

Management of Caribbean cultural resources in a natural environment: Sites of Memory and participation of local communities

Barbados, 11-15 March 2013

Concept Note

The workshop

The workshop will take place near to the [Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison](#) World Heritage site in Bridgetown, Barbados, from 11-15 March 2013, and is organized by the UNESCO Offices in Havana and Kingston and UNESCO's World Heritage Centre, in coordination with the Barbados National Commission for UNESCO and the University of the West Indies. It will aim at strengthening capacities in the management of cultural resources in a natural environment, with particular attention to Sites of Memory and the participation of local communities. The workshop will also strengthen a Caribbean university network on training and research related to cultural and natural heritage, as follow-up to an agreement reached on the Caribbean Capacity Building Programme, between the University of the West Indies and UNESCO in June 2011.

Experts from Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Curacao, Jamaica, Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines will participate; ICOMOS and IUCN experts will also represent the Advisory Bodies for World Heritage. The workshop will pay special attention to nomination processes to the World Heritage List, by considering a number of case studies, including Jamaica's *Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park* nomination file.

Background

Natural areas often include tangible and intangible cultural heritage that is managed traditionally by local communities. Many of them may have a protected status or natural resources which may imply the participation in its management by external stakeholders from governmental and non-governmental entities, as well as from private companies. This may have an impact on the state of conservation and safeguarding of the area's cultural and natural resources, as well as on the capacity by local communities to continue benefitting from those cultural resources.

Moreover, some of these areas are proposed to be recognised by UNESCO as World Heritage Site, a Man and Biosphere reserve, a site or space of memory, or a Geopark, among others. This recognition may bring additional protection and management measures by which it is necessary to ensure the full participation of local communities in the nomination procedures, management and evaluation mechanisms of the area. UNESCO has organized a number of activities to analyse these issues, in particular in Small Islands Developing States (SIDS)¹, including the Caribbean Member States.

Following a recommendation made in the report that resulted from the first Periodic Reporting Exercise carried out in Latin America and the Caribbean on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention (1972), a Caribbean Capacity Building Programme for World Heritage

¹ A World Heritage Programme for Small Island Developing States was adopted at the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee (Durban, South Africa, 2005, Decision 29 COM 5B). It is one of the thematic Programmes that resulted from the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) on the Mauritius Strategy for SIDS.

(CCBP) was set up in 2007. The CCBP aims at strengthening capacities of Caribbean experts' entities in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. Training includes six modules concerning the Convention itself, tourism, risk management, cultural landscapes, historic centres and natural heritage.

The Barbados workshop is part of these series of activities organized within the implementation of the CCBP, and is made possible thanks to a generous contribution by The Netherlands. It also gives follow-up to a workshop organized in June 2012 (Kingston, Jamaica) on the possibility to inscribe new properties from the Caribbean in the World Heritage List, with particular attention to Sites of Memory (see Kingston Action Plan in annex). Sites of Memory is a UNESCO programme that aims at providing recognition and protection to places that have a significant importance for local communities because of their sacred or symbolic values.

By using the CCBP training modules and the Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the Convention, the workshop will address the following subjects:

1. The conservation and management of natural areas
2. The use and management of cultural resources
3. The involvement of communities

It will also focus on identifying Caribbean priorities and the possibility to create a category II centre for the Caribbean on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in SIDS. Several case studies will be discussed, including the *Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park* nomination (Jamaica), the trans-boundary nomination currently under preparation by Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, as well as other Caribbean study cases.

The agenda of the 5-day workshop is organized by sessions around five thematic debates. Each debate is introduced and chaired by an expert, and its summary will be provided by another expert acting as rapporteur. The summaries of the debates should include the challenges identified and possible recommendations, and will be presented in the closing session of the workshop, for their validation as basis for producing a set of recommendations on community involvement in the conservation and management of natural areas, and in nomination processes. The report and its recommendations shall be finally published in UNESCO Havana's periodical "Culture and Development"

Themes²:

1. Conservation and management of natural areas, the workshop will observe the key concepts concerning natural areas in the WH Convention and its Operational Guidelines; the specific character of the natural areas, mixed areas or cultural landscapes and the role of the Advisory Bodies (before, during and after inscription on the WH List) also the procedures at the Borders and in the Management plans.
2. Use and management of tangible cultural resources, in this session participants will review the cultural resources considered under the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the relevance of conservation and management and the relationships among the tangible heritage and its associated intangible values, including the needs for the cultural mapping processes, and the preparation of lists and inventories.
3. Use and safeguarding of intangible cultural resources, in a similar process to theme 2, but in view of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural heritage,

² The list of items is also shown in bullet points included under each theme is non-exhaustive and aims at orienting the thematic debates.

participants will review the intangible cultural resources, debating on safeguarding vs. conservation, the tangible cultural and natural heritage associated to intangible cultural heritage and the procedures for cultural mapping processes, lists and inventories, as referred by the UNESCO Convention 2003.

4. Community involvement, as a main topic in the training, the identification of local communities and their representatives is a key issue, in that sense the consultation on their free, prior and informed consent is a necessary request to increase the role of communities in the conservation and management of natural areas and also in the conservation, safeguarding and management of cultural resources. The role of communities in nomination processes and educational and awareness raising activities shall be considered and also during monitoring and assessment.
5. Caribbean networking, the achievements and progress achieved since 2004 by the Caribbean Action Plan for World Heritage 2004 – 2014³, shall be reviewed in order to strengthen existing networks in the field of heritage, and take the necessary steps to propose new enhanced mechanisms as a university network among the Caribbean States or other coordination mechanisms.

For ease of reference of the agenda, the contents of the sessions, expected results and outputs are also expressed below articulated in bullet points:

1. Conservation and management of natural areas

- Key concepts concerning natural areas in the WH Convention and its Operational Guidelines
- Natural areas, mixed areas or cultural landscapes?
- The role of the Advisory Bodies: before, during and after inscription on the WH List
- Borders and Management plans

2. Use and management of tangible cultural resources

- What cultural resources?
- The 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
- Conservation and management
- Tangible heritage and its associated intangible values
- Cultural mapping processes, lists and inventories

3. Use and safeguarding of intangible cultural resources

- What intangible cultural resources?
- The 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural heritage
- Safeguarding vs. conservation?
- Tangible cultural and natural heritage associated to intangible cultural heritage
- Cultural mapping processes, lists and inventories

4. Community involvement

³ The World Heritage Committee at its twenty-eighth session (Suzhou, China, 28 June to 7 July 2004), examined the periodic report on The State of the World Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean and endorsed the Caribbean Action Plan for World Heritage 2004-2014 contained in the periodic report (WHC-04/28.COM/26 dated 7 July 2004)

- Identification of local communities and their representatives
- Free, prior and informed consent
- The role of communities in the conservation and management of natural areas
- The role of communities in the conservation, safeguarding and management of cultural resources
- The role of communities in nomination processes
- Educational and awareness raising activities
- Monitoring and assessment

5. Caribbean networking

- Caribbean Action Plan
- Enhanced mechanisms: university network
- Other coordination mechanisms

Expected results:

1. Capacities strengthened in the conservation and management of natural areas
2. Capacities strengthened to effectively and sustainably use cultural resources
3. Full community involvement in nomination and management processes

Outputs:

1. Organization of a 5-day workshop
2. Set of recommendations on community involvement in the conservation and management of natural areas, and in nomination processes
3. Publication of the report and its recommendations in UNESCO Havana's periodical Culture and Development