

2024

ANNUAL REPORT



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Centro
Bajo los auspicios
de la UNESCO

Instituto Regional del Patrimonio Mundial
en Zacatecas para
México, América Central y el Caribe

Regional World Heritage
Institute in Zacatecas (RWHIZ) for
México, Central America and the Caribbean





Historic District of Panama - WHS

**REGIONAL WORLD
HERITAGE INSTITUTE IN
ZACATECAS**

Category 2 Centre
under the auspices of UNESCO

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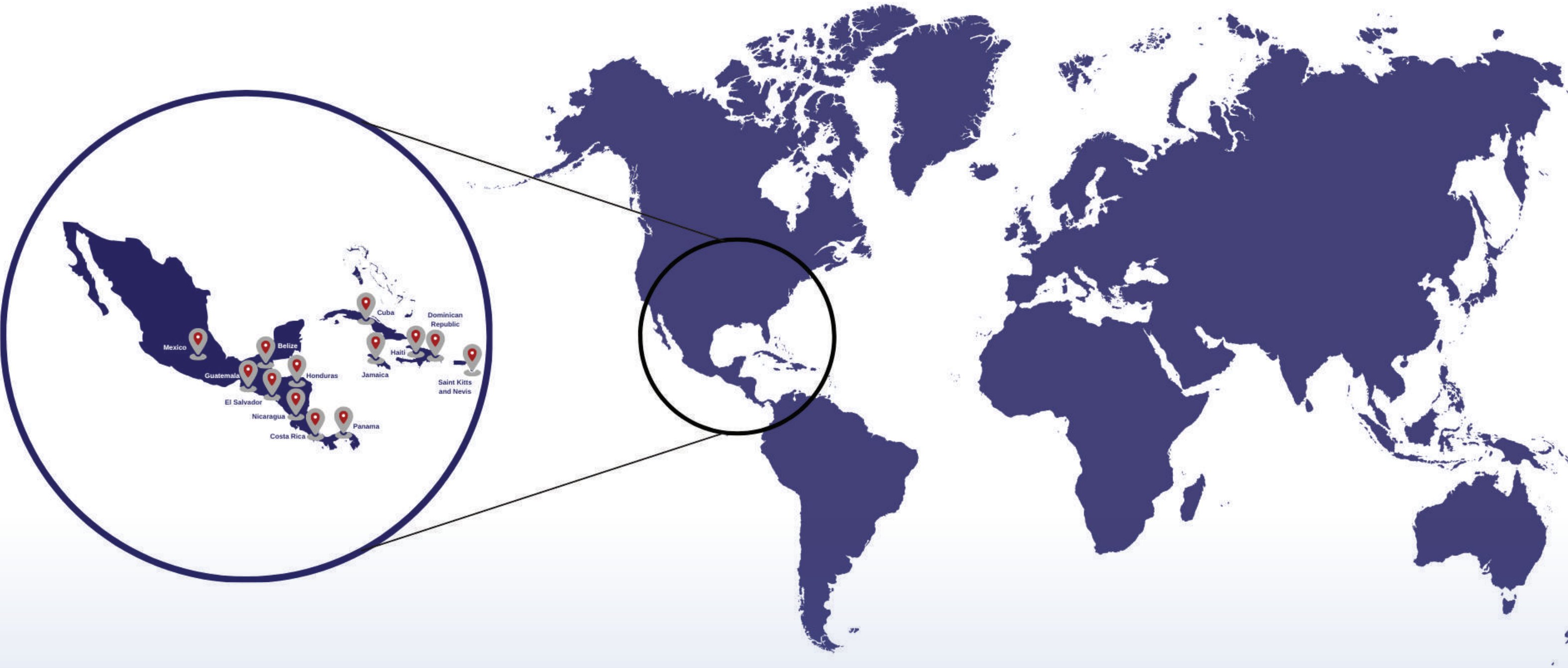
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State Party reached by RWHIZ



Subregion of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean

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Fortifications in La Habana, Cuba - WHS

I. Introduction

Unlike the 2023 Work Plan, which was still conceived based on the Action Plan for World Heritage in Mexico and Central America (PAMAC), 2018–2023, the 2024 Work Plan of the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (RWHIZ), a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO, was developed in alignment with the Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean (2023–2029), adopted during the 45th Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The 2024 Work Plan was approved by the RWHIZ Governing Board on February 2, 2024, in Mexico City. This document proposed and approved sixteen (16) activities designed to contribute both to the fulfillment of the Strategic Objectives outlined in the Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean (2023–2029) and to the direct objectives of the RWHIZ, as established in the Amended Agreement (2014) that created this Category 2 Centre.

These activities are detailed in the first part of this document. Additionally, the second section reports on other actions that, while not initially foreseen, also contributed significantly to achieving the Institute’s objectives and fulfilling its functions. Accordingly,

The first part includes:

Substantive activities that, within the framework of the Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean (2023–2029), contribute to:

1. Objective 1: Strengthen the credibility and representativity of the diverse heritage of Latin America and the Caribbean on the World Heritage List

2. Objective 2: Enhance effective management for the conservation and promotion of World Heritage in the Region

3. Objective 3: Develop and implement capacity-building initiatives to adopt innovative approaches to the conservation,

management, and promotion of World Heritage

4. Objective 4: Enhance the use of heritage education, communication, and awareness-raising activities for the protection of World Heritage

Substantive activities that contribute to:

1. The direct objectives of the IRPMZ, in accordance with the Amended Agreement of Establishment (2014) and the Law of the Regional Institute for World Heritage in Zacatecas

The second part presents:

- National extraordinary activities

• Local extraordinary activities



City of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic - WHS

The 2024 Report highlights the strengthened cooperation with key partners such as the National Institute of Anthropology and History of Mexico (INAH), the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM). It also underscores the establishment of new partnerships and collaborative strategies with the UNESCO Regional Office in San José, Costa Rica; the Ministry of Culture of Panama; and the UNESCO Chair in Conservation Science of Cultural Heritage at the “Manuel del Castillo Negrete” National School of Conservation, Restoration and Museography (ENCRyM-INAH).

The report also highlights progress made in the Spanish translation of the document Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context (2022), as well as the finalized version of the Tripartite Agreement between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Government of the United Mexican States, and the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas, concerning the renewal of the Institute's status as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

Also noteworthy are the capacity-building workshops focused on the use of technologies for the conservation of World Heritage and on the implementation of Impact Assessments in World Heritage contexts. Both initiatives are part of the RWHIZ's first Capacity-Building Programme, which, in 2024, successfully completed the training of more than 150 World Heritage managers and stakeholders.



« In 2024, the training of more than 150 World Heritage managers and stakeholders from Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean was completed. The training focused on key topics such as Impact Assessments and the application of information technologies to heritage conservation »



The report also emphasizes cooperative actions in support of the evaluation of new nomination dossiers, particularly the Route through the Sacred Sites to Wirikuta in Mexico; the promotion and advancement of new transboundary nominations, such as the case of the *Camino Real de Tierra Adentro* between Mexico and the United States of America; as well as the participation of the RWHIZ in the 46th Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

During this session, for the first time, a report was presented directly before the plenary of the Committee, and a side event was organized to invite World Heritage-related Category 2 Centres to the 9th Coordination Meeting, which will take place in Mexico in 2025.



II. Annual Report 2024

The first part of this section outlines the activities carried out within the framework of the Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean (2023–2029), related to Strategic Objectives 1, 2, 3, and 4, as well as those aligned with the direct objectives of the IRPMZ. This section is directly linked to the 2024 Work Plan.

The second part includes the extraordinary activities undertaken—those actions that were not initially planned but nonetheless contributed to both the dissemination and conservation of World Heritage in the region, through various collaborations and self-initiated efforts.



To facilitate the identification of the category and type of activity being reported, the activities included in the 2024 Work Plan—linked both to the Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean (2023–2029) and to the direct objectives of the IRPMZ—are marked in **RED**. Activities not originally included in the 2024 Work Plan but considered substantive are marked in **BLUE**. Lastly, extraordinary activities, whether national or local, are marked in **BLACK**.



