

Distribution Limited

WHC-92/CONF.002/5
Paris, 22 October 1992
Original: English/French

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

World Heritage Committee
Sixteenth session

Santa Fe, New Mexico, United States of America
7-14 December 1992

Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda: Monitoring of the state of
conservation of World Heritage Cultural and Natural Properties

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page no.
A. Introduction	2
B. Background	3
C. State of Conservation of Cultural World Heritage Properties	4
C.1. General Information	4
C.2. Progress report on state of conservation of cultural World Heritage properties	5
D. State of Conservation of Natural World Heritage Properties	9
D.1. General Information	9
D.2. Progress report on state of conservation of natural World Heritage properties	10
E. State of conservation of mixed World Heritage properties	20
F. State of Conservation of World Heritage Properties in Danger	21

A. INTRODUCTION

This document describes the state of conservation of a selected number of cultural, natural and mixed properties, inscribed on the World Heritage List and on the List of World Heritage in Danger, with regard to:

- a) the main technical and policy issues pertinent to the conservation of these properties;
- b) recommendations already made by the Bureau and/or the Committee for addressing such issues;
- c) action taken by the Secretariat in implementing the recommendations of the Bureau and/or the Committee, and

- d) recommendations the Committee may consider making at its sixteenth session to ensure the conservation of the properties.

The technical advisory bodies to the World Heritage Committee, namely ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN, may provide additional information pertaining to the conservation of the World Heritage properties reported in this document. They may also report on the state of conservation of other World Heritage properties, not included in this report, on the basis of information available to them.

The Committee is requested to review the information provided, and in the light of discussions during the session, recommend measures which would enable the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and advisory bodies to continue to monitor the state of conservation of the properties discussed in this document. In the case of World Heritage properties where the State Party concerned has responded to the information requested by the Bureau, the recommendation(s) the Committee may wish to make is proposed and is shown in bold letters. The Committee may endorse these recommendations, incorporating additions and changes as it may deem necessary.

B. BACKGROUND

Monitoring refers to all measures taken by the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau, to collate and collect information on World Heritage properties in order to be able to identify threats to the values for which properties were granted World Heritage status, and take timely action to remove or minimize those threats. Thus, monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage properties involves:

- (i) systematic gathering and organization of information on World Heritage properties through an on-going system of consultations with experts, policy and decision-makers, site managers and local people, and
- (ii) identification of specific threats to make timely interventions, either through negotiations with competent authorities in States Parties, and/or launching international assistance projects, to remove or minimize those threats.

The Committee is aware of the fact that unlike during the early years of the implementation of the Convention, when identification and inscription of cultural and natural properties on the World Heritage List was the main focus of the work of the Committee, monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage properties has become its major concern, particularly in the late 1980s. This subject will continue to demand an increasing amount of time and resources available to the Committee during the 1990s.

In monitoring the state of conservation of cultural and natural properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, the Committee has adopted both approaches described under (i) and (ii). The Committee's interventions have been successful in averting threats and/or have improved the state of conservation of several World Heritage properties.

Unlike past sessions of the Committee, reports on the state of conservation of cultural and natural properties submitted to this session are provided in a single document and will be considered as part of the same agenda item. This change is in response to the need to bring greater co-ordination to the implementation of the cultural and natural part of the World Heritage Convention, one of the main aims of the recently established UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

C. STATE OF CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES

C.1. General Information:

At its sixteenth session, held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, from 6-10 July 1992, the Bureau reviewed information on the state of conservation of 12 sites provided by the Co-ordinator of the UNEP Project on "100 Mediterranean Sites". The Bureau noted that restoration and conservation work in the World Heritage sites of Arles and Pont du Gard (France), Kerkouane (Tunisia), and Goreme (Turkey) were progressing satisfactorily. In each of the above cases the Bureau took note of the specific measures taken by the World Heritage Centre as a follow-up to the decisions of the Committee made at its last session.

The Bureau also examined a paper on monitoring of cultural and mixed World Heritage properties in Latin America. The Regional Co-ordinator and Chief Technical Adviser, UNESCO/UNDP Project for Cultural, Urban and Environmental Heritage and Development, reported on the outcome of an experimental monitoring exercise carried out in relation to six sites in Latin America. The Bureau expressed satisfaction with the conceptual approach used by this monitoring exercise, and recommended that the work plan and the modus operandi of the 1991-95 proposals for monitoring 39 sites in Latin America, the Caribbean and Mozambique be approved by the Committee. The Bureau also recommended that an overall report, in the form of a bulletin, on the state of conservation of World Heritage sites in Latin America, be submitted to the Committee at its sixteenth session.

The Bureau stressed the need to adopt a regional approach to the monitoring of cultural World Heritage sites, taking advantage of the conceptual approach used in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Bureau also noted information reported by the representative of ICOMOS on the following sites: Monastery of Rila (Bulgaria), Budapest (Hungary), Kizhi Pogost (Russian Federation) and Stonehenge (United Kingdom). The representative

of ICOMOS informed the Bureau that a more detailed report, accompanied by slide projections, will be submitted to the Committee.

