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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANISATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-second session

Kyoto, Japan

30 November – 5 December 1998

Annual Report 1998, Nordic World Heritage Office, Oslo

This information document contains the following:

- 1) The Annual Report 1998, prepared by the Nordic World Heritage Office in accordance with the Agreement signed between the Kingdom of Norway and UNESCO. The report on the External Evaluation is included in Annex 1.
- 2) The introduction to the report on periodic monitoring, an activity carried out by the NWHO. The periodic monitoring report can be viewed upon request.

ANNUAL REPORT 1998

NORDIC WORLD HERITAGE OFFICE

Introduction

For an in-depth description of the Nordic World Heritage Office (NWHO), the background for the establishment, status, organisation, relations between NWHO and WHC, etc, please see the annual report for 1996 to the World Heritage Committee's 20th session in Merida (WHC 96/Conf. 202/14D).

As a framework the goals of the office is based on an Agreement between UNESCO and the Norwegian Government from June 1995, article 3, and on strategy 1996-98 adopted by the Nordic World Heritage Office Board in February 1996.

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES:

The following NWHO annual report for 1998 is based on and organised according to the head lines of our 1998 Work Plan, adopted by the advisory board in March 1998. The main goals are reflected as headlines in bold.

(N) is marked for Nordic related activities, (I) is marked for International related activities.

1.0 To deepen the understanding of humankind/nature/culture relationships and of the concept of sustainable development and heritage conservation.

ACTIVITIES:

(N) To investigate the field of «Sustainable Historic Cities» The project goal is to establish new knowledge within the field of «Sustainable Historic Cities». The target audience for the project is the public sector. A methodology for case studies has been designed corresponding with the U.N. methodology for Sustainable Indicators. This methodology is presented in a Report no. 1. The cities of Tallinn, Riga, Ålesund and Visby have been objects for and participated in a case study. Four meetings in an appointed Project Working Group have been arranged in the respective cities during spring 1998. A final report was presented in November, drafting general and place specific guidelines on management towards a sustainable development for historic cities. The final report will also deal with the subject of how the world of sustainability and the world of heritage protection can interact in a more constructive manner.

2.0 To promote and encourage implementation of the World Heritage Convention

ACTIVITIES:

(N) Monitoring and periodic reporting on Nordic World Heritage Sites.

NWHO has gathered the reports carried out in the Nordic countries so far, and presented them in a Nordic Periodic Report 1. 1998, (included is Alta and Tanum)

(I) NWHO has in 1998 assisted the Directorate for Cultural Heritage in Norway and Russian authorities in the process of an evaluation of the Solovetski Complex.

(N/I) Information: NWHO has in 1998 in co-operation with the Directorate for Cultural Heritage in Norway and the authorities in Latvia, made a booklet for the World Heritage Site of Riga, aimed at the public living in or owning buildings within the World Heritage border.

3.0 To initiate and strengthen contact and co-operation between the Nordic State Parties and World Heritage site managers.

ACTIVITIES:

(N) Board meeting, March 1998.

Nordic working group, co-ordination, meetings, reports, action lists, follow up.

Newsletters to Nordic Site managers. in September 1996, February 1997, November 1997, and April 1998.

Network annual meeting of site managers in Roskilde, Denmark, June 1998. Presentation of the theme "The parish church as World Heritage".

Produced and distributed Nordic Network Report.

4.0 To mobilise international assistance and external funding for the protection and conservation of World Heritage properties, including training of specialists and thematic studies.

ACTIVITIES:

(I) NWHO contributed to a seminar on Integrated Urban Conservation in Recife, Brazil in October, arranged by ICCROM.

(N/I) In October 1998 a joint meeting between the Nordic Development agencies and the Nordic Culture Heritage Management was arranged in co-operation between NORAD and NWHO. Co-operation on long and short term policies was discussed (*fylles på etter diskusjon*)

(I) NWHO has in 1998 assisted NORAD on a fact finding mission to Laos and assisted in developing project proposals from Laos to NORAD.

(I) NWHO has in 1998 through funding from NORAD, supported South-Africa with Technical assistance in developing the nomination file for Robben Island.

(I) NWHO has in 1998 acted as a co-arranger for the International Course on Wood Conservation Technology 1998, with supporting the course with one of the course co-ordinates.

(I) Nordic World Heritage Office has financed consult services in order to back stop countries, which as a result of 4 Global Strategy meetings in sub-Saharan Africa are preparing nomination files of cultural properties for inscription of the World Heritage List. A joint mission (NWHO and WHC) will be undertaken in January 1999 in order to finalise the nomination file of the Zanzibar Stone Town.

Nordic World Heritage Office has provided through the Norwegian Foreign Office for 2 representatives of the United Republic of Tanzania to attend the 22nd session of the World Heritage Committee in Kyoto.

5.0 To promote educational projects linked to Heritage conservation.

ACTIVITIES:

(I) NWHO will contribute to a course on in-fill architecture in Vilnius in September 1998, under ICCOMOS' training program.

(N) "Young Peoples Participation in World Heritage Preservation and promotion" NWHO arranged in co-operation with the Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO, a seminar on World Heritage for Norwegian teachers in Røros in August 1998.

