



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR ROCK ART AND THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION SPAIN

Report for the 37th Session of the World Heritage Committee (13 February 2013)

1. Background and mandate of the Centre:

The International Centre for Rock Art and the World Heritage Convention is based on two strategic objectives to carry out its mission of fostering the preservation, management, research and knowledge of Rock Art and World Heritage management:

- Generating and disseminating scientific knowledge about rock art and developing specific tools for properties conservation and management, with a special focus on the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and the Tentative List, in addition to properties protected by national laws.
- Developing strategies and operating tools for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention for the management and preservation of properties.

The achievement of these goals is based on the principles of international cooperation, research and capacity building, institutional cooperation and communication about heritage.

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

The UNESCO General Conference, in its 36th Session (Paris, 25 October-10 November 2011), approved the Establishment in Spain of the International Centre for Rock Art and the World Heritage Convention as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO. Therefore, the next step to be reached will be the corresponding agreement between UNESCO and the State Party.

Due to the current economic situation, the full operating capacity of the planned operational structure is being postponed until the mandatory authorisation at a national level for the creation of a new administrative structure would be accepted.

In the meantime, Spain has a full commitment with this project, and has developed many activities in the scope of the CC2 mandate. Besides, a transitional governing body will be put into operation in March 2013 through the Order of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport for the creation of the Spanish Commission for Rock Art and World Heritage. This transitional governing body will have the same composition that the CC2 Board of Directors.

This Commission is integrated by a President (the general Director for Fine Arts and



Cultural Goods, Archives and Libraries), ten Vocals (the Director of the Cultural Heritage Institute of Spain (IPCE); the Director of the National Museum and Investigation Center of Altamira; one representative of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID); one representative of the Institutes of the High Council of Scientific research (INCIPIT and CCHS); one representative of the Group of Spanish World Heritage Towns; one representative from the University field; one representative of the Director general of UNESCO and three representatives from the Regional Governments.

Its mandate is focused on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and the research, conservation and dissemination of Rock Art through the following actions.

- Reinforce the capacities for the management and conservation of the natural and cultural heritage.
- Fostering the investigation on natural and cultural heritage
- Disseminate information on the application of the World Heritage Convention.
- Improve the awareness of heritage values amongst young people.
- Fostering the international cooperation on World Heritage with UNESCO and other States Parties.
- Foster the investigation on rock art.
- Generate preventive conservation measures in rock art sites.
- Reinforce the management capacities amongst stakeholders through participative methodologies.
- Fostering the international cooperation on identification, information and management of rock art.

The CC2 will be located in the offices of the Cultural Heritage Institute of Spain (IPCE), in Madrid.

3. Programs and activities implemented since June 2012 and plans for the current year:

3. 1 Activities developed in the framework of the conservation, management and information on Rock Art

3.1.1 Activities regarding general aspects concerning Rock Art

- **“Investigation programme on Preventive Conservation and access conditions of the Altamira Cave (2012-2014)”**. The Second meeting was held on 20-22 November 2012. Organised by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports, University of Cantabria and Science and heritage Institute-CSIC (INCIPIT).
- **Congress on “Rock Art Conservation”**, held in the “School of Nájera” (17-19 October 2012) by the Cultural Heritage Institute of Spain (IPCE)
- Document **“Best practices for the management of paleolithic rock art in caves”** prepared by the Coordination Board of the World Heritage property “Cave of Altamira and Paleolithic Cave Art of Northern Spain”.
- **“Technical meeting for the management of World Heritage Rock Art”**, held in Cultural Park of Río Vero (28-31 May 2012). Organised by the local government of Somontano de Barbastro with the support of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport.
- Publication of the **“Minutes of the Technical meeting for the management of World Heritage Rock Art”** and **“Draft proposal for a management plan for World Heritage Rock Art”**. Published by the local government of Somontano de Barbastro with the support of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport.
- Participation in the **Congress on “Rock Art, Cultural Parks and sustainability”**, held in the Interpreting Centre of the Cultural Park of Ariño (12-14 July 2012). Organised by the Regional Government of Aragón and Cultural Park of Río Martín.