Historic Center of Zacatecas City - WHS

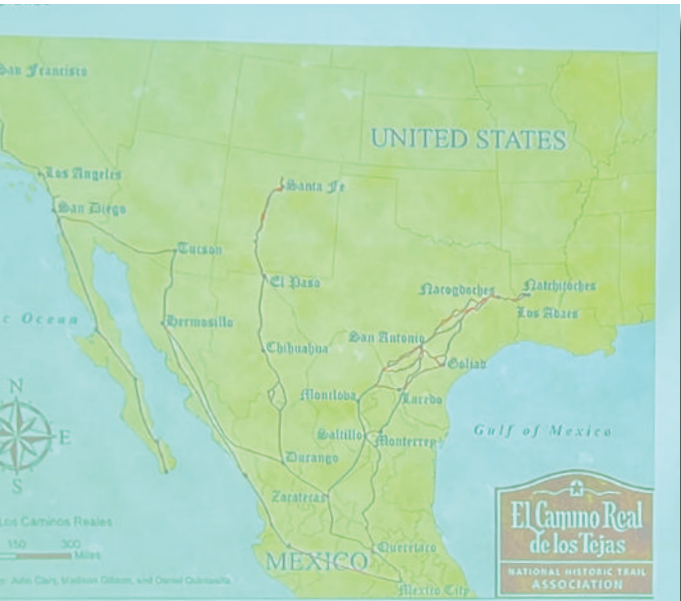
a. Substantive activities

i. Strategic Objective 1

1. Meeting held within the framework of the International Colloquium on the *Camino Real de Tierra Adentro* to explore the nomination of the site as a transboundary property

As part of the International Colloquium on the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, a working side meeting was held on August 21, 2024, in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. Participants included the National Institute of Anthropology and History of Mexico (INAH), ICOMOS USA, the United States National Park Service, and the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (RWHIZ), a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO, as well as several independent experts on the subject.

The purpose of the session was to explore the possibility of promoting the inclusion of the sections located in the United States of America into the Cultural Itinerary of the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro. The Camino Real de Tierra Adentro was inscribed on the World Heritage List by Mexico in 2010, considering only the territory within Mexico. Therefore, such an extension would result in the site becoming a transboundary property.



During the working session, attendees exchanged views and committed to follow up on the proposal within their respective countries.

The Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas, represented by Carlos Augusto Torres Pérez, expressed full support for advancing the proposal, in accordance with the Centre's mandate as a Category 2 Centre located in Zacatecas.



2. Meeting held at the facilities of the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (RWHIZ) on the nomination dossier “Serial Associative Cultural Landscape: Route through the Sacred Sites of Wirikuta”



In accordance with one of its core functions established in the 2014 Amended Agreement, the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (RWHIZ) collaborated with the World Heritage Directorate of INAH and supported the Evaluation Mission of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) for the property proposed for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List: Route through the Sacred Sites of Wirikuta, a serial associative cultural landscape composed of 19 polygons encompassing the main sacred places of the Wixárika culture along their west-to-east pilgrimage across the Mexican Republic. This support included funding for the transportation of the international expert designated by ICOMOS.

As part of this mission, on August 26, the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas hosted a meeting that brought together Wixárika traditional authorities, the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) through its World Heritage Directorate, the Zacatecas Institute of Culture “Ramón López Velarde”, the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas, and the specialist appointed by ICOMOS for the evaluation of the aforementioned nomination dossier.

During the working session, participants exchanged views on the policies and actions related to the protection, research, and conservation of these sites, and discussed prospects and opportunities for collaboration among the three levels of government to ensure their safeguarding. The Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas, in particular, underscored the significance of the nomination for the subregion of Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean, as well as its contribution to both the balance of the World Heritage List and UNESCO’s global vision as outlined in the 2030 Agenda, which recognizes cultural heritage as a key instrument for the sustainable development of peoples, especially Indigenous communities.



ii. Strategic Objective 2

1. Meetings with UNESCO Costa Rica for the establishment of a Network of Focal Points for the 1972 Convention in Latin America and the Caribbean

On February 14, a remote meeting was held between the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (RWHIZ) and the UNESCO Office in San Jose, Costa Rica, which covers Central America, Colombia, and Mexico. The purpose of the meeting was to explore the joint implementation of a Network for World Heritage in Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. Enrique Lopez-Hurtado, head of the Culture Sector at the UNESCO Office in San Jose, and Carlos Augusto Torres Perez from RWHIZ attended the meeting. During this first working session, it was agreed to advance the objectives, themes, and scope of the Network.

Additionally, between September and November 2024, a series of follow-up meetings took place, with the participation of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

In these working sessions, the creation of the Latin America and the Caribbean Focal Points Network was agreed upon. The main objectives of the Network will be capacity building, the exchange of experiences, and the coordination of stakeholders related to World Heritage in the region. The Network is expected to begin operations in the second half of 2025.



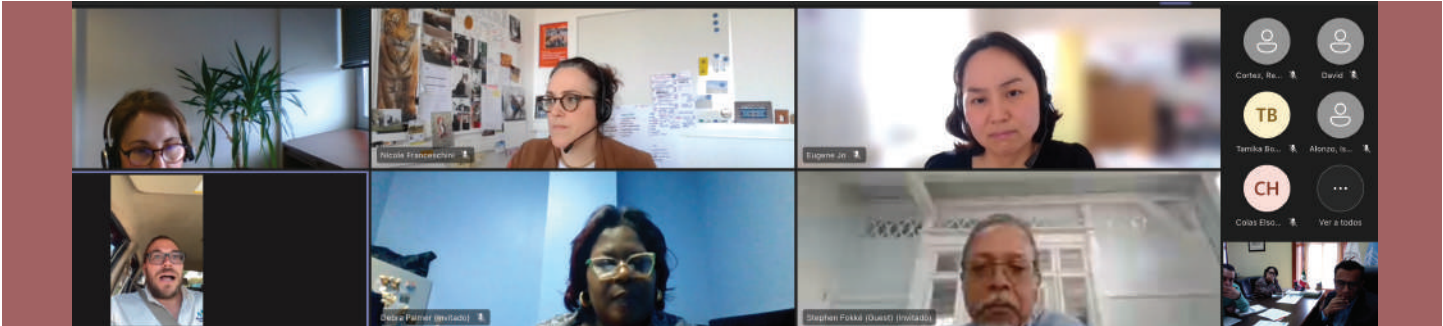


Cocos Island National Park, Costa Rica - WHS

2. Working meeting with World Heritage site managers from the English-speaking Caribbean

On April 16, a working meeting was held with World Heritage site managers from the English-speaking Caribbean. The meeting was convened by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and supported by the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (RWHIZ). Mauro Rosi and Rochelle Roca Hachem from the UNESCO Secretariat, Valerie Magar Meurs, Eugene Jo, and Nicole Franceschini from ICCROM, as well as Carlos Augusto Torres Perez, director of the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas, participated in the meeting. Torres Perez presented the 2024 Work Plan of RWHIZ and the ways in which site managers can collaborate with the Category 2 Centre located in Zacatecas.

Among the participating site managers were Percival Hanley from Saint Kitts and Nevis, Elsoit Colas from Haiti, Joan Hippolyte from Dominica, Christopher Waters from Antigua and Barbuda, Debra Kay Palmer from Jamaica, and Stephen Fokké from Suriname. During the session, issues related to the availability of personnel and funding were identified, and the importance of offering training not only through virtual or hybrid formats but also in person was reaffirmed. The shared topics of interest among the managers included heritage management, impact assessments on heritage, and climate change.

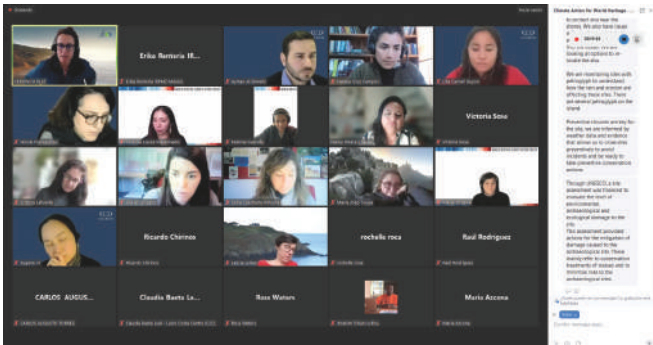
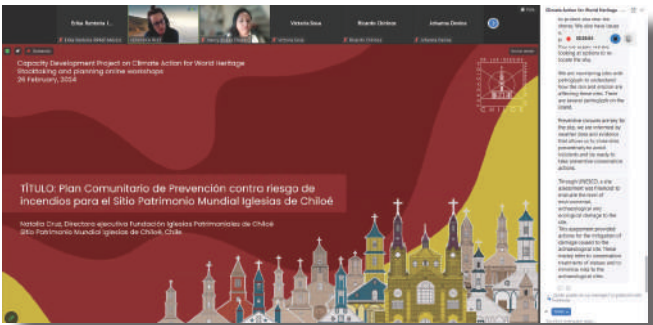


3. Online Workshops on Climate Change

The Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (RWHIZ) participated in the series of online workshops on Climate Change convened by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies.

