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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-ninth Session

Durban, South Africa
10-17 July 2005

<u>Item 14 of the Provisional Agenda</u>: International Assistance

14B. Information on the Evaluation of the World Heritage Fund's Preparatory Assistance, Technical Cooperation, Training, and Promotional and Educational Activities

SUMMARY
At the request of the World Heritage Committee, the World Heritage Centre commissioned an independent evaluation of the World Heritage Fund's Preparatory Assistance, Technical Cooperation, Training, and Promotional and Educational Activities from 1998-2003. This document reports on the early findings and recommendations of this Evaluation.

This document is composed of the following:

Part I. Review of the World Heritage Fund's Preparatory Assistance, Technical Cooperation, Training, and Promotional and Educational Activities portfolio from 1998-2003

Part II. Issues for Further Consideration and Recommendations

Part III. Comments of the Secretariat on the Evaluation of International Assistance

Action by the World Heritage Committee: the Committee is requested to review and take note of the findings of the Evaluation and agree to an action plan for strengthening the design and delivery of International Assistance.

At the time of publication of this document, the full evaluation report is not completely finalized. As soon as it is, a preliminary action plan will be drawn up.

**Draft Decision:** _**29 COM 14B**_, see point IV

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I. REVIEW OF THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND'S PREPARATORY ASSISTANCE, TECHNICAL COOPERATION, TRAINING, AND PROMOTIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

A. Introduction

1. This review of the Preparatory Assistance, Technical Cooperation, Training, and Promotional and Educational Activities under the World Heritage Fund is based on:

- A portfolio review of all applications for these four types of International Assistance from 1998-2003;
- Discussions with Advisory Bodies (IUCN, ICOMOS, ICCROM) that review International Assistance requests;
- Interviews with World Heritage Centre staff, including regional desks and administration;
- Questionnaires sent to UNESCO field offices;
- Interviews with leading heritage experts knowledgeable about Preparatory Assistance, Technical Cooperation, Training, Promotional and Educational Activities under the World Heritage Fund;
- Short case studies (field and desk studies);
- Research on technical assistance for natural and cultural heritage sites and small grant programmes at the international and national level.

Background and Rationale

2. This document reports on the early findings of an independent Evaluation of the World Heritage Fund's Preparatory Assistance, Technical Cooperation, Training, Promotional and Educational Activities carried out for the World Heritage Committee. It responds to the request of the Committee as follows:

"The Committee should require periodic (every 6 years) independent evaluations to assess the relevance and effectiveness of different categories of international assistance, and their impact on sites and the balance between natural and cultural sites." *WHC-2000/CONF.204/INF.7*). During the 27th Committee meeting, the Chairperson (of the Bureau) noted that "a serious evaluation of International Assistance was necessary" (27th Committee, June 2003, Item 12.15). It follows on the Evaluation of Emergency Assistance completed in 2004 and presented at the 28th Committee in Suzhou, China (*WHC-2004/28.COM/10B*).

3.   According to the Terms of Reference, the Evaluation primarily assesses the processes that underlie the four types of the International Assistance for the period 1998-2003. It provides an overview of the portfolio and trends including the annual approval of funds, types of activities funded, regional distribution, and balance between natural, cultural and mixed sites. The delivery of assistance is also examined. The Evaluation then presents a summary of key issues affecting International Assistance and offers suggestions for adjustments to International Assistance based on its performance and on the experience of other comparable small grant funds [1].

4.   The full Evaluation report examines in detail the achievements attributable to the grants, and the performance of the activities. It also analyzes the roles of key actors in International Assistance including the States Parties, the World Heritage Centre, Advisory Bodies and Field Offices. It concludes with comments on the relevance and effectiveness of International Assistance.

Definitions of Preparatory Assistance, Technical Cooperation, Training, and Promotional and Educational Activities under International Assistance

5.   Since its inception in 1972, the *World Heritage Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* and its World Heritage Fund have provided some type of international assistance.   This assistance has evolved over the last three decades. Articles 21 -26 of the *World Heritage Convention* set out the basic structure of international assistance and Article 22 the types. It is provided upon the request of the States Parties themselves. The year 1998 saw the addition of Promotional, Educational, and Information activities to International Assistance, which brought to five the types of International Assistance.

6.   During the period under review, the provisional *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* were the standard reference point for International Assistance. They were revised in July 2002 (WHC.02/2) and a final version was adopted in 2005 (WHC.05/2, dated 2 February 2005).

The Types of International Assistance

7.   According to the provisional *Operational Guidelines* the different types of assistance available under the World Heritage Fund are defined as follows:

- *Preparatory Assistance*. This assistance is for the purpose of: preparing Tentative Lists of cultural and/or natural properties suitable for inclusion in the World Heritage List; organizing meetings for the harmonization of Tentative Lists within the same geo-cultural area; preparing nominations of cultural and natural properties to the World Heritage List; and preparing requests for technical co-operation, including requests relating to the organization of training courses.

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[1] The Ramsar Small Grants Fund for Wetlands Conservation and Wise Use (SGF), the Global Environmental Facility Small Grants, and the Countryside Agency and Heritage Lottery Fund Small Grants programmes (UK).

Preparatory Assistance can take the form of consultant services, equipment, or, in exceptional cases, financial grants. The budgetary ceiling for each Preparatory Assistance project is fixed at US$30,000.

- *Technical Cooperation*. States Parties can requests technical co-operation for work foreseen in safeguarding projects for properties included in the World Heritage List. This assistance can take the forms outlined in paragraph 22 of the *Convention* for World Heritage properties. It is important to note that training is allowed under Technical Cooperation as well as under Training.

  The rule set by the World Heritage Committee for Technical Cooperation is that two-thirds is allocated to cultural sites and one-third to natural sites.

- *Training*. States Parties may request assistance for the training of specialized staff at all levels in the field of identification, protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation of the cultural and natural heritage. The training must be related to the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention.*

  Priority in training activities is to be given to group training at the local or regional levels, particularly at national or regional centres in accordance with Article 23 of the *Convention*. The training of individual persons will be essentially limited to short term refresher programmes and exchanges of experience. The general rule for Training is that half is to be dedicated to cultural sites and half to natural sites.

- *Promotion and Education*. Promotional and Educational activities are a new type of International Assistance, initiated in 1998 in order to give States Parties access to funds for this purpose. At the regional and international levels, and with reference to Article 27 of the *Convention*, the Committee agreed to support programmes, activities and the holding of meetings that could: help to create interest in the *Convention*; create a greater awareness of the issues related to the *Convention*, thus promoting more active involvement in its application; be a means of exchanging experiences; or stimulate joint education, information and promotional programmes and activities, especially for young people for the benefit of World Heritage conservation.

  At the national level, the Committee stated that requests concerning national activities for promoting the *Convention* could be considered only if they are: meetings specifically organized to make the *Convention* better known, especially among young people, or for the creation of national World Heritage associations, in accordance with Article 17 of the *Convention*; or preparation of education and information material for the promotion of the *Convention*.

  The World Heritage Fund provides a maximum amount of US$5,000 for the decision of the Director of the World Heritage Centre and US$10,000 for the Chairperson of the Committee. This is the only type of International Assistance for which the Director of the World Heritage Centre has a decision-making role.

8. The Committee requested that the first priority for International Assistance is "emergency measures to save property included, or nominated for inclusion, in the World Heritage List" followed by "projects which are likely to have a multiplier effect ('seed money').

9. Analysis of the provisional *Operational Guidelines*, reflecting the Global Strategy, and the portfolio points to the following new policy directions for International Assistance and the International Assistance response:

    *   For Preparatory Assistance, although the *Operational Guidelines* place emphasis on the preparation of Tentative Lists and their harmonization, for the period under review assistance for new nominations was more frequent than support for Tentative Lists.

        A total of 14 countries received assistance for preparation of Tentative Lists. Of these countries, three do not yet have a site inscribed on the World Heritage List: Mauritius, Namibia and Vanuatu.

    *   For Technical Cooperation, a State of Conservation report of the property or site concerned is required for requests in order to ensure the link between the monitoring of the state of conservation of World Heritage Sites and the granting of international assistance. In its 20th session in 1996 held in Merida, the Committee decided to consider International Assistance requests together with reports on the State of Conservation of the same properties (paragraph XII of the report of the 20 session of the Committee, Decision **20 COM XII**). State of Conservation reports began in 1997.

