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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-seventh session
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room XII
30 June – 5 July 2003

Item 20B of the Provisional Agenda: Tools for the implementation of the 2002 World Heritage Strategic Objectives - World Heritage Programmes

Africa Regional Programme 2004-2007

SUMMARY

This document corresponds to the Periodic Reporting on the state of conservation of World Heritage in Africa, presented and adopted in conformity with the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee at its 26th session in Budapest (ref. WHC-02/CONF.202/25, page 13, paragraph 20 (1-6)).

The Periodic Reporting Exercise for Africa should be seen as a continuous process. The proposed Regional Programme which covers the initial period 2004-2005 derived from the "*Periodic Reporting Action Plan 2002-2007*" adopted by the Committee, gives priority to: **human resources development, enhancing the management of sites**, and the **development of national strategies** for Natural World Heritage sites in Africa as highlighted in the Plan. The Regional Programme includes training sessions for reinforcing the capacities for managing sites and for preparing national strategies as well as two mid-term workshops for assessing the progress in periodic reporting and in the implementation of the Convention in Africa. The Programme will be complementary to the Africa 2009 Programme.

Decision required: The Committee may wish to approve the budget and activities for 2004 - 2005 presented in this report amounting to US\$ 90,000 (ninety thousand US dollars), while an amount of US\$290,000 will be sought from other budgetary resources. Furthermore, the Committee may wish to take note of the following related working documents: WHC-03/27.COM/6B and WHC-03/27.COM/20B, that contain the proposed decisions for the Committee, and WHC-03/27.COM/11 on the "Examination of the World Heritage Fund and approval of the World Heritage Fund Budget for 2004-2005".

Africa regional programme (2004-2007)

This Regional Programme is a proposal for a partnership between the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies, the UNESCO Regional Offices in Africa and the institutions responsible for cultural and natural heritage of the sub-Saharan African States. It aims to respond to the decisions taken at the 26th session of the World Heritage Committee in Budapest, Hungary, from 24 to 29 June 2002, following the submission of the Synthesis Report of the African Periodic Reports. The Committee requested “that the activities specified in the Action Plan be restructured in line with the new Strategic Objectives and linked with other initiatives” and notably the programmes adopted during the 25th session of the Committee in December 2001.

1. Context and Justification

The Synthesis Report on the state of conservation of World Heritage in Africa, a follow-up to the African Periodic Reporting Exercise adopted by the World Heritage Committee in July 2002, covered both cultural and natural African World Heritage, and indicated existing gaps in the general management of World Heritage sites in Africa. It also highlighted the need to strengthen the structures and guidelines with regard to the implementation of the Convention in the African States. In particular, it was noted that:

- With regard to State Party organization: (...) “lack of institutional organisation at the national level has led to inconsistencies in the implementation of tasks”;
- With regard to the identification of properties: (...) “an up-date of information at the time of inscription is necessary, particularly in order to define the precise boundaries of a site or to create a buffer zone”;
- With regard to management plans and integrated conservation: (...) “measures planned (..) to safeguard (...) must be reviewed and adapted to encourage a participatory approach to site management (...) furthermore, in this minimal framework a management plan and strategy are lacking”;
- With regard to the factors affecting the properties: (...) “Sometimes unknown, often not recognized, these factors must be identified and balanced, in relation to their frequency, against the risk they represent”;
- With regard to preventive conservation and monitoring: (...) “Few sites have a coherent, effective monitoring methodology. The lack of information on key indicators, (...) lack of personnel assigned to this task and inadequate or in appropriate means.”;
- With regard to training and international co-operation: (...) “Requests concern, in decreasing order of importance, management and planning for World Heritage sites, conservation and restoration training, and monitoring of the environment and of monuments”.

To respond to these recommendations, the report formulated an action plan comprising a series of basic measures divided into five principal thematic strategies for:

- Training
- Management
- Research and site reporting
- Participation
- Networks and co-operation.

The present programme aims to take into consideration the above recommendations and to restructure the proposed action plan follows integrate as : Africa 2009 as regards the preservation of immovable African heritage, propose a similar approach for natural heritage; and formulate integrated national strategies for the application of the Convention and the management of World Heritage sites.

It therefore constitutes an instrument notably for the implementation of the strategy of the World Heritage Committee for the training of heritage professionals in sub-Saharan Africa.

