# Final Report

th Annual Coordination Meeting unesco

World Heritage-Related Category 2 Centres ZACATECAS, MEXICO

May 26-28, 2025



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







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## Context

The 9th Coordination Meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage-Related Category 2 Centres (C2Cs) was held from 26 to 28 May 2025 in the City of Zacatecas, Mexico, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1993. The meeting was hosted by the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (RWHIZ), with the support of the Government of Mexico and the Government of the State of Zacatecas, in collaboration with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICCROM, and the participating C2Cs.

The event took place in person over three days, with plenary sessions held at the Zacatecano Museum and cultural activities organized at key World Heritage properties, including the Historic Center of Zacatecas, the Regional Museum of Guadalupe (part of the Royal Inland Road / Camino Real de Tierra Adentro), the Historic Center of Mexico City, and the Pre-Hispanic City of Teotihuacan.





## Background

The Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the auspices of UNESCO are institutions that contribute to the implementation of UNESCO priorities and programmes, as well as global development agendas, through international and regional cooperation, knowledge production, policy advice and capacity-building (The 2019 Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the auspices of UNESCO).

While Category 2 Centres can be general or be specialized in a particular topic, as well as have regional or international scope, all are involved to some extent with capacity-building. Capacity-building is linked to all activities related to World Heritage.

The UNESCO's "World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy" (2011) has noted that Category 2 Centres have a fundamental role in achieving better implementation of the 1972 Convention through capacity-building, which is key to driving the success of the others Strategic Objectives: credibility, conservation, communication and communities.

Furthermore, at the 8th Annual Coordination Meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage-Related Category 2 Centres, which was held in Korea in 2023, through the Declaration of Cooperation and Solidarity among the UNESCO World Heritage-related Category 2 Centres (Sejong Declaration), capacity building was considered a common objective among Category 2 Centres.

Therefore, considering the enormous challenges World Heritage faces today, especially in terms of management, conservation and sustainable development, the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (RWHIZ) proposed to hold the 9th Annual Coordination Meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage-Related Category 2 Centres in 2025 in Zacatecas City, Mexico, with the theme: Capacity Building. The key for a better implementation of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention.

The main objective of the meeting was to continue strengthening ties of cooperation and understanding between the Category 2 Centres related to World Heritage, through the exchange of experiences and perspectives.

The meeting also aimed to carry out a preliminary self-assessment of the initial results of the aspirations expressed in the Sejong Declaration, both in the activities undertaken by the Category 2 Centres—from the second half of 2023 to the first quarter of 2025—and in their interactions with the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

Additionally, the meeting served as a space for reflection on the experiences, achievements, and pending issues faced by the Category 2 Centres in linking their activities with UNESCO's World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy, on the eve of its 14th anniversary and its expected update at the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2025.

In preparation for the 9th Coordination Meeting, three online preparatory meetings were conducted between November 2024 and April 2025, with the participation of all UNESCO World Heritage-related Category 2 Centres, ICCROM, and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.



## Sessions and Key Discussions

Over the course of five main thematic sessions (Annex 2), participants shared insights, best practices, and proposals. Highlights included:

- Session 1: Review of activities carried out by each C2C and updates on ongoing or planned initiatives.
- Session 2: Reflections on the initial implementation of the 2023 Sejong Declaration and its implications for C2Cs.
- Session 3: Discussions on the lessons learned from the 2011 Capacity Building Strategy, with interventions from ICCROM, UNESCO, and AWHF.
- Session 4: Presentation and in-depth discussion on the proposed new Capacity Building Strategy 2025–2035, led by ICCROM.
- Session 5: Identification of strategic actions to strengthen inter-C2C collaboration and to enhance their collective role in implementing the World Heritage Convention.





## **Participants**

The Meeting gathered, in-person and online, representatives from the Category 2 Centres related to World Heritage:

- WHIPIC (Republic of Korea)
- ICRART (Spain)
- WII (India)
- AWHF (South Africa)
- Lucio Costa Centre (Brazil)
- RWHIZ (Mexico)

Representatives from UNESCO (Mexico Office), ICCROM, the Government of Zacatecas and the Government of Mexico also participated actively. Likewise, members of the RWHIZ Board of Directors participated as special guests and observers, both in person and online.





















