

**Distribution limited**

**WHC-97/CONF.208/4B  
Naples, 29 November 1997  
Original: English/French**

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,  
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE  
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE  
Twenty-first session**

**Naples, Italy  
1 - 6 December 1997**

**Item 4 of the provisional Agenda: Reports of the Rapporteurs of the session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee held in 1997.**

**Report of the Rapporteur of the Extraordinary session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee (Naples, 28 – 29 November 1997).**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- I. OPENING SESSION**
  - II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**
  - III. STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES  
INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST**
  - IV. EXAMINATION OF NOMINATIONS OF CULTURAL AND  
NATURAL PROPERTIES TO THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST  
AND THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER**
  - V. REQUESTS FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE**
  - VI. OTHER BUSINESS**
  - VII. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION**
- 
- ANNEX I DECISIONS CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE  
REQUESTS**
  - ANNEX II LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

## **I. OPENING SESSION**

**I.1** The twenty-first extraordinary session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee was held in Naples, Italy, on 28 and 29 November 1997. The following members of the Bureau attended: Mr Francesco Francioni (Italy), Chairperson, Representatives of Benin, Ecuador, Japan, Morocco and the United States of America as Vice-Presidents, and Mr Noel Fattal (Lebanon) as Rapporteur.

**I.2** Representatives of the following States Parties attended as observers: Albania, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Mexico, Nepal, Republic of Korea and Switzerland.

**I.3** Representatives of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) attended the meeting in an advisory capacity.

**I.4** The full list of participants is given in Annex II.

**I.5** The Chairperson warmly welcomed the members of the Bureau, representatives of States Parties who were observing the meeting, and the advisory bodies. He in particular congratulated the Bureau members on their election during the twenty-first extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (France) on 29 October 1997.

## **II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**II.1** The Chairperson requested that the Bureau consider the Provisional Agenda contained in Working Document WHC-97/CONF.207/1. The Bureau adopted the Agenda without any change. The Chairperson also announced that the Consultative Body would meet in the late afternoon of 29 November 1997.

## **III. STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST**

**III.1** The Bureau examined reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List contained in Working Document WHC-97/CONF.207/2, as well as complementary information provided during the session by the Secretariat and the advisory bodies.

**III.2** The Bureau noted that several reports referred to cases in which the State Party concerned had not replied to the Bureau's or the Committee's earlier recommendations or requests for information on the state of conservation or management arrangements for specific World Heritage properties. The Bureau noted that this does not facilitate the work of the Bureau and the Committee, particularly when they are seeking information on reported and immediate threats to World Heritage properties. The Bureau stressed that communication and co-operation

between the States Parties and the World Heritage statutory bodies is a basic principle of the Convention and essential for its implementation.

**III.3** The Bureau suggested the Committee to consider the appropriate actions in case the State Party fails to respond to the Bureau's and Committee's recommendations or requests for information.

**III.4** In order to prepare the examination of the state of conservation reports by the Committee, and in accordance with the method suggested by the Committee in Berlin, the Bureau decided to take its decisions in three categories:

- (a) The Bureau recommends the Committee to inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
- (b) The Bureau transmits the state of conservation report to the Committee for action;
- (c) The Bureau transmits the state of conservation report together with its own observations/ recommendations to the Committee for noting.

**A. NATURAL HERITAGE**

- a) Natural properties which the Bureau recommended for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger

**Manovo-Gounda-St.Floris National Park (Central African Republic - CAR)**

The Bureau recalled that the Committee, at its twelfth session (1988, Brasilia), inscribed this property on the World Heritage List, following assurances given by the State Party in respect of its commitment to improve the conditions of integrity of the Park, notably with regard to poaching and illegal grazing. A 10-year project, financed by the European Union at a cost of US\$ 27 million, and launched soon after the inscription of this site on the World Heritage List, was expected to show positive results in the new future.

The Bureau was seriously concerned that uncontrolled poaching by heavily armed groups, from within and outside of CAR has resulted in security problems, leading to the deaths of four Park staff in early 1997. According to IUCN, 80% of the Park's wildlife has been illegally harvested for commercial purposes. Deteriorating security conditions have brought tourism to a halt and the 10-year EU Project appears to have generated very few tangible benefits for the conservation of the site, and the existing management plan is inadequate.

The Bureau welcomed the efforts of the Government of CAR to assign site management responsibility to a private foundation and encouraged the Foundation to continue its efforts to raise funds and strengthen management of this vast World Heritage area.

**The Bureau recommended the Committee to adopt the following:**

"The Committee decides to inscribe the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger and requests the Centre and IUCN to contact the State Party and the private Foundation to prepare a detailed state of conservation report and a rehabilitation plan for this site."

**Democratic Republic of the Congo**

**Okapi Faunal Reserve**

At its last session in June 1997, the Bureau, noted that equipment and facilities in this site had been looted and wildlife poached. Fortunately, the staff in this site did not suffer any harm, although they had not been receiving any salaries. The Bureau was informed by IUCN that recently an US based conservation foundation has come forward with financial assistance to pay staff salaries. There are reports of illegal gold mining in the Park occupied by militia, and the staff have neither facilities nor resources to manage the Park.

**Kahuzi Biega National Park**

The Bureau recalled the fact that this site has been significantly impacted by the influx of refugees. There are reports of a large presence of militia groups and illegal settlers in the Park which has led to fires, increased poaching, illegal removal and burning of timber. IUCN informed the Bureau that it has received several pleas from the staff of the Park for international aid for rebuilding Park infrastructure and staff morale. The Bureau noted that IUCN's monitoring report on this site included fifteen measures for implementation in and around the Park and eight actions for co-operation among international conservation organisations, which together could form a basis for the future rehabilitation of the Park.

In the light of the serious threats to the integrity of these two sites of the Democratic Republic of the Congo which have arisen as a consequence of armed conflict in the eastern parts of the country, the Bureau, at its twenty-first session in June 1997, recommended that the Committee include both Okapi and Kahuzi Biega in the List of World Heritage in Danger and requested UNESCO to undertake a high-level mission to the country. The Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism has invited a high-level UNESCO mission to his country. UNESCO is intending to field such a mission as soon as the security conditions permit. Furthermore, the Minister has submitted an emergency assistance request to the consideration of the Committee for purchasing one field vehicle for each of the four endangered sites of the Democratic Republic of the Congo: i.e. the Okapi Faunal Reserve and the Kahuzi Biega National Park and the other two sites of Virunga and Garamba National Parks, already included by the Committee in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

**The Bureau recommended the Committee to adopt the following:**

"Preoccupied by the serious threats and dangers affecting these sites and the urgent measures required, the Committee includes both Okapi Faunal Reserve and the Kahuzi

Biega National Park in the List of World Heritage in Danger, and invites the Director-General of UNESCO to write to the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, calling for his direct intervention to enable UNESCO to undertake the proposed high-level mission and plan rehabilitation measures for all World Heritage sites in Danger. The Committee requests UNESCO to field a mission, and invites the Chairperson to lead the mission, to the capital city of Kinshasa for meetings with the high-level authorities, even if visits to sites are deemed impossible due to the prevailing security situation in the eastern parts of the country. In addition, the Committee approves the emergency assistance requested for the purchase of one four-wheel drive vehicle each for Okapi and Kahuzi Biega (as well as for Virunga and Garamba National Parks) and requests the Centre to co-operate with international NGOs in rehabilitating the endangered World Heritage sites of the Democratic Republic of the Congo."

- b) State of conservation reports of natural properties which the Bureau transmitted to the Committee for action

### **Iguacu National Park (Brazil)**

At its twenty-first session in June 1997, the Bureau learned that a local organisation had started a campaign to re-open a road, closed in 1986 to strengthen protection of the Park, and that in early May 1997, 800 people had invaded the Park and set up camp to begin unauthorised work to clear that road. IUCN informed the Bureau that the road has been closed, but plans to rehabilitate damaged areas were uncertain and political pressure to re-open the road still prevailed.

### **The Bureau recommended the Committee to adopt the following:**

"The Committee invites the Brazilian Delegate(s) expected to be present at its twenty-first session to clarify Government policy with regard to the permanent closure of the road and future steps for rehabilitating damaged areas."

