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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

World Heritage Committee
Thirty-third Session

Seville, Spain
20 – 30 June 2009

Item 5B of the Provisional Agenda: Report on the World Heritage Programme for Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

SUMMARY

This document briefly presents a background to the World Heritage Programme for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and describes progress achieved in its implementation since 2005, when it was adopted, to early 2009. It also contains a summary of the outcomes of regional workshops, for the Caribbean Capacity-Building Programme held in Havana (Cuba) from 5 to 7 March 2007, and for the Pacific Action Plan held in Cairns (Australia) from 13 to 17 October 2008.

See also: Document *WHC-09/33.COM/6B* (Progress Report on the creation of the Pacific World Heritage Fund).

Draft Decision: 33 COM 5B see Part V.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

The United Nations Department of Economics and Social Affairs, Division for Small Island Developing States, lists 52 Small Island Developing States divided into three geographical regions: the Caribbean (with 23 States); the Pacific (with 20 States); and Africa, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea, or AIMS region (with 9 States).

The United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) divides its SIDS list into two categories: UN Members (38 States) and Non-UN Members/Associate Members of the Regional Commission (14 States).

In the context of the *World Heritage Convention* and implementation of the Global Strategy, the list of SIDS referred to in this report comprises **38 self-governing Island States** in the Africa, Asia/Pacific, and Caribbean regions, which are under-represented on the World Heritage List (adapted from www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sids/sidslist.htm):

AFRICA (5): Cape Verde; Comoros; Mauritius; Sao Tomé & Príncipe; Seychelles.

ASIA and the PACIFIC (19): Cook Islands; Fiji; Kiribati; Maldives; Marshall Islands; Micronesia; Nauru; Niue; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Samoa; Singapore; Solomon Islands; Timor-Leste; Tokelau; Tonga; Tuvalu; Vanuatu; and for this report Bahrain (Arab States) is included.

CARIBBEAN (13): Antigua & Barbuda; Bahamas; Barbados; Cuba; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Grenada; Haiti; Jamaica; St. Kitts & Nevis; St. Lucia; St. Vincent & Grenadines; Trinidad & Tobago.

I. Background

1. Since the adoption of the *Global Strategy for a Balanced, Representative and Credible World Heritage List* by the World Heritage Committee (Santa Fé, 1994), the World Heritage Centre proceeded with the development of Regional Action Plans focusing on World Heritage activities in the under-represented regions of Africa, Asia/Pacific, and the Caribbean, among others. At its twenty-second session (Kyoto, 1998) the Committee examined and adopted the first “Global Strategy Progress Report, Synthesis and Action Plan for a Representative and Credible World Heritage List” (see document WHC-98/CONF.203/18). At the twenty-third session of the Committee (Morocco, 1999), multi-year regional plans of action for the implementation of the Global Strategy in Africa, the Pacific and the Caribbean, among others, were adopted that followed up on the Action Plan of 1998 (see document WHC-2000/CONF.204/11).
2. To discuss the development of new, updated, regional Action Plans in World Heritage, two major meetings were held in SIDS regions prior to the launch of the World Heritage Programme for SIDS in 2005. In the Caribbean, representatives of twenty Caribbean States Parties and Associated Territories gathered at the Conference on the Development of a Caribbean Action Plan in World Heritage (available at:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/series/18/>), held in Castries, Saint Lucia from 23 to 27 February 2004 (see document WHC-03/28.COM/INF.16). In the Pacific, a similar meeting was held at Tongariro National Park, New Zealand from 17 to 22 October 2004, with representatives of 14 Pacific Island Countries, as well as representatives from Australia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Rapa Nui (Easter Island, Chile), which developed an Action Plan for the implementation of the World Heritage Pacific 2009 Programme (available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/5/>).