A total of three workshops were held: a Workshop on Assessment and Scope Evaluation, which took place on February 20; a Workshop on Application and Case Studies, which was held from February 26 to 29; and a Brainstorming and Planning Workshop for the development of a Capacity Building Strategy on Climate Action for World Heritage, which was conducted on April 16.

In general, the project involves the development of a Guide for site managers and State Parties to the Convention, aimed at strengthening capacities to address the effects of climate change on World Heritage properties.



4. Workshop on World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism

On July 16 and 17, in the city of Oaxaca, Mexico, the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (RWHIZ) participated in the first “World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Workshop: Improving Visitor Management and Community Engagement,” organized by UNESCO through its offices in Mexico, San José, Costa Rica, and Havana, Cuba, as well as the Latin America and the Caribbean Unit of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

The event was part of the project “Latin America and the Caribbean: Strengthening Capacities for Resilient Communities through Sustainable Tourism and Heritage Safeguarding,” an initiative supported by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Participants included World Heritage site managers from nine countries: Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, and the Dominican Republic, who shared strategic viewpoints on visitor management and identified opportunities to improve sustainable and inclusive tourism.

The event emphasized the importance of strengthening capacities for the protection not only of tangible cultural and natural heritage but also of the intangible heritage of peoples and communities.



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City of Antigua, Guatemala - WHS

1. Development of a questionnaire on National Capacity Building Strategies and/or Plans

During the first half of 2024, the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (RWHIZ) developed the base questionnaire for conducting a consultation with World Heritage Focal Points regarding Strategies and/or National Capacity Building Plans. This activity was carried out in collaboration with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), and the National School of Conservation, Restoration, and Museography “Manuel del Castillo Negrete” of INAH Mexico.

This consultation is directly related to the Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean (2023-2029). A total of 18 questions were designed in both Spanish and English, with the general aim of exploring the current status of capacity building strategies and/or national plans in Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean, focusing on their creation, implementation, and planning.



NATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING STRATEGIES
FOR WORLD HERITAGE - Subregional Consultation

1. Which institution or institutions are in charge of World Cultural and Natural Heritage in your country?

2. Does your country have a National Capacity Building Strategy on World Heritage?

a. Yes
b. No (go to question number 7)

3. Could you delve into the past question? In what year was it made? What is its duration and validity? Can it be consulted online?

a. Link to document (in case):

4. Has the National Capacity Building Strategy of your country been fully implemented?

a. Yes
b. No (go to question number 7)

5. Which institution has led it?

6. Which institutions have collaborated in its implementation?

7. As a Focal Point, do you consider it necessary to create or update a National Strategy for Capacity Building around World Heritage in your country?

a. Yes
b. No

8. Have national level trainings related to the use, management and/or conservation of World Heritage been carried out in your country?

a. Yes
b. No



2. Application for Subregional Consultation on National Capacity Building Strategies and/or Plans

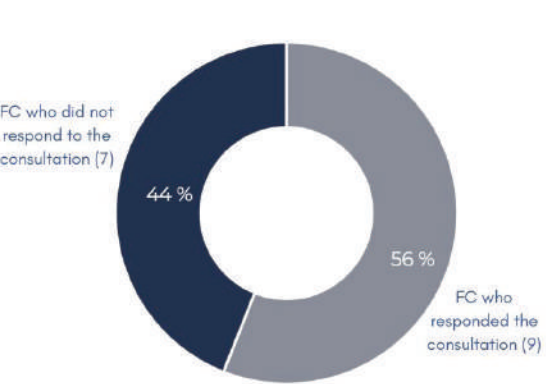
During the second half of 2024, the subregional consultation “National Strategies for Capacity Building in World Heritage Sites” was conducted with Focal Points from Spanish-speaking and English-speaking Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean.

The instrument was designed by RWHIZ in collaboration with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), and the National School of Conservation, Restoration, and Museography “Manuel del Castillo Negrete” of INAH Mexico, through its UNESCO Chair in Conservation Science for Cultural Heritage. The consultation was attended by nine Focal Points from the subregion, particularly from the State Parties of Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Jamaica, Panama,

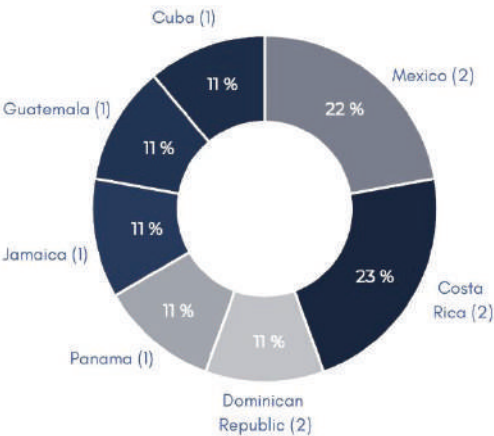
the Dominican Republic, and Mexico, which together account for 89% of the World Heritage sites in the subregion. This exercise will help identify the countries with a National Capacity Building Strategy related to World Heritage, identify institutions conducting training in the subregion, and update the needs and areas of interest.

Additionally, the consultation will serve as a basis for designing capacity-building strategies for World Heritage sites in the subregion. The final report of the exercise will be delivered to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre during the first half of 2025, but preliminary results already exist, some of which are shown in the following graphs:

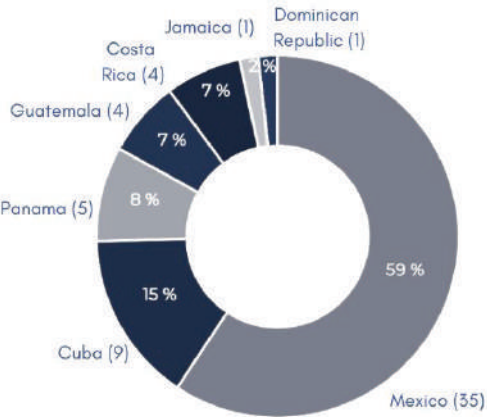
Focal Points who responded to the Consultation



Focal Points who responded by State Party



59 World Heritage sites attended the Consultation





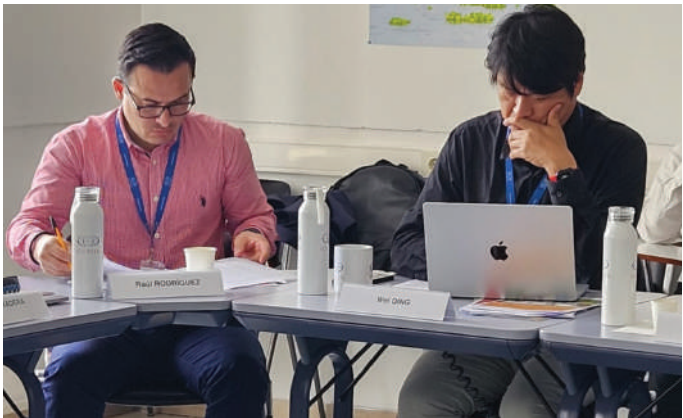
Historic Center of Zacatecas, Mexico - WHS

3. Participation of the RWHIZ in the Course “Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context,” in Rome, Italy

The RWHIZ was invited by the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) to participate in the course “Training of Trainers Workshop on Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context,” held in English. The course was organized by ICCROM and IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), both Advisory Bodies to UNESCO, within the framework of the World Heritage Leadership Programme. The initiative was also supported by the Heritage Service of the Republic of Korea and the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment.

