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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 second Session

Quebec City, Canada
2 – 10 July 2008

Point 11 of the Provisional Agenda: Periodic Reports

11A: Follow up on the Periodic Report for Africa

SUMMARY

This document presents the follow-up activities to the Periodic Report for the Africa region according to Decision **30 COM 11F** (Vilnius, 2006).

Other related documents: *Progress report on the African World Heritage Fund* (Document WHC-08/32COM/6A)

Draft Decision: 32 COM11A, see Point V

I. FOLLOW UP TO THE PERIODIC REPORT FOR AFRICA: GENERAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND CRITICAL ASSESSMENT

1. This document summarizes the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the Periodic Report for Africa for the period 2006-2008, submitted in accordance with the strategic approach approved by the World Heritage Committee at its 23rd session (Marrakesh, 2001) as *document WHC-01/CONF.208/7* and as reported in the World Heritage Centre Report Number 3 (WHC-2003/WS/1), and further approved as per Decision **30 COM 11F** (Vilnius, 2006). For the African Region, the Periodic Reporting exercise was considered as an on-going process rather than an end in itself, therefore an Action Programme for the implementation of medium-term activities was proposed and adopted. Major achievements have been reported annually during the World Heritage Committee sessions. While this report has updated some of this information, it has also suggested major actions that remain to be achieved as proposed under the Periodic Report to be undertaken during the next Cycle of Periodic Reporting, to ensure both full participation of the Africa Region in the activities of the *Convention* and also adequate conservation and protection of Africa World Heritage.
2. In response to the World Heritage Committee's adoption in 1994 of the Global Strategy to address imbalances in the representations in the World Heritage List and the adoption of the Africa Periodic Report and the Action Plan (Helsinki, 2002), African countries have contributed in redefining the inscription criteria, in promoting ratification of the *World Heritage Convention* and in assisting States Parties to prepare the Tentative Lists for cultural and natural sites. The Global Strategy has raised awareness among States Parties and site managers, enabled new categories of properties to be better adapted to the cultural particularities (cultural landscapes, itineraries, vernacular architecture, industrial heritage sites, etc.), allowed the simplification of the filing of Tentative Lists, increased the number of African States parties to the *Convention* and enabled new sites to be inscribed. Encouraged by the 1992 adoption by the World Heritage Committee of Cultural Landscapes as a category and subsequent inclusion of such sites on the World Heritage List, the World Heritage Centre has supported the proposed inscription of new properties, such as traditional settlements, vernacular architecture and geological sites. by African States Parties.
3. Whilst the inscription of such properties demonstrates the relevance of the *World Heritage Convention* in social-cultural context of the continent and in democratizing the notion of heritage, they also challenge the capacities of the African States Parties to protect them.
4. As regards the overall status of the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* in Africa, 44 States Parties have ratified the *Convention* out of the 46 States that are members of UNESCO. Out of the 44 States Parties, 28 have inscribed at least one property figured among the total 74 properties in Africa. 33 of these properties are natural, 38 are cultural and 3 are mixed. Out of the 30 global properties inscribed in the World Heritage List in Danger, 12 properties are to be found in Africa representing about 40%. Almost one in every four African site is inscribed in the World Heritage List in Danger. Of the total 851 properties on the World Heritage List, African sites represent less than 9%. The following table summarises the development trend of the *Convention* in Africa:

	2002	2007	Evolution
States Parties to the World Heritage Convention	37	44	+ 19 %
Properties inscribed on the World Heritage List	57	74	+30 %
▪ Cultural	25	38	+ 52 %
▪ Natural	30	33	+ 10 %
▪ Mixed	2	3	-
States Parties with at least 1 property inscribed on the World Heritage List	23	28	+ 22 %
States Parties with Tentative List	25	35	+ 40 %
New Tentative Lists received since 2002		10	
Tentative Lists updated between 2002-2007		11	
States parties without Tentative List	13	9	- 31%

5. It is noted that between 2002 and 2007 the number of African Member States of UNESCO adhering to the *Convention* rose by 19%, while the number of inscribed properties from all categories rose by 30%. Cultural properties which were lagging behind in early years rose by 52 percent. States parties with at least one property rose by 22% while the States Parties with updated Tentative List rose by 40% and the number of States Parties without the Tentative List declined by 31%.
6. Despite improved performance in the overall implementation of the *Convention* in Africa, on the basis of regional distribution of properties, Africa has still very few properties compared to other regions. Secondly the large number of sites in the Danger List confirms that the challenge is still present for effectively management of African World Heritage properties. These are some of the areas where further progress is required where lack of progress represents a significant impediment to the achievement of the targets for conservation and protection of properties in the Region.

II. DEVELOPING NATIONAL CAPACITIES IN HERITAGE CONSERVATION: MONITORING MECHANISMS, PREVENTIVE MEASURES AND TRAINING FOR NATIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING

7. Recognition by the UNESCO General Conference and the *Convention's* statutory organs of the responsibility of States Parties for the state of the conservation, of inscribed properties, have focussed in the role of the *Convention* in promoting preventive measures in heritage conservation. For Africa, national capacity-building has been the key in this process as shown by several examples below. The World Heritage Centre working in Africa has fostered networking between management authorities and experts of various categories of properties (tropical forests, oceans, historical cities, earthen architecture, etc). These actions have opened new opportunities for the World Heritage Centre to influence policies, plans and programmes at the regional and national levels.