3. From 10 to 14 January 2005, the United Nations' "International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" took place in Port Louis, Mauritius. At that meeting UNESCO led Plenary Panel three on "The Role of Culture in the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States". The meeting concluded with the adoption of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (available at: <http://www.unesco.org/en/sids>).
4. In a direct follow-up to the Mauritius meeting, the World Heritage Centre designed the World Heritage Programme for SIDS, aiming at a coordination of efforts to exchange information on and implement the Mauritius Strategy within the context of the *World Heritage Convention* and the Action Plans for the Caribbean and the Pacific. This Programme was adopted at the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee in Durban, South Africa, in 2005 (**Decision 29 COM 5B**).
5. Further to this and as requested by **33 C/Resolution 3** of the General Conference, UNESCO's Director-General has established the Intersectoral Platform for the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, under the lead of the Assistant Director-General for Science. Through this platform, in which the World Heritage Centre is actively participating, UNESCO will pursue a strategy aimed at a holistic, integrated approach to sustainable island living and development with intergenerational and interregional perspectives.
6. Of particular relevance to the work of the World Heritage Committee, through this Intersectoral Platform the aim is to develop integrated heritage policies for SIDS, covering natural, cultural, intangible and movable heritage and contributing to World Heritage activities on islands in the Caribbean, the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans, which are under-represented on the World Heritage List. Among others, this entails technical assistance for the preparation of Tentative Lists and nominations, and capacity-building of staff and institutions. Activities will also build on the results of the 2007 Conference "Islands as Crossroads: Cultural Diversities in Small Island Developing States" (see http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=33517&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html) in Victoria, Seychelles. The UNESCO Office in Dar es Salaam is working towards the publication of the outcomes of this SIDS conference, which is to be expected in the second half of 2009.

II. Progress in the implementation of the World Heritage Programme for SIDS

7. Based on the performance indicators that were presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005) as part of the proposal to establish a World Heritage Programme for SIDS (see document *WHC-05/29.COM/5 – Annex 1*), progress can be established in the Programme's implementation since its adoption four years ago. The main activities carried out and results achieved are presented in the table on the next page.

2005 Performance Indicators	Results as per 2009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 1972 <i>World Heritage Convention</i> ratified by at least three SIDS (Targets: one in the Caribbean, 2 in the Pacific region). 	<p>Two SIDS have ratified the Convention: Sao Tomé & Príncipe (on 25 July 2006) and Cook Islands (on 16 January 2009).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Tentative Lists submitted by at least ten SIDS (Targets: four in the Caribbean, two in Africa, and four in Pacific States Parties). 	<p>Ten SIDS have submitted new Tentative Lists:</p> <p><u>Caribbean region (2)</u> Barbados (2005); Jamaica (2006)</p> <p><u>African region (3)</u> Mauritius (2006); Comoros (2007); Maldives (2008)</p> <p><u>Pacific region (5)</u> Marshall Islands (2005); Papua New Guinea (2006); Samoa (2006); Kiribati (2007); Tonga (2007).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase of the nominations of properties located in SIDS (no specific target indicated). 	<p>Five properties located in SIDS have been inscribed on the World Heritage List:</p> <p><u>Caribbean region (1)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic Centre of Camagüey, Cuba (2008) <p><u>African region (2)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aapravasi Ghat, Mauritius (2006) Le Morne Cultural Landscape, Mauritius (2008) <p><u>Pacific region (2 + 1 in overseas territory)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kuk Early Agricultural Site, Papua New Guinea (2008) Chief Roi Mata's Domain, Vanuatu (2008) Lagoons of New Caledonia: Reef Diversity and Associated Ecosystems, New Caledonia (2008)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ten technical assistance workshops organized for the development of national strategies in World Heritage for SIDS (Targets: four in the Caribbean; two in Africa; and four in the Asia/Pacific region). 	<p>Fourteen workshops have been organized:</p> <p><u>Caribbean region (4 + 1 in overseas territory)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dominica (18–22 June 2005) Anguilla (20–22 June 2005) Jamaica (27–29 June 2005) Trinidad & Tobago (8–11 August 2006) The Bahamas (5–7 February 2007) <p><u>African region (2)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sao Tomé and Príncipe (12–17 January 2009) Comoros (<i>planned for June 2009</i>) <p><u>Asia/Pacific region (7)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marshall Islands (25–29 October 2005) Federated States of Micronesia (31 October–4 November 2005) Palau (7–9 November 2005) Papua New Guinea (20–23 March 2006) Solomon Islands (25 March–4 April 2006) Kiribati (12–14 December 2007) Maldives (1–7 May 2009)

a) Ratifications, Tentative Lists and Inscriptions

8. Prior to July 2005, there were **29** SIDS States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention*. With ratifications by Sao Tomé & Príncipe (African region, in 2006) and the Cook Islands (Pacific, in 2009) this number is up to **31**. As of today, **six** SIDS have not ratified the Convention yet: Nauru, Singapore, Timor Leste, Tokelau and Tuvalu (all Asia/Pacific region) and the Bahamas in the Caribbean.
9. **Fourteen** SIDS had submitted their Tentative List before July 2005 (2 African region, 5 Pacific region, including Bahrain, and 7 Caribbean region). As of March 2009, **ten more** SIDS have submitted new Tentative Lists, which is almost a doubling in the last four years (3 from Africa, 5 from the Pacific and 2 from the Caribbean region).
10. **Four** properties located in SIDS, and **one** in an overseas territory (New Caledonia) were inscribed on the World Heritage List after July 2005, with four inscriptions in 2008 alone. The categories of heritage represented by these inscriptions are diverse, including a historic centre, two cultural landscapes, an archaeological site and a marine property.

