



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

World Heritage

31 COM

Distribution Limited

WHC-07/31.COM/11C

Paris, 10 May 2007

Original: English/French

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 11C of the Provisional Agenda: Presentation of the World Heritage Programme for the Pacific

11C Presentation of the World Heritage Programme for the Pacific

SUMMARY

This document presents a brief background to the World Heritage Programme "Pacific 2009" and its Action Plan, and an account of the progress achieved in its implementation from 2004 to early 2007. It contains also a report on the outcomes of a regional workshop held at Tongariro National Park (New Zealand) from 19 to 23 February 2007, and an indication of the priorities for action for the period 2007-2009 identified at this meeting. Annex I to this document presents an Appeal agreed by the representatives of the States Parties of the Pacific region who attended the Tongariro workshop.

See also Document *WHC-03/27.COM/20B*, point III.4

The Action Plan Pacific - 2009 is accessible online at:
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/5/> (in English), and
<http://whc.unesco.org/fr/activites/5/> (in French)

Draft Decision: 31.COM 11C, see Point VI

I. Background

1. The Pacific is one of the most under-represented regions on the World Heritage List. Besides Australian and New Zealand properties, as well as properties located in Chile, the United States of America and the United Kingdom, the only World Heritage property in the Pacific Sub-Region is East Rennell in the Solomon Islands. To address this issue and support the implementation of the *Convention* in the Pacific Island States, a number of initiatives were undertaken by the States Parties of the region in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre. These included regional workshops to identify sites having potential Outstanding Universal Value, and capacity building among staff of Government heritage organizations in the implementation of the *Convention*.
2. In 2003, based on the needs expressed by the Pacific States Parties in their Periodic report, a programme for the Pacific, called Pacific 2009, was developed and approved by the World Heritage Committee at its 27th Session (UNESCO, 2003). The main objectives of this Programme are to ensure the ratification of the *Convention* by all the Pacific countries, improve the representation of the region on the World Heritage List and build capacity in implementing the *Convention* and conserving heritage properties.
3. A regional workshop organized at Tongariro National Park, New Zealand, from 17 to 22 October 2004, attended by representatives of all Pacific countries and concerned institutions developed an Action Plan for the implementation of the Pacific 2009 Programme. Such Action Plan is accessible at the following Web address:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/5/> (in English), and
<http://whc.unesco.org/fr/activites/5/> (in French).

4. The Action Plan, which was endorsed by the World Heritage Committee at its 7th Extraordinary Session (Paris, 2004), contains a list of activities to be implemented up to 2009, and serves as a reference to the States Parties, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for the implementation of the *Convention* in the region.

II. Progress in the implementation of the Action Plan Pacific 2009

5. Since its approval in December 2004, considerable progress has been made in the implementation of the Action Plan Pacific-2009. Some of the main activities carried out and results achieved are:
 - a) Ratifications, Tentative Lists and Nominations
6. Eleven Pacific Islands Countries (PICs) out of thirteen have now ratified the *Convention*, compared to only two in the year 2000. The World Heritage Centre is working closely with the remaining two Pacific Island countries which have not yet ratified the *Convention*, i.e. Nauru and Tuvalu.
7. Seven PICs have now submitted their Tentative Lists while three more are under preparation (against only one in 2004). Two new nominations have been submitted for examination by the Committee in 2008 (with six more being prepared, two of which for trans-boundary sites). Moreover, six national Action Plans have been developed in as many countries, resulting in the establishment of national World Heritage Committees and the elaboration of a plan for the implementation of the *Convention* as part of the overall development strategy of the concerned States Parties.

b) Regional workshops for capacity building and networking

Port Vila Workshop on “Thematic Frameworks for World Cultural Heritage in the Pacific”

