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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL  
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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD  
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Thirtieth Session

Vilnius, Lithuania

8-16 July 2006

**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**

**SUMMARY**

This document contains a brief overview of the activities undertaken by the World Heritage Centre in implementing the Decisions and Strategic Objectives of the Committee since the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee (Durban, 2005).

**Draft Decision: 30 COM 6, see Point II.**

Dear Members of the World Heritage Committee,  
Dear Representatives of States Parties and Observers,

It is my pleasure to transmit to you the Report of the Secretariat to the 30th session of the World Heritage Committee. The report provides a summary of activities undertaken by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre since the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee in South Africa (Durban, 2005) in line with the Committee's Strategic Objectives or 4Cs adopted through the *Budapest Declaration on World Heritage* of 2002. It also includes activities foreseen to take place between the drafting of this document and the 30th session of the Committee.

I would like first of all to express my thanks to you for your continuous support to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre throughout the past year in accomplishing our mission: promoting the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* and of the decisions taken by the Committee. I also wish to express particular thanks to those whose extra-budgetary contributions have facilitated so many of the meetings and activities reported in this and other documents that are integral to this work.

The work of the World Heritage Centre continues to require a delicate balance between the statutory and the operational. Follow-up to all Committee decisions and Bureau recommendations relating to the Global Strategy, new World Heritage nominations, preparatory assistance, training activities, emergency assistance, reactive monitoring and periodic reporting is carried out in close co-operation with States Parties and the Advisory Bodies as required. For this work co-ordination with other Divisions of UNESCO is essential. You will find a full and detailed account of the activities of the Secretariat in your working and information documents. Throughout the session we will have the chance to present to you the many and varied aspects of the activities we conduct under your direction.

We have now entered into a year of reflection on the experience gained through the first six year cycle of periodic reporting and to take stock before embarking on a second cycle. That reflection will continue, greatly enhanced by your discussions during the coming week. It is clear that one of the main outcomes of that first cycle has been greater direct contact in a systematic manner between national and local authorities of the States Parties and the Secretariat, and the forging of closer relations. What has emerged is a new solidarity as we share the same goals.

As a result of meetings between the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre over the past year, and based on a recognized critical need for more guidance to States Parties on the implementation of the *Convention*, I wish to propose that the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies cooperate to develop of a new series of World Heritage Resource Manuals. In order to make best use of limited resources, the Manuals should focus on those areas which are specific to the *Convention*, consolidate guidance on specific issues, link this to the requirements of the *Convention* and the *Operational Guidelines*, and make it available in an accessible manner for practitioners and policy-makers alike. Based on preliminary outcomes of the first Periodic Reporting cycle, the Manuals would cover issues such as preparing World Heritage Nominations; Conservation and Management of World Heritage properties; and Guidelines for the presentation / interpretation of World Heritage properties.

Other key areas of work for the Committee and Centre in the coming year will include further reflection on the safeguarding of historic cities and on the notion of historic urban landscape, guided by your debates about the "Vienna Memorandum on World Heritage and

Contemporary Architecture” and the adoption by the 15th General Assembly of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* of the “Declaration on the Conservation of Historic Urban Landscapes”. Our joint work on this important issue will feed into the work to prepare a UNESCO Recommendation on the topic.

Enriched by discussions over the coming week, we will also continue to examine the evolution of the concept of outstanding universal value, drawing on the discussion after the Expert meeting on the concept of outstanding universal value held in Kazan (2005) and the debate on the assessment of the recommendations and conclusions of that meeting during the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee (Durban, 2005).

As part of the UNESCO Secretariat, the World Heritage Centre also has responsibilities for planning, implementation, reporting and evaluation of the sub-programme on World Heritage, IV.2.1. Preparations for both the Draft Medium –Term Strategy 2008-2013 (34/C4) and Draft Programme and Budget 2008-2009 (34/C5) are beginning and will be completed before the Committee convenes for its 31st session in June 2007. Unless otherwise guided by the Committee, I propose that the Centre’s contributions to these processes should continue to pursue the Committee’s 4 strategic objectives.

Since 1998, UNESCO has taken steps to introduce Results Based Management (RBM) at the project level. RBM provides a means of generating and using performance information for accountability reporting to external stakeholder audiences and for internal management learning and decision making. In line with developments around the world, UNESCO is now considering the introduction of RBM as a means of establishing performance measurement and management systems at the organization-wide level. The World Heritage Centre has been selected as a pilot unit for the introduction of RBM and during the past year the Centre has contributed to the work being undertaken by the Canadian consultants engaged to lead the process. The results of this work will be presented to you under Agenda item 12, along with a road map for taking the work forward. I hope that you will support this work and UNESCO’s efforts to introduce RBM. In this context and within the framework of developing the World Heritage Centre’s contribution to the Draft Medium Term Strategy 2008-2013 (34/C4) I should like to propose that the Centre works to develop a RBM based strategic plan and related actions to reinforce the implementation of the *Convention*. The resulting plan could be presented to the Committee at its 31<sup>st</sup> session in 2007.

Finally, but by no means least, I must draw your attention to the fact that regardless of recent action intended to reinforce the capacity of the Centre, there is a growing gap between the resources at our disposal and our ability to fulfil our mission. We must intensify our efforts to mobilize additional technical and financial resources through bi-lateral agreements with States Parties and partnerships with civil society. I would plea with all States Parties with the capacity to do so to contribute additional resources and develop bilateral agreements with the Centre in order to better facilitate our work on your behalf. Thank you.