C.2. Progress Report on the State of Conservation of Cultural World Heritage Properties

The Bureau reviewed information concerning specific problems regarding the conservation of the following sites and made recommendations for the consideration of the competent authorities in the States Parties concerned:

Quebec Historic Area (Canada)

The Bureau was informed of the building proposals in the buffer zone along the Saint-Lawrence River and the impact they would have on the views across the River. ICOMOS was critical about the consultation process and the design, and specifically of the failure of the many levels of government to work together. The Bureau also learnt that four other prominent persons in Quebec had expressed similar concerns. The Bureau noted with concern the incompatibility between such activities and the aspiration of Quebec City concerning the World Heritage Cities Secretariat. The creation of an interdepartmental committee to co-ordinate federal government inputs to the issue was considered useful. The Bureau requested the Chairman to write to the three concerned levels of the Canadian Government (municipal, provincial and federal) expressing its concerns and requested that ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre obtain a detailed report on the status of the building proposals for submission to the Committee in December 1992.

The Permanent Delegate of Canada to UNESCO was informed of the Bureau's concerns and recommendations by letter of 10 September 1992 and detailed information regarding the building proposals is awaited. ICOMOS will be visiting the site in early November 1992 and will present a report to the Committee.

Abou Mena (Egypt)

The Bureau noted with concern the dangers threatening the conservation of the site because of its fragility and the increasing flow of pilgrims, as well as a possible reconstruction of the church over the Saint's tomb. The Bureau requested the World Heritage Centre to draw the attention of the competent national authorities to these matters and request their assurances to take all action necessary for conserving this site.

The recommendations of the Bureau were transmitted to the Egyptian authorities by a letter dated 9 September 1992 and a reply is awaited.

Delos (Greece)

The Bureau noted that the restoration work was continuing and that the archaeological activities were limited to excavations connected with the installation of an electric line. The Bureau was concerned that the means and human resources to ensure the protection of the site were not yet in place.

The Division of Classical Antiquities responsible for the management of Delos, in their response to the Bureau's concerns, has informed the World Heritage Centre that restoration problems at this site were mainly caused by adverse meteorological conditions and salty air. The excavations carried out in connection with the installation of facilities for electricity in the island have been completed and an ancient "tavern" with important items of pottery has been discovered.

The Greek authorities have agreed with the Bureau's comment regarding the inadequacy of human resources available for the protection of the site and have informed the World Heritage Centre that they are now taking necessary steps to appoint additional personnel. While there are only six guards at present, it has been estimated that a minimum of twenty guards would be required for the adequate protection of the site under normal conditions.

Delphi (Greece)

The Bureau was satisfied with the positive assessment of the state of conservation of the monuments and expressed its wish that the national authorities take measures to strengthen the protection of this site.

The Division of Classical Antiquities responsible for the management of the site has informed the World Heritage Centre that at present no major problems regarding the protection of Pronaea are foreseen, and that the "Tholos" has been entirely fenced around and tourists are not allowed to enter the temple. The restoration works in the Attalos-Stoa and the Athenian Treasury have also been completed and a buffer zone, between the site and inhabited areas, has been created by a Ministerial decree and the use of the surrounding land is regulated by law.

Vatican City (Holy See/Italy)

The Bureau was concerned by the construction project inside the Vatican City of a concrete building of several floors in the place of the old Hospice of Santa Marta, the demolition of which was undertaken on 1 June 1992.

The breach in the Leonin Wall that appeared during this work constitutes a danger to the integrity of this fortified ensemble. Moreover, because of its co-visibility with the dome of Saint-

Pierre, the height of the planned building would cause irreparable damage to the urban landscape of Rome, as well as to the Vatican City.

The concern and recommendations expressed by the Bureau were transmitted to the UNESCO Observer of the Holy See by letter of 9 September 1992. The Secretary the State of the Holy See, in his note of 20 October 1992, has made the following points concerning the Bureau's observations and recommendations:

1) No breach has appeared in the Leonin Wall. On the contrary, the destruction of a part of the Old Hospice of Santa Marta has revealed the older parts of the Leonin Wall. These parts will be restored.

2) The new building will not be taller than the two edifices surrounding it: the Palace of San Carlo and the more ancient parts of the Hospice of Santa Maria.

3) The new construction project was elaborated taking into account the aesthetic and monumental context, into which it will be integrated.

4) The visibility of the Dome of Saint Pierre will not be affected in any manner, the more so since the new building will not be visible from the outside.

Gantija (Malta)

The Bureau expressed its concern regarding the protection of Megalithic temples and requested the World Heritage Centre to draw the attention of the competent Maltese authorities to the necessity of establishing a larger buffer zone with better legal protection. The Bureau requested that the Maltese authorities submit a report on this subject to the sixteenth session of the Committee, particularly because a proposal for extending this site has also been presented by the Maltese authorities this year.

The observations and recommendations of the Bureau regarding the state of conservation of this site were transmitted to the Maltese authorities by letter of 9 September 1992 and the report requested by the Bureau is awaited.

El Jem (Tunisia)

Despite the efforts of specialists and the Tunisian authorities for conserving this site, the Bureau was concerned about the modifications which affected its environment, and requested the competent authorities to take urgent measures necessary to re-establish the harmony of the site and its surroundings, halt all new constructions in the immediate environs and demolish the shopping arcade constructed on one side of the amphitheatre. If it is not possible to demolish the

arcade, then it would be desirable to conceal it with a hedge. Insofar as the organization of spectacles inside the amphitheatre does not imply irreversible developments, the Bureau considered that the recreational activities do not constitute a threat to the conservation of the site.

