

World Heritage in the Arab States:

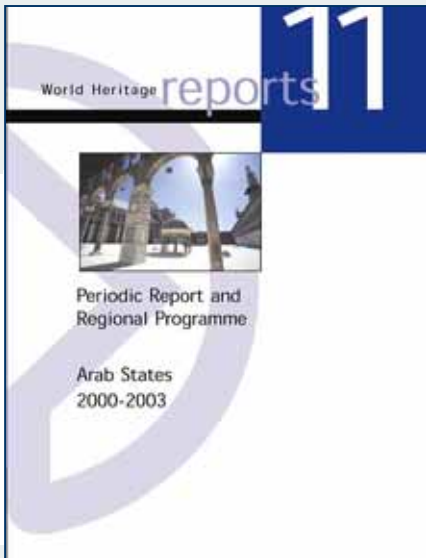
**Follow-up to Periodic
Reporting and
Information
Management**



Regional Meeting in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates)
from 4 to 7 December 2005



Introduction :



The World Heritage Committee approved, at its 27th session (Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, 2003), the "Regional Programme for the Arab States", submitted by the World Heritage Centre (Document *WHC-03/27.COM/INF.20B*) and published in the Document N°11 of the World Heritage Paper Series (<http://whc.unesco.org>).

On the basis of the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee, this Regional Programme was elaborated by the World Heritage Centre, in order to provide a response to the issues raised by the Periodic Reporting exercise for the Arab States (submitted to the World Heritage Committee, at its 24th session, Cairns, Australia, 2000).

One of the important issues raised was the lack of appropriate documentation and



of efficient management of the information collected for the conservation and protection of the sites. A project, entitled "*Development of a World Heritage information management capacity in the Arab States*", financed by the Flemish Authority (Kingdom of Belgium), has already been implemented in order to address this issue.

The timetable for the implementation of the Regional Programme (2004-2009) foresees that a consultative meeting, between the Arab States Parties and the World Heritage Centre, be held in 2005, in order to have the content presented and discussed in view of its application. This meeting would also allow the Arab States Unit of the World Heritage Centre to present the results of the above-mentioned Flemish project and to submit them to the assessment and discussion by the participants.



The Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority (United Arab Emirates), has accepted to collaborate with the World Heritage Centre for the organization of this activity, by hosting it and ensuring its local coordination. Therefore, it has been agreed that the consultative meeting on the implementation of the Regional Programme be held in **Abu Dhabi, from 4 to 7 December 2005.**

Objectives :



The objectives of the meeting are to identify the actions to be undertaken within the framework of the Regional Programme, to assess the application of the latter to the date of the meeting (December 2005), to present and review assistance modules and to facilitate the dialogue between States Parties, experts, technical partners and donors. Furthermore, a certain number of priorities, such as the increasing of the number of natural sites nominated to the World Heritage List (many potential marine sites), the reinforcement of the capacities in information management or the development of networks for

exchange of experiences and competences, between the Arab World Heritage Sites managers, will also be discussed. Finally, guidelines aiming at helping each of the Arab States Parties for the elaboration of a national work plan, and possibly regional ones, will have to be defined. The World Heritage Centre will have to submit a first report on the implementation of the Regional Programme in 2006 and 2007, to the World Heritage Committee, at its 31st session in 2007.

Participants :

The World Heritage Centre wishes to bring together the following participants :

- the director of the national institution in charge of the protection and conservation of the cultural heritage, of each Arab State Party to the World Heritage Convention;
- the director of the national institution in charge of the protection and conservation of the natural heritage, of each Arab State Party to the World Heritage Convention;
- representatives of the advisory bodies to the World Heritage Committee : ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM;
- representatives of the main national, regional and international partners (donor community including the private sector, scientific institutions, universities, cooperation agencies, experts in conservation management and heritage policies, etc.), already collaborating with the World Heritage Centre for the conservation of the cultural and natural heritage in the Arab Region, as well as other potential partners likely to be interested to contribute to the implementation of the Regional Programme in the future.

The World Heritage in the Arab States :



18 Arab States, all of them ratified the World Heritage Convention

59 World Heritage Sites in the Arab States :

55 cultural, 3 natural and 1 mixed

Legend :

● World Heritage Site

● World Heritage Site in Danger

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