### **Dja Faunal Reserve (Cameroon)**

The Bureau noted with concern that logging activities, carried out under commercial, as well as sustainable forestry schemes, are contributing to the growing biological isolation of the Reserve and are not welcome by the local people. An IUCN project is aiming to minimise the degree of the Reserve's isolation through the establishment of a buffer zone and a protected corridor linking Dja with adjacent forests. New logging roads facilitate access for hunters, and concessionaires have logged forests up to the boundary of the Reserve. Staff belonging to some foreign logging companies had threatened Reserve staff with violence when apprehended inside the Reserve for transporting poached wildlife. Conservationists in Cameroon have called for a moratorium on logging in the area and on the opening up of new access roads. The Park administration's request for financial assistance from the World Heritage Fund to organise a Regional Training Workshop in Dja has been supported by IUCN subject to the proposal being revised to address some of the problems and issues, highlighted above and the search for possible solutions to them.

**The Bureau recommended the Committee to adopt the following:**

"The Committee invites the State Party to study the extent to which sustainable and commercial forestry schemes around Dja are leading to the biological isolation of Dja and to increased poaching of Dja's wildlife. The Committee supports the request for financial assistance, submitted by Cameroon, for organising an in-situ workshop, and encourages the State Party to use the workshop as a forum for discussing, with representatives of donors sponsoring commercial and sustainable forestry activities, IUCN and others concerned, ways and means to minimise the possibility that such activities would isolate Dja from adjacent forests. The Committee invites the Centre and IUCN to report on the recommendations of the workshop, and advise the next session of the Bureau, in mid-1998, whether or not Dja needs to be declared a World Heritage in Danger."

**Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks (Canada)**

The Bureau noted with concern the potential threats to the integrity of this site due to the proposed Cheviot Mine Project, designed to exploit a large (22 km long and 3 km wide), open-pit coal mine, located 1.8 km from the Jasper National Park portion of this World Heritage area. Despite the fact that during the Environmental Assessment process a range of conservation organizations and Parks Canada expressed concern regarding the negative impacts, e.g. loss or alienation of wildlife habitat, impacts on essential wildlife travel corridors etc., which the proposed mining project would have on the integrity of the World Heritage site, the Federal Government of Canada and the Provincial Government of Alberta subsequently approved the project and published a full EIA in favour of the project. At present the proposed mining project is being legally challenged by conservation groups. The Bureau took note of IUCN's observation that an increasing number of World Heritage sites (a total of nine, including this case) are threatened by proposed mining projects.

**The Bureau recommended the Committee to adopt the following:**

"The Committee expresses its serious concerns regarding the impacts that the proposed mining project would have on the integrity of the Canadian Rocky Mountain National Parks and invites the Federal Government of Canada to consult with the Provincial Government of Alberta and to re-consider the decision on the proposed mining project with a view to seeking alternative sites in the region which would have less damaging effects. The Committee requests the Canadian authorities to provide detailed information on the proposed mining project, its expected impacts on the World Heritage site, and proposed measures for mitigating those impacts, to the Centre, before 1 May 1998, for review by the Bureau at its next session in mid-1998."

**Galapagos National Park (Ecuador)**

The Bureau took note of the detailed report (Document WHC-97/CONF.207/INF.6) provided by the Government of Ecuador by 15 November 1997 on the situation of the Galapagos Islands as well as further information by IUCN.

**The Bureau recommended that the Committee adopt the following decision:**

1. Noting the relevant decisions taken by the World Heritage Committee at its nineteenth and twentieth sessions, and by the Bureau of the Committee at its twentieth and twenty-first sessions in June 1996 and June 1997 respectively;
2. Commending the recent efforts and commitment of the Government of Ecuador to address the complex threats to the integrity of the Galapagos World Heritage site and Marine Area;
3. Noting that the draft "Special Galapagos Law" currently before the Ecuadorean Congress, where it has been approved in a first debate, is the centrepiece of an effective conservation strategy for the site;
4. Invites the Government of Ecuador to notify in a timely fashion the Chairman of the World Heritage Committee of the final enactment and entering into force of the law referred to above;
5. Decides not to inscribe the Galapagos World Heritage site on the List of World Heritage in Danger, at this time;
6. Decides that if, by the opening date of the next session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee, the Government of Ecuador has not notified the Chairman of the World Heritage Committee the enactment and entry into force of the Galapagos Special Law as stipulated in Paragraph 4 above, Galapagos Islands be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger."

**Kamchatka Volcanoes (Russian Federation)**

IUCN summarised its recent report, prepared by two experts who visited this site at the invitation of the Russian Federation for Environmental Protection. IUCN reviewed a proposed mining project, whose location was determined to be about 5 km outside of the World Heritage area. The location of the mine did not pose a major environmental or aesthetic problem but would disrupt migratory wildlife that inhabit the region and fisheries resources. While the question of whether or not mining and conservation can co-exist in the area is yet to be answered, the organisation financing the mining company has placed the maintenance of the integrity of the World Heritage site as one of the conditions for the granting of the loan for the mining operations to commence. The Bureau noted with interest that the setting up of an International Review Panel to monitor the environmental impacts of the proposed mining project has been proposed.

**The Bureau recommended the Committee to adopt the following:**

"The Committee invites the State Party to provide detailed information on the proposed mining project, EIAs carried out and other pertinent information and requests IUCN and the Centre to maintain links with the proponents of the mining project and the regional authorities to explore opportunities to link the proposed



mining projects' environmental impact mitigation actions to the conservation and management of Kamchatka Volcanoes World Heritage site."

### **Canaima National Park (Venezuela)**

The Bureau recalled the fact that the Committee, when it inscribed this site on the World Heritage List in 1994, requested that IUCN and the State Party discuss and agree upon boundaries for the World Heritage site. Since then, although the boundaries of the World Heritage site still remain to be finalised, the national electricity company (EDELCA) has proposed to erect a series of power transmission lines across about 160 km of the Park. An adequate environmental impact study has not been conducted and traditional Pemon communities inhabiting the area are opposed to the project. The Venezuelan authorities have declined the Bureau's recommendation, made at its last session in June 1997, to invite a high level UNESCO mission to discuss alternative routes for erecting the power lines and resolve the question of the boundary of the World Heritage site. The IUCN Representative noted that the proposed transmission lines will cut through parts of undisturbed forests and that alternative routes, along a highway which will be less damaging, can be proposed for the erection of those transmission lines.

### **The Bureau recommended the Committee to adopt the following:**

"The Committee invites the Director-General of UNESCO to write to the President of the State Party asking for his intervention to search for possible alternative routes for the erection of the power transmission lines and to initiate negotiations with IUCN and the Centre to determine the appropriate boundaries of the World Heritage site."

- c) State of conservation reports of natural properties which the Bureau transmitted to the Committee for noting

### **Great Barrier Reef (Australia)**

IUCN reported on concerns it has received over the Oyster Point development about which the Committee first expressed concern in 1995, and the potential damage to the World Heritage area from acid sulphate soils. The concerns relate to acid sulphate soils release, and to other proposed developments on the reef. IUCN considered it would be helpful to have a list of the Australian Government's actions to protect the Reef and an associated timetable. There has also been concern about a decrease in the Government's contribution to the budget of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

Australia responded by advising that acid sulphate soils have been recognized as a potential problem along the whole Australian east coast for many years. The problem is not restricted to Oyster Point. At Oyster Point there are very stringent controls with extensive measures being taken at the site to ensure that acid sulphate soils do not damage the World Heritage values. Australia also pointed out that it is wrong to say that there is a broad development threat. In fact, there is now a regional plan which effectively controls development in the area. Australia has also recently restricted certain types of fishing on the Reef to protect the dugong.

In responding to the request for a timetable of actions to protect the reef, Australia advised that it believes this has already been provided in various reports by Australia and that Australia will continue to provide such information. A financial review of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to assess funding levels is currently underway.

### **Belovezhskaya Pushcha/Bialowieza Forest (Belarus/Poland)**

The Bureau noted that reports received from local conservation organisations of logging on the Polish side of this transborder World Heritage area presented an incomplete picture and that sustainable forestry practises occurred only in forests outside of the World Heritage site. The Bureau however, took note of the fact that the Polish authorities have expanded the area of the Bialowieza National Park, from 4,700 ha to 10,500 ha and that the area cited as World Heritage varied between 5,069 ha and 5,346 ha in different documents. The Bureau recalled that the Committee at the time when it inscribed this transborder property in the World Heritage List in 1992 (Santa Fe, USA), called upon the Belarus authorities to prepare a management plan for the Belarus part of the site, in co-ordination with the plan available for the Polish part, and recommended that the two States Parties consider removing the fence between the two parts of the site if the management plan indicated that the fence's removal would lead to enhanced ecosystem viability.

