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ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Thirtieth Session

Vilnius, Lithuania

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Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda: Report of the World Heritage Centre on its activities and on the implementation of the Decisions of the World Heritage Committee

INF.6C: Report from the Nordic World Heritage Foundation on its activities.

SUMMARY

As requested by the Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005), the present document contains a summary report of the Nordic World Heritage Foundation on its activities.

I. Background and justification

1. On the basis of an Agreement signed between UNESCO and the Government of Norway in 1996 the Nordic World Heritage Office (NWHO) in Oslo was created as a pilot project with the objective of supporting the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Nordic Countries and support the World Heritage Centre in the follow up of the Global Strategy adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 1994. The pilot project was evaluated in 1998 and the Agreement with UNESCO was extended until 2001. A second external evaluation dated 30 March 2001 recommended the establishment of the Office on a permanent basis as a Foundation. In accordance with Article 17 of the *Convention*, which calls for the States Parties to the *Convention* to consider or encourage the establishment of national public and private foundations or associations whose purpose is to invite donations for the protection of cultural and natural heritage, the Nordic World Heritage Foundation (NWHF) was established 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 (approx. USD 500.000) 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 will every year receive an activity report.

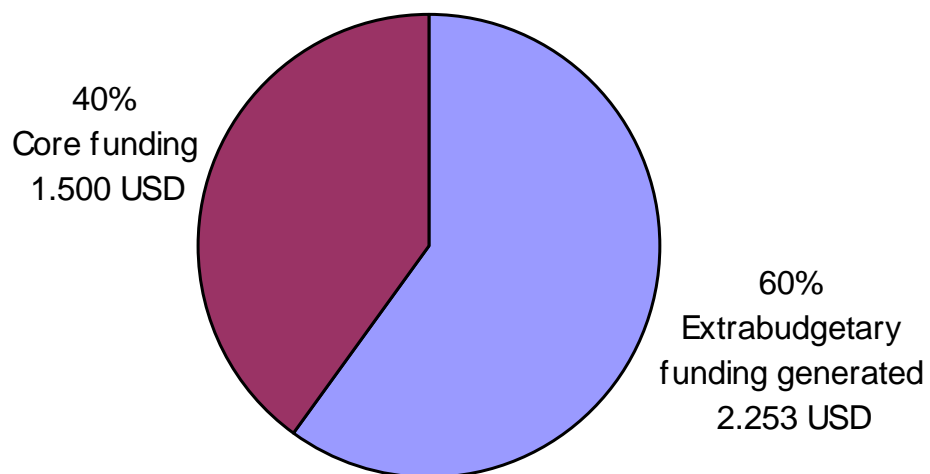
II. Objectives and activities

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 on request from the Nordic States Parties, local government and other interested parties, increase regional cooperation in the Nordic countries by coordinating Periodic Reporting and other World Heritage activities, as well as increase awareness of the *World Heritage Convention* among heritage experts, decision-makers and in the general public.
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.
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*.

Core funding received and extrabudgetary funding generated 2003-2005 (in thousands)



Funds mobilised for projects 2003-2005 (in thousands)

Project / Activity	Partner	Timeframe	NOK	USD¹
Support to participants from developing countries to attend World Heritage meetings: Increase involvement of developing countries in the implementation of the <i>World Heritage Convention</i>	UNESCO/ WHC	2003-2005	1.365	195
Buddhist Sangha: Build local capacity in heritage conservation in Asia by reviving traditional decorative arts and building crafts	UNESCO/ Regional Office Asia Pacific	2003-2007	12.150	1.736
International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition: Arrange event at Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition	Norwegian UNESCO Commission Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art	2004	50	7
American Express Corporate Travel Partnership: Increase awareness of World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism/ including pre-premiere of the film Beautiful Country (Vietnam)	American Express Corporate Travel AS	2004	50	7
Periodic Reporting in the Nordic – Baltic Sub-region: Produce a synthesis report on the application of the <i>World Heritage Convention</i> and the State of Conservation of World Heritage in the Nordic – Baltic countries	Nordic – Baltic States Parties, UNESCO/ WHC	2004-2005	200	29
Nomination assistance: Samarra, Iraq: Provide technical assistance to prepare nomination dossier for Samarra, Iraq	UNESCO/ WHC	2004-2005	700	100
Production of World Heritage/ Sustainable Tourism Film: Produce a film to increase awareness of sustainable tourism and heritage/World Heritage	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, BBC, UNEP, Basecamp Explorer AS	2004-2006	600	86
Nomination assistance: Sulaiman-Too, Kyrgyzstan: Provide technical assistance to nomination dossier for the holy mountain Sulaiman-Too, Kyrgyzstan	UNESCO/WHC	2004-2006	400	57
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 World Heritage List.	UNESCO/ WHC, UNEP Government of Norway/Ministry of Environment	2005-2006, potential for a second phase	250	36
Total			15.765	2.253

¹ 1 USD = 7 NOK