8. The essential role of human resources development through training in Africa was emphasized by the World Heritage Committee at the adoption of the Africa Periodic Report and earlier on through the adoption of the Training Strategy for World Heritage. As a result training activities for the conservation of cultural and natural heritage in Africa are carried out annually under the World Heritage Fund and extra-budgetary funds to the Africa Nature Programme and Africa 2009 Programme for culture. The training and its associated technical co-operation activities have contributed directly in formulating and in integrating heritage conservation in national laws and regulations in the conservation of properties, as well as in the establishment of on-site management authorities in several countries.
9. A human resources development strategy is necessary for conserving and managing World Heritage in the region to further strengthen human resources and raise the standards of professionalism and experience.

III. PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “AFRICA REGIONAL PROGRAMME”: TOWARDS A COMPREHENSIVE WORLD HERITAGE STRATEGY OF CAPACITY BUILDING IN AFRICA

10. The ‘Africa 2009’ and ‘Africa Nature’ programmes form the implementation backbone of the World Heritage Strategic objectives proposed in 2002 as a result of the first Periodic Reporting Exercise for Africa. This exercise highlighted five main thematic strategies where the status of African World Heritage could be improved on both local and national levels: training and capacity building, conservation and management, Research and site reporting, participation and cooperation. These areas aim to stimulate a national consolidation of World Heritage practices in African States Parties, developing and improving capacity and capacity building frameworks for World Heritage Sites and the communities that are associated with them. The oldest part of the Africa Regional Programme, ‘Africa 2009’ brings the cultural World Heritage capacity building under the remit of the Regional programme. This Programme, in existence since 1998, focuses on increasing the capacity of national institution to better manage and conserve immovable heritage places in Africa. The programme is in its final phase (2006-2009) and will now aim at putting down permanent roots for its sustainability and transfer to African training institutions before its completion.
11. The recognition of the importance for enhancing the capacity of the Africa continent in the conservation and management of natural World Heritage properties in the framework of the *Convention* resulted from the conclusions of several activities undertaken in Africa by the World Heritage Centre in collaboration with its partners such as the ICCROM, UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme), Nordic World Heritage Foundation (NWHF), IUCN, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and others. In response the World Heritage Centre has organized on-site specialist training workshops for both cultural and natural experts. For example the two Capacity Building courses in the field of natural heritage for French speaking African countries held in 2004, two Capacity building courses in the field of natural heritage for English speaking African countries, organized from 2006 to 2008.

Regional meetings and activities:

12. It is also important to mention the organization of several regional meetings that have enable bring together African experts on the various subjects concerning Africa World Heritage conservation. Among them are the following:

- a) Two Directors' seminars organized by Africa 2009 on: (i) "Role of intangible in preserving intangible heritage" in Porto-Novo (Benin) in November 2006; (ii) "Impact assessment as a tool for managing immovable cultural heritage".
- b) The Afrimab Regional Workshop was held in Cape Town (South Africa), from 12 to 15 September 2007. The collaboration between Afrimab and the World Heritage Centre falls within the framework of the implementation of the *Seville Strategy* and the *World Heritage Convention* in Africa. The World Heritage Centre brought its technical and financial support to the Science Sector, to enable African sites managers to attend this meeting, mainly to build a bridge between these two UNESCO programmes to enhance the management and conservation of biodiversity sites in Africa.

More information on these meetings is available in the *Report of the Secretariat on its activities*, see *Document WHC-08/32.COM/5*.

13. In parallel to these regional or sub regional meetings, several national workshops were organized at national level to raise awareness of various stakeholders on the World Heritage Convention: Lesotho in March 2007, Uganda and Congo Brazzaville in September 2007 and March 2008.
14. At its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007) the World Heritage Committee in its Decision **31COM7A.31** requested the Chairperson together with the Director General of UNESCO to organize, with the relevant Congolese authorities, a meeting on the situation of World Heritage properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). DRC authorities decided to postpone the meeting foreseen in Kinshasa on May 9, 2008. The main objective of the meeting is to mobilize efforts from DRC partners, United Nations programmes and Agencies in order to design a common policy that would address in an efficient and sustainable way the issue of the deterioration of the World Heritage properties of the country.
15. The favorable conditions established at States Parties level has enabled the development of numerous field projects among which the re-erection of the Axum obelisk (Ethiopia), the pilot conservation project for Lalibela (Ethiopia), the Fleuve-Niger project (Mali), and the Rehabilitation project of the San Sebastian Fortress (Mozambique). It is expected that these conservation projects funded through extra-budgetary resources, will continue to develop conservation and management capacities in the concerned countries.
16. The World Heritage Centre is conducting a Regional Project for preparation of nominations of natural properties of Outstanding Universal Value in Eastern and Southern Africa for World Heritage listing. The main objective of the project is to support the conservation of globally important natural heritage biodiversity resources in Africa. The project supported by the Nordic World Heritage Foundation, envisages to build upon the successes and achievements of the Africa Regional Programme for Natural World Heritage conservation and to consolidate the best practices learnt so far. The aim of the project will be to undertake an inventory of and to prepare nominations of natural properties in Eastern and Southern Africa for World Heritage listing, it is hoped that three to four natural properties will be nominated by 2010.
17. A Regional Technical course on the preparation of nomination dossier for World Heritage sites will be organized in Lesotho in October 2008. This course which is being prepared by World Heritage Centre, and the Advisory bodies (ICCROM and IUCN) is co-funded by the African World Heritage Fund. It aims to develop a concerted effort to enable African State parties to work together on nomination dossiers and to create a group of professionals qualified in the preparation of nominations and in the evaluation of World

