



Support to States Parties in the implementation of the LAC Regional Action Plan (2014-2023) adopted by the World Heritage Committee

Name and unit of project officer	Cesar Moreno-Triana, World Heritage Centre, Latin American and the Caribbean Unit
Geographical scope/benefitting country(ies):	32 countries in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region
Duration (in months):	24 months (2014-2015)
Partner(s) institutions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Institutions for World Heritage policies; • UNESCO National Commissions in the participating countries • UNESCO field offices in LAC Region • Category 2 Centres in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) and Zacatecas (Mexico)
Total estimated budget inclusive of Programme Support costs	1,000,000 USD

Rationale and background

The Latin America and the Caribbean Region possesses a rich cultural and natural heritage. 32 countries, some of them considered as Low and Lower middle income countries, have ratified the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. 129 properties are inscribed on the World Heritage List, 7 from which have been placed on the World Heritage List in danger.

The World Heritage Committee at its 37th session (Phnom Penh – June 2013) requested the World Heritage Centre to develop an Action Plan for the Region, in close collaboration with the State Parties, the Advisory Bodies, the National Focal Points, Site Managers and the Category II Centres (Decision 37COM.10A).

Within the framework of the strategy in view of the elaboration of the Action Plan for the Region, an important and decisive cooperation has been established together with the World Heritage Centre, the LAC State Parties and the Advisory Bodies in order to effectively respond to the expectations of World Heritage Community in LAC.

In the past years, the State Parties have insisted at the occasion of various regional and sub-regional meetings, on the major need to increase management capacities, on the lack of

technical credibility in the label of the World Heritage Sites and in the Convention, the need to develop a more coherent strategy in the nomination requests within the Region, the lack of involvement of the civil society and local communities in the conservation of the World Heritage sites, the need to harmonize tentative lists, among others.

This project is based on the follow up of Decision 37COM.10A. The current Action Plan is being developed by the World Heritage Centre, Advisory Bodies and States Parties for the period of 2014-2023 and will be adopted in a Regional Meeting organized in Brazil in April 2014. The Regional Plan will be guided by the experience gained in the implementation of the previous action plan for the Region, the findings of the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise as well as past regional and sub-regional meetings and in the numerous missions carried out to the LAC properties in the past 5 years.

Why UNESCO ?

This project also intends to respond to the expected results contained in the Programme and Budget 37 C/5 adopted by the General Conference for the present biennium, and specifically to Main Line of Action (MLA 1), 'Protecting, conserving and promoting heritage and history for dialogue and development'. This project seeks to protect, conserve, and promote heritage as a key priority in order to underscore the central role of heritage in promoting sustainable development, reconciliation and dialogue within and among countries and contributes to ER

1: Tangible heritage identified, protected, monitored and sustainably managed by Member States, in particular through the effective implementation of the 1972 Convention.

In this sense, specific attention will be paid to ensure close synergy with relevant Cultural Conventions and programmes at UNESCO, such as the Biodiversity Programme and RAMSAR Conventions for Natural heritage.

Special attention will be provided to the participation of vulnerable groups, such as the participation of youth in heritage activities and the empowerment of women in social inclusion heritage projects.

As part of the activities of the UN Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures, much attention will be given to enhancing knowledge through the promotion of shared history and memory for reconciliation and dialogue, in particular in view of the further development and implementation of the Transboundary world heritage sites project for the region, which include the Slave Route project.

The reinforcing of transboundary cooperation will be also one of the main objectives of LAC Action Plan for the years to come, with particular attention to projects such as the Qhapaq Ñan project (or Main Andean Road). The project also aims at enhancing the importance of UNESCO World Heritage programme through the development of new nominations on ecosystems networks and biological corridors, such as the existent Monarch Butterfly biosphere (Mexico), and conservation and protection of the existing properties

Overall Goal/Objective

- Ensure an effective implementation of the 1972 Convention in LAC countries.
- Considering the current needs of the region, good practices on management and conservation of World Heritage sites (which comprehends the work of the civil society and the public sector), transboundary sites nominations and conservation, and credibility to both the sites and the Convention will be the main expected results of all the activities.
- Priority will be given to the mobilization of youth (and children) and the provision of basic knowledge about cultural and natural heritage in the Region and the importance of its safeguarding.

Main expected results

Expected Result 1

Strengthen credibility on the World Heritage label and in the Convention through reinforced management and the increased visibility of the World Heritage sites.

Expected Result 2

Review of the existing World Heritage properties that have natural/cultural components so as to analyse the current criteria for which they were inscribed.

Expected Result 3

Involvement and interaction between the stakeholders, including the civil society and the government in the management processes.

Expected Result 4

Involvement of the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre in the conservation of the World Heritage sites

Expected Result 5

Increase in the number of transboundary sites, networks and corridors that promote the rapprochement of cultures and much need holistic approaches.