NWHO supported the International Evaluation Group with all the available relevant documentation they needed for the evaluation report which was sent to the Director General of UNESCO and the Minister of Environment in Norway by 15th of July 1998.
(External evaluation, Annex 1.)

Budget
CONTRIBUTION FROM UNESCO 1998

Total amount **US \$ 15 000**

Sustainable Historic Cities
Baltic/Nordic co-operation US \$ 10 000

Training Strategy
Sub Sahara Africa
UNESCO/ICCROM US \$ 2 500

Project Laos
UNESCO/NORAD US \$ 2 500

External Evaluation

Nordic World Heritage Office

Evaluation Team

Christina Cameron, Director General, National Historic Sites, Canada
Rolf Lofgren, Director, Environmental Protection Agency, Sweden
Jaan Tamm, Director General, Central Board of Antiquities, Estonia (Note: unable to participate)

Date of Evaluation

June/July 1998

Background

An agreement (Annex 1) was signed between UNESCO and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway on 27 June 1995 to create the Nordic World Heritage Office (NWHO). This three-year pilot project was intended to develop and coordinate World Heritage activities in the Nordic countries, and with their partners in the region.

It was stipulated in the agreement that, not less than six months before the end of this three-year period, an evaluation of the operation and achievements of the Office would be conducted, with a view to establishing the Office on a permanent basis.

The NWHO, comprised of 4 full-time staff in Oslo and three part-time staff in Denmark, Finland and Sweden, began operations on 1 March 1996. The Office is governed by an Advisory Board with representatives from the Nordic State Parties.

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for this evaluation were set by the Nordic World Heritage Office Advisory Board on 16 March 1998 (Annex 2).

Methodology

The evaluation team had a number of printed documents for review, including the Agreement, the NWHO Strategy, annual work plans, reports, minutes of Advisory Board meetings and other relevant material (Annex 3). As well, the team interviewed key stakeholders (Annex 4).

In particular, the evaluation team examined the performance of the NWHO in light of the objectives and functions set forth in Article 3 of the Agreement. Article 3 states that the Office will perform the following objectives and functions:

- to deepen the understanding of mankind/nature/culture relationship and of the concept of sustainable development and of heritage conservation;
- to encourage ratification of acceptance of the World Heritage Convention by countries not yet State Parties;
- to promote the implementation of the Convention through the provision of a focal point for the development of an international network;
- to establish clearing house facilities as an integral part of UNESCO's World Heritage Centre information system;
- to assist in the identification and nomination of World Heritage properties and to contribute to global and thematic studies intended to increase the representation of the World Heritage List;
- to assist in the monitoring and the management of the state of conservation of properties on the World Heritage List;
- to mobilize international assistance for the protection and conservation of World Heritage properties, including training of specialists;
- to promote educational projects linked to heritage conservation;
- to seek funding and to help establish mechanisms for rapid response to emergency situations;
- to seek co-operation with non-governmental organizations, particularly the International Committee for Restoration and Conservation of Monuments (ICCROM) and the national constituencies of the other World Heritage advisory bodies, International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

This set of objectives and functions is ambitious and realistically could not have been achieved in all aspects in the brief period that the Office has existed. Nonetheless, the NWHO has initiated work in line with most of these objectives, and has made significant progress in some areas as noted below. The exceptions are the objectives related to encouraging ratification of the Convention, establishing mechanisms for emergency response, and deepening understanding of natural heritage, where little action has been taken.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Note: The evaluation team has carried out its mandate as requested by the Norwegian authorities. However, the team wishes to record its reservation that it is perhaps too soon to evaluate the Nordic World Heritage Office, given the length of time required to establish an international office of this kind.

A. Achievements

The Nordic World Heritage Office has undertaken several initiatives aimed at improving an

understanding of World Heritage in the region and mobilizing forces to implement the World Heritage Convention. It is recognized that UNESCO operates at a global level and that its activities need to be adapted to regional realities, within a cultural context that makes it easier to share ideas and approaches. Target audiences for NWHO activities include governments, non-governmental organizations, youth and those with a general interest in heritage. A comprehensive list of NWHO activities is found in Annex 3.

Some examples serve to illustrate how the NWHO is reaching out to involve more people in World Heritage. A series of four Newsletters have been prepared by the NWHO and distributed through their networks, particularly to World Heritage Site managers; they feature activities at Nordic World Heritage Sites as well as news from the World Heritage Centre and information about World Heritage Sites and doctrinal developments in other parts of the world. An international restoration camp for youth, to be held at Roros in August 1998, will adapt UNESCO's Youth Edukit to the needs and situation of participants from Nordic and Baltic countries. The Sustainable Cities project has involved a wide range of people in World Heritage matters, including government officials, non-governmental representatives, university professors, city mayors and their experts as well as local populations in Nordic and Baltic countries.