Francesco Bandarin  
Director, UNESCO World Heritage Centre  
13 June 2006

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

1. In 2005, the World Heritage Centre organized two World Heritage statutory meetings: the 29th ordinary session of the Committee in Durban, South Africa, and the 15th session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the *Convention*, at UNESCO Headquarters. An information meeting in preparation for the 30th session was held on 13 June 2006 at UNESCO Headquarters.
2. Summary Records of both the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee (Durban, 2005) and 15th session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the *Convention* (UNESCO, 2005) 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 28th session (Suzhou, 2004) has also been published in final form. For information and budgetary provisions, it is worth noting that the cost of the translation of a Summary Record for one ordinary session amounts to approximately 11,000 euros (= USD 14,230) in addition to the printing costs 2,371 euros (USD 3,047 ) for 850 copies, a total of 13,371 euros (USD 17,277).

**A. Implementation of the *Convention***

3. After the ratification of Swaziland and Guinea-Bissau, the total number of States Parties to the *Convention* has increased to 182.
4. 25 new properties (17 cultural, 7 natural, 1 mixed) were added to the World Heritage List by the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee, bringing the List to 812 properties (628 cultural; 160 natural and 24 mixed properties) located in 137 States Parties.
5. Three of these properties were the first inscriptions on the List for the States Parties concerned: the Old Bridge Area of the Old City of Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina), the Struve Geodetic Arc (Republic of Moldova) and Qal'at al-Bahrain Archaeological Site (Bahrain).
6. Three properties were removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger: Sangay National Park (Ecuador), Timbuktu (Mali) and Butrint (Albania).
7. Two properties were placed on it: Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpetre Works (Chile) and Coro and its port (Venezuela).
8. A total of 137 State of Conservation reports (35 properties on the World Heritage List in Danger and 102 for the other properties) were examined by the Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005).
9. The Committee will examine 39 nominations for inscription on the World Heritage List during this session. These comprise 28 new nominations, 4 proposed extensions, 6 nominations deferred or referred by previous sessions of the Committee and 1 minor modification of boundaries.
10. Since the 29th session of the Committee, 24 States Parties have submitted new Tentative Lists or modified existing Lists. The number of new properties added to the Tentative Lists is 87.

11. A total of 129 State of Conservation reports (34 properties on the World Heritage List in Danger and 95 for the other properties) have been prepared for the 30th session of the Committee.

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

**B.1) International meetings**

12. The main international conferences and meetings organised between the 29th and 30th sessions of the Committee were:
13. A conference on 'Innovative Policies for Heritage Safeguarding and Cultural Tourism Development', in Moscow, Russian Federation, from 25 to 27 November 2005.
14. An international expert meeting on 'Tourism Planning at Major World Heritage Archaeological Sites', in Granada, Spain, from 20 to 23 February 2006.
15. An international expert meeting on 'World Heritage and Climate Change' at UNESCO Headquarters from 16 to 17 March 2006.
16. An international conference on 'World Heritage Protection and Development' in Shaoxing, Zhejiang Province of China from 30 May to 2 June 2006.
17. An international expert workshop for 'Enhanced Management and Planning of World Heritage Cultural Landscapes, in Persepolis, Islamic Republic of Iran from 29 May to 2 June 2006.
18. An international workshop on the safeguarding of historic cities and the notion of the historic urban landscape in Jerusalem from 4 to 6 June 2006.

**B.2) Development of partnerships**

19. The Rapid Response Facility (RRF), conceived in 2002 to provide financial support to Natural World Heritage properties inscribed for their outstanding biodiversity (criteria X) became operational in October 2005. A first application was received on 2 February 2006 from Kahuzi-Biega National Park, (DRC). The application was approved after a careful assessment with field expert support and funds were made available to the project proponents on 15 February 2006. Still in its pilot phase, the RRF aims to become a major mechanism for identifying and channelling financial support, via a rapid but rigorous process, to World Heritage properties under threat. The main challenge over the next 18 months is to raise awareness and attract additional support.
20. The World Heritage Centre worked closely with the Task Team established to develop the African World Heritage Fund, which was formally launched on 5 May at the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site, Republic of South Africa (*WHC-06/30.COM/INF.11F*).
21. A Centre for World Heritage Studies was created by the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (CALA) of the University of Minnesota, USA, in the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2004 between the World Heritage Centre and the University.

