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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Forty-second session

Manama, Bahrain
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Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of World Heritage properties

SUMMARY

This document presents a global and analytical overview of Item 7 on the state of conservation of the World Heritage properties.

The document is composed of four parts: a statistical summary (Introduction), a section on statutory matters related to Reactive Monitoring (Part I), a focus on emergency situations resulting from conflicts (Part II) and a synthesis of other conservation issues which might have strategic or policy implications (Part III).

The Committee may wish to discuss and take a decision on Item 7 as a whole, as required.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7, see Part IV.

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INTRODUCTION

1. As part of the Reactive Monitoring process¹, the World Heritage Committee will examine at its 42nd session the reports on the state of conservation of 157 World Heritage properties (Agenda items 7A and 7B), including the 54 properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger (Agenda item 7A). In addition, due to specific situations, two decisions, one on the World Heritage properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and one on those of the Syrian Arab Republic, will also be examined under Agenda item 7A.
2. The properties reported upon are selected, among all those inscribed on the World Heritage List, according to the following considerations:
 - 54 properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger (Agenda item 7A);
 - 100 properties inscribed on the World Heritage List for which state of conservation reports were requested by the World Heritage Committee at its previous sessions (Agenda item 7B);
 - 3 additional properties that have also come under threat since the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee (Agenda item 7B);
 - Out of these 157 properties, for 16 a follow-up was requested by the World Heritage Committee upon their inscription on the World Heritage List.
3. The 157 properties for examination are distributed as follows:

Agenda item 7A Document WHC/18/42.COM/7A Document WHC/18/42.COM/7A.Add Document WHC/18/42.COM/7A.Add.2	NAT	CLT	total
AFR	11	4	15
ARB	0	22	22
APA	2	4	6
EUR/NA	1	3	4
LAC	2	5	7
Total	16	38	54

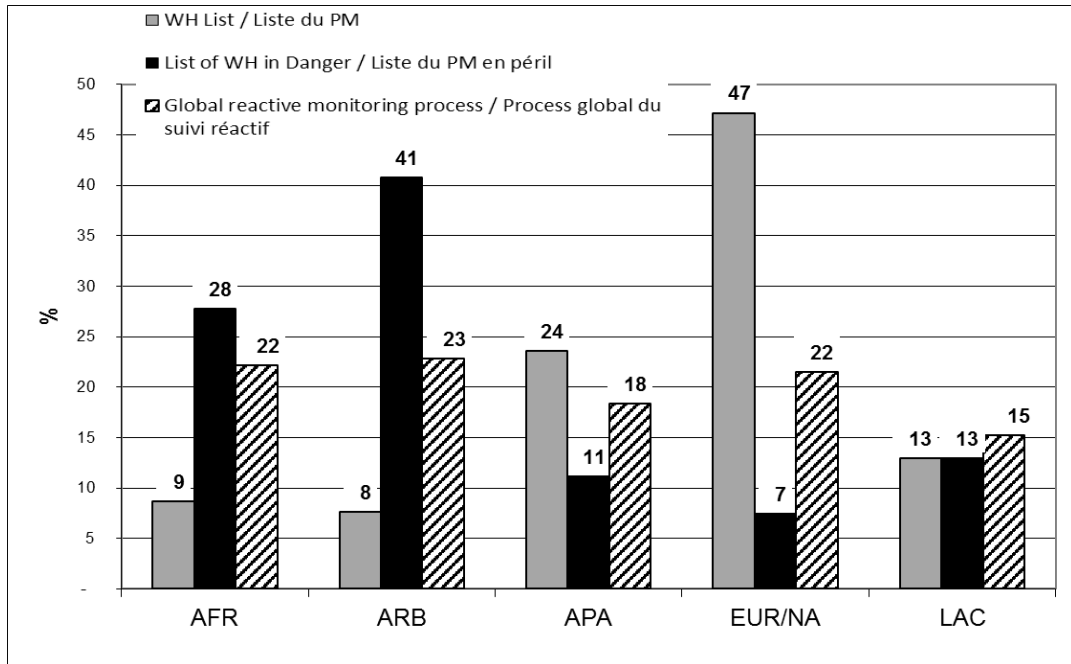
Agenda item 7B Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add.2	NAT	MIX	CLT	total
AFR	9	2	9	20
ARB	3	2	9	14
APA	3	2	18	23
EUR/NA	12	0	17	29
LAC	6	1	10	17
Total	33	7	63	103

4. These 157 properties represent 14.7% of all the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. Significant variations among the regions are noticeable (see below Chart 1). For example, the Africa and the Arab States regions represent 28% and 41%

¹For further details on this process, please visit the dedicated page on the World Heritage Centre's online State of conservation Information System at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/reactive-monitoring>.

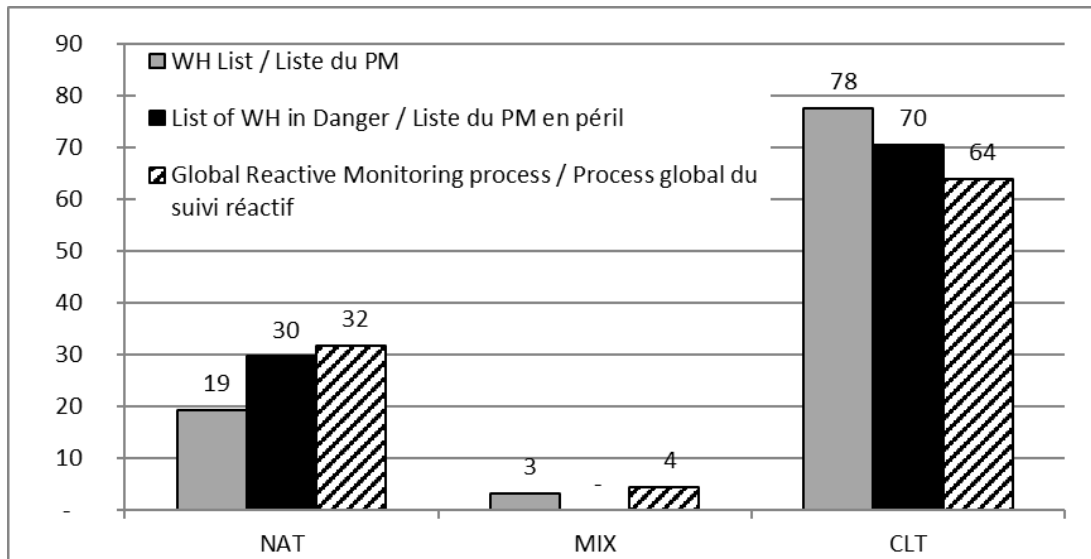
respectively of all properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger (item 7A), although they represent today only 9% and 8% of the World Heritage List respectively.

Chart 1: Percentage of properties located in each region



- There are also significant variations when considering the categories of heritage (natural, mixed and cultural properties). Indeed, while natural properties represent 19% of the World Heritage List, they account for nearly one third of the properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and one third of all properties subject to the Reactive Monitoring process (see Chart 2 below).

Chart 2: Percentage of properties of each category (natural, mixed, cultural)



- The 157 properties for which a state of conservation report is presented are facing a number of factors, which negatively impact, or may impact, their Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). A total of 64 different factors affecting these properties have been identified, with an average of 4.7 factors affecting each property, which emphasizes once more the cumulative impact of threats on the OUV.

7. Globally, the most reported factors affecting the properties in 2018 are the following:

Factors	Percentage of the reported properties affected
Management systems/ management plan	74%
Housing	32%
Illegal activities	25%
Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation	22%
War and Civil unrest	20%
Legal framework	20%
Mining, oil and gas exploration/exploitation	18%
Ground transport infrastructure	18%
Land conversion	17%
Management activities	16%
Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure	14%
Human resources	11%
Governance	11%
Financial resources	11%
Water infrastructure	10%

8. However, factors affecting the World Heritage properties vary according to the category of heritage considered. The table below presents the most reported factors affecting respectively natural and cultural properties, as identified in the state of conservation reports presented in 2018:

Natural properties		Cultural properties	
Factors	Percentage of the reported properties affected	Factors	Percentage of the reported properties affected
Management systems/ management plan	61%	Management systems/ management plan	78%
Illegal activities	55%	Housing	46%
Mining, oil and gas exploration/exploitation	49%	War and Civil unrest	24%
Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation	31%	Management activities	24%
Invasive/alien species	27%	Legal framework	21%
Water infrastructure	24%	Ground transport infrastructure	19%
Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals	22%	Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation	17%
Ground transport infrastructure	20%	Land conversion	16%
Governance	20%	Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure	14%
Land conversion	20%	Interpretative and visitation facilities	14%
Legal framework	16%	Human resources	11%
Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community	16%	Illegal activities	11%
Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure	16%	Deliberate destruction of heritage	10%
War and Civil unrest	14%	Financial resources	9%
Fishing/collecting aquatic resources	14%	Commercial development	8%

9. More detailed statistics can be found at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc> (click “Advanced search”; enter “from 2018”; click “Search”; then on the “Views” tab, and “Statistics”).

