

WORLD HERITAGE

Convention CONCERNING
THE PROTECTION OF THE
**World Cultural AND Natural
Heritage**



WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE
TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

MARRAKESH, MOROCCO

29 NOVEMBER - 4 DECEMBER 1999



Distribution limited

**WHC-99/CONF.209/22
Paris, 2 March 2000
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-third session
Marrakesh, Morocco**

29 November – 4 December 1999

REPORT

Table of Contents

		Page			
I.	Opening Session	1	XV.	Requests For International Assistance	45
II.	Adoption of the Agenda and the Timetable	2	XVI.	Date, Place And Provisional Agenda Of The Twenty-Fourth Session Of The Bureau Of The World Heritage Committee	51
III.	Report By The Secretariat On The Activities Undertaken Since The Twenty-Second Session Of The World Heritage Committee	2	XVII.	Date And Place Of The Twenty-Fourth Session Of The World Heritage Committee	52
IV.	Reports of the Rapporteurs on the Sessions of the World Heritage Bureau	4	XVIII.	Other Business	52
V.	Report on the Decision of the General Assembly Of States Parties With Regard To "Ways And Means To Ensure A Representative World Heritage List"	4	XIX.	Closure Of The Session	52
VI.	Progress Report On The Implementation Of The Regional Actions Described In The Global Strategy Action Plan Adopted By The Committee At Its Twenty-Second Session	5	Annexes		Page
VII.	Follow-Up To The Work Of The Consultative Body Of The World Heritage Committee	6	I.	Royal Letter of His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco	55
VIII.	Information On Tentative Lists And Examination Of Nominations Of Cultural And Natural Properties To The List Of World Heritage In Danger And World Heritage List	7	II.	List of Participants	59
IX.	Periodic Reporting: Regional Strategies For Periodic Reporting	20	III.	Speech of the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr. Koichiro Matsuura	73
X.	State Of Conservation Of Properties Inscribed On The List Of World Heritage In Danger And On The World Heritage List	21	IV.	Declaration of the Youth from the Arab Region on World Heritage	77
XI.	Activities Concerning World Heritage Documentation, Information And Education	38	V.	Map of Lorentz National Park (Indonesia)	79
XII.	Evaluation Of International Assistance: Examination Of The Recommendations Of The Twenty-Third Session Of The Bureau Of The World Heritage Committee Concerning Prioritization In Granting International Assistance	38	VI.	Statement by H.E. the Federal Minister of Culture and Tourism, Nigeria on Sukur Cultural Landscape, Nigeria	81
XIII.	Revision Of The Operational Guidelines For The Implementation Of The World Heritage Convention	39	VII.	Statement by H.E. the Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa to France on Robben Island, Greater St. Lucia Wetland National Park and the Fossil Hominid Sites of Sterkfontein, Swartkrans, Kromdraai, and Environs, South Africa	83
XIV.	Examination Of The World Heritage Fund And Approval Of The Budget For 2000 And Presentation Of A Pro-Visional Budget For 2001	40	VIII.	Report of the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau (WHC-99/CONF.209/6) relating to the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List	85
			IX.	Statement of the United States of America on Mining Activities	109
			X.	Provisional Agenda of the twenty-fourth session of the World Heritage Bureau	111
			XI.	Statement by the Hungarian Delegation concerning the twenty-fourth session of the World Heritage Committee	113
			XII.	Statement by the Australian Delegation concerning the twenty-fourth session of the World Heritage Committee	115

I. OPENING SESSION

I.1 The twenty-third session of the World Heritage Committee was held in Marrakesh, Morocco, from 29 November to 4 December 1999. It was attended by all twenty-one members of the World Heritage Committee: Australia, Belgium, Benin, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, Ecuador, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of South Africa, Thailand, and Zimbabwe.

I.2 The following States Parties to the Convention who are not members of the Committee were represented as observers: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Cyprus, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Holy See, Indonesia, India, Israel, Japan, Lithuania, Mongolia, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

I.3 Representatives of the advisory bodies to the Committee, the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of the Cultural Property (ICCROM), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) attended the meeting in an advisory capacity. The meeting was also attended by representatives and observers of the following international governmental organizations (IGOs), international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs): Arch Foundation, Association for the Safeguarding of the Kasbah of Algiers, Heritage Friends of Morocco (APM), High-Tech Visual Promotion Centre, International Council on Metals and the Environment (ICME), International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA), International Federation of Shingon Buddhism, International Foundation of Historical Heritage (Canada), International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), Islamic Organization for Education, Science and Culture, (ISESCO), Nature Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Organization of the Arab League for Education, Science and Culture (ALECSO), Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC), Pro Esteros Mexico, UNEP/PAM Project, UN Foundation,. (The full List of Participants is attached as Annex II to this report).

I.4 The twenty-third session of the World Heritage Committee was opened by Mr Abdelaziz Touri, Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, who presented Mr Mohammed Achaari, Minister for Cultural Affairs of Morocco, to read the welcome message of His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco (The Royal Letter is attached as Annex I to this report).

I.5 In His Message, the King welcomed the participants and expressed the pleasure of the Kingdom of Morocco in hosting the Committee meeting in the prestigious historical capital of Marrakesh. He emphasized the progress made in the preservation of cultural and natural heritage which he attributed to the overreaching agreement by countries of the same thinking, that of preserving local and national heritage, a heritage which belongs to humankind. He noted that the current Committee session was the last during this century, and its future activities would be affected by on-going changes taking place in the areas of communication and information. On the other hand, these changing conditions will provide opportunities to improve future actions to understand and to give greater depth to the notion of world cultural and historical heritage and the multiple aspects of human civilization.

I.6 His Majesty praised UNESCO for its leadership in the protection of the cultural and natural heritage. Referring to the Kingdom of Morocco, the King's message said that since independence, the country has been deeply aware of the need for

the preservation of its legacy. Through an initiative taken by the late King, His Majesty King Hassan II, Morocco has been working particularly with Moroccan and other experts, in the restoration of the Royal Palace of Fez. The Royal Letter concluded by expressing interest as regards the natural heritage and issues of the oral tradition, where man is inseparable from his environment, and that we have the responsibility to protect the verbally transmitted heritage that was greatly threatened. Reminding the participants of the responsibilities of humankind, His Majesty thanked UNESCO for deciding to propose the nomination of Jamaa Lafna Square in Marrakesh as oral heritage of humankind, an honour for Morocco. He noted with pleasure the presence of Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, and referred to his great competence and deep understanding of issues of global civilization. After congratulating Mr Matsuura on his election and having expressed confidence in his leadership of the Organization, the King wished the Committee success in its work and welcomed once again the participants to the City of Marrakesh.

I.7 At the invitation of the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, and in his first address to the World Heritage Committee in his capacity as the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, welcomed the participants to the twenty-third session of the World Heritage Committee. He transmitted his sincere gratitude to the Kingdom and the people of Morocco for their generosity and hospitality. Mr. Matsuura mentioned that, it had been several years since a meeting of the World Heritage Committee was held in an Arab country, and in this regard, he expressed his satisfaction that the meeting was being held in Morocco and in the beautiful City of Marrakesh.

I.8 Mr. Matsuura took the occasion to pay tribute to the late King Hassan II, whom he said brought to Morocco a policy of foresight and vision concerning the protection of cultural and natural heritage. He noted that it was indeed in 1980 when, with the assistance of UNESCO, the late King led the initiative to launch the international campaign for the protection of the Medina of Fez, which was followed by the inscription of Fez in the World Heritage List. Mr. Matsuura recalled that it was the late King Hassan II who facilitated the preservation of the assemblage of the world's most important architecture, as well as the living traditional art.

I.9 Welcoming again the participants, Mr. Matsuura expressed his high esteem for the work of the World Heritage Committee of the 1972 Convention on the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage. He reminded the participants that the work of the Committee is among others, the tangible expression of international solidarity and co-operation embodied in the World Heritage Convention.

I.10 The Director-General informed the participants that there are currently 158 States Parties who have adhered to the Convention, which represents the majority of the 188 UNESCO Member States. He welcomed the States Parties attending the Committee session for the first time and congratulated the States Parties elected recently by the twelfth session of the General Assembly. Mr Matsuura, addressing the newly-elected Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, Mr Abdelaziz Touri, Director of the Department of Cultural Heritage in Morocco, commented that his election was fully justified, being a respected expert involved in day-to-day conservation of the cultural heritage, a person of experience at the heart of the Committee where he has worked for several years.

I.11 Turning to the values of World Heritage sites, Mr Matsuura emphasized that the Committee's deliberations and decisions on the established criteria for World Heritage, will be important not only for the future protection of the exceptional world cultural and natural heritage, but also for important national and local sites. He stressed the importance of developing

a collective ethic for heritage conservation which he viewed as a major challenge in the face of economic globalisation.

I.12 As the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr. Matsuura said that he will endeavour to strengthen the World Heritage Centre, to enable it to respond to the increasing demands of national and local authorities, of site managers, research institutes, development agencies, the media and the public.

I.13 In emphasizing the importance and the large quantity of work of the Committee, Mr. Matsuura observed the need to facilitate its work. He also mentioned the need for rigour, particularly in matters dealing with the inscription of sites in the World Heritage List, the evaluation of international assistance requests and in addressing the root causes of various threats to World Heritage. The Director-General suggested the linkage of preparatory assistance and training grants to the Global Strategy and priority approval for requests from Least Developed Countries and Low Income Countries, particularly for technical co-operation.

I.14 In conclusion, he emphasized the importance of public awareness-building and education for World Heritage conservation. Without education the survival of the World Heritage is at risk. He informed the Committee that as the Director-General of UNESCO, and working with the General Conference and the Executive Board, he would seek to further strengthen the World Heritage Centre. (The Director-General's speech is attached as Annex III to this report).

I.15 Mr Touri, the Chairperson, thanked the Director-General of UNESCO for his kind words. He then thanked the Director-General for having presented on behalf of UNESCO the following two medals: Victor Hugo Medal to His Excellency, the Minister for Cultural Affairs, Mr. Mohammed Achaari; and the Aristotle Medal to Mr. Abdelaziz Touri, the Director of Cultural Heritage, and the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee.

I.16 The Chairperson informed the Committee that the First Arab States World Heritage Youth Forum had taken place at the Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco, from 22-28 November. The Forum, organized within the framework of UNESCO's Special Project "*Young People's Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion*" with the support of NORAD (Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation) and the Rhône-Poulenc Foundation (France), was attended by young people and secondary school teachers from twelve countries in the Arab region.

I.17 In previous years, international Youth Fora had been held in Norway (1995) and Japan (1998), and regional Youth Fora in Croatia (1996), Zimbabwe (1996), China (1997) and Senegal (1999). The Youth Forum for the Arab region coincided with the recent publication, in Arabic, of the Educational Resource Kit for Teacher's entitled "World Heritage in young hands" translated with the assistance of the UNESCO Office in Amman, Jordan. The Youth Forum was organized in collaboration with the UNESCO Office in Rabat, Morocco and the Al Akhawayn University.

I.18 At the invitation of the Chairperson, the President of the Al Akhawayn University, Dr Rachid Benmokhtar, gave a brief summary of the Youth Forum. He referred to his pleasure in having welcomed young people from the Arab region to his University as the Youth Forum reflected the goals and research of the University in relation to cultural heritage and its conservation. The University aims to instil in its students a spirit of open-mindedness, tolerance and peace. The location of Ifrane had provided an appropriate setting for the Forum enriched by Berber culture and extraordinary biodiversity. The young people at the Youth Forum actively participated in plenary sessions, field visits to the World Heritage sites of Fez and Volubilis,

workshops on traditional calligraphy, handicrafts and communication technology and prepared a Forum newspaper. Dr Rachid Benmokhtar thanked UNESCO for having taken the initiative to organise the Forum.

I.19 Two student representatives from the Youth Forum read an appeal adopted by all thirty-eight students at the Youth Forum in Ifrane. They expressed their commitment to the conservation of heritage and requested the assistance of UNESCO to organise further youth forum in the region. The students referred to the role of media and modern technology in raising awareness of the necessity of preserving the world's heritage and noted the important role of revitalisation of traditional crafts in the maintenance of heritage and identity. They concluded by calling on the young people of the world to join with young people in the Arab region to protect their World Heritage. The Student Pledge from Ifrane is included as Annex IV of this report.

I.20 The Director of the Centre sincerely thanked the young people for their presentation and for their energy and commitment in favour of heritage awareness and conservation.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND THE TIMETABLE

II.1 The Committee adopted the agenda (WHC-99/CONF./209/1), the Annotated Agenda (WHC-99/CONF.209/2) and the Provisional Calendar with modifications. Following unanimous agreement, the Committee decided to discuss the Agenda Item 7 on 'Follow-up to the work of the Consultative Body to the World Heritage Committee', to enable a working group to be established under this agenda item and for it to complete its task as early as possible during the session. In response to the interventions by the Delegates of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Hungary, Thailand and Zimbabwe, the Chairperson proposed to hold discussions on Item 7 before agenda Item 10 which deals with the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger and the World Heritage List, at the end of the afternoon session on Monday, 29 November, 1999. This was accepted and he then requested the Secretariat to redraft the timetable accordingly.

III. REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT ON THE ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN SINCE THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

III.1 Mr Mounir Bouchenaki, in his capacity as Director of the World Heritage Centre and Secretary to the World Heritage Committee, presented the report on activities undertaken since the last session of the World Heritage Committee in 1998.

III.2 He referred to the Information Document WHC-99/CONF/209-INF.5 and used an audiovisual presentation to highlight the important points of the document.

III.3 The Director of the Centre indicated that Chad and Israel had ratified the Convention in 1999, bringing the number of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention to 158. Concerning new nominations for inscription, the Director noted that in spite of the fact that the majority of these new nominations emanated from western European countries, nominations have also been received for the first time from the following five States Parties, Bosnia and Herzegovina, South Africa, Saint Christopher & Nevis, Suriname and Turkmenistan. He indicated that this was a positive sign for better representivity of the List in the future. The Director also underlined that 109 of the 158 States Parties have submitted tentative lists of sites they may

wish to nominate in future in conformity with the format prescribed by the *Operational Guidelines*.

III.4 The Director then emphasized the importance of the work of the Global Strategy to ensure a representative World Heritage List and drew the attention of the Committee to a certain number of regional thematic meetings that had been held on this subject. He mentioned, in particular, the expert meeting on African cultural landscapes which was held in Kenya in March, activities and missions carried out in the Arab region which will contribute towards the organization of a series of workshops to strengthen conservation capacity in the field of natural heritage in the region and to the second Global Strategy Meeting for the Pacific Region held in Vanuatu in association with the Pacific Islands Museums Association (PIMA). He also stated that a meeting was held in Brastagi, Indonesia, in December 1998, organized jointly by the Ministry of Forestry of Indonesia and the World Heritage Centre, to study how the Convention may be implemented in the framework of protecting biodiversity of forest habitats. The Director mentioned two additional meetings on cultural landscapes, one in Slovakia in June 1999 concerning the preparation of Management Guidelines for Cultural Landscapes and the other in Poland in October 1999, convening experts from fourteen States Parties from Eastern Europe and representatives of the three advisory bodies. He also referred to the efforts undertaken by the Centre to ensure better representativity of the List in Asia and the Caribbean.

III.5 With regard to the conservation of World Heritage sites and the presentation of the periodic reports, the Director recalled the decisions of the Committee and the General Assembly concerning this issue. He informed the Committee that a Circular Letter with the new format and explanatory notes had been addressed to all States Parties, and that an information brochure on the presentation of periodic reports had been elaborated and distributed in 1999 as a follow-up to these decisions.

III.6 The Director indicated that two expert meetings organized by ICCROM were held in 1999. These meetings had elaborated a structure for a reference manual for monitoring the state of conservation. Numerous initiatives were cited by the Director which had been undertaken by some States Parties in support of the submission of periodic reports, such as training seminars organized by the Russian Federation and the Republic of Korea, as well as other national seminars. The Director emphasized the importance of these seminars and indicated that other seminars and workshops are under preparation for 2000, particularly in Asia. Among the initiatives undertaken, the Director presented a new database, available on the Centre's Intranet, which incorporates all information relating to sites situated in Asia. He encouraged the creation of similar databases for other regions.

III.7 Sixty-seven reports, nineteen of which concerned sites inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, were submitted to the Centre in 1999. The Director noted that a majority of the reports submitted for examination by the Committee concerned sites situated in Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. He expressed concern about the increasing number of serious problems facing certain sites, in particular the Kathmandu Valley (Nepal) where recent deterioration of the historic fabric has been reported by the UNESCO mission that took place in October 1999. He also mentioned, among other sites, the Group of Monuments at Hampi in India, where two bridges are currently under construction, Machu Picchu in Peru where a cable car is proposed and the Iguazu National Park in Brazil which has suffered negative effects due to the construction of a road which crosses the site, and to numerous helicopter flights in this area. The many natural catastrophes that had caused important damage, notably in Latin America and the

Caribbean, and the need to develop specific activities to assist the States concerned, were mentioned by the Director.

III.8 In reporting on the implementation of International Assistance, the Director drew the attention of the Committee to the fact that 40% of Preparatory Assistance had been allocated to natural sites. He continued by informing the Committee that Technical Co-operation had to a great extent been allocated to African natural sites and that the greater part of preparatory assistance for cultural sites had been to support sites in Europe, and Latin American and the Caribbean.

III.9 The Director then referred to activities of the Centre's Documentation, Information and Education Unit, emphasizing the importance of these activities, in particular the development of a modern information management system. He also underlined the need to prepare specific information documents oriented to respond on the one hand to the needs of States Parties, and on the other to the public at large and the media. He also presented the UNESCO Special Project "*Young people's participation in the preservation and promotion of World Heritage*" and informed the Committee that the most recent Youth Forum was held at the Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco, during which young people of the Arab region had the opportunity to improve their knowledge of the Convention by attending numerous workshops. He also recalled that the Educational Kit entitled "*World Heritage in young hands*" is now available in Arabic. He highlighted the need to strengthen this programme.

III.10 In the framework of activities and co-operation with the advisory bodies, the Director reported on a certain number of meetings held during the year and expressed satisfaction with the increasing co-operation between the advisory bodies and the Centre.

III.11 The Director evoked the spirit of co-operation that existed between the Centre and the other Division of UNESCO, notably the Division of Ecological Sciences, the Division of Earth Sciences, the Education Sector and the Division of Cultural Heritage. He also noted the increasing number of activities undertaken by the regional offices and focal points in collaboration with the Centre.

III.12 In emphasizing the need to strengthen international co-operation and facilitate exchanges between the States, the Director presented a new Internet site on Afghanistan, funded by the World Heritage Fund and the Funds-in-Trust of Professor Hirayama. This site will soon be available on the web. He also spoke of the co-operation between the Centre and organizations such as The World Bank, UNDP, with particular reference to the activities carried out in co-operation with the United Nations Foundation, thanks to which several projects, in particular the Galapagos Islands and sites in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, have been financed.

III.13 In the framework of co-operation between the States, the Director cited as an example, the Nara Seminar for the Integrity and Development of Historic Cities that provided the opportunity for a dialogue between eleven cities inscribed on the World Heritage List. He also indicated that the Agreement between France and UNESCO for the Protection and Development of Monumental and Urban Heritage is now operational. Sixteen activities have been defined in this Agreement which aim at supporting under-represented States Parties in the preparation of nomination files and providing technical co-operation input.

III.14 With regard to the follow-up of the work of the Consultative Body, the Director recalled the terms of reference of the Strategic Task Force on the future of the World Heritage Convention.

III.15 The Director also presented the organizational chart of the Centre and insisted on the need to strengthen the Centre at all levels. He drew the attention of the Committee to the need to regularize the five posts requested during the thirteenth session of the UNESCO General Conference to respond to the most urgent needs. He also emphasized that many core functions of the Centre were currently being carried out by contractors.

III.16 The Chairperson thanked the Director of the Centre, for his excellent presentation. The Delegations of Ecuador, Japan and the Republic of Korea, also thanked the Centre and noted the wide diversity of activities undertaken by the Centre. They also insisted upon the need to strengthen the structure and the staff of the Centre.

III.17 The Delegate of Republic of Korea specifically mentioned his satisfaction with the close collaboration between the Centre and States Parties in the Asian region. He expressed his appreciation for the support provided to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea referring to it as an exemplary case of promoting "the cultural of peace in the framework of the World Heritage Convention".

IV. REPORTS OF THE RAPORTEURS ON THE SESSIONS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE BUREAU

IV.1 The Rapporteur of the twenty-third session of the Bureau (5 – 10 July 1999), and the third extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee, 12 July 1999, presented the two reports WHC-99/CONF.209/4 and WHC-99/CONF.209/5 respectively. Concerning the report of the twenty-third session of the Bureau, Mr Janos Jelen (Hungary) said the report reflects the debate of the Bureau and the document can be instrumental for States Parties and the members of the Committee when they prepare themselves for future meetings. Regarding the report of the third extraordinary session of the Committee, the Rapporteur said that he hoped that the report would be scrutinized intensively in the years to come since the deliberations of the Committee set examples for the future. He said that he felt honoured and proud that he could take part in the work of the Committee and the Bureau. With no comments from the members of the Committee the two reports were adopted.

IV.2 The Rapporteur of the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau held in Marrakesh, Morocco, from 26 – 27 November 1999, Ms Anne Lammila (Finland), presented the report (WHC-99/CONF.209/6). The Rapporteur said the report was prepared in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre. She paid tribute to the personnel of the Centre and noted that the work of the Centre had become very demanding, and that some changes should be made in the working methods of the Committee. Proposals in this respect were welcome from all Committee members and observers.

IV.3 The following delegates and observers made contributions to the report: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, France, Germany, Hungary, Philippines, Portugal, Spain, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam, Zimbabwe, ICOMOS and IUCN.

IV.4 The Chairperson reported on his meeting with a representative of the United Nations Foundation, Mr. Nicholas Lapham, and the Director of the World Heritage Centre. The United Nations Foundation was created in January 1998 by Mr Ted Turner to support United Nations activities in the field of environment, improvement of child health, women and the population.

IV.5 The Representative informed the Chairperson that the UNF Board of Directors had approved, at the beginning of November 1999, an overall strategy for biodiversity that would primarily focus on natural World Heritage sites inscribed for their biodiversity values (e.g. criterion (iv)). Therefore, the Foundation would contribute over several years to the strengthening and the protection and the management of sites, the first of which are the Galapagos Islands of Ecuador, and the World Heritage sites in Danger in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

IV.6 The UNF Representative also informed of the wish of the Foundation to participate towards the promotion of the Convention to raise awareness of the public and concerned governmental authorities.

IV.7 In reporting on this meeting, the Chairperson emphasized the very positive aspects for the Convention. The UNF Representative would observe the work of the Committee and was available to those members of the Committee who might wish for more detailed information.

IV.8 The Rapporteur thanked delegations that had made contributions and the report was adopted with the proposed amendments.

V. REPORT ON THE DECISION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES WITH REGARD TO "WAYS AND MEANS TO ENSURE A REPRESENTATIVE WORLD HERITAGE LIST"

V.1 Mr Isidore Monsi (Benin), Rapporteur of the twelfth session of the General Assembly of the States Party to the World Heritage Convention, presented the report (WHC-99/CONF.209/7) of this session.

V.2 In qualifying the session as "historic", Mr Isidore Monsi, (Benin), reported on the convergence of views relating to the actions proposed in the framework of the Global Strategy and in particular he emphasized the two substantial resolutions unanimously adopted by the States Parties, namely the resolution on "the ways and means to ensure a representative World Heritage List" and the one relating to an equitable representation within the Committee.

V.3 The Document WHC-99/CONF.209/8 submitted proposals referring to the implementation of the two resolutions that demand close examination by the Committee. Referring in particular to the first resolution, he emphasized that in the opinion of many of the delegates attending the General Assembly, its application should be implicit to a true political will.

V.4 He invited all the partners involved in the implementation of the Global Strategy to arm themselves with this will and thanked the Secretariat for their excellent work and their determination in the spearheading process.

VI. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL ACTIONS DESCRIBED IN THE GLOBAL STRATEGY ACTION PLAN ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE AT ITS TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

VI.1 The Chairperson recalled the reference documents WHC-99/CONF.209.8 and WHC-99/CONF.209/8Add and WHC-99/CONF.209.7, Annex II (text of the resolution adopted by the twelfth General Assembly on “The ways and means to ensure a representative World Heritage List”). He indicated that the Document WHC-99/CONF.209/8 was a follow-up to the adoption in 1998 by the Committee at its twenty-second session, of the regional action plans:

- (a) Section III presents the report of the activities undertaken in 1999 and the action plans for the years 2001 and 2002 for Africa, the Arab States, Asia, the Pacific, Europe and North America, as well as Latin America and the Caribbean;
- (b) Section IV presents the contribution of the advisory bodies to the Global Strategy;
- (c) Section V includes a budget for activities for 2000.

VI.2 He added that this document was prepared before the twelfth General Assembly of States Parties and that the conclusions of the debate on “The ways and means to ensure a representative World Heritage List” were presented in the report of the General Assembly Document WHC-99/CONF.209/7. He indicated that the debate and the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly called for ways of action presented in the Document WHC-99/CONF.209/8Add, which could be examined by the Bureau in June 2000, during its twenty-fourth session.