        While progress has been made, 45 properties without a State of Conservation Report were awarded some form of International Assistance from 1998 to 2003.

    *   For Promotion and Education, regional and international programmes, activities, and meetings that help create interest in the *Convention* are the aim, while national level activities should only be considered if they create awareness of the *Convention* among young audiences.

        On site promotion, signs and plaques, and exhibits carried out at World Heritage sites were still funded in quantity (46%).

    *   For Training, the *Operational Guidelines* make the point that it is to be related to implementation of the *Convention*, preferably through group training at national or regional centres.

        Although site-specific training is not viewed as a priority for International Assistance, there were many examples where Training grants were directed at a particular site, whether for training purposes or disseminating information.

10. As stated in Article 25 of the *Convention*, It is important to restate that International Assistance is seen as additional to the resources provided by the State Parties.

B. Findings

Information Sources

11. Information gathered in the World Heritage Centre files before 2000 proved to be uneven in level of detail and reliability. From 2000 onward the data were considerably more consistent and have fewer gaps. Additional information was provided by World Heritage Centre staff, UNESCO field offices, Advisory Bodies, State Parties, and heritage experts.

Overview of Preparatory Assistance, Technical Cooperation, Training, and Promotional and Educational Activities

12. During the 6-year period under review a total of 680 requests were approved for these four types of assistance, amounting to US$13,433,063. With the inclusion of Emergency Assistance, a total of 752 requests were approved amounting to US$17,119,929, which represents 96% of the total budget allocated for International Assistance.

13. In the period considered by the Evaluation the number of requests for these four types has fallen from 135 requests per year in 1998 to 98 in 2003, representing a decrease in numbers of requests of 27%. The amount approved for these International Assistance requests has decreased by about US$600,000, from US$2,385,217 in 1998 to US$1,781,216 in 2003. Repeat requests also affect these figures, especially in the years 2001 and 2002.

14. Although there are many disparities between the four types of assistance, the average amount of International Assistance grant per year for the four types is US$19,969. In general, the average amount of requests has increased to reach the ceiling of approval by the Chairperson while at the same time the maximum amount per request has decreased. The frequency of request for the ceiling for approval by the Chair has increased for each of the four types.

15. When evaluating International Assistance it is important to keep in mind the following factors:

- The budget approved is not always the same as the budget that is allocated and is not the same as the one implemented;

- Only the requests that are considered to be complete are forwarded to the Chair. Although the exact number is not available, the World Heritage Centre receives numerous requests by States Parties that are found to be incomplete. They are referred back to the States Parties for more information but in most cases they are not finalized or resubmitted.

Chart 1 Amount allocated and the amount approved for each type of International Assistance, 1998-2003
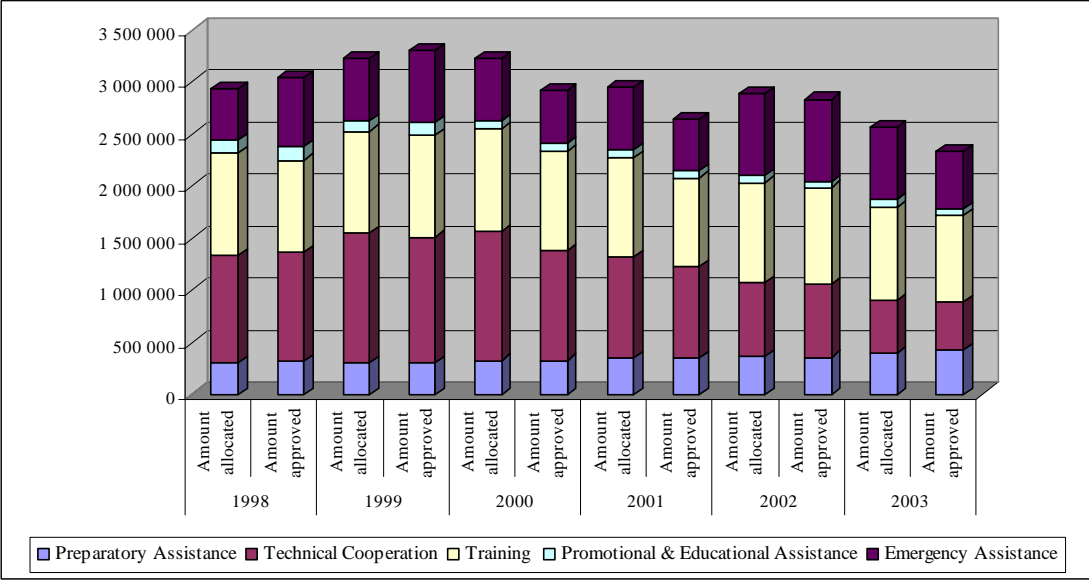

16. The overall value of International Assistance approved has decreased significantly from a maximum of US$3,306,771 per year in 1999 to US$2,337,440 in 2003 (see Chart 1 above). Preparatory Assistance shows a slight increase in the last years in contrast with the Technical Cooperation budget line that has decreased sharply during this period from a maximum of US$1,245,000 allocated (US$1,213,400 and US$1,050,073 approved, respectively) in 1999 and 2000 to US$500,000 (US$464,108 approved) in 2003. Promotion and Education has also fallen from a high of US$125,000 allocated (US$133,000 approved) in 1998 to US$70,000 (US$57,785 approved) in 2003. Training allocation, in contrast, has been constant at around US$900,000 per year. The changes in the years 2002-2003 are a response to the new directions endorsed by the Committee: emphasis on Preparatory Assistance and Training. Due to the budget reduction, Promotion and Education has also been cut. Part of International Assistance in the years 2002-2003 was for implementation of the programme approach, amounting to US$450,000 for the biennium.

17. While in the years 1998 and 1999, the amount of requests approved was higher than the budget approved by the World Heritage Committee, as of 2000 the amount approved is lower than the amount allocated. It also should be noted that the US$ has fallen by some 25% against the euro and other currencies, further weakening the potential impact of International Assistance.

18. Chart 2 Regional distribution of International Assistance by type, 1998-2003
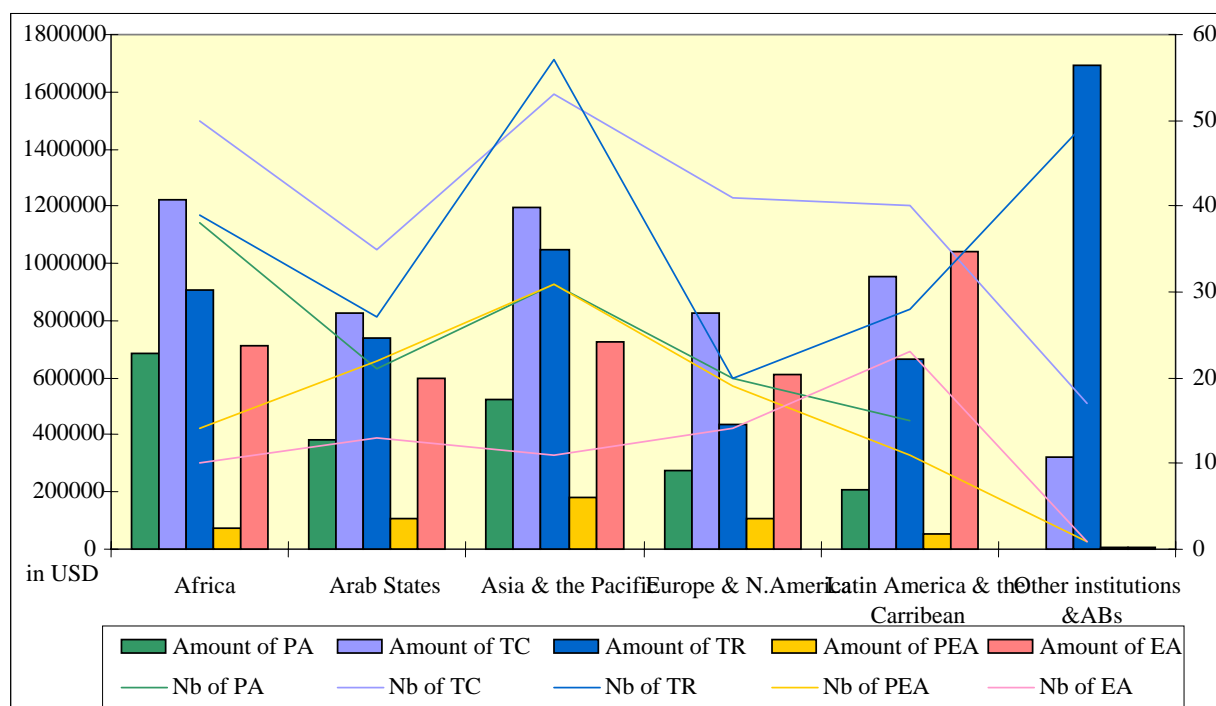
19. Analysis of the regional distribution indicates that the Asia and Pacific region has received the largest share of these types of International Assistance in both number of grants and amount (172 grants) followed by the Africa region (141 grants). The Arab States (105 grants) are in third place with Europe and North America (100 grants) and Latin America and the Caribbean regions (94 grants) as the most modest. Other institutions (non State Parties, namely ICCROM and IUCN) were granted 68 awards totalling US$2,017,780 (without Emergency Assistance) or 15% of International Assistance allocations (without Emergency Assistance).