10. The following sections of the document present insights on specific factors, such as conflict situations, reconstruction, climate change, etc.
11. The World Heritage Centre wishes to underline that a substantial number of reports were not received within the statutory deadlines of 1 December 2017 and 1 February 2018, as requested by the World Heritage Committee. By 15 December 2017, only 80% of the reports requested by 1 December had been received by the World Heritage Centre; and by 15 February 2018, only 75% of the reports requested by 1 February had been received.
12. 86% of all the requested reports were received by the end of February 2018 and 94% by the end of March 2018. At the time of drafting this document, 7 reports had not yet been submitted. It should however be noted with appreciation that this year again, most of the States Parties reports followed the statutory format included as Annex 13 of the *Operational Guidelines*. The respect of the format greatly improves the treatment of the information and facilitates the monitoring of the implementation of previous Committee decisions.
13. The World Heritage Centre would like to recall that delayed submission of the reports and/or late submission of additional information by the States Parties inevitably leads to less time available for dialogue between the States Parties, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies on the issues at stake. It should be noted that this year, States Parties have submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies a substantial amount of such additional documentation and information, sometimes at a very late point in the drafting process in late April and May, which delays the production of the relevant working documents. Furthermore, late submissions lead to an increasing number of SOC reports being included in the Addenda documents, thus reducing the time available for Committee members to review these reports before the Committee session. 93 SOC reports were made available by the Secretariat on 14 May 2018 (statutory deadline for dispatch of Documents WHC/18/42.COM/7A and 7B) and 64 remaining reports were made available on the second and third dispatches (Documents WHC/18/42.COM/7A.Add, WHC/18/42.COM/7A.Add.2, WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add and WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add.2).
14. Although the sharing of information on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties is crucial, States Parties should be reminded about Decision **35 COM 12B**, Paragraph 16, by which they were requested by the Committee to consider refraining from providing additional information regarding SOC issues after the deadlines indicated in the *Operational Guidelines*, as this information cannot be reviewed in due course.
15. The World Heritage Centre would also like to acknowledge that out of all reports received, 77% have been made fully accessible to the public at http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/42com/documents/#state_of_conservation_reports with the agreement of the States Parties concerned. The online availability of such an important number of complete state of conservation reports greatly contributes to the transparency of the Reactive Monitoring process and States Parties should be commended for allowing such online publication.
16. Lastly, as key actors of the World Heritage Reactive Monitoring process, site managers often emerge as the responsibility holders who oversee and lead site-specific managerial decision-making. The responsibility of implementing the decisions adopted by the World Heritage Committee and preparing the state of conservation reports also often rely on them. However, too often, site managers are not directly involved in the decision-making processes and therefore might not be fully empowered to act upon the effective implementation of the decisions adopted nor assist other stakeholders to engage in the World Heritage processes. To address this issue, Poland, the host country of the 41st session of the Committee (Krakow, 2017) organized the first World Heritage Site Managers Forum (SMF), opened to all site managers of properties examined by the

Committee at its 41st session (under Items 7A and 7B), as a capacity-building exercise to achieve a more effective protection of the OUV as well as promote a greater engagement of all those dealing with World Heritage properties on a day-to-day basis. This initiative of Poland was greatly appreciated and has been continued in 2018. In conjunction of the 42nd session of the Committee, the Kingdom of Bahrain (Host Country) and ICCROM, in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS, IUCN and the National Heritage Board of Poland are organizing the 2nd edition of the Site Managers Forum in Manama, from 21-28 June 2018. For more information, see <http://42whcbahrain2018.bh/world-heritage-site-managers-forum-2018/>.

I. STATUTORY MATTERS RELATED TO REACTIVE MONITORING

A. Reactive Monitoring evaluation

17. During the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), it was highlighted that the Reactive Monitoring process was perceived as a key indicator of the effectiveness of the *Convention* itself as an international agreement for heritage protection and that this process provided a unique global overview of the state of conservation of heritage. It was stressed however that its content and its procedures were not always clear. In addition, Committee members highlighted that the List of World Heritage in Danger is unfortunately often negatively perceived. The Committee decided that it was time that these issues be formally addressed and adopted Decision **40 COM 7**, requesting the World Heritage Centre, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies:
 - a) to promote better understanding of the implications and benefits of the inscription of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and to develop appropriate information material in this regard with a view to overcome the negative perceptions of the List of World Heritage in Danger;
 - b) to evaluate the effectiveness of Reactive Monitoring including procedures and case studies.
18. In implementing this decision, the World Heritage Centre developed a Concept Note and Terms of Reference for a project to evaluate the Reactive Monitoring process in order to strengthen its effectiveness and improve its understanding. The Concept Note was posted on the MarketPlace at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/912/> and has so far benefitted from the generous support of the State Party of Switzerland through the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), allowing the World Heritage Centre to contract two senior consultants with outstanding experience of the *World Heritage Convention*.
19. One of the outputs of the evaluation should be clear guidelines on the purpose of the Reactive Monitoring process and its organization. It should be accompanied by a set of recommendations addressed to the various stakeholders of the *Convention* in order to further streamline the process and the procedures, and strengthen their effectiveness and improve their understanding.
20. The following principles will guide the implementation of the project:
 - a) Wide, open and effective consultation with all key stakeholders, particularly Committee members, Advisory Bodies, World Heritage Centre staff and World Heritage Site Managers;
 - b) Provide the opportunity for any relevant person or civil society organization who wishes to have an input to the project to do so;
 - c) Clear and objective analysis and presentation of results;

- d) Focus on positive and pragmatic suggestions for improvement to the Reactive Monitoring process.
21. The project is on-going and it is envisaged that the report will be presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019, followed by a publication.
22. In addition to this project, as part of the current momentum to overcome the negative perceptions of the List of World Heritage in Danger, UNESCO –through its [#UNITE4HERITAGE](#) team– is preparing a series of short videos (30 seconds) on 10 properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger for communication on social networks. Some of these videos were launched on 18 April 2018 to celebrate the International Day for Monuments and Sites. At the time of drafting this document, 5 videos can be viewed at the following web address: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWuYED1WVJIOR1Drz4ixqqXb3ESuVw5-9>

B. Dialogue with civil society

23. At its 41st session (Krakow, 2017), the World Heritage Committee encouraged States Parties and civil society organizations “to continue exploring possibilities how civil society can further contribute to enhanced conservation of heritage on the site and national level and provide relevant input to the heritage related debate at the global level”. (Decision **41 COM 7**).
24. In line with this decision, an online consultation on the World Heritage Policy Compendium, launched in February 2018, was carried out by the World Heritage Centre, involving for the first time not only States Parties, but also civil society organizations from all regions with activities in the fields covered by the *World Heritage Convention*. The transparent and inclusive nature of this consultation was met with appreciation by civil society organizations, which contributed with constructive input. It is important to note as well that some of them expressed interest to contribute also to the next phase of elaboration of the Policy Compendium, as well as with regard to other relevant policies, projects or initiatives to be developed or implemented by the World Heritage Centre.
25. Furthermore, a meeting between civil society organizations, Committee members and States Parties to the *Convention*, with the participation of the Secretariat and the Advisory Bodies, was organized in Paris further to the initiative of World Wildlife Fund (WWF), in March 2018. This World Heritage Civil Society Workshop allowed for an open and constructive exchange between the different actors on a number of questions related to the input of civil society to the heritage-related debate and specifically at the World Heritage Committee sessions. A presentation of Rules of Procedure and practices of some other standard-setting instruments (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora-CITES and the UNESCO 2005 Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions) demonstrated that these are largely comparable with the Rules of procedures and practices of the World Heritage Convention, despite some differences related to the nature of the Conventions themselves. It was discussed that existing practices can be further improved and that a better-structured coordination of civil society at the regional and international level, and involvement of civil society actors from all regions, both on nature and culture, will facilitate the communication between different actors. It will also contribute to a better-structured voice of civil society and allow that a more meaningful input to the heritage related debate is made.

II. EMERGENCY SITUATIONS RESULTING FROM CONFLICTS

26. Conflicts continue to represent a major threat to World Heritage properties. In 2018, 20% of the properties reported on at the 42nd session of the Committee are located in conflict

areas (either wars or civil unrest) and are at risk. 28 of these properties, or 17,8%, are on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Actions are being pursued to monitor and/or safeguard this heritage and advocate for its protection at international and national level; other actions have been developed to mitigate and prevent risks, and to address the challenges of recovery processes.

27. In Africa, the security situation continues to be precarious in several countries including the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Nigeria, the Central African Republic, Chad, Cameroon, Niger and Mali. This situation is having an impact on World Heritage sites and prompts the need for close monitoring. Increasing migration is affecting the protection of cultural and natural heritage in the Sahel because community members protecting these sites, especially young people, are fleeing conflicts.
28. Poaching remains the greatest threat to the integrity of natural sites in the Africa Region, and is often closely linked to conflict. World Heritage properties are being targeted by armed groups and poachers presenting direct threats to the safety and lives of guards and conservation staff. According to the International Rangers Federation, worldwide over 1,000 park wardens have been killed over the past decade, 80% of them by poachers and armed militias. 2018 has regrettably seen a dramatic surge of casualties amongst the staff of the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN - *Institut congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature*) with 22 guards killed in Okapi Wildlife Reserve and Virunga National Park and several guards wounded, profoundly disrupting entire families. The Corps to strengthen security in the national parks of the DRC, the establishment of which was decided in April 2015, is not yet operational. Military contingents from the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) are deployed in all the natural properties in the DRC to undertake joint patrols with the ICCN.
29. The Arab States Region continues to be severely affected by ongoing violence. In Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen, armed conflicts and political instability increasingly and overwhelmingly degrade humanitarian conditions and the devastating state of conservation of World Heritage properties, sites inscribed on Tentative Lists, and cultural heritage as a whole.
30. The armed conflict in Yemen continues to cause tragic loss of human lives and an unprecedented humanitarian crisis with 22.2 million people in need of assistance according to UN OCHA². Cultural and natural heritage in Yemen suffer considerably from the lack of detailed reliable information coupled with difficult access which hampers monitoring and technical support, in particular in the Old City of Sana'a, and the situation in the Socotra Archipelago raised great concerns on impact of development projects on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, impacts from a cyclone and lack of adequate national governance.
31. The large-scale damage in urban areas such as in the Ancient City of Aleppo (Syria), Mosul (Iraq) and Sana'a (Yemen) has considerably raised the stakes of post-conflict recovery and urban reconstruction in relation to cultural heritage conservation and protection, amidst the urgency of providing shelter and basic services for the inhabitants. To support the growing urban reconstruction needs, several initiatives are reported under the section on Reconstruction below.
32. In the liberated areas of northern Iraq, demining of cultural heritage sites remains a very laborious endeavour making large areas inaccessible for further protection and emergency consolidation actions.
33. In February 2018, UNESCO launched an initiative entitled "Reviving the Spirit of Mosul", which aims to address recovery and reconstruction by emphasising its human dimension