8. This workshop, held in 2005 at Port Vila (Vanuatu), resulted in a comprehensive document identifying three major themes for the development of cultural nominations within the Pacific, including: 1) Early Human expansion and innovation in the Pacific; 2) Pacific Societies; and 3) Pasifika Encounters. The workshop also defined priorities for thematic studies that would assist States Parties of the region in preparing cultural nominations, one of which, on cultural landscapes, is being prepared by ICOMOS and will be presented on the occasion of the 31st Session of the Committee in 2007. The report of this workshop is accessible at the following Web address: <http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/activities/documents/activity-7-1.pdf>

Sub-regional capacity building workshop in Apia, Samoa

9. A capacity building workshop on the process for the nomination of properties to the World Heritage List, involving around 25 heritage professionals from Samoa, Tonga and Niue, was held from 24 – 29 April 2006 in Apia, Samoa. The workshop consisted of an initial part devoted to theory, followed by a visit to a site to be included in the Tentative List of Samoa and by practical group work.

Our Sea of Islands – sub-regional marine forum in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

10. A Forum to build local and regional pride across Oceania, while enhancing natural and cultural heritage through information sharing, relationship building, and adaptive use of management tools regarding marine managed areas was held from 29 January to 02 February 2007 in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. It was funded by the World Heritage Centre from the Italian Funds-in-Trust and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of USA. Approximately 110 participants from Oceania, UNESCO, the National Park Service, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration as well as Pacific Island countries, non-government organizations, traditional leaders, and international organizations active in marine protection were invited to participate in the Forum. The Forum presented a regional and global context to better understand the significance of traditional knowledge in managing marine areas, the need for scientific and cultural research and the development of management models that could be applied across the Pacific and beyond.

c) Our Pacific Heritage – World Heritage Education Kit for the Pacific

11. The regional version of the World Heritage Education Kit, entitled “Our Pacific Heritage”, was launched in 2004 during the Pacific 2009 workshop held in New Zealand. The Kit serves as a vital resource to create World Heritage awareness among school students and young people in the Pacific. Two training workshops on the use of the Kit for secondary school teachers from the Pacific Island Countries were held in Palau and Fiji in March 2005. Local modules will be developed to supplement the Kit and more teacher training workshops are being planned in the Pacific.

d) Other activities

12. Support was provided to States Parties of the Pacific to: a) enable their attendance to major World Heritage meetings and events; b) Organize stakeholders’ consultation meetings; c) Participate in Study Tours.

13. The Action Plan is being implemented by all States Parties of the Pacific in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Cluster Office in Apia, Samoa, as well as the Advisory Bodies and other international, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations in the Pacific Region, including SPREP (Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme), WWF-Papua New Guinea, CI (Conservation International), TNC (The Nature Conservancy) and WCS (Wildlife Conservation Society). Throughout the process, States Parties have benefited from the financial assistance of the Nordic World Heritage Foundation and the Governments of Italy, Spain and the Netherlands. Technical expertise, as well as funding and in-kind support was provided by New Zealand and Australia, in the framework of their Cooperation Agreements with the World Heritage Centre.
14. For the implementation of the above activities, approximately USD 300,000 were provided through the World Heritage Fund, while an additional USD 210,000 were mobilized from extra-budgetary sources.

III. Remaining challenges

15. There is a continuing need for capacity building and awareness-raising in the Pacific region. Capacity building should concentrate as a priority on developing skills among the staff of the governmental agencies concerned in developing nominations for World Heritage listing and in site management and conservation. Awareness raising programmes should address in particular local communities, including traditional leaders, land-owners and young people, as well as decision makers at the political level.
16. Considering the great number of activities being undertaken, moreover, another challenge in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* in the Pacific region is the lack of capacity, in terms of human resources, during the coming biennium 2008-2009, within the World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Apia Office, to sustain the process of the Action Plan and provide the necessary technical assistance to the States Parties of the region.