The Permanent Delegate of Tunisia to UNESCO has informed the World Heritage Centre that the President of the Republic has instructed the competent authorities in charge of the protection of the archeological site to take all the necessary measures to implement the recommendations of the Bureau. Accordingly, all new construction works have been halted and the shopping arcade built on one side of the amphitheatre is to be concealed by a hedge in order to avoid any direct interaction between the commercial area and the archeological site; furthermore, the construction of permanent structures within the amphitheatre has been prohibited.

Istanbul (Turkey)

The Bureau took note with satisfaction that the urban development plan of the town had been modified and wished to obtain more information regarding the new plan from the competent Turkish authorities.

The request of the Bureau for more information on the revised urban development plan was transmitted to the Turkish authorities by letter of 9 September 1992 and a reply is awaited.

Oujasta Mosque

Cultural and Mixed World Heritage Properties in Latin America and the Caribbean

At its fifteenth session held in Carthage, Tunisia, in December 1991, the World Heritage Committee commissioned the UNESCO/UNDP Regional Project for Cultural/Urban and Environmental Heritage, based in Lima, to undertake an initial experimental programme for the monitoring of a number of cultural and mixed sites in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) of the UNESCO/UNDP Regional Project will present a written report on this experimental programme at the time of the Committee meeting. This report will include information on the following sites gathered during missions undertaken in 1991-92: Antigua and Tikal National Park (Guatemala), City of Potosi (Bolivia), Olinda, Ouro Preto and Salvador de Bahia (Brazil), Cartagena (Columbia), Quito (Ecuador), Fortifications on the Caribbean side of Portobelo-San Lorenzo (Panama), Machu Picchu Historic Sanctuary and San Francisco de Lima (Peru) and San Juan Historic site of Puerto Rico (USA). The report will outline a programme of action for monitoring other sites in Latin America and the Caribbean and propose a calendar of activities for the period 1993-95.

D. STATE OF CONSERVATION OF NATURAL WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES

D.1. General Information:

At its sixteenth session, held from 6-10 July 1992, the Bureau reviewed the state of conservation of 21 natural and mixed properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. The observations and recommendations of the Bureau on all these sites were transmitted to the States Parties concerned during early-mid August 1992. Follow-up action taken by the World Heritage Centre with respect to 18 natural sites are discussed here. Action taken with regard to two mixed sites and a natural World Heritage site in Danger are discussed in other sections of this document.

In the case of seven of the 18 natural World Heritage sites, the Bureau took note of the information, and requested the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to continue monitoring the state of conservation of these sites and provide progress reports to future meetings of the Bureau, and the Committee. The World Heritage Centre has requested the authorities in four of the seven States Parties to provide progress reports before 1 March 1993 so that the information could be submitted to the Bureau at its seventeenth session, in mid-1993. The four sites are:

- Iguazu National Park (Argentina)
- Iguaçú National Park (Brazil)
- Wet Tropics of Queensland (Australia), and
- Wood Buffalo National Park (Canada)

In the case of the other three sites, the World Heritage Centre:

(i) has informed the Canadian authorities that the Bureau recommended the Committee to register the report and the map provided by them as a description of the revised boundaries of the Dinosaur Provincial Park;

(ii) is implementing, in co-operation with the UNESCO Office in Addis Ababa, and the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation and Development Organization, the technical co-operation project for the rehabilitation of the Simien National Park for which the Committee, at its last session, approved a sum of US\$50,000, and

(iii) has requested the competent authorities of Senegal to provide to the Committee, at its sixteenth session, a summary of the plan to mitigate impacts of the road construction project in the Niokolo-Koba National Park.

The Committee is requested to refer to Section V of the working document WHC-92/CONF.002/2 for details on discussions pertaining to the state of conservation of the seven sites mentioned above.

D.2. Progress Report on the State of Conservation of Natural World Heritage Properties

Srebarna Biosphere Reserve (Bulgaria)

The Bureau recalled that the Committee, at its last session, recommended that the Bulgarian authorities nominate this site for inclusion in the List of World Heritage in Danger because this small (600 hectare) World Heritage site had lost much of its ecological viability. The Bureau was informed that IUCN had undertaken two missions to this site during early 1992, and that although its importance as a Ramsar site and a biosphere reserve within a European context could still be retained with the implementation of specific remedial actions, its World Heritage status can no longer be justified because it has deteriorated to a state where it has irretrievably lost many of the characteristics which determined its inclusion in the World Heritage List.

The Bureau recommended that the Committee, at its forthcoming session in December, consider deleting this property from the World Heritage List, and in accordance with paragraph 41(c) of the Operational Guidelines, requested the Secretariat to inform the Bulgarian authorities of its recommendation to the Committee. The Bureau requested the World Heritage Centre to obtain all observations and comments the Bulgarian authorities may wish to make regarding this recommendation in time to submit them for the consideration of the Committee.