² Figures of January 2018 - <http://www.unocha.org/yemen>

through culture and education programmes and projects, in support of the national Iraq Reconstruction and Development Framework and inscribed in the wider UN Recovery and Resilience Programme for the country. The initiative was endorsed by acclamation at the UNESCO 204th Executive Board, and received financial support, such as by the United Arab Emirates for the reconstruction of Al-Nuri mosque and al-Hadba minaret. International meetings aiming at planning this complex initiative are foreseen at UNESCO Headquarters in September 2018.

34. In Libya, the prevailing unstable situation and the rising insecurity place the five World Heritage properties of Libya at a high level of risk. The World Heritage site of Tadrart Acacus is exposed to unprecedented rates of human presence due to migratory movements and is increasingly exposed to vandalism. Looting and illicit trafficking continue to be of growing concern in areas affected by conflict. UNESCO pursued its follow-up to the implementation of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions related to cultural heritage protection, humanitarian and security considerations, in particular resolutions 2199, 2253 and 2347 for which UNESCO coordinated and presented relevant reports to the UNSC, in close cooperation with other United Nations and international institutional partners.
35. The UNESCO *Heritage Emergency Fund* (HEF), established in 2015, has provided support to Member States in protecting natural and cultural heritage from disasters and conflicts by more effectively preparing for and responding to emergency situations. The Fund is supported by the Qatar Fund for Development, the Kingdom of Norway, the Government of Canada, ANA Holdings INC., the Principality of Monaco, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Republic of Estonia, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Slovak Republic and the Principality of Andorra. Since the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee, the Heritage Emergency Fund supported emergency interventions concerning World Heritage properties in Afghanistan, Dominica, Iraq, Jordan, Mali, Mexico, Nepal and the Syrian Arab Republic.

III. OTHER CONSERVATION ISSUES

A. Reconstruction

36. In its Decision **41 COM 7**, the World Heritage Committee acknowledged the continued need to address the issue of reconstruction in World Heritage properties, following conflicts or disasters. The Committee also expressed its satisfaction that several international meetings have taken place or are being planned on broader issues of recovery, and reconstruction in particular, and welcomed the offer of the Government of Poland to host an international conference on Reconstruction in Warsaw in 2018. The conference took place in the Historic Centre of Warsaw, one of the first inscriptions on the World Heritage List, which has experienced the tragedy of deliberate destruction and the need to deal with various kinds of challenges aimed at returning to normal functioning. The Outstanding Universal Value of this property recognized, among others, the comprehensive reconstruction of the city destroyed in the material layer, as the basis for reconstruction of the strength of the spirit and the determination of the nation. The reconstruction of Warsaw's historic centre was also a major contribution to the changes in the doctrines related to urbanization and conservation of cities in most of the European countries after the destructions of World War II.
37. Two hundred participants from more than 30 countries, representing different regions of the world, including institutions from Poland, the Global Alliance for Urban Crises, ICOMOS, ICCROM, the World Bank, UNISDR and UNESCO, attended the conference, which took place from 6 to 8 May 2018. The conference was organized in the following five different panels: (1) Integrative Approach to Recovery – Challenges and Opportunities; (2) The Processes of Recovery - Taking Stock of the Past Experiences:

documentation; (3) History and Memory; (4) Communities and Cultural Rights, and; (5) The Challenges of Urban Heritage Recovery. Among the key outcomes of the conference is the paradigm shift from reconstruction, as a physical process of the built environment, to recovery, as a holistic concept to encompass both tangible and intangible heritage, participatory and multidisciplinary approaches, training and job creation and most and foremost the full involvement of all stakeholders.

38. The conference unanimously adopted the [Warsaw Recommendation on recovery and reconstruction of cultural heritage](#). The recommendation considered that the recovery of the cultural heritage lost or damaged as a result of armed conflict offers unique opportunities, notably within the context of stabilization processes, to foster mutual recognition, promote dialogue and lay the ground for reconciliation among all components of society, particularly in areas characterized by a strong cultural diversity and/or hosting important numbers of refugees and/or internally displaced people. The recommendation contains a set of ten non-exhaustive principles, and specific recommendations in order for the World Heritage Committee to continue the reflection on reconstruction within World Heritage properties as a complex multidisciplinary process, towards developing new guidance to reflect the multi-faceted challenges that reconstruction brings.
39. On the occasion of the conference, the special issue of the World Heritage Review N°86 of January 2018 on World Heritage and Reconstruction containing a number of case studies was also distributed <https://whc.unesco.org/en/review/86/>. Several other initiatives were also undertaken by the Advisory Bodies and States Parties. ICOMOS launched the project "[Global case study project on recovery and reconstruction](#)", in response to the difficulty of establishing a body of reflective experience to draw robust conclusions that might have wider application to degraded or damaged World Heritage properties, following the March 2016 Colloquium on Post-trauma Reconstruction held in Paris (France). The project aims to develop an appropriate [matrix](#) for case studies of damaged heritage sites that allows for wider, shared learning and appropriate action in the recovery process. While the primary focus in the project has been on affected World Heritage properties, it is expected that the matrix might have broader applications, as it might be used in a wide range of situations, at different scales and at different times, during or after events. It could also be useful in anticipatory contexts, such as in disaster planning preparations or in management plans.
40. As a follow-up to the symposium held at the Louvre-Lens Museum in France in partnership with the ICCROM-Sharjah office, in January 2017, ICCROM organized a Thematic Discussion on "Post-Conflict Reconstruction– Recovery and Community Involvement" during its 30th General Assembly. The event underlined the need for coordination between different development agencies on reconstruction issues, while engaging and supporting communities in respect for cultural diversity. The discussion focused on examples and case studies from countries around the world, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Japan, Lebanon, Mali, Mexico, Sri Lanka and Syria. As part of its capacity-building activities, ICCROM has recently proposed a new programme area in its programme and budget on *Protecting Cultural Heritage in Times of Conflict and Disasters*. Activities within this programme include courses on Disaster Risk Management of Cultural Heritage (in partnership with UNESCO, ICOMOS, ICOM and Ritsumeikan University) and *First Aid to Heritage in Times of Crisis*.
41. The World Bank and UNESCO are undertaking a collaborative initiative "Culture in City Reconstruction and Recovery", aiming at preparing a framework and operational guidance for the planning, financing and implementation of activities in post-disaster/conflict reconstruction and recovery in urban areas. The activity will adopt the 3P framework (people-centered place-based development approach; and policies) for rebuilding sustainable cities that are inclusive, resilient, and productive. This joint initiative will result in an institutional position paper to be launched in September 2018.

42. The World Heritage Centre is implementing a project funded by the Government of the Netherlands entitled “Harnessing reconciliation through the recovery of cultural heritage”. In this framework, several case studies on the post-conflict reconstruction of cities are being developed and will be made accessible through a webpage dedicated to the theme of reconstruction on the World Heritage Centre’s website.
43. UN-Habitat, ILO (International Labour Organization) and UNESCO have launched a consultation to develop a regional programme for “Urban Crisis Recovery and Reconstruction for Arab States” focusing on major conflict-affected cities in Iraq, Libya, Syria and Yemen. The first consultation meeting (Amman on 17-18 April 2018) identified key areas of planning and implementation, a joint strategy and governance structure, and highlighted the need to work on one or two pilot projects through an integrated, modular approach.
44. The joint initiative will revolve around seven key pillars: i) the conceptual framework, ii) urban planning and monitoring, iii) urban economic recovery, iv) housing rehabilitation and reconstruction, v) debris management, vi) historic urban areas and cultural infrastructure, vii) housing, land and property rights restitution and protection. The results of the meeting were presented to and discussed with potential development and United Nations partners.
45. Lastly, the Government of Japan organized in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Office in Kabul, a Technical meeting on the Future of the Bamyán Buddhas (Tokyo, 26-29 September 2017). Seventy-six international experts, the Afghan authorities, the Japanese authorities, ICOMOS and ICCROM, attended the meeting and discussed the different cases of deliberate destruction and reconstruction challenges from different parts of the world, including Timbuktu (Mali), Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina), World War II, and Ground Zero (United States of America).