No.	Organization	Participant
	AWHF	Veronica MADUNA
1	African World Heritage Fund	
	LCRMTC	Claudia Feierabend BAETA LEAL
2	Lucio Costa Regional Management	
	Training Centre	
	ICRART	Pilar FATÁS
3	International Centre for Rock Art and the	
	World Heritage Convention	
	ICRART	Cristina LAFUENTE
4	International Centre for Rock Art and the	
	World Heritage Convention	
	WHIPIC	Changnam HONG
_	International Centre for the	
5	Interpretation and Presentation of World	
	Heritage Sites	
	WHIPIC	Nayeon LEE
	International Centre for the	
6	Interpretation and Presentation of World	
	Heritage Sites	
	WII	Nehru PRABAKARAN
	Wildlife Institute of India. World Natural	
7	Heritage Management and Training for	
	Asia and the Pacific Region	
	WII	Anuranjan ROY
	Wildlife Institute of India. World Natural	
8	Heritage Management and Training for	
	Asia and the Pacific Region	
	RWHIZ	Carlos Augusto TORRES
9	Regional World Heritage Institute in	
	Zacatecas	
	RWHIZ	Erika RENTERIA
10	Regional World Heritage Institute in	
	Zacatecas	
11	RWHIZ	Raul E. RODRIGUEZ
	Regional World Heritage Institute in	
	Zacatecas	
	RWHIZ	Veronica PEREA
12	Regional World Heritage Institute in	
	Zacatecas	
13	UNESCO	Andres MORALES
14	ICCROM	Valerie MAGAR



## Presenters Table

	DAY 1		DAY 2		
PRESENTER (P)  MODERATOR (M)	Session 1. Activities Carried Out by C2Cs (2023– 2025) and Current Work Plans	Session 2. Information and Reflections on the Initial Outcomes of the Sejong Declaration	Session 3. Capacity Building, Sustainability, and Financing for World Heritage Conservation: Lessons and outcomes of the UNESCO CBS	Session 4. The Role of C2Cs in Shaping the Future of Capacity Building: Aiming for Better Implementation of the CBS	Session 5. Next Steps to Strengthen Collaboration Between C2Cs and Their Role in the World Heritage System
LUCIO COSTA (BRAZIL)	(P)		(M)	(P)	
WHIPIC (KOREA)	(P)	(P)(M)		(P)	
AWHF (SOUTH AFRICA)	(P)		(P)	(P)	
WII (INDIA)	(P)			(P)	
ICRART (SPAIN)	(P)			(P)	
RWHIZ (MEXICO)	(P)(M)			(P)	(M)
ICCROM			(P)	(P)(M)	
UNESCO			(P)		



## Outcomes and Results

## **Expected Results Achieved**

- Confirmed the commitment to cooperation and solidarity among World Heritage-related C2Cs;
- Evaluated the initial results of the Sejong Declaration and defined future actions to continue strengthening cooperation among C2Cs;
- Analyzed the contributions of C2Cs to UNESCO's World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy (2011).

## Other General Outcomes

- Knowledge Exchange: Participants shared valuable experiences, tools, and methodologies in heritage conservation, digital resources, and capacity-building strategies.
- Strategic Alignment: There was a strong consensus on the need for a more coordinated and strategic approach among C2Cs, aligned with UNESCO's goals.
- Zacatecas Declaration: The meeting concluded with the unanimous adoption and signing of the "Zacatecas Declaration", which defines collective commitments to implement the forthcoming Capacity Building Strategy 2025–2035, strengthen collaboration, and support States Parties (Annex 1).
- Partnership Development: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
  was signed between RWHIZ and WHIPIC, establishing a framework for
  joint action in areas such as interpretation, digital heritage, capacity
  development, and exchange of expertise.
- Future Coordination: Initial agreements were made regarding the hosting of the 10th Coordination Meeting.