The Bureau requested the Polish authorities to verify the area designated as World Heritage within their territory and inform the Centre as to whether or not they intend to extend the World Heritage area to conform with the new boundaries of the 10,500 ha Bialowieza National Park as established in 1996. The Bureau also called upon the Belarus and Polish authorities to co-operate in the elaboration of a management plan for the Belarus part of this transborder site and consider removing the fence separating the two parts.

### **Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves/La Amistad National Park (Costa Rica/Panama)**

The Bureau recalled that the Committee, in 1990 (Banff, Canada) encouraged the Costa Rican authorities to better define the boundaries of the World Heritage site of Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves. The Costa Rican authorities, facilitated by IUCN's Office in San Jose, have defined a 363,045 ha area for the World Heritage site within Costa Rica. A map of the area has been transmitted to the Centre via IUCN. The total area of 363,045 ha comprises five contiguous, and two nearby protected areas. Together with the 207,000 ha of the La Amistad National Park of Panama, this transborder World Heritage site now covers 570,045 ha. IUCN has noted that the increase in the Costa Rican, Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves is small, i.e. from 358,420 ha to 363,045 ha or about 1.3%, and suggested that the Committee approve this extension without requiring Costa Rica to submit a new nomination.

The Bureau approved the modified boundaries of the Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves of Costa Rica (363,045 ha) and the transborder World Heritage site (570,045

ha) and commended the Costa Rican authorities for consolidating their portion of the World Heritage site.

### **Shirakami Sanchi and Yakushima Island (Japan)**

The Bureau was pleased to learn that, as requested by the Committee at the time of inscription of these two sites on the World Heritage List in 1993, IUCN had undertaken a mission to review their state of conservation and found that there were significant improvements with regard to the management of both sites. The two sites now had well conceived management plans, providing opportunities to local communities to be involved in the management of the sites and conducting special programmes for educating the public in World Heritage values of the site. The Bureau noted that IUCN and the Japanese authorities were discussing the IUCN mission report to finalise the recommendations which will then be considered by the Japanese authorities for implementation.

The Bureau congratulated the Japanese authorities for strengthening the management of the two sites since their designation as World Heritage in 1993, and encouraged them to consider implementing the suggestions made in the IUCN report.

### **Whale Sanctuary of El Viscaïno (Mexico)**

At its twenty-first ordinary session in June 1997, the Bureau noted with appreciation the State Party's efforts to ensure a rigorous evaluation of the environmental impacts of the proposed industrial salt production facility at this site. The Scientific Committee, set up by the Mexican Government to carry out the environmental impact study of the project, had assured that the industrial salt production project will only be authorised if the Scientific Committee found that the project will not compromise the conservation of natural resources of the region and does not pose a risk to the protection of the biological heritage of the Mexican people.

The Bureau requested the Scientific Committee to keep the Centre and IUCN informed of its work to review environmental impact assessment, undertaken in accordance with the terms of reference set by the Scientific Committee, expected to be submitted by the proponents of the industrial salt production project.

The Bureau took note of the communication of 14 October 1997 of the Government of Mexico, confirming that no new project for salt production at El Viscaïno had been proposed since July 1996. The Bureau decided to recommend that the Committee request the Mexican authorities to keep the Committee informed of the work of the "International Committee for the Protection of El Viscaïno" regarding the evaluation of any new project for industrial salt production.

### **Arabian Oryx Sanctuary (Oman)**

At its twenty-first ordinary session in June 1997, the Bureau was informed of an interim plan submitted by the authorities of Oman which foresaw a new outer boundary, and provisional boundaries for five management zones, construction of an

administrative headquarters, visitor and local service centres and other facilities, launching pilot projects in a variety of fields including environmental tourism and possible allocation of financial and human resources for the development of the site as Oman's first national park. As requested by the Bureau, the authorities of Oman have submitted a map showing the outer boundary of the Sanctuary and the provisional boundaries of the five management zones and a report on the status of the Arabian Oryx population in the Sanctuary. IUCN's review of the information contained in the map and the report is underway and will be ready for consideration by the Bureau at its twenty-second session in mid-1998.

The Bureau requested IUCN to submit its findings on the review of the boundaries of this site to its twenty-second session due in mid-1998.

### **Lake Baikal (Russian Federation)**

The Bureau recalled that the Committee, when it inscribed this property on the World Heritage List at its last session (Merida, 1996), noted that the special Lake Baikal Law was in its second reading in the Duma, and expressed its concern over a number of integrity issues, including pollution of the Lake. The Centre has been informed that the special Lake Baikal Law passed the second reading in the Duma; however, the President of the Russian Federation did not sign the Law due to formal considerations. During the Centre's mission to Lake Baikal in July 1997, questions pertaining to the legal status of some parts along the border of the site, in particular that of the Sarminskal Forest at the border of the Pribaikalsi National Park, were raised with the authorities of the State Committee for the Environment and the local Government.

The Bureau expressed its concern regarding the adequacy of the legal basis available for the protection of the entire World Heritage site and requested the Russian authorities to provide, before 1 May 1998, detailed information on the status of the special Lake Baikal Law, and the legal status of forests located adjacent to the boundaries of the World Heritage site."

### **Virgin Komi Forests (Russian Federation)**

The Centre had received information concerning a proposal of the mining company "Terra" to exploit a gold mine at the Kozhim River Basin (Yugyd Va Nature Park). This proposed mining project poses a significant threat to the integrity of the World Heritage site.

The Bureau expressed its serious concern about the proposed gold mining project in the World Heritage site and requests the Russian authorities to provide, before 1 May 1998, detailed information on the proposal, including any environmental impact studies that may have been carried out. In addition, the Bureau requested the Russian authorities to keep the relevant authorities in the Komi Republic fully informed of the Bureau's concerns and involve them in discussions aimed at ensuring the integrity of the World Heritage site.

### **Ha Long Bay (Vietnam)**

The Bureau recalled that the Committee, at its sessions in Berlin (1995) and Merida (1996), had expressed concerns regarding impacts which a port construction project, to be financed by Japan, and the establishment of a large floating hotel, could have on this site. At its twenty-first ordinary session in June 1997, the Bureau was informed that the Vietnamese authorities have withdrawn plans to issue a license for the establishment of a floating hotel. The Bureau encouraged Vietnamese and Japanese authorities to co-operate in carrying out JICA's environmental study of the coastal and marine environment of Ha Long Bay, and urged the Vietnamese authorities to search for ways and means to direct large ships that are expected to pass through the World Heritage area, after the completion of the Cailan port construction project, along alternative routes. IUCN informed the Bureau that its Office in Hanoi has developed a project concept for the conservation and environmental monitoring of the Ha Long Bay which, if implemented, could assist the Vietnamese authorities to mitigate expected environmental impacts of the Cailan Port construction project.

The Bureau requested the Vietnamese authorities to provide to the Centre, before 1 May 1998, the terms of reference of JICA financed environmental study and encouraged the Centre and IUCN to work together with the State Party to further develop the IUCN proposal for a long term project on the conservation of Ha Long Bay and seek possible donors who could finance the project.

**Durmitor National Park (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro))**

The Bureau, at its twenty-first ordinary session held in June 1997, had requested the Park management to submit, before 15 September 1997, a map showing the proposed modification of the Park's boundaries to excise a 40 ha. area around the village of Zabljak, which had already been approved by the Government of the Republic of Montenegro. Furthermore, the Bureau had sought clarification from the Park authorities on whether they considered that an engineering evaluation of the earthen containment structures in the flood plains of the Tara River was needed and expressed its concerns regarding plans for tapping the hydropower potential of the Tara River and requested more information on such plans.

The Bureau requested the Centre to contact the Park authorities to obtain information, before 1 May 1998, with regard to all of the concerns raised by the Bureau.

## **B. MIXED (NATURAL AND CULTURAL) PROPERTIES**

- a) Mixed properties which the Bureau recommended for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger

The Bureau did not recommend any mixed property for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

- b) State of conservation reports of mixed properties which the Bureau transmitted to the Committee for action

### **Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru)**

The Bureau at its twenty-first session requested ICOMOS and IUCN to undertake a joint mission to Machu Picchu in order to examine the management and conservation of the site and to draw up recommendations for future actions. IUCN and ICOMOS presented the main conclusions of this report to the Bureau, particularly with regard to the following issues:

- 1) Management of the Sanctuary: Integrated management of the Sanctuary is considered essential and should involve the National Institute for Culture (INC), the National Institute for Natural Resources (INRENA) and the Government of the Inka region.
- 2) Master Plan: There is an urgent need for a comprehensive master plan for the Sanctuary. A technical workshop could be held in order to initiate the preparation of such a plan.
- 3) Planning of interventions: A monitoring and evaluation programme should be established for all new and ongoing interventions, particularly the helicopter flights from Cusco to Aguas Calientes, a proposed funicular or cable-car system to access the ruins of the Inka city, road constructions, among others.
- 4) Tourism: Tourism should be managed and carefully planned in the context of the master plan.
- 5) Human settlements: It was noted that action is being taken to resolve problems of squatters in the Sanctuary but concern was expressed that local government pressure for road access could bring considerable additional problems from an influx of squatters and hunters.

