

UNESCO World Heritage Meeting. Struve Arc. 11 May 2016

Dear colleagues and friends,

On 11 May at UNESCO headquarters in Paris Alessandro Balsamo, specialist of programs for WHM, had invited around the table:

Edmond Moukala, Chef of Unity for Sub Sahara countries,

Anna Sidorenko, specialist for Europe and American unit

A representative from Finland, who remained in permanent telephone connection, but was sorry not personally to be present

A secretary who took notes for the meeting

and I represented the IIHS&M

M. Balsamo was leading the discussions and chairing the meeting in a constructive atmosphere.

I distributed to all present:

1. a copy of the notes Jim Smith had prepared : *Struve Geodetic Arc World Heritage Monument : update on its possible extension*

2. and I presented the 2 files :

*Meridian Arcs in Africa : Arc of the 30th Meridian* by Jim Smith , RT Wonnacott and T Zakiewicz; and

*Connection between the Struve geodetic Arc and the arc of the 30<sup>th</sup> Meridian.*

3. The submission document for the Struve Geodetic Arc prepared by Jim Smith 4/2002 and introduced by Finland, with the approval of all 10 countries concerned.

4. Copies of the detailed maps and coordinates for the 30<sup>th</sup> Meridian prepared by Patrick Vorster.

So all present had the files handy, and could see that considerable preparation work had been accomplished since 2005.

M Balsamo explained that for UNESCO three geographic entities are concerned ,

1 Europe for the extension of the existing Struve geodetic Arc represented at the meeting by Finland and Anna Sidorenko ,

2 North Africa concerns 3 countries: Libya, Egypt and North Soudan

3 The sub- Sahara countries represented by by M. Moukala

M Balsamo asked me to present the project for extension of the Struve Geodetic Arc, which has been on the WHM list since 2005 in Durban

I explained that the IIHS&M had prepared the research for the Struve Geodetic Arc and that Finland was the country chosen to coordinate and officially introduce the project.

Since then Jim Smith has prepared and coordinated the research on the measurement of the geodetic arc through Africa to South Africa where it was instigated by David Gill in 1879, and the liaison between the Struve Arc and Greece, Crete and bridging the Mediterranean sea in 1954. (the 2 files on the table) .

We had worked in steps

Step 1 The Struve Arc involving from Norway to Ukraine research from 1994 FIG congress in Sydney where we proposed to work on the Inscription on the WHM list

Step 2 Since 2001 we chaired the first meeting in Talinn and Tartu, Estonia, to prepare and coordinate the tentative lists by all 10 concerned countries. Subsequent meetings were held in Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Belorussia and in Moldova. Finland

undertook to coordinate and publish the material acquired for the submission and the signatures of all 10 countries for its introduction to UNESCO .

Step 3 A committee of all concerned countries for the Struve Arc was created with Finland chairing the early annual meetings. The next meeting of this committee is planned in Vilnius later in 2016.

We thanked the Finland delegate who confirmed that his country, who introduced the original Struve Arc, was willing to communicate their experience with the future countries who will introduce the Enhancement.

M. Balsamo explains that each country of the 3 geographic entities will have to prepare tentative lists of monuments and that these are to be discussed first on a regional level and later on a general meeting representing all countries, who will participate. Meetings already arranged which could be opportunities to meet are: Vilnius later this year for the European countries involved through to Crete, and Algiers in November for the African countries . Possible also is Istanbul this July or the next meeting of WHM in 2017.

We have read the questionnaire presented by Patrick Vorster, The various points were discussed by all participants . A copy was handed to M. Balsamo, who will respond to me electronically and I will forward the answers to you.

With regard to the original submission we expressed our satisfaction on the efficient collaboration with Peter Stott who had steered us through the paperwork. M. Balsamo responded that he has worked with Peter and that he is willing to help us again in the coordination and administrative procedures.

All participants expressed their satisfaction with the existing first scientific instrument trans-boarder project on the World Heritage List. Anna Sidorenko said that science had been the universal language in this first nomination.

For the Universal values - they were all presented in the initial nomination, so there should not be particular difficulties for this extension, as the universal values had already been discussed and agreed.

On practicality. There are three geographic entities. Each of them will have to coordinate the tentative list of the concerned countries, The contacts will be taken by RSA for the African Countries to prepare for the meeting in Algiers in November.

Serbia volunteered to coordinate the tentative lists for the European countries and this can be discussed in Vilnius. The documentation prepared by Jim Smith and Patrick Vorster can be circulated so that the Surveyors in charge in each country can decide which of the points are opportune to present in the tentative list and so they can verify if the original points do still exist. The FIG young surveyors can be involved in this if the respective national Surveyor-Generals are agreeable for them to give a helping hand in their respective countries.

Sincerely yours  
Jan De Graeve  
Director IIHS&M