**37th Session of the World Heritage Committee**

**Phnom Penh, 17-27 June 2013**

**Informal Meeting of category 2 centres**

**MINUTES**

**Participants:**

* Nordic World Heritage Foundation (NWHF, Norway)
* African World Heritage Fund (AWHF, South Africa)
* Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH, Bahrain)
* World Heritage Institute for Training and Research in Asia and the Pacific (WHITR-AP, China)
* Regional Heritage Management Training Centre "Lucio Costa" (Brazil)
* ICOMOS
* ICCROM
* Wildlife Institute of India
* Barbados
* International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (HIST, China)

The following could not attend:

* Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (Mexico)
* International Research Centre on the Economics of Culture and World Heritage Studies (ITRECH -Italy)
* International Centre for Rock Art and the World Heritage Convention (Spain)

1. **Introduction**

The meeting, chaired by Giovanni Boccardi (World Heritage Centre) had an informal character and was reserved for category 2 centres’ representatives, at their request, and Advisory Bodies. The main aim of the meeting was to share information on recent developments with a view to strengthen coordination and mutually learn from the experience of others. Although no formal agenda was established, category 2 centres’ had informed the World Heritage Centre on forehand of some topics that they would like to discuss.

B. Items discussed

**1. Recent cooperation agreement between WHITR-AP and NWHF**

Building on an initial MoU established in 2007, a new Annex was agreed recently between WHITR-AP and NWHF, concerning a number of specific joint initiatives that the two parties are going to implement in cooperation. The RBM approach was used to define clear benchmarks and indicators for the foreseen activities, which include training programmes focusing on Myanmar, with support from the Norwegian Govt., and a meeting on sustainable tourism planned for 2014. Copy of this Annex was circulated among all category 2 centres.

**2. New Fund-Raising strategy of the AWHF**

AWHF presented its recently established strategy for fund-raising. This was deemed necessary considering that AWHF has not been able, so far, to reach its target in terms of size of the Fund (which would enable it to implement its activities out of accrued interests, rather than spending its capital). A wide range of initiatives have been thus planned to mobilize political support and raise financial resources. These include advocacy in the framework of several important political gatherings, such as the Round Tables of Ministers which took place at the present session of the World Heritage Committee or those planned in 2013 and 2014 in the context of the African Union, as well as towards business patrons. All these initiatives are being conducted in close consultation and cooperation with UNESCO, with an aim to identify the resources that would enable AWHF to carry out its capacity building programmes.

The Chairman of ARC-WH stressed the critical importance of capacity building and training and emphasized the need to build on existing training institutions, such as the Ecole du Patrimoine Africain (EPA) and the Centre for Heritage Development in Africa (CHDA).

AWHF explained that there was good cooperation with EPA and CHDA, as well as with other capacity building institutions in Africa, and referred to an initiative to set up a regional system of accreditation of diplomas from training courses.

The WHC noted that an interest had been expressed by the State Party of Morocco to establish a new category 2 centre in Rabat, focusing on cities in Africa, and that discussions were ongoing in that regard.

**3. Other ongoing cooperation initiatives by WHITR-AP (ARC-WH and Beijing Centre on HUL)**

WHITR-AP informed the participants in the meeting of its ongoing initiative to mainstream the Historic Urban Landscape approach in public planning frameworks (in China and elsewhere), in cooperation with ARC-WH and the International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage.

**4. New Mid-Term Strategy adopted by WHITR-AP**

WHITR-AP informed the participants of its recently approved mid-term strategy for the period 2014-2019. These include activities under the following topics:

1. The Historic Urban Landscape
2. Development of a strategy for capacity-building in Asia and Pacific
3. Links between science and technology and conservation
4. Strengthening conservation and management through World Heritage
5. Awareness-raising and education for World Heritage
6. Promoting community-based approaches in World Heritage conservation and management

These initiatives will be conducted in cooperation with a wide range of national and international partners. The related work-plan was developed applying the RBM approach, and WHITR-AP would be willing to share it with category 2 centres for their consideration. In this respect, WHITR-AP would be also pleased to work with UNESCO to further strengthen the application of RBM in its planning framework.