### **The Bureau recommended the Committee to adopt the following:**

"The Committee, having examined the report of IUCN and ICOMOS, expresses its concern about the deficient management arrangements for the Sanctuary and urges the Peruvian authorities to establish an adequate management structure for the site. It furthermore recommends them to prepare a comprehensive master plan as an overall

guiding instrument for conservation, planning, infrastructural interventions, tourism development, etc.

The Committee requests the Peruvian authorities to examine the report with great attention and to transmit its views on, and follow-up actions foreseen in response to the conclusions and recommendations contained in it to the Secretariat by 15 April 1998 at the latest for examination by the Bureau at its twenty-second session."

- c) State of conservation reports of mixed properties which the Bureau transmitted to the Committee for noting

### **Kakadu National Park (Australia)**

IUCN reported on a proposal to mine on a mining lease enclave within but not part of the World Heritage area. IUCN reported that 77 concerns had been identified over the proposal and the Senior Supervisory Scientist had also suggested that a new EIA would be needed should the location of the mill be changed. IUCN is receiving reports from Australian groups concerned about the potential impacts and some have proposed the site should be considered for the List of World Heritage in Danger.

ICOMOS noted that, while the mining site is excluded from the WH area, it considers that care needs to be taken in handling the mining operation if and when it proceeds, to protect the important sacred sites and spiritual values of the area. It also expressed concern that the traditional owners had not participated in the environmental impact statement. It emphasized the need for continuous monitoring of the condition of the cultural sites in the close vicinity of the proposed mine.

Benin also expressed support for the concerns of the traditional owners and the need to monitor the cultural environment.

Australia advised that the 77 "concerns" are in fact conditions that have been set by the Government on the mining company. Particular attention in these recommendations was paid by the Minister for the Environment to protecting World Heritage values. Mining will not proceed until these conditions are met. The issue of Aboriginal involvement is recognized as an important one and the Australian Government and the mining company have committed themselves to ongoing consultation with the Aboriginal people. The Australian Government has commissioned an independent social impact study, at the request of the traditional owners, and is responding to the outcome.

Australia added that there has been uranium mining in the area but outside the World Heritage site for 20 years with no significant environmental effects, with independent supervision and monitoring by an independent scientific statutory body.

### **Tasmanian Wilderness (Australia)**

IUCN reported on the process and outcome of the Regional Forest Agreement signed by the Prime Minister of Australia and the Premier of Tasmania on 8 November 1997. IUCN said that a thematic methodology for identifying World Heritage values by an

independent expert panel had been exemplary in its approach and that this had been followed by an audit to ensure that all the information was available to enable informed decisions to be made. The allocation of public forest land for production and protection had been made at a political level and this had led to trade-offs. The outcome offered the potential of some modest boundary improvements to the site, although the agreement did not meet IUCN aspirations and would not be welcomed by many of its members. The outcome of the agreement is that threats to the integrity of the site remain. The 20-year agreement, specified further joint action between the two governments before any proposals for extensions to the World Heritage site could be expected.

Australia responded by expressing its appreciation of the direct role played by the IUCN Advisor in the scientific work that led to the outcome. The Australian Government felt that the outcome of the RFA was a major gain for conservation in Tasmania.

In general terms, Australia noted that the Minister of the Environment had responded in detail to all the above issues. Australia had a current programme to spend \$1.5 Billion on environmental repair and enhancement and specifically would be spending approximately \$ 21 Million on World Heritage this year.

Finally, the IUCN Report noted that their National Committee has offered to perform an "audit function" for reporting on the conservation status for all Australian World Heritage sites. These annual reports will be available for meetings of the Bureau and Committee in 1998.

## **C. CULTURAL HERITAGE**

### a) Cultural properties which the Bureau recommended for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger

#### **Butrinti, Albania**

The Bureau examined the report of the UNESCO-ICOMOS-Butrint Foundation assessment mission to the World Heritage site of Butrinti, Albania (Information Document WHC-97/CONF.207/INF.5). It took note of the letter of the Minister of Culture of Albania, dated 20 November 1997, in which she fully endorses the report and requests the Committee to inscribe the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The Bureau decided to recommend the Committee to inscribe the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Bureau recommended the Committee to adopt the following:

"The Committee takes note of the report of the UNESCO-ICOMOS-Butrint Foundation assessment mission to the World Heritage site of Butrinti, Albania. It expresses its serious concern about the damages caused to the World Heritage site and about its conditions in terms of protection, management and conservation.



The Committee notes that the Minister of Culture of Albania, by letter dated 20 November, fully endorsed the report and requested the World Heritage Committee to inscribe Butrinti on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee welcomes the Minister's assurance that the Albanian Government is deeply concerned and committed to the preservation of the site.

The Committee, considering that the criteria that are stipulated in paragraph 78 of the Operational Guidelines are met, decides to inscribe Butrinti on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The Committee requests the Secretariat to collaborate with the Albanian Government in the development of a programme of corrective action and to undertake the necessary co-ordination with the Government of Albania, other international organizations and agencies such as the World Bank and the European Union and non-governmental organizations, particularly the Butrint Foundation, for its implementation.

The Committee allocates an amount of US\$ 100,000 as emergency assistance of which an amount of US\$ 47,000 for the implementation of the immediate actions proposed in the mission report. The remaining funds are to be allocated, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee, for the development and implementation of the programme of corrective action.

The Committee requests the Secretariat to submit a progress report on the actions taken to the twenty-second session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee."

**b) State of conservation reports of cultural properties which the Bureau transmitted to the Committee for action**

**Islamic Cairo (Egypt)**

**Al Azhar Mosque**

Anxious to preserve the authenticity of the monument, the Bureau recommended to the Committee to adopt the following decision:

"The Committee recommends

1. that the national authorities concerned immediately halt all work;
2. that UNESCO seek the co-operation of the Organization for the Islamic Conference;
3. that the World Heritage Centre designate an expert in agreement with the national authorities concerned, to identify the conservation activities to be undertaken; and
4. that a meeting be organized for the persons responsible for the religious monuments of the region to provide information on the notion of authenticity."

### **Churches of Lalibela (Ethiopia)**

The Bureau took note of the information provided. After having been informed that an expert would present a detailed report to the Committee, it recommended that the Committee adopt the following decision:

"The Committee

1. thanks the Ethiopian authorities for having requested the European Union to inform the World Heritage Centre of the International Competition foreseen for the erection of five shelters in Lalibela;
2. notes the results of the meeting held on 30 September at UNESCO between the European Union, the World Heritage Centre and UNESCO's Division of Cultural Heritage;
3. recommends that the Competition File be reviewed to integrate the points of view of the World Heritage Centre consultant and ICOMOS with a view to preserving the World Heritage value of the site;
4. endorses the conservation programme prepared by the UNESCO-WHC consultant;
- 5) underlines the importance of an integrated preservation and long-term management plan on a site endangered by new environmental contingencies and requests the World Heritage Centre to organise a mission to Lalibela before the end of January 1998, to review the situation with the Ethiopian authorities and the European Union, in order to (a) ensure a long-term protection of the monuments within the context of the ecosystem; (b) integrate the problems of the growth of Lalibela and, (c) to draw up a plan of action of the approved conservation programme which should be requested by the Ethiopian authorities under the European Union 'Programme to support initiatives in the conservation field (PSIC)'".

### **Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin (Germany)**

Following the request of the twenty-first session of the Bureau, June 1997, the Minister for Science, Research and Culture of Land Brandenburg submitted a third state of conservation report on the World Heritage site of Potsdam which addresses the following issues:

- 1) the extension of the boundaries of the World Heritage site;
- 2) the elaboration of a master plan for the Potsdam cultural landscape;
- 3) the completion of the international urban development competitions;
- 4) the impact of various construction projects on the values of the Potsdam cultural landscape;
- 5) the impact of the German Unity Transport Project No.17.

The Bureau took note with great interest of the third state of conservation report submitted by the German authorities and decided to refer its examination to the Committee when an expert will provide further information.

