

# Report for the 42nd Session of the World Heritage Committee (Manama, 24 June-4 July 2018)

## 1. General information

- **Name of the Centre:** The Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage
- **Address:** P.O. Box 75553, Manama, Bahrain
- **Telephone:** +97317001004
- **Name and contact information of the Acting Director/Head:** Dr. Shadia Touqan, s.touqan@arcwh.org
- **Designated Focal Point(s) (name, title and contact information):** Ebrahim Alkhalifa, Assistant Director, e.alkhalifa@arcwh.org
- **Website of the Centre (if available):** www.arcwh.org

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

The ARC-WH, based in the Kingdom of Bahrain, is an autonomous and independent legal entity at the service of the Arab States. The Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) is guided and supervised by a Governing Board which is renewed every two years. The Board meets in ordinary sessions at regular intervals, at least once per calendar year. The Governing Board is chaired by the President of Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities. The other members include the following: a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Kingdom of Bahrain, a representative of the Arab Member States to the World Heritage Committee, a representative of the Director General of UNESCO, a representative of each of the Advisory Bodies to the Committee ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM.

The current secretariat of ARC-WH comprises 10 permanent staff members which includes the Director, Assistant Director and Programme Specialists for both Cultural and Natural Heritage. The staff also includes specialists in external relations, fund raising and communication.

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

The 7<sup>th</sup> Governing Board meeting was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February, 2018, in Manama, Bahrain. The main decisions of the 7<sup>th</sup> Governing board meeting included adopting the new Programme Strategy 2018-2022 which aimed to address the new challenges and issues facing both Cultural and Natural Heritage in the Arab Region. The Governing Board also adopted the Action Plan for 2018 which has been prepared and presented by the secretariat of ARC-WH. The secretariat also presented the newly launched website of the Centre.

#### 4. Main programs and activities implemented since April 2017 and planned for the current year

| Nb       | Title of the activity  | Reference to WHCBS <sup>1</sup> |
|----------|--|---------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>BETTER REPRESENTATION OF THE ARAB REGION ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST</b>   |                                 |
| 1.1      | Technical Assistance to the Nomination Process of Babel, Iraq (Manama, Bahrain)  | 2.2, 2.6                        |
| 1.2      | Two National Workshops revising the Tentative List of Morocco (focus: natural heritage)  | 2.3                             |
|          | Sub-Regional Workshop on the World Heritage Convention and Nomination Process (Djerba, Tunisia)  | 1.1, 7.4, 10.7                  |
|          | Workshop on the evaluation of Nomination criteria and the concepts of Authenticity, Integrity and Comparative Analysis (Sharjah, UAE)  | 1.1, 2.2                        |
|          | National Workshop revising the Tentative List for Nature sites (Cairo, Egypt)  | 2.3                             |
|          | Workshop on the World Heritage Convention and its nomination process for stakeholders - Technical Assistance to the State Party of Bahrain (Manama, Bahrain)   | 1.1, 2.6                        |
|          | Side Event during 42COM on <i>Heritage &amp; Water – Oasis Landscapes - Traditional Water Systems in the Arab States</i>   | 1.3                             |
| <b>2</b> | <b>IMPROVING MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF ARAB WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES</b>   |                                 |
| 2.1      | Training Workshop on the Preparation of the First State of Conservation (SOC) Report on the natural Components for the Ahwar World Heritage Property, Southern Iraq  | 4.9                             |
| 2.2      | Contribution to the workshop on the Management of World Cultural Heritage sites (Dubai, UAE)   | 4.9                             |
| 2.3      | Technical Assistance to the site management of Wadi Rum concerning the preparation of SOC reports (Wadi Rum, Jordan)   | 4.9                             |
| 2.4      | Workshop on the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention and Assistance to the Preparation of the State of Conservation Report for the Banc d'Arguin National Park (Nouakchott & Chami, Mauritania) | 4.9                             |
| 2.5      | Training Workshop on the mechanisms and concepts of the World Heritage Convention for representatives of the State Parties of Palestine and Libya (Manama, Bahrain)  | 4.9, 7.4                        |
| 2.6      | Long-term Project with British Council: Integrating Cultural Heritage into Conservation and Development Planning on Socotra - Series of  | 7.2, 7.3, 8.3                   |

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

|          |   |                              |
|----------|---|------------------------------|
|          | workshops and training (Manama, Bahrain & Socotra, Yemen)   |                              |
| 2.7      | Technical assistance to the Management of the World Heritage site Battir, Palestine (Battir, Palestine)   | 4.9                          |
|          | Workshop on Management of World Heritage sites for site management of Sanganeb and Dungonab, Sudan (Port Sudan, Sudan)  | 4.9                          |
| 2.8      | Mid-term Training programme on the <i>Implementation of the Enhancing Our Heritage (EoH) toolkit: Management Effectiveness Assessment</i><br><br>Three workshops for site managers of natural and mixed sites as well as cultural landscapes in the Arab Region (Manama, Bahrain) | 3.1, 3.3, 3.6, 4.3, 4.4, 7.2 |
|          | Arabic Translation of the IUCN Outlook Assessment website   | 8.4                          |
|          | Arabic Translation of the TABE'A report II  | 8.4                          |
|          | Arabic Translation of the Iraqi Marshlands Report   | 8.4                          |
|          | Side Event during 42COM on <i>Reconstruction of Built Cultural Heritage: Impacts on Identity and Memory</i>   | 1.3                          |
| <b>3</b> | <b>CREDIBILITY: LINKS TO OTHER CONVENTIONS AND UNESCO SECTORS</b>   |                              |
| 3.1      | Workshops on the Man and Biosphere Programme – Technical Assistance to the State Party of Bahrain   | 1.4                          |
| 3.2      | Expert Meeting on Man and Biosphere - Technical Assistance to State Party of Bahrain  | 1.4                          |
|          | Publication on Rapid Cultural Inventories of Wetlands in the Arab States (Joint publication with Ramsar)  | 1.4                          |
|          | Side Event during 42COM on <i>Heritage &amp; Water – Cultural Practices in World Heritage sites and Wetlands</i>  | 1.4                          |
| <b>4</b> | <b>PROMOTION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION</b>   |                              |
| 4.1      | World Heritage Volunteers visit ARC-WH & Bird Watching Activity (Bahrain)   | 1.3                          |
| 4.2      | Public Lecture on the Conservation of the city of Nablus, Palestine<br>Serie of Public Lectures on Historic Islamic Cities (Manama, Bahrain)  | 1.3                          |
| 4.3      | World Heritage Day: Public Lecture on the City of Fez, Morocco<br>Serie of Public Lectures on Historic Islamic Cities (Manama, Bahrain)   | 1.3                          |
| 4.4      | Public Lecture on the Conservation of the World Heritage Site Jerusalem, Palestine<br>Serie of Public Lectures on Historic Islamic Cities   | 1.3                          |
| 4.5      | Two National Journalist workshops on the World Heritage Convention and the Committee Meeting  | 7.2                          |

