondheim May 28, 1997. One more gathering is planned for October 10 1997.

3.04 Newsletters to Nordic Site management

- One NWHO newsletter is published in 1997, with another to follow after the Nordic Site Managers Meeting and Monitoring Seminar at Røros. 2 newsletters were published in 1996. The newsletters are in Norwegian language.

3.05 Network meeting at Røros

Σ Norway and Røros are hosts for the Nordic Site Managers Meeting this year, organised by the Municipality of Røros and NWHO.

4.0 To mobilise international assistance and external funding for the protection and conservation of World Heritage properties, including training of specialists and thematic studies.

ACTIVITIES:

(I) 4.01 Establish partnership with ICCROM, WB, NORAD on conservation projects, institution building and legal framework projects within ICCROMs Training Strategy.

ICCROMs activities were introduced to NORAD by Marc Leanen in February 1997.

(N/I) 4.02 Encourage DANIDA, FINIDA, NORAD and SIDA to take part in relevant projects.

- An agreement between NORAD and the Directorate for Cultural Heritage in Norway is signed. The agreement is distributed through our Nordic NWHO partners to initiate similar agreements with SIDA, FINIDA and DANIDA if possible. This could open for a Nordic co-operation on World Heritage work in the co-operation countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.
- Two meetings between WHC, NWHO and NORAD have taken place, one in Oslo the other in Paris, at which possibilities for the establishment of a framework for future co-operation has been discussed.
- Mission to Gondar, Ethiopia in Feb. 97 together with WHC. A possible project for NORAD financing emerged during the mission, and NWHO has drafted a project proposal which is submitted to the Cultural Heritage authorities in Ethiopia for further development and proposal.

- NWHO is acting as a desk officer for a possible co-operation project between IUCN, Center for international environment and development studies (Noragric) and other partners in connection with bufferzone planning at Simen Mountain National Park in Ethiopia. This activity has to be postponed until the workshop with stakeholders, approved by the World Heritage Conference has been held.
- Mission to Laos and Vietnam in April 1997. NWHO works with WHC and NORAD on a project for the wooden buildings in Luang Prabang.

5.0 To promote educational projects linked to heritage conservation.

ACTIVITIES:

(I) 5.01 Integrated Territorial and Urban Conservation initiative. Participate in preparing an 8 week course for European urban planners dealing with World Heritage properties, as a partner to ICCROM.

The project of Sustainable Historic Cities is complementing ICCROM's Regional Training Programme under the headline of Integrated Urban Conservation ITUC, dealing with the same region and same goals, but with different target audiences. ITUC is addressing towards a broad audience, planners, teachers, researchers etc. while SHC is targeted towards decision makers within the public sector. In this respect NWHO has participated at ITUC Expert Meeting in Rome April 1996, as member of ITUC Advisory Committee, and at a preparation meeting in Vilnius in June 1997, in order to arrange a ITUC pilot Course in October 1997.

(I) 5.02 Course in Restoration for Youth, Røros 4-15 August 1997

- NWHO organised, together with the Norwegian National Commission to UNESCO and others, a restoration camp for young people in Europe at Røros. 10 countries were represented. The camp had a practical approach, as the students were laboured on projects in and around the town under professional supervision. NWHO attended part of the time with a resource person. The secondary school at Røros was heavily involved, and will consider to arrange another camp in two years. A full report from the camp may be obtained from the Norwegian National Commission.

NWHO also participated in the planning of a seminar on World Heritage for Norwegian teachers at Røros, which overlapped the Youth Camp. This seminar was arranged within the contest of the UNESCO World Heritage Education Kit and was a great success.

- NWHO is co-organiser for the 8th International Course on Wood Conservation Technology to take place in Norway during summer 1998. Planning has started. The course is organised under the auspices of UNESCO by ICCROM, ICOMOS and several other partners. A tentative program may be obtained from NWHO.

(N/I) 6.0 To ensure the best possible co-operation with non-governmental organisations, particularly ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN.

6.01 Keep the organisations informed, seek advice, involve them and act as a broker to encourage co-operation between them on relevant tasks.

NWHO was invited to speak on monitoring at ICOMOS, Sweden's meeting in Stockholm in May 1997.

NWHO has been invited to take part in the programme committee for European Cities of Culture 2000, which is (EU) preparing a conference in Bergen on the Historic City as an Arena. (2000)

See also (N) 2.05, (I) 4.01 and (I) 5.02

STAFF:

NWHO 1997:

Director: Kris Endresen

Senior Advisor: Astrid Opsal

Senior Advisor: Hans-Jacob Roald

Secretary: Bente Rødland

NORDIC STAFF:

International advisors:

Birgitta Hoberg

Carsten Lund

Margaretha Ehrstrøm

NWHO BUDGET 1997

1, UNESCO (RP) S 15000 according to the Agreement between UNESCO and Norway.

Asia:

Projects in Laos and Vietnam in co-operation with UNESCO, WHC and NORAD,
S 5000.

Africa:

Project in Gondar Ethiopia in co-operation with UNESCO, WHC and NORAD,
S 5000.

Baltic States:

Seminar on sustainable development in historic cities, activity to be carried out by the NWHO 97/98,
S 5000.

2, Ministry of Environment, Norway, Budget
S 367.970

Salaries:	144.930
Travel:	50.725
Entertainment expenses:	2.175
Phones:	2.900
External Services/Consultants:	115.940
Projects:	14.490
Light/Heating	3.480
Rent/Office	<u>33.330</u>

US S 367.970

In addition project liability for Dkr. 100.000 (US S 15.873) from Nordic Council of Ministers deposited in separate, temporary account for Nordic World Heritage Seminar in Iceland, August 1997.