22. A complete inventory of agreements between UNESCO's World Heritage Centre and its partners is available from the Secretariat. However, in line with Decision **29 COM 13** details of new agreements developed since the 29th session of the Committee are set out in paragraphs 24 to 28.
23. An agreement establishing a programme of fellowships for World Heritage Managers was signed in January 2006. A minimum of five fellowships for graduate studies leading to a Master of Arts or of Science degree or equivalent, in fields related to the management of cultural and natural heritage sites will be awarded in each annual exercise. The partner, a French ngo called Association Vocations Patrimoine – l'héritage du futur, has secured financial support for the programme from AXA and MAZARS, two multinationals headquartered in France and made an initial contribution of Euro 266,589 to a Funds in Trust established for the programme. This includes Euro 30,000 towards the Centre's costs in developing and managing the programme, as well as UNESCO's standard 13% overhead. The first awards were bestowed during a ceremony held at UNESCO on 16 March 2006. It is anticipated that a second exercise will be launched in the autumn of 2006, the modalities of which will be made available by a circular letter to States Parties and through the World Heritage Website.
24. A partnership with Hewlett Packard and the National Geographic Maps enabled the redesign and production of an entirely new version of the World Heritage Map, one of the major communication tools about the *Convention*. The agreement, signed in November 2005 for an initial period of three years, combines National Geographic's cartography with Hewlett Packard's quality print technology and will triple the distribution of the maps in 2006/2007 from 36,000 to 100,000 copies. The budget includes a US\$55,000 annual contribution to the World Heritage Fund to cover project costs. The map is available in English, French, and Spanish versions.
25. An agreement with the French company Jet tours signed in September 2005 aims to promote sustainable tourism and local economic development at and around World Heritage sites. Through the partnership, 12 World Heritage tours have been developed. Special brochures on World Heritage and additional materials like the World Heritage map will be included in a kit designed to sensitize the traveler to conservation needs around the world. In addition, Jet tours is co-organizing training sessions with UNESCO for their accompanying guides and local representatives on the *World Heritage Convention* and the sites under its protection. Jet tours will also contribute Euro 50,000 per year via the World Heritage Fund for the three years of the agreement to support capacity-building initiatives at World Heritage site level.
26. Within the framework of the 2004 Memorandum of Understanding between the World Heritage Centre and the United Nations Foundation (UNF), the "Friends of World Heritage" Website was relaunched on 17 November 2005. A bilateral agreement between UNF and Expedia Inc., the world's largest on-line travel operator, signed in August 2005, provided the financial and technical support necessary for this to happen. Visitors to the web-site can make donations to a Friends of World Heritage Fund at UNF, either directly or by booking a World Heritage Trip through Expedia. 100% of the profits from such sales will go to this Fund, where they will be matched, up to a limit of US\$50,000 per year, by both Expedia and UNF and used to support community development and conservation projects at World Heritage sites in developing countries. The

World Heritage Centre is involved in developing the criteria and deciding the projects to be supported in line with the Committee's priorities in relation to particular sites and to the World Heritage Sustainable Tourism programme.

27. As part of the renegotiation of the World Heritage Centre's existing media partnerships a direct relationship has been established with Tokyo Broadcasting System, which includes an annual contribution of US\$40,000 to the World Heritage Fund for promotional activities.

### **C. Cooperation with other Conventions**

28. The Centre has continued its close cooperation with the biodiversity related Conventions through the mechanism of the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG), comprised of the Heads of the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Ramsar Convention, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and the *World Heritage Convention*. A primary function of the BLG is to ensure coordination among the biodiversity related Conventions, and a copy of the BLG joint statement to the Millennium Summit in September 2005 on the importance of biological diversity in the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals is attached at **Annex I**.
29. The Centre is also participating in the Issue Based Modules Project of UNEP to provide tools for national implementation of the commitments that countries have made under various multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). The project seeks to do this by fostering coordination and harmonizing efforts among the biodiversity related agreements. The issues currently covered by the project are: Invasive Species, Climate Change, Inland Waters, and Sustainable Use. The Centre is represented on the Steering Committee of this project and has ensured that the relevant decisions of the *World Heritage Convention* are adequately covered (see: <http://www.svs-unepibmdb.net/>).
30. The Centre has participated in the work being done by UNEP through the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) to review the national reporting systems of the Biodiversity Conventions and present options for harmonized reporting. It is also working with the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on World Heritage and Climate Change issues.

### **D. Implementation of the new World Heritage Programmes and Initiative**

#### **D. 1) World Heritage Marine Programme**

31. The Marine Programme has provided assistance to regional units in relation to marine sites. This included: fundraising for and organizing a regional training workshop for the Caribbean on marine nomination in St Lucia, 27 February-3 March 2006; participation in a periodic report follow-up meeting for the Arab region and assistance in developing an action plan for natural heritage in the Arab region; and support for a number of marine nominations under preparation from Mexico, Indonesia and Marshall Islands. The Marine Programme continued to implement the UNF/GCF Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape project with local partners in Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia and Ecuador, which

included the establishment of a network of marine World Heritage site managers in those countries. The Marine Programme maintained on-going collaboration with several partner organizations and potential donors to advance World Heritage marine site conservation and nomination. The Programme coordinator participated in the First International Marine Protected Areas Congress in Australia October 2005 and is collaborating with the UNESCO Science Sector (IOC, MAB, CSI) to establish a shared UN Website on marine protected areas.

#### **D. 2) World Heritage Programme for Small Island Developing States (SIDS)**

32. The principal activities of the programme's first year included a technical mission to Saint Lucia and Dominica 18 to 22 June 2005 to discuss the setting-up of a Pilot Project to strengthen site management and sustainable tourism through community involvement; a 4-day training seminar to develop a Tentative List organized at the request of the Jamaican National Commission from 25 to 30 June 2005; and a sub-regional conference on "Outstanding Universal Value, Authenticity & Integrity in a Caribbean Context" in Barbados from 8 to 12 May 2006. For the Pacific region the SIDS Programme facilitated the organization of four National Strategy Workshops to raise awareness and elaborate on Tentative Lists and serial nominations: for the Republic of the Marshall Islands (25 to 29 October 2005), the Federated States of Micronesia (1 to 4 November 2005), the Republic of Palau (6 to 10 November 2005) and Papua New Guinea (20 to 24 March 2006). In close cooperation with the Marine Programme an expert meeting to assess the potential Outstanding Universal Value of Marovo Lagoon in New Georgia, Solomon Islands took place from 27 to 31 March 2006. For the Atlantic and Indian Ocean region, support for a nomination of "*Cidade Velha*" (ancient town of Ribeira Grande) on the Cape Verde Islands has been earmarked, while ongoing support has been provided to the "Enhancing our Heritage" Project in the Seychelles.
33. Further information about all the World Heritage thematic programmes is presented in *WHC-06/30.COM/12*.