B. Climate Change

46. Since the adoption in 2007 by the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention of a Policy Document on the impacts of climate change on World Heritage properties, an increasing number of reports on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties affected by climate change have been presented to the World Heritage Committee.
47. Between 2007 and 2017, 154 reports on 38 World Heritage properties located in 33 States Parties of all regions were examined by the Committee in relation to climate change related impacts on Outstanding Universal Value. These negative events range from changes to oceanic waters, desertification, drought, flooding, storms, sea water temperature change, coral bleaching, etc. All types of sites, cultural (22), natural (15) and mixed (1) properties are affected (source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>).
48. At its 42nd session in 2018, the Committee will review the state of conservation of 11 such properties, such as Sagarmatha National Park (Nepal) and Cape Floral Region Protected Areas (South Africa). However, as outlined in World Heritage Papers 22, climate change may have many indirect impacts, exacerbating other threats to properties, such as the prevalence of invasive alien species, wildfires, and coastal erosion. Therefore, climate change impacts are not always fully accounted for in the reports on the state of conservation of properties.
49. Aware of the seriousness of this issue and of the urgency to address it globally, the World Heritage Committee adopted in 2016 Decision **40 COM 7**, in which it recalled the need for all States Parties to strengthen efforts to build resilience of World Heritage properties to climate change, including by further reducing to the greatest extent possible all other pressures and threats. The Committee also requested the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to “periodically review and update the “Policy Document on the

Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage properties”, so as to make available the most current knowledge and technology on the subject to guide the decisions and actions of the World Heritage community”.

50. As a response to this decision, the World Heritage Centre has developed and posted on the MarketPlace (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/922/>) a Concept Note for the updating of the Policy Document and ensure its widespread communication and dissemination to all stakeholders concerned. It has successfully attracted the generous support of the State Party of the Netherlands. The World Heritage Centre is in the process of identifying consultants with suitable experience in both natural and cultural heritage to review and analyze all relevant background documents, policies and strategies already adopted at the international level (such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)'s [Paris Agreement](#), the [Policy Document for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention](#), the [New UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change](#), the [UNESCO Declaration of Ethical Principles in relation to Climate Change](#)), as well as the outcomes of recent meetings held on this issue, reported below; all of this work is being undertaken within the overarching framework of the UN 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. An online consultation process will also be undertaken to gather inputs from States Parties, civil society and other major stakeholders. According to the tentative timeline, it is foreseen that the final draft of the revised Policy Document will be presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019 for adoption.
51. To support this updating process, an [international expert workshop](#) entitled “*World Heritage and Climate Change – Towards the update of the Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties*” was organized by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) in cooperation with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, IUCN, ICOMOS and ICCROM (Isle of Vilm, Germany, 16-20 October 2017). Participants, including from the Secretariat of the UNFCCC, reviewed the current Policy Document, its implementation as well as the current global policy framework and scientific context of climate change. The [results of the workshop](#) include a set of recommendations, which should be understood as an early input into the broader process of updating the Policy Document. ICOMOS has also constituted a Climate Change and Heritage Working Group, which will support its input into the Policy Document updating process.
52. Furthermore, in response to the Committee's request, the World Heritage Centre, in consultation with IUCN, completed the first global assessment on the impacts of climate change on World Heritage-listed coral reefs with the generous support of the State Party of France. According to the assessment, under the current business-as-usual emissions scenario, 25 of the 29 World Heritage-listed coral reefs will experience twice-per-decade severe bleaching by 2040. It is also indicated that under such a scenario, all 29 coral reef-containing properties are expected to experience annual severe bleaching by the end of the century, and thus cease to host functioning coral reef ecosystems, unless CO₂ emissions are reduced. The findings have been published in English and French (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1676/>) and communicated effectively, including through a special event at the 23rd Conference of the Parties (COP23) under the UNFCCC, and other initiatives. An update of the assessment is currently being finalized with the aim to illustrate how a global average temperature rise limited to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels would prevent annual severe bleaching of World Heritage-listed coral reefs this century.
53. Additionally, the IUCN World Heritage Outlook 2 (<https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/47013>) was launched at UNFCCC COP23, which found climate change to be a high or very high threat to 62 natural World Heritage properties. It was also assessed as the fastest growing threat to the conservation of

natural properties, and continues to pose the largest potential threat for the future of these properties. The IUCN Outlook 2 Report strongly points to the need for extraordinary and targeted strategies to address this all pervasive threat given its potential to profoundly impact the values of World Heritage properties. In addition, the World Heritage Centre was represented at the UNFCCC COP23, held from 6-17 November 2017 in Bonn, Germany, under the presidency of Fiji. As part of its “UNESCO for COP (U4C) Partnership Initiative”, UNESCO had its own pavilion in civil society zone. The role of natural and cultural World Heritage properties in supporting climate change adaptation measures was highlighted in several side events, including during a thematic day on UNESCO-designated areas (World Heritage, Biosphere Reserves, Global Geoparks).

C. Absent or unclear boundaries

54. 40 years after the first properties were inscribed on the World Heritage List, there is still a significant number of properties that do not have clearly delineated and demarcated boundaries and/or buffer zones.
55. The importance of having clearly defined boundaries is evident, as Paragraph 99 of the *Operational Guidelines* states that the delineation of boundaries is an essential requirement in the establishment of effective protection of nominated properties, and that boundaries should be drawn to incorporate all the attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and to ensure the integrity and/or authenticity of the property. In the absence of such clear boundaries, it is not possible to create an effective Management Plan for the property to ensure the protection of its OUV. Furthermore, it is challenging to accurately determine the potential and likely impacts on OUV from threats posed from outside of the property if the boundaries have not been defined.
56. One of the probable explanations for the lack of clear boundaries relates to the less stringent requirements for Nominations in the very early days of the *World Heritage Convention* and the limited technical capacities to clearly document boundaries. Another explanation is that in some instances, the World Heritage Committee’s requests to modify the boundaries at the time of inscription were not correctly followed up.
57. In view of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting (2008-2015), the World Heritage Centre initiated in 2004 a retrospective inventory, examination of the nomination dossiers of properties inscribed between 1978 and 1998, with the aim of clarifying the original boundaries of properties at the time of their inscription. Through this exercise, the boundaries of 379 properties have been clarified. At the present session, the Committee examines nine new clarifications of boundaries (see Document WHC/18/42.COM/8D). In parallel, and as a result of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting, some States Parties have also provided technically improved maps of properties inscribed after 1998. Such examples include the five properties in Libya, which were inscribed between 1982 and 1986, and some of the early properties inscribed in Ethiopia.
58. It is recommended that the Committee remind all States Parties that boundaries and buffer zones of World Heritage properties as inscribed cannot be changed without the approval of the Committee. The *Operational Guidelines* lay out procedures for boundary modifications, either through minor boundary modification proposal (paragraphs 163-164 and Annex 11) or a significant boundary modifications (Paragraph 165), depending on the impact of the proposed change on the OUV of the property concerned. It is to be noted, that boundary modifications cannot be examined without clearly delineated and demarcated boundaries of the concerned property at the time of its inscription.

D. Heritage Impact Assessments/Environmental Impact Assessments (HIAs/EIAs)

59. Since the introduction in 2011 of the *ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for Cultural World Heritage properties*, a considerable number of HIAs have been undertaken, some of which have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for comments.
60. The ICOMOS Guidance was produced to facilitate the preparation of impact assessments for cultural World Heritage properties through considering impact on the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) in a systematic and coherent way. This approach became feasible after the World Heritage Committee developed a programme to approve retrospective Statements of OUV for all properties that defined OUV and its key attributes.
61. Although the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process was already used for cultural heritage sites in many countries, it often produced disappointing results for World Heritage properties, as the assessment of impacts is not clearly and directly tied to the attributes of OUV and cumulative impacts and incremental (adverse) changes may not be readily considered. More crucially, the EIA process frequently disaggregates possible cultural heritage attributes and assesses impact on them separately, through for instance categories such as protected buildings, archaeological sites, landscape and specified view-points without applying the lens of OUV to the overall ensemble of attributes and defining potential impact on the whole World Heritage property.
62. HIAs thus provide a useful tool to allow the potential impact of development or other changes on the OUV of cultural heritage properties to be assessed in a structured way on the whole property. They cannot stand-alone and have to be related to specific projects. They should be tools that are relevant at a national level to the developer, the planning authorities and the heritage agencies, and at the international level to the World Heritage Committee. HIAs set out in a systematic way:
 - a) Which attributes of OUV the proposed development might impact upon;
 - b) The value of those attributes in relation to OUV;
 - c) What precise impact the development might have on those attributes;
 - d) The overall combined potential impact of the proposed development on the OUV of the whole property.
63. HIAs thus allow a standardized approach to articulating the potential impact of a project or projected change, and, as is the case for EIAs, they are an essential part of the decision-making processes for World Heritage properties. In order to ensure HIAs and EIAs are used to best effect, it is suggested that there needs to be clarity in relation to when and how they are undertaken and submitted to the World Heritage Centre. It is also suggested that, in accordance with the existing guidelines for HIAs and EIAs, such assessments should have a dedicated section examining any possible impact of a project on the OUV of a World Heritage property.
64. When a project is being proposed that might adversely impact on OUV, then it is clearly desirable that the potential impact should be clarified as early as possible. Ideally, project details submitted under Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, should be accompanied by HIAs/EIAs or be undertaken at pre-planning application stage, with a view to allowing adequate time to assess and discuss any potential impact. When HIAs/EIAs are submitted as part of planning applications, the time for assessment may be limited, sometimes to as little as three months, and this time constraint can make it challenging for the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to provide adequate comments. Technical Reviews of proposed developments can be greatly facilitated by the submission of HIAs/EIAs, potentially reducing the need for Advisory missions.