## Follow-Up, Commitments and Recommendations

- Continued coordination with the World Heritage Centre is crucial to align C2C initiatives with the broader implementation of the Convention.
- Follow up on the interest expressed by the African World Heritage Fund in hosting and organizing the 10th Meeting of Category 2 Centres in 2026.
- RWHIZ will prepare a Final Results Report of the Meeting (this document) to be shared with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, with the aim of submitting for its consideration the agreements established, the outcomes achieved, and the experiences exchanged during the working sessions, if possible to be mentioned and reported to the World Heritage Committee at its 47th Session.





## Memorandum of Understanding RWHIZ-WHIPIC

Taking advantage of the participation of Mr. Changnam Hong, Director General of WHIPIC, and Ms. Nayeon Lee, Programme Specialist, in the 9th Coordination Meeting of World Heritage-related Category 2 Centres (held in Zacatecas, May 26–28, 2025), both institutions worked together to establish a framework for sustained and strategic collaboration.

The RWHIZ–WHIPIC MoU (2025) outlined concrete commitments, including information exchange, joint training activities, and strengthened technical dialogue through the exchange of specialists—all aimed at enhancing the effective implementation of the 1972 World Heritage Convention.

During the signing ceremony at RWHIZ headquarters, Carlos Augusto Torres Pérez, Director General of RWHIZ, emphasized the importance of partnering with WHIPIC, noting its mandate in interpretation and presentation as essential for the conservation and understanding of World Heritage sites.

Mr. Changnam Hong, Director General of WHIPIC, in turn, highlighted the cooperation principles of the Sejong Declaration (2023), stressing the need to strengthen regional capacities in interpretation and presentation, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean. He noted that the alliance with RWHIZ would be key to advancing this shared goal.

The MoU was signed on May 27, 2025, in the presence of representatives from the Category 2 Centres of Brazil, South Africa, and Spain; ICCROM; RWHIZ collaborators; and civil society representatives. The agreement is valid for five years (Annex 3).





## **Cultural Activities**

The agenda included visits to the Historic Center of Zacatecas, the Regional Museum of Guadalupe —part of the Royal Inland Road— the National Museum of Anthropology, the Historic Museum of Chapultepec Castle, and the Archaeological Zone of the Pre-Hispanic City of Teotihuacan. Additionally, a tour of the RWHIZ headquarters was carried out (for additional images, see Annex 4.)













## Summary

The meeting and related activities, hosted by the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (RWHIZ), successfully brought together representatives from UNESCO Category 2 Centres across multiple countries, alongside key stakeholders from UNESCO, ICCROM, and Mexican federal and state governments. The presence of high-level officials underscored the importance of the event.

Under the central theme "Capacity Building: The Key for a Better Implementation of the 1972 World Heritage Convention," the meeting facilitated five working sessions plus inaugural and closing meetings where participants shared experiences, discussed coordination strategies, and established follow-up mechanisms. This focus highlighted capacity building as an essential pillar for improving the protection and management of World Heritage sites worldwide.

Additionally, several field visits to World Heritage sites were conducted, providing practical insights and strengthening participant engagement. The event also featured the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between RWHIZ and the International Centre for the Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites (WHIPIC), establishing clear guidelines for enhanced cooperation between these two Category 2 Centres.

The meeting concluded with the signing of the *Zacatecas Declaration*, a landmark document that consolidates shared objectives, reinforces international cooperation, and sets forth concrete frameworks for collaborative work among the Centres. This Declaration embodies the commitment to advancing capacity building as a fundamental strategy for the effective implementation of the 1972 Convention.

