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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
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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 World Heritage Centre on
its activities and the implementation of the World Heritage Committee's
Decisions

Report of the World Heritage Centre on its activities

SUMMARY

This document contains an overview of the activities undertaken by the World Heritage Centre in implementing the Decisions and Strategic Objectives of the World Heritage Committee since its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) and in particular on activities not otherwise covered in the working and information documents prepared for this session. Further details about all World Heritage Centre activities are available from the Secretariat.

Draft Decision: 31.COM 5, see Point II

I. Overview of activities undertaken by the World Heritage Centre in implementing the decisions and strategic objectives of the Committee

1. In 2006, the World Heritage Centre organized the 30th ordinary session of the World Heritage Committee in Vilnius, Lithuania, from 8 to 16 July 2006. An information meeting in preparation for the 31st session was held on 5 June 2006 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.
2. Summary Records of the 30th session of the World Heritage Committee (Vilnius, 2006) were submitted for corrections to participants and have been translated into English and French, following the Recommendation of **28 BUR 7** to produce them in two separate linguistic versions. The final report (compiling Decisions and Summary Record) of the 6th extraordinary session (UNESCO, 2003), the 7th extraordinary session (UNESCO, 2004) and the 27th session (UNESCO, 2003) have also been published in final form. For information and budgetary purposes, the approximate cost of the translation and publication of these final reports amounted to USD 32,000.
3. In the context of the Periodic Reporting Reflection Year (Decision **7 EXT.COM 5**), and following the World Heritage Committee's decision to suspend for two years the commencement of the next cycle of Periodic Reporting in order to study and reflect on the first cycle (Decision **30 COM 11.G** paragraph 5), the World Heritage Centre organized at UNESCO Headquarters two meetings on the Periodic Reporting Reflection Year (9-10 November 2006 and 24 January 2007), and two workshops on the simplification of the questionnaire and the establishment of indicators (6-7 November 2006 and 22-23 January 2007) (*WHC-07/31.COM/11D.1*).

A. Implementation of the *Convention*

4. Following ratification by Sao Tome and Principe, the total number of States Parties to the *Convention* has increased to 183.
5. 18 new properties (16 cultural, 2 natural,) were added to the World Heritage List by the 30th session of the World Heritage Committee, bringing the List to 830 properties (644 cultural; 162 natural and 24 mixed properties) located in 138 States Parties.
6. One property was the first inscription on the World Heritage List for the State Party concerned: Aapravasi Ghat (Mauritius).
7. Five properties were removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger: Tipasa (Algeria), Cologne Cathedral (Germany), the Group of Monuments at Hampi (India), Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary (Senegal) and Ichkeul National Park (Tunisia).
8. Two properties were placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger: Dresden Elbe Valley (Germany) and Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Serbia).
9. A total of 134 State of Conservation reports (35 properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger and 99 for the other properties) were examined by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006).
10. The Committee will examine 45 nominations for inscription on the World Heritage List during this session. These comprise 37 new nominations, 1 proposed extension, 7 nominations deferred or referred by previous sessions of the Committee and 10 minor

modifications of boundaries.

11. Since the 30th session of the Committee, 30 States Parties have submitted new Tentative Lists or modified existing Lists. The number of new properties added to the Tentative Lists is 152.

B. Expanding the circle of actors: International meetings and the Development of partnerships

The main international meetings and conferences were:

12. TourismAfrica, a conference on African Tourism which discussed the potential as well as challenges facing African Tourism. A session on African Heritage organized by UNESCO looked at the various African heritages and considered their contribution to the development of the continent. Geneva, Switzerland (9-15 September 2006.)
13. The 12th International Seminar of Forum UNESCO - University and Heritage (11 - 16 September 2006) at Florence University, Italy, on the theme " Documentation for Conservation and Development: New Heritage Strategies for the Future".
14. A Regional Conference for Central and Eastern Europe on "Application of Scientific and Technological Achievements in Management and Preservation of Historic Cities inscribed on the World Heritage List" organized by the World Heritage Centre with the Municipal Authorities of St. Petersburg and the Russian Federation, held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation (29 January - 3 February 2007).
15. An International Symposium on Concepts and Practices of Conservation and Restoration of Historical Buildings in East Asia, jointly organized by the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM in collaboration with China's State Administration of Cultural Heritage in Beijing, China (24 -27 May 2007).