The Permanent Delegate of Bulgaria to UNESCO was informed of the Bureau's observations and recommendations by a letter dated 14 August 1992. By his letter dated 7 October 1992, the Permanent Delegate of Bulgaria to UNESCO transmitted to the World Heritage Centre a letter from the Minister for Environment, who agrees that the ecological conditions in Srebarna have deteriorated; he has requested that the Committee include Srebarna in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Minister, however, is of the view that deterioration in the ecology of the lakes is not irreversible, and has informed the World Heritage Centre that during 1992, 80 pairs of dalmatian pelicans were seen in the lake and 60 new-born pelicans were also observed. The Minister has also provided, in attachment to his letter, details of a project for assessing the state of conservation of Srebarna evaluating various options available for rehabilitating Srebarna. This project is expected to be completed in early 1993, and the findings and recommendations of the project will be made available to the World Heritage Centre.

The Committee is requested by the Bulgarian authorities to include Srebarna in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Manovo-Gounda Saint Floris National Park (Central African Republic)

The Bureau recalled that when this site was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1988, several members of the Committee had registered their reservations as to its state of conservation and several threats to its integrity. The Bureau was concerned that despite assurances given to the Committee at the time of its inscription and the US\$27 million EEC (European Economic Community) project in the region, the deterioration of the property had continued and this site still does not have a management plan. The Bureau took note of the intention of the President of the Central African Republic to transfer the management of the site to a private foundation, and of the invitation made to UNESCO to participate, as a scientific body, in the management of the site by this foundation. The Bureau requested the World Heritage Centre, together with IUCN, to study this proposal and undertake a detailed analysis of the implications of the transfer of management of the site to a private organization. The Bureau requested the World Heritage Centre to contact the State Party to know whether the national authorities would invite an expert mission to review the state of conservation of this Park and assess the proposal to lease its management to a private organization. The Bureau emphasized that such a mission should build upon the recent project audit carried out by the EEC and present recommendations on the future viability and management of this site.

A representative of IUCN will provide an analysis of the implications of the transfer of management of the site to a private foundation. The Centre is in contact with the authorities of the Central African Republic in UNESCO and will report, at the time of the Committee meeting, on the possibility for sending an expert mission to review the state of conservation of this site and assess the proposal to lease its management to a private organization.

Talamanca-La Amistad National Park (Costa Rica/Panama)

The Bureau commended the Panamanian authorities for preventing 59,000 hectares of La Amistad National Park being released for oil exploration.

The Bureau noted that the Costa Rican authorities have not responded to the Secretariat's letter of 6 February 1992, requesting them to consider revising the boundaries of the Talamanca-La Amistad Reserves by deleting four Indian Reserves in the north-eastern Atlantic sector and to submit a map showing the new boundaries of the site. Furthermore, the Bureau was also informed by the representative of IUCN that earlier plans to construct a road through the middle of the Talamanca-La Amistad Reserves of Costa Rica were also being revived.

The Bureau instructed the World Heritage Centre to contact the Costa Rican authorities to request, once again, that they consider revising the boundaries of the Reserves and provide a map showing the new boundaries. Furthermore, the Bureau requested the World Heritage Centre to obtain detailed information regarding the proposal for constructing a road through the middle of the Talamanca-La Amistad Reserves, including an assessment of the potential impact of this project on the state of conservation of the site.

The recommendations of the Bureau were transmitted to the Costa Rican authorities by a letter dated 14 August 1992 and a reply is awaited.

Plitvice Lakes National Park (Croatia)

The Bureau noted that the Croatian authorities have officially informed UNESCO that they will abide by the obligations of the World Heritage Convention and requested that a joint UNESCO/IUCN mission be undertaken to assess the impacts which unrest in the region has had on the state of conservation of Plitvice Lakes National Park. The Bureau recommended that the Committee, as requested by the Croatian authorities, inscribe Plitvice Lakes National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Bureau also decided to set aside an amount of US\$30,000 as emergency assistance to enable the organization of a joint UNESCO/IUCN mission to the site, in co-operation with the Croatian authorities as well as the relevant UN bodies responsible for monitoring the conflict in the region, in order to prepare and initiate the implementation of an international assistance project for the rehabilitation of the Plitvice Lakes National Park.

As requested by the Bureau, a team of three experts representing IUCN, the Federation of Nature and National Parks of Europe and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, respectively, undertook a mission to Plitvice Lakes National Park, from 18 to 27 September 1992, in co-operation with the UN Protection Forces, the Ministry of Environment of Croatia and the local authorities in Plitvice. The main conclusions of this mission are as follows:

- i) Despite the fact that it is situated in a region which has been frequently affected by armed conflict during the last 18 months, the natural values for which the Plitvice Lakes National Park was granted World Heritage status have been preserved. The site retains aesthetic qualities and ecosystems of universal significance and permits the continuation of ecological processes necessary for long-term maintenance of those values.
- ii) The infrastructure inside the Park, such as the administration buildings, hotels, restaurants, parking areas and houses belonging to Park staff, have not suffered major damage, but show evidence of

considerable vandalism. Destruction of property in and around the Park area has been selective, primarily confined to the villages in and adjacent to the northern boundary of the Park. Vandalism of hotels and related infrastructure has also been more extensive in the vicinity of the northern boundary of the Park.