65. The size and complexity of an HIA/EIA should relate to the scale and sensitivity of the project. There is often no need for HIAs to be extensive (or expensive) undertakings. It is recommended that HIAs be integrated in all planning proposals for development within cultural World Heritage properties as part of an accepted methodology for decision-making, and that simpler HIAs be undertaken for smaller projects. On the other hand, very large projects may require Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) (see section below on large-scale development projects).
66. When an HIA is submitted to the World Heritage Centre, it should be noted that it is not the HIA that is assessed but rather the project to which it refers. HIAs thus need to be submitted with full supporting details of the projects to which they relate.
67. IUCN and ICCROM, with the support of Norway, are in the second year of implementing the six-year World Heritage Leadership programme, which includes a capacity-building module on impact assessments. This module aims at supporting the mainstreaming of World Heritage in impact assessment methodologies and standards at the international level. In the shorter term, the aim is to gather advice on culture and nature within the *Convention*. This will include the creation of a resource manual, as well as capacity building activities coupled with awareness raising targeted at a range of different audiences to seek better outcomes in relation to development threats and World Heritage. The implementation of this module will be done in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS.

E. Large scale development projects and Strategic Environmental Assessments

68. It is noted with concern that an increasing number of properties are threatened by large-scale development projects, which are likely to have an impact on their Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), both located inside and outside their boundaries, sometimes at great distances from the property, or even in other countries.
69. This year, a number of such projects are being considered in state of conservation reports, in terms of their impacts on World Heritage properties, for example in the case of Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania), Lake Turkana National Parks (Kenya), Lower Valley of the Omo (Ethiopia), Lamu Old Town (Kenya), Lake Baikal (Russian Federation), Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan), City of Quito (Ecuador), Memphis and its Necropolis – the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur (Egypt), Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) or Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor (Montenegro).
70. These properties are facing threats from planned large-scale developments including dams (Selous, Lake Turkana, Lower Valley of the Omo, Lake Baikal), large-scale agriculture (Lower Valley of the Omo, Lake Turkana), and transport infrastructure (Lamu Old Town, Lake Turkana, Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore, City of Quito, Memphis and its Necropolis – the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur, Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites, Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor). Other types of development, including mining, oil and gas exploration/exploitation and associated infrastructure, also continue to pose a threat to a number of properties, including Banc d'Arguin National Park (Mauritania), the Ahwar of Southern Iraq: Refuge of Biodiversity and the Relict Landscape of the Mesopotamian Cities (Iraq), and Grand Canyon National Park (United States of America). Furthermore, the cumulative impact of multiple small-scale development projects may also have a negative impact on OUV, such as in the case of Socotra Archipelago (Yemen).
71. In these types of projects, it is becoming clear that Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) (see the above section on HIAs/EIAs) may not always allow for a broad enough assessment of potential impact, nor an assessment of a broad enough range of options at an early enough stage in the planning

process. Both EIAs and HIAs are generally undertaken when an option has been selected and the impact assessed is limited to the property and its setting.

72. As many infrastructure projects are designed to address transport and other issues that are generated outside the property or extend far beyond it, there is a growing need for Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) to be used in order to ensure that a full appraisal of the wider context of the proposed development is undertaken together with a full assessment of appropriate options.
73. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7**, which urged States Parties to “*ensure that the impacts from dams that could affect properties located upstream or downstream within the same river basin are rigorously assessed in order to avoid impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)*”, it is important to note that dams are not the only type of large-scale development that may impact on World Heritage properties even when located at considerable distance from the project location. Therefore, the potential impacts of any large-scale development, including dams, extractive industries, and transport infrastructure, on World Heritage properties located within their area of influence should be assessed through a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).
74. It is of particular concern that impact assessments of large-scale development projects rarely consider potential impacts on World Heritage properties located on the territory of another country. It is therefore recommended that the Committee recall Article 6 of the *Convention*, which stipulates that “*Each State Party to this Convention undertakes not to take any deliberate measures which might damage directly or indirectly the cultural and natural heritage referred to in Articles 1 and 2 situated on the territory of other States Parties to this Convention*”, and that it request States Parties to inform the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, of any planned large-scale development projects that may impact on the OUV of a property, and even if the property concerned is situated on the territory of other States Parties.

F. Tourism and Visitor Management

75. With over 1.2 billion people now crossing international borders each year (a number which is expected to grow to 2 billion by 2030), tourism is increasingly a major source of growth, employment and income for many countries including many of the world’s developing countries. Data from the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) shows that tourism accounts for 1 in 11 jobs worldwide, represents around 30% of global service exports, and directly and indirectly contributes to around 10% of global GDP. Cultural tourism accounts for nearly 40 % of world tourism revenues, with cultural heritage sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List often serving as focal points for job creation and local development. IUCN’s 2014 study on World Heritage Benefits revealed that more than 90% of natural World Heritage properties generate tourism and recreation income and generate jobs.
76. Tourism has the potential to contribute, both directly and indirectly, to all of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) found within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including SDG 8 on inclusive and sustainable economic growth, SDG 11 on cities and human settlements, SDG 12 on sustainable consumption and production, and SDG 14 on the sustainable use of oceans and marine resources.
77. There have been a number of significant policy milestones that have impacted sustainable tourism development. The policy adopted in 2015 by the General Assembly of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* on the integration of a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the *Convention* allows States Parties, practitioners, institutions, communities and networks to harness the potential of World Heritage properties, and heritage in general, to contribute to sustainable development. The ICOMOS International Cultural Tourism Charter 1999 remains a key standard setting document, but is currently under review to address significant changes in the cultural

tourism environment, including mass cultural tourism, the democratisation of heritage values and acknowledgement of tourists as vital stakeholders, alongside local communities, in cultural heritage management.

78. The tourism sector is constantly evolving. The development of new technologies, increasing investment in tourism infrastructure, the growth of peer-to-peer and shared usage platforms, low cost carriers, and larger airplanes and cruise ships is resulting in the transformation of the tourism marketplace and bringing an increasing number of visitors, and therefore increased pressures and threats, to World Heritage properties. New international source markets are emerging with increasing numbers of tourists travelling internationally. Domestic tourism is also increasing in many destinations.
79. Social inequality, economic instability, seasonality and the fragile nature of many destinations are emerging as key factors affecting the resilience to cope with increasing visitor numbers. IUCN's World Heritage Outlook 2 report released in 2017 shows tourism as among the top three threats to natural properties.
80. Good tourism management can directly affect the carrying capacity and the resilience to overcrowding, queuing and congestion occurring in World Heritage properties. However, local authorities often have little or no ability to control the flow of visitors coming into a destination. These flows and infrastructure and the ability to manage them are often within the remit of different national authorities.
81. The increasing demand for tourism infrastructure in response to rising tourist numbers (accommodation, parking facilities, roads, trails etc.) require consideration of carrying capacity as well as careful monitoring and management where they may pose potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of World Heritage properties, including on their conditions of integrity and authenticity. Such developments should be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and/or a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), in line with IUCN's Advice Notes and ICOMOS' Guidance, respectively, before any decisions are made that may be difficult to reverse (also see section on HIAs/EIAs above). In 2018, 50 State of conservation reports refer to problems associated with visitor management and the construction of tourism infrastructure.
82. There is a need to strengthen policies and frameworks to promote sustainable tourism in order to protect the OUV of cultural and natural properties. However, at present there are no direct policies on sustainable tourism linked to the *World Heritage Convention*.
83. There is also a need to promote broad stakeholder engagement in the planning, development and management of sustainable tourism that follows a destination approach and focuses on empowering local communities. Existing governance structures often do not promote cooperation and collaboration across sectors and with communities.
84. Adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2012, the UNESCO World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme works to facilitate the management and development of sustainable tourism at World Heritage properties, particularly by fostering the awareness, capacity and equal participation of local stakeholders.
85. The goal of this programme is twofold: to protect and enhance the OUV of World Heritage properties, while, at the same time, ensuring that tourism contributes to the sustainable development of the local economy. With an approach founded on dialogue and stakeholder cooperation, the programme encourages World Heritage and tourism stakeholders to share the responsibility of achieving sustainable development and conservation of our common cultural and natural heritage.
86. An outcome of the 2nd UNWTO/UNESCO World Conference on Tourism and Culture "Fostering Sustainable Development", the [Muscat Declaration](#), whose goal is to strengthen synergies between tourism and culture and advancing the contribution of

cultural tourism to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, was adopted and further recognized by the UNESCO Executive Board (204 EX/5.INF.2).

87. To address the increasing negative impacts from tourism on the OUV of properties, and the increasingly complex challenges of visitor management and declining visitor experience in World Heritage properties, the World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme is developing a Visitor Management Strategy and research and monitoring framework to support data generation and analyse World Heritage visitation, impacts and trends. It aims to increase know-how and good practices through information-sharing and exchange, thereby improving visitor management to achieve a more sustainable dynamic between visitors and host communities. The Strategy and framework would also help provide a more comprehensive understanding of the value and impact of World Heritage designation on destinations and local economies.
88. The development of the strategy and framework will be guided by an advisory group of experts, followed by roundtable discussions to further elaborate the Strategy. It will develop an online resource and a global reference tool for World Heritage properties and destinations. A donor funds-in-trust is envisioned to support the development of the strategy and framework, and a major conference would be organized to present the findings and launch the strategy and follow-up. The Strategy will be presented to the World Heritage Committee for its consideration (See also Document WHC/18/42.COM/5A).