IV. Pacific Regional Workshop at Tongariro National Park, New Zealand, 19-23 February 2007

17. A Pacific Regional Workshop for delegates from Pacific Island countries was held from 19 to 23 February 2007 at the Tongariro National Park, New Zealand, jointly hosted by the Department of Conservation (DOC) of New Zealand, the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) of Australia and the World Heritage Centre.
18. Following up to the 2004 Tongariro Workshop where the Pacific 2009 Action Plan was developed, this meeting had four main objectives:
 - a) Develop an agreed position paper that the Pacific States Parties would present at the 31st Session of the World Heritage Committee in June-July 2007;
 - b) Assist States Parties of the Pacific in identifying their priorities within the framework of the World Heritage Pacific 2009 – Action Plan;
 - c) Discuss the relationship between the concepts of Indigeneity and Outstanding Universal Value;
 - d) Discuss potential serial and trans-boundary nominations that could be developed within the Pacific region.
19. The meeting provided also an opportunity for the introduction the idea of a fifth “C” for Community, which New Zealand proposes to add to the existing four Strategic Objectives of the *World Heritage Convention* (see *Document WHC-07/31.COM/13B*).

Position paper

20. As a result of the workshop, an Appeal was developed and agreed by all participants on behalf of their respective States Parties. This text is enclosed in Annex I to this document.
21. Among the main issues emerging from the workshop, and reflected in the annexed Appeal, two aspects were particularly emphasized:
- The special character of the Pacific heritage, in relation to the geographic context of the region and to its high level of indigeneity, and the challenges faced by the countries of the region to conserve it; and
 - The call for a stronger recognition of this special character and needs within the World Heritage process, and for the support of the international community.

Priorities for implementation within the Action Plan Pacific 2009

22. The participants also reviewed the implementation of the Action Plan Pacific 2009, and defined priorities for implementation from now to 2009. With reference to the numbering system and structure of the Action Plan¹, States Parties of the Pacific identified the following specific activities to be carried out for each of the four strategic objectives of the *World Heritage Convention*. These are included in the Appeal in Annex I.

V. Activities proposed for implementation under the World Heritage Fund in the biennium 2008 – 2009

23. Among the priorities identified by the Pacific States Parties in their Appeal (see Annex I), the following activities, including an estimate of their cost, are proposed for implementation through the World Heritage Fund:

Ref. to priority list	Description of the activity	Estimated cost in USD
a - ii)	One thematic and comparative study on a cultural theme to be identified	30,000
a – iii)	An analysis on the costs and benefits of World Heritage listing, based on a case study from the Pacific region	20,000
c – ii)	Sub-Regional training workshop on nomination process	50,000
c – ii)	Sub-Regional training workshop on site management	50,000
	Total	150,000

24. The follow up activities under the Action Plan will be implemented in close collaboration with ICCROM, as well as ICOMOS and IUCN.

¹ References in brackets are to subparagraphs of the Action Plan, which can be accessed at the following Web address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/5/> (in English), and <http://whc.unesco.org/fr/activites/5/> (in French).

VI. Draft Decision

Draft Decision: 31 COM 11C

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined document WHC-07/31.COM/11C,
2. Recalling its Decisions 27 COM 20B.4 adopted at its 27th Session (UNESCO, 2003), and **30 COM 11D** adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes with satisfaction the significant progress achieved in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Pacific region through the execution of the Action Plan Pacific 2009;
4. Commends the States Parties of the Pacific, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for their efforts, as well as the concerned institutions and donors for their contribution to the attainment of these positive results;
5. Takes note of, and welcomes the Appeal presented by the States Parties of the Pacific and their renewed determination to identify and protect the outstanding heritage of their region including by establishing a Pacific World Heritage Fund;
6. Invites the Member States of the Pacific to report to the Committee at its 33rd Session (2009) on progress made towards the establishment of such a Fund;
7. Encourages States Parties and international donors to make financial contributions when the Fund is established;
8. Invites the States Parties of the Pacific region to continue implementing the Action Plan Pacific-2009 concentrating on the priorities identified at the Tongariro workshop of February 2007, and to submit a revised Action Plan covering the period 2010-2015, including a budget estimate, for the consideration of the Committee at its 33rd Session in 2009;
9. Encourages States Parties including small island territories located in the Pacific to facilitate the participation of their communities in the implementation of the Action Plan Pacific-2009;
10. Decides to allocate the amount of 150,000 USD from the World Heritage Fund for the implementation of the activities indicated in Section V of document WHC-07/31.COM/11C;
11. Requests the World Heritage Centre to submit a report on the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan Pacific-2009, including proposals for the period 2010-2015, for the consideration of the Committee at its 33rd Session in 2009.