Development of partnerships

16. A 5-year cooperation agreement, building on a previous agreement signed in 2002, with the Belgian Science Policy Office to mobilize Belgian scientific expertise in using space technologies to assist States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* in acquiring the necessary capacity for managing World Heritage properties and in advanced technologies for restoration and rehabilitation techniques for cultural and natural properties.
17. Six new partnerships with the private sector were signed between July 2006 and March 2007. Details are available in *WHC-07/31.COM.15*. At least five new private sector partnerships are expected to be signed before the Committee is in session.
18. During 2006 - 2007, Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) were signed between WHC and 6 Universities for research within the framework of Forum UNESCO – University and Heritage: Deakin University, Melbourne; Australia, Simmons College, USA; Institut international Fleuves et patrimoine (IIFP), Mission Val de Loire patrimoine mondial, France; Istituto di Ingegneria Agraria, Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy; Delft University, The Netherlands; IUP Arts, Sciences, culture et multimédia, Université de Versailles - Saint Quentin en Yvelines (UVSQ) France. 15 others are in preparation.

C. Cooperation with other Conventions

19. Cooperation with the six biodiversity related Conventions continued through the mechanism of the Biodiversity Liaison Group, a meeting of which was attended by WHC in September 2006. Representatives of these Conventions and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements were also closely associated with the Centre's work on Climate Change. The Centre is also working with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Natural Sciences Sector of UNESCO to organise side-events at the 12th meeting of the CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to be held at UNESCO from 9 to 13 July 2007.
20. The World Heritage Centre participated at the First ordinary session of the Intergovernmental Committee of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Heritage (18 - 19 November 2006) in Algiers, Algeria, and its First extraordinary session (Chengdu, China, 23-27 May 2007).

D. Implementation of the new World Heritage Programmes and Initiative

The World Heritage Tourism Programme

21. Since its creation in 2001, the World Heritage Tourism Programme has worked on projects and initiatives in Latin America, Asia and Europe, building on the Programme's objectives of helping local communities to benefit from tourism, building tourism/visitor management capacity, and engaging with the tourism industry to aid site conservation and community development.
22. In the past year the Programme has launched a three-year Initiative, "Promoting Conservation through Sustainable Local Tourism Development at World Heritage Sites: Demand-Driven Assessments and Engaging the Private Sector" in partnership with the United Nations Foundation and The Nature Conservancy. The initiative will provide USD 2 million, for field activities in five demonstration sites: Sian Ka'an, (Mexico), the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System, (Belize) the Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas, (China), Noel Kempff Mercado National Park (Bolivia) and Canaima National Park, (Venezuela). There are five activities: 1. Developing systematic approaches to facilitate national and international tourism enterprises to engage and support community-based tourism products and services; 2. Working with the tourism industry, site management and appropriate government authorities to implement desirable site conditions; 3. Increasing WH site capacity to plan and manage tourism; 4. Defining and implementing creative approaches to use tourism to aid site conservation financing; 5. Facilitating learning opportunities to share the lessons learned across the global network of WH sites, other UN agencies, the Advisory Bodies and NGOs.

World Heritage Forest Programme

23. The report of the 2006 World Heritage Forest meeting in Nancy, France, has been published and distributed to a wide range of bi- and multi-lateral stakeholders. It includes detailed quantitative indicators on the state of conservation of 91 WH Forests, and introduces the 'Threat Intensity Coefficient' as a general indicator of concern over a World Heritage Forest's state of conservation. World Heritage Forests were presented at an international workshop (10-11 May 2007) "Creating an international forest protected areas network – challenges and opportunities", whose results will be presented to the CBD's 9th Conference of the Parties in 2008. The World Heritage Centre is participating in 5 extra budgetary projects focused on World Heritage forest sites.