- iii) The equipment and facilities which served a significant tourism industry in the Park and neighbouring regions, e.g. electrically operated boats, diesel buses, bank and a post-office building, have also survived the armed conflict in the region with minimal damage. It is worth noting that a certain number of the Park staff, originating from Korenica and/or the Krajina region have continued to reside in their living quarters within the Park and have made efforts to protect these facilities and in some cases undertaken the work necessary to repair damage caused by vandalism. Although tourism in the region has temporarily halted and economic life of the people is becoming increasingly difficult, the Park continues to have a staff carrying out basic maintenance operations and enjoys the support of the Mayor and other authorities in Korenica.
- iv) The natural and ecological significance of the Park is recognized and appreciated by the people living in and around the Park, in the Korenica district of the region of Krajina. Those who were employed and/or resident in the Plitvice area, but were forced to withdraw to Zagreb following the escalation of the armed conflict in the Krajina region after March 1991, also have special attachment to this World Heritage site and are eager to return, and are hoping that the security situation will improve to enable the revival of tourism. The high degree of respect that the people have for the integrity of Park boundaries and their recognition of the economic importance of Plitvice as the major revenue earner for the region are important reasons which ensured the protection of the site even during times of conflict.
- v) The tourism industry in the Plitvice Lakes National Park and neighbouring regions is unlikely to be revived until such time when the existing security check-points along the road from Zagreb to the Park are removed and free access to the Park is re-established. The people living in the vicinity of the Park in the district of Korenica are experiencing substantial economic hardships, particularly electricity and water shortages. Removal of fuelwood from the forests surrounding the Park is already underway, in anticipation of the needs of the 1992-93 winter season. The duration and severity of the winter will influence the demand for fuelwood and test the resolve and the commitment of the people to continue

respecting the integrity of the boundaries of the Park.

- vi) Technical measures for improving the management of the Park, e.g. improving water supplies and sewage treatment, regulating the flow of tourists and planning the location of new tourist installations, could only be taken after the current political conflict between the authorities of the Government of Croatia in Zagreb, and the region of Krajina which is seeking autonomy, is resolved. Resurgence of armed conflict in the region or other events which would unduly delay the resolution of this political problem will further increase the economic hardship of people living in and near the Park and as a result will threaten the Park's survival.

The following recommendations, have been derived from these conclusions, and are proposed for the consideration of the Committee:

- (a) The Committee inscribe this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger, with the provision for removing the site from the Danger List as soon as stability is re-established and the relationship between the Government of Croatia and the region of Krajina is normalized.
- (b) The Committee draw the attention of the authorities of the Government of Croatia, the region of Krajina and the district of Korenica, to the fact that the Plitvice Lakes National Park, in accordance with its World Heritage status, should be a focus for co-operation between local, regional, national and international agencies and organizations, and hence urge them to expedite the completion of negotiations necessary to resolve their political differences.
- (c) The Committee request the competent authorities in Croatia, the region of Krajina and the district of Korenica to fully co-operate with UNPROFOR and other UN agencies working in the area in order to implement the Vance Plan and its successor resolutions in order to normalize the political and military situation in areas surrounding the Plitvice Lakes National Park.
- (d) The Committee request UNPROFOR to direct its forces responsible for protecting the Plitvice Lakes National Park area to carry out, as frequently as possible, surveillance patrols in and around the Park, and undertake reconnaissance surveys of currently inaccessible parts of the Park, particularly in the Corcova Uvale area in the north-western sector of the Park which comprises one of the oldest forest stand in Europe and other areas suspected of being mined, and take all measures necessary to regain access to those parts.

- (e) The Committee request UNPROFOR and the competent authorities of the Government of Croatia to include the conservation of the Plitvice Lakes National Park as a subject to be addressed by such bodies as the Joint Commission which bring together authorities from the Government of Croatia, the region of Krajina, UNPROFOR and the European Community to address particular problems. The Joint Commission should be requested to bring together scientists from both sides to visit the Park to undertake studies to monitor water quality in the lakes, review past practices of forestry and tourism operations and estimate the brown bear population in the Park. The Committee should authorize the Chairman to approve funds necessary for the organization of such joint field studies.
- (f) The Committee request the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, in co-operation with UNPROFOR and the competent authorities in the Government of Croatia, to organize a follow-up international mission to the Plitvice Lakes National Park during late April or early May 1993 in order to provide a report on its state of conservation to the seventeenth session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee scheduled to be convened during June/July 1993. Some members from joint teams of scientists who are expected to undertake field studies in the Plitvice Lakes National Park area should participate in this international mission.
- g) The Committee recommend that the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, in co-operation with competent authorities in other UN agencies, the Government of Croatia and regional and local authorities convene, if conditions permit, an international workshop for planning the future management of the Plitvice Lakes National Park in order to ensure co-operation and participation of all individual experts, and institutions committed to the conservation of the Plitvice Lakes National Park and World Heritage site.

A detailed report of the mission is available (in English only), for consultation by the members of the Committee.