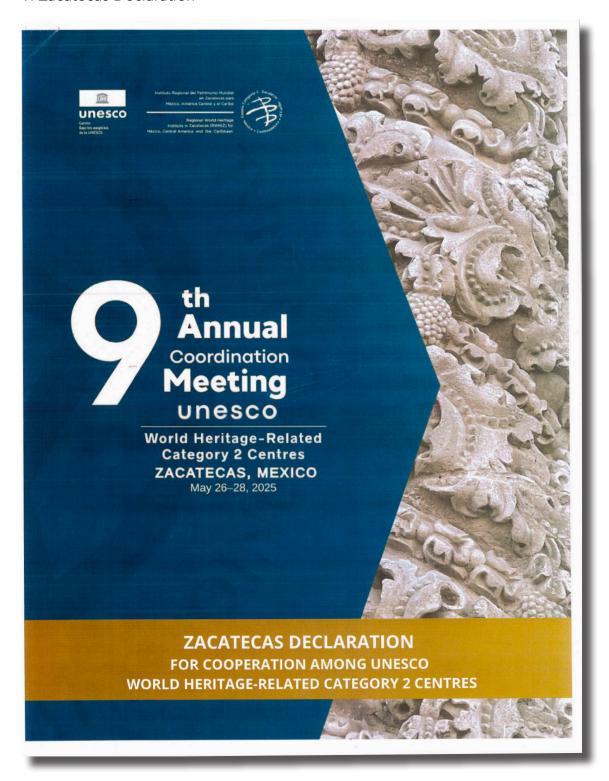
Hosting this meeting in Zacatecas affirmed the city's and state's strong dedication to heritage conservation and positions Zacatecas as a leading regional hub for World Heritage initiatives and capacity development.





## **Annexes**

#### 1. Zacatecas Declaration





#### ZACATECAS DECLARATION FOR COOPERATION AMONG UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE-RELATED CATEGORY 2 CENTRES

#### 1. Preamble

a)We acknowledge the Sejong Declaration (2023) as the foundation for understanding and cooperation among UNESCO World Heritage-related Category 2 Centres.

b)We reaffirm that UNESCO World Heritage Category 2 Centres are institutions that contribute to strengthening sustainable development through the conservation and protection of World Heritage properties, in line with the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

c)We acknowledge Capacity Building as the foundation for Category 2 Centres to foster a better implementation of the World Heritage Convention, and we also recognize the importance of contributing to the application of UNESCO's World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (2025-2035) to be presented at the 47<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee.

d) We consider the World Heritage Place concept, the Interpretation and Presentation of properties, as well as Financing for Conservation and Management as key tools to support the achievement of the shared objectives among our Category 2 Centres.

## 2. Measures to Follow Up on the Principles of the Sejong Declaration

a) Establishment of a focal point annually or biannually to create and coordinate a mechanism for recording joint activities carried out by two or more Category 2 Centres.

b)Preparation of annual cooperation reports between Category 2 Centres, conducted by the focal point and presented at each annual or biennial coordination meeting.

c) Promoting and monitoring the visibility and role of Category 2 Centres in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

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#### 3. Towards a World Heritage Place-Centered Approach

- a) Promoting the World Heritage Place concept based on comprehensive peoplecentered approaches that go beyond the heritage property, considering the natural, cultural, and socio-economic context of the site.
- b) Implementing strategies to integrate World Heritage identification, conservation, interpretation and presentation with the well-being of communities, ensuring that benefits reach all levels of society.
- c) Integrate and promote risk management as an essential part of heritage management strategies, with a particular focus on those arising from climate change, in order to ensure more effective conservation and management of World Heritage properties.

#### 4. The Role of Category 2 Centres in Poverty Reduction

- a) Identifying and promoting models in which World Heritage can be a driver of economic growth, sustainability and social development, especially in developing countries.
- b) Developing strategies to ensure that the benefits of heritage tourism are more equitable and sustainable, ensuring the inclusion of communities.

#### 5. Financing for the Conservation and Development of World Heritage

- a) Encouraging partnerships with international organizations, development banks, and the private sector to promote financing for conservation and community development projects.
- b) Creating and sharing strategies for Category 2 Centres to access global funds and participate in international cooperation projects.

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#### 6. Strengthening Cooperation among Category 2 Centres

- a) Promoting staff mobility among Category 2 Centres to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences.
- b) Encouraging the participation of Category 2 Centres in Capacity Building activities, including Training of Trainers strategies, in collaboration with Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre.

## 7. Implementation of UNESCO's World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (2025-2035)

- a) Assuming the roles and responsibilities assigned to Category 2 Centres in the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (2025-2035).
- b) Promoting the application of the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (2025-2035) by integrating it into the Annual Work Plans of Category 2 Centres.