World Heritage Programme for Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

24. The principal activities under this new Programme included: a workshop on the 1972 *World Heritage Convention* and the national tentative list, in Trinidad and Tobago (8-11 August 2006), and a UNESCO Conventions conclave mission to Nassau, The Bahamas upon request of The Bahamas (the only non-signatory Member State in the LAC region), to provide it with an exhaustive overview of all UNESCO Conventions on culture (5 -7 February 2007) and the First Meeting of the Caribbean Capacity Building Network in Havana, Cuba (26-28 March 2007), as part of the 10-year Caribbean Action Plan for World Heritage (2004-2014), approved by the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee (Suzhou, China 2004).
25. In the Indian Ocean, the Republic of Comoros submitted its Tentative List on 1 February 2007 and has requested technical assistance for the preparation of a nomination dossier for the Marine Ecosystem in the Comoros Archipelago, which will be provided under Italian and Netherlands Funds-in-Trust arrangements.
26. In the Pacific: a meeting “Our Sea of Islands” took place in Honolulu, Hawaii (29 January - 3 February 2007), bringing together 110 participants from all Pacific Countries and Island States, including New Zealand and Australia, and during which a full day was devoted to discussing the 1972 *World Heritage Convention*.

Thematic Initiative “Astronomy and World Heritage”

27. A project proposal for the nomination of serial transnational astronomical properties for the World Heritage List (“The Worlds’ Ancient Observatories”) is under development in collaboration with international experts, national Focal Points, the Commission on History of Astronomy of the International Astronomical Union (IAU), UNESCO’s MAB Programme and the “Starlight Initiative” (La Palma Island Council). The aim is to illustrate the influence and the impact of astronomical observations and scientific research on the development of specific architectural typologies from megalithic monuments to modern observatories worldwide.

E. Activities undertaken in pursuit of the 4Cs¹

Activities to strengthen the credibility of the World Heritage List:

28. A first meeting on the Mid Atlantic Ridge project, held at the invitation of the Government of Iceland (January 2007), to discuss potential serial and transnational nominations of sites along the ridge – an underwater range running from northern Iceland to the Antarctic - for their geological and marine values.
29. A Stakeholders Consultation Workshop on the Silk Roads World Heritage Nomination in Turpan, Xinjiang, China (1-8 August 2006) and Sub-regional Workshops on the Serial World Heritage Nomination for Central Asian Silk Roads in Samarkand, Uzbekistan (25-31 October 2006) and Dushanbe, Tajikistan (15-21 April 2007).

¹ Whereas in previous years this section has included a comprehensive list of technical and advisory missions undertaken by the Centre to individual State Parties, this year – conscious of document length - only missions concerning regional or sub regional activities have been included. Work with individual State Parties to prepare tentative lists and management plans has not been included. Details about these activities are available from the Secretariat.

30. A Pacific Regional Meeting, as part of the Pacific 2009 Action Plan, in the Tongariro National Park, New Zealand (18 -23 February 2007).
31. A meeting of the coordination Committee of “The Transsaharian Cultural Itineraries” project to prepare transboundary nominations in North Africa, took place in Nouakchott, Mauritania, (8 - 22 September 2006) with representatives from Algeria, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco and Niger.
32. A Workshop on Operational Oceanography and Remote Sensing for the Integrated Management of African Large Marine Ecosystems (6 -13 November 2006), in Cape Town, South Africa, resulting in the identification and inventory of potential marine and coastal properties in Africa.
33. A Scientific workshop on the Great Rift Valley – Bird Migration Flyway, (26 - 29 March 2007), was held in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting was attended by cultural and natural experts from ten African countries who adopted the “Nairobi Great Rift Valley Declaration” with the aim to encourage African State parties in the region to identify and promote transboundary nominations of properties along the Great Rift Valley. The project was named and adopted as the “Great Rift Valley Conservation Initiative”.
34. Several activities with African and Arab States Parties focused on establishing and updating tentative lists and improving the management, documentation and conservation of properties. While this work is being undertaken in line with the Retrospective Inventory exercise, a number of African and Arab States Parties have begun to prepare Nomination files. However, it should be noted that it will take some years for this work to bear fruit in terms of the number of nominations coming forward from these two regions, which will continue to be low for the short term. The Committee may wish to encourage States Parties in Africa and the Arab States to undertake further work of this type in order to accelerate the representation of the world cultural and natural heritage of these regions in the World Heritage List, and those with the capacity to support this work to do so.