	SIDS in Africa	SIDS in Asia/Pacific	SIDS in the Caribbean	Total
Ratifications 2005	4	13	12	29
2009	5	14	12	31
Tentative Lists 2005	2	5	7	14
2009	5	10	9	24
Inscriptions 2005	2	2 (incl. Bahrain)	12	16
2009	4	4 (excl. N.Caledonia)	13	21

11. At this 33rd session, the World Heritage Committee will examine *Cidade Velha, centre historique de Ribeira Grande* (Cape Verde) for inscription on the World Heritage List. Furthermore, on 1 February 2009 **three** nominations of Pacific SIDS (Kiribati; Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia; and 1 of the Marshall Islands) had been received at the World Heritage Centre, in addition to **one** nomination in Hawaii (USA). **Two** nominations, one from Jamaica, Caribbean, and another from the Marshall Islands, Pacific, unfortunately arrived after the official deadline.
12. Out of 32 SIDS that have ratified the *Convention*, four States Parties neither have World Heritage sites inscribed, nor Tentative Lists submitted yet (Sao Tomé and Príncipe, but Tentative List expected for 2009; Antigua and Barbuda; St. Vincent and the Grenadines; Trinidad and Tobago).

b) Major Regional Activities for SIDS

In the Caribbean

13. Annex D of the World Heritage Paper Series no.15 on "Caribbean Wooden Treasures", published in December 2005, contains summary reports of thematic experts meetings, workshops and conferences organized between 1996 and 2004 by the World Heritage Centre in the framework of the Global Strategy Action for the Caribbean (available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/series/15>). Further to this an international Expert Meeting on

Rock Art in the Caribbean was held in Basse Terre, Guadeloupe, from 6 to 8 May 2006 (available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/series/24>).

14. The Caribbean Capacity-Building Programme (CCBP) was endorsed by the World Heritage Committee at its 28th session in 2004 (**Decision 28 COM 16**) as part of the "Caribbean Action Plan for World Heritage 2004-2014". The CCBP is promoted by the UNESCO Havana Office and implemented in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Field Offices in Kingston (Jamaica) and Port-au-Prince (Haiti). The CCBP is entirely funded out of extra-budgetary sources. The CCBP Manual was finalized in 2008 and is composed of a core and mandatory training module on the Implementation of the *1972 World Heritage Convention* and four other modules focusing on tourism, risk preparedness, cultural landscapes and historic cities.
15. The first meeting of the CCBP Network was held in Havana, Cuba, from 5 to 7 March 2007, and aimed at establishing procedures on how each State Party would implement the training modules as part of ongoing or future conservation projects. Thirteen Caribbean States Parties and related academic institutions have expressed interest in the implementation of the CCBP. Subsequently, the first training module on Risk Reduction for Caribbean Heritage was hosted by Cuba from 23 to 27 June 2008, within the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). 35 participants from 14 World Heritage properties in 7 Caribbean States participated in the training workshop.

In the Pacific

16. In 2003, the World Heritage Pacific 2009 Programme was developed and approved by the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session (Decision **27 COM 6A**), which directly responded to the needs expressed by Pacific States Parties in their Periodic Report. Since approval of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Pacific 2009 Programme by the World Heritage Committee at its 7th extraordinary session (Paris, 2004), considerable progress has been made with regard to the submission of Tentative Lists. Currently the work of years of preparation starts to show with the submission of several nominations (five submissions in 2009, including Hawaii). A detailed progress report of the Pacific Programme from 2004 to 2007 was presented at the 31st session of the Committee in Christchurch, New Zealand (see document *WHC-07/31.COM/11C*).
17. From 13 to 17 October 2008, a Pacific Islands World Heritage Workshop was organized by the World Heritage Centre jointly with the Australian and New Zealand governments in Cairns, Australia. The main objectives were to increase capacity for site management, to discuss the possible future establishment of a Pacific World Heritage Fund, and to formulate a draft Medium-Term Action Plan (2010–2015) to succeed the Pacific 2009 Programme. Eighty professionals participated in the workshop, including States Parties with territories and dependencies in the Pacific, as well as traditional land-owners from two World Heritage properties. Three outcome documents were prepared: orientations for the Action Plan 2010-2015; draft proposals for activities under this Action Plan; and terms of reference for a feasibility study on modality and framework of the Pacific World Heritage Fund (see also document *WHC-09/33.COM/6B*: Progress Report on the creation of the Pacific World Heritage Fund).