#### 8. Commitment and Adoption of the Zacatecas Declaration

The Category 2 Centres approve this Declaration and commit to integrating its principles into their work plans and strategies.

Zacatecas, Mexico, May 27, 2025.

World Heritage-Related Category 2 Centres

**Honorary witnesses** 

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Zacatecas
GOBIERNO DEL ESTADO
2021-2027

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## 2. Final Programme

SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2025				
SCHEDULE	ACTIVITY			
	Arrival of participants to Zacatecas  • Check-in at the Hotel			
DAY 1 – MONDAY,	MAY 26 – ZACATECAS			
9:00 – 10:00 hrs	Opening Session Wirikuta Hall, Zacatecano Museum			
	<ul> <li>9:00 – 9:10 Carlos Augusto Torres Perez, Director General of RWHIZ (Welcome remarks)</li> <li>9:10 – 9:30 Participant introductions</li> <li>9:30 – 9:50 Andres Morales, UNESCO Mexico (Speech and opening of the</li> </ul>			
	<ul> <li>9:50 – 10:00 Raul Rodriguez, RWHIZ (Programme and general information)</li> </ul>			
10:00 – 11:45 hrs	Session 1. Activities Carried Out by C2Cs (2023–2025) and Current Work Plans			
	<ul><li>Moderator: RWHIZ</li></ul>			
	Wirikuta Hall, Zacatecano Museum			
	10:00 – 11:30    C2C Presentations (10 to 12 min. each one):			
	<ul> <li>11:30 – 11:40 Q&amp;A</li> <li>11:40 – 11:45 Remarks/conclusions</li> </ul>			
11:45 – 12:00 hrs	Coffee Break			

12:00 – 13:00 hrs	Session 2. Information and Reflections on the Initial Outcomes of the 2023 Sejong Declaration, Republic of Korea  — Moderator: WHIPIC			
	Wirikuta Hall, Zacatecano Museum			
	<ul> <li>12:00 – 12:15 Presentation (10 – 12 min):</li> <li>Information and Reflections on the Initial Outcomes of the 2023 Sejong Declaration (WHIPIC)</li> </ul>			
	• 12:15 – 12:50 Open discussion (3 to 5 minutes optional interventions):			
	– ICRART – WII			
	- AWHF			
	<ul><li>LUCIO COSTA</li></ul>			
	– WHIPIC			
	– RWHIZ			
	- ICCROM			
	- UNESCO			
	• 12:50 – 13:00 Remarks/conclusions			
13:00 – 14:30 hrs	Lunch Break Rear courtyard, Zacatecano Museum			
14:30 – 16:00 hrs	Session 3. Capacity Building, Sustainability, and Financing for World Heritage Conservation: Lessons and outcomes of the UNESCO CB Strategy (2011)			
	<ul> <li>Moderator: LUCIO COSTA</li> </ul>			
	Wirikuta Hall, Zacatecano Museum			
	<ul> <li>14:30 – 14:45 Presentation (15 min):</li> <li>General Lessons and Outcomes of the Capacity-Building Strategy (2011) ICCROM</li> </ul>			
	<ul> <li>14:45 – 15:00 Presentation (15 min):</li> <li>The Role and importance of Capacity Building for Sustainable Development <u>UNESCO</u></li> </ul>			

	<ul> <li>15:00 – 15:15 Presentación (15 min):</li> <li>Financing World Heritage: Sharing Experiences and Strategies for Resource Management <u>AWHF</u></li> </ul>
	• 15:15 – 15:50 Discussion (3 to 5 minutes optional interventions)
	• 15:50 – 16:00 Remarks/conclusions
16:00 – 18:00 hrs	Scenic Tour of Zacatecas City (WHS)
18:00 – 18:30 hrs	Transfer to the Regional Museum of Guadalupe, a component of the Royal Inland Road (WHS)
18:30 – 20:00 hrs	Regional Museum of Guadalupe, a component of the Royal Inland Road (WHS)  Tour and official photograph Dinner Reception
20:00 hrs	Transfer to the Host Hotel