20. The regional distribution of International Assistance varies by type of grant (see Chart 2 above) with Asia in a dominant position for both Technical Cooperation and Training, and Africa receiving substantial amounts of grants for Preparatory Assistance and Technical Cooperation. The Arab States received considerable assistance for Technical Cooperation and Training, while Europe and North America were more likely to access Technical Cooperation grants. Latin American and the Caribbean were awarded considerable amounts of Technical Cooperation grants but little for Preparatory Assistance or Promotion and Education. To be noted is that Advisory Bodies and other institutions received a large share of Training.

Preparatory Assistance, Technical Cooperation, Training and Promotional and Educational Activities at a Glance

Table 1 Preparatory Assistance at a Glance

Approved Preparatory assistance represents 6.4% of the World Heritage Fund, 12.2 % of International Assistance including Emergency Assistance (15.5% not including it)

125 grants were awarded.
US$2,078,543 was approved; the amount of Preparatory Assistance grants requested was US$2,150,824.
The annual average amount approved was US$346,423.
The average grant size was US$16,628.
The regional distribution was as follows: Africa 33%, Asia and the Pacific 25 %, Arab States 18%, Europe and North America 13%, Latin America and Caribbean 10%.
Culture sites were awarded 58% of grants, natural sites 24%, mixed sites 6% and all types 12%.
10 requests were not implemented in one year appearing in the approved budget in more than one year (this is important because the request has to be approved again and committed under the budget of 2 different years).

21.   With the adoption of the Global Strategy and the move to increased representativity and greater diversity of sites, Preparatory Assistance has become a very important element of International Assistance. Preparation of Tentative Lists, however, was only a small share of total activities; there were nearly 6 times as many grants for Nomination files as Tentative Lists.

Table 2 Technical Cooperation at a Glance

Approved Technical Cooperation requests represent 16,5% of the World Heritage Fund, and 39.9% of International Assistance (and 31.3 % if Emergency Assistance is counted)

236 grants were awarded.
US$5,348,737 was approved; the amount of Technical Cooperation grants requested was US$8,111,293.
The annual average amount approved was US$1,391,456.
The average grant size was US$22,664.
 The regional distribution was as follows: Africa 23%, Asia and the Pacific 22 %, Latin America and the Caribbean 18% Arab States 15%, Europe and North America 15%, and others 6%.
Culture sites were awarded 63% of grants, natural sites 33%, mixed sites 2% and all types 2%.
24 grants were not implemented in one year, thus appearing in the approved budget in more than one year (the request has to be approved again and committed under the budget of 2 different years).

22. For regions such as Africa and for State Parties in transition economies, Technical Cooperation is seen as being essential in reducing threats to World Heritage properties.

Table 3 Training at a Glance

Training represents 16.8% of the World Heritage Fund, 40.6% of International Assistance (or 31.8% if Emergency Assistance is counted)

221 grants were awarded.
US$5,438,178 was approved; the amount of Training grants requested was US$6,177,158.
The annual average amount approved was US$903,363.
The average grant size was US$24,607.
The regional distribution was as follows: others 31% (ICCROM, IUCN), Asia and the Pacific 19%, Africa 17%, Arab States 13%, Latin America and the Caribbean 12%, Europe and North America 8%.
Culture sites were awarded 57% of grants, natural sites 37%, mixed sites 0% and all types 6%.
8 grants were not implemented in one year appearing in the approved budget in more than one year.

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23. The most common type of training was site and national training, followed by recurrent programmes and scholarships, regional and thematic training and World heritage related training.

Table 4 Promotional and Educational Activities at a Glance

Approved Promotional and Educational requests represent 1.6% of the World Heritage Fund, and 3.9% of International Assistance (or 3.1% if Emergency Assistance is counted)

98 grants were awarded.
US$527,585 was approved; the amount of Promotional and Educational assistance grants requested was US$561,491.
The annual average amount approved was US$87,931.
The average grant size was US$5,575.
The regional distribution was as follows: Asia and the Pacific 34%, Arab States 21%, Europe and North America 20%, Africa 14%, Latin America and the Caribbean 10% and others 1%.
Culture sites were awarded 55% of grants, natural sites 9%, mixed sites 1% and all types 35%.

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24. Promotional and Educational grants are the smallest of the types of International Assistance. The World Heritage Fund finances promotional activities under another window as well.

25. These four types represent 78.4% of approved International Assistance, the balance (21.6%) being Emergency Assistance.

Trends in Portfolio Composition

26. The composition of the overall International Assistance portfolio as well as the characteristics of its component categories have evolved over time. Among the factors that have influenced this evolution are: the Global Strategy of 1994; the requirement for State of Conservation Reports for World Heritage Properties; the regional training strategies for Latin American and South East Asia; the IUCN supported World Heritage Global Training Strategy for Natural Heritage; and the growing number of sites in developing countries.

27. The Evaluation reveals the following trends in composition of the Preparatory Assistance, Technical Cooperation, Training, and Promotional and Educational Activities portfolio:

- The boundaries between types of International Assistance were not clearly defined, with crossovers between Preparatory Assistance, Technical Cooperation, Training, and Emergency Assistance when funds were insufficient in one category. For example, Preparatory Assistance for Mauritania (2001-630) was approved under Technical Cooperation. Some 15% of Technical Cooperation was used for other types of assistance, mainly for Preparatory, Training and Emergency Assistance activities.

- Similarly, conferences, workshops and seminars that are strictly in support of the *World Heritage Convention* are funded under different types of assistance and it is unclear under which type of International Assistance they can best be financed.

- Countries in transition, Central Asian countries and Pacific Island countries showed strong interest in gaining access to Preparatory Assistance, Technical Cooperation, Training, and Promotion and Education from 1998 onwards.

- A marked tendency for multiple grants is demonstrated by 10 countries: Brazil (16 grants), Costa Rica (14), Egypt (22), India (17), Lebanon (16), Nepal (17), Niger (13), Syrian Arab Republic (14), United Republic of Tanzania (16), and Vietnam (12). In the case of Brazil and Costa Rica and to a lesser extent the United Republic of Tanzania, a large share of the grants goes to ongoing training programs. Egypt, Nepal and United Republic of Tanzania are among the countries with the highest allocations of International Assistance; they are also countries with high levels of international aid.

- The share of decisions taken by the Committee varies by type of assistance and size of grant. In the case of Training, approximately 59% of decisions were taken by the Chairperson (the figure may in fact be as low as 61% as some requests that

are above US$20,000 have been approved by the Chairperson e.g., Indonesia 98-216), 27% of decisions by the Committee, and 4% by the Bureau.

28. During the period under review, some notable achievements were realized in regard to supporting a more representative World Heritage List, encouraging access to new States Parties, facilitating management plans, financing necessary equipment, providing training to those responsible for World Heritage Sites and promoting the *Convention*.