**5. Update on progress by Barbados**

Barbados is considering the establishment of a category 2 centre focusing on World Heritage of small island developing countries (SIDS). At present, different possible models are being looked at. Barbados intends to build on existing institutional frameworks, such as Universities that already have engaged in cooperation with other academic institutions from other SIDS. The possible future category 2 centre, in this respect, will most likely not be conceived as a traditional “training centre”, but rather as a platform bringing together different initiatives in a strategic and coordinated manner. 2014 will mark the 20th anniversary of the Barbados Plan of Action for SIDS, and it would be appropriate to use this opportunity to launch this initiative.

**6. Recent developments by Regional Heritage Management Training Centre "Lucio Costa" (Brazil)**

The Lucio Costa Centre is implementing a series of initiatives to support capacity-building in its region and for Portuguese speaking countries in Africa. These include the translation in Portuguese of Resource Manuals (e.g. the one on Nominations) and activities in support of intangible heritage, which is also within the mandate of the category 2 centre. In addition, the Lucio Costa centre recalled its intention to host the next Coordination Meeting of category 2 centres related to World Heritage in March/April of 2014.

**7. Recent developments by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH, Bahrain)**

ARC-WH reported on progress in the implementation of its activities. It noted that a stronger cooperation in the region would be desirable. It also informed that it will set up a website by the end of the month.

**8. Statement by ICOMOS on behalf of both ICOMOS and ICCROM**

On behalf of both ICOMOS and ICCROM, the ICOMOS representative made a statement expressing their readiness to cooperate with and support efforts by category 2 centres. The Advisory Bodies consider of particular importance the intention stated by the category 2 centres, at their recent meeting in Oslo, to develop in the future, in perspective, a common strategic framework, as this would enable a stronger cooperation at regional and thematic level (the full statement is enclosed in Annex I to this summary).

Acknowledging the value of developing strategies, ICCROM recommended category 2 centres to give also consideration to specific issues that may arise from the institutional process of the Convention, and address them in a reactive mode. For example, an analysis conducted by ICCROM showed that in a single session of the Committee around 26 management plans had been requested by the Committee to as many WH properties, as well as six disaster risk management plans. All of these would need to be developed within one to two years and many of the concerned States Parties would certainly need support. It was important, therefore, for category 2 centres to consider carefully the decisions by the Committee, notably under items 7 (State of conservation) and 8 (nominations, often accompanied by recommendations) and see how they might contribute. Finally, ICCROM reminded participants of the existence of several modules it developed recently through international capacity-building initiatives, which could be useful to category 2 centres for the planning of their own programmes in the regions.

**9. Intervention by the International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (HIST, China)**

The representative of HIST intervened briefly to reiterate its wish to be part of the network of category 2 centres related to World Heritage. It recalled its activities in support of heritage conservation, notably through its technological capacity (three monitoring stations in China and two planes that can be mobilized to conduct surveys). HIST, which recently concluded an agreement with APSARA in Angkor to assist the Cambodian authorities in surveying and monitoring this very large property, strongly hopes to be included in future activities and discussions.

**10. Final remarks by WHC**

WHC concluded the meeting by thanking all those who attended for their contribution and recalling participants of the existence of a website dedicated to category 2 centres, which could host more information from the various institutions, encouraging the centres to make suggestions for its improvement.

**ANNEX I – Statement by ICOMOS-ICCROM**

“ICOMOS and ICCROM, along with our sister Advisory Body IUCN, are fully committed to the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy, which we see as an important opportunity to encourage collaboration and involvement at local and regional levels to strengthen the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. The Category II Centers take an important role in this process, in particular through disseminating knowledge and methods established in global processes at the regional level. ICOMOS and ICCROM consider that the regional component is the core strength of the Category II Centers, which also allows for the development of thematic approaches particularly relevant to a respective region.

ICOMOS and ICCROM would like to thank the Category II Centers associated with World Heritage for their initiative towards a shared strategic framework and note that the 3rd annual coordination meeting in Oslo in March this year took important steps into this direction. A shared strategic framework will enable to foster cooperation between the different Cat II Centers and the Advisory Bodies on specific themes developed in the different regions, and we recognize that several such cooperation projects are already established and many more opportunities exist, in particular in the field of “harmonization of Tentative Lists”, “Upstreaming”, “Management of World Heritage Properties” and “Thematic Studies”. ICOMOS and ICCROM hope that our exchange with the Category II Centers can be further strengthened in the near future to advance innovative approaches in World Heritage protection and management, to meet challenges faced by the World Heritage Convention and to create capacities responsive to the present needs.”