DAY 2 – TUESDAY, MAY 27 – ZACATECAS		
9:00 – 11:00 hrs	Session 4. The Role of Category 2 Centres in Shaping the Future of Capacity Building: Aiming for Better Implementation of the Capacity Building Strategy  - Moderator ICCROM - Wirikuta Hall, Zacatecano Museum  • 9:00 – 9:15 Presentation (12 - 15 min):  - Proposed New Capacity Building Strategy (2025-2035) (ICCROM)	
	9:15 – 10:30 C2Cs Interventions (8 to 10 minutes each one):  WHIPIC  ICRART  WII  AWHF  LUCIO COSTA  RWHIZ	

	<ul> <li>10:30 – 10:50 Discussion</li> <li>10:50 – 11:00 Remarks/conclusions</li> </ul>
11:00 – 11:15 hrs	Coffee Break
11:15 – 12:30 hrs	<b>Session 5.</b> Discussion and Exchange of Experiences on the Next Steps to Strengthen Collaboration Between C2Cs and Their Role in the World Heritage System
	<ul><li>Moderator: RWHIZ</li></ul>
	Wirikuta Hall, Zacatecano Museum
	<ul> <li>11:15 – 11:45 Final adjustments to the Zacatecas Declaration</li> <li>All participants discuss</li> </ul>
	- All participants discuss
	<ul> <li>11:45 – 12:00 Report of the 9<sup>th</sup> C2C's Coordination Meeting to the WHC</li> </ul>
	All participants discuss
	<ul> <li>12:00 – 12:15 10th C2C's Coordination Meeting</li> </ul>
	Organizers, Venue, Date, Theme, etc.
	• 12:15 – 12:30 Remarks/conclusions (or break)
12:30 – 13:15 hrs	Closing Session and SIGNING OF THE ZACATECAS DECLARATION
	Central Courtyard, Zacatecano Museum
	<ul> <li>12:30 – 12:35 Welcome to authorities and special guests</li> <li>RWHIZ</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>12:35 – 12:40 Report on the Outcomes of the 9th C2C Meeting</li> <li>RWHIZ</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>12:40 – 12:50 Protocol Signing Ceremony of the Zacatecas Declaration</li> <li>C2Cs and special witnesses</li> </ul>
	• 12:50 – 13:15 Closing Speeches
13:15 – 13:30 hrs	Transfer to the Lunch Venue
13:30 – 14:50 hrs	Lunch Reception

14:50 - 15:00 hrs	Transfer to the RWHIZ, UNESCO C2C
15:00 - 15:30 hrs	Tour of the RWHIZ facilities and MoU RWHIZ-WHIPIC signing ceremony
15:30 - 17:00 hrs	Tour Historic Center of Zacatecas (WHS)
17:00 – 18:30 hrs	Free Time
18:30 – 20:00 hrs	Dinner Reception – Rafael Coronel Museum
DAY 3 – WEDNESD	AY, MAY 28 – MEXICO CITY
06:30 hrs	Departure to Zacatecas International Airport "Leobardo C. Ruíz"
08:34 hrs	Flight to Mexico City
09:30 hrs	Arrival to the International Airport "Benito Juárez" Mexico City
10:00 hrs	Transfer to the National Anthropology Museum of Mexico
10:30 - 12:00 hrs	Tour in the National Anthropology Museum of Mexico
12:00 - 13:30 hrs	Lunch Break
13:30 - 14:30 hrs	Transfer to the Hotel
14:30 - 17:00 hrs	Hotel Check-In and Free Time
17:00 – 17:30 hrs	Transfer to the National Museum of History "Castillo de Chapultepec"
17:30 – 20:00 hrs	Tour in the Museum and Closing Reception
20:00 hrs	Transfer to the Hotel
DAY 4 – THURSDAY	I, MAY 29 – MEXICO CITY
08:00 – 13:00 hrs	Optional Tour to the Archaeological Site of Teotihuacan (World Heritage Site)

# 3. MoU WHIPIC-RWHIZ

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

International Centre for the Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites (WHIPIC), hereby represented by its Director-General, Changnam Hong

and

Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (RWHIZ) hereby represented by its Director-General, Carlos Augusto Torres Perez

regarding

Cooperation for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention

#### 1. PREAMBLE

WHEREAS WHIPIC, the International Centre for the Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites, is a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO established to promote the understanding and protection of World Heritage through inclusive heritage interpretation and presentation. The main objectives of the Centre are to contribute to accelerating sustainable development through conservation and promotion of World Heritage Sites and to strengthen the implementation of the 1972 World Heritage Convention.

