

The Spanish Funds in Trust and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre

The heritage-related cooperation agreement between the Kingdom of Spain and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) was signed in Paris on the 18 of April 2002 by the Director of UNESCO Mr Koichiro Matsuura and the Spanish Ambassador and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO Mr Francisco Villar y Ortíz de Urbina.

The Kingdom of Spain ratified the World Heritage Convention in May 1982 and reinforced its commitment to the development of Heritage throughout the World by the proposal of the cooperation agreement with UNESCO which channels funding through targeted projects for the improved implementation of the Global Strategy and the 1972 UNESCO World Heritage Convention.

The Aims of the Agreement :

- The promotion of the Global Strategy for a balanced credible and representative World Heritage List to work towards the reinforcement of the management of natural and cultural properties already inscribed on the World Heritage list through the affirming of the role of the World Heritage Convention as a tool for the linking of the safeguard of Cultural Heritage and sustainable development of natural and cultural resources.
- To reach these objectives, the Spanish government has engaged itself to identify and promote the use of financial and technical resources available within its administration to reinforce the capacity and capabilities of the World Heritage Centre. This serves not only to deal with international cooperation requests from States Parties in the framework of the Global Strategy but as a support to the management of World Heritage properties, the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and the decisions of the Committee.

The Coverage of the Programme:

The Kingdom of Spain and UNESCO, through the World Heritage convention, cooperate to enable State Parties' to :

- Identify categories of cultural and natural properties that are lacking on the World Heritage List.
- Reinforce the management of Heritage already inscribed on the World Heritage List, in particular through a new definition, if necessary, of the zone that is under protection and the revision of the management framework of the site to ensure the adequate protection, conservation and presentation of World Heritage values as recognized by the World Heritage Committee at the moment of inscription.
- The Development of project proposals for the financing by international development agencies to ensure that subjects that are linked to conservation and the restoration of Heritage are adequately reflected in development activities in the core zones of World Heritage and those that are in support of the World Heritage Property.
- The Spanish State Party and UNESCO, in the framework of the World Heritage Convention, has accepted to cooperate so that the World Heritage Centre can reinforce its central activities centre around the 4 Cs (Conservation, Cooperation, Communication and Capacity Building) and its capacities so as to adopt and support effective measures for State Parties to prevent and attenuate the threats to World Heritage, more specifically through the improvement of the databases of countries and sites. This is implemented through the periodic reporting exercise on the state of conservation of World Heritage sites as well as the development of original

nomination files, thus supporting the development of a system of World Heritage information management adopted by the Committee at its 24th session.

- The General Development of sub-regional and regional cooperation in Africa, the Pacific and Mesoamerica through inter-agency and international organizational cooperation for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

Coordination and Management :

Ms Nuria Sanz, expert in Heritage and International cooperation, has been given the task of the coordination and management of the Spanish extra-budgetary funds for the implementation of projects under the aegis of the World Heritage Centre and according to the decisions of the World Heritage Committee. Ms Sanz is a Programme Specialist in the Latin American and Caribbean Unit of the World Heritage Centre. She is assisted by two collaborators, María-Paz Fernández Undurraga and Nicholas Taylor.

The Funds allocated from the Fund for Worldwide to World Heritage Related cooperation has evolved as following:

2003-2004 – 300.000€ per year

2005-2006 – 600,000€ per year