

Report for the 43rd Session of the World Heritage Committee
(Baku, 30 June – 10 July 2019)

1. General information

Name of the Centre: The Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage

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Name and contact information of the Acting Director/Head: Dr. Shadia Touqan,

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Designated Focal Point(s) (name, title and contact information): Ebrahim Alkhalifa,

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Website of the Centre (if available): www.arcwh.org

2. Institutional and operational structure of the Centre (Governing Board, Staffing, Operational funding and premises)

The Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), based in the Kingdom of Bahrain, is an autonomous and independent legal entity at the service of the Arab States. The ARC-WH is guided and supervised by a Governing Board which is renewed every two years. The Board meets in ordinary sessions at regular intervals, at least once per calendar year. The Governing Board is chaired by the President of Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities H.E Sheikha Mai Bint Mohammed Al Khalifa. The other members include the following: a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Kingdom of Bahrain, a representative of the Arab Member States to the World Heritage Committee, a representative of the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities, a representative of the Director General of UNESCO, a representative of each of the Advisory Bodies to the Committee ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM. The current secretariat of ARC-WH comprises 12 permanent staff members which includes the Director, Assistant Director and Programme Specialists for both Cultural and Natural Heritage and a Technical Assistant for Programmes as well as two regional officers based outside the Kingdom of Bahrain. The staff also includes Resource Development Specialist, Communication and Information Officer, Admin and Logistics Officer as well as Logistical Support Coordinator and a Finance Officer. The activities of the Centre and its running costs are mainly funded by the Kingdom of Bahrain, some of the activities are occasionally co-funded by external partners according to ARC-WH agreements on joint projects.

3. Updates on the management of the Centre – particularly on meetings of the Governing Board and key decisions adopted

The 8th Governing Board Meeting was held on the 18th of February 2019, in Manama, Bahrain. The main decisions of the 8th Governing Board Meeting included reviewing and endorsing the progress of ARC-WH in the implementation of the 2018 Action Plan adopted by the previous Governing Board Meeting. The Governing Board members commended ARC-WH for the effective implementation of the adopted programme and its multidisciplinary approach towards the enhancement of the state of conservation of World Heritage Sites in the Arab States. The Governing Board Meeting also highlighted the fruitful collaboration of ARC-WH with the Advisory Bodies including its flagship Capacity Building Programme with ICOMOS and its Tabe'a programme with IUCN as well as its cooperation with the World Heritage Centre in the implementation of the Third Cycle of the Periodic Reporting Exercise.

The Governing Board also adopted the Action Plan for 2019, which has been prepared and presented by the secretariat of ARC-WH in-line with its new mid and long-term strategy adopted at the previous Board meeting. Among its potential new collaboration, ARC-WH invited the German University in Oman to present its project for a new UNESCO chair on World Heritage sustainable tourism management to which ARC-WH could be participating in the future.

4. Main programmes and activities implemented since April 2018 and planned for the current year

No	Title of the activity	Reference to WHCBS ¹
1	BETTER REPRESENTATION OF THE ARAB REGION ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST	
1.1	Training Workshop on the mechanisms and concepts of the World Heritage Convention for the State Parties of Libya and Palestine, (Manama Bahrain)	2.2,1.3
1.2	Workshop on the World Heritage Convention and its nomination process and coordination between local stakeholders involved in the management of the city of Manama, (Manama, Bahrain)	2.3
1.3	Revision of Tentative List for Nature sites, (Cairo, Egypt)	2.3, 2.6
1.4	Side Event Heritage of Water: Traditional Water Systems in the Arab Region, 42 nd session of the World Heritage Committee (Manama, Bahrain)	2.4
1.5	Exhibition on Cultural Landscapes focused on Oasis and Hydraulic systems at the 42 nd Session of the World Heritage Committee	2.4
1.6	Strengthening Capacities of World Heritage Professionals in the Arab Region for Cultural and Mixed sites, (Manama, Bahrain)	1.1, 2.8, 3.4
1.7	Technical evaluation mission of the historic area in the city of Manama, (Manama, Bahrain)	2.6

1 WHCBS i.e. World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (<http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2011/whc11-35com-9Be.pdf>).