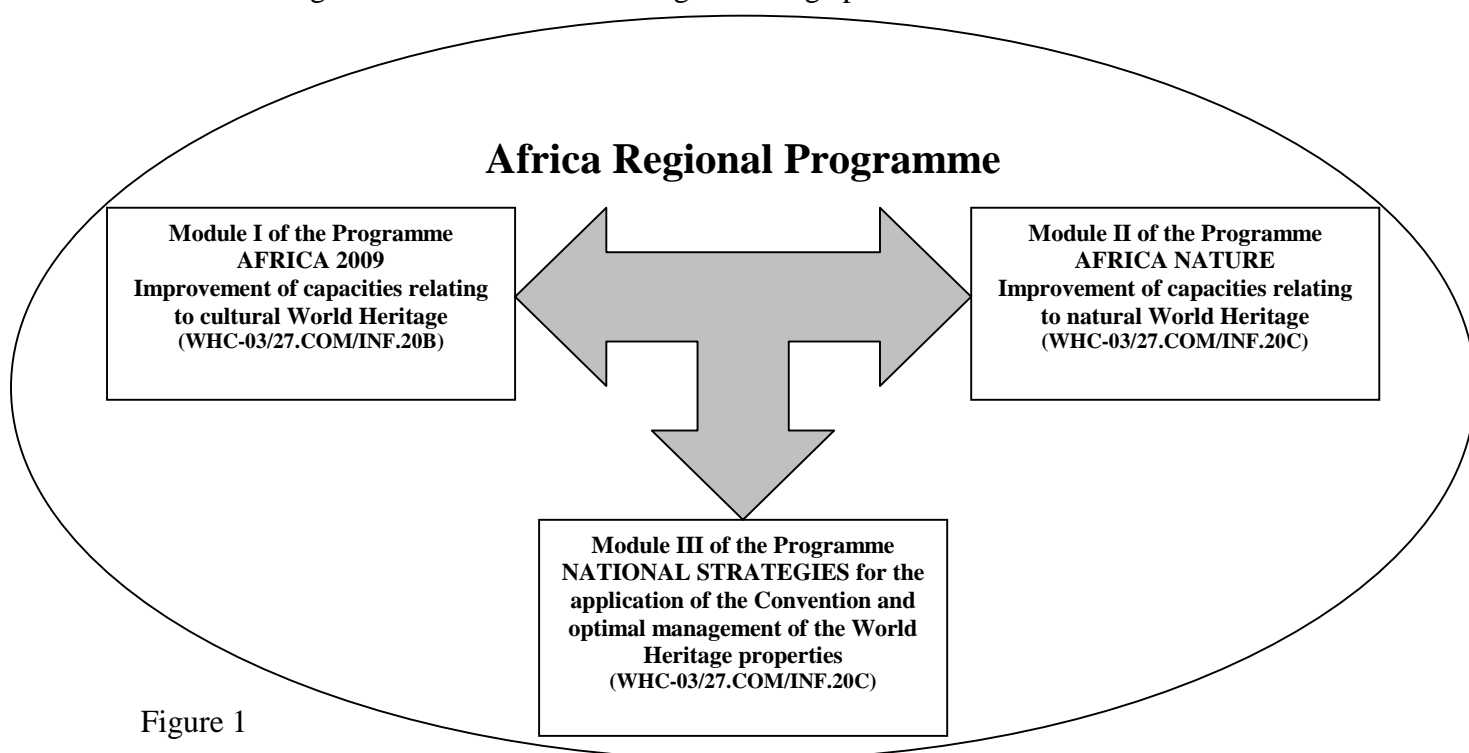


Figure 1

Conservation aspects are indeed important, but they should not obstruct the interface with sustainable development, and in Africa its necessary corollary that is poverty alleviation. The Johannesburg Declaration on World Heritage in Africa and Sustainable Development, adopted on the occasion of the meeting of African experts on heritage management, 19 to 23 August 2002, deals with this concern and stresses the need to integrate heritage in development policies, and notably to:

1. Reaffirm the need for political commitment to the promotion of heritage through the implementation of the Convention;
2. Affirm that priority be given to strengthening efforts to tackle threats to heritage sites, to their management and to the introduction of integrated management frameworks that can provide holistic solutions to heritage management;
3. Embark on an active programme of policy, legal and institutional reform with a view to placing communities at the centre of heritage management and to introducing legal and policy frameworks that link nature and culture.

In the spirit of this Declaration, the main aspects of the Synthesis Report of the Periodic Reporting will be taken into consideration in the framework of Modules II and III of the Regional Programme for Africa.