3.1.2 Activities regarding concrete actions on Rock Art World Heritage properties

In 2012 there have been a total of 18 activities on Rock Art World Heritage sites in Spain supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport, concerning the World heritage properties. These projects included conservation measures, restoration, improving of the access, information kits for young people, web information, 4D technology, and others, as specified as follows:

Improving of the accessibility and signposting of the cave of Forau del Cocho; conditioning, accessibility and signposting of the caves of Barfaluy and Lecina; Design and development of the didactic programme for the Rock Art Centre of Colungo; Improving of the accessibility and signposting of the cave of Arpán and Mallata; Replacement of the closing of the cave of Abrigo de las Monteses and archaeological research of its surroundings; Musealization of the Route of the Rock Art of Matarraña; Guide and educational kit of the Rock Art in Matarraña; Accessibility of the caves in Castellote; Information activities of the World Heritage Rock Art in the Cultural Park of Albarracín; Virtual visit on-line and 3D holographic images in the cave of Peña de Candamo; Virtual visit on the web of the Covaciella cave; Draft management plan for the caves of Ayora; Information project of the caves of the Comarca de Sobrarbe; Conservation and valorisation of the Rock Art of the cave of Abric Lambert; Valorisation and accessibility of the caves located in Tormón-Albarracín; Studies on Rock Art and funerary rituals.

For 2013 there are 23 approved projects supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports are the following:

Production of a model of monitoring of the state of conservation of Rock Art; Interregional project for the management of Rock Art in Castilla-La Mancha, Valencia and Murcia; 4D project for Rock Art in Junilla; printing of the minutes of the II Congress on Schematic Art in the Iberian Peninsula; Improving of the accessibility of the Cave of Chufín; Restoration and renewal of the closing of the Cave of Tío Garroso; Study, copy and documentation of the caves in Parideras de las Tajadas; Study, documentation and valorisation of the cave of Val del Charco del Agua Amarga; Conservation and protection of the Rock Art of Quesa; Improvements in the conservation and protection of the Cueva de La Peña; Improvement in the access and information on the Altamira Cave for the local community; Valorisation and information of the archaeological area of Siega Verde; Management plan of the Rock Art in Castellote; Improving of the cave of Plano Pulido; Communication on the Rock Art of Montañas de Prades; Management plan of the caves of Barranco Gibert; Improving of the accessibility and protection of the cave of la Garma; Conservation and protection of the caves of La Araña and Gineses; Project for improvements in the Abrigo del Rincón del Tío Escribano; publication of a comic book about "The painters of the Past", for young people; Protection and valorisation of the cave of Caídas de Salbime; Creation of leaflets and signposting of the cave of Os de Balaguer.

3. 2 Activities developed in the framework of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention

- **VI meeting of managers of World Heritage properties in Spain**, on the topic "World Heritage and sustainable development", held in Santiago de Compostela (22-24 October 2012).



- **IV meeting of managers of World Heritage properties in Spain and Portugal**, on the topic “40th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention”, held in Ciudad Rodrigo (24-26 April 2012).
- **IV World Heritage Young Iberoamerican Forum**, on the topic “40th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention”, held in Alcalá de Henares and Molina (10-20 June 2012)
- **Publication “World Heritage Cultural Landscapes”**, edited by the Elche Municipality with the support of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport.
- **II International Congress of World Heritage historic cities**, held in Córdoba (23-26 April 2012). Organised by the Municipality of Córdoba, with the support of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport.
- **I International Congress of Best Practices in World Heritage: Archaeology**. Held in Menorca (9-13 April 2012). Organised by the Universidad Complutense de Madrid and Consell Insular de Menorca and publication of the minutes.
- Launching of the **World Heritage microsite**, located on the web page of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport.
- International meeting of experts for the “**Management Plan of Iberoamerican World Heritage towns**”. Organised by ICOMOS Spain and supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport (planned for 2013)
- Meeting of World Heritage site managers for “**Basis for Management Plans in World Heritage Sites in Spain**” (planned for 2013)
- **VII meeting of managers of World Heritage properties in Spain** (planned for 2013)
- **V World Heritage Young Iberoamerican Forum** (planned for 2013)

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