VI.3 The Secretariat recalled the background to the document and referred to Document WHC-98/CONF.203/12 “Progress Report and Action Plan of Global Strategy for a credible and representative World heritage List”, adopted at the twenty-second session of the Committee. This document presents regional analyses as well as six regional action plans for: Africa, Asia, Pacific, the Arab States, Europe and North America, Latin America and the Caribbean. The Secretariat then presented for each region: (a) activities executed in 1999; (b) planned activities for 2000 in the context of the pluriannual regional plans (2000-2002). Each plan also indicated the possibilities for the granting of “international assistance” from the World Heritage Fund to the States Parties. The plans take into account: (i) recognition of imbalance between natural and cultural properties; (ii) characteristics of each region; (iii) under-represented categories; (iv) but also, priorities defined in co-operation with the advisory bodies, States Parties and in synergy with the existing regional networks, notably in Africa, Asia and the Pacific; (v) analyses and recommendations of publications of expert meetings, such as: reports of the Amsterdam meeting, reports of the thematic and Global Strategy meetings in Africa, the Pacific, eastern and central Europe, the Baltic States, in the Andean and the Caribbean regions, and the IUCN thematic studies on the global diversity and geological sites.

VI.4 In the framework of the objectives aiming at the increase in the number of States Parties, awareness-raising of decision-makers, encouragement in the preparation of tentative lists and nominations for inscription, strengthening existing capacities in the field of conservation, activities targeted in the action plans respond to the needs of each region and are based on already identified needs. They will be revised during the years in accordance with the results and in the light of remarks and observations of the Committee. The overall activities take into account the human resources of the Centre responsible for each region.

VI.5 The activities proposed in 2000 in the framework of the action plans, place the emphasis on the: (i) organization of Global Strategy meetings and their follow-up; (ii) organization of thematic meetings on the under-represented categories of heritage and the preparation of publications; (iii) particular attention is given to transborder sites, serial nominations; (iv) utilisation of existing expert networks and strengthening existing capabilities in the field of training; (v) strategic studies under preparation should encourage numerous proposals of mixed and natural sites, especially in Asia and the Pacific.

VI.6 Due to the very heavy workload of the Committee, there was not sufficient time to examine in detail the proposed activities. Nevertheless, the Delegate of Zimbabwe indicated that, at the invitation of his country, the **Meeting on Integrity/Authenticity in the African Context**, will be held there in May 2000.

VI.7 The Committee noted that concerning the **Regional Thematic Expert Meeting on Sacred Mountains in Asia**, preliminary discussions were held with the Japanese Authorities to organize the meeting in Japan in the year 2001, and that further information would be provided to the twenty-fourth session of the World Heritage Committee.

VI.8 The Observer of Austria informed the Committee that his Government intends to host the **Expert Meeting on the European Alps** in June 2000 and that this meeting is fully in line with the Global Strategy for a balanced and representative World Heritage List. No natural property has been included from the region on the World Heritage List so far. A constructive discussion has started and draft terms of reference had been prepared. The meeting will identify potential World Heritage sites and will deal with a number of issues including transboundary sites.

VI.9 The Observer of Germany informed the Committee of a proposal of a workshop on “**World Heritage Perspectives in the Caucasus Region**” suggested to be organized in Georgia in July 2000. This workshop would deal with both the cultural and biological diversity of the region, which is currently under-represented on the World Heritage List. He noted that financial assistance would be required under preparatory assistance.

VI.10 The Delegate of Zimbabwe informed the Committee about a follow-up meeting to the Tiwi meeting that will be held in May 2000 to discuss the authenticity questions in Africa. This meeting will also be supported financially by the Nordic World Heritage Office.

VI.11 The Delegate of Italy, in following-up the proposal from Austria, offered to host an expert meeting on “**Cultural landscapes in Europe and the Mediterranean**” in February 2000 in Sicily, in collaboration with the administration of the Etna Regional Park. This meeting would address issues raised during the debate on cultural landscapes under the agenda item on nominations.

VI.12 The Delegate of Hungary proposed to organize a meeting on “**Natural and Cultural Heritage in Eastern Europe**” and suggested a budget proposal to be discussed under Chapter II of the Budget. He also proposed to modify the title of the activity proposed for the Arab States so as the information to be distributed takes into account the needs of the preparation of the periodic report for this region.

VI.13 The Delegate of Australia made a presentation concerning the **Asia Pacific Focal Point** for World Heritage Managers which had been suggested at the first two meetings of the Regional Network for World Heritage Management in South-East Asia, the Pacific, Australia and New Zealand. Australia launched the Focal Point in July 1999 to share information and

experience, develop networks and facilitate training in support of World Heritage conservation in the region. He referred to the Focal Point as an initiative that would contribute to the Global Strategy especially for the Pacific where so few countries had signed the Convention. He gave a brief introduction to the web site for the Focal Point that would include site specific information relevant to the region. He noted that the Focal Point's work would be performed in partnership with UNESCO, IUCN, ICOMOS, ICCROM, regional States Parties and other organisations.

VI.14 The Committee, having recognized that regional action plans had already contributed in a tangible manner towards the implementation of the Global Strategy, adopted under Chapter II for the Budget for 2000 and amount of US\$ 278,000, of which US\$ 20,000 for Central and Eastern Europe, and under Thematic Studies US\$ 40,000 for ICOMOS and US\$ 15,000 for IUCN. It also took note of Information Documents WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.8, WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.11, WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.14 and WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.16.

VI.15 The Director of the Centre referred to Document WHC-99/CONF.209/8Add. that presents the follow-up of the two resolutions adopted by the twelfth General Assembly of States Parties (October 1999): (a) "Ways and means to ensure a representative World Heritage List", and (b) "The equitable representation in the Committee". He proposed that the Centre address a letter to all the representatives of States Parties in Paris as well as to ICOMOS inviting them to a meeting at UNESCO Headquarters in mid-January 2000 to constitute two working groups which would define their mandates, their working methods and their evolution. These groups will submit their reports to the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau in June 2000. The Delegates of Belgium, Finland, Greece, Italy and the Observer of France, supported this proposal which was adopted. The Delegate of Greece underlined the legal issues to be discussed by the working group that will deal with the equitable representation of the Committee and suggested that its Chair have legal qualifications.

VI.16 At the end of the session, the Director of the World Heritage Centre indicated that two other groups had been constituted during the twenty-third session of the Committee, namely:

- a task force for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, chaired by Ms Christina Cameron (Canada);
- a working group which will convene in Canterbury (April 2000), thanks to the generous invitation of the United Kingdom, and will concern a global vision for the revision of the Operational Guidelines.

These two groups shall also present the results of their work to the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau in June 2000.

VII. FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORK OF THE CONSULTATIVE BODY OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

VII.1 The Chairperson introduced item 7 and recalled the origin of the creation of this consultative body (twentieth session of the Committee, December 1996, Merida, Mexico). He informed the delegates of the relevant documents and requested the Director of the Centre to present the item.

VII.2 The Director of the Centre took the floor and described the content of the Working Document and summarized the decisions to be taken that he proposed for submission to the Committee. The decision concerning the technical questions, amended by Benin, were adopted as follows:

The Committee requested that the World Heritage Centre and the advisory bodies continue to take into consideration the work of the Consultative Body on technical questions (application of cultural criteria (i) and (vi), examination of authenticity, imbalance of the World Heritage List and the implementation of the Global Strategy) in particular with regard to the implementation of the Global Strategy, the resolution of the General Assembly concerning the ways and means to ensure a representative World Heritage List, and the meetings on the Rationalisation of Operational Guidelines which should be held in the United Kingdom in April 2000 and the meeting on Integrity/Authenticity in the African context which should be held in Africa in May 2000.

VII.3 Following the adoption of the above, several members of the Committee intervened to request that discussion on this item of the agenda be conducted in a global manner as the different elements submitted for discussion are closely linked. Some delegates requested that a special working group be rapidly formed so that it may submit concrete proposals to this Committee session.

VII.4 Canada, supported by several delegations, of which Belgium – who proposed themes to be studied by this special working group - Australia, France and the United Kingdom suggested that the working group concentrate first of all on the finalisation of the work of the Consultative Body, created in 1996 by the Committee. The Delegate of Canada also proposed that the special working group should not discuss the subject of representativity of the List, which should be studied within the context of the Global Strategy. This proposal was endorsed by the delegates.

VII.5 With regard to the composition of the small working group, delegates indicated that it should be geographically representative of States Parties to the Convention whilst being limited in number. It was also suggested that the advisory bodies to the Convention be represented.

VII.6 At the end of the debate that discussed many aspects of the terms of reference of the working group, the Chairperson of the Committee suggested the following composition of the group that would meet at the end of the plenary session and would submit a draft decision on detailed terms of reference of the future task force to the Committee: Canada (Chairperson), Australia, Belgium, Hungary, Mexico, Morocco, South Africa and Thailand, and the advisory bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM). The Secretariat was provided by the World Heritage Centre. The Committee suggested that the working group should discuss the following items, among others: the working methods of the Committee and its Bureau; proliferation of the statutory meetings; the role of the advisory bodies; the calendar of nominations; the human and financial resources of the World Heritage Centre.

VII.7 These proposals were approved by the Committee and the Chairperson requested that the working group submit its deliberations to the Committee on Thursday, 2 December during the afternoon session. The Chairperson proposed that delegations wishing to contribute to the working group provide their proposals to the Chairperson or their representatives in the Task Force.

VII.8 The working group met twice and formulated a proposal for the terms of reference of the task force. These were submitted to the Committee and, after discussions were amended and approved. During the debate, delegates pointed out the need to keep the composition of the task force open to States Parties wishing to contribute to its work. The approved terms of reference are the following:

TASK FORCE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

At the request of the World Heritage Committee, a working group chaired by Canada submits to the Committee proposals relating to the composition and terms of reference of a Task Force aimed at improving the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

Composition of the Task Force:

The same as the working group established by the Committee in Marrakesh 1999, chaired by Canada and including Australia, Belgium, Hungary, Morocco, Mexico, South Africa, Thailand, and the advisory bodies (ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN) and a representative of the World Heritage Centre. Australia agreed to act as rapporteur.

Terms of reference of the Task Force:

To identify and propose for consideration of the Bureau in June 2000 priority practical measures for more effective operation of the Convention, taking account of pressures affecting the Convention over the coming years. Those measures, some of which should be applicable in preparation of and during the Committee meeting of December 2000, will focus on:

- The organization and running of the statutory meetings,
- The procedures for decision making,
- The information and documentation management,
- The Operational Guidelines.

The Task Force will take into account and further build upon all discussions in previous General Assembly, Committee and Bureau meetings (see WHC-99/CONF.209/9), the management review and financial audit, and proposals made by State Parties.

Working methods:

The Task Force will operate in a way that maximizes the opportunity for State Party input. A concise draft paper will be circulated by March 2000 and comments will be sought by fax and email. The draft paper will be posted on the UNESCO homepage.

Possible further developments:

After having considered the proposals of the Task Force, the Bureau, at its meeting of June 2000, will recommend for Committee consideration a possible new working group to reflect in depth on the objectives and fundamental priorities in implementing the Convention.

VIII. INFORMATION ON TENTATIVE LISTS AND EXAMINATION OF NOMINATIONS OF CULTURAL AND NATURAL PROPERTIES TO THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER AND WORLD HERITAGE LIST

The Chairperson indicated that all the cultural nominations for inscription are included in the tentative lists of the countries concerned.

EXAMINATION OF NOMINATIONS OF CULTURAL AND NATURAL PROPERTIES TO THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

VIII.1 Following the review of the state of conservation reports and at the recommendation of the Bureau, the Committee decided to inscribe the following natural and cultural properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- **Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)**
- **Rwenzori Mountains National Park (Uganda)**
- **Iguaçu National Park (Brazil)**
- **Hampi (India)**

VIII.2 The Committee did not recommend the deletion of properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

EXAMINATION OF NOMINATIONS OF CULTURAL AND NATURAL PROPERTIES TO THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

VIII.3 The Committee approved the change of the name of the following property included on the World Heritage List:

"Sokkuram Grotto" to "Sokkuram Grotto and Pulguksa Temple" (Republic of Korea)

Concerning the request from Germany, that "Roman Monuments, Cathedral and Liebfrauen-Church in Trier" is changed to "Roman Monuments, Cathedral Saint Peter and St. Mary's Church in Trier", the Chairperson suggested consultations between the Centre and the State Party to define the correct English version.

A. NATURAL HERITAGE

A.1 Properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

Property	Península Valdés
Id. N°	937
State Party	Argentina
Criteria	N (iv)

The Committee decided to inscribe Peninsula Valdés on the World Heritage List under *criterion (iv)*.

Peninsula Valdés contains very important and significant natural habitats for the in-situ conservation of several threatened species of outstanding universal value, and specifically its globally important concentration of breeding southern right whales, which is an endangered species. It is also important because of the breeding populations of southern elephant seals and southern sea lions. The area exhibits an exceptional example of adaptation of hunting techniques by the orca to the local coastal conditions.

The Committee commended the government of the Province of Chubut for promoting the preparation of an Integrated Collaborative Management Plan for this site. The Committee recommended that the State Party, along with responsible regional and local bodies should: (a) ensure that effective controls are in place over any possible pollution threat from the town of Puerto Madryn to the waters of Golfo Nuevo, (b) support the efforts of the relevant authorities to secure the equipment needed to respond quickly to any oil hazard from passing shipping so as to protect the marine conservation values of the area; (c) produce a tourism management plan as an integral element of the overall management plan; (d) encourage implementation of the Integrated Collaborative Management Plan, and in particular to ensure that farmers and other private owners of land can play a full part in the development of environmentally responsible tourism; and (e) work at the international level to ensure that the marine mammals concerned are protected throughout their range.