Activities and meetings to ensure the effective conservation of World Heritage properties included:

35. The approval of 8 applications for emergency grants of up to US\$30,000 each under the Rapid Response Facility for natural WH sites. Funds were made available in an average of 6 days after having received an application.
36. Following monitoring missions to Garamba, Kahuzi-Biega and Virunga National Parks and Okapi Wildlife Reserve (DRC) in 2006 , emergency action plans were launched in each of the 5 sites with funding from Belgium and Italy in order to assist the State Party to implement some of the key recommendations of the missions. Work also started on the development of a national community conservation strategy. In August, the Centre also launched a new project with support from UNF and the Wildlife Conservation Society to assist the protected area management authority in setting up monitoring systems in all 5 World Heritage sites. The project also received scientific support from the Universities of Ghent and Louvain-la-Neuve thanks to funding from the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office.
37. The launch of a new component of the Central African World Heritage Forest Initiative, a joint initiative of the Centre, UNF, the French Global Environmental facility (FFEM), WWF, Wildlife Conservation Society and Conservation International covering Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo and Gabon. The component, funded by FFEM, will focus on addressing the bushmeat crisis in 3 major transboundary forest landscapes by developing with local stakeholders and the forest industry wildlife management plans.

38. Work to finalize the technical and administrative steps for the re-erection of the Aksum Obelisk, with the re-erection work scheduled to begin in the autumn of 2008.
39. A Meeting on World Heritage Indicators and Historic Urban City Centres, Seville, Spain, (27-28 November 2006).
40. Sub regional meetings as a follow up to the Periodic Reporting exercise in Mexico for Central America, (3-5 November 2006), in cooperation with the UNESCO Office in Mexico and INAH (National Institute of Anthropology and History of Mexico) and in Santiago, Chile, (12-15 March 2007), for the South America region, in cooperation with the National Council of Monuments of Chile and the UNESCO Offices of Santiago and Montevideo.
41. A meeting, Managing Rock Art World Heritage Sites, Valcamonica, (22 May 2007) in cooperation with the Centro Camuno for the Prehistoric Art, Valcamonica, (Italy).

Activities and meetings to promote the development of effective capacity building measures included the organization of or participation in:

42. Seven training sessions and a workshop with staff from the Syrian Ministries of Culture and Tourism in the framework of a European Commission funded project for the development of cultural tourism in Syria, were followed up with the production of 'Guidelines for the Management of cultural heritage sites in Syria.'
43. A 5 day workshop at Mount Kenya World Heritage site in November 2006, attended by 39 site managers and stakeholders from 14 East and West African countries as part of the Enhancing our Heritage (EoH) Project. The EoH methodology is recognized as one of the three leading global methodologies for management effectiveness assessments. Lessons learned in the project have also been applied to the Reflection Year on Periodic Reporting process - the new questionnaire being developed has been strongly influenced by EoH lessons.
44. In accordance with the Committee's recognition of the central role of public use and participatory planning in effective site conservation and management, work to develop and promote models of good management at the landscape level has continued. In 2004, WHC signed a tripartite MoU with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP), implemented by UNDP, in order to develop and promote models of best practice at the landscape level. The institutionalization of Local Consultative Bodies in 6 pilot World Heritage sites has provided one such model for multi-stakeholder arrangements, through an ongoing partnership between UNDP-GEF Small Grants Programme, WHC and the United Nations Foundation (UNF), under the 'Community Management of Protected Areas Conservation' (COMPACT) programme. Ten other World Heritage sites have benefited from site level planning tools through the Enhancing our Heritage programme, as well as through public use methodologies developed under the World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Programme. Within the context of the "One UN" approach of the 'High Level Panel on Coherence in the UN System', (November 2006) the successful adoption and mainstreaming of such plans should lead to better site protection and management, and to greater local economic development and community empowerment thus addressing the challenges of the UN Millennium Development Goals at the highest level, including MDG 7 (environmental sustainability) and MDG 1 (eradication of extreme poverty).
45. Work to build the capacity of site managers in financial sustainability and organizational management, including the development of a business planning toolkit designed to take natural World Heritage site managers through the various business processes common