Of particular importance is the networking function, which includes a range of Nordic and Baltic stakeholders from governmental and non-governmental organizations. These lists are valuable tools for increasing awareness of World Heritage activities as new contacts are established beyond the usual reach of the World Heritage Centre. Both the NWHO and the World Heritage Centre use the network lists as mailing lists for this region. In total, the lists comprise about 650 institutions and persons. It was noted that the lists include all the members of each Nordic ICOMOS national committee, but have no equivalent with respect to organizations that work with natural heritage. **Therefore, the NWHO is encouraged to improve these valuable networking tools by increasing the number of governmental and non-governmental organizations involved with natural heritage.**

The NWHO has shown significant leadership in its work related to conservation, management and monitoring of World Heritage Sites. The pilot projects on monitoring the state of conservation at Tanum and Alta highlight an important role for the Office in co-ordinating frameworks and formats, as well as identifying experts. These pilot projects illustrate a system of regional harmonization of monitoring efforts and will provide useful examples for the development of methodologies for periodic reporting on the state of conservation, currently being discussed by the World Heritage Committee. It was noted that the list of Nordic experts is limited in its regional coverage and is stronger in cultural experts than in natural and marine heritage experts. **The NWHO is therefore encouraged to renew its efforts to seek out a broader and more regionally balanced list of Nordic experts who are qualified and available to work on international projects.**

The project on Sustainable Historic Cities: a North-Eastern European Approach, is still in an early phase. In reviewing the first two reports on this project, the evaluation team commended the NWHO on this approach to urban conservation in the region, with its emphasis on local participation, sustainable development and the management of change.

B. Activities

B.1 Scope

The Agreement between the Government of Norway and UNESCO suggests that its sphere of action is limited to the Nordic region, including the Baltic area and Russia. The Agreement includes the phrases "develop and co-ordinate activities carried out in the Nordic countries, and with their partners in the region" (preamble), "a World Heritage Office for Northern Europe" (Article 1), and "World Heritage Office for the Nordic countries and their partners" (Article 2). It is only in Article 3 of the Agreement that reference is made to mobilization of international assistance for the protection and conservation of World Heritage Sites, an ambiguous phrase that could be interpreted to mean action within the region or beyond the region. On the other hand, the three-year work plan submitted by the NWHO to the World Heritage Committee in December 1996 (WHC 96/CONF. 201/14D) states clearly that the role is "to act as a clearing-house to facilitate ongoing bilateral development co-operation between the Nordic countries and their partners and to direct their aid towards projects on cultural and natural heritage with World Heritage status".

While most activities of the NWHO focus on the Northern European region, some project work has been carried out in Africa and Asia, in co-operation with the World Heritage Centre. In addition to attendance at a number of international meetings, the NWHO has supported experts to work in Laos, Ethiopia and the Baltic States and has provided valuable assistance to support the preparation of the nomination of Robbin Island in South Africa. The key stakeholders who have been interviewed for this evaluation are generally supportive of this scope of activity, because there is a net benefit for World Heritage Sites. However, they emphasize the requirement that any activity undertaken by the NWHO outside the Northern European region must be co-ordinated through the World Heritage Centre to avoid duplication of global efforts and to ensure that World Heritage priorities are addressed.

It is therefore recommended that the Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Norway and UNESCO be amended to reflect the global scope of the NWHO's activities, with the proviso that such activities are to be co-ordinated through the World Heritage Centre to avoid duplication of global efforts and to ensure that World Heritage priorities are addressed.

B.2 Nordic Activities

As a result of reviewing the documentation and interviewing key stakeholders, the impression was given that the Nordic States Parties are well-equipped to deal with World Heritage matters within their own countries and that they do not need co-ordination and technical assistance internally. While this may be accurate for certain Nordic States Parties, it has nonetheless been noted by the evaluation team that other Nordic countries are less experienced in World Heritage (Iceland, Greenland) and that certain types of heritage (natural heritage and marine areas) do not receive as much attention as cultural heritage. **It is recommended that the NWHO take steps to provide assistance to those Nordic countries who have less experience with World**

Heritage. Further, it is recommended that the NWHO takes steps to encourage broader participation in its activities in the areas of natural and marine heritage.

B.3 Foreign Aid to Support World Heritage

As part of its strategic direction, the NWHO acts as a clearing-house to facilitate ongoing bilateral co-operation between the Nordic countries and their partners, and to direct aid towards projects with World Heritage status. During the interviews, much appreciation was expressed for the Nordic approach to foreign aid programmes, in particular its transparency and consultative nature. Several noted as an example that the Africa 2009 project was developed and administered by African countries themselves. A principal advantage of the NWHO rests in its ability to channel foreign aid contributions into priority World Heritage work. While those interviewed expressed their gratitude to the Government of Norway for its active participation (approximately \$63,000. U.S. plus \$300,000. U.S. annually for the NWHO itself) (Annex 5), it was noted that other Nordic governments had not chosen to align their foreign aid programmes with World Heritage projects. **In order to realize the full potential of the NWHO, it is recommended that other Nordic countries give consideration to linking their international aid programmes to World Heritage activities and to work with the NWHO to facilitate such initiatives.**