Annex I

Appeal to the World Heritage Committee from Pacific Island State Parties

*E kore e ngaro
He Kakano i ruia mai i Rangiatea*

*It will never be lost
A seed sown in Rangiatea*

In Maori mythology, Rangiatea is the seventh heaven where all knowledge comes from; hence our cultures will never be destroyed.²

1. We the Pacific Island State Parties³ wish to send the following message to the global World Heritage community on the occasion of the 31st meeting of the World Heritage Committee in Christchurch, New Zealand, in June 2007;
2. We represent nations and territories which, together with our oceans, span one third of the world's surface;
3. We note activities relevant to our work, including the decisions of the Pacific Forum Leaders meeting, the contents of the Mauritius Strategy, and the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international conventions;
4. We note the particular relevance to our heritage of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions;
5. We affirm the first World Heritage consultation meeting for Pacific Island states, Suva, Fiji 1997 and the second World Heritage consultation meeting for Pacific Island states, Vanuatu 1999;
6. And, without prejudice to cultures elsewhere, we recognize the uniqueness of each culture in our region, and the vulnerability of our island ecosystems.

The Pacific is unique. . .

7. There are unique features of the Pacific region that enrich the World Heritage community, and these include:
 - a. the region having one of the highest proportions of indigenous peoples within national populations in any region of the world;
 - b. having amongst the highest proportion of people living within traditional governance systems of any region of the world;
 - c. having amongst the highest proportion of land and sea remaining under traditional management of any region of the world;
 - d. one of the lowest population density's of any inhabited region of the world;
 - e. close and continuing genealogical connections between peoples across vast areas and between many countries and territories;

² This appeal was developed by Pacific delegates at the February 2007 Pacific World Heritage workshop held at Waitetoko Marae (Tongariro) in New Zealand; it was therefore deemed appropriate that a Maori proverb open the appeal and set the scene.

³ Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia and New Caledonia (France), Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

- f. traditional heritage management practices that reinforce the inseparable relationship between communities, cultures and environment that underpin sustainable development;
- g. an enormous wealth of cultural diversity, as well as island and marine biodiversity, much of which is endemic, covering one third of the earth's surface;

These unique features underpin the Pacific contribution to the World Heritage community.

For us, indigeneity is inseparable from heritage. Our indigeniety has the following characteristics...

- 8. Heritage in the Pacific defines our cultural identity and remains inseparable from our social, economic and environmental well-being, now and for future generations;
- 9. Our heritage is holistic, embracing all life, both tangible and intangible, and is understood through our cultural traditions;
- 10. There is an inseparable connection between the outstanding seascapes and landscapes in the Pacific Islands region, which are woven together by the rich cultural, historical and genealogical relationships of Pacific Island peoples;
- 11. The region contains a series of spectacular and highly powerful spiritually-valued natural features and cultural places. These places are related to the origins of peoples, the land and sea, and other sacred stories;
- 12. The Pacific is a region of distinct and diverse responses to oceanic environments;
- 13. Protection of our heritage must be based on respect for and understanding and maintenance of the traditional cultural practices, indigenous knowledge and systems of land and sea tenure in the Pacific.

The Pacific faces special challenges related to heritage....