The course took place in Rome, Italy, from May 6 to 9, and brought together more than 20 specialists from Saudi Arabia, Mauritania, France, Germany, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Qatar, Norway, Switzerland, Zimbabwe, Japan, South Africa, China, Italy, the United Kingdom, Portugal, and Mexico. The training focused on the application of the “Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context” (2022), as well as the evaluation of related case studies.

The course was especially significant for capacity-building efforts in the Latin America and Caribbean region and within the Category 2 Centre. The RWHIZ’s participation was key for the dissemination and promotion of the Toolkit in Mexico.



4. Courses in Spanish on Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context

In 2024, the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (RWHIZ) contributed directly and indirectly to capacity-building related to the document “Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context” (2022), published by ICCROM, IUCN, and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

In collaboration with Panama and the National School of Conservation, Restoration and Museography “Manuel del Castillo Negrete” (ENCRyM) of INAH Mexico, through its UNESCO Chair in Conservation Science of Cultural Heritage, a workshop was held focusing on the application of the Toolkit.



The training took place at ENCRyM’s facilities and was attended by twelve institutions, delegations, and coordination offices related to World Heritage in Mexico. A total of twenty (20) managers and specialists were trained.

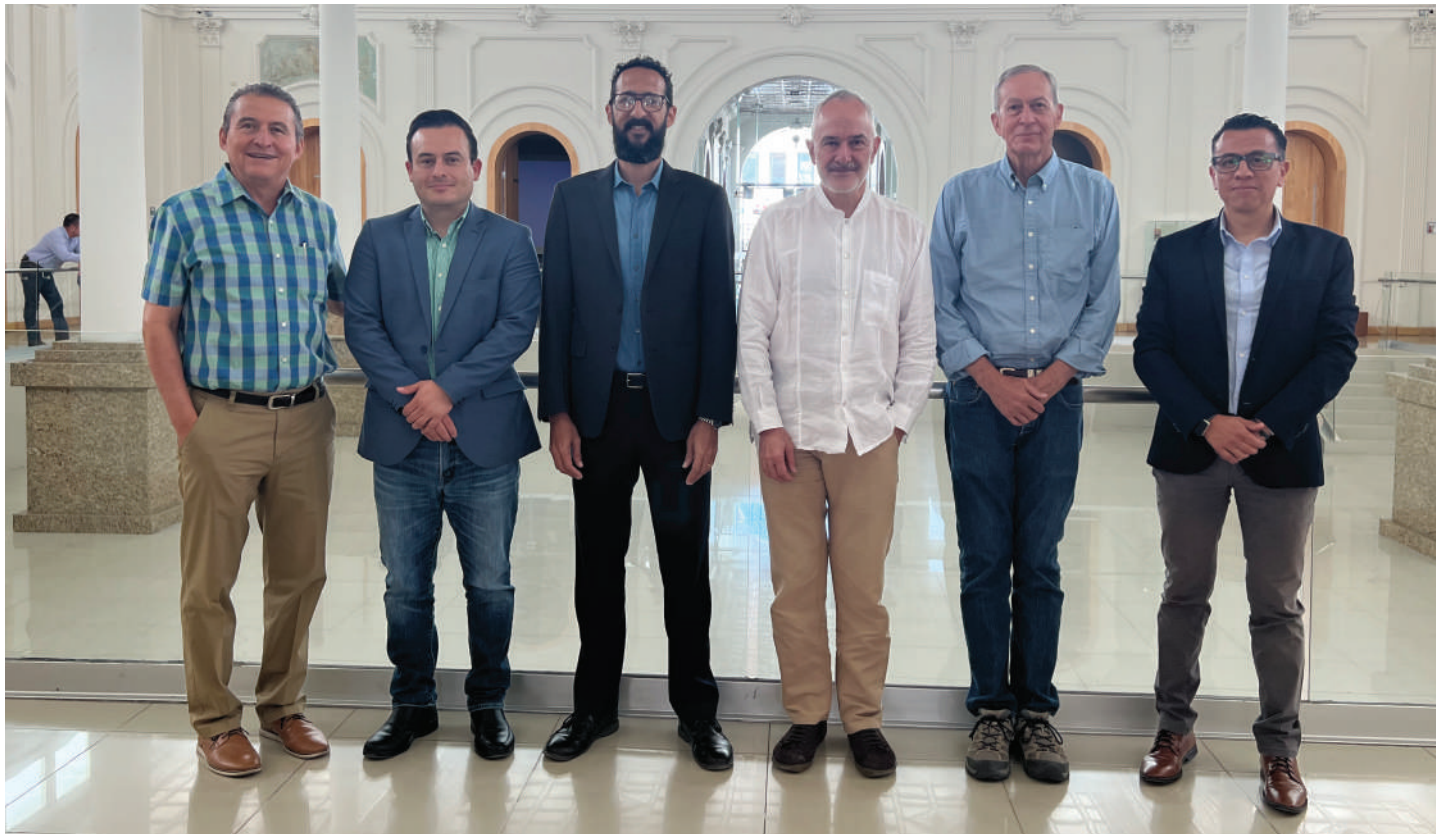
Additionally, the RWHIZ participated in online Spanish-language workshops on the same topic, organized by ICCROM between October and November 2024. Two sessions were held: an introductory-level workshop and a “training of trainers” session, the latter also aimed at preparing professionals to replicate the knowledge in their respective spheres of work and influence. Both workshops targeted the Latin America and Caribbean region, also including Spain.



5. International Colloquium on Cultural Itineraries

In collaboration with the National Institute of Anthropology and History of Mexico, the National Park Service of the United States of America, and the organization World Heritage USA, the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (RWHIZ) participated in the 2024 edition of the International Colloquium on the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, held from August 21 to 25 in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, and El Paso, Texas. The RWHIZ coordinated the Working Session titled "UNESCO Vision and Cultural Routes," which featured the participation of Javier

Edwards from Panama, who provided a general overview of UNESCO Cultural Routes and shared information about the nomination file for Panama's Transisthmian Route. Juan Luis Isaza from Colombia gave two presentations: one on the extension of the serial property "Earliest 16th-Century Monasteries on the Slopes of Popocatepetl," and another on the Andean road system Qhapaq Ñan. Michael Romero Taylor (USA) spoke about the components of the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro located within the United States.



« In 2024, training in photogrammetry was completed for more than 60 specialists involved in the management and conservation of 15 World Heritage sites in Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico »



iv. Strategic Objective 4

1. Courses on Digital Photogrammetry Applied to Cultural Heritage

As part of the Capacity Building Program for the Application of 3D Technologies in World Heritage Sites, the RWHIZ implemented in 2024 three basic-level courses on Digital Photogrammetry Applied to Cultural Heritage in Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean—one in-person and two online.

The first course was aimed exclusively at professionals from Mexico, with the goal of strengthening capacities for the documentation of Mexican monumental heritage. Participants included specialists from various institutions in Zacatecas, as well as from the National Institute of Anthropology and History.