C. Relationships

C.1 Partnerships with Key Stakeholders

Since the NWHO is a newly created organization, it is not broadly known within the Nordic countries. It appears that it enjoys the highest level of awareness among those directly involved with cultural heritage programmes, but not with those involved with natural heritage programmes. If the Office is to be effective in co-ordinating activities and mobilizing action for World Heritage in the Northern European region, it is essential that it continue the process of building awareness for the Office itself. **The NWHO is encouraged to undertake an external relations campaign that actively seeks out participation from key stakeholders in government departments, non-governmental groups, academics and others interested parties involved in the full spectrum of cultural and natural heritage conservation, presentation and management.**

C.2 Relationship to World Heritage Centre, UNESCO

The NWHO maintains regular contact with the World Heritage Centre of UNESCO. This allows for the timely exchange of information on World Heritage initiatives, projects and priorities. The World Heritage Centre exercises an essential clearing-house role for NWHO activities by reviewing work plans and co-ordinating project work outside the Nordic countries, so that there is no duplication in international support for World Heritage. This relationship is formalized through UNESCO membership on the Advisory Board of the NWHO, a contribution of \$15,000 (U.S.) by UNESCO and the right to use the UNESCO emblem on NWHO materials. Without the use of the UNESCO emblem, the Nordic World Heritage Office would lose some of its status and effectiveness. **It is recommended that continued support be given for UNESCO**

membership on the NWHO Advisory Board, a symbolic UNESCO monetary contribution and the use the UNESCO emblem, since effectiveness of the Office is enhanced by demonstrating that it is officially supported by UNESCO and that it works in a co-ordinated way.

C.3 Relationship to World Heritage Committee

The NWHO has no formal relationship with the World Heritage Committee, since the Agreement to establish the Office was made between the Government of Norway and the Director-General of UNESCO, without the prior knowledge or approval of the World Heritage Committee. As noted earlier, the NWHO voluntarily submitted its three-year plan for information to the World Heritage Committee meeting in Merida, Mexico in 1996. In addition, the Director of the NWHO regularly attends Committee and Bureau meetings. **Since it is in the interests of World Heritage that both parties maintain close and positive working relationships, it is recommended that the NWHO continue to provide status reports to the World Heritage Committee for information.**

The World Heritage Committee is in the process of clarifying the approval process for use of the World Heritage emblem. Since the emblem is the joint property of UNESCO and the World Heritage Committee, States Parties to the Convention may individually or collectively approve and set conditions for its use, in accordance with the Operational Guidelines of the World Heritage Committee. It is important that the NWHO use the World Heritage emblem to identify its work internationally and to signal that it is an officially sanctioned initiative. It may be argued that the Nordic States Parties have the right to approve the use of the World Heritage emblem on materials issued by the NWHO. **For greater clarity and in view of the important positive contribution that the NWHO makes to the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, it is recommended that the NWHO request the World Heritage Committee to approve the use of the emblem in conjunction with the UNESCO emblem.**

D. Governance

D.1 Secretariat

The Secretariat has a Director and three full-time staff, all of whom are Norwegian civil servants, financed by the Government of Norway. There are three part-time staff, working up to 20% of their time (reported to be about 8% in reality), who are civil servants in and financed by the Governments of Denmark, Finland and Sweden. Two of the full-time staff are architects and two of the three part-time staff come from the cultural heritage field, with the third coming from the natural heritage field. The Secretariat is therefore predominantly rooted in cultural heritage, which may in part explain the absence of natural heritage issues from the agenda of the NWHO.

There is general agreement among those interviewed that the size of the NWHO should remain small and that the staff should operate as informed generalists who are able to seek out appropriate expertise to further the work of the Office. To address the perceived need to increase involvement of all the Nordic countries in the operation of the NWHO, some suggested that each

Nordic country might be encouraged to share in direct financial support of the Secretariat. To improve the work related to natural heritage, it is recommended that a person familiar with natural heritage matters be added to the Secretariat staff.

D.2 Advisory Board

The Advisory Board is comprised of the Directors General of Cultural Heritage of Norway, Sweden and Finland, and the Director General of the National Forest and Nature Agency of Denmark, together with the Director of the NWHO. Invited observers to the Advisory Board meetings are representatives from the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS, ICCROM, IUCN and the Norwegian National Commission to UNESCO.

A review of the Minutes of the meetings (one per year) as well as interviews with key stakeholders suggest that the Advisory Board could be more active, that it operates more as an information exchange about actions already taken than as a working board involved with discussing policy issues and setting strategic direction. The Advisory Board would benefit from meeting more often and with better attendance. While senior representatives from the World Heritage Centre have regularly attended meetings, the advisory bodies to the World Heritage Committee (ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN) have been conspicuous by their absence at these meetings.

It is recommended that the Advisory Board evolve into a more active working board, one that discusses policy and sets strategic direction for the NWHO. It is also recommended that a strategy be developed to encourage attendance at Board meetings.

E. Continuation of the NWHO

As part of the Terms of Reference for the evaluation of the NWHO, the evaluation team was asked to make a recommendation about whether the Office should continue on a permanent basis, according to article 10.2 in the Agreement. The team felt, as stated earlier, that it is still too early to do a thorough evaluation of the Office, given the length of time needed to establish a new international organization and build up capacity.