- 14. There is limited awareness of Pacific heritage outside the region;
- 15. There is a lack of adequate representation of the special and unique characteristics of the Pacific Islands region in the World Heritage system;
- 16. The UNESCO Asia-Pacific region is so broad that it masks issues that are specifically relevant to the Pacific region;
- 17. There is limited effective capacity for implementation of the World Heritage Convention due to:
 - a. Our scale, limited resources and relative isolation which have limited our access to information and assistance, and our ability to participate in global forums;
 - b. The people in the region who are represented by State Parties located outside the region are limited in their capacity to have sites inscribed on the List;
- 18. There are limited resources and skilled human and institutional capacities to manage effectively the region's cultural and natural heritage;

19. The Pacific faces a greater threat from external challenges, especially climate change, than do most other regions of the world, and is less able to deal with the impacts of these threats;
20. For these reasons the Pacific is the least represented region on the world heritage; highlighted by the inclusion of only one site from our small island Pacific states on the World Heritage List.

Our priorities for action...

21. We draw our priorities from the Action Plan for the World Heritage - Pacific 2009 Programme, and we affirm our continuing commitment to this document that we developed jointly in 2004. We look forward to the completion by 2009 of all activities identified in the Action Plan;
22. As we complete the activities in the Action Plan, we will continue our discussion on the establishment of new priorities from 2009 through to 2015;
23. For the guidance of individual members of the Pacific, UNESCO, and the donor community, we identify the following elements of the Action Plan for priority attention:
 - a. Credibility
 - i. Continue the current momentum in preparing nominations (2.2, 2.7, 2.8)⁴ – with the intention that the major types and categories of Pacific heritage are represented on the World Heritage List by 2015;
 - ii. Continue undertaking thematic and comparative studies to support nomination and listing processes (2.1, 2.5) – with a view to finalising by 2009 the studies identified at the Vanuatu 2005 meeting;
 - iii. Commence analysis of the costs and benefits provided by World Heritage listing (2.2, 2.3, 2.4) – with a view to finalising a study by 2008;
 - b. Conservation
 - i. Develop and publicise models for management plans that can be used for Pacific countries (4.3) – for example, through placement of links on the Asia-Pacific Focal Point website, which can also be used to publicise and share lessons learnt and best practice documents;
 - ii. Develop case studies using NBSAPs to extract a tentative list of natural (or mixed) heritage sites from available information (3.4) – with a view to completion by 2009;
 - c. Capacity building
 - i. Continue to develop capacity in relation to implementation plans, nominations, and the management of World Heritage sites (5.1, 6.1, 6.2) – with a view to each member of the Pacific having an implementation plan by 2009;
 - ii. Give greater priority and resources to actions for development and implementation of training initiatives (especially those for heritage conservation and management, and preparation of nominations for the World Heritage List) (6.1) - with this support to be enhanced immediately and sustained into the future;

⁴ References in brackets are to subparagraphs of the Action Plan
Presentation of the World Heritage Programme for the Pacific

- iii. Regional and other UNESCO agency support for capacity building (6.1-6.3, 7.7-7.14) – with this support to be enhanced immediately and sustained into the future;
 - d. Communications
 - i. Use the Asia-Pacific Focal Point website as the principal dissemination point for information on the Pacific, including the name and contact details for an individual who can provide information (9.3, 7.4) – with the website to be upgraded immediately and sustained into the future.
24. The establishment of a permanent **Pacific World Heritage Fund**, as a financing mechanism to support effective implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Pacific.

Our requests of the World Heritage community...

25. We call for the international community to support and contribute financially to the **Pacific World Heritage Fund**;
26. We seek Pacific membership of the World Heritage Committee in 2007;
27. We ask that a 5th 'C', Community, be added to the existing 4 objectives (credibility, capacity building, conservation, communication);
28. We request that the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention recognise and provide for community participation, values and expertise, including of indigenous peoples, at all stages in the implementation of the Convention;
29. We wish to see improved communication and cooperation between national, regional and international agencies and Conventions involved in cultural and natural heritage management;
30. To achieve all of the above activities from the World Heritage Pacific 2009 Action Plan, we call for international support and assistance.