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# World Heritage

# 39 COM

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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC  
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

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

**WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

**Thirty-ninth session**

**Bonn, Germany**

**28 June - 8 July 2015**

**Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda: Periodic Reports**

**10A: Final Report on the Results of the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting Exercise for the Europe Region and Action Plan**

## **SUMMARY**

This document presents the outcomes of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting for Europe and Action Plan (Part I) and the Periodic Reporting Action Plan for North America (Part II).

**Draft Decisions:**     **39 COM 10A.1, see part I, chapter 5**

**39 COM 10A.2, see part II, chapter 3**

This document is structured as follows:

Part I – Periodic Report for Europe and Action Plan:

Executive Summary; 1. Introduction; 2. Implementation of the World Heritage Convention by the States Parties in Europe (outcomes of Section I of the questionnaire); 3. World Heritage properties in Europe (outcomes of Section II of the questionnaire); 4. Action Plan and Process; 5. Draft Decision

Part II – Periodic Reporting Action Plan for North America

1. Introduction; 2. Action Plan for North America; 3. Draft Decision

## PART II – PERIODIC REPORTING ACTION PLAN FOR NORTH AMERICA

1. At its 38th session (Doha, 2014), the World Heritage Committee took note of the Second Cycle Periodic Report for North America (Decision **38 COM 10A.1**).
2. The World Heritage Committee further requested the States Parties to elaborate a sub-regional Action Plan based on the outcomes of the Periodic Reporting exercise in North America, for presentation at its 39th session.
3. The sub-regional Periodic Report Action Plan presented below was prepared by the Focal Points for World Heritage of the two States Parties in the sub-region, Canada and the United States of America.
4. The French translation of the Periodic Report Action Plan for North America was kindly provided by the State Party of Canada.

### 1 INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Decision **38 COM 10A.1**, adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session (Doha, 2014), and based on the results of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise in North America, the two States Parties in this sub-region have drafted a sub-regional Action Plan. The North American States Parties have a long history of communication and cooperation. The Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting provided an opportunity for reinforced and more frequent communication, which has proved fruitful in other areas as well.

The Action Plan below is intended to support continued efforts towards protecting and promoting the sub-region's World Heritage, while recognizing the existing strong ties between the two States Parties and their respective parks agencies, which both act as State Party representatives for World Heritage. Ongoing cooperation and networking which has been reinforced during the Periodic Reporting exercise are considered by these States Parties as fundamental for the implementation of the Action Plan.

Paragraph 201 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* states the four main purposes of Periodic Reporting:

1. To provide an assessment of the application of the World Heritage Convention by the State Party;
2. To provide an assessment as to whether the Outstanding Universal Value of the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List is being maintained over time;
3. To provide updated information about World Heritage properties and record the changing circumstances and the properties' state of conservation; and
4. To provide a **mechanism for regional cooperation and exchange of information and experiences** among States Parties concerning the implementation of the Convention and World Heritage conservation.

While the first three of these are addressed directly in the Periodic Reporting exercise, the Action Plan provides an opportunity to explore the fourth item further.

Furthermore, the Action Plan is also structured to speak to the Strategic Objectives for the implementation of the *Convention*, synthesized in the Budapest Declaration on World Heritage (adopted in 2002), which were reaffirmed and finalised in 2007:

- Strengthen the **Credibility** of the World Heritage List, as a representative and geographically balanced testimony of cultural and natural properties of Outstanding Universal Value;
- Ensure the effective **Conservation** of World Heritage properties;
- Promote the development of effective **Capacity-Building** measures, including assistance for preparing the nomination of properties to the World Heritage List, for the understanding and implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* and related instruments;
- Increase public awareness, involvement and support for World Heritage through **Communication**;
- Enhance the role of **Communities** in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*.

Activities have been identified that build on the well-established foundation of cooperation in the sub-region and current activities, and that have a 5-year framework for implementation. It should be noted that some activities could include consultation or cooperation with the State Party of Mexico, given the shared geography and heritage between these three countries.

As a result of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, four areas of issues and opportunities for enhanced sub-regional cooperation were identified:

- I. Future Tentative Lists;
- II. Strategies for public information and outreach about World Heritage;
- III. Development of strategies to increase communication and cooperation between World Heritage site managers through the whole North American sub-region; and
- IV. International assistance to World Heritage properties.