Aware of the fact that the Norwegian authorities could undertake much of this work bilaterally, with no reference to their regional partners or UNESCO, the evaluation team is impressed with the fact that they have chosen to work through UNESCO for the benefit of World Heritage. **In light of the achievements during its start-up phase and convinced of the fundamental global benefits of linking existing foreign aid programmes to implementation of the World Heritage Convention, the team recommends that the mandate of the NWHO be extended for another three years, at which time a more substantive evaluation could and should be undertaken.**

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 NWHO is encouraged to improve its valuable networking tools by increasing the number of governmental and non-governmental organizations involved with natural heritage.
- 2 The NWHO is encouraged to renew its efforts to seek out a broader and more regionally balanced list of Nordic experts who are qualified and available to work on international projects.
- 3 It is therefore recommended that the Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Norway and UNESCO be amended to reflect the global scope of the NWHO's activities, with the proviso that such activities are to be co-ordinated through the World Heritage Centre to avoid duplication of global efforts and to ensure that World Heritage priorities are addressed.
- 4 It is recommended that the NWHO take steps to provide assistance to those Nordic countries who have less experience with World Heritage. Further, it is recommended that the NWHO takes steps to encourage broader participation in its activities in the areas of natural and marine heritage.
- 5 In order to realize the full potential of the NWHO, it is recommended that other Nordic countries give consideration to linking their international aid programmes to World Heritage activities and to work with the NWHO to facilitate such initiatives.
- 6 The NWHO is encouraged to undertake an external relations campaign that actively seeks out participation from key stakeholders in government departments, non-governmental groups, academics and others interested parties involved in the full spectrum of cultural and natural heritage conservation, presentation and management.
- 7 It is recommended that continued support be given for UNESCO membership on the NWHO Advisory Board, a symbolic UNESCO monetary contribution and the right for the Office to use the UNESCO emblem, since effectiveness of the Office is enhanced by demonstrating that it is officially supported by UNESCO and that it works in a co-ordinated way.
- 8 It is recommended that the NWHO request the World Heritage Committee to approve the use of the emblem in conjunction with the UNESCO emblem.
- 9 To improve the work related to natural heritage, it is recommended that a person familiar with natural heritage matters be added to the Secretariat staff.
- 10 It is recommended that the Advisory Board evolve into a more active working board, one that discusses policy and sets strategic direction for the NWHO. It is also recommended that a strategy be developed to encourage attendance at Board meetings.
- 11 In light of the achievements during its start-up phase and convinced of the fundamental global benefits of linking existing foreign aid programmes to implementation of the World Heritage Convention, the team recommends that the mandate of the NWHO be extended for another three years, at which time a more substantive evaluation could and should be undertaken

Annex 1

Agreement Between the Kingdom of Norway and UNESCO

**AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY
AND
THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION
CONCERNING
THE THREE YEARS PILOT PROJECT OF
THE WORLD HERITAGE OFFICE IN NORWAY**

Whereas the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (hereinafter referred to as "UNESCO") is considering the possibility and the advisability of establishing, in co-operation with the interested Member States, an International Network of World Heritage Offices in order to promote the implementation of the Convention concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage,

Whereas The Government of the Kingdom of Norway (hereinafter referred to as «the Government») has proposed to establish a World Heritage Office in Oslo which would develop and co-ordinate activities carried out in the Nordic countries, and with their partners in the region.

Desirous to set forth the conditions and the modalities of their co-operation for the purpose of the establishment and the functioning of this Office,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

Establishment

The Government agrees to take all the necessary steps to establish in Oslo a World Heritage Office for Northern Europe (hereinafter referred to as "the Office") as a three years pilot project and to endow it with the necessary juridical personality in accordance with Norwegian legislation.

Article 2

International Character and Organisation of the Office

The Government shall undertake all appropriate consultations with the other interested countries in order to secure their endorsement for the designation of the Office as World Heritage Office for the Nordic countries and their partners and to obtain their co-operation and support.

Article 3

Objectives and Functions

The Office will perform the following objectives and functions:

- to deepen the understanding of mankind/nature/culture relationship and of the concept of sustainable development and of heritage conservation
- to encourage ratification of acceptance of the World Heritage Convention by countries not yet States Parties
- to promote the implementation of the Convention through the provision of a focal point for the development of an international network
- to establish clearing house facilities as an integral part of UNESCO's World Heritage Centre information system
- to assist in the identification and nomination of World Heritage properties and to contribute to global and thematic studies intended to increase the representation of the World Heritage List
- to assist in the monitoring and management of the state of conservation of properties on the World Heritage List
- to mobilize international assistance for the protection and conservation of World Heritage properties, including training of specialists
- to promote educational projects linked to heritage conservation
- to seek funding and to help establish mechanisms for rapid response to emergency situations

- to seek co-operation with non-governmental organizations, particularly the International Committee for Restoration and Conservation of Monuments (ICCROM) and the national constituencies of the other World Heritage advisory bodies International Committee of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Article 4

Resources

The resources necessary for the activities of the Office shall consist of the contributions allocated by the Government, of the contributions of governments of other countries participating in the function of the Office, of the contributions of UNESCO and of such other contributions which may be granted by other organisations, institutions and by individuals agreed-on by UNESCO.