#### **D. 3) Thematic Initiative "Astronomy and World Heritage"**

34. Recognising the importance of the Thematic Initiative "Astronomy and World Heritage" in the promotion, in particular, of nominations which recognize and celebrate achievements in science, the following States Parties have designated national institutions responsible for implementing activities in the framework of this Initiative: Costa Rica, Islamic Republic of Iran, Germany, Turkey, Portugal, Russian Federation, Ukraine, United Kingdom. The first activity, a project proposal for the nomination of serial transnational properties entitled "The World's Ancient Observatories" is under elaboration.
35. The World Heritage Centre wishes to assist States Parties in the implementation of the Thematic Initiative "Astronomy and World Heritage" as part of UNESCO activities leading to the possible proclamation, by the United Nations General Assembly, of the Year of Astronomy in 2009 which was supported by the UNESCO General Conference at its 33rd session.



## **E. Activities undertaken in pursuit of the 4Cs**

### **E.1) Activities to make the World Heritage List more representative, balanced and credible included:**

36. A Regional Workshop on Potential Themes for Serial and Transboundary Cultural World Heritage Sites in the Pacific, in Port Vila, Vanuatu from 5 to 8 September 2005.
37. Two workshops to provide assistance to Iraq in the elaboration of the Nomination File of "Samarra Archaeological City" took place in Amman, Jordan, in June 2005 and in Paris in September 2005.
38. A Sub-regional Workshop for the Follow-up of the Periodic Reporting Exercise in Central Asia in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from 31 October to 4 November 2005.
39. Five national level Workshops in the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, in October/November 2005 and March/April 2006, resulting in the development of four national action plans and submission of one Tentative List, with other Tentative Lists expected by the end of this year.
40. A workshop entitled "Partnership for Sustainable Development in the Red Sea Coast of Sudan", in Port Sudan (Sudan) in March 2006 focused on integrating and coordinating marine conservation projects in Sudan in order to better benefit marine protection as a whole.
41. Assistance with the preparation of the Nomination File of the site of the "Island of Meroe" (Sudan), April 2006.

### **E.2) Activities and meetings to ensure the effective conservation of World Heritage properties included:**

42. A number of sub-regional workshops contributed to finalizing the European World Heritage Periodic Reporting cycle which concluded with the meeting 'World Heritage Periodic Reporting in Europe: Towards an Action Plan' in Berlin Germany from 8 to 9 November 2005. The results of the first reporting cycle are presented in working document *WHC-06/30.COM/11A.1*.
43. The 14th Technical Committee Meeting of the International Coordinating Committee (ICC) for the site of Angkor (Cambodia) in Siem Reap, Cambodia from 6 to 8 June 2005.
44. The 12th Plenary session of the same ICC held in Siem Reap from 28 to 29 November 2005.
45. A Workshop on limestone conservation and restoration techniques in Tikal, Guatemala, from 23 to 25 November 2005
46. The Fourth Expert Working Group for the Safeguarding of the Bamiyan Site was held in Kabul, Afghanistan, from 7 to 10 December 2005.
47. A Workshop on Periodic Reporting follow up for North –East and South –East Asia, in Malacca, Malaysia, from 12 to 16 December 2005.

48. The International Experts Committee on the Rehabilitation and Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage in Kosovo at UNESCO Headquarters in December 2005.
49. A Stakeholder's Workshop on the Development of the Joint Site Management Plan for theUvs Nuur Basin Transboundary World Heritage Property in Mongolia and the Russian Federation, from 10 to 15 September 2005.
50. A mission to Bahrain, in January 2006, to examine threats to the management and protection of the World Heritage Archaeological Site of Qal'at al-Bahrain arising from a number of planned development projects. This resulted in a decision to revise the development plan of the Northern Coast of the country in order to ensure the preservation of the property's outstanding universal value.
51. A Management Planning Workshop in Kotor, Serbia and Montenegro, in January 2006
52. A Round Table on "Heritage and the Conservation of Historic Urban Landscapes at the University of Montreal, Canada, on 9 March 2006
53. Assistance to the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums (Sudan) in the elaboration of the management plan of the World Heritage Site "Jebel Barkal and the sites of the Napatan region". April 2006.
54. A workshop on "Preserving Heritage of Disappearing Communities" with a focus on Jewish heritage in Kochi, India from 2 to 4 May 2006.
55. Following Decision **29 COM 5D**, the "Vienna Memorandum on World Heritage and Contemporary Architecture" was presented to the General Assembly of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* at its 15th session in September 2005. Based on the Vienna Memorandum, the General Assembly adopted the "Declaration on the Conservation of Historic Urban Landscapes" and supported the Committee's decision encouraging the Director-General to mandate the Secretariat to prepare a UNESCO Recommendation on the topic.
56. Several occasions were drawn on to promote the Vienna Memorandum. These included: the 8th World Symposium of the Organization in Cusco, Peru, in September 2005; and a Round Table meeting at the University of Montreal, Canada, organized by the Chair for Built Urban Heritage in March 2006; and at a US-ICOMOS Symposium in April 2006 in Newport, USA.

**E.3) Activities and meetings to promote the development of effective capacity building measures included the organization of or participation in:**

57. A workshop on Community and Conservation, in Kathmandu, Nepal on 1 August 2005.
58. Consultative Revision Meetings on the Draft Site Management Plan for the Group of Monuments at the Hampi World Heritage site were held in Hospet and Bangalore, India, from 3 to 6 August 2005.
59. An Awareness raising workshop on the 'World Heritage Convention and its implementation' in Asmara, Eritrea from 18 to 20 August 2005.
60. A training course entitled "Rapid Site Assessment and Iraq Cultural Heritage Sites Database Compilation", in Amman, Jordan, from 25 August to 25 September 2005.