## The WHIPIC's role is:

- To conduct research on the principles and guidelines of World Heritage interpretation and presentation;
- To develop and implement capacity-building programmes for the interpretation and presentation of World Heritage;
- To establish an information system and build technical capacity as a foundation for World Heritage interpretation and presentation.

And

WHEREAS RWHIZ, the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas, is a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO, established to contribute to the implementation of the 1972 World Heritage Convention in Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean, primarily through capacity building, as well as through dissemination, reporting, and research.

In addition, RWHIZ's role is:

- To contribute to strengthening capacity building for the implementation of the Convention in the Region;
- To support and enhance international cooperation by joining efforts with other existing or upcoming Category 2 Centres or Institutes, as well as with UNESCO State Parties in the Region:
- To contribute to sustainable development by promoting good practices, as well as by creating and disseminating information.

AND WHEREAS as Category 2 Centres under the auspices of UNESCO, both Sides intend to build upon the spirit of the 'Sejong Declaration of Understanding and Cooperation among the UNESCO World Heritage-related Category 2 Centres,' adopted by nine such Centres and Institutes in 2023. While maintaining their respective independence under their own legal frameworks, both Sides hereby agree to enhance cooperation through this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

# 2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to establish a general framework for cooperation between the Sides in undertaking joint activities, meetings, information exchange, and personnel exchange, with the aim of enhancing the effectiveness of their respective missions in preserving World Heritage in the Asia-Pacific, Latin American, and Caribbean regions.

#### 3. AREAS OF COOPERATION

The Parties shall promote cooperation within the framework of the World Heritage Convention and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with the aim of preserving and safeguarding World Heritage. They shall work to ensure that diverse stakeholders contribute to understanding the value of World Heritage in the Asia-Pacific, Latin American, and Caribbean regions in a multifaceted and inclusive manner, taking into account regional and cultural characteristics.

Potential areas of cooperation include:

- Conducting joint research on the challenges and issues faced by World Heritage sites in the Asia-Pacific, Latin American, and Caribbean regions according to their specific contexts, and exploring potential areas of cooperation;
- 2) Implementing joint capacity-building and awareness-raising programs for diverse heritage stakeholders to support inclusive interpretation and presentation, and to assist in the development of interpretation strategies within heritage management plans;

- 3) Exchanging information on activities and interests, and jointly producing and developing various digital content using information and communication technologies;
- 4) Participating in and cooperating on policy development and thematic activities and meetings organized independently or with partners by either Side;
- Establishing coordination and administrative implementation mechanisms to enable the planning, coordination, execution, and monitoring of collaborative projects of mutual interest.

#### 4. IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE

For each activity under this MoU, the Sides shall jointly develop and agree upon the respective programme. Where necessary, the implementation of programmes shall be carried out through supplementary memoranda or agreements, which will define implementation responsibilities, overall budget, and financial obligations of each Side and any additional partners.

# 5. EFFECTIVE DATE AND DURATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This MoU shall enter into force upon signature by both Sides and shall remain valid for five (5) years. It may be renewed for additional five-year periods upon mutual written agreement. Either Side may terminate this MoU by providing three (3) months' written notice to the other Side. Such termination shall not affect any supplementary agreements in effect at the time of termination, the implementation of which shall continue in accordance with their respective terms.

# 6. AMENDMENTS

This MoU may be amended by mutual written consent of both Sides, with each amendment signed and dated by both Sides.

## 7. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The signatories of this MoU agree to resolve amicably any differences that may arise regarding the interpretation or implementation of this MoU.