G. Impact of sports facilities and activities on World Heritage properties

89. It should be recalled that in its Decisions **32 COM 7B.25** and **35 COM 7B.24**, the World Heritage Committee had requested the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to develop a dialogue with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) with a view to putting in place an agreement to ensure that future Olympic Games will not impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of World Heritage properties. Further to that, in 2014, IUCN established a dialogue with the IOC regarding this matter, and the IOC has requested IUCN's advice in relation to potential impacts on natural World Heritage properties that could result from the 2022 Winter Olympics candidacies.
90. In 2015, IUCN signed its first agreement with the IOC, which has since been extended until 2020. Through this agreement, IUCN aims to:
 - a) Contribute to the integration of considerations to conserve and restore biodiversity in the plans to be developed by Candidate Cities bidding for the Olympic Games;
 - b) Support the IOC in its risk analysis process of Candidate Cities; and
 - c) Support the IOC in the integration of the role that nature plays in supporting healthy lifestyles in its Sustainability and Legacy Strategic Framework.
91. In April 2018, in the framework of this agreement, IUCN launched the *Sport and Biodiversity guide*, the first in a series of reports that will provide guidance to the sports sector, including all sports federations, regarding their potential impacts on nature and opportunities for sport to enhance conservation. The second report in the series will focus on *New Sport Venues: Mitigating Biodiversity Impacts* and is expected to be published in October 2018. Also in this year's state of conservation reports, there are several cases of World Heritage properties threatened by the potential construction of sports facilities in the immediate vicinity or the buffer zone of the property (for example Western Caucasus, Russian Federation and Pirin National Park, Bulgaria). This report could therefore produce useful guidance to States Parties.
92. In November 2017, the World Rowing Federation (FISA – Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Aviron) informed the World Heritage Centre of its newly adopted policy on natural and mixed World Heritage properties (see <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1775>).

Recognizing the negative impacts on these sites that may be caused by some sports, FISA has made a commitment to respect and preserve the OUV of sites, and recognizes the role that the sport sector can play in supporting the conservation of these special places. FISA is the first sports federation to explicitly make a commitment to the conservation of natural World Heritage properties, and it is therefore recommended that the Committee welcome FISA's decision, and encourage other Sport Federations to follow this example, and to include cultural World Heritage properties within the scope of such commitments.

H. Dialogue with the extractive industries and the finance sector on the “No-go Commitment”

93. At its 37th session, the World Heritage Committee expressed concern about the growing impact of the extractive industries on World Heritage properties. The Committee urged all States Parties to the *Convention* and leading industry stakeholders, to respect the “No-go” commitment by not permitting extractives activities within World Heritage properties and, to ensure no damage to World Heritage properties from activities outside of the property boundaries. The Committee also requested the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to continue a dialogue with the extractive industries on extending the commitments made by Shell and the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) to other companies and parts of the industry. Following the announcement that more companies and also investment banks had subscribed to the “No-go” Commitment, the Committee, at its 38th session, called on additional extractive industry companies and investment banks to follow these examples. The Committee reiterated this call in its Decision **40 COM 7**.
94. At its 40th session, the Committee noted with significant concern the conclusions of a 2016 WWF (World Wildlife Fund) report “Protecting People Through Nature”, which referenced data from the IUCN World Heritage Outlook, and documented that extractive activities posed a significant threat to over half of all natural and mixed World Heritage properties³. The Committee was also informed about the results of the 4th Global Forum on Responsible Business Conduct, organized by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on 8 June 2016, which examined threats sites face and highlighted steps that some companies and banks have already taken to ensure their preservation. It also explored what governments, business, the finance sector and civil society could further do and the role that the OECD guidelines should play in protecting these precious sites.
95. On 17 January 2018, the Director of the World Heritage Centre organized a meeting with the Executive Director of the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA) as part of the on-going dialogue with the oil and gas industry. The meeting was triggered by a report published by IPIECA together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Finance Cooperation (IFC), titled “Mapping the oil and gas industry to the Sustainable Development Goals: an Atlas” (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1741>). The publication notes that many World Heritage sites are impacted by industrial activities and operations, including oil and gas exploration and extraction and recalls the established position by the World Heritage Committee that mineral, oil and gas exploration or development are incompatible with World Heritage status. IPIECA further states that this ‘No-go’ position is “an important consideration for companies when assessing opportunities in or near World Heritage sites”, and that where there is potential for impact on designated World Heritage sites, companies should conduct strategic environmental assessments and

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http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/wwf_dalberg_protecting_people_through_nature_lr_singles.pdf

incorporate cultural heritage into environmental, social and health impact assessments (ESHIAAs). At the meeting, the World Heritage Centre and IPIECA discussed how to improve their cooperation. Main areas of possible joint work include further sensitizing the industry to the “No-go” Commitment and ensuring industry guidelines on impact assessments provide guidance on how to evaluate potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of properties resulting from proposed developments near World Heritage properties. As a concrete outcome of the meeting, the Director of the World Heritage Centre was invited to give a keynote speech at the annual meeting of IPIECA members on World Heritage, Sustainable Development and Extractive Industries in February 2018 in London.

96. On 6 November 2017, The Church of England National Investing Bodies announced the launch of its new policy on investing in extractive industries: “Extractive Industries: Ethical Investment Policy”. The policy affirms that “some areas are environmentally and ecologically precious and incompatible with industrial scale activities, including World Heritage Sites and considers that companies should make 'no-go' commitments not to enter these highly protected areas”. This approach where investors adopt a “No-go” policy for World Heritage properties is innovative and worth exploring further.
97. In 2017, WWF released a publication providing guidance to banks and financial institutions on how to develop a robust and comprehensive policy related to the projects these institutions fund in and around World Heritage sites⁴. In the past, some banks and investment funds like HSBC and JP Morgan informed the World Heritage Centre that they had an investment policy in place, which makes specific reference to World Heritage sites. In follow up to the report, the World Heritage Centre with the help of WWF identified some additional banks, insurers and investment companies, which seem to also have an investment policy in place with specific provisions for World Heritage. In accordance with Decisions **38 COM 7** and **40 COM 7**, the World Heritage Centre contacted the identified companies requesting them to confirm if they had a policy on investments in or near World Heritage sites and inviting them to submit this policy to the World Heritage Centre in order to report to the World Heritage Committee. At the time of writing of this report, 13 companies confirmed they have some form of policy in place and submitted it to the World Heritage Centre. Those comprise ABN Amro, Barclays, BNP Paribas, Crédit Suisse, Deutsche Bank, Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, Morgan Stanley, Royal Bank of Scotland, Société Générale, Standard Chartered, Swiss Re and UBS. The formulated policies are very diverse and many appear to have some room for further improvement. Some policies restrict finance to extractives projects in World Heritage sites while others take on a larger commitment not to support any activities, which could threaten World Heritage sites including activities outside of the site but with potential impact on their values. Some restrict the scope of their policy to “project finance”, while others strive to broaden across their general corporate lending.
98. Given the willingness of certain companies to share and lodge these commitments with UNESCO and in order to improve transparency, the World Heritage Centre is considering whether these commitments could be gathered into a database and featured on its website with links to the respective policies. This could incite other banks and financial companies to step forward and lodge their policies with UNESCO. However, given the diversity of the wording of the different commitments, some more reflection is needed on how this can be done. For example, it would be important to develop in consultation with the Advisory Bodies some standards, including on due diligence, to decide which commitments can be included on such a website. The World Heritage Centre is also discussing with potential partners in the industry, which could support the development of such a database.

⁴ <https://www.wwf.org.uk/updates/how-banks-can-safeguard-our-world-heritage>

99. Launched at the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, the UNEP Finance Initiative Principles for Sustainable Insurance (PSI) serve as a global framework for the insurance industry to address environmental, social and governance risks and opportunities and is the largest collaborative initiative between the UN and the insurance industry and includes insurers representing approximately 20% of world premium volume and USD 14 trillion in assets under management. The World Heritage Centre has engaged with PSI in view of developing an insurance industry commitment for the conservation of World Heritage properties. These discussions are currently ongoing.

I. Earth Observation technologies

100. The use of satellite monitoring for World Heritage properties was already mentioned during the Committee session in Helsinki 2001, when the World Heritage Centre informed the Committee that it had initiated a study of gorilla habitats in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as a pilot activity for a joint UNESCO/ESA (European Space Agency) Co-operative Initiative “*to demonstrate the use of satellite images and other space-borne technologies in monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage sites*”. Subsequently, UNESCO and ESA signed an agreement on 18 June 2003, to encourage the use of Earth observation satellites to monitor cultural and natural World Heritage properties.
101. At its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), the World Heritage Committee was informed that, as part of the activities conducted within the framework of the 1st cycle of Periodic Reporting for Latin America and the Caribbean, a regional seminar had taken place in Córdoba (Argentina) on the application of satellite technologies on World Heritage conservation.
102. In Decision **34 COM 7C** (in 2010) on general conservation issues, the Committee noted that the availability and application of satellite imagery and other remote sensing techniques were continuously improving, and that such techniques could provide evidence over time to determine “*whether some impacts on World Heritage values continue to occur or are being addressed*”. Subsequently, a UNESCO inter-sectorial cooperation on space technologies for World Heritage developed the UNESCO “Space for Heritage” programme to support World Heritage-related activities (such as assessing the state of conservation of all tropical forest World Heritage properties, supporting the Silk Road nomination, exhibition “Satellites and World Heritage sites, partners to understand climate change”, etc). This also led to the establishment of a dedicated UNESCO Category-2 Centre in China: the International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (HIST).
103. Site-specific decisions making clear reference to Earth Observation (EO) technologies have been frequently adopted by the Committee, such as *inter alia*: **26 COM XII.23** on Lake Baikal (Russian Federation); **34 COM 7B.14** on Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia); **36 COM 7B.17** on Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex (Thailand); **37 COM 8B.40** and **40 COM 7B.62** on the Ancient City of Tauric Chersonese and its Chora (Ukraine) and **40 COM 7B.22** on Memphis and its Necropolis – the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur (Egypt).
104. EO satellite data indeed represents a powerful tool for decision-makers and all stakeholders of the *Convention* to find comprehensive solutions to today’s global challenges. Combined with appropriate spatial analytics tools, EO facilitates the early detection of natural or anthropogenic threats, such as impacts from natural disasters or climate change, unsustainable developments, deforestation, illegal mining, illegal fisheries and agricultural encroachment, and can enable targeted responses by the responsible authorities. EO can also provide valuable support to site managers, for example, through mapping of zones, land categorization, underwater archaeological remains, and the development of archaeological risk maps using ground penetrating radar (GPR) technology.