Article 5

Obligations of the Government

1. The Government undertakes to provide professional, technical and secretarial staff, premises, office facilities, equipment and funds for operational costs, adequate to the performance of functions mentioned in Article 2 above.
2. During this initial experimental phase of three years the Government shall provide the services of three professionals, including the Director, and of the necessary supporting staff. The annual budget to be provided by the Government, including staff costs, shall amount to not less than 300000 United States dollars.

Article 6

Obligations of UNESCO

UNESCO shall make a contribution to the activities of the Office in 1995 of the amount of 5000 United States dollars. The subsequent contributions of UNESCO will be 15000 United States dollars per year during the pilot project period of three years. The annual contributions from UNESCO will be available upon submission and approval of the office's work plan as provided for in Article 2. UNESCO World Heritage Centre will undertake to

implement its activities in the countries referred to in Article 2 through the Office and its network. UNESCO shall authorise the Office to use the UNESCO and the World Heritage logos.

Article 7

The Director of the Office shall be appointed by the Government in co-operation with UNESCO. Other necessary staff in the Office shall be appointed by the Director of the Office.

Article 8 **Advisory Board**

1. The Government shall establish, in consultation with UNESCO, an Advisory Board in agreement with the other countries participating. The Board may invite international and national organizations, governmental and non-governmental, including in particular the World Heritage advisory bodies (ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN), to participate in its work upon request. The Director of UNESCO's World Heritage Centre or his representative may participate in the meetings of the Advisory Board. The costs of attendance of the members of the Advisory Board shall be borne by the entities represented by them.
2. The primary objective of the Advisory Board will be to foster the participation of interested governments and non-governmental organizations in the activities of the Office. It shall meet at least once a year and shall be consulted on principle matters pertaining to the activities of the Office.

Article 9 **Relations of the Office with UNESCO's World Heritage Centre**

1. The Office shall prepare an annual work plan and budget and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for approval.
2. The Office shall prepare an annual report on its activities which will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre. The Centre shall inform the World Heritage Committee on the operation and the activities of the Office and shall subsequently communicate to the Office any decisions and recommendations of the Committee relevant to the activities of the Office.

Article 10
Entry into force, Duration, Amendments

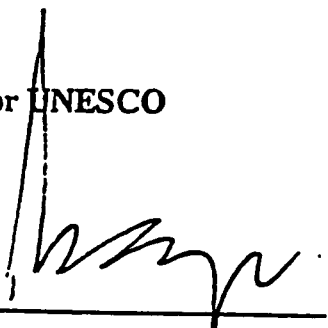
.. The present Agreement shall enter into force after its signature when both Parties have notified each other in writing that all necessary internal measures foreseen to this effect have been accomplished.

2. The present Agreement shall remain in force on an experimental basis for a period of three years. Not less than six months before the end of this period the Parties shall carry out jointly, in co-operation with the governments of other countries participating in the functioning of the Office, an evaluation of the operation and the achievements of the Office with a view to establishing the Office on a permanent basis.

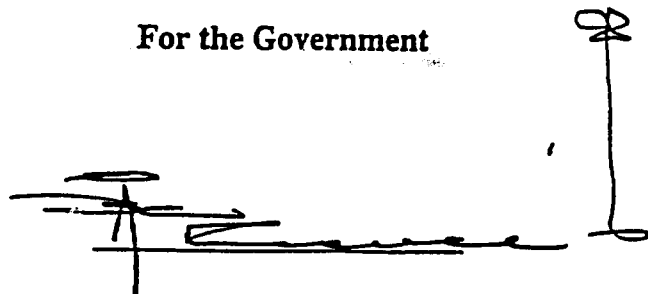
3. At any time during the period of validity of the present Agreement the Parties may amend it by mutual consent.

Done at.....Bergen....., on.....27/6-95....., in duplicate in the English language.

For UNESCO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'W. G. ...', written over a horizontal line.

For the Government

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. ...', written over a horizontal line. To the right of the signature is a vertical line with a small loop at the top.

Annex 2

Terms of Reference

EVALUATION OF THE NORDIC WORLD HERITAGE OFFICE TERMS OF REFERENCE

General

Based on an Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Norway and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Nordic World Heritage Office (NWHO) was established 1 January 1996.

Denmark, Finland and Sweden have participated in the functions of the Office since January 1996.

According to Article 10.2, the present Agreement shall remain in force on an experimental basis for a period of three years. Not less than six months before the end of this period the Parties shall carry out jointly, in co-operation with the governments of other countries participating in the functioning of the Office, an evaluation of the operation and the achievements of the Office with a view of establishing the Office on a permanent basis.

Evaluation Committee

A Committee of three external experts shall evaluate the operation and the achievements of the Office. The experts should have experience in the global implementation of the World Heritage Convention, Baltic/Nordic heritage co-operation, and in cultural and natural heritage conservation.

Focus

Based on the Agreement, the NWHO Strategy, the annual Work Plans, the Annual Reports and other relevant material (interviews, correspondence, etc.), the Committee shall evaluate to which extent the Office has achieved the objectives stated in Article 3 in the Agreement, taking into consideration the limited functioning time of the Office. The Committee shall take into due consideration the mechanism of the Secretariat and the function of the Board as a focal point arrangement. The Committee shall make a recommendation whether the Office should continue on a permanent basis according to the intentions in Article 10.2 in the Agreement.