### **Roman Monuments, Cathedral and Liebfrauen Church in Trier (Germany)**

As requested by the Bureau at its twenty-first session, the Minister for Culture, Youth, Family and Women of the Land Rheinland-Pfalz submitted a report on the protection and management mechanisms for the Roman Amphitheatre and its surroundings.

The report informs that the winning design of the urban competition for the area north of the amphitheatre is being realized with due consideration for a Roman water system that was discovered.

As to the buildings east of the Bergstrasse, these have been partly completed or are under construction. The Town of Trier points out that the architectural volume of buildings had already been reduced and that they are the result of a compromise to limit building surface in this area.

National heritage preservation for the area surrounding the amphitheatre is currently under discussion and the Town of Trier is analysing how further protection of the non-built areas can be realized.

Considering that an ICOMOS mission was undertaken only a few days before the session, the Bureau decided to refer the examination of the state of conservation of this property to the Committee.

### **Collegiate Church, Castle and Old Town in Quedlinburg (Germany)**

In response to the request of the World Heritage Bureau, the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Land Sachsen-Anhalt submitted a report on the state of conservation and development plans for the City of Quedlinburg. At the same time and as requested by the Bureau, ICOMOS undertook a mission to Quedlinburg.

The mission reported favourably on the effectiveness of the measures already in place and the competence and commitment of those responsible for the management of the historic town. It also stressed the importance of the preparation and implementation without delay of a management plan for the World Heritage site.

The Bureau decided to transmit the above information to the Committee for examination and recommended the Committee to adopt the following:

"The Committee commends the Ministry of the Federal State of Sachsen-Anhalt for the first report on the state of conservation of this World Heritage site.

The Committee commends the German authorities and institutions - especially the City of Quedlinburg - for their strong commitment to save this unique World Heritage site from destruction and further demolition despite a dramatic economic situation.

Being aware of these tremendous economic difficulties and of the need of attracting investors, the Committee nevertheless urges the respective authorities not to permit any new building which could damage or destroy the historic ensemble of Quedlinburg. It takes note furthermore of the architectural competition for six open areas and the development of a master plan which shall also reflect the boundaries of the World Heritage site.

The Committee recommends its President to offer technical assistance on request for the completion of the master plan.

Having thoroughly examined the report submitted by the Representative of ICOMOS, the Committee requests the German authorities to submit by 15 September 1998 for examination by the twenty-second session of the Committee, a second report on:

- the progress made in safeguarding the historic heritage;
- the results of the architectural competition;
- the adoption of the urban master plan."

### **Tyr (Lebanon)**

Noting that the Directorate General of Antiquities had already carried out a series of conservation activities, but concerned with regard to existing threats, the Bureau recommends the Committee to adopt the following decision:

"The Committee commends the Lebanese authorities for the quality of the protection work carried out successfully and recommends that particular attention be paid to the rapid preparation of a master plan covering all the archaeological zones of Tyr and its surroundings, including the City of Tyr. The Committee reminds the Lebanese authorities that the Secretariat had already stated its willingness to contribute technically and substantially to the preparation of similar master plans for all other World Heritage sites in Lebanon".

### **Alhambra, Generalife and Albayzin, Grenada (Spain)**

Following the session of the Bureau in June 1997, the work on the Rey Chico festivities hall situated between the Albayzin and the left bank of the Rio Darro had been halted and a UNESCO-ICOMOS mission was undertaken in November 1997.

The conclusions of the mission were the following:

- the building as such does not pose major problems;
- however, the use of the building as a festivities hall for 1000 people is incompatible with the site (access roads, traffic, noise etc.). It is recommended, therefore, that the use of the building be reviewed;
- areas adjacent to the building should be declared 'non-constructable' to enable the landscaping of the valley of the River Rio Darro;
- the management plan for the Alhambra, the Generalife and Albaycin should be revised and incorporated in the plan for the City of Granada. This could be

supervised by a scientific committee with UNESCO involvement, as was recommended by the Bureau at its session last June.

Having examined the above information, the Bureau recommended the Committee to adopt the following:

"The Committee endorses the recommendations made by the UNESCO-ICOMOS mission and urges the Spanish authorities to implement them. The Committee requests the Spanish authorities to submit a report on the progress made in their implementation by 15 April 1998 for examination by the twenty-second session of the Bureau."

### **Sun Temple of Konarak (India)**

The heavy monsoon rains of 1996 and 1997 caused the sand-fill and the surrounding foundation, supporting the very large stone structure of the Sun Temple, to subside seriously. Loose stones have already begun to fall into the hollow interior of the Temple, previously supported by the sand-fill. International experts have pointed to the risk of the Temple structure caving in unless immediate conservation measures are undertaken.

Cracks in various parts of the stone walls, triggered by the gradual rusting of the iron clamps supporting the Temple walls caused by the sea breeze, have led to stone fragments falling off. This gradual deterioration and the structural instability aggravated by the heavy monsoon rains, prompted the Government of India to make a request in September 1997 for emergency assistance under the World Heritage Fund to conduct a structural study to identify appropriate emergency conservation measures. This request was approved by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee. The Government has plans to nominate this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The Bureau took note of the above information and recommended the Committee to adopt the following:

"The Committee requests the Government of India to report on the findings of the structural study to be undertaken with the emergency assistance grant at its twenty-second session of the Bureau in June/July 1998. Furthermore, it requests the Government of India to keep the Secretariat informed in the meantime to enable UNESCO to mobilize additional international co-operation to ascertain the present condition of the property to undertake corrective measures as required."

### **Kathmandu Valley (Nepal)**

The World Heritage Committee at its seventeenth session in 1993 expressed deep concern over the state of conservation of the Kathmandu Valley site and considered the possibility of placing it on the List of World Heritage in Danger, following discussions on the findings of the 1993 Joint UNESCO-ICOMOS Review Mission (hereafter referred to as the 1993 Mission).

Since then, H.M. Government of Nepal has given priority to responding to the sixteen points of concern raised by the 1993 Mission. However, the Bureau, at its twenty-first

session (June 1997), decided to consider recommending the inscription of the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its twenty-first extraordinary session (November 1997), in view of the continued deterioration of the monument zones of Bauddhanath and of Kathmandu (two of the seven monument zones protected under the Convention).

In order to make a sound recommendation to the Committee in this regard, the Bureau examined the state of conservation report submitted by H.M. Government of Nepal, summarized together with comments from the UNESCO International Technical Advisor in Working Document WHC-97/CONF.207/INF.2. This report provides full information on the progress made on each of the sixteen points of the 1993 Mission recommendations.

The Observer of Nepal thanked the Bureau, the Committee and the Secretariat for their consistent support since 1993. He expressed appreciation for the Bureau's recognition of the great efforts made by the Government, particularly the Department of Archaeology and the municipalities of Bhaktapur and Patan (Latipur) and stated that his Government will increase efforts to address the outstanding problems in the Kathmandu and Bauddhanath monument zones. He supported the Secretariat's recommendation for a joint UNESCO-ICOMOS-Nepali Government mission for a thorough review of the situation before the Committee's decision for the inscription of the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

**The Bureau recommended the Committee to adopt the following:**

"The Committee takes note of the information provided by H.M. Government of Nepal and the Secretariat concerning the implementation of the sixteen-point recommendation of the 1993 UNESCO-ICOMOS Review Mission.

The Committee expresses appreciation to H.M. Government of Nepal in establishing the Development Control Unit and in its efforts to ensure enhanced management of the Kathmandu Valley site as well as in mobilizing international assistance from the World Heritage Fund and other sources. The Committee takes note of the special efforts made by the Municipalities of Bhaktapur and Patan in safeguarding the monument zones under their authority.

However, in view of the continued deterioration of the World Heritage values in the Bauddhanath and Kathmandu monument zones, effecting the integrity and inherent characteristics of the site, the Committee requests the Secretariat, in collaboration with ICOMOS and H.M. Government of Nepal, to study the possibility of deleting selected areas within some monument zones, without jeopardizing the universal significance and value of the site as a whole. This review should take into consideration the intention of H.M. Government to nominate Kokhana as an additional monument zone.

The Committee authorizes up to US \$ 35,000, from the World Heritage Fund technical co-operation budget for a joint UNESCO-ICOMOS-H.M. Government of Nepal team to conduct a thorough study and to elaborate a programme for corrective measures in accordance with paragraphs 82-89 of the Operational Guidelines. The detailed budget for this activity is to be submitted to the Chairperson for approval.

Furthermore, the Committee requests H.M. Government of Nepal to submit a report to the Secretariat for presentation to the Bureau, at its twenty-second session in June/July 1998, on the progress made with the on-going or new international assistance projects funded by the World Heritage Fund and other sources, and on further progress in implementing the sixteen-point recommendation.