## 8. REPRESENTATION

Neither Side shall have the authority to represent or commit the other Side in any contractual or other manner without the prior express written consent of the other Side.

#### 9. PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

Nothing in this MoU shall be construed as a waiver of the privileges and immunities enjoyed by WHIPIC or RWHIZ under any applicable bilateral agreement.

# 10. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Unless otherwise agreed, intellectual property and copyright of all jointly developed documents produced under this MoU shall be jointly owned by WHIPIC and RWHIZ. Commercial use of such documents shall require the agreement of both Sides.

#### 11. USE OF LOGOS

The Sides agree to display their respective logos, in approved formats, on the covers of all publications, reports, and promotional materials produced in connection with activities undertaken under this MoU. When appropriate, logos of other partners involved in the specific activity may also be displayed.

#### 12. LIMITATIONS

This MoU does not restrict either Side from entering into similar agreements with other entities. It does not confer exclusivity in the conduct of activities such as research, capacity building, and information sharing either jointly or individually with third parties.

# 13. NOTIFICATIONS

All communications under this MoU shall be considered given when sent by registered mail with prepaid postage to the following addresses:

WHIPIC RWHIZ

2107, Hannuri-daero, Sejong-si, 831, Juan de Tolosa, Historic Center of

30150 Zacatecas, 98000

SOUTH KOREA MEXICO

This MoU is signed in triplicate in Korean, Spanish, and English in Mexico City on 27 May 2025, all texts being equally authentic. In case of interpretation discrepancies, the English version shall prevail.

# 14. SIGNATURES

For WHIPIC

For RWHIZ

Changnam Hong
Director-General

Carlos Augusto Torres Perez
Director-General

Date:

# 4. Photographic Record







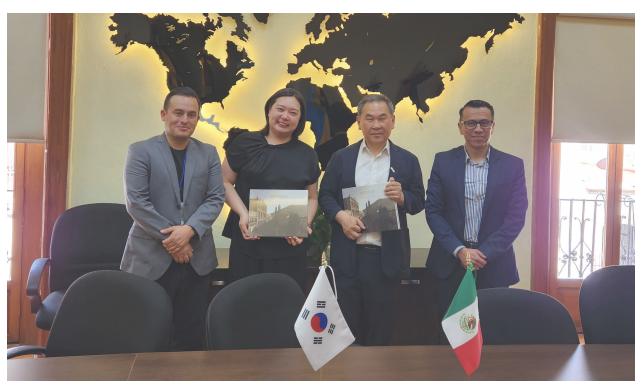
































# 5. Social Media Coverage

The @africanworldheritagefund proudly participated in the 9th Annual Coordination Meeting of UNESCO World Heritage-Related Category 2 Centres (C2Cs), hosted by the @irpmzcc2:

https://www.instagram.com/p/DKeKY-chseWi/?img\_index=2&igsh=MW4w-d2k1aXBmamdjYw%3D%3D

Centro Lucio Costa participa de encontro com outros Centros de Categoria 2 da Unesco, no México — Instituto do Patrimônio Histórico e Artístico Nacional:

https://www.gov.br/iphan/pt-br/assuntos/ noticias/centro-lucio-costa-participa-de-encontro-com-outros-centros-de-categoria-2-da-unesco-no-mexico

Zacatecas, sede del encuentro internacional de los Centros de Categoría 2 de la UNESCO Del 26 al 28 de mayo, Zacatecas fue sede de la 9ª Reunión Internacional de Coordinación entre los Centros de Categoría 2 de la UNESCO relacionados con el Patrimonio Mundial:

https://www.instagram.com/p/DKckHZLN-78V/?img\_index=1

For more information and materials, scan the QR code:













# Acknowledgements

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We are particularly grateful to the members of the RWHIZ Board of Directors and to the entire RWHIZ team for their professionalism, hard work, and unwavering commitment to advancing the mission of the Institute.

The achievements reflected in these pages are the result of a shared effort and a strong spirit of international collaboration. To all who have contributed, we extend our most sincere thanks.







# Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (RWHIZ) Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO For Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean

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