105. In conjunction with the 41st session of the Committee (Krakow, 2017), a side-event entitled “*Preserving UNESCO Designated Places from Space*” was co-organized by the World Heritage Centre, Gemini Space Service & Consulting (SS&C), HIST and the University of Heidelberg. Several case studies were presented on this occasion, together with the benefits of satellite technologies for monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage properties.
106. At the invitation of the Permanent Delegation of Italy to UNESCO, a meeting took place at UNESCO Headquarters on 23 March 2018, on “*European World Heritage Sites Affected by Geo-hazards – Satellite Monitoring Future Challenges – The PROTHEGO Contribution*” (<http://www.prothego.eu/project.html>), providing case studies and showing once more the global interest for the use of such technologies.
107. The World Heritage Centre and the Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme has established fruitful contacts with the ESA Copernicus Space Segment Office Earth Observation Projects Department, Gemini SS&C and HIST, for an EU-funded project under the Horizon 2020 Programme. If approved, this 2-year project will assist in developing an “Earth Observation for you” (EO4U) service and Application Suite, based on eight World Heritage properties and five Biosphere Reserves, accompanied with ground truthing missions. It would also include dedicated seminars and specialized capacity-building activities at various levels with the following objectives:
 - a) Increase the awareness of EO satellite data and its added value in monitoring and management of properties;
 - b) Enable site and local managers to use user-friendly interfaces of the EO4U Service and Application Suite;
 - c) Enhance the training content, building upon existing tools, covering four different topics and modules: ground stability/surface deformation, deforestation/degradation detection, biodiversity, and land cover/land use change.

J. Illegal trade in endangered species and cooperation with the CITES Convention

108. In many natural properties, the presence of endangered species is a key justification for their inscription on the World Heritage List. It has been estimated that no less than 45% of natural World Heritage properties are affected by the illegal harvesting of wild animals and plants listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
109. At different sessions, the Committee has discussed the impact of the illegal trade in endangered species on the conservation of World Heritage properties. In addition, at each session since 2014, the Committee has expressed its utmost concern about the continued impacts of poaching and illegal logging on World Heritage properties driven primarily by the illegal trade of wildlife species and its products and on the increasing involvement of organized crime in this illegal trade. The Committee launched an appeal to all Member States of UNESCO to cooperate in the fight against the illegal wildlife trade, including through the implementation of CITES. The Committee further requested the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to strengthen the collaboration between CITES and the *World Heritage Convention*.
110. The growing impact of the illegal trade in endangered species is increasingly recognized as an issue of global importance. At its 71st session in September 2017, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a far reaching Resolution on tackling the illicit trafficking in wildlife (Resolution 71/326), which recognizes the economic, social and environmental impacts of illicit trafficking in wildlife, the need for firm and strengthened action on both the supply and demand sides, and emphasizes the importance of effective international cooperation among Member States, relevant multilateral environmental agreements and international organizations. It further urges Member States to take

decisive steps at the national level to prevent, combat and eradicate all aspects of the illegal trade in wildlife by strengthening legislation and regulations necessary for the prevention, investigation, prosecution and appropriate punishment of such illegal trade, as well as by strengthening enforcement and criminal justice response. It also urges to increase the exchange of information and knowledge among national authorities as well as among Member States and international crime authorities, in accordance with national legislation and international law. It also calls upon Parties to take appropriate measures to ensure the effective implementation of their obligations under CITES and other relevant multilateral agreements.

111. The World Heritage Centre has continued its cooperation with CITES. In the framework of the annual Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) meeting, discussions were held with the Secretary General of CITES to further formalize this cooperation, for example through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a joint programme of work.
112. On 3 March 2018, the World Heritage Centre, through website and social media coverage, supported the celebration of World Wildlife Day, which this year focused on the theme of “Big Cats” (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1789>). Of the 36 wild species of cat that exist in the world, 35 occur in at least one World Heritage property, making the *World Heritage Convention* a vital instrument for their conservation. An article “CITES and *World Heritage Convention*: Joining Forces against Wildlife Trafficking” is also featured in the May 2018 World Heritage Review issue on illegal trafficking, authored by the Secretary General of CITES (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/review/87>).
113. The World Heritage Centre has further continued its close cooperation with regards to the state of conservation of several properties, which are heavily affected by the impacts of the illegal wildlife trade. As a good example of this cooperation, the World Heritage Centre held several consultations with the CITES Secretariat on the state of conservation of the Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California (Mexico), where illegal fishing for the endemic totoaba (*Totoaba macdonaldi*) the swim bladder of which is highly sought after in particular in China, is consequentially also endangering the vaquita porpoise (*Phocoena sinus*), the most endangered cetacean species in the world. Both species are listed on CITES Appendix I. In August 2017, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN participated together with the CITES Secretariat in a trilateral meeting organized by Mexico with China and the United States of America in Ensenada (Mexico) on how to better address the illegal totoaba trade. The World Heritage Centre also consulted with CITES on the organization of the February 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission to the property and inputted to the implementation of a study on the illegal totoaba trade and its impacts on the vaquita, requested by the CITES Conference of Parties (COP) in its Decision 17.149.
114. Other examples include the CITES “Minimizing the Illegal Killing of Elephants and other Endangered Species” (MIKES) Programme, which has been supporting law enforcement in a number of World Heritage properties in Africa affected by the illegal ivory and rhino horn trade and elephant and rhino poaching. The illegal trade in rosewood species has a significant impact on the Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex (Thailand) and on the Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Madagascar) and the illegal trade in sharks and rays, is affecting several marine World Heritage properties. Subject to available resources, the World Heritage Centre is committed to continue and further strengthen these concrete joint efforts.
115. Through its Global Species Programme, Species Survival Commission (SSC) and Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)/SSC Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group, and with additional expertise of its network, IUCN contributes to CITES to assist the Parties in making scientifically informed decisions regarding international trade of species, and to ensure international trade is non-detrimental to wild populations. A key contribution derives from the IUCN/TRAFFIC

Analyses of the Proposals to Amend the CITES Appendices, which provide an objective and science-based assessment of proposed amendments to the CITES Appendices. These analyses are increasingly taking into account World Heritage considerations. Similarly, the contributions provided by IUCN to CITES also help inform its advice to the World Heritage Committee.

116. Finally, it is to be noted that the Director of the World Heritage Centre will also meet with the Secretary General of the CITES Convention on the occasion of the next meeting of the Biodiversity Liaison Group of the biodiversity-related conventions (BLG), to be hosted at UNESCO Headquarters in September 2018 (for further information on the BLG, see Document WHC/18/42.COM/5A, section V).

K. Invasive species

117. The Committee, at its 41st session (Kraków, 2017), noted with concern the continued threat from invasive alien species (IAS) and strongly encouraged States Parties to develop adequately resourced IAS strategies that emphasize prevention, early warning and rapid response.
118. The situation remains largely unchanged in 2018. Many properties still require IAS strategies, and in properties where IAS are already present, management and eradication measures constitute a long term effort. Out of the 56 reports on natural and mixed properties prepared for consideration at the 42nd session, IAS was raised as a concern in 14 properties, such as Okavango Delta (Botswana), Gough and Inaccessible Islands (United Kingdom), Keoladeo National Park (India), and Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal). IAS has also been identified as current very significant threat to natural properties according to the IUCN World Heritage Outlook 2 launched in November 2017.
119. The impacts from IAS on properties can also be compounded by climate change, which reduces the resilience of habitats to biological invasions and opens up new niches for IAS. Conversely, to improve resilience of properties to a changing climate, ecosystems that are already threatened by IAS need to be prioritized for IAS control or eradication.