61. A Sub-Regional Workshop for Decision Makers and World Heritage Cultural and Natural Site Managers at Maun, Tsodilo World Heritage site, and at the Okavango Delta in Botswana from 24 to 28 October 2005.
62. A Regional Workshop on the *World Heritage Convention* and the Conservation of Eastern and Southern African Cultural Landscapes in Lilongwe, Malawi from 7 to 11 November 2005.
63. A course for site managers in the management of Natural World Heritage properties of sub-Saharan Africa at the Mount Kenya World Heritage site, from 12 November to 7 December 2005.
64. A meeting for National Protected Area Decision makers focussing on 'National Strategies enhancing World Heritage site protection' in Nairobi, Kenya, from 8 to 17 December 2005.
65. A World Heritage Mentoring Programme for Chinese national experts and site managers in Tasmania, Australia from 22 to 27 November 2005.
66. An international, inter-agency Regional meeting for Capacity-building for Natural World Heritage in Africa in Nairobi, Kenya from 9 to 10 March.
67. A Sub-regional Workshop on Geographic Information System (GIS) Training for Cultural Resource Management in Thailand and Lao PDR at the World Heritage property of Sukhothai, Thailand from 28 March to 6 April 2006.
68. A Capacity Building Workshop for natural and cultural heritage professionals from Samoa, Tonga and Niue, in Apia, Samoa, from 24 to 28 April 2006.
69. A Training Workshop on Sustainable Tourism Planning and Management at the World Heritage Sites in China at Lushan National Park of China from 15 to 19 May 2006
70. A Workshop on the Implementation of the Bamiyan Master Plan in Bamiyan, Afghanistan, from 6 to 11 June 2006.
71. Presentation of a series of 18 "International Assistance Models, prepared by ICCROM and IUCN as a response to the needs identified in the first Periodic Reporting Exercise in the Arab States, during a Regional Meeting of states Parties in Abu Dhabi in December 2005.
72. A Master Class in World Heritage at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris and the Val de Loire World Heritage site, from 16 to 26 January 2006 within the framework of the 'Sharing Our Heritages' programme co-financed by the Government of Australia and the European Union.
73. A colloquium on the conservation options for the Panama Canal and its area of influence, in Panama, from 20 to 21 January 2006.
74. The Second Scientific Committee Meeting on the *Qhapaq Ñan* (Main Andean Road), in Paris, from 3 to 5 April 2006.
75. A workshop at Yarmouk University, Jordan, in April 2006 during which H. E. the Minister of Education and Research agreed on the principle of integrating World Heritage components into the Jordanian school curriculum.
76. The First Expert Meeting on Rock Art in the Caribbean and the UNESCO World Heritage List, for a possible serial trans-national World Heritage nomination of Amerindian Rock Art", in Basse Terre, Guadeloupe, from 3 to 6 May 2006.

77. A Regional meeting, “Places of Memory related to the Slave Trade and Slavery in the Latin Caribbean” in Havana, Cuba, from 17 to 19 May 2006.
78. A workshop to design a World Heritage training programme for guides from Benin, Ghana and Togo at the Ecole Africaine des Métiers de l’Architecture et de l’Urbanisme and Koutammakou World Heritage site, Togo, from 16 to 20 May 2006

#### **E.4) Communication, publications and World Heritage information materials**

79. World Heritage publications including the Newsletter, the World Heritage Review, the World Heritage Paper Series, Basic Texts, the Information Kit, the Map and other educational resource material are now available in electronic format through the WHC Website, as well as on paper. All official Statutory Documents produced since 1972 have also been converted into suitable electronic formats for the web, and the News and Calendar of Events web pages have made more reader friendly. A growing selection of photographs of World Heritage properties is accessible through the Website.
80. The Tentative Lists of the States Parties were published in 2006 (**27 COM 8A §5**), and a consolidated database of nominated properties was developed (**29 COM 7B.c §5.C**) to allow for the cross-referencing of information on properties arising from State of Conservation reports, Periodic Reporting, meetings and statutory documents.
81. A system (**28 COM 9 §8**) to track action to implement decisions adopted by the Committee has been cross-referenced with other database information. All decisions adopted since the 26th session of the Committee (Budapest, 2002) have been indexed and Decisions of the General Assembly of States Parties can now be indexed with this tool (**28 COM 9 §9**). New data integration and cross-linking projects to include information pertaining to the retrospective inventory, partnerships, field projects, International Assistance, missions, and management plans are underway.
82. New technological tools have been introduced to disseminate World Heritage content widely through the web: RSS to syndicate designated World Heritage information directly from the Website, KML (Google Earth) for geographical information, XML to address more specific purposes.
83. As a result of continuous efforts to improve this tool, the World Heritage Website, <http://whc.unesco.org>, is the most popular UNESCO Website, with an average of 15,000 visitors per day. Approximately 25% of all Internet users accessing UNESCO Websites visit the World Heritage Website. Traffic to the World Heritage Website has increased by 56% over the past year - from 308 737 visits in April 2005 to 480 940 visits in April 2006.
84. Work with the media has resulted in articles and interviews on World Heritage on the BBC, Newsweek, ABC News, New York Times, Daily Telegraph, Prague Post, Voice of America, Radio France International, Les Echos, Radio Canada, Chicago Tribune, Sydsvenskan (Swedish daily), Miami Herald, Des Racines et des Ailes (TV), Newsday, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Rough Guide to Vietnam, Dorling Kindersley Eyewitness Travel Guides, France 5 (TV), Agence France Presse, Baltimore Sun, ARTE, Grands Reportages, CNBC Arabia (TV), Bahrain TV and others.

