

Report of the Treasurer to the Annual General Assembly and Advisory Committee Fukuoka, Japan, October 2015

This General Assembly heralds the first to be held under the new regime contained within the revised statutes of ICOMOS that were adopted in Florence in 2014, this had a number of implications for the Board including the more enhanced and transparent manner in which the financial information is presented to the membership.

It is therefore my pleasure to present this financial report to you: attached to this narrative are the audited financial statements for the year ended December 2014, which were considered and adopted by the Executive Committee in March of this year; also the proposed budget for the year 2016 which requires the approval of this General Assembly. Other information relates to the roll-out of the budget for the current year.

In presenting this report I must acknowledge and thank our Director General, Marie-Laure Lavenir and our accountant Henri Verrier, without whose input and support this would not have been possible. Their assistance is greatly appreciated.

The Budget 2015 - Income & Expenditure

The current year's budget cycle is almost complete and to date the income and expenditure are within the expected parameters.

Income

The pie chart on the PowerPoint is a useful tool in analyzing the sources of income that ICOMOS receives and how the expenditure is broken down. The work done in terms of the World Heritage Convention makes up just over half of our income (53%), whilst membership subscriptions contribute 30%, the remainder of our income is derived from funding for special projects (17%), and as such is ring-fenced for those particular activities.

These activities comprise essentially additional advisory missions requested by States Parties, or expert advice and research work undertaken (World Monuments Fund, thematic studies ...).

Following on from the ICOMOS representations to the World Heritage Committee, ICOMOS was granted an additional Euro 52,000.00 to enable us to undertake the additional work required in terms of our new approach to interactive dialogue and engagement with States Parties particularly with regard to new nominations.

Expenditure

The 50th anniversary activities generated a one-off special expenditure amounting to slightly less than 4000 Euro.

It is also pleasing to note that for the first time grants were made to 8 laureates from the Raymond Lemaire Fund; this fund as you all know, was established to support students or younger heritage professional to further develop their skills and we are pleased to record that the students and young professionals from 8 countries received grants that totaled Euro 8,500.00. Without taking into account the 2015 contributions (7 500€ to date) this leaves less than 1 500 Euro in the fund and we therefore encourage all the National Committees to continue to support this worthwhile endeavor.

As is customary, personnel costs take up the largest proportion of expenditure, running at 47 %, the World Heritage Convention work includes the costs of consultants for missions and State of Conservation work as well.

It is always our intention to adopt a balanced budget, i.e. income and expenditure balance and these figures are reflected on the preliminary budget for the triennial 2016 - 2018. The budget for the next triennial is based upon historical information and a number of assumptions for expected future special projects identified by the Board.

The membership due increase will be implemented in 2016 and National Committees have already received information about the new dates of payment for subscriptions. (The deadline being December 2015).

The budget for the 2016 work on the World Heritage Convention activities was approved by the World Heritage Committee at the meeting held in Bonn, Germany in July of this year.

Some points that the Assembly may wish to note include the allowance for some additional human resources to further assist our International Secretariat. These additional resources will strengthen the current team, both to improve the support provided by the International Secretariat to the ICOMOS network -to you!- and to better meet the demands for dialogue with States Parties, as part of our World Heritage activities. This will go a long way in alleviating the enormous pressure that our staff have in fulfilling the delivery expected by the membership and affiliated organizations. This is largely due to the modest increase in membership dues and the increased budget allocated to staff costs in the context of our World Heritage activities.

There is however, a very real need to increase our financial resources in order to develop and strengthen the support to our various networks: we need to focus particularly in communication including the further resourcing of our IT division. There is also an urgent need to look at and manage the extensive ICOMOS archives, as well as continuing and growing our efforts to support young professionals. (I have already referred to the Raymond Lemaire Fund for example).

Another area that requires consideration for future funding is, of course, the Victoria Falls Fund which is specifically focused on assisting professionals from developing countries to engage more fully with ICOMOS at occasions such as the General Assembly.

In conclusion, I should make mention of the Financial and Funding Working Group that was established in Florence during the last General Assembly. This group has started work and is exploring ways in which ICOMOS may expand its income in a sustainable manner in the future. Colleagues who have an interest in this and wish to make a contribution by joining this group are most welcome, so please do not hesitate to contact me in this regard.

Once again, my thanks to the Director General and staff of ICOMOS, as well as my colleagues on the Board, all of whom have made valuable contributions to the development of the budget both in the past and going forward into the future.

Laura Robinson
Treasurer
September 2015