Property	Discovery Coast Atlantic Forest Reserves
Id. N°	892Rev
State Party	Brazil
Criteria	N (ii) (iv)

IUCN informed the Committee that the evaluation of this property has been undertaken based on the revised nomination submitted by the State Party in April 1999.

The Brazilian Discovery Coast includes eight separate protected areas containing the best and largest remaining examples of Atlantic forest in the Northeast region of Brazil and contains high numbers of rare and endemic species. The site displays the biological richness and evolutionary history of the few remaining areas of Atlantic forest of Northeast Brazil. The site reveals a pattern of evolution of great interest to science and importance for conservation. The fact that only these few scattered remnants of a once vast forest remain, make them an irreplaceable part of the world's forest heritage.

The Committee decided to inscribe the site under natural *criteria* (ii) and (iv). It also recommended that the State Party should be encouraged to complete the "Plan of Action for the Atlantic Forest Region" and other initiatives indicated in the IUCN evaluation.

Property	Atlantic Forest Southeast Reserves
Id. N°	893-894Rev
State Party	Brazil
Criteria	N(ii) (iii) (iv)

IUCN informed the Committee that the evaluation of this property has been undertaken based on the revised nomination submitted by the State Party in April 1999.

The Atlantic Forest Southeast Reserves contain the best and largest remaining examples of Atlantic forest in the Southeast region of Brazil. The 25 protected areas that make up the site display the biological richness and evolutionary history of the few remaining areas of Atlantic forest of Southeast Brazil. The area is also exceptionally diverse with high numbers of rare and endemic species. With its "mountains to the sea" altitudinal gradient, its estuary, wild rivers, karst and numerous waterfalls, the site also has exceptional scenic values.

The Committee decided to inscribe the site under natural *criteria* (ii), (iii) and (iv). It also recommended that the State Party should be encouraged to restore natural conditions in the Serra do Mar State Park, which potentially could be incorporated in the site.

The Delegate of Morocco noted the values of the site but highlighted the challenges of the management of serial sites. The Delegate of Australia noted that management in serial sites is complex but can be done with careful strategic planning and an appropriate legal framework.

Property	Miguasha Park
Id. N°	686Rev
State Party	Canada
Criteria	N(i)

In its representation of vertebrate life, Miguasha Park is the most outstanding fossil site in the world for illustrating the Devonian as the "Age of Fishes". The area is of paramount importance in having the greatest number and best preserved fossil specimens found anywhere in the world of the lobe-finned fishes that gave rise to the first four-legged, air-breathing terrestrial vertebrates - the tetrapodes.

The Committee decided to inscribe the site under natural *criterion* (i). The Committee commended the Government of Canada for the rigorous comparative assessment applied to this nomination and noted it as a model for future fossil nominations. Following an intervention of the Delegate of Thailand, IUCN highlighted the results of the comparative study on Devonian sites and elaborated on how this site addresses criterion (i).

Property	Area de Conservacion Guanacaste
Id. N°	928
State Party	Costa Rica
Criteria	N (ii) (iv)

The Committee decided to inscribe the Guanacaste Conservation Area on the World Heritage List under *criteria* (ii) and (iv).

The site demonstrates significant, major biological and ecological processes in both its terrestrial and marine-coastal environments, as exemplified by: a) evolution, succession and restoration of Pacific Tropical Dry Forest; b) altitudinal migration and other interactive biogeographic and ecological processes along its dry forest - montane humid forest - cloud forest - lowland Caribbean rain forest transect; and, c) the major upwelling and development of coral colonies and reefs in regions long considered to not have either (the marine area near the coast of the Murcielago sector of Santa Rosa National Park).

The site contains important natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity (2.4% of global diversity), including both the best dry forest habitats and communities in Central America and key habitat for threatened animal species such as the Saltwater Crocodile, False Vampire Bat, Leatherback Sea Turtle, Jaguar, Jabiru Stork, Mangrove Hummingbird and threatened plant species such as Mahogany, Guyacan Real (*Lignum Vitae*), five species each of rare cacti and rare bromeliads.

Property	Desembarco del Granma National Park
Id. N°	889
State Party	Cuba
Criteria	N (i) (iii)

The uplifted marine terraces of the Desembarco del Granma National Park and associated ongoing development of karst topography and features, represent a globally significant example of geomorphologic and physiographic features and ongoing geological processes. The area includes spectacular stair-step terraces and cliffs and the ecosystems that have evolved on them, as well as some of the most pristine and impressive coastal cliffs bordering the Western Atlantic between the Canadian Maritimes and southern South America.

The Committee decided to inscribe the site under natural *criteria* (i) and (iii). It also commended the Government of Cuba for the efforts to conserve this site. The Committee suggested that the State Party submit a request to the World Heritage Fund for technical assistance to produce a tourism management plan as an integral element of the overall management plan for this site.

Property	Lorentz National Park
Id. N°	955
State Party	Indonesia
Criteria	N (i) (ii) (iv)

The Committee recalled that the Bureau at its twenty-third session requested the Centre to inform the Indonesian authorities of a number of aspects suggested by IUCN dealing with the management of the site, and in particular: (a) the priority need to continue the process of management planning for the Park with full involvement of the local stakeholders; (b) encouragement for the proposed establishment of a Foundation which would assist in the management of the Park; (c) possible twinning arrangement with the Wet Tropics World Heritage site in Australia; (d) appointment of a Park Director and support staff; (e) the concern over development projects that would affect the Park, for example the proposed Timika/Mapurajaya road and any expansion of mining activity towards the Park boundary so as not to conflict with Lorentz National Park's nomination as a World Heritage site. A letter from the Indonesian authorities was received noting their agreement with all of the above.

Several delegates and observers noted the issues of the mining concessions surrounding the site, the proposed 6% reduction of the site and the adjacent oil concessions as well as other potential impacts to the sites, such as road construction and visual impacts.

The Chairperson, in thanking the Committee for the extensive debate and consideration of the matter, suggested that the following points be transmitted to the State Party :

- (a) The Committee noted that as per the request of 25 October 1999 from the Indonesian authorities, an adjustment of approximately 150,000 hectares were made to exclude oil exploration concessions in the south-east corner of the Park. The Committee accepted this reduction in the size of the property and agreed with the new boundaries as submitted in Map C (see Annex V). The modified size of the site is now about 2.35 million hectares.
- (b) The Committee recognized the potential risks and threats as indicated in the IUCN evaluation and requested the State Party to consider these in actions concerning the site.
- (c) The Committee encouraged further action on the proposed Trust Fund that would assist in strengthening conservation in Lorentz National Park.
- (d) The Committee requested that a monitoring mission be undertaken to gauge progress three years after inscription.

The Delegate of Australia noted that his country still has not been officially informed about the suggestion of twinning arrangements between the Wet Tropics of Queensland and Lorentz National Park, but will be willing to co-operate if invited by the State Party.

The Committee decided to inscribe the site under natural *criteria (i), (ii) and (iv)*.

The site is the largest protected area in Southeast Asia (2.35 mil. ha.) and the only protected area in the world which incorporates a continuous, intact transect from snow cap to tropical marine environment, including extensive lowland wetlands. Located at the meeting point of two colliding continental plates, the area has a complex geology with on-going mountain formation as well as major sculpting by glaciation and shoreline accretion which has formed much of the lowland areas. These processes have led to a high level of endemism and the area supports the highest level of biodiversity in the region. The area also contains fossil sites that record the evolution of life on New Guinea.

Property	Puerto-Princesa Subterranean River National Park
Id. N°	652Rev
State Party	Philippines
Criteria	N (iii) (iv)

The Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park features a spectacular limestone karst landscape with its underground river. A distinguishing feature of the river is that it flows directly into the sea, and the lower portion of the river is subject to tidal influences. The area also represents a significant habitat for biodiversity conservation. The site contains a full mountain to the sea ecosystem and protects forests, which are among the most significant in Asia.

The Committee decided to inscribe the site under natural *criteria (iii) and (iv)*. It also commended the Government of the Philippines for the consultative process undertaken with relevant authorities, specially with the affected Barangays and for their approaches to integrated regional land use planning which aim to ensure that the World Heritage values of the site are maintained.

The Observer of the Philippines informed the Committee that a tourism development plan would be provided shortly.

Property	The Laurisilva of Madeira
Id. N°	934
State Party	Portugal
Criteria	N (ii) (iv)

The Committee decided to inscribe the Laurel Forest of Madeira on the World Heritage List under natural *criteria (ii) and (iv)*.

The site contains the largest surviving relict of the virtually extinct laurisilva forest type that was once widespread in Europe. This forest type is considered to be a centre of plant diversity containing numerous rare, relict and endemic species, especially of bryophytes, ferns and flowering plants. It also has a very rich invertebrate fauna. Endemic species include the Madeiran long-toed pigeon and some 66 species of vascular plants.

The Committee decided to: (a) commend the State Party on the protection afforded to the forest in a protected area less than 10 years old and on the commitment shown by the Autonomous Regional Government, (b) encourage the State Party to enhance interpretation of the area and envisage compatible forestry practices outside the site, (c) encourage discussions between the Portuguese and the Spanish authorities on the possibility of jointly proposing Garajonay National Park World Heritage site and the Laurel Forest of Madeira as a single World Heritage site representing laurel forest.

The Observer of Spain stated that his Government would agree to the suggestion concerning discussions in relation to a joint site of Garajonay National Park and the Laurel Forest of Madeira.

Property	Western Caucasus
Id. N°	900
State Party	Russian Federation
Criteria	N (ii) (iv)

The Western Caucasus has a remarkable diversity of geology, ecosystems and species. It is of global significance as a centre of plant diversity. Along with the Virgin Komi World Heritage site, it is the only large mountain area in Europe that has not experienced significant human impact, containing extensive tracts of undisturbed mountain forests unique on the European scale.

The twenty-third session of the Bureau could not study this nomination because the requested field mission was delayed for climatic reasons, and thus there was no report for the nominated site. The twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau decided to refer this nomination to the Committee, as proposed by the Delegate of Hungary, the original proposal of IUCN having been to defer this property.

The Delegate of Thailand underlined paragraph 65 of the Operational Guidelines and stated that this nomination was the case for deferral and could not be amended to referral because the conditions for deferral and referral were specifically provided for by the Operational Guidelines. Also, the nomination could not be considered by this session of the Committee. He registered his dissent with the decision of the Committee.

The Observer of the United Kingdom pointed out that this nomination was a specific case and could not be considered as a precedent. The Delegate of Belgium underlined that the site had not been reviewed by the twenty-third session of the Bureau as the mission had been delayed for climatic reasons.

The Committee decided to inscribe the site on the World Heritage List under *criteria (ii) and (iv)*: The site includes: The territory of the Caucasus State Biosphere Reserve (CSBR) with the exception of the Khosta Yew-Box Grove but including the entire Lagonaki plateau. IUCN noted that previous concerns relating to the integrated management of this area and the status of the Lagonaki-Dragomys road had been adequately addressed by the State Party. IUCN recommended that the State Party elaborate a master management plan for all the protected areas included in the nomination.

The Observer of the Russian Federation, in thanking the Committee, stated that nature conservation is being taken into account in the protection of this property and all future measures for its extension. He noted the interest of the State Committee for the Environment in the enlargement of the territory of the nomination by means of incorporation of the strict conservation zone of the Sochi National Park in the near future.

Property	Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park
Id. N°	914
State Party	South Africa
Criteria	N (ii) (iii) (iv)

The Committee decided to inscribe the Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park on the World Heritage List under natural *criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv)*.

The St. Lucia site consists of thirteen contiguous protected areas with a total size of 234,566 hectares. The site is the largest estuarine system in Africa and includes the southernmost extension of coral reefs on the continent. The site contains a combination of on-going fluvial, marine and aeolian processes that have resulted in a variety of landforms and ecosystems. Features include wide submarine canyons, sandy beaches, forested dune cordon and a mosaic of wetlands, grasslands, forests, lakes and savanna. The variety of morphology as well as major flood and storm events contribute to ongoing evolutionary processes in the area. Natural phenomena include: shifts from low to hyper-saline states in the Park's lakes; large numbers of nesting turtles on the beaches; the migration of whales, dolphins and whale-sharks off-shore; and huge numbers of waterfowl including large breeding colonies of pelicans, storks, herons and terns. The Park's location between sub-tropical and tropical Africa as well as its coastal setting has resulted in exceptional biodiversity including some 521 bird species.

The Committee commended the Government of South Africa on three issues: (a) for the decision to ban sand mining in the area

and to subsequently nominate the area for World Heritage; (b) the long history of conservation in the area and the professional work of the Kwazulu-Natal Nature Conservation Service in maintaining the site; (c) the launch of the Lubombo Spatial Development Initiative with the neighbouring countries of Swaziland and Mozambique which provides the regional conservation and development framework for the Greater St. Lucia Area and which will further strengthen community conservation work there.

