Enhancing World Heritage conservation and management in the Asia and the Pacific region: issues, main challenges and priority actions

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Presentation Goal

• General overview of the World Heritage Convention in the context of 40th Anniversary
• The 2nd cycle of Periodic Reporting for Asia and the Pacific and the main outcome
• Priorities for training and Capacity-building emerging from Periodic Reporting
• Conservation issues for consideration and discussions, including collaboration with HIST.
Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972
190 States Parties to the Convention
As of September 2012

962 World Heritage sites in 157 countries
As of August 2012
Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra, Indonesia
Sagarmatha National Park, Nepal
Great Barrier Reef, Australia
They are all sites of

“outstanding universal value”

...cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity.

- Together they form a common heritage of humankind
- Their protection is our shared responsibility
World Heritage Committee members (2011-2013)

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Strategic Objectives

1. Credibility
2. Conservation
3. Capacity building
4. Communication
5. Communities
Which are the benefits of ratifying the World Heritage Convention?

States Parties that ratify the World Heritage Convention:

- Have the right to submit nominations
- Belong to an international community that protects unique properties that embody a world of outstanding examples of cultural diversity and natural wealth
- Heighten awareness and improve the general level of protection afforded to their heritage
- Could get financial assistance and expert advice.
Mandate of the World Heritage Centre (WHC)

- Establishment of the Centre in 1992
- **Focal point** and coordinator within UNESCO for **all matters related to** World Heritage
- **Secretariat** of the World Heritage Committee
- **Assistance to States Parties** for the implementation of the Convention
- **Administration** of the World Heritage Fund
- **Information, communication and education**
Advisory Bodies

- **ICOMOS**: International Council on Monuments and Sites

- **IUCN**: International Union for Conservation of Nature

- **ICCROM**: International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property
40th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention:

World Heritage and Sustainable Development: The Role of Local Communities

http://www.foxpdf.com
Asia-Pacific Regional Perspective

- **28** Asian States Parties
- **14** Pacific States Parties
- Out of **962** World Heritage properties, **213** are situated in the Asia and the Pacific Region, including **148** cultural, **55** natural and **10** mixed properties. (**22%** worldwide)
Periodic Reporting: Objectives

Article 29 of the *Convention* and paragraphs 199 to 210 of the *Operational Guidelines*, Periodic Reporting serves the four following purposes:

- To provide an assessment of the application of the *World Heritage Convention* by the State Party
- To provide an assessment as to whether the Outstanding Universal Value of the properties is being maintained over time
- To provide up-dated information about the properties to record their state of conservation and the changing circumstances
- To provide a mechanism for regional co-operation and exchange of information and experiences to ensure effective long term conservation of properties
The 2nd cycle of Periodic Reporting: Key components

- Draft Retrospective **Statements of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV)**
  - Preparation of the statements of OUV of the property at the time of inscription according to the requirements of SOUV introduced in the Operational Guidelines in 2005

- **Periodic Reporting Online Questionnaires**
  - Section I: Implementation of the World Heritage Convention at national level
  - Section II: State of conservation of each World Heritage properties

- **Retrospective Inventory**
  - Clarification of cartographic information
The 2nd cycle of Periodic Reporting: Scope and Outcome

- Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV)
  - 166/166 submitted, 165 complete
  - 6 approved at 35th session
  - 67 proposed for adoption at 36th session

- Periodic Reporting Online Questionnaires
  - Section I: All 41 submitted
  - Section II: All 198 submitted

- Retrospective Inventory
  - 68/96 submitted
  - 30 proposed for adoption at 36th session
The 2nd cycle of Periodic Reporting: Implementation

- Three sub-regional workshops for national focal points
  - Pacific: Maupiti, French Polynesia, 2009
  - North-East and South-East Asia: Taiyuan, China, 2010
  - West, Central, and South Asia: Dehradun, India, 2010

- National and sub-regional workshops for site managers
  - Various, 2010-2011

- Two regional meetings to discuss results and Action Plans
  - Pacific: Apia, Samoa, September 2011
  - Asia: Suwon, Republic of Korea, December 2012

Implemented with assistance of WHC, Advisory Bodies, Field Offices, and international resource persons
The 2nd cycle of Periodic Reporting: Key players

- **National focal points**
  - Consolidation of national responses to the questionnaires
  - Responding to the questionnaire Section I
  - Submission of the questionnaires Section I and II

- **Site managers**
  - Responding to the questionnaire Section II
  - Preparation of draft retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value
  - Preparation of maps in response to Retrospective Inventory

- **Mentors, Advisory Bodies, UNESCO Field Offices and the World Heritage Centre** provided technical support and advice
State of conservation of World Heritage properties in Asia and the Pacific
What threats do the sites face?

- Earthquakes
- Pollution
- Wanton destruction
- Floods
- Uncontrolled urbanism
- Drought
- Poaching
- War
- Poverty
- Climate change
- Abusive tourism
- Fire
- Ignorance
- Globalisation
Main conservation issues at WH properties

Number of the properties examined
By the World Heritage Committee, July 2012 (177 in total)
Threats

Percentage of properties affected by each primary group of threats in 2008 and 2009
Cultural landscape inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2003
Primary causes of conservation problems at heritage sites in Asia

- Infrastructure development: 35%
- Lack of respect for the site: 23%
- Increase in illegal practices: 22%
- Risk to wildlife: 22%
- Destruction of vegetation: 17%

Source: UNESCO/UNEP survey of World Heritage sites
Common Threats & Risks, Asia, 2003

- Development pressures (e.g. encroachment, infrastructure development)
- Population pressure
- Urban expansion & growth
- Environmental influences (e.g. deforestation, desertification, pollution, climate change);
- Uncontrolled tourism, overpopulation;
- Vandalism, theft & destruction;
- Natural disasters (e.g. earthquakes etc.);
- Military and armed conflicts
2012: Factors affecting the properties

- There are **76 factors** listed in the questionnaire, for each of which States Parties were asked whether the impact is positive/negative, current/potential, and the origin is inside/outside.
- 76 factors are grouped in **13 group factors**.

