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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

World Heritage Committee
Thirty-third Session

Sevilla, Spain
20 – 30 June 2009

**Item 6B of the Provisional Agenda: Progress report on the creation of the
Pacific World Heritage Fund**

SUMMARY

This document presents a brief background to the proposed Pacific World Heritage Fund and describes progress in the establishment of the Fund. It includes the development of a purpose statement and Terms of Reference for a feasibility study on the development and implementation of sustainable funding arrangements for heritage conservation in the Pacific. These two latter documents, elaborated by the Pacific States parties during a regional Workshop held in Cairns (Australia) in October 2008, are provided in annex.

Draft Decision: 32 COM 6B See Part III.

I. Background

1. At the Pacific Regional Workshop held at Tongariro National Park, New Zealand (February 2007), delegates from Pacific Island Countries developed an Appeal which was presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session in Christchurch 2007.
2. As part of the Appeal the Pacific Island Countries outlined their vision to establish a sustainable financing mechanism to support the effective implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Pacific. The concept for the Pacific World Heritage Fund was based upon the experiences of the Africa region in establishing the Africa World Heritage Fund. The Committee noted and welcomed the Appeal (Decision 31COM 11C). The Appeal is accessible online at:

<http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2007/whc07-31com-11ce.doc> (English version)

<http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2007/whc07-31com-11cf.doc> (French version)

II. Progress on the creation of the Pacific World Heritage Fund

3. The creation of the Pacific World Heritage Fund was discussed by Pacific States Parties at the 'Pacific Islands World Heritage sub-regional workshop', held in Cairns, Australia on 13-17 October 2008, organized by the Australian Department of Environment and Heritage, in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the New Zealand Government.
4. Discussions at the workshop highlighted that the use of the African example which is based on the endowment model would be problematic for the Pacific World Heritage Fund in the context of the current financial crisis. It was suggested, therefore, to consider a larger range of possible mechanisms for ensuring sustainable financing for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Pacific. It recognised that any funding would necessarily need to contribute to heritage conservation in general, given the scarcity of human resources in the region.
5. During the workshop the States Parties also defined the purpose of the Fund - or any other sustainable financing mechanism - in order to guide its future development and implementation. The text of this document is enclosed in Annex I of this report.
6. During the workshop, the States Parties also prepared draft Terms of Reference for a feasibility study on the development and implementation of sustainable funding arrangements for heritage conservation in the Pacific, including consideration of its appropriate mandate, structure and possible modalities of operation. These Terms of reference are also enclosed in Annex I of this document.
7. The UNESCO Cluster Office in Apia (Samoa) will implement the feasibility study during the 2008-2009 biennium with funds from the UNESCO Regular Programme, since the provision of '*assistance for the future establishment of the proposed Pacific World Heritage Fund*' was one of the expected results of the General Conference for the current biennium under the Regular Programme of UNESCO (34 C/5).

III. Draft Decision

Draft Decision: 33 COM 6B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined document WHC-09/33.COM/6B,*
2. *Recalling its Decision/31 COM 11C adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),*
3. *Notes the progress made towards the establishment of the Pacific World Heritage Fund or any other sustainable funding arrangements for heritage conservation in the Pacific;*
4. *Requests the World Heritage Centre to report on the outcomes of the feasibility study on the development and implementation of sustainable funding arrangements for heritage conservation in the Pacific to the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011.*

Annex I

Documentation relating to the “Pacific World Heritage Fund”, developed at the Cairns Workshop, October 2008

A. Purpose of funding arrangements for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Pacific region

Support the achievement of the objectives and activities in the Pacific Action Plan, in particular:

- encouraging dialogue between communities, agencies and organisations within and outside the Pacific region to identify, promote and protect the region’s outstanding cultural and natural heritage for the global community,
- empowering local communities by raising awareness of the benefits of preserving their cultural and natural heritage, and of encouraging community participation (particularly by youth and women) in all stages of the World Heritage process,
- increasing successful nominations for representation on the World Heritage list, by reinforcing in-country capacity to identify suitable potential sites and preparing nomination dossiers that fully meet the requirements of the World Heritage Convention,
- strengthening in-country capacity to develop appropriate management plans and arrangements to ensure effective protection and conservation of Pacific heritage sites, in a way that takes into account and recognises traditional knowledge, practices and land and sea tenures,
- assisting in the development of in-country heritage expertise in the Pacific by supporting heritage education and training, and providing related technical assistance where requested.. Development of a network of partner institutions within the region capable of providing training and educational services in the area of heritage conservation in a coordinated and integrated way,
- building partnerships between heritage agencies, regional organisations, educational institutions and non-governmental organisations in the region, through the promotion of bilateral cooperation and twinning programmes between WH sites and countries of the Pacific and beyond,
- assisting communities to develop and implement sustainable heritage-related enterprises in their communities,
- sharing information through regional heritage data bases and communication networks that link islands,
- supporting the development and implementation of effective national policies and legislation for cultural and natural heritage conservation by Governments in the region. Integrating heritage within the larger development agenda and raising the profile of heritage within political circles,
- establishing sustainable financing arrangements to support the effective implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Pacific, taking into due account of other available funding sources and in-kind contributions,
- sustaining the ongoing consultative process by bringing together the representatives of the Pacific Islands States and Territories on a regular basis.

B. Draft Terms of Reference for a consultancy for the study, development and implementation of sustainable funding arrangements for heritage conservation in the Pacific

1. Briefly describe the broad options available for establishing funding arrangements (including an endowment fund; a central trust fund; a central register of potential projects that

can be directly accessed by donors; and direct bilateral project support) to support the implementation of the objectives and activities in the Pacific Action Plan.

2. Briefly describe the pros and cons of each of the broad options above, and recommend which of these (including a combination of options) would be most transparent, efficient, effective and appropriate to the needs of the Pacific.

3. Identify what practical steps would be required to enable implementation of the recommended option or options.

4. In relation to trust or endowment funds, this should include identification of possible governance structures and management arrangements for the funds and for practical implementation of projects in the Pacific. Relevant international and regional experience with similar funds should be taken into account and recommendation made for a most suitable model.

5. Suggest possible criteria to be used in making decisions on allocation of funds, taking into account both the objectives and activities in the Pacific Action Plan, and an equitable distribution of funds that reflect the needs and capacities of countries in the region.

6. Provide a report on the above matters to Pacific countries through the World Heritage Centre, if possible, prior to the 2009 World Heritage Committee meeting..