29. For the purposes of present analysis, the different categories of activities under each of the types of International Assistance are best approximations. The effort was to link them, to the extent possible, with the *Convention* goals. Some requests were very difficult to classify because of scarce information or multiple goals. For example the category 'management support' under Technical Cooperation is vague because the definition of Technical Cooperation did not allow more precision.

Table 5 Achievements and Some Portfolio Trends

Preparatory Assistance

71% of the Preparatory Assistance amount approved goes to the preparation of nomination dossiers, 12% to Tentative Lists, 5% to activities linked with sensitization on the *World Heritage Convention*, 4% to sites already inscribed (in general to prepare management plan but also for issues not at all under Preparatory Assistance – e.g., Egypt meeting) and 8% for miscellaneous activities that are also outside the scope of Preparatory Assistance. (See Chart 4 below). This pattern demonstrates the importance given to nomination of new sites.

The preparation of Tentative Lists was supported in 14 countries, including workshops on harmonization of lists.

Preparatory Assistance for nomination files was made available to 6 countries that do not yet have a World Heritage Site and 4 countries were successful in having a site accepted to the List. A total of 25 new sites were inscribed that received Preparatory Assistance. Thus approximately 27% of the 90 different sites (from 56 countries) that received Preparatory Assistance grants entered the World Heritage List (through 2004). Nomination grants may be for more than one site.

Management or master plans were funded under Preparatory Assistance; such plans have become a requirement for any nomination dossier to be presented, reflecting the decision in the *Operational Guidelines*. Furthermore, for sites already inscribed new requests for management plans have been received.

Countries in transition, Central Asian countries and Pacific Island countries received a significant share of grants during the period under review, many of which were new entrants to the World Heritage List.

Chart 4 Composition of Preparatory Assistance, 1998-2003
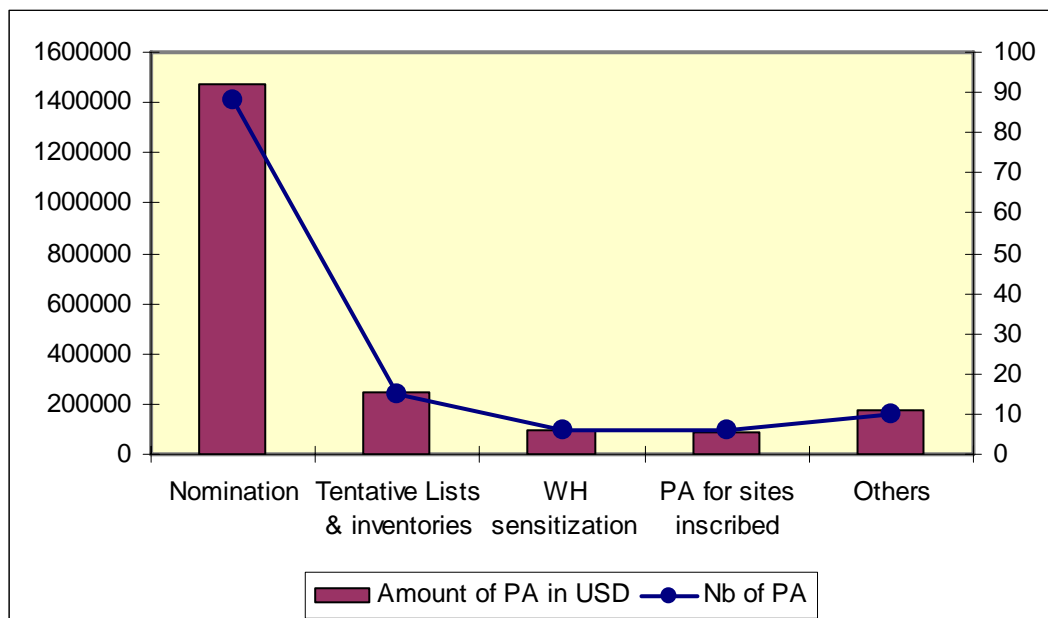
Technical Cooperation

Technical Cooperation covers many different activities, many of which are related to capacity building. It is the largest category by number of grants as well as by allocation.

19% of the Technical Cooperation approved amounts went to training and seminars, 47% were for management support, 14% for physical work; 6% for equipment (a low figure and mainly in Africa and Europe) 15% for other types of assistance, mainly for preparatory, training and emergency. See Chart 5 below.

Physical conservation works were supported, but in lesser numbers, possibly due to the large sums required for large projects.

Equipment, under the *Convention*, is not a priority when the Fund is under intense pressure.

Assistance to site managers is more frequent.

15.5% of Technical Cooperation requests approved were for activities classified as Preparatory Assistance, Training or Emergency Assistance.

Chart 5 Composition of Technical Cooperation, 1998-2003
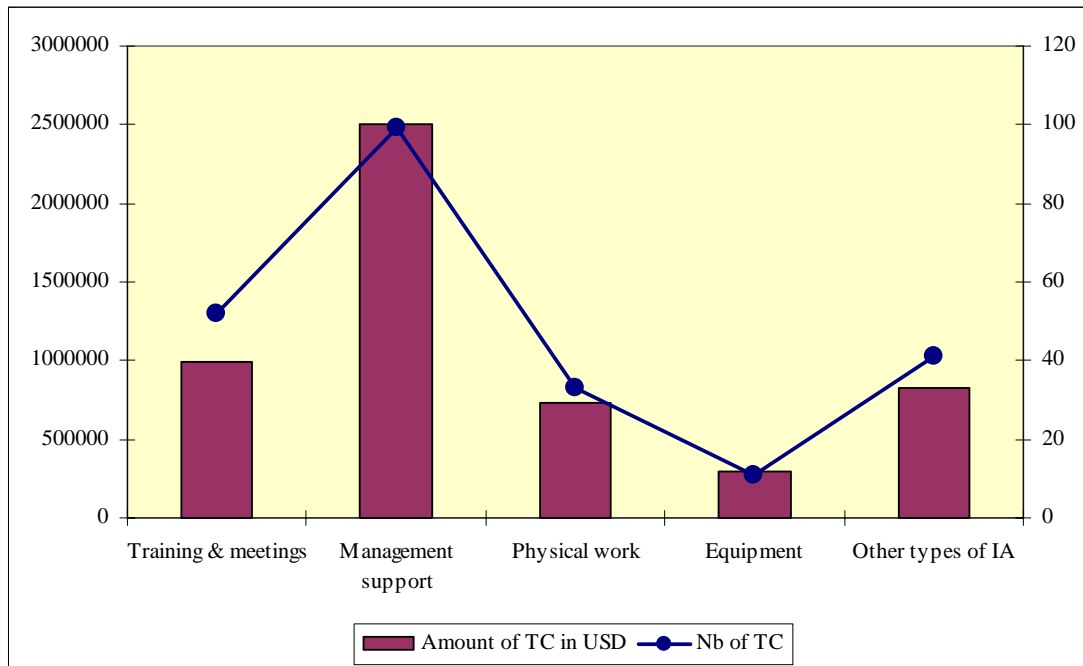
Training

25% of the amount approved was for requests related to on-site or national training; 20% for regional or thematic training; 24% for recurrent programmes and scholarships; 18% for training related to the *World Heritage Convention* and 14% for others outside the scope of training. See Chart 6 below.

There are many activities held at individual sites and scholarships for individuals, although these are not priorities under the *Operational Guidelines*.

Regional or sub-regional courses became regular fare as did training related to Periodic Reporting after 2000.

A number of recurrent regional training programmes continued, including CATIE (Costa Rica 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003), University of Colorado (1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003), ITUC/CECI (Brazil 1999, 2002, ICCROM 1998, 1999), CECRE (Brazil 1998, 2000, 2002), Africa 2009 (ICCROM 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003), Protected Area/Wildlife Management course (United Republic of Tanzania 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003 and Cameroon 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003 and UNITAR in Japan (1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003) that used large amounts of the Training funds.

A review of training needs was conducted by ICCROM in 1998.

ICCROM and IUCN continue to play a major role in design and provision of training.