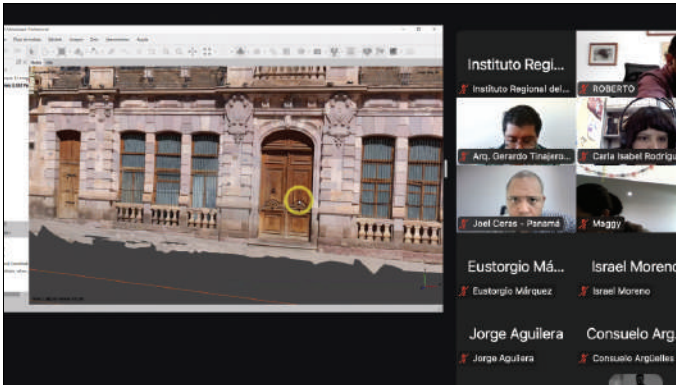
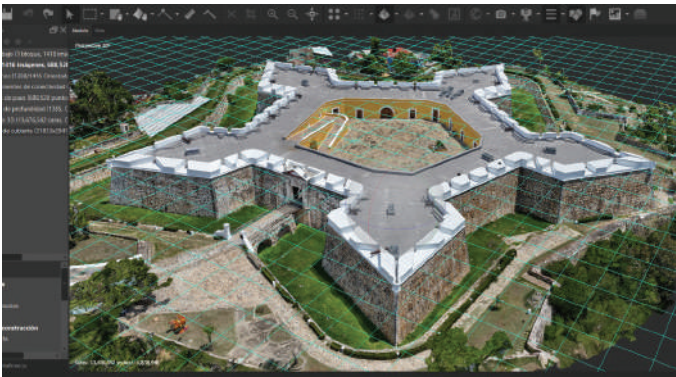
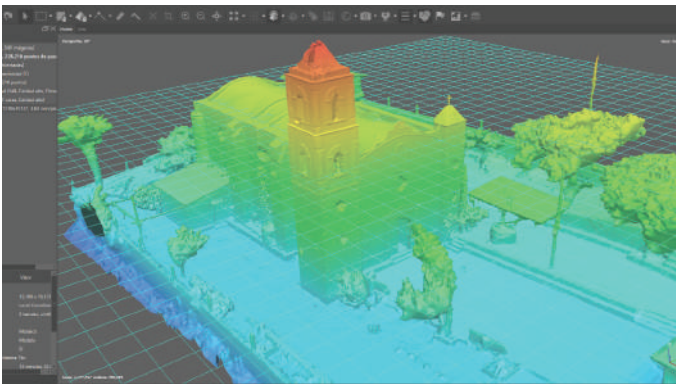
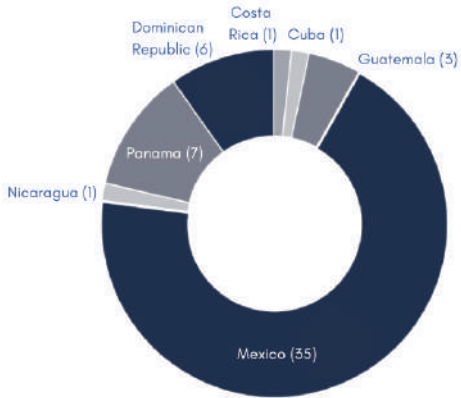
The second course, announced in May and held in July 2024, targeted professionals involved in the management of World Heritage sites across Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. Eighteen (18) specialists from Panama, Cuba, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic took part.

The third course was carried out in November in coordination with the National Directorate of Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture of Panama and was aimed exclusively at specialists from Mexico and Panama.

With the activities carried out in 2024, the first phase of this program was completed, resulting in the training of more than sixty (60) specialists involved in the management and conservation of fifteen (15) World Heritage sites in Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico.

Due to the interest generated and the outcomes achieved in 2023 and 2024, a second phase of the program is already being planned for 2025. This new phase will offer intermediate-level training focused on the use of drones for heritage documentation and the creation of 3D digital repositories using the Sketchfab platform.

Beneficiaries of photogrammetry courses



2. Lecture Series “Empiricisms and Perspectives”

As part of the lecture series “Empiricisms and Perspectives”, launched in 2023 by the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (RWHIZ) as a space for the exchange of experiences on the protection, conservation, management, and promotion of World Heritage sites in the subregion, the keynote lecture “National Program of Workshop Schools of Colombia: Tools for Peace” was held in 2024. The session was delivered by expert Juan Luis Isaza Londono at the facilities of the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas. The event was organized in coordination with the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) and the Government of the State of Zacatecas.

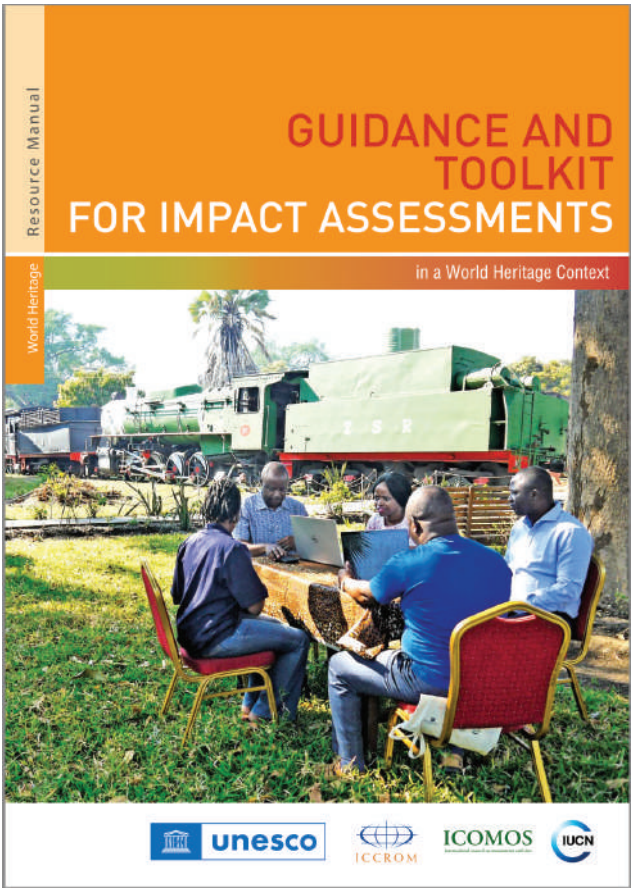
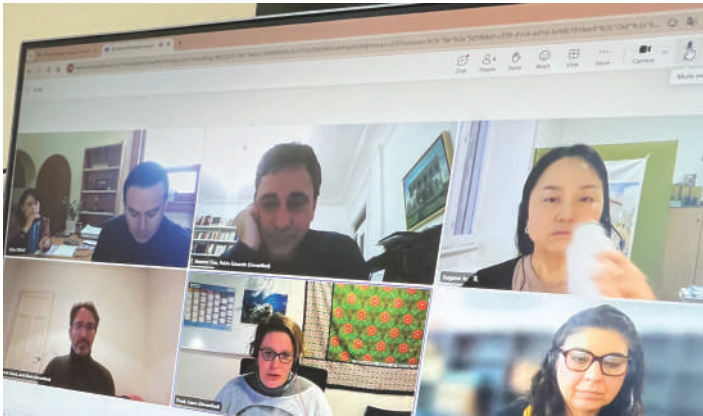


The lecture, in which Isaza Londono shared Colombia’s experience on job creation and peacebuilding as a good practice linked to cultural and World Heritage, was attended by representatives of national and state organizations as well as civil society.



3. Translation into Spanish of key documents for World Heritage

In 2024, the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (RWHIZ) advanced its collaboration for the Spanish translation of the document “Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context” (2022), in partnership with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), and the governments of Chile and Spain.



During this period, several virtual meetings were held to coordinate the logistics of translating this material, which will benefit Spanish speakers worldwide, particularly those in the region of Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. At present, the government of Spain is preparing the layout of the publication, and the final version is expected to be made available to the public no later than the second half of 2025.



4. RWHIZ Publishing Program

During this period, the Editorial Program of the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (2024–2027) was established, along with the first phase of the journal “Enhancing Heritage. Promoting World Heritage in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean”. This marks the first publication resulting from the Institute’s four-year strategy as a Category 2 Centre to promote good practices and generate and share knowledge through the editing and publication of materials related to World Heritage.

The journal aims to promote World Heritage in Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean, as well as to showcase good practices aligned with the 1972 Convention, in accordance with the Revised Agreement establishing this Institute. The title has been established in English, as the journal will also be shared with international stakeholders, including Category 2 Centres, the World Heritage Centre, and Advisory Bodies.

The first phase of the journal, completed in 2024 and presented in this report, included defining the title, thematic content, publication structure, and timeline.

This phase also included the establishment of the Editorial Committee, the Editorial Director, and the Editorial Coordinator. The direction of the journal will be led by Carlos Augusto Torres Perez, Director of the Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO, and the editorial coordination will be managed by Raul E. Rodriguez Marquez, a collaborator and specialist of the Centre. The Editorial Committee, responsible for reviewing the technical quality and thematic relevance of the contributions, is composed of four renowned specialists: Alfredo Conti (Argentina), Javier Edwards (Panama), Mauricia Dominguez (Dominican Republic), and Valerie Magar Meurs (Mexico).

The second phase, scheduled for 2025, will include the call for submissions, the editorial process, and the release of the first issue, which is expected to be launched during the 47th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

The publication will be bilingual (Spanish and English), with an annual frequency, and will be distributed throughout the subregion (which includes 21 States Parties), as well as shared with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Advisory Bodies, and other Category 2 Centres involved with World Heritage.

