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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
Thirty first Session**

**Christchurch, New Zealand
23 June – 2 July 2007**

Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda: Report of the Secretariat on its activities

INF.5B: Report from the Nordic World Heritage Foundation on its 2006 activities

This document provides a report from the Nordic World Heritage Foundation on its 2006 activities in support of the *World Heritage Convention*.

I. Background

1. The Nordic World Heritage Office (NWHO) was established in 1996 with the objective of supporting the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Nordic Countries and to support the World Heritage Committee in the follow up of the Global Strategy. On the basis of the recommendation of an external evaluation in 2001, and in accordance with Article 17 of the *Convention*, the Office became a Foundation (NWHF) in 2002. The creation of the Foundation was supported by the Nordic Governments and in conformity with the Guidelines concerning the creation of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO as adopted by the General Conference (**33C/Resolution 90**).
2. The General Conference of UNESCO at its 32nd session in October 2003 decided (**32 C/Resolution 36**), on the recommendation of UNESCO's Executive Board (**166 EX/Decision 3.4.4**), to grant the Foundation the status of a **regional centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category II centre)** and authorised the Director-General to enter into a cooperation agreement with the Foundation. The Agreement between UNESCO and NWHF states that the continuation of its status as a regional centre under the auspices of UNESCO will be subject to periodic review on the basis of an independent evaluation before the end of 2008, which is the end of the initial duration of the Agreement.
3. NWHF's Board of Directors consists of six members representing the Nordic countries, UNESCO, and the private sector. UNESCO is not legally responsible for the Foundation and bears no liabilities of any kind, be it managerial, financial or otherwise, but may contribute to the Foundation's activities. The Foundation receives its annual basic funding from the Government of Norway. All initiatives of the Foundation are coordinated with the World Heritage Centre to avoid any duplication of efforts. To ensure that the priorities set by the World Heritage Committee are addressed and to secure transparency in all NWHF initiatives, the World Heritage Committee receives an annual report on the Foundation's activities.

II. Objectives and activities

4. NWHF contributes to the medium-term strategies of UNESCO, in particular the implementation of standard-setting instruments in the field of culture and enhancing the linkages between culture, capacity-building and sharing of knowledge. The Foundation has the following purposes: (a) acts as a focal point bringing Nordic countries together in their collective attempt to fulfil the intentions and requirements of the *Convention*; (b) support the World Heritage Centre by facilitating technical expertise, disseminating information and contributing to innovative projects, all in support of the *Convention* and the World Heritage Committee's Global Strategy; and (c) mobilize funds from bi- and multilateral sources and facilitate assistance for natural and cultural World Heritage conservation efforts in developing countries.
5. As a **focal point for the Nordic countries**, NWHF provides advice for the Nordic States Parties, local government and other interested parties. NWHF facilitates regional cooperation in the Nordic countries by coordinating Periodic Reporting and other World Heritage activities, and seeks to increase awareness of the *World Heritage Convention* among heritage experts, decision-makers and the general public.
 - Key activities in 2006 included; the development and launch of new NWHF web-pages; the production and distribution of a World Heritage Newsletter to

all Nordic site managers; organising a Nordic meeting on Harmonization of Tentative Lists; and finalisation of the Nordic-Baltic Periodic Reporting.

6. NWHF supports the implementation of the World Heritage Committee's **Global Strategy** (1994) by raising funds for World Heritage projects and programmes in developing countries that are underrepresented on the World Heritage List, facilitating sustainable tourism as a tool for development, and encouraging mainstreaming of World Heritage as a resource in poverty reduction strategies.

- Key activities in 2006 included; mobilising support for five representatives from developing countries¹ to attend the World Heritage Committee meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania; mobilising support for the implementation of the project "Buddhist Sangha"; mobilising support for the implementation of Pacific 2009; assisting in the finalisation of the Nomination Dossier for Samarra, Iraq; mobilising support for and facilitating a meeting in Nairobi on Capacity-building for Natural Heritage; and finalisation and broadcast on BBC Earth Report of a film on World Heritage and sustainable tourism.

7. In **mobilising funds** from bi- and multilateral sources for natural and cultural World Heritage conservation efforts, NWHF seeks to be updated on donor policies and increase awareness of development issues related to the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

- Key activities in 2006 included; facilitation of cooperation and co-funding of Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Tourism in Asia between the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and UNESCO; development of a Natural Heritage programme to be presented to donors for funding; and the development of a Nordic programme for the implementation of the Global Strategy in developing countries. It was also granted observer status to the meetings of the Board of Trustees of the African World Heritage Fund.

Funds mobilised for projects 2006 (in thousands)

Project / Activity	Partner	NOK	USD ²
Support to participants from developing countries to attend World Heritage meetings: Increase involvement of developing countries in the implementation of the WH Convention	UNESCO/ WHC	450	73
Buddhist Sangha: Build local capacity in heritage conservation in Asia by reviving traditional decorative arts and building crafts	UNESCO/ Regional Office Asia Pacific	4.823	788
Natural Heritage in Southern and Eastern Africa: Organise a meeting on capacity building for Natural World Heritage in Nairobi, Kenya, to facilitate inscription of Natural Heritage sites on the WH List.	UNESCO/ WHC, UNEP Government of Norway	400	65
Total		5.673	926

¹ Burkina Faso, Iraq, Marshall Islands, Uruguay and Senegal.

² 1 USD = 6,1 NOK