130 requests or 59% of the total number were approved by the Chairperson

Chart 6 Composition of Training, 1998-2003
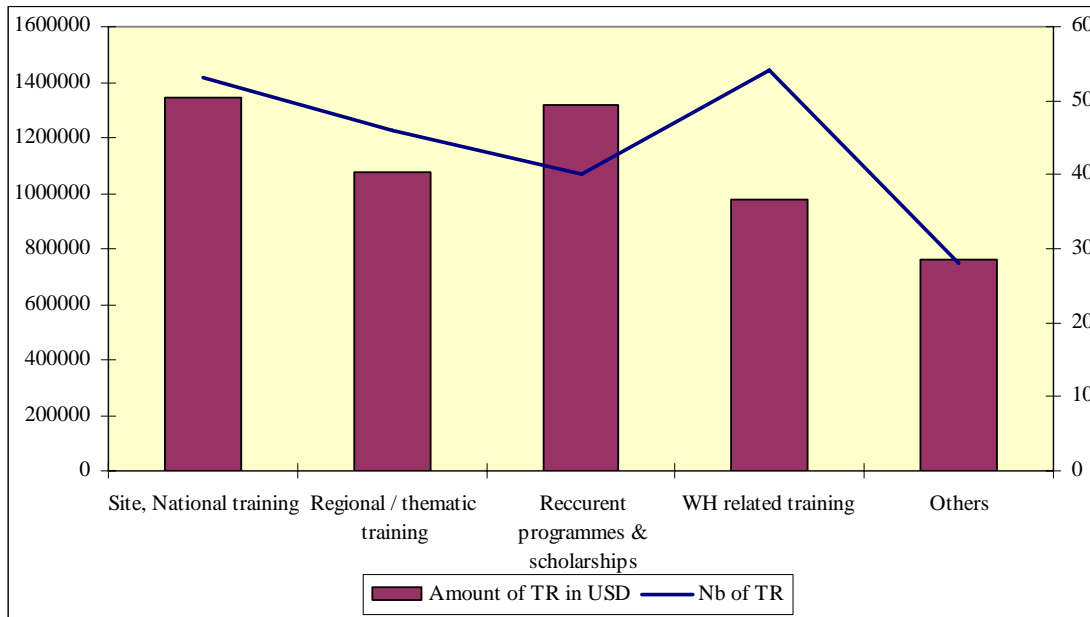
Promotional and Educational Activities

46% of the amount approved went to on-site, national and regional promotional activities, 20% for activities enhancing the awareness of the *World Heritage Convention,* 17% for activities for education and the young and 17% for other activities not directly related to promotion. See Chart 7 below.

The current Promotional and Educational Assistance policy is not well understood, judging from the many applications for activities that are not   strictly for promotion of the *Convention* or educational purposes.

The use of local languages for written materials was promoted in several activities.

The number of new grants contracted sharply after the year 2000 (26 grants and US$133,200 in 1998, 9 grants and US$57,785 in 2002).

85% of the requests were approved by the Director of the World Heritage Centre, 15% by the Chairperson

Chart 7 Composition of Promotional and Educational Activities, 1998-2003
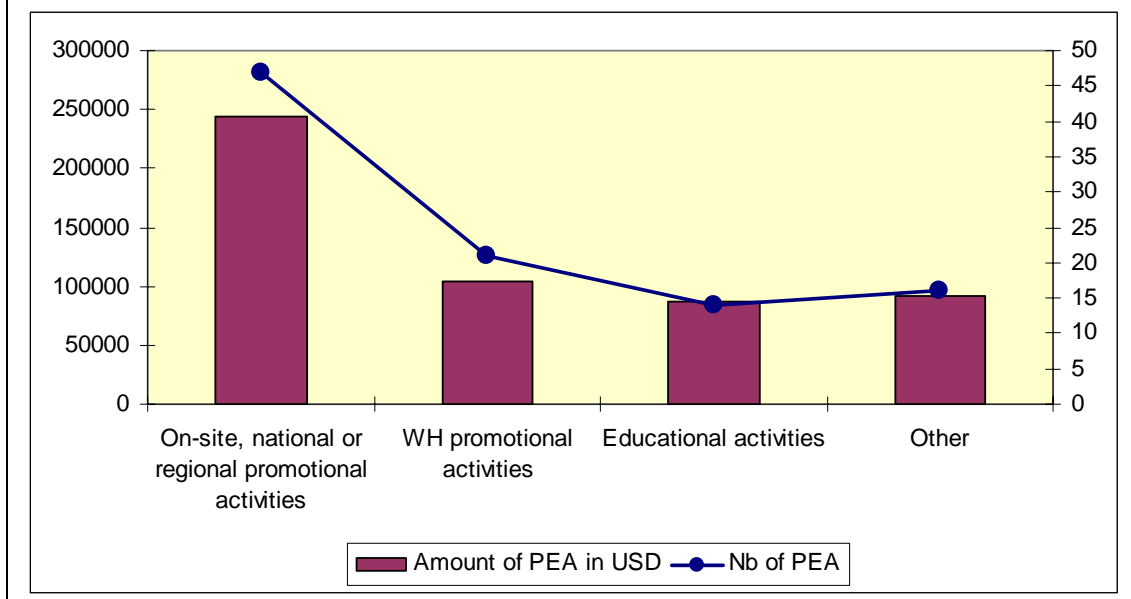
C.   Analysis of the Delivery of Assistance

Identification and Preparation of Preparatory Assistance, Technical Cooperation, Training, and Promotional and Educational Activities Requests

30.   Although requests were generally better prepared after 2000, the information provided on the applications and held in the World Heritage Centre files lacks adequate evidence to ensure that objectives will be met and that actions relate to these objectives.

31.   The Evaluation draws attention to the following characteristics of the identification and preparation process:

- The preparation of requests is defined as the responsibility of States Parties, but they quite often involve help from the World Heritage Centre, whether for identification or preparation. States Parties can request Preparatory Assistance to prepare Technical Cooperation and other request, but this has been used only once in the period under review (Spain 1998);

- Requests are also submitted by ICCROM and IUCN under Training and Technical Cooperation;

- The objectives of the projects and their relation to the *World Heritage Convention* are often inadequately articulated, as are the mechanisms that will be used to achieve them;

- Work plans are sketchy, with little information presented about roles and responsibilities for implementation.

<u>Selection Process</u>

32. Projects were selected on the basis of first come, first served, by category without the benefit of clear criteria until 2004. No comparative analysis of the merits of individual requests was undertaken during the period 1998-2003.

33. Only States Parties that have paid their dues are eligible for International Assistance, with the exception of Emergency Assistance and Training. Under the new *Operational Guidelines* only Emergency Assistance will be granted to States Parties in arrears (para. 237). With the increase in the number of countries that are signatories to the *Convention*, many of which are low-income countries, and the great increase in the number of sites, demand for International Assistance is rising. Since the beginning of 2004 the World Heritage Centre has set up a International Assistance Review Panel for reviewing requests on a regular basis (the first review meeting took place on 16 January 2004). This new system has been generally appreciated by Centre staff and the Advisory Bodies.

34. A policy in regard to distribution of grants has not been made explicit. This concerns multiple requests in the same year: in the case when a State Party or other organization (in the case of Training) submits more than one request under the same type of assistance; or when a State Party submits more than one request (excluding Emergency Assistance).

35. Justification for selection is not always linked to the working definition of the respective types. When funds are depleted for one type, a request may be transferred to another type. These transfers raise serious questions about the practice of earmarking of funds for each of the five types of International Assistance.

36. World Heritage Centre staff, regional offices, States Parties, and Advisory Bodies have called for priority setting for International Assistance activities, particularly as the size of International Assistance decreases.

37. In regard to the selection process, the Evaluation notes the following:

- The turn around time from submission of a request to decision is generally two months. It takes longer when a State Party takes additional time to answer queries from either the Centre or the Advisory Bodies;

- The process by which International Assistance requests are received by the World Heritage Centre and then forwarded to Advisory Bodies for review has become more efficient since 2004 but there is scope for improvement. The Centre has requested comments from the Advisory Bodies for some 90% of requests;

- Reviews by Advisory Bodies took place, yet without agreed and harmonized criteria or format across the agencies. Their comments generally function as a non-objection. The *Operational Guidelines*, in Annex 9, specify that such criteria will be provided;

- The World Heritage Centre desk officers are involved in the review process, but the responsibility of the Centre has not been clarified. Regional desks spend considerable time in reviewing the requests for completeness, asking for further

information from State Parties and on organizing aspects of implementation such as Terms of Reference, contracts etc.