85. Five new publications have been produced in the World Heritage Paper Series:
- No. 14: *Caribbean Archaeology and World Heritage Convention*. English, French and Spanish in one volume, including CD-Rom.
  - No. 15: *Caribbean Wooden Treasures: Proceedings of the Thematic Expert Meeting on Wooden Urban Heritage in the Caribbean Region, 4-7 February 2003, Georgetown, Guyana*. In English.
  - No. 16: *World Heritage at the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress Durban (South Africa), 8-17 September 2003*. In English.
  - No. 17: *Promoting and Preserving Congolese Heritage. Linking biological and cultural diversity*. English and French in one volume.
  - No. 18: *Periodic Report 2004 Latin America and the Caribbean*. English, French and Spanish in one volume, including CD-Rom.
86. Numbers 49, 50 and 51 of the *World Heritage Newsletter* (in English and French) and Numbers 40 and 41 of the quarterly magazine *World Heritage* (in English, French and Spanish) were published. From May 2006 the two periodicals will be merged as the redesigned quarterly *World Heritage*. A new co-publishing agreement for this periodical has been signed with Pressgroup Holdings S.A., resulting in an increased print run, better financial conditions and heightened visibility.
87. The World Heritage Calendar 2006 (in cooperation with Panasonic) and the World Heritage Diary 2006 were produced and widely distributed.
88. In 2002, the Committee invited the World Heritage Centre to identify possible extra budgetary funding sources for the publication of a book on 30 years of implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* (Decision **26 COM 8.3**). Thanks to the financial support from the Italian Funds-in-Trust, this publication will be released in October 2006. The project has been conducted in close collaboration with the Advisory Bodies and high-quality control standards have been applied through the involvement of key international experts and a wide peer-review process.
89. An information campaign “Home Coming and re-Erection of the Aksum Obelisk, Celebrating Ethiopia’s Cultural Heritage and Cultural Diversity” has been underway in Ethiopia since December 2005.
90. The “Basic texts relating to the *World Heritage Convention* (1972)” were translated into Arabic and published in March 2006.
91. A “Conservation Manual for Earth Architecture Heritage in the pre-Saharan valleys of Morocco” was published in Arabic, French and English.

#### **E.5) World Heritage Education**

92. The following educational activities were organized by the World Heritage Centre or with the Centre’s assistance:
- a) A youth forum on “Sustainable development and World Heritage: Cultural Implications” in Helsinki (Finland, June 2005) and a workshop

- on “Sustainable development and World Heritage: Preservation of the Environment” in Bucharest (Romania, July 2005);
- b) A youth workshop in Durban, South Africa on the use of visual arts to promote World Heritage (12-14 July 2005);
  - c) A national competition based on a simulation of the 28th World Heritage Committee meeting was held in Latvia in November 2005;
  - d) A World Heritage in Young Hands Poster Competition: Learning about the value of cultural and natural heritage of Samoa, in May 2005. The winning entries were published in a 2006 calendar;
  - e) A youth and teacher training workshop in El Tajin, Veracruz, Mexico (March 6-11 2006) to promote hands-on environmental learning and the study and understanding of the heritage of El Tajin Pre-Hispanic City;
  - f) Six students- and teacher-training workshops on the use of the WHYH Kit and hands-on activities in the field to collect data and were held in the framework of the Globe project in Jordan, from August to October 2005.
  - g) A sub-regional Workshop in Northeast Asia on World Heritage Education in Beijing, China (11-13 August 2005);
  - h) A sub-regional Southeast Asian teacher training workshop on using art to teach about World Heritage in Penang, Malaysia (15-21 January 2006).
93. The *World Heritage in Young Hands Educational Resource Kit for Teachers* is now also available in Khmer (2005) bringing the total number of available language versions to 27. Translations of the Kit into Hungarian, Latvian and Amharic are underway.
94. Two episodes of the ‘*Patrimonto World Heritage Adventures*’ cartoon series on Urnes Church, Norway and the Sub-Antarctic Islands, New Zealand have been finalized and 3000 copies have been produced for global distribution. Two other episodes, on Lalibela, Ethiopia and Novgorod, Russian Federation, are in the making.
95. 10 educational resource materials have been produced in cooperation with the National Commissions of Cuba, Egypt, France, Greece, Morocco, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Spain and Uzbekistan. The production of a prototype featuring all these contributions is underway with the theme: *World Heritage Educational Multi-Media Material -Many countries & cultures = one common universal civilization*

#### **E.6) Authorized Requests for the Use of the World Heritage Emblem.**

96. A list of projects for which the use of the World Heritage Emblem has been granted between May 2005 and May 2006 is attached at **Annex 2. (7 EXT.COM 14)**

**F) World Heritage Centre - structure and staffing levels:**

**F.1) the reinforcement of the World Heritage Centre**

98. At the end of 2005, the Director-General decided to transfer part of the staff and work of the Tangible Heritage Section of the Division of Cultural Heritage to the World Heritage Centre. This resulted in 3 Professional and two General service level posts (at P-5, P-4, P-1/P-2, G-5 and G-3 levels respectively) being added to the staff complement at WHC, and the absorption of their on-going projects. In addition, two FITOCA posts (P-4 and P-3) were transferred with their postholders. With these changes, there are now 33 permanent posts at the World Heritage Centre.