Africa 2009, successfully launched in 1998, already covers the training needs for immovable African cultural heritage, as identified in the Periodic Reports, both on the regional and national level and at the sites. Considered an integral part of the present Regional Programme for Africa, it becomes Module I, and complementary to the two other new modules proposed (see Figure 1 above).

The two new Modules II and III developed below, cover aspects and needs identified but not taken into consideration in Africa 2009 (Module I), notably those concerning the implementation of the Convention at the State and site level:

- Module II: Management training for natural heritage for sub-Saharan Africa (providing answers to gaps in the management of sites – specifically natural sites)
- Module III: Formulation-development of national strategies for World Heritage.

2. Modalities and Objectives of Modules II and III

The Modules of the Africa Regional Programme are proposed in the framework of the biennial budget (2004-2005), as a preparatory phase of a bigger programme that will be submitted to the World Heritage Committee, following the final evaluation of the results of the activities related to Modules II and III described below in this document and those of Africa 2009 (Module I of the Programme).

After the example of Africa 2009, but also on a smaller scale, Module II of the present programme will primarily focus on human resource and site management training. The theme of Module III, the development of national strategies for World Heritage, is a new focus that is a direct result of the needs identified by the Periodic Reporting.

Politicians and decision-makers, as well as persons responsible for sites, professionals, craftsmen and representatives of local communities will all benefit from this activity.

- Module II entitled “Management of African Natural Sites”, will be structured through an international network with a regional objective and projects at sites, aiming to create a network of African experts highly trained in the conservation of natural heritage in Africa.
- Module III entitled “National Strategies” will aim at an improved representativity of African heritage in general and the formulation of national strategies for a better application of the World Heritage Convention in sub-Saharan Africa.

Main objectives

- Improve preservation conditions of African natural heritage through participatory approaches, planning and a management strategy for its integration into the sustainable development process;
- Promote professional exchanges and networks among countries of the region;
- Identify and disseminate good conservation practices and natural heritage management experiences in the region;
- Greater participation and better balance in the identification of heritage;

- Strengthen coherence, capacities and legal frameworks of institutions in the field of protection, conservation and management of heritage;
- Raise awareness of heritage values among all partners, in particular women and young people in local communities.

2. Expected results

- Consideration of sustainable development in heritage policies;
- National strategies adapted to a given eco-cultural area;
- Better coherence in the guidelines and decisions concerning management and conservation;
- Institutional development and progress in financial autonomy for site management;
- Optimised management, improved capacities and better conservation of natural heritage;
- Site management manuals adapted to the African context, using a holistic approach.

4. Partnerships

Implementation framework

- A pedagogical team familiar with the problems in Africa, conservation, sustainable development and participatory methods of teaching.
- Collaboration with other international organizations (governmental and non-governmental) concerning conservation and development problems of sub-Saharan Africa, such as Ramsar, Africa 2009, IUCN, Priority Africa, New Initiative for Africa Development (NEPAD), African Wildlife Schools and research institutions.
- A centralised on-line secretariat enabling the exchange of documents and information.
- Funding partners, and notably the World Heritage Fund, Nordic Heritage Foundation, international and bilateral donors, etc.

5. Proposed activities

5.1. Yearly training programme for Modules II and III

General methodology:

The principal retained is that of group training, practical courses of several weeks' duration, for a certain number of persons from African countries responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

The training envisaged is a participatory and pragmatic approach to management or national strategy problems. The course content will comprise instruction by the trainer, application to the specific experiences of each trainee, a debate or group discussion. The content of each theme will be organized around a number of basic questions (What to do?, Why?, How?, When?, Who?, etc.), illustrated by case studies taken as far as possible from African World Heritage sites. This will constitute a departure point for the concrete implementation of a project (case study) corresponding to the World Heritage site that is hosting the training course. Simultaneously, each trainee should reflect upon the application of this theme to his own site. At the end of the course, a network of trainee managers will be constituted to facilitate the exchange of experiences and questions.

A mid-course meeting is foreseen, in order to review the periodic monitoring of African sites and a group training programme.

For efficiency, and in view of the distribution of the major national or working languages in Africa, it will be necessary to provide both Anglophone and Francophone training sessions.

