**DECLARATION OF THE KIMBERLEY WORKSHOP
ON THE INTANGIBLE HERITAGE
OF MONUMENTS AND SITES**

On the occasion of the Kimberley Workshop to which all national committees were invited, the role of intangible heritage in relation to the work of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Convention was discussed. At the workshop it was agreed to submit a resolution to the 14th meeting of the ICOMOS General Assembly at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, for the development of a charter on Intangible Heritage.

PREAMBLE

ICOMOS recognises the indivisible nature of tangible and intangible heritage. Intangible Heritage gives meanings, values and context to objects and places. The individual elements cannot be separated, they are inextricably linked.

It is also important to understand that there is a multiplicity of values that exist within any one site and that these relate to emotive, intellectual, physical and sensory experiences of the site. These values include those of symbolism, identity, culture, living traditions, remembrance and memories, the environment and nature.

In terms of the World Heritage Committee and the work of ICOMOS, intangible heritage provides the confirmation of the values of the place, and its significance.

ICOMOS therefore welcomes the adoption of the UNESCO International Convention for the safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage by the 32nd Session of the General Conference in Paris in October 2003, and resolves to work to integrate the purposes of the Convention to improve the Guidelines of the World Heritage Convention by expanding them to include intangible heritage values. It was also resolved to integrate the principles of intangible heritage into general heritage conservation practices, for the identification, assessment, conservation and management of sites.

The resolution has been developed around the 3 sub-themes of the 2003 Zimbabwe General Assembly.

1   THE INTANGIBLE DIMENSIONS - CONCEPTS, IDENTIFICATION AND ASSEMBLY

The identification and assessment of a place/site must be done in collaboration with the communities concerned to fully explore all the intangible dimensions of its cultural heritage.

2   THE IMPACT OF CHANGE AND DIVERSE PERCEPTIONS

(This sub-theme considers the issue of use, the diversity of perceptions, skills and conservation traditions)

An analysis of the multiplicity of perceptions and meanings attached to a site shall assist in understanding:

- the significance of the relationship between the tangible and intangible heritage;
- the social rationale behind the practices and beliefs associated with a site;
- the traditional skills and craftsmanship that have maintained and conserved the site/place to date;
- the reason for, and impact of, change;
- the ways in which change can be incorporated into intangible heritage
- practices to maintain the integrity of the place.

3   CONSERVING AND MANAGING INTANGIBLE HERITAGE - METHODOLOGY

IDENTIFICATION

- Raise with the relevant communities the matter of identifying the intangible values of the heritage;
- Include fully the communities in the process of identification;
- Form a multi-disciplinary team capable of identifying the heritage values – both tangible and intangible;
- To document the intangible heritage and to ensure that the tangible record of the intangible heritage is conserved;
- To recognize and protect the intellectual property (rights?) relevant to the intangible heritage.

PROTECTION

- Heritage is to be managed as a whole with both its facets – tangible and intangible;
- Involve the relevant communities fully in the conservation of heritage;
- Celebrate and encourage the intangible aspects of heritage values;
- Encourage the maintenance of the living intangible heritage as a living traditions, whilst recognising its evolution and changes, by the technical means available – both traditional and modern;
- Include at the statutory/legislative level the intangible notion of heritage as well as the traditional protection by the relevant communities;
- Record and protect the intellectual property (rights) of the intangible heritage.

SHARING AND INTERPRETATION

- The sensitisation of the ethical and moral values of heritage in regards to communities and decision-makers;
- Assure the continuity of awareness of the intangible values of heritage by increased access by the young;

- Respect and accept cultural and ethnic diversity by using appropriate means of communication, preservation and conservation;
- Ensure that the intangible heritage is not damaged by excessive visitor numbers and inappropriate interpretation;
- Communicate the significance of the site/place in such a manner so as to ensure the authenticity of the intangible heritage.

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe
31 October 2003