**F.2) Nature Section**

99. As part of the exercise for the reinforcement of the Centre, the Nature Section was disbanded and its staff was absorbed into the different Regional Sections. Accordingly all the Regional Sections, except the Arab Section, now include natural heritage specialists. The natural heritage specialists located in the different sections now function as a team, the "Nature Team", under the overall supervision of the Deputy Director (who is himself a natural heritage specialist), and are also able to provide their respective thematic inputs across the Centre, irrespective of their regional placement. The natural heritage work of the Arab section is being back-stopped by the Nature Team, depending upon the specific thematic inputs required.

100. In view of this reorganisation and to ensure effective coordination and prioritisation of natural heritage work, the Nature Team has developed a "Strategy for Natural Heritage work of the Centre", in consultation with all relevant partners and stakeholders with whom the Centre has been implementing collaborative projects and programmes. This Strategy is presented as document *WHC-06/30.COM/INF.6A*.

## II. Draft Decision

### Draft Decision : 30 COM 6

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/6,*
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 Requests the Director of the World Heritage Centre to frame his contributions to the preparation of the Draft Medium –Term Strategy 2008-2013 (34/C4) and Draft Programme and Budget 2008-2009 (34/C5) in pursuit of those objectives;*
3. *Further requests the Director of the World Heritage Centre, within the framework of the development of the Draft Medium Term strategy 2008-2013 (34/C4) to develop a strategic plan for reinforcing the implementation of the Convention, with particular reference to a result-based management approach, for presentation to the Committee at its 31st session in 2007.*
4. *Endorses the “Strategy for Natural Heritage work of the Centre”, presented as document WHC-06/30.COM/INF.6A and welcomes the Centre’s on-going cooperation with the biodiversity conventions through the Biodiversity Liaison Group and its participation in the Issue-based Modules Project of UNEP to develop tools to help countries implement their commitment under multilateral environmental agreements;*
5. *Recognizes the importance of providing rapid financial support to World Heritage properties in times of emergency, and urges States Parties to support the Rapid Response Facility as an effective means to deliver such support;*
6. *Welcomes the proposal by the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre to produce a series of World Heritage Resource Manuals to provide focused guidance on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention; Approves the budget of USD 40,000 from the World Heritage Fund to start preparing this activity; Encourages the World Heritage Centre to explore other ways to fund the preparation of two manuals, over the next two to three years; and Requests the World Heritage Centre to report back on progress to the 31st session of the World Heritage Committee.*



# Biodiversity

## Life Insurance for our Changing World

This week, in New York, leaders of the world will review progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These goals embody the international community's aspirations for a better world, where hunger and poverty are eradicated, all people enjoy basic rights, and equity and health prevail in all countries. We call upon the leaders to recognize that to make the MDGs a reality in a highly populated planet, biological diversity needs to be used sustainably and its benefits more equitably shared.

Biodiversity is the variety of life on earth: genes, species, ecosystems. The services we use from ecosystems, such as clean water, food, fuel and fiber, medicines, and climate control, cannot be provided without biodiversity. Failure to conserve and use biological diversity sustainably will perpetuate inequitable and unsustainable growth, deeper poverty, new and more rampant illnesses, continued loss of species, and a world with ever-more degraded environments which are less healthy for people. It is time to face that unless we change the way we use natural resources and distribute the wealth generated, the MDGs will be remembered only as a utopian ideal.

The importance of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity to achieving the MDGs has already been recognized by world leaders in their support for achieving a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010 – the so-called 2010 target. They set this target because biodiversity is disappearing at an unacceptable rate as a result of human activities. Habitat conversion, overexploitation, pollution and climate change, are driven by an ever increasing demand for natural resources. This requires urgent and concerted action. We must sustainably manage and protect biodiversity, guarantee the continued provision of ecosystem goods and services and ensure that the world has the capacity to adapt to future changes.

As advances in reducing poverty and improving well-being for our growing human population are made, we will more clearly understand the need for effectively functioning ecosystems. A wide range of crop and livestock genetic diversity is essential to ensure that our agro-systems can adapt to new challenges from climate, pests and diseases. The biological wealth in marine environments will be needed to feed growing populations and provide livelihoods for coastal communities around the world. Wetlands are needed as water regulators to protect us from floods and storm surges, to help in moderating climatic change with other ecosystems such as forests, and to act as living filters for pollutants and excess fertilizers. We must not forget that biodiversity is central to many of the world's cultures, the source of legend and myth, the inspiration for art and music. It is the basis for medicinal knowledge, drawing on the property of a variety of plants and animals for healing. Provision of these services across all these ecosystems depends on maintaining biological diversity.

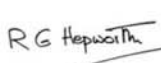
We, the heads of the secretariats of the international Conventions dealing with biological diversity, emphasize the important role that biodiversity plays in the achievement of all the MDGs. Biodiversity can indeed help alleviate hunger and poverty, can promote good human health, and be the basis for ensuring freedom and equity for all. All of us rely on biodiversity, directly or indirectly for our health and welfare. The 2010 biodiversity target is thus the foundation for our well-being, and continued sustainable existence. We must ensure that biodiversity will be available for us, and for all future generations. We urge thus governments and civil society to act in helping to conserve and use biological diversity sustainably, thus ensuring all a share in the benefits of a diverse world.