Based upon the information from the study and the report from H.M. Government, and recommendations from the Bureau, the Committee could consider whether or not to inscribe this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its twenty-second session.

### **Complex of Hue Monuments (Vietnam)**

The Bureau at its twentieth extraordinary session made specific recommendations to the Vietnamese authorities on the management and conservation of the site. In view of continued incidents of illegal constructions in the buffer zones, the Secretariat assisted the Government by mobilizing international support to redress this situation.

A decentralized co-operation project with the City and Province of Hué, the City of Lille (France) and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre is in preparation. The first phase of the project will include the evaluation of the building regulations and the establishment of a Heritage House within the provincial urban planning office as an advisory service for the local population and investors.

The Hué Monuments Conservation Centre reported to the Secretariat that a typhoon which hit central Vietnam caused extensive damage to the historic buildings within the core monument zone, and that an emergency request was being prepared.

### **The Bureau recommended the Committee to adopt the following:**

"The Committee takes note of the information provided by the Secretariat concerning damage caused by the 24 September 1997 typhoon to the historic buildings of Hué; and of continued building violations in the buffer zones which may undermine the integrity of this site. The Committee expresses its appreciation for the agreement for decentralized co-operation between the Province of Hué, the City of Lille and UNESCO, which should enable a thorough review of the land-use and building regulations of the protected area and the buffer zones of the site and the establishment of the Heritage House - an advisory service for the local population attached to the provincial urban planning office. The Committee requests the Government to submit to the twenty-second session of the Committee, a written report on the options being considered for the upgrading and construction of roads affecting Hué, and on measures being undertaken to stop building violations. The Committee also requests the Government to provide the Secretariat with a technical report on the impact of the typhoon on the site."

c) **State of conservation reports of cultural properties which the Bureau transmitted to the Committee for noting**

**Joya de Ceren Archaeological Site (El Salvador)**

The Bureau took note of the results of the International Seminar for the Preservation and Management of Joya de Ceren and encouraged the authorities of El Salvador to proceed with the implementation of its recommendations, in particular in reference to the preparation of a Master Plan for the site and the 1997-1999 work plan for archaeological research. It requested the authorities to keep the Committee informed on the progress made in these matters.

**Le Canal du Midi (France)**

A French non-governmental organization transmitted a report to the Secretariat concerning the construction of a waste dump for the re-use of organic waste to be located in the close vicinity of the World Heritage site. ICOMOS undertook a mission to assess the impact and concluded that although the impact assessment study undertaken by the French authorities had not been completed the industrial complex is not likely to have a negative impact on the World Heritage site.

The Bureau took note of the ICOMOS report on the construction of the plant for re-use of organic waste. It recommended that once the funding be made available, the competent French authorities verify in the mandatory impact assessment study that the necessary measures are foreseen to avoid any of the negative effects that might be identified in the study.

**Mont-Saint-Michel and its Bay (France)**

The UNESCO National Commission for France submitted a report to the Secretariat, prepared by the Ministry of Equipment, on a programme for the rehabilitation of the maritime character of the Mont-Saint-Michel. The programme foresees a master plan for the area and the replacement of the dike by a bridge, as well as the relocation of the visitors' car park.

The Bureau took note of the report and commended the French authorities on this programme of rehabilitation which will greatly improve the integrity of the World Heritage site. It requested the State Party to keep the Committee informed on the progress made in the implementation of this project.

**Ashanti Traditional Buildings (Ghana)**

Satisfied with the results of the in-situ pilot training activity and recognizing the need to reformulate the conservation plan to involve the local populations, the Bureau congratulated the Ghanaian authorities for having followed up the Bureau recommendations of June 1996 and encouraged them to continue co-operation with the World Heritage Centre and ICCROM/CRATERre-EAG, to prepare a conservation plan for the entire site.



### **Maya Site of Copan (Honduras)**

The Bureau took note that as a result of a scientific seminar that was held at Copan in July 1997 a Task Force was set up between the National Institute for Anthropology and History (IHAH), the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the Getty Conservation Institute and the Smithsonian Institution that will advise and assist in the implementation of a two-year monitoring and research programme with the aim to preserve the Hieroglyphic Stairway on its original location.

The Bureau commended the Government of Honduras for the exemplary approach taken in studying the conservation problems at the Hieroglyphic Stairway at Copan with the aim to preserve the Stairway in-situ. The Bureau requested IHAH to keep the Committee informed on a regular basis of the progress made in this respect.

### **Agra Fort, Taj Mahal, Fatehpur Sikri (India)**

Serious air pollution surrounding these sites has led to the deterioration of the white marble, stone inlays and sandstone of the three sites. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the Government of India have systematically cleaned the surfaces of the stone, replaced deteriorated panels, and taken measures to reduce air pollution by imposing various restrictions on the industries concerned. The planned construction of a new industrial complex near the Taj Mahal was recently prevented. However, a comprehensive assessment of the origin and impact of the environmental pollution is necessary.

A French private enterprise, Rhône Poulenc, will provide US \$ 236,735, to fund a three-year research project for the conservation of the Taj Mahal and monuments at Agra Fort and to establish a conservation laboratory in Agra Fort. This will also fund UNESCO participation in the TA-2474 Agreement for the Environmental Improvement and Sustainable Development of the Agra and Mathura Trapezium Programme, funded by the Asian Development Bank.

The Bureau took note of this information and requested the Indian authorities concerned to keep the Secretariat informed on the progress of the research project, the establishment of the conservation laboratory, and of the TA-2474 Agreement for the Environmental Improvement and Sustainable Development of the Agra and Mathura Trapezium Programme.

### **Quseir Amra (Jordan)**

Satisfied with work undertaken to improve the visitors' centre with plans financed by France, the Bureau requested the Jordanian authorities to consider submitting a request for assistance under the World Heritage Fund as a contribution to the construction of the visitors' centre. Finally, the Bureau congratulates the Jordanian authorities on the results achieved at this site and recommends that all these efforts be integrated in a comprehensive plan for the management of the site which the Secretariat could help prepare.

### **Town of Luang Prabang (Lao People's Democratic Republic)**

The Committee at its twentieth session noted the concerns expressed by the Bureau over the inappropriate conservation methods being applied in the renovation of houses and temples in Luang Prabang, particularly, the use of cement facing on historic buildings. The Bureau urged the Government to enact the Cultural Properties Protection Law as soon as possible and to organize an information meeting to present the Safeguarding and Development Plan of the Town to ensure that infrastructural development projects do not undermine the World Heritage value of the site.

The Bureau took note of the progress report of the Secretariat and commended the Government of Lao PDR and the provincial authorities of Luang Prabang for the numerous achievements made in protecting this site through the joint Luang Prabang-Chinon-UNESCO project which range from the adoption of legal and management measures, to the training on conservation practice and production of traditional building material.

The Bureau, however, expressed concern over the continuation of inappropriate conservation methods on historic houses and use of certain modern building material that undermines not only the authenticity but also the integrity of the site. The Bureau recommended that law enforcement measures be combined with public awareness and training activities of the local population to ensure their commitment and participation which are crucial in protecting this site, mainly composed of privately-owned traditional vernacular buildings.

### **Pre-Hispanic City of Teotihuacan (Mexico)**

The Bureau took note of the communication of 26 September 1997 of the Government of Mexico and a detailed report provided by the Mexican Delegation on the actions taken by the Government of Mexico for the protection, preservation and management of the site. The report dealt with the management of the site, the measures taken with regard the commercial areas and the creation of a commission for the monitoring of the developments in the valley where Teotihuacan is located. The Mexican Delegate stressed that the recommendations of the UNESCO expert mission to the site coincide almost entirely with the actions undertaken and planned by the authorities.

The Bureau commended the Mexican authorities on the positive response to the recommendations of the UNESCO expert mission. It requested the Mexican authorities to submit a report on the implementation of the recommendations by 15 April 1998 for examination by the Bureau at its twenty-second session.

### **Ilha de Mozambique (Mozambique)**

Satisfied with the integrated rehabilitation approach for the preservation of the Ilha de Mozambique and the creation of a funds-in-trust to finance it, the Bureau:

- (i) congratulated the Mozambique authorities for having made a commitment for the implementation of the Programme for Sustainable

Human Development and Integral Conservation of the Ilha de Mozambique;

- (ii) noted that assistance from the World Heritage Fund has enabled the preparation of a comprehensive programme which will allow the Mozambique authorities to better conserve, preserve and present the heritage of the Ilha;
- (iii) requested the World Heritage Centre to oversee the conservation component of the programme".