Report

The Committee shall present a report with recommendations to the Norwegian Minister of Environment and the Director General of UNESCO before 1 July 1998.

Nordic World Heritage Office Advisory Board
Oslo, 16 March 1998

Annex 3

List of Documents Examined

Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Norway and UNESCO, 27 June 1995.

Nordic World Heritage Office Strategy 1996-98, March 1996.

Annual Reports to World Heritage Committee, 1996,1997.

Minutes of NWHO Advisory Board, 1996,1997,1998.

4 Newsletters to Nordic World Heritage Site Management, 1996-98.

Network Address Lists for Nordic and Baltic regions.

List of Lectures to promote World Heritage, 1996-98.

Documents related to technical assistance for nomination of Robbin Island, South Africa, 1998.

Two volumes on Sustainable Historic Cities project, 1998.

Report from Iceland Seminar on World Heritage, August 1997.

Our Nordic World Heritage, 1997.

Annex 4

List of Persons Interviewed

Dr Henry Cleere
World Heritage Co-ordinator
ICOMOS

Dr Jukka Jukilehto
Chief Assistant to the Director General
ICCROM

Dr James Thorsell
Head, Natural Heritage Programme
IUCN

Mr P.H.L. Lucas
Vice-Chair, World Heritage
World Commission on Protected Areas
IUCN

Mr Makgolo Makgolo
Assistant Director, Cultural Resources Management
Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
South Africa

Ms Laura Robinson
Regional Manager, West Cape
National Monuments Council
South Africa

Dr Henrik Lilius
Director General
National Board of Antiquities
Finland

Ms Birgitta Hoberg
Director
National Heritage Board
Sweden

Dr Bernd von Droste
Director
World Heritage Centre
UNESCO

Ms Minja Yang
World Heritage Centre
UNESCO

Ms Alexandra zu Wittgenstein
World Heritage Centre
UNESCO

Ms Galia Saouma-Forero
World Heritage Centre
UNESCO

Ms Kris Endresen
Director
Nordic World Heritage Office

Annex 5

Financial Tableau of NWHO Activities (figures in U.S. dollars)

NORAD	Mission to Gondar, Ethiopia in cooperation with World Heritage Centre and NORAD (1997)	\$3,500.
NORAD	Mission to Luang Prabang, Laos and Wat Phu, Vietnam (1997)	\$4,000.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway	"Africa 2009" project in collaboration with UNESCO and ICCROM (1998)	\$36,000.
NWHO	Support for consultant in World Heritage Centre working on Baltic cities project (1996-97)	\$10,000.
NWHO	Support for consultant in World Heritage Centre working on "Africa 2009" project (1998)	\$10,000.
UNESCO Regular Program	Support to NWHO (1996-97-98)	\$15,000. annually
Ministry of Environment, Norway	Support for Secretariat of NWHO (1996-97-98)	\$300,000. annually

Periodic reporting on the World Heritage Sites in the Nordic Countries

Background

State Parties to the World Heritage Convention have an obligation to safeguard the World Heritage Sites the best possible way for the benefit of the global community.

Sites have been nominated as World Heritage for more than 20 years. The requirements for information to be given about the sites in the nomination papers from the State Parties have increased. At the annual World Heritage Committee meeting in Naples in December 1997, a new and revised nomination format was finally adopted (*Appendix 1*). According to the nomination format, paragraph 6, it is now required that the State Party describes and implements a regular system for monitoring of the property, leading to the recording, at least annually, of the conditions of the site.

What to day is called periodic reporting has in previous years had different terms (evaluation, monitoring etc.) In this report we use the term periodic reporting in accordance with the latest discussions.

The topic of reporting has been worked on and debated at least since 1982, with the goal to obtain possible guidelines or common principles. A special format for periodic reporting by the State Parties to the World Heritage Committee is being developed by the World Heritage Centre. The goal is that this periodic reporting format will follow - and follow up - the new nomination format in a proper way. Every new complete nomination dossier may then serve as a good starting point for further systematic reporting on the state of conservation of the World Heritage Site.

Inscription of the Nordic World Heritage Sites

The request for documentation for a nomination of a property, has increased throughout the years. Professionals who have been following the work related to World Heritage closely, may - according to the year a site is inscribed - get an indication of the amount and quality of the documentation to be found on a site in the UNESCO World Heritage archives or in ICOMOS Headquarters.

The Nordic sites are inscribed as follows:

DENMARK

Jelling Mounds, Runic Stones and Church (C/1994)
Roskilde Cathedral (C/1995)

FINLAND

Old Raumo (C1991)
Fortress of Suomenlinna (C1991)
Petäjävesi Old Church (C1994)
Verla Groundwood and Board Mill (C1996)

NORWAY

Urnes Stave Church (C/1979)
Bryggen in Bergen (C/1979)
Røros (C1980)
Rock Drawings of Alta (C1985)

SWEDEN

Royal Domain of Drottningholm (C/1991)
Birka and Hovedgården (C1993)
Engelsberg Ironworks (C1993)
The Rock Carvings in Tanum (C1993)
Skogkyrkogården (C1994)
The Hanseatic Town of Visby (C1995)
The Laponian Area (N/C 1996)
The Church Village of Gammelstad, Luleå (C/1996)

The intentions of the Nordic World Heritage Office Mandate for the office concerning periodic reporting.