- Three tiers of decision making are in use, depending on the type of grant and the amount. The Chairman makes decisions for amounts of US$20,000 or below, Bureau for amounts above US$20,000 and below US$30,000, and Committee above US$30,000. The threshold for amounts approved by the Chair has now been raised to US$30,000 for Technical Cooperation and Training (*Operational Guidelines*, para. 241);

- Many requests come in at US$20,000, thus avoiding the requirement of review by the Bureau or Committee.

Implementation

38. The implementation of projects is the least clear aspect of International Assistance as the present procedures are not adequate to provide information on the progress of implementation or the project's achievements.

39. The rate of decentralization of International Assistance to regional offices has increased from 15% to 33% between 1998 and 2003. This move to decentralization has not accompanied by a corresponding clarification of responsibilities in regard to feedback from the field during implementation, and procurement or financial control after contracts have been issued or the funds transferred. Therefore assessing how the funds were used by the regional offices is especially difficult.

40. Obstacles to successful implementation are beginning to be identified. They include: overall flow of information and communications between States Parties and the World Heritage Centre Regional Desks; States Parties' difficulty in completing forms for financial information such as banking codes; overall understanding of content of management plans and conservation principles; and underestimation of risks that could affect project completion. The application form does not require adequate information from the States Parties about: the implementing agency; the activities and actions to be implemented; plans for monitoring of activities; how the grant is to be used as seed money; and reporting requirements in regard to results and impacts.

41. A review of the portfolio makes clear that some State Parties have had particular difficulty in implementing their projects in a timely manner, and have either left the project incomplete or asked for the implementation period to be extended.

42. The following are among the salient characteristics in implementation:

- Weak definition of institutional responsibilities and poor interagency coordination between responsible government agencies and other institutions or NGOs are quite common. At times communication and coordination between the UNESCO national commission, Ministry of Culture or the Environment, local government agencies and NGO are insufficient to promote sustainable management of the sites.

- Many projects have difficulty to complete activities in 12 months and on occasion a project will be conceived in two or even three parts. It should be noted that because of the financial budget year /biennium cycle when a request arrives in November it is very often hard to prepare its implementation before the end of the year; in January it needs another approval.

- Regional Offices of UNESCO took a greater role after 2000 as part of an overall decentralization effort, but this was not matched with a system to ensure effectiveness. With projects where Regional Offices are responsible, implementation is often left to their discretion.

- International experts are frequently used but there is neither central roster of consultants nor review of their qualifications and track record.

- There is no systematic site supervision or reporting to verify results.

- World Heritage Centre regional desks keep track of contracts and receive final reports but monitoring of grant activities by States Parties is not required and thus accountability is not in place.

43. To date, emphasis has been directed to financial compliance, with little attention to technical issues during implementation. With an application form that links objectives to activities, a system of performance indicators, and more rigorous mid-term reports, technical standards will become more visible.

Monitoring and Evaluation

44. The evaluation shows that Preparatory Assistance, Technical Cooperation, and Promotional and Educational Activities are activities that have limited feedback. Preparatory Assistance at least has some quantitative benchmarks, namely the number of Tentative Lists prepared or sites inscribed. Training activities are also somewhat better position, due to the requirement as set forth in the Global Training Strategy that recurrent training activities carry out an evaluation, but many training activities have not done so. Without adequate data, it is very difficult to monitor and evaluate effectiveness and impact.

45. Monitoring and evaluation were not foreseen nor financed in International Assistance. More specifically:

- No requirements for monitoring of International Assistance activities are in force for the period under review;

- Weak understanding by States Parties about the required content of Final Reports in regard to discussion of results is apparent;

- There is no explicit financing window for monitoring and evaluation as part of project implementation.

46. It is therefore of critical importance that the findings of the present evaluation are shared among stakeholders.

Issues Identified by Stakeholders

47. Interviews and questionnaires with the various stakeholders in International Assistance carried out as part of the Evaluation Discussions has brought to light some significant areas that require consideration by the Committee. These touch on incentives, rational use of funds, capture of benefits, and sustainability of training courses.

48. The relative weighting of the different types of International Assistance points to the question of policy priorities. An emphasis on Preparatory Assistance can be considered to give signals that minimize the importance of site conservation and favor the nomination of new sites. Encouraging new sites without the means to support them later can be seen as less than responsible.

49. Assessing what is rational in the use of funds is problematic. Technical Cooperation, for example, is seen in different lights. Some consider it to be an inappropriate instrument for small grants. "It is only useful at the beginning of a larger project or as matching funds." Other stakeholders believe it is important as a way to attract other sources of support outside government and above all as a means of making visible the *World Heritage Convention*'s involvement in a site.

50. The issue of capture of benefits by a minority of countries has also been raised. In the years before 1998, a small number of countries were able to have access to a large share of resources, as for example the Asia Region where China, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka played a dominant role. The record from 1998-2003 shows some improvement but without a policy on multiple grants to a country there is little likelihood of resolving this issue.

51. The merit of continued support to international training courses has been questioned. Some argue that this may not promote their sustainability nor really improve World Heritage management while others believe that the courses are of good quality and are an efficient form of delivering training. Further detailed analysis of the impacts of these training activities is necessary to determine priorities for funding.

List of World Heritage in Danger

52. Ten sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger have received Preparatory Assistance, Technical Cooperation, or Training grants. Nine sites received Emergency Assistance grants. In the case of Niger, grants were shifted to a later year because of implementation problems.

53. For some sites grants for Preparatory Assistance, Technical Cooperation, or Training preceded the inclusion of the site on the World Heritage List in Danger: Azerbaijan (Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower), Nepal (Kathmandu Valley), United Republic of Tanzania (Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara), Yemen (Historic Town of Zabid).

54. Directing more resources to the List of World Heritage in Danger has been suggested as a worthwhile use of International Assistance. If further scrutiny of the impacts of these grants is positive, a good case can be made for a focus on sites in danger. It should also be noted that there is a new budget line in the World Heritage Fund for sites in danger

State of Conservation Reports and International Assistance

55. From 1998 to 2003, State of Conservation Reports were prepared for a total of 332 sites, 261 of which are in the developing world (using the UN Economic and Social Council, Committee for Development Policy criteria). Of the sites in the developing world that received some form of International Assistance, 216 had a State of Conservation report while 45 did not.

56. Examining the timing of these grants, the years 1998 and 1999 had relatively more sites granted International Assistance without a State of Conservation report (14 and 12, respectively) than in 2001, 2002 and 2003 (9, 4, and 8, respectively). It should be noted that some sites without State of Conservation reports received multiple grants.

II. ISSUES FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

57. The analysis of the Preparatory Assistance, Technical Cooperation, Training, and Promotional and Educational Activities portfolio should prompt a discussion on important issues of policy and delivery. With a record of nearly thirty years of grant making, and with many new States Parties and World Heritage sites, there are inevitably new factors to take into account when seeking ways to improve the effectiveness of the World Heritage Fund.

A. Issues for Further Consideration

The Policy Context

58. The preceding analysis has pointed out some of the central objectives, explicit and implicit, of International Assistance: improved World Heritage site management, capacity building, and increased recognition of the *World Heritage Convention* and sites.

59. Examination of underlying policies suggests the following observations:

- One of the main weaknesses of International Assistance is that the amounts of grants are often very small in relation to scale of the problems to be resolved and to the expected results;

- The blurring of categories, for example use of Technical Cooperation for Preparatory Activities or of Training for Technical Cooperation creates uncertainty among State Parties;

- Capacity building is a central tenet of International Assistance, yet the present organization of the Fund with a separate type for Training may weaken the linkages between site management, institutional development, and training;

- Incentives are needed to encourage good stewardship and management of World Heritage sites and it is not clear that awarding multiple International Assistance grants to States Parties with a poor record of heritage management has a positive influence on national policy;

- Given that the number of sites on the World Heritage list has increased to 788 in 2004, of which 172 have been added between 1998 and 2003, funds will be increasingly scarce. Strategic use of International Assistance is therefore necessary to maximize its impact. For example, International Assistance that is given on a yearly basis to training institutes, or to help fund special interest seminars needs to be re-examined;

- With the changes in the composition of countries that are signatories to the *World Heritage Convention*, eligibility for grant funds by middle-income countries needs to be restricted. An explicit priority for lower-income countries would help ensure a targeted use of funds. Cases in which high-income countries apply for training on the behalf of other countries would need to demonstrate that developing countries benefit from increased access to training;

- Clearer eligibility criteria are needed for recipients, and careful attention should be given to grants for assistance to universities, seminars for journalists and other institutions that can access other funds.