Feed-back could be envisaged at a year's interval, to compare and comment on the work carried out by the trainees in their own reference area (site, State) in the framework of the implementation of knowledge and experience gained during the course.

a) *Module II "Management of African natural sites"*

Methodology

- Target public: Technical personnel (direction) responsible for the management of World Heritage sites. Intended for persons having a university degree (high-level technician, engineer) and practical experience in the field of protected area management. It is expected that the trainees have basic knowledge of computer use (office).

Expected results

- Managers of natural sites better trained in modern management practices;
- Participatory management of natural sites, to include local communities;
- Adapted management instruments and tools;
- Sites serving as vehicles for regional development;
- Case studies based on good practice (strong points of each site) in an inter-African co-operative framework;
- Project proposals prepared and submitted to potential donors.

Duration: 4 weeks.

The aim of this training will be to bring together a certain number of trainees (maximum 12 to 15) in the framework of a concrete case study, at a World Heritage site. The training will comprise the different aspects of general management of a site and will result in the elaboration of a model management and work programme for a site. In order to conserve the greatest possible coherence of the courses, and to avoid confusing the trainees with unnecessary information, specific training is foreseen for each of the major types of African natural environment, forest and savannah, each of which has a specific type of management.

Based on a concrete approach in the form of case studies, the course will conclude with a report written by the group that will recapitulate the actions to be taken for an efficient and sustainable management of a natural World Heritage site.

Programme

Six main training themes were identified:

- Theme 1: Introduction to the course: The natural World Heritage (biodiversity, geology, hydrology) – Presentation of the site hosting the course – presentation of the programme and the work plan – Organisation of the trainees in working groups – The World Heritage Convention and the other international treaties concerning the natural heritage – Identification of the properties: declaration of value, principles and criteria of authenticity and integrity, tentative lists.

- Theme 2: Management: Why manage? – How to manage – The main preparatory phases of a management plan – the main components of a management plan – funding and financial autonomy – zoning – management tools (data base, documentation) – management indicators – participatory management. Elaboration of a management plan for the host site providing guidelines on the main themes.
- Theme 3: Monitoring: the different monitoring categories (regular, periodic, reactive) – tools for regular monitoring (inventories, counting, databases, Geographic Information System), evaluation of the numbers of fauna and flora (choice of monitored species) – Cyber tracker – Monitoring of the landscapes - GPS – participatory monitoring – photographic monitoring – monitoring indicators – Elaboration of a monitoring programme and a yearly work programme.
- Theme 4: Conservation: protect and conserve – surveillance methods – natural threats to the heritage (natural risk management) – management of the anthropic risks affecting the heritage (clearing, illegal grazing, poaching, unauthorised gathering, looting, etc.) – Forest fires – Conflicts and their solutions – participation of the local communities in conservation – the problems of refugees – elaboration of a conservation plan, a yearly work programme and a plan for response to natural catastrophes.
- Theme 5: Development: the usufructuary management of the natural heritage – World Heritage and generation of income – Analysis of the causes of the economic success of certain sites – diversification of resources – ecotourism – traditional gathering and hunting – enhancement of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of the local communities – sustainable tourism – village tourism – Elaboration of a local development project for the heritage of the site.
- Theme 6: Communication: communicate with the generations: the elders (to receive their knowledge and know-how), school children (to transmit knowledge) – communicate with the local visitors: “open house” days, site festivals – communicate with foreign visitors: panels, exhibitions, visitor centres – handbooks and guides – postcards, CD-Roms – radio and television – publicising the site to the outside world (tour operators, video, etc.). Creation of a PowerPoint presentation on the site hosting the course.

b) Module III: “National Strategies”

Methodology

- Target public: national administrators of the Ministries of Culture, the Environment, etc. (national directors or deputy directors) concerned by the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in their country), as well as technicians responsible for the sites.

Expected results

- National heritage policies developed or updated;
- Institutional framework strengthened and provided with significant means;
- Legal framework better adapted to the spirit of the Convention;
- Nomination process for the sites facilitated by participatory approaches
- Greater autonomy for the sites and coordinated management involving all the actors and partners, for better integration in sustainable development.
- Greater awareness of the Convention at public and governmental levels.

Duration: 2 weeks

It will take place following Module II, in the capitol city of the country hosting the first module, and the national services of this State will serve as the framework for the development of a national strategy. In Africa, the main types of natural environment generally correspond to ways of life, to cultural, religious or linguistic ensembles that will also constitute a common framework familiar to all the trainees.

Likewise, the trainees' reports will develop the concrete elements for the implementation of an integrated national strategy.