### **Moenjodaro (Pakistan)**

The excavated remains of this site continue to be threatened by the environment. The US\$ 24 million International Campaign for the Safeguarding of Moenjodaro, launched by UNESCO and the Government of Pakistan in 1974, was concluded in September 1997. The Campaign's International Advisory Committee, at its final meeting, made recommendations to the Government of Pakistan to create an administrative structure to manage the site with assistance from international experts.

The Bureau took note of the information provided by the Secretariat concerning the conclusion of the International Campaign for the Safeguarding of Moenjodaro. The Bureau requested the Government of Pakistan to keep the Secretariat informed on the implementation of the final recommendations of the International Advisory Committee, particularly with regard to the establishment of the administrative structure to ensure the sustainability of the results of the International Campaign.

### **Baroque Churches of the Philippines (Philippines)**

The Bureau took note of the report of the Secretariat on the state of conservation of the San Agustin Church in Paoay and the request for international assistance submitted by the Government of the Philippines for organizing a training workshop to raise public awareness and to ensure proper conservation measures to be undertaken to preserve the integrity of the Baroque Churches. The Bureau recommended that the Government continues its effort to safeguard this site and to report on the Government's restoration plan of the Church of San Agustin in Paoay, to the Committee at its twenty-second session.

### **Old Town of Segovia and its Aqueduct (Spain)**

ICOMOS presented the following observations as a result of a mission undertaken to the site, particularly in reference to the aqueduct and its surroundings:

- Traffic in the area immediately east of the aqueduct could pose problems in the future. In response to this, the municipality has prepared a project to divert heavy traffic further east.
- A permit was issued before the inscription on the World Heritage List for an inappropriate building on a square west of the aqueduct. A satisfactory compromise has now been reached on the height and size of the building.

- The state of conservation of the aqueduct itself has been analysed in-depth and does not pose any major problem.

The Bureau took note of this report and commended the authorities of Segovia for the positive steps that have been taken to preserve the integrity of the aqueduct and its surroundings in Segovia.

### **Cultural World Heritage sites in Sri Lanka**

The Bureau was informed by ICOMOS of the technical difficulties in the completion of the report of the 1994 ICOMOS monitoring mission to the Sacred City of Anuradhapura, the Ancient City of Polonnawura and the Ancient City of Sigiriya, requested by the Government of Sri Lanka. ICOMOS stated that this report would be submitted to the authorities of Sri Lanka for their approval and thereafter, be made available for examination by the Bureau at its twenty-second session in June/July 1998. The report of the mission to the three other World Heritage sites (Sacred City of Kandy, Old Town of Galle and its Fortifications, Golden Temple of Dambulla), which was to take place at the end of December 1997, would also be available at this time. Thus, the Bureau decided to consider the state of conservation of these sites at its twenty-second session.

### **Ancient City of Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic)**

After having taken note of the Secretariat's report concerning the situation at Tekiya Souleymaniah in the Ancient City of Damascus, the Bureau thanked the Syrian authorities for having co-operated with the UNESCO experts, and requested them to prepare the next tender in co-operation with UNESCO, in order to proceed with the project in the light of its experts' recommendations and inform the Secretariat before 31 March 1998 of the progress made.

### **Historic Areas of Istanbul (Turkey)**

The Bureau took note of the report of ICOMOS and expressed concern over the state of conservation of the Historic Areas of Istanbul, in particular, the conservation methods being applied in Zeyrek. The Bureau requested the State Party to submit a report on the conservation efforts being made to maintain the World Heritage value of the site, by 15 April 1998, for examination by the Bureau at its twenty-second session.

### **Itchan Kala, Historic Centre of Bukhara (Uzbekistan)**

The Bureau was informed by the Secretariat, ICOMOS and ICCROM of reports that major refacing and rebuilding of historic monuments and replacement of traditional architectural elements with inappropriate modern materials are being carried out at both Bukhara and Itchan Kala, as well as in Samarkand. These works, some irreversible, had been conducted in preparation for the 2500th Jubilee celebrations and have altered the appearance of the two World Heritage sites and Samarkand, which is on the Tentative List.

ICCROM also expressed concern over the demolition of traditional vernacular houses in some areas to create large squares surrounding the monuments, thereby impairing the integrity of the historic area.

The Bureau was informed that ICOMOS had been requested by the Secretariat to carry out a reactive assessment mission and that this would take place in early 1998.

Therefore, the Bureau decided to consider the findings of the ICOMOS mission at its twenty-second session in June/July 1998, and take appropriate action thereupon.

### **Shibam and Zabid (Yemen)**

The Secretariat and ICOMOS reported that restoration works are not executed in conformity with the character of the monuments and accepted conservation standards.

The Bureau requested the Secretariat to send a mission to Yemen to: 1) advise on the completion of the 1994 emergency assistance and 2) advise the authorities on the preparation of a training request under the World Heritage Fund for the personnel of the Organization for the Preservation of the Historic Cities in Yemen.

## **IV. EXAMINATION OF NOMINATIONS OF CULTURAL AND NATURAL PROPERTIES TO THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST AND THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER**

**IV.1** At its twenty-first extraordinary session, the Bureau reviewed five natural nominations, two mixed sites and seven cultural properties.

### **A. NATURAL HERITAGE**

The Bureau examined four natural nominations, which were referred by the Bureau at its twenty-first session and one new nomination for which IUCN has carried out the field evaluation in October 1997.

#### **A.1 Properties which the Bureau recommended for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger**

The Bureau recalled that at its twenty-first session it recommended to the Committee to inscribe the following two sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger :

- Okapi Faunal Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
- Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

Having examined Working Document WHC-97/CONF.207/2, the Bureau recommended to the Committee to inscribe the following site on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- Manovo-Gounda St. Floris National Park (Central African Republic)

## A.2 Properties which the Bureau recommended for inscription on the World Heritage List

Name of Property	Identification number	State Party having submitted the nomination in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention	Criteria
<b>Macquarie Island</b>	<b>629 Rev.</b>	<b>Australia</b>	<b>N(i)(iii)</b>

The Bureau recalled that it had referred this nomination back to Australia in order that new material can be assessed. In presenting its revised evaluation, IUCN stated that the nomination has been submitted for its geological and not for biological values, and that the sixteenth session of the Committee had asked Australia to consider Macquarie Island as part of an international World Heritage site with the Subantarctic Islands (New Zealand). Australia reported that it had consulted with New Zealand in 1996 and had found that New Zealand was not ready for a joint nomination. The Bureau was informed that New Zealand has nominated the Subantarctic Islands for review by the Bureau at its twenty-second session. IUCN felt that the basis for the nomination was too narrow and recommended deferral of the nomination.

After a considerable discussion concerning: (1) geological and biological values; (2) the sovereignty of States Parties to nominate properties and (3) the outstanding universal value of the nominated property, the Bureau by consensus decided to recommend the Committee to inscribe the property under criteria (i) and (iii). The site provides an unique example for exposure of the ocean crust above the ocean surface and of geological evidence for sea-floor spreading, and is an exposure of the oceanic plate boundary between the Pacific and Australian/Indian plates, exposed with active faults and ongoing tectonic movements.

The Bureau encouraged the Australian authorities to consider for the future a renomination with the Subantarctic Islands of New Zealand and to consider adding biological criteria in a future renomination. Australia indicated that the Australian Government was willing to consider both proposals.

<b>The Sunderbans</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>Bangladesh</b>	<b>N(ii)(iv)</b>
-----------------------	------------	-------------------	------------------

The Bureau recalled that it had suggested that the authorities of Bangladesh consider enlarging the nomination to include the Sundarbans East and South Wildlife Sanctuaries. The Bureau commended the Government of Bangladesh for responding to its request to extend the boundaries of the site.

The Bureau decided to recommend the Committee to inscribe the site under criteria (ii) and (iv) as one of the largest remaining areas of mangroves in the world, which supports an exceptional biodiversity with a wide range of fauna, including the Bengal

Tiger and provides a significant example of on-going ecological processes (monsoonal rains, flooding, delta formation, tidal influence and plant colonisation).

The Bureau furthermore encouraged the authorities of Bangladesh and of India to discuss the possibility for creating a transfrontier site with the adjoining Sundarbans National Park and World Heritage site (India).

**Mount Kenya National Park/Natural Forest      800      Kenya      N(ii)(iii)**

The Bureau recalled that it expressed concern about illegal deforestation and encroachment on the slopes of Mt. Kenya and had recommended that the Kenyan authorities reduce the size of the nominated area by excluding heavily impacted forests. The Bureau commended the Kenyan authorities for their response to the Bureau's request and the details provided on actions to be taken to improve the management of the forested zone and a map of the revised boundaries of the property. The Bureau, however, encouraged the State Party to continue its efforts to better protect the Forest Reserve.

The Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe this property under natural criteria (ii) and (iii) as one of the most impressive landscapes of Eastern Africa with its rugged glacier-clad summits, Afro-alpine moor lands and diverse forests, which illustrate outstanding ecological processes.

**A.3 Property which the Bureau deferred**

**National Reserve of Maasai Mara      799      Kenya**

The Bureau noted that the site, on its own, does not meet natural criteria and that it is an integral component of the Serengeti ecosystem. The Bureau was advised that the Tanzanian authorities are not in a position to consider this nomination as an extension to the World Heritage site of Serengeti National Park (Tanzania) at this time.

The Bureau therefore deferred this property and encouraged the Kenyan authorities to work together with the Government of Tanzania for a transfrontier agreement to extend the Serengeti World Heritage site to include the National Reserve of Masai Mara.

**A.4 Property which the Bureau referred to the Committee**

**Natural Reserve "El Triunfo"      807      Mexico**

The Bureau decided after having heard the evaluation by IUCN to bring this nomination to the twenty-first session of the Committee.

## **B. MIXED PROPERTIES**

### **B.1 Properties which the Bureau recommended for inscription on the World Heritage List**

<b>Name of Property</b>	<b>Identi- fication number</b>	<b>State Party having submitted the nomination in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
<b>Pyrénées - Mount Perdu</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>France/Spain</b>	<b>N(i)(iii) C(iii)(iv)(v)</b>

The Bureau recalled that at its twenty-first session it recommended that the Committee inscribe the site under natural criteria (i) and (iii). The calcareous massif of the Mount Perdu displays in a classic way a number of geological land forms including deep canyons and spectacular cirque walls. It is also an outstanding scenic landscape with meadows, lakes, caves and forests on mountain slopes. In addition, the area is of high interest to science and conservation.

Concerning cultural values the Bureau decided to recommend the Committee to inscribe the property on the basis of criteria (iii), (iv) and (v): The Pyrénées-Mont Perdu area between France and Spain is an outstanding cultural landscape which combines scenic beauty with a socio-economic structure that has its roots in the past and illustrates a mountain way of life that has become rare in Europe.

The Bureau furthermore encouraged France to consider including the village of Bestué and its environs, including its spectacular flights of terraced fields.

<b>Sibiloï/Central Island National Parks</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>Kenya</b>	<b>N(i)(iv)</b>
--------------------------------------------------	------------	--------------	-----------------

The Bureau at its twenty-first session recommended the Committee to inscribe this property on the basis of natural criteria (i) and (iv) for the discoveries of mammal fossil remains in the site which led to the scientific reconstruction of the palaeo-environment of the entire Turkana Lake basin of the Quarternary Period. The Lake Turkana ecosystem with its diverse bird life and desert environment offers an exceptional laboratory for studies of plant and animal communities. The Bureau expressed its concern and drew the attention of the Kenyan authorities to grazing by large herds of domestic livestock in the Parks.

Concerning cultural criteria, the Bureau noted that the comparative study of fossil hominid sites by ICOMOS has been completed and that it gives highest importance to



Koobi Fora. The Bureau, however, decided to defer the nomination under cultural criteria to allow the States Party to clearly delineate the cultural part of this nomination, which does not concern the same area as the natural part.

## **C. CULTURAL HERITAGE**

### **C.1 Property which the Bureau recommended for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger**

- Butrinti (Albania)

### **C.2 Properties which the Bureau recommended for inscription on the World Heritage List**

<b>Name of Property</b>	<b>Identi- fication number</b>	<b>State Party having submitted the nomination in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
<b>The Old Town of Lijiang</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>China</b>	<b>C(ii)(iv)(v)</b>

The Bureau recommends the Committee to inscribe this site on the World Heritage List on the basis of cultural criteria (ii), (iv) and (v). Lijiang is an exceptional ancient town set in a dramatic landscape which represents the harmonious fusion of different cultural traditions to produce an urban landscape of outstanding quality.

<b>San Pedro de la Roca Castle, Santiago de Cuba</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>Cuba</b>	<b>C(iv)(v)</b>
----------------------------------------------------------	------------	-------------	-----------------

ICOMOS informed the Bureau that it was satisfied with the revised management plan and the maps with the delimitation of the proposed World Heritage site.

Following the positive advice from ICOMOS, the Bureau decided to recommend the Committee to inscribe the site on the basis of criteria (iv) and (v). The Castle of San Pedro de la Roca and its associated defensive works are of exceptional value because they constitute the largest and most comprehensive example of the principles of Renaissance military engineering adapted to the requirements of European colonial powers in the Caribbean.

**Portovevere, Cinque Terre, and the Islands (Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto)**                      **826**                      **Italy**                      **C(ii)(iv)(v)**

The Bureau recommends the Committee to inscribe this site on the basis of criteria (ii), (iv) and (v). The eastern Ligurian Riviera between Cinque Terre and Portovenere is a cultural site of outstanding value, representing the harmonious interaction between people and nature to produce a landscape of exceptional scenic quality that illustrates a traditional way of life that has existed for a thousand years and continues to play an important socio-economic role in the life of the community.

**The Costiera Amalfitana**                      **830**                      **Italy**                      **C(ii)(iv) (v)**

The Bureau recommends the Committee to inscribe this site on the basis of criteria (ii), (iv) and (v). The Costiera Amalfitana is an outstanding example of a Mediterranean landscape, with exceptional cultural and natural scenic values resulting from its dramatic topography and historical evolution.

**The Archaeological Area of Agrigento**                      **831**                      **Italy**                      **C(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)**

The Bureau recommends the Committee to inscribe the property on the basis of criteria (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv). Agrigento was one of the greatest cities of the ancient Mediterranean world, and it has been preserved in an exceptionally intact condition. Its great row of Doric temples is one of the most outstanding monuments of Greek art and culture.

**Rohtas Fort**                      **586Rev**                      **Pakistan**                      **C(ii)(iv)**

The Bureau recommends the Committee to inscribe this site on the World Heritage List on the basis of cultural criteria (ii) and (iv). Rohtas Fort is an exceptional example of the Muslim military architecture of central and south Asia, which blends architectural and artistic traditions from Turkey and the Indian sub-continent to create the model for Mughal architecture and its subsequent refinements and adaptations.

## C.2 Properties which the Bureau deferred

Name of Property	Identification number	State Party having submitted the nomination in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention	Criteria
<b>Bagan (Pagan)</b>	<b>796</b>	<b>Myanmar</b>	<b>C(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)</b>

The Bureau decides to defer further consideration of this nomination. Whilst recognizing the unquestionable universal significance of Bagan, it stressed the need for the State Party to define the core protected area and a meaningful buffer zone, and to adopt legal measures to ensure their effective enforcement. Therefore, the Bureau requests the Secretariat to assist the State Party in requesting preparatory assistance to accelerate the process of ensuring adequate protection of this important site.

## V. REQUESTS FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

**V.1** The Bureau examined international assistance requests submitted by States Parties and advisory bodies presented in Working Document WHC-97/CONF.207/4 and WHC-97/CONF.207/4Add. In accordance with paragraphs 91-117 of the Operational Guidelines, the Bureau took decisions concerning international assistance requests for natural and cultural heritage between US\$ 20,000 and US\$ 30,000 (inclusive), and made recommendations to the Committee for international assistance requests for natural heritage above US\$ 30,000. Due to time constraints, the Bureau was not able to formulate recommendations to the Committee for international assistance requests for cultural heritage above US\$ 30,000. Therefore, the Bureau transmitted these requests directly to the Committee for examination.

**V.2** The Bureau furthermore took note of international assistance requests for natural and cultural heritage already recommended by the Bureau at its twenty-first session in June 1997, for approval by the Committee.

**V.3** The Bureau's decisions, recommendations and comments concerning International Assistance requests for natural and cultural heritage to be transmitted to the twenty-first session of the Committee have been summarized in ANNEX I.

## VI. OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairperson announced that the meeting of the Consultative Body would take place immediately after the Bureau session.

## VII. CLOSING OF THE SESSION

The Chairperson thanked the Bureau members, Rapporteur, Advisory Bodies, Observers and the Secretariat for their contributions to the twenty-first extraordinary session. He then declared the twenty-first extraordinary session of the Bureau closed.

**ANNEX I    DECISIONS CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE  
REQUESTS**

**ANNEX II LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**