Delivery of Preparatory Assistance, Technical Cooperation, Training, and Promotional and Educational Activities

60. While there has been an improvement in International Assistance administration in the last years, there is scope for improvement based on the following:

- Application forms lacked sufficient detail in regard to: a) selection process and criteria, b) institutional arrangements, c) the work of other donors and institutions, d) the budget assigned by the country, e) the implementation agency, f) the implementation work plan, g) the leveraging impact of the grant, and h) sustainability. (It should be noted that the new *Operational Guidelines*, Annex 8, provide a single revised application form);

- The role of the Centre and Advisory Bodies in processing requests requires re-examination and the establishment of clear criteria;

- Reporting requirements are inadequate to assess results and impacts and are not uniform among the different Regional Desks;

- In light of the increasing decentralization, the role and responsibilities of the Centre and of the Field Offices need to be clarified in terms of accountability and reporting;

- When funds are not disbursed by the States Parties within the limits imposed by the financial regulations of the Fund, the funds have to be withdrawn.

<u>Some Conclusions about Preparatory Assistance, Technical Cooperation, Training, and Promotional and Educational Activities</u>

61. The analysis presented above leads to the following conclusions:

- International Assistance has had positive impacts and important achievements but there are strategic and procedural aspects where improvement is needed to ensure complete transparency and accountability and increase the benefits of the Fund;

- The International Assistance grants for Technical Cooperation and Promotion and Education have not been guided by a well thought-out strategy, resulting in inadequate focus. For Preparatory Assistance, some of the requests for nomination assistance fall outside the priorities of the Global Strategy and thus have a low chance of being inscribed in the World Heritage List;

- The current International Assistance policy is not well understood, judging from the fact that applications are received for activities that do not meet the working definitions set out in the *Convention* and further explained in the *Operational Guidelines*;

- International Assistance procedures, including selection and the dissemination of results, may not create the right incentives. A significant number of situations have received multiple grants over time while a small group of countries have continued to receive allocations, irrespective of the results of the projects.

<u>International Small Grant Funds in Review</u>

62. Various agencies and organizations, both international and national, have increasingly experimented with small grants in the last decade. Among the small grant funds that are particularly relevant to International Assistance are the Ramsar Small Grants Fund for Wetlands Conservation and Wise Use (SGF), the Global Environmental Facility Small Grants, and the Countryside Agency and Heritage Lottery Fund (UK) small grants programmes.

63. Each of these small grant funds have carried out their own evaluations to seize on what has been achieved and what can be improved, allowing some reflections about what are key factors that enhance effectiveness. Although many differences exist between small grant facilities, there is a set of underlying principles that guide their efforts. Among the most important are:

- Clear and reachable objectives with individual preferences such as an emphasis on equity or innovation;

- Well-understood eligibility criteria and avoidance of prescriptive restrictions;

- A user friendly application process that is supported with assistance for preparation of request, when needed;

- Clear procedures and calendar for selection;

- Clear definition of implementation responsibilities;

- An emphasis on sustainability in project design;

- Monitoring and evaluation as an integral part of the grant process.

B.   Conclusions

64.   The Evaluation has brought to light a number of issues that would benefit from an open discussion by the World Heritage Committee. The Durban Committee meeting is an occasion to begin such a consultative process.

65.   The Evaluation recommends that the World Heritage Committee take note of the findings and recommendations and develop a plan for testing out adjustments to the current system to promote the strategic use of funds. This will require a definition of responsibilities and a clear timeframe:

66.   In regard to policy underpinnings:

- Clarify objectives, policies and procedures related to International Assistance;

- Consider whether International Assistance should become a competitive fund;

- Ensure that the *Operational Guidelines* are consistent with the findings of the Evaluation and make adjustments as needed;

- Specify eligibility criteria, with particular attention to encouraging an equitable distribution of funds among less developed countries and completion of activities before further grants are approved;

- Promote increased transparency and accountability in procedural matters.

67.   In regard to delivery of International Assistance:

- Proceed with revising International Assistance, by maintaining Emergency Assistance and Preparatory Assistance, and combining Technical Cooperation, Training, and Promotion and Education into a category tentatively called 'Conservation and Management';

- Revise the International Assistance request application form to include reporting requirements as soon as an evaluation of impacts has progressed;

- Develop criteria to use in the evaluation of requests based on the assessment of impacts and define a timetable for their adoption;

- Establish a system for site supervision;

- Develop reliable and cost effective monitoring mechanisms for projects under implementation, including a system of implementation progress ratings and performance indicators.

68. In regard to institutional matters:

- Clarify the responsibility of the Centre and that of the Field Offices;

- Define more closely institutional responsibilities (State Parties, responsible Ministries) in order to improve interagency coordination;

- Improve the current database on International Assistance to include all relevant information regarding monitoring as a guide to future International Assistance activities;

- Establish a central roster of qualified consultants whose performance is evaluated periodically;

- Ensure that International Assistance policy is better understood among all stakeholders;

- Design an appropriate mechanism to manage possible adjustments to International Assistance;

- Organize a seminar for the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to present and discuss the findings of the Evaluation;

- In a first phase proceed with an evaluation of the impacts of Training and its effectiveness, with attention to developing key performance criteria. In a second phase, complete the evaluation of impacts of the other types of assistance (excluding Emergency Assistance);

- Agree on a plan to test a new system during an agreed period of two years before phasing in adjustments.

C. Recommendations to the World Heritage Committee

69. Review of International Assistance and comparisons with other small grant programs point to seven key parameters that influence the performance of the International Assistance which need to be re-examined:

- *Eligibility* – There are no rules about eligibility for grants for middle income countries.
  Recommendation: Open the Fund only to countries that are on the list of aid recipients of the UN Economic and Social Council, Committee for Development Policy, with priority to those countries that have not yet had assistance and only when previous assistance has been completed (except for Emergency Assistance).

- *Earmarked allocations* –The present arrangement is to earmark funds by type of International Assistance. In the period under review certain types, such as

Preparatory Assistance or Emergency Assistance have been oversubscribed while others have not been used in full. Reallocations have been made by shifting grants from one type to another, despite their content.
Recommendation: Discontinue earmarking of funds, with the exception of a set aside for emergencies, and use a strategic policy framework to guide allocations.

- *Types of assistance* – At present there are five types of assistances. During the period under review, cross over has occurred among types with a result that distinctions between types are not clear. For example training should become a part of the process of conservation, and should be mainstreamed, rather than handled as a separate type of assistance.

  One alternative would be to retain Preparatory Assistance as a separate type and combine the other types of International Assistance (since Preparatory Assistance is also available for State Parties that have no inscribed sites or for sites not on the World Heritage List).
  Recommendation: Reduce to three types the International Assistance: 'Emergency Assistance', 'Preparatory Assistance' and 'Conservation and Management'.

- *Calendar* – The system in the period 1998-2003 operated on a first come first served basis. With the greatly increased number of sites on the World Heritage List and heightened demand for assistance, funds tend to be exhausted in the middle of the year.

  Although ideally the selection of requests should be done once a year, with the exception of Emergency Assistance, the calendar of activities of the Committee is already too charged to allow this schedule. A compromise solution could be either to establish a quarterly or a biannual process of grants selection. This would allow for comparison of the requests and the application of selection criteria. A practical solution could be to convene a meeting with the World Heritage Centre, Advisory Bodies and the Chair two or three times a year to award the grants.
  Recommendation: Establish a periodical cycle of review and selection of the requests in order to assess quality of the proposals and needs.