The Committee noted the possible extensions of the Greater St. Lucia including a possible future transfrontier site with Mozambique. It urged the completion of the land claim negotiations and confirmed that World Heritage site designation should not prejudice this process.

The Observer of France highlighted that this is the first nomination from South Africa and that the Committee's decision to inscribe it is fully in line with the Global Strategy. The Delegate of South Africa thanked the Committee on behalf of the people of South Africa for the inscription of its first site on the World Heritage List.

A.2 Extension of a natural property which was not inscribed on the World Heritage List

Property	Belovezhskaya Pushcha/Bialowieza Forest – Extension
Id. N°	33-627 Bis
State Party	Belarus / Poland

The Committee recalled that IUCN informed the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau that the proposed extension would provide an important contribution to the biodiversity of the Polish part of the existing World Heritage site, in particular through the oligotrophic pinewoods. However, they are not significant for the existing World Heritage site as a whole.

The Committee decided not to include the extension into the existing World Heritage site.

The Committee commended the Polish Government for its initiative for expanding the existing National Park and to give legal protection to the whole unit.

B. MIXED PROPERTIES

VIII.4 The Committee noted that the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau had noted that the Government of Australia provided the Centre with complementary information concerning the mixed cultural and natural nomination of the **Greater Blue Mountains Area (Australia)** on 7 October 1999. The State Party has commenced preparation of additional detailed complementary material addressing issues raised by the Bureau at its twenty-third ordinary session in July 1999. The Bureau had recommended deferral for the natural part of the nomination and did not recommend inscription according to cultural values. The State Party has informed the Centre of its intention to submit new information by 30 January 2000 to enable the Bureau to fully consider the nomination at its twenty-fourth session in Paris in June/July 2000, and to prepare recommendations for the World Heritage Committee's twenty-fourth session in November 2000. Both ICOMOS and IUCN have agreed to this suggested timetable.

VIII.5 Concerning the site of the **Aeolian Islands (Italy)**, the Committee noted that the Bureau at its extraordinary session had deferred the site. The Delegate of Italy informed the Committee that there had been a misunderstanding in the information

provided, and that management plans and regulations for the site exist. Several delegates highlighted procedural matters in particular paragraph 65 of the Operational Guidelines, and stated that deferred sites are not presented for consideration by the Committee. Other delegates underlined the sovereignty of the Committee in its decisions. Following a considerable debate, the Delegate of Italy withdrew the request to discuss the site at this session. The Chairperson thanked the Committee for the debate and expressed his wish to avoid lengthy legal debates. He noted that Italy and IUCN will clarify the management issues and concluded that the site will be presented to the twenty-fourth Bureau session.

B.1 Properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

Property	Mount Wuyi
Id. N°	911
State Party	China
Criteria	N (iii) (iv) / C(iii) (vi)

The Committee decided to inscribe the site on the World Heritage List under *natural criteria (iii) and (iv) and cultural criteria (iii) and (vi)*.

Natural criteria (iii) and (iv) :

Mount Wuyi is one of the most outstanding subtropical forests in the world. It is the largest, most representative example of a largely intact forest encompassing the diversity of the Chinese Subtropical Forest and the South Chinese Rainforest. It acts as a refuge for a large number of ancient, relict plant species, many of them endemic to China and contains large numbers of reptile, amphibian and insect species. The riverine landscape of Nine-Bend Stream (lower gorge) is also of exceptional scenic quality in its juxtaposition of smooth rock cliffs with clear, deep water.

Cultural criteria (iii) and (vi) :

Criterion (iii): Mount Wuyi is a landscape of great beauty that has been protected for more than twelve centuries. It contains a series of exceptional archaeological sites, including the Han City established in the 1st century BC and a number of temples and study centres associated with the birth of Neo-Confucianism in the 11th century AD.

Criterion (vi): Mount Wuyi was the cradle of Neo-Confucianism, a doctrine that played a dominant role in the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Asia for many centuries and influenced philosophy and government over much of the world.

Property	Ibiza, Biodiversity and Culture
Id. N°	417Rev
State Party	Spain
Criteria	N(ii)(iv) / C(ii)(iii)(iv)

The Committee decided to inscribe the site on the basis of *natural criteria (ii) and (iv) and cultural criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv)*.

Natural criteria (ii) and (iv) :

The marine component of this site is characterised by the presence of dense and very well preserved prairies of oceanic Posidonia (seagrass) and coral reefs. Oceanic Posidonia only occurs in the Mediterranean basin and this site is the best preserved example within this region. The area also contains the most diverse community of *Cladocora caespitosa*, supporting 220 species, in the Mediterranean basin and habitat for three globally endangered species, including the Monk Seal. The area also

contains an important community of *Ecteinascidia turbinata*, a marine species with recognised value to prevent and combat different types of cancer. Parts of the site are included in the List of Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention) for migratory birds.

The Committee noted that since the twenty-third session of the Bureau, IUCN was informed about an EC-funded proposal to modify the port of Ibiza. IUCN has reviewed the EIA for this project and noted that it will not impact on the natural values of the site.

Cultural criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv):

Criterion (ii): The intact 16th century fortifications of Ibiza bear unique witness to the military architecture and engineering and the aesthetics of the Renaissance. This Italian-Spanish model was very influential, especially in the construction and fortification of towns in the New World.

Criterion (iii): The Phoenician ruins of Sa Caleta and the Phoenician-Punic cemetery of Puig des Molins are exceptional evidence of urbanization and social life in the Phoenician colonies of the western Mediterranean. They constitute a unique resource, in terms of volume and importance, of material from the Phoenician and Carthaginian tombs.

Criterion (iv): The Upper Town of Ibiza is an excellent example of a fortified acropolis which preserves in an exceptional way in its walls and in its urban fabric successive imprints of the earliest Phoenician settlements and the Arab and Catalan periods through to the Renaissance bastions. The long process of building the defensive walls has not destroyed the earlier phases or the street pattern, but has incorporated them in the ultimate phase.

Several delegates and observers commended the State Party for this nomination and reminded it about the great challenges that growing tourism will pose to the protection of the site.

B.2 Extension of a mixed property inscribed on the World Heritage List

Property	Pyrénées – Mont Perdu
Id. N°	773 Bis
State Party	France / Spain
Criteria	

The Committee noted the comment by ICOMOS that the small extension proposed by France is a valuable contribution to the overall cultural landscape. IUCN informed the Bureau that the existing Pyrénées – Mount Perdu (France/Spain) World Heritage site was inscribed under *natural criteria (i) and (iii)*. The proposed extension would not meet any natural criteria on its own. However, the extension has comparable scenic and geomorphological values to the existing site. IUCN noted concerns as to whether the legal basis is sufficient for long term protection, as indicated in the original IUCN evaluation. IUCN noted that the value of the area lies in its significance as a cultural landscape.

The Committee decided to extend the existing World Heritage site to include the area of 550 ha (1,8 % of the World Heritage area) in the upper Valley of Héas.

C. CULTURAL HERITAGE

VIII.6 The Committee noted that Germany, following the twenty-third session of the Bureau, had withdrawn the nomination of **The Cathedral of St-Maurice and St-Catherine, Magdebourg (Germany)**.

C.1 Properties that the Committee inscribed on the World Heritage List

Property	Cueva de las Manos, Río Pinturas
Id. N°	936
State Party	Argentina
Criteria	C (iii)

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (iii)*:

Criterion (iii): Cueva de las Manos contains an outstanding collection of prehistoric rock art which bears witness to the culture of the earliest human societies in South America.

Property	City of Graz – Historic Centre
Id. N°	931
State Party	Austria
Criteria	C (ii) (iv)

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (ii) and (iv)*:

Criterion (ii): The Historic Centre of the City of Graz reflects artistic and architectural movements originating from the Germanic region, the Balkans, and the Mediterranean, for which it served as a crossroads for centuries. The greatest architects and artists of these different regions expressed themselves forcefully here and thus created brilliant syntheses.

Criterion (iv): The urban complex forming the Historic Centre of the City of Graz is an exceptional example of a harmonious integration of architectural styles from successive periods. Each age is represented by typical buildings, which are often masterpieces. The urban physiognomy faithfully tells the story of its historic development.

Property	The Belfries of Flanders and Wallonia
Id. N°	943
State Party	Belgium
Criteria	C (ii) (iv)

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (ii) and (iv)*:

Criterion (ii): The belfries of Belgium are exceptional examples of a form of urban architecture adapted to the political and spiritual requirements of their age.

Criterion (iv): The Middle Ages saw the emergence of towns that were independent of the prevalent feudal system. The belfries in the historic County of Flanders and in Wallonia symbolize this new-found independence, and also the links within them between the secular and religious powers.

The Committee noted that this serial inscription was of particular interest as the monuments are located in different cities and regions of the State Party.

Property	Historic Centre of the Town of Diamantina
Id. N°	890
State Party	Brazil
Criteria	C (ii) (iv)

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (ii) and (iv)*:

Criterion (ii): Diamantina shows how explorers of the Brazilian territory, diamond prospectors, and representatives of the Crown were able to adapt European models to an American context in the 18th century, thus creating a culture that was faithful to its roots yet completely original.

Criterion (iv): The urban and architectural group of Diamantina, perfectly integrated into a wild landscape, is a fine example of an adventurous spirit combined with a quest for refinement so typical of human nature.

The Observer of Brazil and the Mayor of Diamantina expressed their warm appreciation for this inscription.

Property	The Dazu Rock Carvings
Id. N°	912
State Party	China
Criteria	C (i) (ii) (iii)

The Committee inscribed this site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (i), (ii) and (iii)*:

Criterion (i): The Dazu Carvings represent the pinnacle of Chinese rock art for their high aesthetic quality and their diversity of style and subject matter.

Criterion (ii): Tantric Buddhism from India and the Chinese Taoist and Confucian beliefs came together at Dazu to create a highly original and influential manifestation of spiritual harmony.

Criterion (iii): The eclectic nature of religious belief in later Imperial China is given material expression in the exceptional artistic heritage of the Dazu rock art.

The State Party agreed to the recommendation that the site be named “The Dazu Rock Carvings”. The Committee, noting that the Dazu area was included in a large World Bank planning scheme, recommended the State Party to keep the Committee and ICOMOS fully informed on the nature and progress of the projects to mitigate any adverse impact on the Dazu rock carvings and their settings.

Property	Viñales Valley
Id. N°	840 Rev
State Party	Cuba
Criteria	C(iv)

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (iv)*:

Criterion (iv): The Viñales Valley is an outstanding karst landscape in which traditional methods of agriculture (notably tobacco growing) have survived unchanged for several centuries. The region also preserves a rich vernacular tradition in its architecture, its crafts, and its music.

The Committee noted that during the recent UNESCO General Conference, the Valley of Viñales was awarded the Melina Mercouri Prize for Cultural Landscapes by the Director-General of UNESCO.

Property	Litomyšl Castle
Id. N°	901
State Party	Czech Republic
Criteria	C (ii) (iv)

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (ii) and (iv)*:

Criterion (ii): Litomyšl Castle is an outstanding and immaculately preserved example of the arcade castle, a type of building first developed in Italy and modified in the Czech lands to create an evolved form of special architectural quality.

Criterion (iv): Litomyšl Castle illustrates in an exceptional way the aristocratic residences of Central Europe in the Renaissance and their subsequent development under the influence of new artistic movements.

Property	Historic Centre of Santa Ana de los Rios de Cuenca
Id. N°	863
State Party	Ecuador
Criteria	C (ii) (iv) (v)

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (ii), (iv) and (v)*.

Criterion (ii): Cuenca illustrates the successful implantation of the principles of Renaissance urban planning in the Americas.

Criterion (iv): The successful fusion of different societies and cultures in Latin America is vividly symbolized by the layout and townscape of Cuenca.

Criterion (v): Cuenca is an outstanding example of a planned inland Spanish colonial city.

Property	The Bronze Age Burial Site of Sammallahdenmäki
Id. N°	579 Rev
State Party	Finland
Criteria	C (iii) (iv)

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (iii) and (iv)*:

Criterion (iii): The Sammallahdenmäki cairn cemetery bears exceptional witness to the society of the Bronze Age of Scandinavia.

Criterion (iv): The Sammallahdenmäki cemetery is an outstanding example of Bronze Age funerary practices in Scandinavia.

Delegates drew the attention that the inscription of this non-monumental property responds to the objectives of the global strategy.

Property	The Jurisdiction of Saint-Emilion
Id. N°	932
State Party	France
Criteria	C (iii) (iv)

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (iii) and (iv)*:

Criterion (iii): The Ancient Jurisdiction of Saint-Emilion is an outstanding example of an historic vineyard landscape that has survived intact and in activity to the present day.

Criterion (iv): The intensive cultivation of grapes for wine production in a precisely defined region and the resulting landscape is illustrated in an exceptional way by the historic Jurisdiction of Saint-Emilion.

The Committee expressed its appreciation for this nomination as it represents the cultural landscape typology introduced in 1992, in which the natural environment had been transformed to a landscape of monumental value.