Added to this is a recognition of the efforts already underway in other areas of work between the two States Parties, addressed in a fifth Action Plan result area:

- V. Integration into existing areas of sub-regional cooperation.

## 2 PERIODIC REPORTING ACTION PLAN FOR NORTH AMERICA

<b>Result area</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Implementation</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
<i>I. Future Tentative Lists</i>	Set up communication plan between States Parties regarding development of Tentative Lists	Regular updates on planning and integration, as suitable, into both Tentative List development processes	Both States Parties
	Share best practices	Joint reporting on lessons learned	Both States Parties
	Coordinate discussions with Advisory Bodies regarding sub-regional harmonization	Meeting with Advisory Bodies	Both States Parties, IUCN, ICOMOS, ICCROM
<i>II. Strategies for public information and outreach about World Heritage</i>	Discuss strategy for outreach activities	Identification of key action areas and activities (e.g. explore potential use of “heritage site passport” and travel itineraries concepts)	Both States Parties
	Seek opportunities to increase exposure at public and expert events	Joint presentations at George Wright Society, IUCN Congress, Pacific Rim Forum	Both States Parties, as well as State Party of Mexico as appropriate
<i>III. Increased communication and cooperation among World Heritage site managers</i>	Share expertise and lessons learned amongst North American World Heritage sites	Annual phone conference for managers of inscribed sites	Both States Parties, World Heritage site managers
	Share expertise and lessons learned between nomination project teams	Develop and maintain a <i>Lessons Learned Report</i> to inform future nominations within the North American sub-region	Both States Parties, World Heritage site managers, nomination project team leads
	Identify possible collaborative projects at the two Canada/USA transboundary properties	Conduct survey of transboundary site managers to understand current obstacles to increased cooperation	Both States Parties, World Heritage site managers
	Explore policy and practice of sharing resources for transboundary properties	Policy report drafted for consideration	Both States Parties

<b>Result area</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Implementation</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
<i>IV. International Assistance to World Heritage properties</i>	Explore opportunities to support joint projects in World Heritage outside North America	Discussion of a joint World Heritage fellowship program, building on current U.S. National Park Service initiative; discussion of potential for a joint study tour program	Both States Parties
<i>V. Integration into other areas of cooperation</i>	Explore strengthening ties between World Heritage and the IUCN's current work on 'Large Landscapes and Protected Areas'	Discussion with IUCN	Both States Parties, IUCN, with invitation to State Party of Mexico to participate
	Explore opportunities to highlight ties between World Heritage and existing areas of cooperation	Report on possible integration of World Heritage into existing areas of cooperation drafted (e.g. Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation for Wilderness Conservation (MOU))	Both States Parties, IUCN, Mexico (as a party to the MOU)
	Cooperate to promote increased sub-regional presence at relevant World Heritage expert meetings and events	Coordinated approach developed to discuss input to upcoming meetings and events	Both States Parties

### 3 DRAFT DECISION

#### **Draft Decision: 39 COM 10A.2**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/10A.2,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 10A.1**,*
3. *Welcomes the preparation of the Action Plan by the World Heritage Focal Points from North America, illustrating the close cooperation between the two States Parties of Canada and the United States of America, and takes note of the efforts to further strengthen the cooperation with the State Party of Mexico for a number of the proposed actions taking into consideration the shared natural and cultural heritage of the three States Parties;*
4. *Acknowledges and endorses the Second Cycle Action Plan for the sub-region of North America and its five result areas (Future Tentative Lists; Strategies for public information and outreach about World Heritage; Increased communication and cooperation between World Heritage site managers throughout the sub-region; International Assistance to World Heritage properties; Integration into existing areas of sub-regional cooperation);*
5. *Commends the States Parties for their efforts to continue the work undertaken in the framework of the Retrospective Inventory and the preparation of the retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value, and encourages the States Parties to finalise this important work in the best of time;*
6. *Takes note of the proposed timeframe of five years for the implementation of the Periodic Reporting Action Plan for North America, and requests the States Parties of Canada and United States of America to submit a progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan to the World Heritage Centre, for presentation to the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.*