- *Selection process* – The Centre now receives all requests and forwards them to the three Advisory Bodies that in turn send their comments in regard to appropriateness of the proposed projects. At present the Chairperson decides on grants up to US$30,000. In the last year the World Heritage Centre has set up an internal panel to review applications. One option would be to ask the World Heritage Centre to apply the selection criteria before submitting the proposal to the approving body.
  Recommendation: Clarify the role of the Centre and Advisory Bodies in the process of examination of the requests and institute a system of selection for requests.

- *Reporting and monitoring* - There is currently no reporting on the progress towards achieving project and *World Heritage Convention* objectives nor on the quality of implementation. Instituting a simple implementation progress rating and rating in regard to *World Heritage Convention* objectives (from Highly

Satisfactory, Satisfactory, Marginally Satisfactory to Unsatisfactory) would enable the World Heritage Committee and the World Heritage Centre to provide comparisons of performance and analyse trends.

Recommendation: Develop a standardized reporting process, including performance indicators, that is simple to use and tailored to the financial means that can be made available, perhaps linked to the State of Conservation reports.

- *Advisory Bodies and institutions.* ICCROM and IUCN receive budgetary support through Technical Cooperation and Training. Institutions such as universities and research institutes also apply for Training grants, at times through their State Party and at times independently.

  Recommendation: Examine the costs and benefits of using International Assistance to finance Advisory Bodies and explore other options such as a separate budget line for Advisory Bodies. Focus International Assistance on States Parties.

- *Flexibility.* The *World Heritage Convention* and International Assistance have witnessed many profound changes since the first World Heritage Fund budget was approved in 1978 and it can be anticipated that changes will continue. In order for International Assistance to remain relevant, it must retain adequate flexibility and not become too prescriptive.

  Recommendation: Ensure that International Assistance retains a level of flexibility that enables it to respond to changes in an efficient manner.

70. Attention to these principles and practices would serve to strengthen the impacts of International Assistance. In thinking about the future of International Assistance it is equally important to find ways to maximize the efficiency and impact of the Fund, despite its small scale, and to ensure that it is used in a complementary manner to other funds. Whereas in the 1970s International Assistance was the only source of funding available to States Parties, today extra-budgetary sources also exist that can be accessed.

III. COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT ON THE EVALUATION OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

A. General

71. The evaluation covers the period from 1998 to 2003 when several changes were taking place in the processes underlying the granting of international assistance. This culminated in the introduction of the new *Operational Guidelines* in February 2005. In addition, the Strategic Objectives of the '4 Cs' were revised in 2002, and a review panel was established at the World Heritage Centre in 2004 to examine and process the international assistance requests in consultation with the Advisory Bodies. Hence, the evaluation report and its findings should be viewed in the light of these and other recent developments that are contributing to improving the system.

B.   Application form

72.   The introduction of a unified international assistance form (Annex 8 of the 2005 *Operational Guidelines*) has contributed to improving the clarity of requests for international assistance, especially in terms of building the justification for the proposed activity, its objectives, the expected results and impacts, sharing of costs from various sources, etc. Consequently, it should be possible to better monitor the implementation and achievement of results.

C.   Types of assistance

Training:

73.   The emphasis is now more on group training activities and although such training may be organised at one particular property, it is invariably intended to benefit many more than the personnel from that property alone. In this context, the observation that recurrent grants are given to regional training programmes needs to be better appreciated in terms of their potential multiplier effect and of the fact that Article 23 of the Convention specifically provides for such international assistance. Furthermore, it should be noted that international assistance is used by the Advisory Bodies to organise and conduct training programmes on behalf of and to benefit the States Parties. Similar is the case when international assistance is granted to developed countries that organise training to benefit personnel from the developing countries, as such assistance is usually meant to cover the costs of travel by participants from such beneficiary countries.

Promotion and Education:

74.   Promotion of a particular property is discouraged in favour of overall promotion of the *Convention*, as clearly specified in the new *Operational Guidelines*. While paragraph 235 of the Operational Guidelines assigns a certain priority among the different types of international assistance, there is no intention to minimise the importance of site conservation in preference to site inscription. The new *Operational Guidelines* also stipulate clear principles and priorities under paragraph 239 which guide the processing of international assistance requests by the World Heritage Centre.

75.   However, as recommended in the Evaluation Report the Committee may wish to consider reducing the types of international assistance to only three – for emergency, preparatory, and management assistance to enable a clear and focussed use of the funds.

D.   Selection process

76.   In addition to the objectives, principles and guidelines for international assistance as established in the *Operational Guidelines*, the grant of international assistance is also guided by the various decisions of the Committee, the findings from the State of Conservation Reports and Periodic Reporting processes, the priorities under the Regional Programmes, and the gap analysis work done by the Advisory Bodies as part of the Global Strategy. As recommended in the Evaluation Report the World Heritage Centre is working with the Advisory Bodies to develop draft criteria for use in the evaluation of requests which would be presented to the Committee at its 30th Session in 2006.

77.   The Evaluation observes that the amounts of grants are often very small in relation to the scale of the problems to be resolved. While this is generally true it should be noted that international assistance grants are meant to be used as seed funds for leveraging support from additional sources (paragraph 239(a) of the *Operational Guidelines*), including contributions from the State Party concerned and assure sustainability. It is also correct that the proposals are sometimes kept to the US$ 30,000 threshold limit for approval by the Chairperson as anything higher would require the approval of the Committee with consequent delays, as it meets only once a year. However, if the grant size is considered too small it might require the upward revision of the limit for approval by the Chairperson.

E.   Reporting and monitoring

78.   A HAE BENHAVThe implementation agencies are required to submit a completion report. When possible, the review of completion reports is complemented by a field assessment carried out in conjunction with field missions by the staff of the World Heritage Centre and/or the field offices. Nevertheless, the monitoring and evaluation process certainly has to be improved and the World Heritage Centre will work with the Advisory Bodies to evolve a standardised and cost effective system, including performance indicators to make international assistance more efficient and effective.

79.   As noted above, a number of improvements have already been instituted in the system of granting international assistance and the findings of this Evaluation would contribute to further improving the system. While every effort is made to reduce delays, some delay is inevitable when proposals are submitted in a language other than the two working languages, or when essential details are lacking, which requires them to be referred back to the States Parties concerned. The current practice of reviewing and processing international assistance requests at the World Heritage Centre is to have 4 or 5 meetings each year. If considered appropriate and necessary these meetings can be easily linked to the periodic consultations which are organised by the World Heritage Centre with the Chairperson at which time the Advisory Bodies could also be invited.

IV. **Draft Decision**

Draft Decision: **29 COM 14B**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. <u>*Having*</u> *examined Document* **WHC-05-29.COM/14B***,*

2. <u>*Recalling*</u> *Decision* **28 COM 10B** *(Suzhou, 2004),*

3. <u>*Notes with appreciation*</u> *the findings contained in the Report on the Evaluation of the World Heritage Fund's Preparatory Assistance, Technical Cooperation, Training, and Promotional and Educational Activities;*

4. <u>*Decides that:*</u>

    a) *preference will be given to developing countries as defined by the United Nations Economic and Social Council's Committee for Development Policy in the grant of international assistance, as already provided for in paragraph 239(b) of the* Operational Guidelines*;*

    b) *International Assistance will now comprise the following three types:*

        (i)   *Emergency Assistance,*

        (ii) *Preparatory Assistance, and*

        (iii) *Conservation and Management Assistance (incorporating assistance for training and research, technical cooperation, and promotion and education),;*

    c) *there will be no earmarking of funds against the different types of International Assistance, except in the case of Emergency Assistance;*

    d) *the requests for International Assistance (falling within the limits of approval by the Chairperson) will be examined and decided upon in meetings among the Secretariat, the Advisory Bodies and the Chairperson two or three times a year. This process will replace the current system of evaluation of International Assistance by the Advisory Bodies;*

    e) *the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies develop selection criteria to use in the evaluation of requests for presentation to the Committee at its 30th session in 2006;*

    f) *the World Heritage Centre, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, develop a standardised reporting process, including performance indicators, which are user-friendly and cost effective, for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006;*

g)	*a selective evaluation of impacts of International Assistance, with focus on training assistance, be carried out and presented for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007*

5.	<u>*Requests*</u> *the Secretariat to make the necessary changes in the* Operational Guidelines*, in conformity with the above-mentioned paragraphs 4. b) (iii) and 4. d).*