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ENHANCING HERITAGE 2025

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ARTICLES

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The image shows the front cover of a journal titled "Enhancing HERITAGE". The background is a photograph of a classical building facade with tall columns and intricate carvings, taken from a low angle looking up. The title "Enhancing HERITAGE" is written in large, bold, white sans-serif font. Below the title, in smaller white capital letters, is "THE 1972 CONVENTION". In the top right corner, it says "FEBRUARY 2025" and "NUMBER 01". Below the title, there is a line of text: "PROMOTING WORLD HERITAGE IN MEXICO, CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN". At the bottom of the cover, there are three article teasers in white text: "THE EVOLUTION OF THE UNESCO 1972 CONVENTION - MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS OF SUCCESS", "THE ROLE OF THE ADVISORY BODIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1972 CONVENTION", and "LOOKING AHEAD THE NEXT 50 YEARS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION". Below these, there is a line of text: "BOOK REVIEW - GUIDANCE AND TOOLKIT FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENTS IN A WORLD HERITAGECONTEXT, 2022". At the very bottom, there is a barcode on the left and a QR code on the right, with the UNESCO logo in between them.

30 RWHIZ, C2C

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5. Second Phase of the Digital Library of the RWHIZ

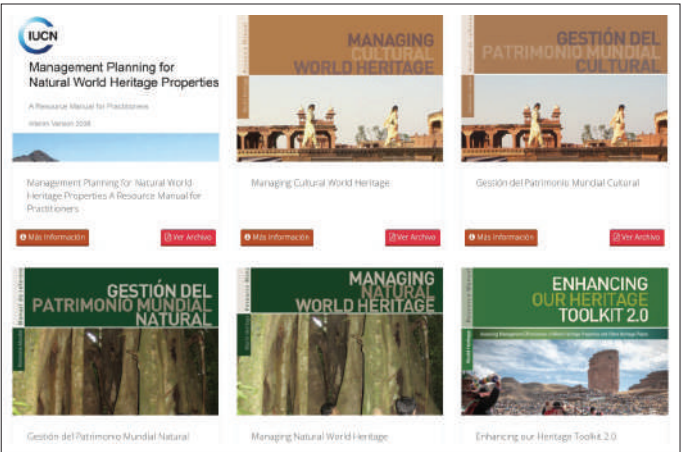
In 2024, the Documentation Center of the Digital Library of the RWHIZ was consolidated and enriched through the inclusion of 122 publications, all available for free download or printing.

The following materials were added to specific subtopics: under “Our Publications”, the 2023 Annual Report of the Institute; under “Subregional Cooperation”, the book Zacatecas, A Place with Outstanding Universal Value; and under “Outreach Materials”, the informational leaflet of the Category 2 Centre. In addition, the consultation themes of the physical library of the RWHIZ were established, and the materials were organized accordingly. The sections include:

- Conservation and Restoration
- UNESCO Conventions, Charters, and Declarations
- Outreach and Interpretation
- Disaster, Risk and Illicit Trafficking Management
- Management and Governance
- World Heritage Normativity by UNESCO
- Intangible Cultural Heritage
- World Heritage
- World Heritage in the Subregion
- Tourism

In total, the physical library of the RWHIZ now holds 801 publications, which are available for consultation at the premises of the Category 2 Centre.

« The RWHIZ Digital Library now houses 122 publications, with an additional 801 specialized works on World Heritage available for direct consultation at the Category 2 Centre’s premises »



v. Activities to achieve the direct objectives of the RWHIZ

1. Presentation of the 2024 Work Plan in the subregion

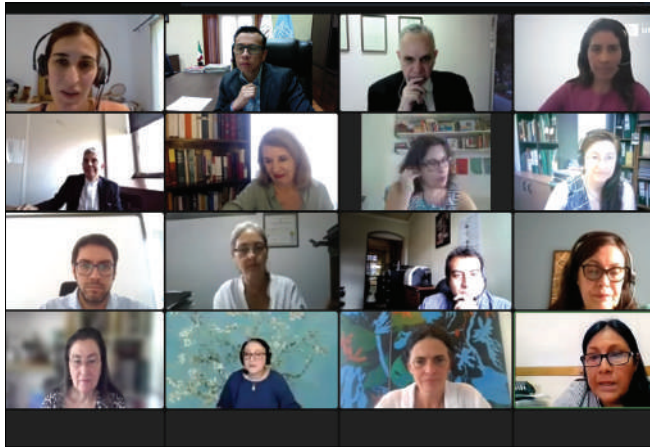
To promote the 2024 Work Plan, an online meeting was held with Focal Points and managers of World Heritage sites from the region of Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean.

During the session, the actions approved by the RWHIZ Board of Directors for the year were presented, and an open invitation was extended for participation.

Additionally, the 2024 Work Plan was presented in a working meeting with the UNESCO Office in San José, Costa Rica, to contextualize the mission and objectives of the Category 2 Centre.

The guiding document was also presented in an exclusive meeting with managers from the English-speaking Caribbean States Parties, convened by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

Moreover, the Work Plan was shared in the Regional Workshop “Contributions for the implementation of the Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean (2023-2029)” as part of the project “Fifty Years of the World Heritage Convention in Latin America and the Caribbean: Strengthening Specialist Capacities and Publishing Conclusions,” organized by the UNESCO Chair of Cultural Tourism Untref-Aamnb from Argentina.



2. Participation in the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee

- Presentation of the Report at the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee

As part of the 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, held in New Delhi, India, from July 21 to 31, 2024, the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (RWHIZ), Category 2 Center under the auspices of UNESCO, presented its 2023-2024 activity report.

This action was included for the first time in the agenda of the session, under item 6B. The presentation highlighted RWHIZ’s actions related to the sustainable management of heritage, risk management, the use of technologies and digital resources applied to heritage, and capacity building related to impact assessments in World Heritage contexts.

Furthermore, the director of RWHIZ, Carlos Augusto Torres Pérez, emphasized the support of the RWHIZ Board of Directors, the Government of Mexico, and the Government of the State of Zacatecas, as well as the backing of key partners such as the National Institute of Anthropology and History of Mexico, the Lucio Costa Center of Brazil, and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM). Finally, he informed that in 2025, Mexico and RWHIZ will host the 9th Annual Coordination Meeting of Category 2 Centres related to World Heritage.



- Side meeting organized by RWHIZ at the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee

As part of the 46th Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (RWHIZ), a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO, held a parallel meeting for the first time. The Regional Centre for World Heritage Capacity Building and Management “Lucio Costa” from Brazil, the International Centre for Rock Art and the World Heritage Convention from Spain, the African World Heritage Fund from South Africa, the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage from Bahrain (ARC-WH), the World Heritage Institute for Training and Research in the Asia-Pacific region (WHITRAP) from China, the International Centre for Space Technologies for Cultural and Natural World Heritage (HIST) from China, the Centre for Management and Capacity Building for Natural World Heritage in Asia and the Pacific from India (WII-C2C), and the International Centre for Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites from the Republic of Korea (WHIPIC) participated in the meeting.

During the working session, the formal invitation to the meeting scheduled to take place in Mexico during the first half of 2025 was presented to the attendees. Participants were provided with the event folder, which included background information, the objectives of the meeting, a preliminary work agenda, and the proposed central theme: Capacity Building. The key to better implementation of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention.

- Working meetings with key stakeholders at the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee

During the 46th Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, the RWHIZ held a working session with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, attended by Mauro Rosi and Rochelle Roca-Hachem from the Latin America and the Caribbean Unit. During the meeting, a proposal for extraordinary activities for the last quarter of 2024 was presented.

On the other hand, several meetings were held with representatives of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), where the ICCROM Director, Mrs. Aruna Francesca Maria Gujralsu, along with Valerie Magar, Eugene Jo, and Nicole Franceschini from the World Heritage Leadership (WHL) Programme, were present. Topics discussed included the Spanish translation of the document “Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context,” as well as various perspectives for collaboration in 2024 and 2025.



- Participation in side events of the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee

In the framework of the 46th Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, the RWHIZ participated in various parallel events. Notably, it took part in the event organized by the World Heritage Institute for Research and Training for the Asia-Pacific region (WHITRAP), where the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas, represented by Carlos Augusto Torres Perez, served as a jury member for the Global Awards for Innovative Cases in World Heritage Education (AWHEIC).