Sangay National Park (Ecuador)

The Bureau was satisfied to note that the Sub-Secretariat of Forestry and Renewable Natural Resources which is responsible for the management of this site has been successful in halting a proposed road construction project in order to bring together the relevant provincial and national agencies to discuss the environmental impact of the project and plan mitigating measures. In this regard, the Bureau commended the Ecuadorean authorities for having obtained official approval for including substantial areas south of the World Heritage site into the National Park. The Bureau, however, was concerned about the information reported by the representative of IUCN regarding heavy poaching of wildlife, illegal livestock grazing and encroachment in this World Heritage site. The Bureau requested the World Heritage

Centre to contact the Ecuadorean authorities and suggest that they invite international and/or regional experts to join Ecuadorean specialists to assess impacts of the road construction project and threats to the integrity of this site. The Bureau recommended that on the basis of more information received on the potential impact of the road construction project and threats, the World Heritage Committee, at its forthcoming session in December 1992, decide whether or not this site ought to be included on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The observations and recommendations of the Bureau were transmitted to the Ecuadorean authorities by letter of 14 August 1992. The Fundacion Natura of Ecuador, which has received a copy of this letter through the UNESCO Office in Ecuador, has written to the World Heritage Centre, expressing major concerns regarding the conservation of Sangay National Park, and has suggested that the site should be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Sub-Secretariat of Forestry and Renewable Natural Resources, however, has not yet replied to the letter of the World Heritage Centre, and has not requested the inclusion of this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. A copy of the letter from Fundacion Natura has been transmitted to IUCN for information and review.

Galapagos National Park (Ecuador)

The Bureau was informed that the employees of this World Heritage site recently staged a four-week strike demanding higher salaries and other improvements of their working conditions. The Bureau also noted that a draft tourism and conservation plan for Galapagos is now being finalized and the Master Plan for the management of the Park would have to be revised in the light of the strategies and programme of action foreseen in the tourism and conservation plan. The Bureau recommended that the Secretariat contact the Ecuadorean authorities and request them to consider undertaking all possible measures to improve salaries and working conditions of the Park staff and revise the Master Plan for the management of the site, in order to harmonize its implementation with that of the tourism and conservation plan for Galapagos.

These observations and recommendations of the Bureau were transmitted to the Ecuadorean authorities by a letter of 14 August 1992. Subsequently, the Galapagos National Park Service requested the Secretariat for financial assistance for upgrading the annual training course for park guards and guides, by inviting the participation of international experts. The Chairman of the Committee approved a sum of US\$ 15,000 as a contribution from the World Heritage Fund to cover the costs of the participation of three international experts and the preparation/purchase of teaching materials for this course; the course is scheduled for December 1992. The Superintendent of the Galapagos National Park Service has also submitted a request for international assistance from the World Heritage Fund for revising the management plan of the site, in order to harmonize

it with the tourism and conservation plan for Galapagos. Details of this request for international assistance are provided in document WHC-92/CONF.002/8.

Mt. Nimba Nature Reserve (Guinea/Côte d'Ivoire)

The Bureau recalled that the Committee at its last session concluded that the reduction in the size of this site proposed by the Government of Guinea in order to exclude areas that would be impacted by a proposed iron-ore mining project, posed a major threat to its integrity. Taking into account that the site also faced several other threats, the Committee, at its last session recommended that the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea nominate this site for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The Bureau noted with satisfaction that experts of Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, together with representatives of UNDP and UNESCO had met, from 29 June to 3 July 1992, at Mt. Nimba and, on the basis of field visits and consultations, have endorsed the conclusions of the Committee and requested the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea to urgently nominate this site for inclusion in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Bureau noted with concern that the site continues to be under pressure from interest groups which are eager to take advantage of the economic benefits of exploiting the iron-ore deposits in this site. The Bureau, however, noted that so far no iron-ore mining activities have been undertaken and that bi-and multilateral donors have refrained from financing a project which, in the Committee's view, will seriously endanger the integrity of this World Heritage site.

The Bureau requested the World Heritage Centre to contact the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea and, once again, urge them to nominate this site to the List of World Heritage in Danger. Furthermore, the Bureau recommended that the World Heritage Centre co-operate with the two States Parties concerned and donor agencies such as the World Bank and UNDP to develop an integrated rural development project to bring socio-economic benefits to people living in the immediate vicinity of this World Heritage site.

Despite the endorsement of specialists from the two States Parties of the Committee's recommendation to inscribe this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger, no official request from either of the States Parties has been received so far. The Government of Guinea however, issued a decree on 6 August 1992, entrusting a part of the Mt. Nimba Nature Reserve to an international mining consortium and published a brochure announcing the launching of the mining project. The brochure explains the economic benefits of the project and the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the protection of Mt. Nimba's environment. The World Heritage Centre is in contact with the UNESCO/UNDP project personnel in Mt. Nimba to obtain additional information on the details of the launch of the iron-ore mining

project and shall report any new information that it may obtain at the time of the Committee meeting. The Committee should decide on the actions that are needed to be taken in order to avert further threats to the integrity of this World Heritage site. The Chairman of the World Heritage Committee was received by the Guinean Minister for Environment and Mines; the Chairman will report on this meeting to the Committee.

Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India)

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the damage caused by the invasion of this Sanctuary by the Bodo tribe in Assam, India, was estimated to be about 50 million Indian rupees (about 1.6 million US dollars). Although considerable damage was done to the Park infrastructure, the habitat in the inaccessible parts of the Sanctuary still remained intact. The Bureau, while noting that the conditions for introducing normal management and administration regimes for the site may be improving, was nevertheless concerned that a full assessment of damage had not been made and that the Indian authorities have not yet provided a formal written report on the state of conservation of this Sanctuary, despite repeated requests from the Committee since 1989.

The Bureau reiterated that the World Heritage Centre contact the Indian authorities once again and request a written, up-to-date report on the state of conservation of the Manas Wildlife Sanctuary. The Bureau recommended that the Committee, at its next session, review the information provided by the Indian authorities in such a report and in consultation with IUCN and the Secretariat, determine whether or not this site ought to be included in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The Bureau's observations and recommendations were transmitted to the Indian authorities by letter of 14 August 1992 and a response is awaited.

Air-Ténéré National Nature Reserve (Niger)

The Bureau expressed concerns that the region in which this site is situated has recently been affected by armed conflict. The Bureau was informed that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Niger had requested the Director-General of UNESCO to launch an appeal for the protection of this site. The Bureau recommended that the World Heritage Centre contact the authorities in Niger and obtain more information on the impact armed conflict in the region is having on this site and request them to nominate this site for inclusion in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The Permanent Delegate of Niger to UNESCO has, by his letter of 1 October 1992, requested that the Committee include this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. IUCN is expected to receive a detailed report on the state of conservation of this

site through its project personnel who were located at the site, and will submit this information to the Committee.

The Committee is requested to include the Air-Tenéré National Nature Reserve in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Djoudj National Park (Senegal)

The Committee may recall that the repair of barrages and gates regulating water flow into this wetland area was financed by the World Heritage Fund in 1988. The Senegalese authorities, by their letter of 25 August 1992, have informed the World Heritage Centre that the parallel wooden planks, held together by clay, which keep the gates dry and resistant to water-leaks and seepage to and from the Djoudj River, have been found to be defective, and have requested assistance for the purchase of wood for replacing the existing ones at an estimated total cost of about US\$ 10,000. The proposal is being submitted to the consideration of the Chairman of the World Heritage Committee for approval.

Durmitor National Park (Montenegro)

The Bureau noted that the authorities responsible for the management of this site had submitted to the Secretariat several reports on the potential impacts of the proposed hydroelectric dam construction on the Tara River and the pollution of that river by a large asphalt plant situated upstream along the river. The Bureau was informed by the representative of IUCN that the Montenegro authorities maintained that the two problems mentioned above had minimal impacts on the conservation of Durmitor and that necessary measures to mitigate those impacts were being taken. However, the Bureau requested that the Secretariat contact the Montenegro authorities to know whether they would invite a joint UNESCO/IUCN mission and provide an on-site briefing on the status of the proposal to construct a hydroelectric dam on the Tara River and pollution caused to the same river by the asphalt plant.

The observations and recommendations of the Bureau were transmitted to the Director of Durmitor National Park, by letter of 14 August 1992. In his reply dated 29 September 1992, the Director of this Park has, in accordance with the wish of the Bureau, invited a joint UNESCO/IUCN mission to this site and ensured co-operation to facilitate the work of the experts who will undertake such a mission.

The Committee may wish to discuss whether a UNESCO/IUCN mission to this site should be undertaken in early 1993.

Mosi-oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls (Zambia/Zimbabwe)

The Bureau noted that a proposal to construct a dam across the Batoka Gorge could flood some parts of this transfrontier

World Heritage site and that the World Heritage Centre has informed the group of consultant engineers who are undertaking an environmental impact assessment of the dam construction project of potential threats to the integrity of this site. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to contact the States Parties concerned and obtain more information on the proposed dam construction project for submission to the Committee in December 1992.

Since the plans for the construction of the dam across the Batoka Gorge have been drawn up in Zimbabwe, a letter to the national authorities was sent on 14 August 1992, explaining the Bureau's concerns and requesting more information. A copy of that letter was sent to the Zambian authorities. In his reply of 8 October 1992, the Director of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management of Zimbabwe has informed the World Heritage Centre that the dam to be built at the Batoka Gorge will flood up to the third gorge which is about 10 km inside the World Heritage site and he is of the view that this change in the ecology of the site will have minimum impacts. The Director has also informed the World Heritage Centre that his Department accepts this development project owing to its minimum impact and the fact that it will produce power under favourable environmental conditions, in contrast to the alternative of thermal power production.

Since the information provided by the Director, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management, Zimbabwe, has revealed a threat to the integrity of this trans-frontier World Heritage property, the World Heritage Centre has requested IUCN to verify the information and advise the Committee on possible actions that may be taken to protect the integrity of this site.

E. STATE OF CONSERVATION OF MIXED WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES

Mt. Athos (Greece)

The Bureau was informed that the vegetation in this mixed site could have adverse impacts on the landscape in the area. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to contact the Greek authorities and obtain verification of this information and to request them to invite a mission to examine the state of conservation of this site.