Property	Museumsinsel (Museum Island), Berlin
Id. N°	896
State Party	Germany
Criteria	C (ii) (iv)

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (ii) and (iv)*.

Criterion (ii): The Berlin Museumsinsel is a unique ensemble of museum buildings, which illustrated the evolution of modern museum design over more than a century.

Criterion (iv): The art museum is a social phenomenon that owes its origins to the Age of Enlightenment and its extension to all people to the French Revolution. The Museumsinsel is the most outstanding example of this concept given material form and a symbolic central urban setting.

The Observer of Poland emphasized that in this type of properties it was essential to maintain not only the values of the monumental buildings, but also to maintain the integrity of the museum collections.

Property	Wartburg Castle
Id. N°	897
State Party	Germany
Criteria	C (iii) (vi)

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (iii) and (vi)*:

Criterion (iii): The Castle of Wartburg is an outstanding monument of the feudal period in Central Europe.

Criterion (vi): The Castle of Wartburg is rich in cultural associations, most notably its role as the place of exile of Martin Luther, who composed his German translation of the New Testament there. It is also a powerful symbol of German integration and unity.

The Observer of Poland pointed out that this inscription recognized the value of the restorations of the nineteenth century and the Observer of the Holy See stressed the importance of the Wartburg Castle for history and Christian spirituality (St. Elizabeth of Thuringen).

Property	The Archaeological Sites of Mycenae and Tiryns
Id. N°	941
State Party	Greece
Criteria	C (i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (vi)

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) and (vi)*:

Criterion (i): The architecture and design Mycenae and Tiryns, such as the Lion Gate and the Treasury of Atreus and the walls of Tiryns, are outstanding examples of human creative genius.

Criterion (ii): The Mycenaean civilisation, as exemplified by Mycenae and Tiryns, had a profound effect on the development of classical Greek architecture and urban design, and consequently also on contemporary cultural forms.

Criterion (iii) and (iv): Mycenae and Tiryns represent the apogee of the Mycenaean civilization, which laid the foundations for the evolution of later European cultures.

Criterion (vi): Mycenae and Tiryns are indissolubly linked with the Homeric epics, the *Iliad and the Odyssey*, the influence of which upon European literature and the arts has been profound for more than three millennia.

Property	The Historic Centre (Chorá) with the Monastery of Saint-John the Theologian and the Cave of the Apocalypse on the Island of Pátmos
Id. N°	942
State Party	Greece
Criteria	C (iii) (iv) (vi)

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (iii), (iv) and (vi)*:

Criterion (iii): The town of Chorá on the Island of Pátmos is one of the few settlements in Greece that have evolved uninterruptedly since the 12th century. There are few other places in the world where religious ceremonies that date back to the early Christian times are still being practised unchanged.

Criterion (iv): The Monastery of Hagios Ioannis Theologos (Saint John the Theologian) and the Cave of the Apocalypse on the Island of Pátmos, together with the associated medieval settlement of Chorá, constitute an exceptional example of a traditional Greek Orthodox pilgrimage centre of outstanding architectural interest.

Criterion (vi): The Monastery of Hagios Ioannis Theologos and the Cave of the Apocalypse commemorate the site where St John the Theologian (Divine), the “Beloved Disciple”, composed two of the most sacred Christian works, his Gospel and the Apocalypse.

The Delegate of Thailand raised the question of eligibility of criterion (vi). He thought that the criterion (iii) should be applied. This recommendation was also endorsed by ICOMOS and the Committee. Delegates and observers commended the high values of the site and decided to keep the criterion (vi).

Property	Hortobágy National Park
Id. N°	474 Rev
State Party	Hungary
Criteria	C (iv) (v)

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (iv) and (v)*:

Criterion (iv): The Hungarian *Puszta* is an exceptional surviving example of a cultural landscape constituted by a pastoral society.

Criterion (v): The landscape of the Hortobágy National Park maintains intact and visible traces of its traditional land-use forms over several thousand years, and illustrates the harmonious interaction between people and nature.

Property	Darjeeling Himalayan Railway
Id. N°	944
State Party	India
Criteria	C (ii) (iv)

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List under *criteria (ii) and (iv)*:

Criterion (ii): The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway is an outstanding example of the influence of an innovative transportation system on the social and economic development of a multi-cultural region, which was to serve as a model for similar developments in many parts of the world.

Criterion (iv): The development of railways in the 19th century has a profound influence on social and economic developments in many parts of the world. This process is illustrated in an exceptional and seminal fashion by the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway.

The Committee drew the attention of the State Party to the recommendations of ICOMOS concerning a) the creation of a heritage conservation unit; b) the establishment of a buffer zone along the length of the railway line and the station and c) the establishment of an adapted management plan. All these issues could be examined by the Bureau at its twenty-fifth session in 2001.

The Observer of Germany underlined the importance of retaining the steam trains within the site. The Committee was assured by both ICOMOS and the Observer of India that, despite the movable character of the steam trains, they would most certainly remain in use due to their importance as a tourism attraction. The Observer of India, in thanking the Committee for its decision, drew the attention of the Committee to the importance of preserving this unique site, which was the first industrial heritage site in Asia to be inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Property	Villa Adriana (Tivoli)
Id. N°	907
State Party	Italy
Criteria	C (i) (ii) (iii)

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (i), (ii) and (iii)*:

Criteria (i) and (iii): The Villa Adriana is a masterpiece that uniquely brings together the highest expressions of the material cultures of the ancient Mediterranean world.

Criterion (ii): Study of the monuments that make up the Villa Adriana played a crucial role in the rediscovery of the elements of classical architecture by the architects of the Renaissance and the Baroque period. It also profoundly influenced many 19th and 20th century architects and designers.

Property	Shrines and Temples of Nikko
Id. N°	913
State Party	Japan
Criteria	C (i) (iv) (vi)

The Committee inscribed this property on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (i), (iv) and (vi)*:

Criterion (i): The Nikko shrines and temples are a reflection of architectural and artistic genius; this aspect is reinforced by the harmonious integration of the buildings in a forest and a natural site laid out by people.

Criterion (iv): Nikko is a perfect illustration of the architectural style of the Edo period as applied to Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples. The Gongen-zukuri style of the two mausoleums, the Tōshōgū and the Taiyū-in Reibyō, reached the peak of its expression in Nikko, and was later to exert a decisive influence. The ingenuity and creativity of its architects and decorators are revealed in an outstanding and distinguished manner.

Criterion (vi): The Nikko shrines and temples, together with their environment, are an outstanding example of a traditional Japanese religious centre, associated with the Shinto perception of the relationship of man with nature, in which mountains and forests have a sacred meaning and are objects of veneration, in a religious practice that is still very much alive today.

The Committee took note of the comments of ICOMOS that the development pressure near the south-west border of the site would require the State Party to be vigilant in monitoring potential threats in the future.

Property	Historic Fortified Town of Campeche
Id. N°	895
State Party	Mexico
Criteria	C (ii) (iv)

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (ii) and (iv)*:

Criterion (ii): The harbour town of Campeche is an urbanization model of a Baroque colonial town, with its checkerboard street plan; the defensive walls surrounding its historic centre reflect the influence of the military architecture in the Caribbean.

Criterion (iv): The fortifications system of Campeche, an eminent example of the military architecture of the 17th and 18th centuries, is part of an overall defensive system set up by the Spanish to protect the ports on the Caribbean Sea from pirate attacks.

At the initiative of ICOMOS and with the agreement of the States Party the title of the property was changed to the **Historic Fortified Town of Campeche**.

Property	The Archaeological Monuments Zone of Xochicalco
Id. N°	939
State Party	Mexico
Criteria	C (iii) (iv)

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (iii) and (iv)*:

Criterion (iii): Xochicalco is an exceptionally well preserved and complete example of a fortified settlement from the Epiclassic Period of Mesoamerica.

Criterion (iv): The architecture and art of Xochicalco represent the fusion of cultural elements from different parts of Mesoamerica, at a period when the breakdown of earlier political structures resulted in intensive cultural regrouping.

The Committee recommended that the State Party take note of the recommendation to upgrade visitor facilities, security and management planning.

Property	Droogmakerij de Beemster (Beemster Polder)
Id. N°	899
State Party	Netherlands
Criteria	C (i) (ii) (iv)

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (i), (ii), and (iv)*:

Criterion (i): The Beemster Polder is a masterpiece of creative planning, in which the ideals of antiquity and the Renaissance were applied to the design of a reclaimed landscape.

Criterion (ii): The innovative and intellectually imaginative landscape of the Beemster Polder had a profound and lasting impact on reclamation projects in Europe and beyond.

Criterion (iv): The creation of the Beemster Polder marks a major step forward in the interrelationship between humankind and water at a crucial period of social and economic expansion.

Referring to the particular character of the nominations of the Netherlands, the Observer of the Netherlands informed the Committee that very recently the parliament of the Netherlands had accepted a policy document on the integration of cultural heritage – archaeology, built heritage and cultural landscapes - in national, provincial and local planning policies. World Heritage preservation is explicitly incorporated in this document. The Netherlands would be pleased to share this kind of experience with other States Parties.

Property	Sukur Cultural Landscape
Id. N°	938
State Party	Nigeria
Criteria	C (iii) (v) (vi)

The Committee inscribed the property on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (iii), (v) and (vi)*:

Criterion (iii): Sukur is an exceptional landscape that graphically illustrates a form of land-use that marks a critical stage in human settlement and its relationship with its environment

Criterion (v): The cultural landscape of Sukur has survived unchanged for many centuries, and continues to do so at a period when this form of traditional human settlement is under threat in many parts of the world.

Criterion (vi): The cultural landscape of Sukur is eloquent testimony to a strong and continuing spiritual and cultural tradition that has endured for many centuries.

Several members of the Committee expressed their pleasure and emotion following the inscription of this cultural landscape on the World Heritage List as it reflects international recognition of African heritage and is of significant importance in achieving the goals of the Global Strategy.

The Chairperson, in the name of the Committee, congratulated Nigeria and expressed the wish that, in the near future, nominations for inscription from the biggest state in Africa that bear witness to its richness, its cultural diversity, and illustrate the specificity of African heritage would be submitted for inscription.

H.E. the Federal Minister for Culture and Tourism thanked the Committee and ICOMOS, the World Heritage Centre and transmitted to them a message from the highest authorities in his country. The text of his intervention is included as Annex VI to this report.

Property	The Historic Town of Vigan
Id. N°	502Rev
State Party	Philippines
Criteria	C (ii) (iv)

The Committee inscribed the property on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (ii) and (iv)*:

Criterion (ii): Vigan represents a unique fusion of Asian building design and construction with European colonial architecture and planning.

Criterion (iv): Vigan is an exceptionally intact and well-preserved example of a European trading town in East and South-East Asia.

Property	Kalwaria Zebrzydowska: the Mannerist architectural and Park Landscape Complex and Pilgrimage Park
Id. N°	905
State Party	Poland
Criteria	C (ii) (iv)

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (ii) and (iv)*:

Criterion (ii): Kalwaria Zebrzydowska is an exceptional cultural monument in which the natural landscape was used as the setting for a symbolic representation in the form of chapels and avenues of the events of the Passion of Christ. The result is a cultural landscape of great beauty and spiritual quality in which natural and man-made elements combine in a harmonious manner.

Criterion (iv): The Counter Reformation in the late 16th century led to a flowering in the creation of Calvaries in Europe. Kalwaria Zebrzydowska is an outstanding example of this type of large-scale landscape design, which incorporates natural beauty with spiritual objectives and the principles of Baroque park design.

Property	Historic Centre of Sighisoara
Id. N°	902
State Party	Romania
Criteria	C (iii) (v)

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (iii) and (v)*:

Criterion (iii): Sighisoara is an outstanding testimony to the culture of the Transylvanian Saxons, a culture that is coming to a close after 850 years and will continue to exist only through its architectural and urban monuments.

Criterion (v): Sighisoara is an outstanding example of a small fortified city in the border region between the Latin-oriented culture of Central Europe and the Byzantine-Orthodox culture of south-eastern Europe. The apparently unstoppable process of emigration by the Saxons, the social stratum that had formed and upheld the cultural traditions of the region, threatens the survival of their architectural heritage as well.

The Observer of Germany recommended that the Government of Romania should inform the Committee through the World Heritage Centre of the approval of the new law on cultural heritage that has been submitted to Parliament. Approval of this law is foreseen in February 2000.

The Delegate of Hungary recalled that he had made a detailed statement on this nomination at the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau.

Property	The Wooden Churches of Maramures
Id. N°	904
State Party	Romania
Criteria	C (iv)

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (iv)*:

Criterion (iv): The Maramures wooden churches are outstanding examples of vernacular religious wooden architecture resulting from the interchange of Orthodox religious traditions with Gothic influences in a specific vernacular interpretation of timber construction traditions, showing a high level of artistic maturity and craft skills.

It was noted that neighbouring States Parties could consider proposing to add other wooden churches to this inscription.