Additionally, the RWHIZ participated in calls from the Center for Management and Training of Natural World Heritage in Asia and the Pacific region (WII-C2C) and the International Center for the Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites (WHIPIC), where information about the RWHIZ was presented and collaboration perspectives were discussed.

Furthermore, in the same context, the RWHIZ held discussions with the delegations of Panama, the Dominican Republic, and Grenada, aiming to strengthen relationships and explore potential avenues for collaboration.



3. 2024 Board of Directors Meeting

On February 2nd, in Mexico City, the Third Ordinary Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (RWHIZ), a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO, took place. The purpose of the meeting was to report on the activities carried out during 2023 and to present the proposed 2024 Work Plan.

Representatives from various entities of the Government of Mexico, the Government of the State of Zacatecas, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, and its Advisory Bodies, as well as from the States Parties of the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Panama, and Nicaragua, attended either in person or virtually.

During the meeting, in addition to presenting progress on the agreed version of the Tripartite Agreement for the renewal of the RWHIZ as a Category 2 Institute, the sixteen proposed actions were unanimously approved. These proposals were based on the Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean (2023-2029).

Furthermore, the proposal for the next meeting of Category 2 Centres related to World Heritage to be held in Mexico in 2025, marking the 15th anniversary of the creation of the RWHIZ, was warmly welcomed.



Colonial City of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic - WHS

b. Extraordinary activities

i. Nationals

1. Presentation of the book: “Zacatecas Un lugar con Valor Universal Excepcional”

Within the framework of the International Book Fair on Anthropology and History, organized by INAH at the National Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City, the book Zacatecas: A Place with Outstanding Universal Value was presented. The presentation panel was moderated by the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas and featured the participation of INAH’s Technical Secretary, Jose Luis Perea Gonzalez, INAH’s Deputy Director of World Heritage, Francisco Vidargas Acosta, and historian Veremundo Carrillo Reveles from the National Institute of Historical Studies on the Mexican Revolutions.

During the event, panelists concluded that books such as “Zacatecas Un lugar con Valor Universal Excepcional” help convey that heritage cities derive their value from the people who live in them, as well as from those who are interested in their conservation and history.

2. Cultural Festival “Ciudades Mexicanas Patrimonio Mundial”

The Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas successfully participated in the Cultural Festival “Ciudades Mexicanas Patrimonio Mundial”, Mexican World Heritage Cities, held in the city of Durango, Mexico, on August 16, 2024.

The RWHIZ took part specifically in the panel discussion on the Cultural Itinerary Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, which brought together various cultural heritage experts who shared knowledge and discussed strategies for the preservation of this route and its associated values.



3. Conversation on Heritage and Sustainability

On August 16, through its General Director Carlos Augusto Torres Perez, the RWHIZ participated in the panel discussion “Heritage and Sustainability,” held as part of the 35th International Book Fair of Anthropology and History. The event also featured the participation of Andres Morales, UNESCO Representative in Mexico; Cristina Amescua Chavez from CRIM, UNAM; Antonio Machuca Ramirez from DEAS, INAH; and Jose Luis Perea Gonzalez, Technical Secretary of INAH.

During the session, Carlos Augusto Torres Perez emphasized that part of the RWHIZ’s mission is to contribute to sustainable development through capacity building. This involves carrying out activities aimed at strengthening both the knowledge and skills of professionals, institutions, and communities in the management and conservation of cultural and natural heritage. On this basis, he highlighted that the RWHIZ has implemented a series of actions with the ultimate goal of ensuring that communities benefit from heritage.

4. Industrial Heritage Colloquium

The Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (RWHIZ) participated on September 25 and 26, 2024, in the colloquium Industrialization in Zacatecas: 18th to 21st Centuries.

This initiative, aimed at fostering reflection and presenting research on this often-overlooked type of heritage, also included the participation of INAH, the Seminar on Industrialization Processes in Mexico, and the Autonomous University of Zacatecas.



ii. Local Agenda

With the aim of strengthening local and community capacities related to the appreciation, safeguarding, and conservation of heritage, the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (RWHIZ) carried out and participated in five activities.

Two lectures were held: Study of Seismic Events Recorded Near Mining Centers, delivered by Hiram Badillo Almaraz of the Civil Engineering program at the Autonomous University of Zacatecas; and Dwelling of a Conquistador: Historical Notes on the House of Juan de Oñate, focusing on the historic monument that has housed the Category 2 Centre since 2010, presented by historian Victor Hugo Ramirez Lozano.



As part of an initiative to engage civil society in cultural heritage through artistic expression, and in collaboration with the Zacatecas Institute of Culture, RWHIZ supported the participation of the theater company Sapiens Sapiens Teatro Lab. As part of the Zacatecas International Street Theater Festival, the group presented the play Black Dress. Chronicles of the Last Dress of Isabel de Tolosa Cortes y Moctezuma (Along the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro).

Two additional training activities were organized: the course Cultural Itinerary of the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro: Mining Haciendas in the Zacatecas-Guadalupe Section, also led by Victor Hugo Ramirez Lozano, which included site visits to former mining haciendas; and the Workshop on the Use of High-Purity Lime in Built Heritage, held at the Guadalupe Museum and organized in collaboration with the National Institute of Anthropology and History of Mexico (INAH) and OXICAL.



III. Conclusions

Twenty-seven actions were carried out, resulting in an 87% completion rate, with 13% of activities pending for 2025. Specifically, 75% of the 2024 Work Plan was fulfilled, as twelve of the sixteen programmed activities were completed (see Table 1 in Annexes). This year, 692 individuals participated in the Institute's activities.

In 2024, the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (RWHIZ) strengthened ties with key partners, including the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the UNESCO San Jose Office in Costa Rica, the Ministry of Culture of Panama, ICCROM, and the UNESCO Chair in Conservation Sciences of Cultural Heritage through the "Manuel del Castillo Negrete" National School of Conservation, Restoration and Museography of INAH Mexico.

« In 2024, a total of 27 actions were carried out at the international, national, and local levels »

During this period, RWHIZ also consolidated its Capacity Building Programme and effectively implemented it at the regional level. Courses focused on the application of technologies to World Heritage conservation and on the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context were successfully delivered, enhancing the capacities of over one hundred World Heritage-related professionals in the region.

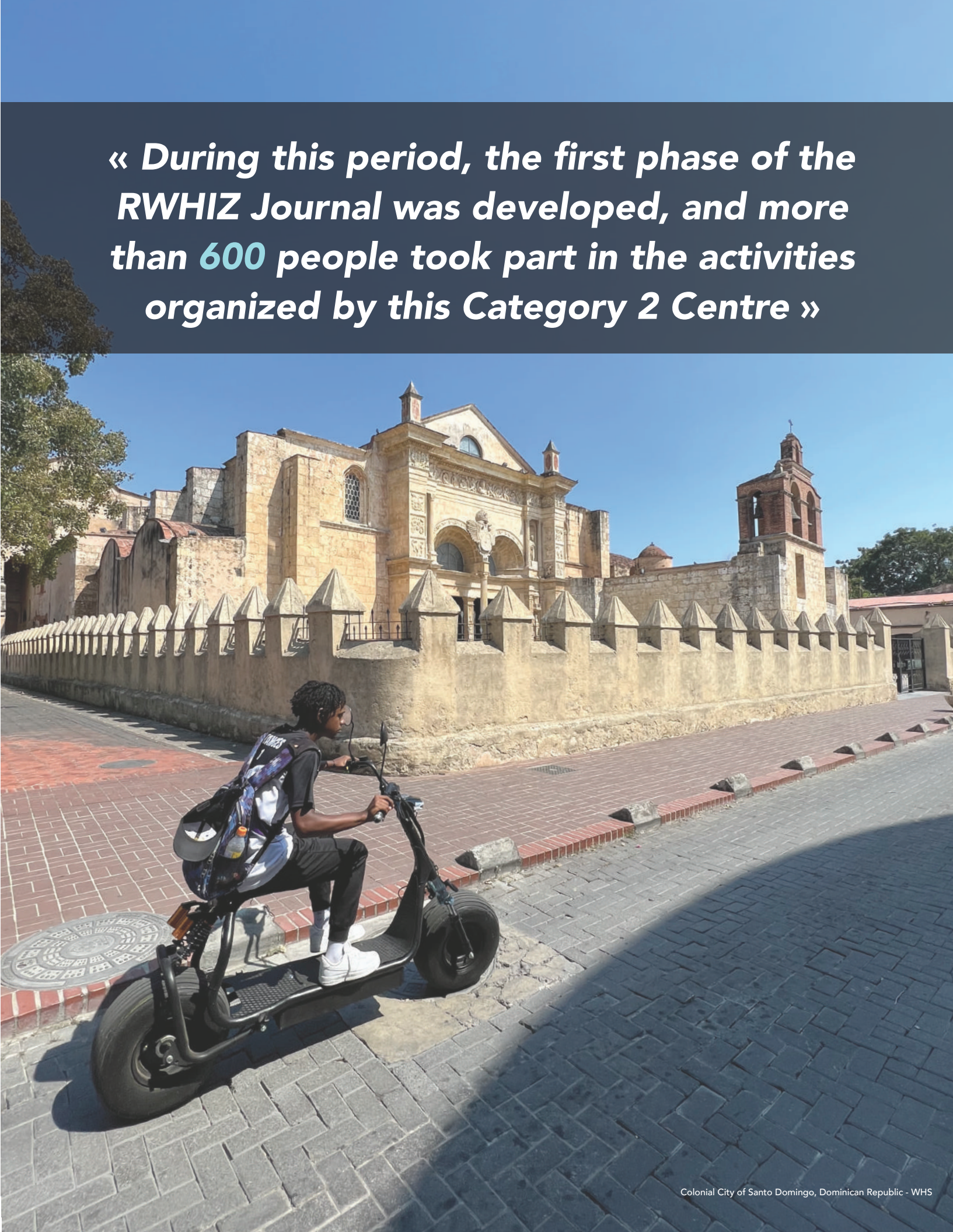
Operational progress was also made in 2024, notably in finalizing a consensus version of the Tripartite Agreement between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Government of the United Mexican States, and the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas for the renewal of its status as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