Programme

Four themes of national interest will be treated. The methodology will be similar to that used for Module II "Management". A concrete project will be developed (case study) corresponding to the particular case of the country hosting the course. The trainees will return to their countries with the basis for developing these four themes in their own environment.

- Theme 1: Prepare a national strategy for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention – Elaboration of national strategies integrating the protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and natural heritage in economic and social development plans, and in territorial management and development plans.
- Theme 2: Create National Committees for the World Heritage Convention: role of a National Committee – fields of competence – possible activities – members of the committee – legal status of the Committee – the Committee's work programme.
- Theme 3: Optimise the administrative structures of the sites: Reflect upon the modernisation of the administrative structures of the sites – Interest in greater autonomy of the management structures of the sites inscribed on the WHL – Why? – How? -- African case studies. The scientific committees of the sites (role, composition, competence, creation).
- Theme 4: Planning: 1. Need to plan – 2. Evaluation and updating of the management plans (for the sites with a management plan – 3. Additional planning at site level (regional plans, tourism plans, etc.).
- Theme 5: Legislation: To reflect the national strategy, creation of National Committees for World Heritage, site autonomy, development plans, coordination frameworks, etc.

5.2. Mid-term assessment workshop on the results of Modules II and III

The recommendation to carry out an assessment half-way through the monitoring exercise (every 3 years) derives from a proposal made by the managers of the World Heritage sites in Africa. This evaluation would enable an assessment of the achievements in the fields of management, conservation, protection and development, and a confirmation or reorientation of future actions. Given that a manager's period of office is generally less than 5 years, this mid-term assessment will be all the more useful and would reduce the number of "novice" managers dealing with Periodical Reporting. However, in view of the gaps observed in the status of the African World Heritage, the monitoring of the exercise could be combined with a

continuous process aiming at guiding the responsible persons in a double process of monitoring the first exercise and preparing the exercise of the following periodic report.

Consequently, the World Heritage Committee should foresee the necessary means to organise a mid-term examination for those States Parties who so desire.

For linguistic reasons, it will be useful to plan two workshops, one for the Francophone countries, and the other for the Anglophone countries.

Targeted public: the representatives of the managers of the World Heritage sites (approximately 50) in Africa.

Duration: approximately 4 days. They will take place in an African capital. Dates foreseen: end of 2004 for the Francophone workshop, beginning of 2005 for the Anglophone workshop.

Programme

Assess the:

- implementation of the periodic monitoring report in the African countries;
- management practices (elaboration of management plans, adjustment of management plans, etc);
- monitoring practices (inventories, counting, indicators);
- relations with the local population (participatory management, resolving conflicts, illegal activities);
- economic and social development (tourism);
- personnel training
- etc.

ANNEX I

Natural and linguistic framework of Modules II and III

For consistency and understanding between the trainees and trainers, it is preferable that the courses be conducted in only one working language. Due to the predominance of English and French as the national languages in Africa, it is possible to envisage holding the sessions alternatively in French and English. In Africa there are about 35 natural sites inscribed on the World Heritage List, located in approximately twenty countries.

If the optimal number of trainees per session is considered to be 12 to 15 (in order to ensure a good inter-active teacher-student group – one trainer for 6 to 7 students), this course may be conducted every other year for the Anglophone and Francophone groups.

The venue of the course should be decided upon several months in advance in order to organise the necessary logistics. It will be possible to alternate the sites according to their ecological characteristics (forests or savannah) so as to diversify the studies and the situations during the courses.

Established in the framework of the implementation of the Periodic Reporting for Africa, this activity will be programmed during its preparatory phase (2004-2005) on the basis of one annual session. The following calendar is proposed:

Year	Language	Natural environment	Possible Site/State
2004	French	Forest	Virunga, DR Congo
2005	English	Forest	Bwindi, Uganda

Depending upon the evaluation carried out in 2005 and the decision of the Committee, the programme could continue for the next period, as follows:

Year	Language	Natural environment	Possible Site/State
2006	French	Savannah	Manovo, Central African Republic
2007	English	Savannah	Simien, Ethiopia

The sites and States proposed are only examples that may be modified according to priorities and availability.

Logistics of the courses

1. Trainers

A team of competent trainers will be set up, comprising experts, managers and researchers experienced in activities related to the management of a World Heritage site or the elaboration of national conservation strategies. These trainers could be international experts or African experts. The co-ordination of these training courses and the homogeneity of the teaching will be ensured by a small team who will ensure the perennial nature of this teaching during and between sessions. Competent persons from other organizations involved in conservation activities in Africa could also be called upon (WWG, IUCN, etc.).