IV. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Documents WHC/18/42.COM/7, WHC/18/42.COM/7A, WHC/18/42.COM/7A.Add, WHC/18/42.COM/7A.Add.2, WHC/18/42.COM/7B and WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add and WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add.2,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **40 COM 7** and **41 COM 7**, adopted at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) and 41st (Krakow, 2017) sessions respectively,*
3. *Thanks the State Party of Bahrain for having organized a World Heritage Site Managers Forum (Manama, 2018), as a capacity-building exercise aiming at increasing the understanding of the World Heritage decision-making process among site managers, in order to achieve a more effective protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*

Statutory matters related to Reactive Monitoring

Reactive Monitoring evaluation

4. *Takes note with appreciation that the World Heritage Centre has launched an evaluation of the Reactive Monitoring process and thanks the State Party of Switzerland for its financial support to this activity;*
5. *Urges States Parties along with other stakeholders to actively contribute to the evaluation of the Reactive Monitoring process to ensure this mechanism remains a valuable indicator and overview of the state of conservation of heritage;*
6. *Also takes note that the Secretariat has prepared audio-visual communication and outreach material related to the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
7. *Encourages all stakeholders of the World Heritage Convention to engage in the promotion of a better understanding of the implications and benefits of properties being inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and to develop appropriate information material in this regard with a view to overcome the negative perceptions of the List of World Heritage in Danger;*

Dialogue with civil society

8. *Welcomes the continued interest of civil society organizations in the Convention, acknowledging the important contribution that can be made to the promotion and conservation of heritage on the ground and to capacity-building;*
9. *Also welcomes the initiative of the World Heritage Centre to open the consultation processes related to the Convention to a larger number of stakeholders, including civil society;*
10. *Takes note of the World Heritage Civil Society Workshop organized further to the initiative of World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in March 2018, which discussed how civil society participation in the Convention, and specifically in World Heritage Committee sessions, can be further improved;*
11. *Encourages again States Parties and civil society organizations to continue to explore possibilities to further civil society engagement in the Convention, both by contributing to enhanced conservation of heritage on the site and national level and by providing relevant input to the heritage related debate at the global level;*

Emergency situations resulting from conflicts

12. *Deplores the loss of human life as well as the degradation of humanitarian conditions resulting from the conflict situations prevailing in several countries, and expresses its utmost concern at the devastating damage sustained and the continuing threats facing cultural and natural heritage in general;*
13. *Urges all parties associated with conflicts to refrain from any action that would cause further damage to cultural and natural heritage and to fulfill their obligations under international law by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage, in particular the safeguarding of World Heritage properties and the sites included in the Tentative List;*
14. *Also urges the States Parties to adopt measures against World Heritage properties being used for military purposes and to stop uncontrolled development;*

15. *Also expresses its utmost concern about the impacts of conflicts causing an escalation of the already severe poaching crisis in central Africa, as armed groups are financing their activities through illegal wildlife trade, which is having a severe impact on wildlife populations, thereby degrading the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of natural World Heritage properties;*
16. *Appeals to all Member States of UNESCO to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural objects and illegal wildlife trade, as well as cultural heritage protection in general, including through the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2199 (2015), 2253 (2015) and 2347 (2017);*

Other conservation issues

Reconstruction

17. *Thanks the Government of Poland for hosting the International Conference on Reconstruction “The Challenges of World Heritage Recovery” (Warsaw, 6-8 May 2018), providing a forum for review of specific case studies and understanding of the role of reconstruction in recovery, especially in post-conflict and post-disaster situations;*
18. *Welcomes the Warsaw Recommendation providing clear principles on reconstruction and recovery and requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to broadly disseminate it among States Parties, World Heritage stakeholders and partner organizations;*
19. *Also requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to continue the reflection and report back to its 43rd session in 2019 on the implementation of the Warsaw Recommendation;*
20. *Encourages the ongoing cooperation with the World Bank and with United Nations agencies in addressing the challenges of World Heritage recovery and reconstruction;*

Climate Change

21. *Expresses its continued concern about the impacts of climate change on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of World Heritage properties and reiterates the importance of States Parties undertaking the most ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change;*
22. *Notes with appreciation the initiatives taken by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to advance work on the updating of the Policy Document on the impacts of climate change on World Heritage properties;*
23. *Expresses its gratitude to the State Party of Germany for the organization of a workshop on World Heritage and Climate Change (Vilm, October 2017), to the State Party of the Netherlands for its generous support to the updating of the Policy Document and to the State Party of France for its generous support to the first global scientific assessment of climate change impacts on World Heritage-listed coral reefs;*
24. *Thanks the Secretariat of the UNFCCC for its active participation in the above-mentioned workshop and inputs into the forthcoming broader Policy Document updating process;*

Absent of unclear boundaries

25. *Urges States Parties that still have properties with unclear boundaries and/or buffer zones to undertake the necessary mapping exercises to clarify their boundaries and buffer zones of properties at the time of their inscription, and submit those to the World Heritage Centre for subsequent examination by the World Heritage Committee;*
26. *Reminds States Parties that any change to existing boundaries and buffer zones must be approved by the World Heritage Committee through the applicable procedures, as outlined in paragraphs 163-167 of the Operational Guidelines;*

Heritage Impact Assessments/Environmental Impact Assessments (HIAs/EIAs)

27. *Welcomes the increasing use of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) to assess the potential impact of proposed development projects on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of cultural World Heritage properties, and encourages States Parties to use the HIA methodology for all developments within or otherwise affecting cultural World Heritage properties, as part of the accepted decision-making process;*
28. *Stresses the necessity for HIAs and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) to be proportionate to the scope and scale of projects, with simpler assessments being undertaken for smaller projects and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) for very large projects, and the necessity for assessments to be undertaken in a timely fashion and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, as part of notifications made under Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
29. *Reiterates that HIAs and EIAs should include a dedicated section examining the potential impact of the project on the OUV of the World Heritage property, in accordance with the existing ICOMOS Guidance and IUCN Advice Note;*
30. *Notes that HIAs cannot be assessed as stand-alone documents and requests States Parties to ensure that when HIAs are submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies that they are accompanied by full details of the project to which they refer;*
31. *Also welcomes the initiative of IUCN and ICCROM to develop further advice on impact assessment for cultural and natural heritage in the framework of the World Heritage Leadership programme with the support of Norway;*

Large scale development projects and Strategic Environmental Assessments

32. *Noting with concern that an increasing number of properties are threatened by large-scale development projects including dams, extractive industries, and transportation infrastructure, located both inside and outside their boundaries,*
33. *Also noting that Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) do not always allow for a broad enough assessment of the potential impact of these large-scale developments, nor an assessment of a broad enough range of options at an early enough stage in the planning process,*
34. *Requests States Parties to ensure that the potential impacts of such large-scale developments on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of World Heritage properties directly affected or located within their zone of influence are assessed through Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) at an early stage in the development of the overall project, before locations/routes have been fixed and prior to any approvals being given;*

35. Recalling Article 6 of the Convention, also requests States Parties to systematically inform the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, of any planned large-scale development projects that may impact on the OUV of a property, even if the property concerned is situated on the territory of other States Parties, and to ensure that these impacts are assessed as part of the SEA of the project concerned;

Tourism and Visitor Management

36. Acknowledging the contribution of sustainable tourism to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the positive impact it can have on local communities and the protection of World Heritage properties, nevertheless notes with concern that the number of properties negatively affected by inadequate visitor management and tourism infrastructure development continues to increase;
37. Requests States Parties to develop Visitor Management Plans that assess appropriate carrying capacity of properties for visitors and address the issue of unregulated tourism;
38. Encourages the States Parties to support UNESCO in its effort to develop an overall Visitor Management Strategy for World Heritage, with policy recommendations to assist States Parties in addressing the issues of unregulated and unsustainable tourism use and development, and to provide resources to UNESCO for the implementation of the Strategy;

Impact of sports facilities and activities on World Heritage properties

39. Welcomes the continued agreement between IUCN and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) aiming at integrating biodiversity considerations in IOC's processes, and takes note of the Sport and Biodiversity guide launched by IUCN as the first in a series of reports that will provide guidance to the sports sector regarding its potential impacts on nature, including on World Heritage properties;
40. Also welcomes the World Rowing Federation (FISA) commitment to respect and preserve the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of natural and mixed World Heritage properties, and calls on other Sport Federations to consider making similar commitments, including for all types of World Heritage, both natural and cultural;

Dialogue with the extractive industries and the finance sector on the "No-go Commitment"

41. Takes note of the continued dialogue between the World Heritage Centre and the extractive industries on extending the "No-go" commitment to other companies;
42. Welcomes the growing interest from the investment sector for the conservation of World Heritage properties and strongly encourages all banks, investment funds, the insurance industry and other relevant private and public sector companies to integrate into their sustainability policies, provisions for ensuring that they are not financing projects that may negatively impact World Heritage properties and that the companies they are investing in subscribe to the "No-go commitment", and invites them to lodge these policies with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre;
43. Requests the World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the Advisory Bodies, to continue the fruitful dialogue with extractive industries and the investment sector, including reflections on how to make these commitments and policies publically available online to inspire other companies in these sectors to follow suit;

Earth Observation technologies

44. *Noting that Earth Observation satellite technologies and spatial analysis tools have tremendously improved over the past decade and that they provide powerful additional means for decision-makers and stakeholders of the Convention to find comprehensive solutions to today's global challenges for World Heritage properties,*
45. *Encourages States Parties to make full use of such Earth Observation technologies for the early detection of activities potentially harmful to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of World Heritage properties, such as deforestation, mining, illegal fisheries, agricultural encroachment, etc. and to better understand trends and respond appropriately;*

Illegal trade in endangered species and the cooperation with the CITES Convention

46. *Reiterates its utmost concern about the growing impacts of the illegal trade in endangered species, which is affecting many natural World Heritage properties;*
47. *Welcomes the increased attention to this threat and launches an appeal to all Member States of UNESCO to fully implement Resolution 71/326 of United Nations General Assembly on "Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife", including through the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and with the full engagement of transit and destination countries;*
48. *Also welcomes the continued fruitful cooperation between the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and the CITES Secretariat and invites the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to further strengthen this cooperation;*

Invasive species

49. *Notes with concern the important number of properties significantly affected by invasive alien species (IAS);*
50. *Recalls its encouragement to States Parties to develop adequately-resourced IAS strategies that emphasize prevention and early warning and rapid response in World Heritage properties;*
51. *Strongly encourages States Parties to incorporate IAS response strategies into climate change mitigation policies for World Heritage properties.*