**Hamdallah Zedan**  
Executive Secretary,  
Convention on Biological  
Diversity (CBD)



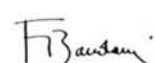
**Willem Wijnstekers**  
Secretary-General, the  
Convention on  
International Trade  
in Endangered Species  
of Wild Fauna and Flora  
(CITES)



**Robert Hepworth**  
Executive Secretary, the  
Convention on  
Migratory Species of  
Wild Animals (CMS)



**Peter Bridgewater**  
Secretary-General,  
Convention on Wetlands  
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)



**Francesco Bandarin**  
Director, the World  
Heritage Centre (WHC)



## REPORT ON THE USE OF THE WORLD HERITAGE EMBLEM

### LIST OF PROJECTS FOR WHICH THE USE OF THE WORLD HERITAGE EMBLEM HAS BEEN GRANTED (May 2005 – May 2006)

Date of request	Requesting party	Project description and proposed use of World Heritage Emblem	Comments
31-May-05	Jet tours, France	To include the UNESCO and World Heritage emblems in a brochure presenting the partnership between Jet tours and UNESCO/WHC.	Granted by contract
24-May-05	Butrint Foundation, UK	To use the UNESCO and World Heritage emblems on the front cover of a publication on the WH site of Butrint.	Referred to Albanian Nat Com for WH emblem and UNESCO publishing for UNESCO emblem. Albanian National Commission supported request. WH emblem granted. DCMS (UK) informed. UNESCO logo denied by BPI.
19-July-05	Icelandic World Heritage Committee and Thingvellir Commission	To use the World Heritage emblem in the context of a meeting of Nordic WH sites and focal points organized by the Icelandic World Heritage Committee and Thingvellir Commission	Approved by the Icelandic National Commission on behalf of the Nordic countries.
01-Sept-05	UNEP - CBD	To use the WH emblem on a joint declaration prepared by the 5 biodiversity Conventions involved in the Biodiversity Liaison Group, including WHC as Secretariat of the WH Convention	Request not site specific or country specific.
05-Oct-05	Cottbus University, Germany	To use the WH emblem in association with a text provided by the WH Centre to be published by Cottbus in a book on WH.	Request supported and granted by the German National Commission and WHC.
20-Oct-05	United Nations Foundation, USA	To use the UNESCO and WH emblems on a website ( <a href="http://www.friendsofworldheritage.org">www.friendsofworldheritage.org</a> ) developed by the United Nations Foundation and Expedia (USA) to promote the World Heritage Convention and Sustainable Tourism at World Heritage sites.	Request to use the WH emblem supported by US authorities.
21-Oct-05	International Academy of Architecture, Bulgaria	To use the WH emblem in conjunction with 'Inter Arch 2006' an international conference organized with UNESCO's patronage.	Supported by the Bulgarian National Commission for UNESCO.
05-Nov-05	Secretariat of the Heritage House of Luang Prabang,	To use the WH emblem in the context of the celebrations of the	Request granted based on the fact that the activities

	Laos	10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of inscription of Luang Prabang on the WH List.	proposed will be undertaken in cooperation with the local and National authorities to promote the site and the House of Heritage, which is largely supported through the framework of the France-UNESCO Convention.
18-Nov-05	Bellagio Forum for Sustainable Development, Germany	To use the UNESCO and WH emblems in a series of promotional materials and for a meeting on Conserving natural WH sites and cultural landscapes in South Eastern Europe.	Request supported and granted by the German National Commission and WHC for the meeting only until terms of cooperation between Bellagio and WHC are developed.
06-Dec-05	CICOP Italy – International Center for the Rehabilitation of the Architectural Heritage	To use the WH emblem to demonstrate the support of the World Heritage Centre in the context of the 1 <sup>st</sup> International Conference on Monumental Cemeteries organized by CICOP Italy in May 2006.	Request granted based on the nature of the event and the support of Italian authorities.
12-Dec-05	Flora and Fauna International (FFI), UK	To use the UNESCO and WH emblems in a brochure publicizing the partnership between UNF, FFI and WHC for the Rapid Response Facility (RRF) for natural World Heritage sites under threat.	Request granted in the context of an ongoing partnership for the RRF.
13-Feb-06	Portuguese National Commission for UNESCO	To use the UNESCO and WH emblems for an international meeting “World Heritage of Portuguese Origin” in April 2006	Request not site specific or country specific.
03-Mar-06	Scientific Committee for the International Conference on Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Forest Management, University of Florence, Italy	To use of UNESCO and WH emblems to demonstrate support of International Conference on Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Forest Management convened by the Italian Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.	Request not site specific or country specific.
24-Mar-06	Department of Arts and Culture of the Republic of South Africa	To use the UNESCO and WH emblems on the invitation of the African World Heritage Fund donor’s conference held in May 2006.	Request not site specific or country specific.
28-Mar-060	Ministry of Education of Spain	To use the WH emblem in promoting teaching materials about Hispanic cultural heritage in a publication printed by the Ministry of Education.	Request not site specific or country specific.
29-Mar-06	Museon Natural History Museum, Netherlands	To use the UNESCO and WH emblems in an exhibition devoted to promoting the atoll of Aldabra, Seychelles.	Request supported by the Seychelles authorities through the Seychelles Island Foundation and Dutch national and local authorities.

11-Apr-06	UN Food and Agriculture Organization	To use the WH emblem in a report publication on the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS) in a section on links between this programme and International biodiversity related Conventions.	Request not site specific or country specific.
27-Apr-06	Gédéon Films, France	To use the UNESCO and WH emblems to demonstrate UNESCO's patronage given for a series of films produced about World Heritage entitled 'Les plus beaux sites du patrimoine mondial'	Request supported by the French National Commission for UNESCO.
28-Apr-06	Geneva Palexpo, Switzerland	To use the UNESCO and WH emblems as a way of demonstrating UNESCO's support to an international conference entitled 'TOURISMAFRICA 2006' organized in Geneva in September 2006. The conference is aimed at promoting development through tourism in Africa.	TourismAfrica 2006 is supported by UNWTO, the African Union and other international institutions. WHC is also participating. The request is not site or country specific.