Expected Result 6

Promote trans-national and South-South cooperation within the region

Expected Result 7

Reinforce capacity-building and consolidating networking among the LAC World Heritage Community

Activities and outputs/deliverables relating to the achievement of expected results

Activity 1 – expected results 1:

Identification of cultural/natural exceptional values in the Region

Output/deliverable 1.1

2 workshops for the identification of sites in underrepresented countries

Output/deliverable 1.2

3 Sub-regionals and 1 Regional workshops for the harmonisation of tentative lists

Activity 2 – expected results 1:

Regional training in management of World Heritage sites

Activity 3 – expected results 1:

Follow up on the progress toward the strengthen of the credibility in the World Heritage label and in the Convention

Activity 4 - expected results 2:

Identification of the criterion of the LAC World Heritage properties

Output/deliverable 4.1

Workshop for the identification of the current validity of the criterion of the World Heritage sites

Output/deliverable 4.2

Identification of the sites which need an update of their criterion of inscription

Activity 5 - expected results 3:

Identification of key mechanisms for coordination

Output/deliverable 5.1

Organisation of working meetings for the development of key mechanisms for the important coordination between the local communities and the private sector

Output/deliverable 5.2

Organisation of working meetings for the development of key mechanisms for the coordination at national and local levels

Activity 6 - expected results 4:

Reinforcing synergies for the Conservation of World Heritage properties

Output/deliverable 6.1

Establishment of an interactive space for the LAC community to exchange ideas with the WHC and the Abs.

Output/deliverable 6.2

Organisation of one joint working meeting per year to exchange information in the State of Conservation of the properties, between the site managers, the communities, the ABs and the WHC.

Activity 7 - expected results 5:

Identification of transboundary sites, networks and corridors in the Region

Output/deliverable 7.1

Regional and sub-regional workshops on the identification of transboundary sites, networks and corridors.

<p>Output/deliverable 7.2 Report on the conclusions of the workshops.</p>
<p>Output/deliverable 7.3 Propositions of transboundary sites, networks and corridors in the LAC tentative lists.</p>
<p>Activity 8 - expected results 6: <i>Promote regional periodic meetings for sharing experiences and ideas</i></p>
<p>Activity 9 - expected results 7: <i>Communication, education and awareness raising</i></p>
<p>Output/deliverable 9.1 3 pilots projects (1 per region) to incorporate the World Heritage theme in 3 national education institutions.</p>
<p>Output/deliverable 9.2 Organisation of national symposiums and workshops on common themes to promote partnerships and regional networks.</p>

Beneficiaries and stakeholders

The direct beneficiaries of this project will be the 32 countries of the Latin America and Caribbean Region; National Institutions managing cultural and natural heritage, managers of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List (129 properties).

Other beneficiaries will be the National Focal Points, Regional Office staff, Category 2 Centre staff, regional experts and representatives of the civil society, with special focus to the most vulnerable segments of society including indigenous people, youth and fostering gender equality in particular in SIDS and Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Implementation strategy

The implementation of the main activities will be consulted with the main governmental entities working in the field of culture policies. UNESCO World Heritage Centre will organize 1 regional meeting and 3 sub-regional meeting per year (South America, Central America, and Caribbean) to convey governmental and non-governmental national entities, international NGO's and cooperation agencies, as well as the UN system, to inform about the advances of the project, the tools produced by the Organisation, the need to implement new activities, and to invite them to continue contributing to the overall implementation of the Regional Action Plan adopted by the World Heritage Committee.

In parallel with regional and sub-regional meetings, the WHC will support the discussions of the identified thematic objectives of the Action Plan: Cultural Routes, Marine sites, Cultural Landscapes, harmonisation of the Tentative List, among others.

This project also seeks to promote the consolidation of Networks at local, regional and sub-regional level. At a first level this project will promote political participation and citizenship-building for the communities, young people and women and simultaneously to help consolidate Networks of these groups for the citizenship-awareness for the conservation of the sites, afterwards the involvement of the local government, municipalities and national entities and finally to consolidate the existing networks between the National organisations in charge of the Cultural Heritage policies in LAC.

Besides the trainings and consultation meetings, which will be done at national level to enhance the capacities to implement cultural policies in a coordinated manner, a number of

municipalities will directly benefit from concrete outputs. In all of them, an assessment of needs and priorities will be carried out, as well as an initial research on the possible economic value of cultural resources available, and the identification of potentially most effective intervention areas in view of income generation for the conservation of the sites.

All available UNESCO guidance material (Preparing World Heritage Nominations, Managing Natural and Cultural World Heritage, Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage, among others), the six modules of the Caribbean Capacity Building Programme for World Heritage and the manual on conservation and management of underwater cultural heritage, as well as the Advisory Bodies guidance materials and guidelines, will be used to a maximum and adapted, as necessary, to local needs.

Sustainability and exit strategy

The Action Plan is a conclusion of the work developed by WHC/LAC in the past 10 years in the framework of the Periodic Reporting process. This Action Plan has been adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session (Qatar, 2014). In this context, the World Heritage Centre has a long-term commitment to assist the State Parties within the framework of this project and recognises the added value of the World Heritage Convention and the World Heritage Thematic Programmes thematic programmes for the conservation and management of World Heritage sites in the region.

The objectives and activities proposed for this project are the basis to further develop the objectives of the Regional Action Plan and contribute to the development of the good management and conservation of all World Heritage sites in the region.

The project aims to attract the attention of national partners from the public and private sector so as to enhance the continuation and development of the objectives of this project. The World Heritage Centre together with the Field offices and the Category II Centres will jointly work in the implementation of this project so as to ensure sustainability and a synergy in the strategy of ensuring the best possible assistance to States Parties of the Region in their individual and collective efforts to protect and manage their rich heritage and contribute to maintain the Latin American and the Caribbean Cultural diversity.