to all organizational management, including risk assessment, organizational analysis, client analysis, operational plans and human resource planning. The toolkit will be available on-line for other site managers soon.

46. A workshop on Biodiversity Conservation in World Natural Heritage properties for Youth Leaders in Eastern Africa, (May 2007, South Africa).
47. Continuing cooperation with ICCROM on the Africa 2009 programme.
48. Continuing implementation of the Africa Nature programme.
49. A competition, open to citizens of States Parties, to award five Fellowships to undertake Masters Degrees in World Heritage. The names of the successful candidates will be announced at a ceremony in November.

Communication, publications and World Heritage information materials

50. In 2006, the World Heritage Website <http://whc.unesco.org> received an average of 16,295 visitors per day. Traffic to the World Heritage Website increased by 5.2% visits per month, from 480 940 visits in April 2006 to 506 069 visits in April 2007.
51. Work with the media has resulted in articles and interviews on World Heritage on the BBC, Associated Press, The New Yorker, The Economist, the Washington Post, History Channel, GEO, Le Figaro, France Culture, CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation), The Independent, RFI (Radio France International), the New York Times, National Geographic, National Geographic Traveler, Wall Street Journal, Dagens Nyheter (Sweden), ARTE Television, the Daily Telegraph, German magazine Stern, ABC News, Newsweek, the Prague Post, Hiroshima TV, Voice of America and many others worldwide.
52. 100,000 copies of the World Heritage Map were published in partnership with National Geographic and Hewlett Packard in English, French and Spanish. A further 120,000 copies were diffused in the USA through the November/December 2006 edition of the National Geographic Traveler magazine, with the participation of the Mexican and Peruvian Tourist Boards.
53. Following Decision **26 COM 8.3** (Budapest, 2002) and thanks to the support of the Italian Funds in Trust, a new publication, 'World Heritage: Challenges for the Millennium', was published in English and French. The book provides a comprehensive overview and analysis of more than three decades of the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*.
54. Four new publications (nos. 19-22) were issued in the World Heritage Paper Series: 'American Fortifications and the World Heritage Convention'; 'Periodic Report and Action Plan, Europe 2005-2006'; 'World Heritage Forests: Leveraging Conservation at the Landscape Level'; 'Predicting and Managing the Effects of Climate Change on World Heritage'.
55. Four issues of the quarterly magazine *World Heritage* were published in English, French and Spanish (nos. 42 – 45) with a print run of 40,000. The World Heritage Calendar 2007 and the World Heritage Diary 2007 were produced and widely distributed.
56. Other publications included: Case Studies on Climate Change and World Heritage; Conserving Cultural and Biological Diversity: The Role of Sacred Natural Sites and Cultural Landscapes. Proceedings of the International Symposium, Tokyo 30 May to 2

June 2005; Poverty Alleviation and Community-Based Tourism: Experiences from Central and South Asia; a joint publication by UNESCO and ICCROM of a manual, in English and in Arabic, 'Introducing Young People to Heritage Site Management and Protection: A practical guide for secondary schools teachers in the Arab Region'; and a report on the Africa Regional Nature Programme.