Advances were also made in the translation of key World Heritage materials, in particular the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, published by ICCROM, IUCN, and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.



Other highlights from this period include the completion of the first phase in developing the journal Enhancing Heritage: Promoting World Heritage in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, the first regular publication of RWHIZ as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO, and the Institute's active participation in the 46th Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee held in New Delhi, India. At this session, RWHIZ presented its report directly to the Committee for the first time, engaged in various side events, and organized a parallel meeting attended by all nine Category 2 Centres related to World Heritage.

« During this period, the first phase of the RWHIZ Journal was developed, and more than 600 people took part in the activities organized by this Category 2 Centre »



IV. Acknowledgements

The work carried out by the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (RWHIZ) in 2024, and the results achieved during this period, would not have been possible without the steadfast support of the RWHIZ Board of Directors; the Government of the State of Zacatecas; and the institutions of the Government of Mexico, particularly the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Directorate-General for the United Nations; the Ministry of Culture, through the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH); the National Institute of Fine Arts and Literature; the Directorate-General of Sites and Monuments of Cultural Heritage; the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, through the National Commission for Natural Protected Areas; and the Ministry of Public Education, through the Mexican Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO.

We also express our sincere thanks to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, through the Latin America and the Caribbean Unit, and to the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee (ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN), particularly the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM). We deeply appreciate the collaboration and support of the States Parties and the Embassies in Mexico of Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, El Salvador, Cuba and the Dominican Republic, as well as their institutions in charge of World Heritage matters: the Ministry of Culture and Sports of Guatemala, through the Directorate-General of Cultural and Natural Heritage; the Ministry of Culture and Youth of Costa Rica, through the National Museum of Costa Rica; the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of El Salvador; the Ministry of Culture of Cuba, through its National Council of Cultural Heritage; the Ministry of Culture of Panama, through the National Directorate of Cultural Heritage; and the Ministry of Culture of the Dominican Republic, through its National Directorate of Monumental Heritage.



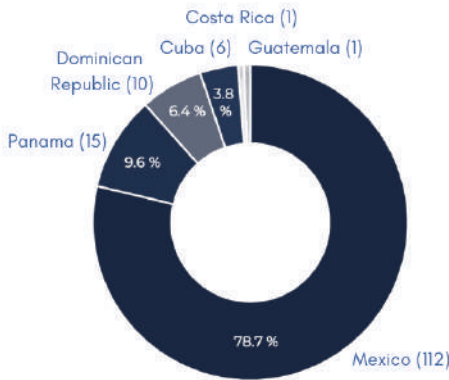
We also value the important collaboration of the National School of Conservation, Restoration and Museography “Manuel del Castillo Negrete” (ENCRyM) of INAH Mexico, through its UNESCO Chair in Conservation Science of Cultural Heritage; the World Heritage Directorate of INAH; and the UNESCO Offices in Mexico and San Jose, Costa Rica.



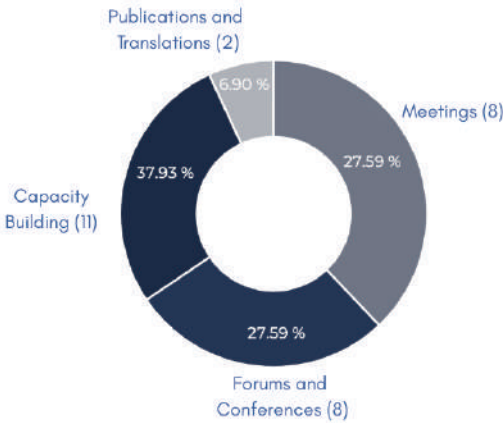
V. Annexes

i. General graphics and scope

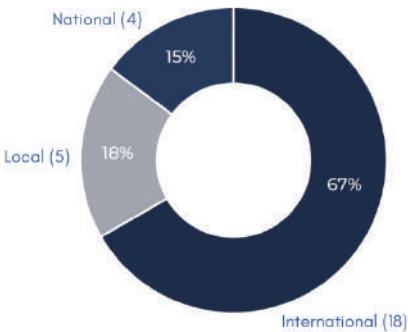
In 2024, 155 people from 6 States Parties participated in Capacity Building activities



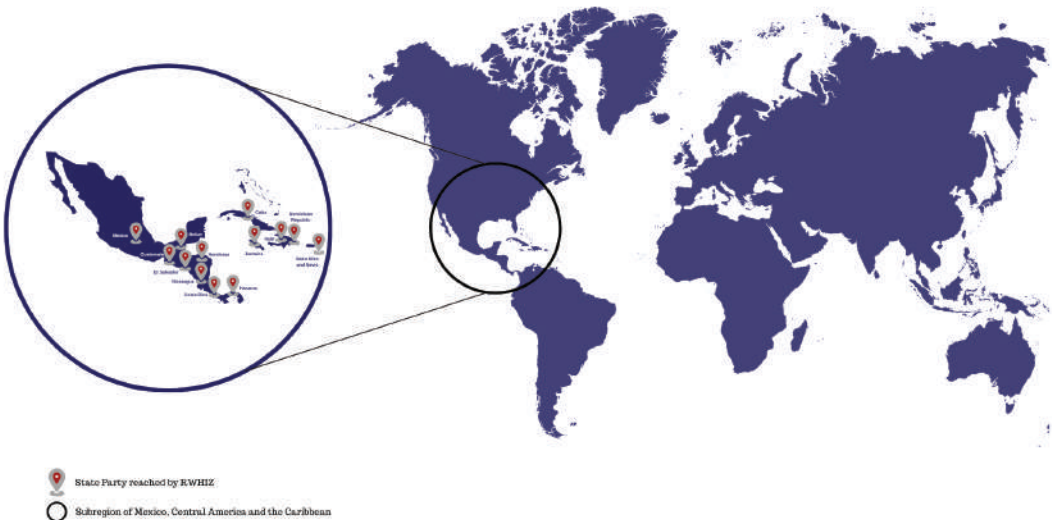
Type of activities carried out in 2024



Level of scope of activities in 2024



In 2024, 13th State Parties were benefited by the activities of the RWHIZ





Ruins of Copan, Honduras- WHS

Consejo de Administración Board of Directors



Instituto Regional del Patrimonio Mundial en Zacatecas
Centro Categoría 2, bajo los auspicios de la UNESCO
para México, América Central y el Caribe

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