Property	The Dacian Fortresses of the Orastie Mountains
Id. N°	906
State Party	Romania
Criteria	C (ii) (iii) (iv)

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (ii), (iii), and (iv)*:

Criterion (ii): The Dacian Fortresses represent the fusion of techniques and concepts of military architecture from inside and outside the classical world to create a unique style.

Criterion (iii): The Geto-Dacian Kingdoms of the late 1st millennium BC attained an exceptionally high cultural and socio-economic level, and this is symbolized by this group of fortresses.

Criterion (iv): The hill-fort and its evolved successor, the *oppidum*, were characteristic of the Late Iron Age in Europe, and the Dacian Fortresses are outstanding examples of this type of defended site.

With reference to the three properties from Romania inscribed on the World Heritage List, the Observer of Germany stated that Sighisoara and the churches of Maramures relate to the common heritage of the pluri-cultural society in Transylvania which, unfortunately is now disappearing. Germany will continue its support to encounter the problems caused by massive emigration from this region.

Property	Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park
Id. N°	910
State Party	Saint Christopher & Nevis
Criteria	C (iii) (iv)

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (iii) and (iv)*:

Criterion (iii): Brimstone Hill is an outstanding British fortress, built by slave labour to exact standards during a peak period of European colonial expansion in the Caribbean.

Criterion (iv): Because of its strategic layout and construction, Brimstone Hill Fortress is an exceptional and well preserved example of 17th and 18th century British military architecture.

Several delegates emphasized the importance of this fortification in relation to the slave trade and the need of its remembrance. It was also observed that this inscription contributes to a better representation of the Caribbean on the World Heritage List.

Property	San Cristóbal de la Laguna
Id. N°	929
State Party	Spain
Criteria	C (ii) (iv)

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (ii) and (iv)*:

Criteria (ii) and (iv): San Cristóbal de la Laguna was the first non-fortified Spanish colonial town, and its layout provided the model for many colonial towns in the Americas.

Property	The Fossil Hominid Sites of Sterkfontein, Swartkrans, Kromdraai, and Environs
Id. N°	915
State Party	South Africa
Criteria	C (iii) (vi)

The Committee inscribed this property on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (iii) and (vi)*:

Criteria (iii) and (vi): The Sterkfontein area contains an exceptionally large and scientifically significant group of sites which throw light on the earliest ancestors of humankind. They constitute a vast reserve of scientific information, the potential of which is enormous.

In response to the Delegate of Thailand, ICOMOS indicated that criterion (vi) was proposed due to the importance of the site for the history of humankind, like the Peking Man Site at Zhoukoudian (China) and the Sangiran Early Man Site (Indonesia).

Property	State Historical and Cultural Park "Ancient Merv"
Id. N°	886
State Party	Turkmenistan
Criteria	C (ii) (iii)

The Committee inscribed the property on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (ii) and (iii)*:

Criterion (ii): The cities of the Merv oasis have exerted considerable influence over the cultures of Central Asia and Iran for four millennia. Seljuk City in particular, influenced architecture and architectural decoration and scientific and cultural development.

Criterion (iii): The sequence of the cities of the Merv oasis, their fortifications, and their urban lay-outs bear exceptional testimony to the civilizations of Central Asia over several millennia.

Property	Robben Island
Id. N°	916
State Party	South Africa
Criteria	C (iii) (vi)

The Committee inscribed this property on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (iii) and (vi)*:

Criterion (iii): The buildings of Robben Island bear eloquent witness to its sombre history.

Criterion (vi): Robben Island and its prison buildings symbolize the triumph of the human spirit, of freedom, and of democracy over oppression.

Many members of the Committee expressed their pleasure and emotion and congratulated South Africa for having proposed this site which symbolizes the fight against oppression, the victory of democracy as well as the process of national reconciliation.

Over and over again the members of the Committee paid homage to the vision of President Mandela. The Delegate of Thailand considered that criterion (vi) could be amended during the session so that the inscription of the site would be possible only under this criterion.

The Committee took note of the need to discuss the amendments that could be proposed under criterion (vi).

The Chairperson expressed satisfaction with this inscription and considered that this decision has been taken on the African ground was an honour for Morocco. The Delegate of South Africa expressed her appreciation for the Committee's decision (see Annex VII to this report).

The Committee congratulated the State Party for nominating its first World Heritage site, which has enhanced the representativity and balance of the World Heritage List.

Property	The Heart of Neolithic Orkney
Id. N°	514 Rev
State Party	United Kingdom
Criteria	C (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (i),(ii),(iii), and (iv)*:

The monuments of Orkney, dating back to 3000-2000 BC, are outstanding testimony to the cultural achievements of the Neolithic peoples of northern Europe.

Property	Hoi An Ancient Town
Id. N°	948
State Party	Viet Nam
Criteria	C (ii) (v)

The Committee inscribed this property on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (ii) and (v)*:

Criterion (ii): Hoi An is an outstanding material manifestation of the fusion of cultures over time in an international commercial port.

Criterion (v): Hoi An is an exceptionally well-preserved example of a traditional Asian trading port.

Property	My Son Sanctuary
Id. N°	949
State Party	Viet Nam
Criteria	C (ii) (iii)

The Committee inscribed this property on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (ii) and (iii)*:

Criterion (ii): The My Son Sanctuary is an exceptional example of cultural interchange, with an indigenous society adapting to external cultural influences, notably the Hindu art and architecture of the Indian sub-continent.

Criterion (iii): The Champa Kingdom was an important phenomenon in the political and cultural history of South-East Asia, vividly illustrated by the ruins of My Son.

The Delegate of China, speaking on behalf of all Asian and Pacific delegates, members of the Committee, warmly supported this nomination. He expressed the satisfaction of the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau in respecting the wish of the State Party with regard to the name and size of the property.

The Delegate of Thailand, underlining that appropriate criteria, and not the numbers of criteria, was important in defining the World Heritage values of properties, requested the advisory bodies to strictly apply appropriate criteria for properties to be inscribed on the World Heritage List. The Committee took note of the Delegate's request that the *International Expert Meeting on the Operational Guidelines* (April 2000) take this into consideration when revising criteria within the *Operational Guidelines*.

The Observer of Vietnam thanked the Committee for its decision and informed the Committee about the growing awareness of World Heritage in his country.

C.2 Extension of cultural properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List

Property	Butrint
Id. N°	570 Bis
State Party	Albania
Criteria	C (iii)

ICOMOS expressed its concern that tourism developments in a small area on the coast, excluded from the proposed extension, could have a disastrous impact on the site. ICOMOS, therefore, strongly recommended that this area be included in the protected area.

The Committee decided to extend the property under the existing *criterion (iii)* under the condition that the excluded area would be included in the zone of the proposed enlargement.

The Delegate of Italy offered the interest of his Government to support the Albanian Government in the preparation and implementation of the management plan for the site.

Property	Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin – Extension
Id. N°	532 Ter
State Party	Germany
Criteria	C (i)(ii)(iv)

The Committee approved this extension to the World Heritage site of the Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin, on the World Heritage List under the existing *criteria (i), (ii) and (iv)*.

Property	Ferrara, City of the Renaissance and its Po Delta (extension of Ferrara, city of the Renaissance)
Id. N°	733 Bis
State Party	Italy
Criteria	C (ii) (iii) (iv) (v) (vi)

The Committee approved this extension to the World Heritage site of the City of Ferrara and to inscribe this site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (iii) and (v)*, in addition to the already existing criteria (ii), (iv) and (vi):

Criterion (iii): The Este ducal residences in the Po Delta illustrate the influence of Renaissance culture on the natural landscape in an exceptional manner.

Criterion (v): The Po Delta is an outstanding planned cultural landscape that retains its original form to a remarkable extent.

As requested by the State Party, the Committee decided to change the name of the inscribed property to "Ferrara, City of the Renaissance and its Po Delta".

Property	The Villages with fortified churches in Transylvania (extension of Biertan and its Fortified Church)
Id. N°	596 Bis
State Party	Romania
Criteria	C (iv)

The Committee approved this extension to the World Heritage site Biertan and its fortified church, on the World Heritage List under the existing *criterion (iv)*.

C.3 Cultural Property which the Committee decided to defer

Property	The Loire Valley between Maine and Sully-sur-Loire
Id. N°	933
State Party	France
Criteria	C (ii) (iv)

A lengthy and substantive debate took place with regard to this nomination and on the general issue of cultural landscapes.

It was generally recognised that the Loire Valley had outstanding universal value and was worthy of being inscribed as a cultural landscape on the World Heritage List under cultural criteria (ii) and (iv). It was also noted that a Steering Committee with representation from territorial authorities and institutions involved, had been established to oversee the management of the area and that the management of this complex and extensive cultural site was exemplary, innovative and appropriate. However, several delegates raised concerns about the nuclear power plant located within the boundaries of the proposed site.

After a first round of discussions, the Chairperson established a working group with the participation of Australia, Benin, Finland, France, Italy, Thailand, the United Kingdom and ICOMOS. At a later stage, the Delegate of Italy who had chaired the working group summarised the discussions and informed the Committee that no consensus had been reached. One of the issues in the discussions had been the interpretation of the definition of the category of the “*organically evolved landscape*” and its sub-category of the “*continuing landscape*” in which the “*evolutionary process is still in progress*” (*Operational Guidelines*, paragraph 39 (ii)), and whether or not an industrial plant would be compatible with a World Heritage property of this kind.

ICOMOS proposed to the Committee that the property be inscribed on the World Heritage List with reference being made to the disturbing presence of the nuclear power plant and a recommendation made to the State Party to take the appropriate measures to prevent eventual risks. ICOMOS underlined the responsibility of the State Party and the Management Steering Committee in this respect. He also noted that a clarification of the definition of the organically evolved landscape was needed. Concern was expressed that this issue was not raised in the ICOMOS evaluation.

The Observer of France emphasized that all the recommendations made by ICOMOS and endorsed by the Bureau in July 1999, were implemented. He expressed regret that the matter of the industrial plant was not raised earlier in the recommendations of the Bureau at its sessions in July and November. For this reason, the State Party was not given the chance to respond to eventual concerns about this matter that is an issue that had been largely studied by the Government with all necessary risk assessment in place. He noted that there was a matter of principle involved in the discussion, namely the question if contemporary elements inherent to modern life are accepted in a cultural landscape. He pointed out that France had presented this important cultural heritage nomination in the framework of the Global Strategy and with the aim of diversifying the World Heritage List. He said that this nomination had required much effort for its conception and had received wide support in France. He also commented that the national authorities had created a Management Steering Committee for the site, which was innovative for this country. Furthermore, the Observer stated his concern regarding the objections to the nuclear power plant, and questioned whether the objections would have been the same in the case of an industrial plant of a different nature. He urged the Committee to substantiate its decision and said that ICOMOS’s proposal would be acceptable to the State Party.

During the debate that followed, two differing positions emerged. Some delegates supported the view that modern elements are acceptable in a continuing landscape and noted that, in this case, adequate measures and contingency plans were in place. The Delegate of Belgium declared that the World Heritage Committee was not the appropriate venue to conduct discussions relating to nuclear energy. Other delegates stressed the need for more in-depth consideration of this issue and recommended that consideration of this nomination be deferred. It was also emphasized that a fundamental discussion on the interpretation of the cultural landscape categories, a very promising concept for many States Parties, might be necessary, but that this discussion should not take place in the context of, and influence the, consideration of a particular landscape nomination.

IUCN noted that it had reviewed the nomination but that the presence of a nuclear power plant had not been obvious in the dossier. IUCN stressed that a decision by the World Heritage Committee to inscribe this site on the World Heritage List could send a message to the outside world that sites of outstanding universal value can have large industrial developments, including

nuclear power plants, within their boundaries. He stated that this debate should not jeopardize the significance or the value of the cultural landscape concept.

The Chairperson then called for a vote on this matter. The Director of the World Heritage Centre read the rules from the *Rules and Procedures* that refer to the voting procedures. The Chairperson then asked the Committee members to vote for two options: (a) in favour of inscription of the Loire Valley on the World Heritage List, or (b) deferral of the examination to the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau.

The Delegates of Belgium, Benin, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Italy, Malta, Mexico, Portugal and Thailand voted for inscription on the World Heritage List. The delegates of Australia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, the Republic of Korea, South Africa and Zimbabwe voted for deferral. Morocco and Egypt abstained.

The Chairperson noted that, in accordance with rule 29.2 of the *Rules of Procedure*, the required majority was two-thirds of the Committee members present and voting. As nineteen Committee members were present and voting, he concluded that the required number for a majority was thirteen. With twelve votes for inscription and seven votes for deferral, the Chairperson declared the examination of the nomination of the Loire Valley between Maine and Sully-sur-Loire deferred.

The Observer of France thanked all members of the Committee for their serious consideration of this nomination and noted that basic and fundamental issues had been raised, and that this would certainly stimulate and encourage States Parties to continue in this innovative line. The Chairperson thanked the Observer of France for the courageous nomination and the members of the Committee for their participation in the debate.

C.4 Cultural Properties which the Committee did not inscribe on the World Heritage List

Property	Sarajevo - Unique symbol of universal multicultural –continual open city
Id. N°	851 Rev
State Party	Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Committee decided not to inscribe this property on the World Heritage List.