57. The 'Basic Texts relating to the *World Heritage Convention* (1972)' were translated into Spanish and Portuguese and put online, and The *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* were translated into Chinese, Bahasa Indonesian, Japanese, and Mongolian and Russian language versions.

F. World Heritage Education

58. Educational activities organized by the World Heritage Centre or with the Centre's assistance included : The Baltic World Heritage Youth Forum in Lithuania (July 2006); a sub-regional teacher-training workshop in Seoul, ROK (29 October-2 November 2006) on World Heritage Education and Sustainable Development; and a sub-regional World Heritage education workshop for francophone West Africa (19-23 February 2007).
59. The World Heritage in Young Hands Educational Resource Kit for Teachers was produced in Hungarian, Lithuanian and Spanish (2nd edition) bringing the number of language versions to 29. Translations have also been made in Portuguese, Latvian and Amharic.
60. Two new episodes of the 'Patrimonito World Heritage Adventures' cartoon series on Lalibela (Ethiopia) and Novgorod (Russian Federation) were finalized and 1000 copies are being produced for global distribution. A new cartoon storyboard competition has been launched among secondary-school pupils in the Congo, DRC, Rwanda and Uganda. The winning entry will be animated and produced as the 6th episode of the Patrimonito cartoon series.
61. The production of a proto-type multimedia resource: 'World Heritage Educational Multi-Media Material -Many countries & cultures = one common universal civilization', is ongoing and due to be finalized by the end of 2007. It features educational resource materials on selected World Heritage sites developed in cooperation with the National Commissions of Cuba, Egypt, Finland, France, Greece, Morocco, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Spain and Uzbekistan.
62. Master Classes in World Heritage at Kakadu National Park, Australia (16 -25 July 2006) and at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris and the Val de Loire World Heritage site, France (22 January to 1 February 2007) within the framework of the 'Sharing Our Heritages' programme co-financed by the Government of Australia and the European Union.

G. Authorized Requests for the Use of the World Heritage Emblem

63. A list of projects for which the use of the World Heritage Emblem was granted is attached at Annex 1. (**7 EXT.COM 14**).
64. In 2005 and 2006, UNESCO's governing bodies adopted new Directives for the Use of the Name, Acronym, Logo and Internet Domain Names of UNESCO for a trial period ending at the 34th Session of the General Conference. These Directives, together with the official graphic charter of UNESCO, currently being finalized, clarify the principles of use, authorization and protection, as well as the respective roles of the governing bodies, the Secretariat and the Member States and their National Commissions, notably as

concerns the newly established linked logos for intergovernmental conventions and bodies such as World Heritage and Oceanography.

65. The World Heritage Centre has encouraged States Parties to the *Convention* to refer to the new Directives and the graphic charter (www.unesco.org/en/logo). In cooperation with UNESCO's Bureau of Public Information, specific linked UNESCO-WH logos were developed featuring both the new, official UNESCO logo block and the WH logo, together with standardized taglines specifying the context of use, such as patronage, partnerships or site specific designation which have been recorded. This record, in association with reactions collected from Member States during the trial period of the Directives, will be instrumental in finalizing graphic standards, preparing practical guidelines and clarifying administrative procedures for the use of the UNESCO and the WH logos.
66. The World Heritage Centre is ready to provide further advice and guidance on the terms of use of the UNESCO and World Heritage mixed logo adopted by the General Conference at a future session, if so requested by the Committee. In addition, the Committee may wish to recall that the current text of the Operational Guidelines on the use of the World Heritage Emblem (Chapter VIII) is no longer in conformity with other official texts voted by the General Conference (Resolution 33C/89) and may consider it useful for possible discrepancies to be examined by the Committee at its 32nd session.