2. Room and board

The “site management” course, being conducted in a World Heritage site, would use available hotel accommodation, or existing educational centres. Or else, the construction of guest rooms could be envisaged, which could afterwards become an eco-tourism structure (lodging or eco-museum). The cost of this construction, using local techniques, should not exceed that of hotel accommodation. Board can also be organized through local amenities. As the “national strategies” course will be held in the capital of the host State, accommodation will not be problematic.

3. Educational material

The teaching activities will include a practical component using computers. This instruction should therefore have equipment available to initiate the students in the use of the computer for management, monitoring and report writing, etc. An electrical power supply source is required (sector, electricity generator or solar energy panels). The equipment envisaged comprises:

- 1 server computer with CD burner
- 5 computers linked in a network
- 1 hub 8 ports
- 1 printer
- 1 photocopier machine
- 1 video projector
- 3 cyber trackers
- 3 GPS

4. Travel

Travel concerns the international travel of the trainees and trainers, as well as travel to the site and during the course.

Travel to the site: overland.

ANNEX 2

Costs and Funding

1. The yearly training programme (2 modules proposed)

Module II 4 weeks

Module III 2 weeks

Teaching material

International travel for person responsible for training: $2 \times 1000 \$ = 2000 \$$

International travel for trainers $6 \times 1000 = 6000 \$$

Per diem = $2 \text{ persons} \times 63 \text{ d} \times 100 \$ = 12600 \$$

Professional fees = $2 \text{ persons} \times 9 \text{ weeks} \times 1000 \$ = 18000 \$$

Running costs (telecommunications, Internet, photocopies, etc.) = $6000 \$$

Total 50,000 \$

Equipment

Computer equipment : $6 \text{ computers} \times 1000 \$ = 6000$

Programmes : 2000 \$

Cyber tracker, GPS : 3000 \$

Pedagogical material : video projector : 2000 \$

Secretariat : 2000 \$

Total 15,000 \$

Logistics

Local transportation : 6000 \$

Accommodation for trainees : $20\$ \times 15 \times 60 = 18000 \$$

Board : $10\$ \times 20 \times 60 = 12000 \$$

«Site management » trainees

Travel

International travel for trainees : $15 \times 800 = 12000 \$$

Per diem $10\$ \times 15 \times 60 = 9000$

«National strategies» trainees

Travel

International travel for trainees : $10 \times 800 = 8000 \$$

Per diem : $10 \times 20 \times 100 = 20000$

Total 85,000 \$

Total : per session: approx. 150,000 \$

2. Mid-term workshops to assess progress

- International travel for staff: $4 \times 1000 \$ = 4000 \$$
- Per diem staff: $5 \times 4 \text{ p} \times 100 \$ = 2000 \$$
- Consultants fees: $2 \times 1000 \$ = 2000 \$$
- Workshop running: $2 \times 1000 \$ = 2000 \$$
- Trainees: international travel : $50 \times 800 \$ = 40000 \$$
- Per diem: $50 \text{ p} \times 5 \text{ d} \times 100 \$ = 25000 \$$
- Educational material = 2500\$

Provisional total for the two workshops: 77,500 \$, (e.g. 40,000 \$ per workshop).

Recapitulation of needs and funding sources for biennium 2004-2005:

	Funding needs for 2004-2005 (US \$)	World Heritage Fund funding (US \$)	Other funding to be mobilised (US \$)
<i>1. Training programmes: Francophone session and Anglophone session (Modules II and III for biennium 2004-2005)</i>			
Educational material	100,000 \$	20,000 \$	80,000 \$
Equipment	30,000 \$	5,000 \$	25,000 \$
Logistics	170,000 \$	55,000 \$	115,000 \$
Total (a)	300,000 \$	80,000 \$	220,000 \$
<i>2. Two Mid-term assessment workshops 2004-2005</i>			
	80,000 \$	10,000 \$	70,000 \$
Total (b)	80,000 \$	10,000 \$	70,000 \$
Grand Total (a + b)	380,000 \$	90,000 \$	290,000 \$

Yearly regional programming

Preparatory phase of the programme

Year 2004

Training programme (Francophone session):	150,000 \$
Mid-term Francophone workshop :	40,000 \$
Total : 190,000 \$	

Year 2005

Mid-term Anglophone workshop:	40,000 \$
Training programme (Anglophone session):	150,000 \$
Total : 190,000 \$	

For these two years, the budget requested of the Committee covers 50% of the needs, the organizers having to cover the remainder of the costs from extrabudgetary sources.