1.8	Translation to Arabic of the thematic Study Cultural heritage of water in the Middle East and the Maghreb.	2.4
2	IMPROVING MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF ARAB WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES	
2.1	Integrating Cultural Heritage in the Conservation and Development of Planning in Socotra Island – Workshop 1, (Manama, Bahrain)	3.4, 4.5, 7.2
2.2	Technical assistance to the Management of the World Heritage site Battir, (Battir, Palestine)	4.3
2.3	Workshop on Management of World Heritage sites for site management of Sanganeb and Dugonab, (Khartoum, Sudan)	4.3
2.4	Implementation of the Enhancing Our Heritage (EoH) toolkit: Management Effectiveness Assessment – EoH I, (Manama, Bahrain)	4.1, 4.4
2.5	Side event on Reconstruction of Built Cultural Heritage: Impacts on Identity and Memory, 42 nd session of the World Heritage Committee (Manama, Bahrain)	4.5, 4.8
2.6	Workshop on Retrospective Inventory of SOUV and Boundaries Clarifications for Libya and Egypt, (Cairo, Egypt)	5.2
2.7	Implementation of the Enhancing Our Heritage (EoH) toolkit: Management Effectiveness Assessment – EoH II, (Petra, Jordan)	4.1, 4.4
2.8	Marine World Heritage Expert Meeting - Sanganeb Dugonab, (Sanganeb, Sudan)	4.3
2.9	Regional training workshop for Arab States on Heritage and Environmental Impact Assessment, (Muscat, Oman)	3.6, 3.4
2.10	Integrating Cultural Heritage in the Conservation and Development of Planning in Socotra Island – Workshop 2, (Manama, Bahrain)	3.4, 4.5, 7.2
2.11	17th International Soqotra Conference & the Annual General Meeting of Friends of Soqotra, (Manama, Bahrain)	6.1, 7.1
2.12	Implementation of the Enhancing Our Heritage (EoH) toolkit: Management Effectiveness Assessment – EoH III, (Ouarzazate, Morocco)	4.1, 4.4
2.13	Periodic Reporting Workshop for Arab Focal Points, (Manama, Bahrain)	2.7,3.1, 3.5
2.14	Periodic Reporting Workshop for Arab Focal Points, (Paris, France)	2.7,3.1, 3.5
2.15	Training workshop on the Third Cycle of the Periodic Reporting Exercise for Site Managers, (Cairo, Egypt)	2.7,3.1, 3.5
2.16	Training workshop on the Third Cycle of the Periodic Reporting Exercise for Site Managers, (Manama, Bahrain)	2.7,3.1, 3.5
2.17	Re-launch of the Exhibition on the Heritage of Urban and Architectural Modernities in the Arab World, (Manama, Bahrain)	2.4

2.18	Supporting the Ministry of Environment in developing effective management measures for four natural components of Ahwar: Iraqi Marshlands, Iraq	4.3
2.19	Mitigation of Hurricane Impact on Endemic and Threatened Plants in Socotra, (Socotra,	3.4
3	CREDIBILITY: LINKS TO OTHER CONVENTIONS AND UNESCO SECTORS	
3.1	Man and Biosphere Workshop, Assistance to the State Party of Bahrain, (Manama, Bahrain)	2.3,2.4
3.2	Attending the Annual Coordination Meeting of UNESCO World Heritage related Category 2 Centres, (Robben Island, South Africa)	
3.3	Expert Meeting on Man and Biosphere, (Manama, Bahrain)	2.3,2.4
3.4	Bird hide Project Meeting , (Manama, Bahrain)	2.3
3.5	Side event on Heritage of Water: Cultural Practices in Wetlands and World Heritage Sites, 42 nd session of the World Heritage Committee, (Manama, Bahrain)	2.4
3.6	Attending the 23rd conference on archaeology and urban heritage in the Arab world, (Amman, Jordan)	9
4	PROMOTION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION	
4.1	Information session on the Periodic Reporting Exercise for Arab Delegates during the 42 session World Heritage Committee, (Manama Bahrain)	2.7,3.1, 3.5
4.2	Public Lecture for the students of the University of New York in Abu Dhabi (Manama, Bahrain)	8.2,8.3
4.3	Public lecture for the Students of the French School in Bahrain (Manama, Bahrain)	8.2,8.3
4.3	Public lecture for the Students of the Kingdom University in Bahrain, (Manama, Bahrain)	8.2,8.3
4.4	Public Lecture on the City of Fez, Morocco (Manama, Bahrain)	8.2,8.3
4.5	Public Lecture on the City of Jerusalem, Palestine (Manama, Bahrain)	8.2,8.3
4.6	Public Lecture on Historic City of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia (Manama, Bahrain)	8.2,8.3
4.7	Public Lecture on the city of Damascus, Syria (Manama, Bahrain)	8.2,8.3
4.8	National Journalist workshop on the World Heritage Convention and the Committee Meeting – Workshop I, (Manama, Bahrain)	8.2,8.3,8.4
4.9	National Journalist workshop on the World Heritage Convention and the Committee Meeting – Workshop II, (Manama, Bahrain)	8.2,8.3
4.10	Biodiversity Lecture to Bahrain Students	8.2,8.3
4.11	Public lecture to the Association of French in Bahrain (AFBH), Manama, Bahrain)	8.18,2,8.3