H. World Heritage Centre – structure and staffing levels:

67. While any restructuring of the World Heritage Centre awaits the Committee's consideration of the Management Audit undertaken by Deloitte (WHC-07/31.COM/19A), the Centre has assumed two major new responsibilities in recent months as part of the restructuring of the Culture Sector. In February 2007, responsibility for the implementation of the 1954 Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two protocols was transferred to the World Heritage Centre. The management of the Melina Mercouri International Prize (UNESCO – Greece), which rewards outstanding examples of action to safeguard and enhance the world's major cultural landscapes, has also been transferred to the World Heritage Centre. The restructuring of the Culture Sector has also transferred all work relating to cultural tourism to the World Heritage Centre, so as to avoid duplication of activities.

II. Draft Decision

Draft Decision: 31 COM 5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/5,*
2. *Takes note with appreciation of the work undertaken by the World Heritage Centre over the past year in pursuit of its strategic objectives, and in particular the work underway to mainstream a policy of multi-stakeholder arrangements for nominations, management and reporting through strategic partnerships with other UN agencies, NGOs and the private sector;*
3. *Recognizes that such partnerships are essential in order to guarantee the integrity and authenticity of World Heritage site conservation and as a means of contributing to common UN commitments through the global network of World Heritage sites;*

4. *Requests the Director of the World Heritage Centre to extend and accelerate the development of such partnerships and further requests the Director of the World Heritage Centre to identify extra budgetary funding to develop a series of high level meetings on key World Heritage conservation issues related to sustainable development, including sustainable tourism;*
5. *Encourages States Parties in Africa and the Arab States to work with the Centre to establish and update their tentative lists and further improve the management, documentation and conservation of properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List in order to ensure that the outstanding universal value of the heritage of those regions is more fully represented on the World Heritage List.*
6. *Urges States Parties to the Convention to support the World Heritage Centre's work through the provision of additional financial contributions to the World Heritage Fund or through Funds in Trust arrangements.*
7. *Requests the Director of the World Heritage Centre to facilitate the establishment of a small working group to examine possible revisions to the Operational Guidelines on the use of the World Heritage Emblem for discussion by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.*

Annex 1

In conformity with **7EXT COM 14** the table below does not reflect the many requests made to the World Heritage Centre by World Heritage sites and/or national authorities for the use of the World Heritage Emblem.

Date of request	Requesting party	Project description and proposed use of World Heritage Emblem	Comments
20-June-06	University of Sydney, Australia	International conference "Angkor: Landscape, City and Temple" to commemorate the first decade of international cooperation for the site.	Cambodian authorities are involved and supportive
20-June-06	IUCN	Proposed for use in the context of a two day Drylands technical meeting organized in Amman.	Meeting organized with UNESCO
26-June-06	IUCN	To promote the Wadi El Hitan Valley of the Whales (Egypt) protected area project in brochures and exhibits.	Project implemented through the Italian-Egyptian Environment Cooperation programme
27-June-06	ICCROM	For a handbook published following 2 workshops organized in the Arab region in the context of the skills development programme between students and teachers of the World Heritage in Young Hands project.	Activity developed in close association with UNESCO WHC
04-July-06	UNF	For a brochure promoting sustainable tourism developed by UNF and National Geographic traveler.	Brochure developed with the support of WHC
05-July-06	Convention France-UNESCO	For a guidebook developed for African local authorities on Cultural Heritage and local development.	Developed in cooperation with CraTerre and UNESCO WHC
26-July-06	Ordnance Survey, UK	For a series of maps to be printed and distributed by the Ordnance Survey to highlight the location of World Heritage sites.	The UNESCO and World Heritage mixed logo approved.
28-July-06	Michelin Guide, France	To be used in the new edition of the Guidebook in relation to text on the Canal du Midi.	The request had been previously granted in the past.
2-Oct-06	Research Chair on Built heritage, Canada	To be used on the web site www.patrimoinebati.umontreal.ca to showcase the collaboration with UNESCO on the Oral Archives Initiatives, notably as pertains to the World Heritage History Project.	The UNESCO and World Heritage mixed logo approved.
24-Oct-06	European Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Monuments, Greece	To be used in the context of an international conference "Byzantine Monuments and World Heritage" held in Greece in November 2006	The UNESCO and World Heritage mixed logo approved.