Additional phases, upon agreement by the Committee

Year 2006

Training programme (Francophone session) :	150,000 \$
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Year 2007

Training programme (Anglophone session) :	150,000 \$
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Etc.

THE JOHANNESBURG DECLARATION ON WORLD HERITAGE IN AFRICA AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Adopted on the occasion of the meeting of African experts on heritage management held in Johannesburg from 19th to 23rd August 2002, as a parallel event to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, under the auspices of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

We, the delegates of the various African countries and partners listed below, gathered in Johannesburg, South Africa, on the occasion of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to discuss World Heritage in Africa and Sustainable Development.

Being conscious that the year 2002 marks the 30th Anniversary of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Natural and Cultural Heritage; and

Being conscious, also, that the United Nations General Assembly has declared the year 2002 as the United Nations' Year of Cultural Heritage.

Being aware of the commitment by African heads of states and government to eradicate poverty among their people through the framework of NEPAD.

Hereby declare as follows:

1. We recognize that:

- The management of heritage is an important tool for the promotion of sustainable development and poverty alleviation;
- World Heritage status can make a distinct and valuable contribution to the sustainable development in African countries, both because of the recognition given to the world-class status of the sites in question, and also as a typology and best practice for heritage management generally; and
- Considerable progress has been made by UNESCO in taking account of the link between nature and culture in all aspects of heritage management during the designation of sites.
- NEPAD also recognizes the importance of culture in sustainable development.

2. We regret to note that:

- African heritage is still underrepresented on the World Heritage List.
- Many African countries still do not have a single site on the World Heritage list;
- World heritage sites in Africa form almost 25% of the World Heritage sites in danger and face threats arising from war, environmental degradation, poor or even lack of management among others;
- African countries continue to face severe hurdles and constraints arising from a lack of resources and capacity in their quest to obtain world heritage designation for sites.
- Designated sites often lack proper management plans; and
- Policy, legal and institutional frameworks in many African countries are not yet sufficiently adapted to the reality of the central role of communities in the management of heritage and, therefore, continue to pose constraints in the involvement of local communities in the management of local heritage.

3. We urge African governments and regional organizations to:

- Reaffirm political commitment to the promotion of heritage management through acceding to the Convention, and ensuring the implementation of its provisions.
- As a priority, reinforce efforts to tackle the issues threatening heritage sites and heritage management in Africa, including wars, famine, disease, and lack of education, and to introduce integrated management frameworks which can provide holistic solutions to heritage management;
- Embark on an active programme of policy, legal and institutional reform with a view to placing communities at the centre of heritage management, and to introducing legal and policy frameworks which link nature and culture;
- Strengthen structures and procedures for the management of recognition and cross-border heritage.

4. We resolve to:

- Intensify efforts to raise awareness among decision makers in-and-out of Africa of the crucial role of heritage in promoting sustainable development and poverty alleviation, and of the need to devote resources to heritage management;
- Work towards increasing the number and diversity of African sites on the World Heritage List, as well as the range of African countries with World Heritage sites;
- Continue to highlight and promote the recognition of the inextricable link between nature and culture, and of the crucial role of local communities in the management and ownership of heritage, and we shall continually explore ways to empower communities to remain at the centre of heritage management;
- Explore and give effect to heritage management systems that acknowledge the uniqueness of the African context.
- Give effect to traditional heritage management and knowledge systems that sustain heritage in a community context.
- Forge networks and partnerships among African institutions and like-minded institutions abroad in order better to promote the management of African heritage.

5. We urge development partners to:

- Consider the level and nature of funding available for African heritage management, and in light of the acute need to improve technical and administrative capacity for heritage management in African countries;
- Continue to support through financial, technical and administrative measures the efforts of African countries to achieve World heritage status for sites; and
- Support efforts to link heritage, culture and sustainable development and to review the conditions and procedures of funding to ensure that such linkages are appropriately provided for in the funding frameworks.

6. We call upon heritage organization at national and international levels to implement the recommendations of this declaration in the interest of furthering the sustainable development of the heritage of Africa with specific reference to its role in alleviating poverty and stimulating economic development.