18. The actions summarized above will be strengthened through the UNESCO's activities foreseen in the 34 C/5. Particular focus will be given to the training and capacity-building of African national and local authorities directly responsible for the day-to-day management of the World Heritage sites through network-building and co-operation for pilot demonstration projects. In this regard, preventive conservation measures through systemic monitoring of the World Heritage properties will be underlined.

IV. PREPARATION OF THE NEXT CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORT IN AFRICA

19. At its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), the World Heritage Committee decided to suspend for two years the commencement of the next cycle of Periodic Reporting (Decision **30 COM 11C.1**). According to the decision, 2009 was identified as the year to launch of the process in the Africa region. During the Reflection Year on Periodic Reporting, the following conclusions were specifically drawn for the Africa region:
- a) The results of the first cycle of Periodic Reporting in Africa are generally considered impressive, as they have contributed to an improvement in the conservation of World Heritage properties in the region. The periodic reporting exercise has also helped to identify areas where improvements are needed, and in setting priorities at the national and regional levels.
 - b) The results of the first cycle of Periodic Reporting in Africa revealed that efforts should be made to reinforce the capacity of States Parties with regard to Section II of the questionnaire, because many properties need boundary adjustments, names changes, and in some cases, revision of criteria or new Statements of Outstanding Universal Value.
 - c) The objectives of the next cycle of Periodic Reporting should be defined with the view of ensuring that they correspond to the actual expectations of the World Heritage Committee in terms of acceptable state of conservation of the World Heritage properties in the region. The next cycle for Africa should include all properties inscribed from 1975 until the dates of the launch of the process.
20. The preparatory phase of the second cycle for Africa will be facilitated by the retrospective inventory to be undertaken for Africa in 2008. The results will determine the amount of information needed from State Parties, and also a first indication of the number of properties in need of a revision of their Statements of Outstanding Universal Value.
21. Following the debate and decision of the World Heritage Committee with regard to the final report on the Periodic Reporting Reflection Year to be examined at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008), State Parties in Africa will be informed on the appropriate strategy to enable the completion of the questionnaire (both Section I and Section II), as well as the methods to be used to analyze them and prepare the final report for the region to be presented to the Committee in 2011. The Periodic Reporting exercise will be coordinated in full partnership with the Advisory bodies.
22. The World Heritage Centre is supporting the Secretariat of the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) in its work. This support includes the provision of a consultant, paid from extra-budgetary funds provided by Italy. The Secretariat is, among other duties, charged with the preparation of the Activity Plan for the Fund, which will focus on a number of

priority projects to improve the number and quality of Africa's nomination dossiers for the World Heritage List. The World Heritage Centre is also assisting the Secretariat of the AWHF in preparing the long-term strategy for fund-raising in order to ensure the sustainability of the Fund.

More information on Africa World Heritage Fund is available in the *Progress report on the African World Heritage Fund* (Document WHC-08/32COM/6A).

V. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 32 COM 11A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/11A,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 11C.1**, **30 COM 11F** and **30 COM 11G** adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006) and decisions **31 COM 10**, **31 COM 11D.1**, adopted at its 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively,
3. Recognizing the financial and technical assistance provided by various donors for the follow-up of the Periodic Reporting exercise for Africa, in particular for the implementation of the Africa Regional programme (Africa Nature and AFRICA 2009),
4. Takes note of the progress report on the follow-up activities to the Periodic Report for the Africa region;
5. Calls upon the States Parties, the World Heritage Centre and all the other stakeholders involved in the conservation and protection of natural and cultural heritage of the Africa region to establish a fund raising strategy to supplement the necessary financial resources required to implement the World Heritage Convention in Africa;
6. Recommends that States Parties, Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre continue their collaboration in addressing any outstanding issues and in particular focussing on follow-up meetings and training exercises;
7. Requests the World Heritage Centre in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies to launch in 2009 the second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in Africa, and to undertake retrospective inventory so as to determine the amount of information needed from State Parties, and also a first indication of the number of properties in need of a revision of their Statements of Outstanding Universal Value;
8. Further requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to prepare a progress report on the follow-up to the African Periodic Report and on the preparation for the next cycle for Africa for examination at its 33rd session in 2009.