In the Periodic Report analysis:

- 13 group factors were used to compare the sub-regional trends.
- 76 factors were used to provide details per sub-region on factors affecting the properties both positively and negatively as well as currently and potentially.
2012: Factors affecting World Heritage properties in Asia

Top 5 negative, current impacts for CULTURAL properties

• Local conditions affecting physical fabric
• Social/cultural uses of heritage (tourism)
• Buildings and development
• Transportation infrastructure
• Pollution

Top 5 negative, current impacts for NATURAL properties

• Pollution
• Social/cultural uses of heritage (tourism)
• Local conditions affecting physical fabric
• Biological resources use/modification
• Transportation infrastructure
Periodic Reporting: the way forward

1. **Key process** under 1972 Convention, but linked with all other processes (nominations, Reactive Monitoring etc);

2. All World Heritage properties subject to threats; only specific cases with (potential) impacts on OUV and integrity / authenticity brought to attention of the World Heritage Committee;

3. **Crucial:** promoting regional, site-site cooperation mechanism, best practice management and effective conservation at site level;

4. **Meeting, dialogue** with the State Parties, Advisory Bodies and World Heritage Centre is essential;

Periodic Reporting: The Future

- The Report of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting in Asia and the Pacific, together with the regional Action Plans were presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session (24 June - 6 July 2012) in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation.

- To implement the Action Plan(s) from Asia and the Pacific on the prioritized action points as part of the outcome from Periodic Reporting, with further development of sub-regional and national Action Plan(s)....
Priority Areas for Capacity-building and Training

Training priorities identified by the States Parties

• Conservation (all)
• Education (South East Asia)
• Risk preparedness (South Asia)
• Visitor management (South East Asia)
• Community outreach (Pacific)
Training priorities identified by the States Parties

Many of the trainings are available only at national level, but a few institutions are offering courses for international participants.
Key issues

• Management plans/systems

• More sustainable financial and human resources

• Community involvement and benefit sharing

• Better regional cooperation
Management plans/systems

- Development and review of management plans which correspond to Outstanding Universal Value

- Factors affecting the properties (e.g. tourism, infrastructure development, disaster risk reduction), better visitor management, and monitoring should be addressed through management plans/systems
More sustainable financial and human resources

- Need for effective mechanisms for fund allocation to priority needs

- Better use of tourism income and partnership should be explored considering the high awareness of various stakeholders in the region
Community involvement and benefit sharing

- Community should be more involved in the management of properties and decision-making process.

- To encourage better community involvement, capacity-building of communities and benefit-sharing should be encouraged to enhance their sense of stewardship in management of properties.
Better regional cooperation

A network of focal points and site managers developed through the implementation of Periodic Reporting.

States Parties agreed that the network should be maintained.

Site managers find it useful to exchange information regarding how to deal with factors affecting properties.
The Suwon Action Plan for Asia identifies 21 regional issues in the sub-regions in Asia.

Three central issues were chosen for their overall regional importance:

1. Development, review, and implementation of management plans (including visitor management)
2. Disaster risk reduction and risk preparedness
3. Better regional cooperation
Disasters are increasing; heritage is affected

Natural disasters reported 1900 – June 2008

Natural and Human-made Disasters

Tsunami, December 2004
Prambanan Temple, Indonesia
China Earthquake, 12 May 2008

EPICENTRE

Mount Qincheng and Dujiangyan Irrigation System

Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuary
Climate Change
The Way Forward for HIST:

- In line with the Decision of the World Heritage Committee (35COM 9B, UNESCO, 2011), the UNESCO Category 2 Centre related to World Heritage in the region such as HIST and WHITR-AP, may take the lead on developing a regional Capacity-building strategy and associated programmes for strengthening capacities at the regional level, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies (IUCN, ICCROM and ICOMOS), and other regional institutions that may act as advisors or partners in the development and implementation of the strategy.
Further, in July 2010, the World Heritage Committee adopted its Decision 34 OM 7C, reflecting on the trends of the state of Conservation of World Heritage properties and “requested the Advisory Bodies, in particular IUCN, work with the World Heritage Centre and relevant remote sensing agencies, to examine the feasibility of using remote sensing to help assess the potential contribution that it could make to the monitoring of certain threats to the Outstanding Universal Value of WH properties”.
What will be HIST’s programme for the next 5 years based on the above priorities identified in the Region and other specific activities on remote sensing?

How can it collaborate with the States Parties in the region and other partners?
The World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Programme
Committee’s programs and initiatives

- Earthen Architecture
- Forests
- Modern Heritage
- Small Island Developing States
- Marine & Costal Sites
- Sustainable Tourism
- World Heritage Cities
- Prehistoric Sites
- Astronomy and World Heritage Initiative
List of Category 2 Centres

- Nordic World Heritage Foundation (established in Oslo, Norway)
- World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and Pacific Region (WHITR-AP, established in China)
- African World Heritage Fund (established in South Africa)
- Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (established in Bahrain)
- Regional Heritage Management Training Centre (established in Brazil)
- Regional World Heritage Institute (established in Mexico)
- International Centre for Rock Art (established in Spain)
- International Research Centre on the Economics of Culture and World Heritage Studies (established in Italy)
- International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (HIST, established in Beijing, China)
Thank you!

谢谢合作！

Thank you!