In Africa

18. The UNESCO Office in Libreville (Gabon) has organized in January 2009, an awareness-raising workshop on the *World Heritage Convention* and the preparation of its Tentative List for Sao Tomé and Príncipe. The UNESCO Office in Dar-es-Salaam organized a workshop in Seychelles with directors of Ministries of Culture in the region to familiarize them with UNESCO Conventions related to Culture. It plans to provide training in

Mauritius on World Cultural Heritage site management for Le Morne Cultural Landscape and Aapravasi Ghat. Furthermore, the UNESCO Office in Dar-es-Salaam has sponsored an exhibition on heritage and tourism in 2007 organised by the Comoros National Commission for UNESCO in 2007. It also assisted in the finalization of the Comoros cultural policy including heritage. The Seychelles developed the World Heritage in Young Hands Kit in the Creole language.

III. International Cooperation

19. Ten International Assistance Requests from SIDS have been approved between 2005 and October 2008, amounting to USD 255,000. Eight approved requests came from the Pacific, primarily for preparatory assistance for Tentative Lists or nomination dossiers.
20. In addition to this, SIDS have been receiving support from extra-budgetary sources provided by Andorra, France, Italy and the Netherlands. In addition, the recently established Australian Funds-in-Trust (one million AUS\$) will be devoted specifically to World Heritage-related activities in the Pacific.
21. Within the framework of the World Heritage Centre's partnership with the Shell Foundation (an independent charity), the "Enhancing our Heritage – Skills-Sharing Pilot Project" was implemented over the period October 2004 to August 2008 (available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/series/23>). This pilot project focused on strengthening the business-planning capacity of non-profit organisations (government agencies, NGOs) in charge of the management and protection of natural World Heritage sites. The project tested the relevance and impact of transferring core business skills to site managers. Among the training sites two World Heritage properties in the Seychelles were chosen (see: <http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/activities/documents/activity-543-1.pdf>).

IV. Future Directions

22. With only six remaining SIDS to ratify the *World Heritage Convention*, this task seems to be nearing its completion. It needs to be noted, however, that no matter how much support and encouragement is provided, ultimately it is the Island State that decides or not to sign the *Convention*. Over the last five years, the Bahamas, for instance, have been invited to every World Heritage meeting held in the Caribbean; and, in February 2007, a special UNESCO Conventions mission to Nassau was jointly undertaken by the UNESCO Offices in Havana and Kingston to persuade national authorities to join the WH Convention – to date, unfortunately, to no avail.
23. The submission of Tentative Lists and number of nominations under preparation in SIDS in both the Pacific and African regions is accelerating. The aim is to keep this momentum. For the Caribbean, with currently 13 properties in SIDS on the World Heritage List, the emphasis is shifting towards improved site management and capacity-building, as requested by the States Parties and taken up in the Caribbean Capacity-Building Programme. An introduction of the CCBP model in the Pacific region, with a view to discuss possible adaptations of structure and modalities of operation, is planned for discussion at the upcoming Pacific World Heritage meeting in November 2009 in French Polynesia.
24. SIDS share similar interests and concerns, such as marine and coastal management, impacts of climate change, issues of sustainable development. Sharing information and experiences between the different regions is key to an improved implementation of the

Convention. Ways of improving communication with access to information is needed to include all SIDS in the World Heritage network. Regional capacity-building programmes seem to be the way forward.

V. Draft Decision

Draft Decision: 33 COM 5B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined document WHC-09/33.COM/5B,*
2. *Recalling its Decision **29 COM 5B** adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),*
3. *Noting with satisfaction the progress achieved in the implementation of the World Heritage Programme for Small Island Developing States (SIDS),*
4. *Thanking Andorra, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Australia for having provided extra-budgetary funding for World Heritage-related activities in SIDS, as well as other international partners, such as the Shell Foundation, for generating capacity building activities in SIDS,*
5. *Requests the World Heritage Centre to organize, similar to the Pacific World Heritage meeting of 2008, a regional meeting to review progress in the implementation of the 2004-2014 Action Plan for the Caribbean and to submit a report for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;*
6. *Requests the Director of the World Heritage Centre to identify extra budgetary funding for World Heritage activities in SIDS, in particular to further develop the Caribbean Capacity-Building Programme and to introduce a similar regional capacity-building programme for SIDS in the Africa and Pacific regions.*