A letter outlining the Bureau's concerns and recommendations was sent to the Greek authorities by letter of 14 August 1992. In their reply, dated 9 October 1992, the Greek authorities have informed the World Heritage Centre that 25,732 acres of forest in the area were damaged due to a fire in 1990 and this calamity might have been responsible for reports concerning the removal of vegetation. The Greek authorities have however, pointed out that the natural regeneration of the forest is progressing satisfactorily.

The Greek authorities point out that Mt. Athos is an autonomous region within Greece and removal of timber from the forests by monks resident in Mt. Athos is permitted under a law gazetted in 24 February 1953. This law was amended in 9 April 1991 to ensure that the removal of timber is done on a sustainable basis. The amendment also allowed the establishment of a Forest Service which takes measures to prevent fires. During 1992 there were seven fires caused by lightning, and the Forest Service successfully controlled these fires to maintain damage to the vegetation in this site at minimum possible levels.

The Greek authorities consider the state of conservation of the natural environment to be satisfactory and do not feel that there is a need for a special expert mission.

F. STATE OF CONSERVATION OF WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES IN DANGER

The Bureau, at its last session, reviewed the state of conservation of the following World Heritage sites in Danger:

Dubrovnik (Croatia)

The Bureau expressed its concern regarding the resumption of hostilities in the region. It requested the World Heritage Centre to advise the Croatia authorities to create, before the next session of the World Heritage Committee, a buffer zone which would ensure the protection of the ancient fortress and other monuments outside the city walls. The Bureau was informed that a plan of action for the restoration of damaged monuments is being prepared in co-operation with the competent authorities in Croatia and that the plan will be made public and available to funding agencies. The Bureau made an appeal to the parties in conflict for a suspension of hostilities and the protection of cultural heritage. It invited all States Parties to the Convention to participate in the conservation of the site.

The Bureau noted that US\$ 19,000 had been provided as emergency assistance from the World Heritage Fund to assist in restoration efforts and that the Director-General of UNESCO had also allocated US\$ 200,000 for preliminary operations for the urgent restoration of monuments. At its last session, the Bureau allocated an additional sum of US\$ 30,000 for urgent activities to be undertaken for the restoration of Dubrovnik.

The observations and recommendations of the Bureau were transmitted to the Croatian authorities by letter of 10 September 1992.

The Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments has established an inventory of cultural properties damaged during the bombardment in 1991, and in May-June 1992:

-27 public or religious buildings were damaged to various degrees

-stone-paved streets and squares, city walls, towers and fortresses have been damaged by heavy calibre shells.

Within the framework of a plan to safeguard properties damaged by the war, the first meeting of the Consultative Commission of Experts for Restoration of Dubrovnik was held in the old city from 2-4 September 1992. This Commission comprises 11 national and three international experts, nominated by the Croatian authorities with the agreement of UNESCO. During this meeting, activities to safeguard the heritage were resumed; these activities had been temporarily halted due to the renewed bombardment in May-June 1992. The meeting demonstrated the need for UNESCO to maintain close co-ordination with institutions and commissions dealing with the protection of the city from a technical and a fund-raising point of view. The Commission has defined several actions as priorities for 1992:

- replacement of all the damaged roof tiles
- reconstruction of nine buildings
- training of technicians, craftsmen and stone-cutters
- the publicizing of the plan of action among donors.

The sum of US\$ 19,000 provided under the World Heritage Fund has been partly used for the organization of a meeting of experts. The rest of the US\$ 19,000 have been used for training two architects. The special allocation of US\$ 200,000 made available by the Director-General of UNESCO is used for the following purposes:

- restoration of city walls
- a cadastral survey of the old city of Dubrovnik, and
- the purchase of 270,000 roofing tiles; these tiles will be delivered by truck to Dubrovnik at the end of November 1992.

The sum of US\$ 30,000 provided by the Bureau, at its last session will be used for:

- purchase of equipment and materials for restoration of mural paintings in burnt palaces,
- publicizing the plan of action for restoring Dubrovnik and its monuments among donors, and
- for training programmes .

At its last session the Bureau noted the interest expressed by a travel agency of Dubrovnik and the American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA) to fund work to restore Dubrovnik. Subsequently, a proposal for the restoration of city walls in the old city has been submitted to the consideration of ASTA.

The Bureau's recommendation that the Croatian authorities create a buffer zone which would ensure the protection of the ancient fortress and the surrounding areas has been brought to the attention of the Croatian authorities at several meetings held with them, both in Dubrovnik and in Paris. Information on the implementation of this recommendation of the Bureau is still awaited and will be presented to the Committee at its sixteenth session.

Although the World Heritage Fund and UNESCO have already provided substantial financial and technical assistance, the funds that have become available so far are inadequate; the estimated cost of the restoration of the damaged cultural properties in Dubrovnik is US\$ 10 millions. The Committee is requested to discuss the ways and means by which a part or all of this amount could be raised to restore Dubrovnik.

Garamba National Park (Zaire)

The Bureau was happy to note that the rhinoceros population in the Park has now increased to 32 individuals and that the state of conservation of the site continues to be stable. Hence, the Bureau recommended that the Committee, in accordance with the request made by the State Party by letter of 26 February 1991, remove this site from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The Committee is requested to remove this site from the List of World Heritage in Danger and commend the Zairois authorities for taking all measures to improve the state of conservation of this Park.