1.) In the agreement between UNESCO and the Kingdom of Norway, signed June 27th 1995, paragraph 3, one of the objectives of the Nordic World Heritage Office is formulated as follows: "To assist in the monitoring and management of the state of conservation of properties on the World Heritage List."

2.) NWHOs Strategy 1996-98, adopted by the Advisory Board in February 1996, reads:

"A central assignment for the period 1996-98 will be to develop and publish a Monitoring Report on all Nordic World Heritage sites. In reference to similar reports made elsewhere, and experience with monitoring work generally, we intend to utilise international experiences and existing proposals to develop a Nordic Monitoring Report, as a practical tool for the work associated with each specific site in the Nordic countries, as well as providing general guidance. The Nordic Monitoring Report will be completed by 1998."

NWHOs promotion on monitoring and periodic reporting.

NWHO has followed the work of the World Heritage Committee and the World Heritage Centre and discussions related to the issue of monitoring and periodic reporting continuously. We have also submitted comments along the way to the World Heritage Centre. Monitoring and reporting has been a subject in several of our contributions to Nordic and international meetings. A separate workshop was held in connection with the Network Meeting for Nordic

World Heritage Site Managers at Røros in September 1997, where the World Heritage Centre was represented, enlightening us all on the status quo of the work with reporting on the state of conservation of World Heritage Sites.

NWHO has promoted the issue strongly, also to the different relevant Nordic authorities responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. It is the respective States Parties that have the responsibility for reporting – as well as providing the funding for such.

The above quoted objective from NWHO's Strategy 1996-98, was based on a presumption that the respective Nordic State Parties would give strong immediate priority to monitoring and reporting on their respective sites. This would also contribute to fulfil the NWHO Strategy as adopted by the Advisory Board – consisting of the Director Generals for the respective national cultural heritage authorities.

Many of the Nordic sites are, however, relatively newly inscribed on the list. Detailed follow-up and report on these sites may come in the next few years when WHC format for periodic reporting is made official.

Evaluation of the Norwegian World Heritage Sites – from 1993.

The previous problem of little documentation of the exact condition of the site upon inscription on the World Heritage List, has especially been evident for the Norwegian sites, which are inscribed between 1979 and 1985. In 1993, as a consequence of the emerging international debate on values and authenticity, and the growing awareness of the need for thorough documentation as a base for future assessments and judgements, the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage began a project of having the Norwegian sites evaluated. (Which was the term at that time).

The objective of the evaluations was to have a look at the status quo of the sites, and to give recommendations to the Norwegian management. 3 of the sites were evaluated prior to the announcement of the suggested monitoring and reporting strategy from the World Heritage Committee. These 3 evaluations were carried out by an external expert group, composed by Norwegian and international ICOMOS members. (*Appendix 5, 6, and 7*)

These evaluations have been valuable for the management of the sites, leading to the establishment of an equivalent to a Site Commission (as recommended in the Management Guidelines for WHS), consisting of representatives for all management levels, meeting at a regular basis.

Without doubt, these early evaluations of the Norwegian Sites were unique in a global context, and they have, hopefully, been an inspiration to the work of the World Heritage Committee on the issue of periodic reporting on the state of conservation of World Heritage Sites.

A new era

In 1996, shortly after the establishment of the NWHO, time had come for the reporting on the 4th and last Norwegian World Heritage Site, the rock art site in Alta. *(Appendix 3)*

NWHO suggested that the World Heritage Centre draft format for reporting, as well as the draft for the **new nomination format** - were elaborated. The ICOMOS group assigned to the project agreed on this, and has later reported back that these formats worked very well as a checklist and a tool. This should give the World Heritage Centre a clear indication that they are on the right track trying to find a standard method for reporting to the World Heritage Committee for all World Heritage Sites.

Nordic co-operation

A great advantage in the management of the Nordic World Heritage Sites is the information flow across the Nordic borders. The Swedish authorities knew about the initiative of reporting on the Norwegian rock carvings in Alta from the very start. They started planning for reporting on their rock art site in Tanum, wanting to draw on the fresh experiences from the Alta evaluation, the same methodology and partly the same experts, for the sake of fruitful continuity. Even if these two rock carving sites date differently, they do have a lot in common. The Swedish authorities were the first to follow the Norwegian initiative. The report from Tanum was completed in May 1998. *(Appendix 4)*

Workplan for reporting in the future

The authorities in Finland are planning for reporting on the wooden town Old Raumo, scheduled for the fall of this year, 1998.

The respective national authorities in the Nordic countries will continue to plan and budget for important World Heritage work.

NWHO will continue to promote the issue of periodic reporting. The office will publish the coming reports in a series.

Oslo, 15. September 1998

Kris Endresen
Director

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