Property	The Kysuce-Orava Switchback Railroad
Id. N°	756
State Party	Slovakia

The Committee decided not to inscribe this property on the World Heritage List.

VIII.7 At the end of the session, the Chairperson recalled the resolution adopted in October 1999 by the twelfth General Assembly on the ways and means to ensure a representative World Heritage List, and:

- a) congratulated the States having submitted proposals for inscription relating to under-represented categories, in particular cultural landscapes, living cultures and technological heritage as well as the States that had submitted nominations for inscription for the first time;
- b) noted that five natural sites in Latin America and the Caribbean had been inscribed, in regions where natural heritage is still under-represented;
- c) recalled that all States Parties, the Bureau, the Committee, the advisory bodies should take into account the goals of the

Global Strategy and give close consideration to the resulting analyses and recommendations so that each of their actions and decisions are aimed at ensuring the representativeness of the List;

- d) referred to the discussions on criterion (vi) and (iii) and the need to continue the reflection in the framework of the revision of the criteria;
- e) regretted that the examination of the fifty-five nominations for inscription was conducted in such a limited time and noted once again the timetable of the Committee's work was very heavy and that the number of nominations for inscription continued to increase. He requested the Committee, the advisory bodies and the Secretariat to ensure that the nominations for inscription could be very carefully and rigorously examined in accordance with the Operational Guidelines, and within a reasonable time period.

The Director of the World Heritage Centre read out the list of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.

IX. PERIODIC REPORTING: REGIONAL STRATEGIES FOR PERIODIC REPORTING

IX.1 The Secretariat presented the Working Document WHC-99/CONF.209/12 that contains the Action Plan for the Arab region which should be completed by December 2000, and the periodic reporting exercise for the African States that should be completed by December 2001.

IX.2 Particular mention was made of the links with the implementation of the Global Strategy. The periodic monitoring exercise would help States Parties to recognize their insufficiencies in the field of conservation and facilitate the identification of their needs. The managers of the sites will be trained and ultimately regional expert networks will be strengthened.

IX.3 In the Arab States, eighteen States Parties will have to prepare reports concerning forty-four sites (41 cultural, one mixed and two natural). The exercise for the Arab region which should be completely finalised over a period of less than eleven months, comprises the following stages:

- an analysis of information available to UNESCO and the advisory bodies (nomination files, statutory reports, mission reports, etc.);
- an information and training phase for responsible nationals in charge of the preparation of the reports of their countries (regional seminar, preparatory work, national seminars);
- preparatory phase for national reports to be attended by international consultants to assist States Parties;
- a phase for the synthesis of reports and the preparation of the regional report which should be ready by September 2000 for submission to the twenty-fourth session of the World Heritage Committee.

This exercise in the Arab region, which will serve as a useful example for the other regions, will permit the (i) harmonisation of national tentative lists; (ii) validation of the use of this exercise for the revision of early nomination files, incomplete in comparison to the new format; (iii) testing the questionnaires of the exercise in a continuum way; (iv) verification of the criteria concerning the sites; (v) identification of the regional and national priorities in terms of international co-operation. Finally, it will allow the Secretariat to improve its information on the sites inscribed and will also be beneficial to States Parties.

IX.4 In Africa, eighteen States Parties will have to prepare reports concerning forty sites, twenty-three of which are natural, sixteen cultural and one mixed. The exercise for Africa was conceived in seven stages that have been established in a

participatory manner to involve States Parties and site managers, thereby ensuring a training character to the preparation of the final report.

Stage I: Preparation and dispatch of a specific form to draw the attention of States Parties to the monitoring issue and to obtain a first input of information relating to the implementation of the Convention.

Stage II: Collection of preliminary results and elaboration of regional workshop programmes, to process the resulting information into a data base and to identify specific information which should be provided to each site manager during the training seminars.

Stage III: Organization of two regional training seminars: Anglophone and Francophone Africa, which will convene managers of both natural and cultural site. During these workshops, they will:

- present their sites and identify common issues;
- have the opportunity to discuss the methodology of the exercise;
- obtain additional information for the completion of the forms for each site.

These three stages should be completed by autumn 2000.

Stage IV: Exchange of additional information with site managers, before reception of the final version of the forms.

Stage V: Analysis of the forms to compare the site *in situ* between the time of inscription and the present; define minimal methods for regular monitoring, identify the involvement of local populations in the management of the sites and identify the site issues.

Stage VI: Identification of fragile sites and study missions (2001).

Stage VII: Completion of the final report and dissemination of the exercise, and submission of the report to the Committee for 2001.

The periodic report will constitute a reflection of the situation. In a continent where the collection, analysis and stockage of information is often difficult, the emphasis will be placed on understanding the conservation process, the importance of collecting of information and its presentation and use, rather than on the exhaustive research for information.

IX.5 During these discussions, fourteen speakers took the floor, including the three advisory bodies and congratulated the Secretariat for the clarity of the document, its conception and the transparency of the proposed budget. The importance of the participatory approach and the importance given to training were also emphasized. However, the speakers insisted upon the need to continue the exercise, to establish a cumulative process, the importance of the documentation, the identification of key indicators, the implication of the local populations, and public awareness raising. They commented that this exercise should also include a communication plan. They requested that the role of the advisory bodies be defined.

IX.6 The Representative of IUCN informed the Committee that the systematic approach to periodic reporting on a regional basis is a very positive initiative but IUCN, as one of advisory bodies named in the Convention, is unclear as to what role, if any, it is expected to play in the periodic reporting process. The role of the advisory bodies in reactive monitoring is clear from the Operational Guidelines. He stated for example that the material on the process in Arab States as well as in Africa does not make any mention of the advisory bodies. With these first regional strategies, IUCN thought that it was very important that the Committee indicates clearly whether the advisory bodies have a role to play in the regions, as it will establish a pattern for the future. IUCN informed the Committee that it has rich experience in association with States Parties that it could bring to bear on periodic reporting. He recalled the statements made by several

delegates that stressed the value of IUCN's input. The Representative of IUCN further noted that the involvement of the advisory bodies would have resource implications. Moreover, IUCN is working towards the World Parks Congress (held every ten years) to be convened in Durban, South Africa in September 2002, and IUCN is planning two regional working sessions in Africa - one for Francophone Africa and the other for Anglophone Africa during 2001.

IX.7 The views of IUCN were supported by ICOMOS and ICCROM and fully endorsed by several delegates. ICOMOS specifically stressed the importance of regional monitoring and stated that the periodic reporting exercise should be considered as a formative one where site managers can be trained, and called for more liaison with the with the advisory bodies in view of their experience in producing Guidelines. In reference to remarks made by several delegates on the Reference Manual for Monitoring, ICCROM clarified the place of the manual in the periodic reporting process. The Representative of ICCROM stated that the Committee had allocated US\$8,000 to ICCROM in December 1998 to begin the development of a Reference Manual for Monitoring. ICCROM organized two meetings in 1999 with experts representing the advisory bodies and the World Heritage Centre, to develop an approach for preparing the manual. The purpose of the Manual is to provide guidance to site managers at the local level, a target that is recognized as important in the process of periodic reporting by several delegates. ICCROM has been working with the other advisory bodies and the World Heritage Centre in the development of the Manual, that has been designed to be a useful scientific reference tool for site managers at all levels of responsibility in carrying out their duties. ICCROM has submitted a request of US\$16,000 to the current session of the Committee in order to finalize the Manual, an initiative that should be considered as complementary to the Centre's presentation.

IX.8 Several delegates stressed the importance of establishing benchmarks and indicators and while these may be established at the site level, the monitoring process should not be an end in itself, but should serve different levels of the citizenry, and should be forward-looking with a well defined objective.

IX.9 Committee members stressed that the periodic monitoring exercise should be targeted primarily to involve the States Parties and site managers, and that putting the process into the hands of the local managers would render it more useful. It was emphasized that the local population should be involved as much as possible since their participation is critical to the conservation of heritage.

IX.10 At the end of the debate, precisions and clarifications were provided by the Secretariat which has committed to reflect in the forms which will be sent to States Parties, the remarks made by the Committee.

IX.11 The Committee requested the Secretariat to take note of the proposal to invite the participation of the UNEP/PAM Programme 100 historical sites in the exercise to benefit from the resources and gain experience.

IX.12 The Committee approved the methodology, the action plan of the Arab region, as well as the strategic approach of the exercise for the African region. It took note of the budgetary proposals for 2000 that will be processed during the examination of the work plan and budget of the World Heritage Fund.

X. STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER AND ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

A. REPORTS ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

X.1 The Committee examined that state of conservation of fifteen natural and four cultural properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

NATURAL HERITAGE

X.2 Srebarna Nature Reserve (Bulgaria)

The Committee was informed that the State Party had submitted a detailed report on the project for monitoring the state of conservation of Srebarna and, in accordance with the request of the twenty-second session of the Committee (Kyoto, Japan, 1998), the Ministry of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria had submitted a National Report "concerning the progress in restoration of ecological status of Srebarna Reserve in accordance with its removing from the List of World Heritage in Danger". IUCN and the Centre presented a review of the information contained in these reports and the Committee noted the following:

The Bulgarian Government has voted in the Law on Protected Areas (November 1998), and during 1999, developed and adopted a National Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation. The Law, which is built upon Europe-wide legislation and directives, has enabled the implementation of a large number of urgent actions for protected areas, including that for Srebarna; e.g. the creation of decrees and regulations on the development of management plans, structure and actions of regional authorities and activities permitted within state owned protected areas. The Action Plan strengthens the ability of the Ministry of Environment and Water to co-ordinate actions of other economic sector agencies in areas outside of protected areas, thus strengthening the Ministry's authority to co-ordinate development actions in the region where Srebarna is located.

The Ministry of Environment and Water has widened collaboration with Romania and the rest of the countries of the Lower Danube to study the feasibility of enlarging the system of wetland areas in the Danube valley. During a meeting with the Romanian authorities, suggestions for the setting up of a working group have been made to co-ordinate biodiversity conservation along the banks of the Danube and the Black Sea coast. IUCN emphasised that such trans-border cooperation is critical for the conservation of flagship species such as the Dalmatian pelican.

The Ministry has increased efforts to involve the public in the management of Srebarna and surrounding areas. Participation of several schools and NGOs in programmes for monitoring water quality and the status of selected populations of animals and plants has been encouraged. The local public and the media have been fully apprised of the Government's efforts to restore Srebarna's World Heritage and protected area values. A new web-site for the Reserve has been opened at: <http://www.ecolab.bas.bg/srebarna/> and provides data concerning the Government's efforts to protect the site.

The Committee noted the following trends that indicate continuing success of the restoration process:

- Nutrient concentrations in Lake Srebarna have reduced significantly and current ranges appear to be normal for an eutrophic environment such as Srebarna;

- In 1999 a five-fold decrease in nitrogen and phosphate concentrations has been registered;
- The concentration of Chlorophyll A in the water continues and is a favourable trend towards minimising the eutrophication of the waters of the Lake;
- Breeding success of the Dalmatian pelicans, unusually high in 1998 (99 chicks born from 80 breeding pairs) has been sustained in 1999; i.e. 74 chicks have been born from the 65 nesting sites that have been monitored.

The Committee decided to retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger but noted with satisfaction the continuing success in the recovery of the site and commended and encouraged the State Party to take all necessary measures to sustain current trends in ecological and population parameters that are being monitored. The Committee encouraged the State Party to continue to develop its co-operation with Romania and other countries of the Lower Danube to study the possibility, as per the Committee's recommendation made in 1998, of the establishment of a composite, trans-boundary "Danube Wetland World Heritage site". The Committee invited the State Party to submit an up-to-date report on the state of conservation of Srebarna to its twenty-fourth session in 2000. Based on a review of that report, IUCN and the Centre may propose to the twenty-fourth session of the Committee, a process and a time-table for a final assessment of the results of the restoration of Srebarna and its possible removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2001.

X.3 Manovo-Gounda-St. Floris National Park (Central African Republic (CAR))

The Committee noted with concern that the President of the State Party has not responded to letters from the Director-General and the Chairperson, transmitting the recommendations of the twenty-second session of the Committee (Kyoto, Japan, 1998), inviting the President's urgent intervention for the preparation of a detailed state of conservation report and a rehabilitation plan for the conservation of the site. IUCN informed the Committee that it has received a report that calls for an urgent project formulation mission to the site. Other reports received from sources external to the State Party indicate continuing decline in the conditions of integrity of the Park. The EU project that started in 1988 was able to arrest some of the deteriorating conditions. But the implementation of that project was interrupted several times and with the final termination of the project due in 1999 the Park may become completely open to poachers. The reports received by the Centre and IUCN call for: (a) demonstration of national political will for the site's protection; (b) launching of a project integrating the management of the Park with the needs of local communities; (c) integrating village community leaders into the management of the Park; and (d) a participatory management regime that combines conservation and sustainable use of the site and the sensitization of national authorities and the local community to the need for such a management regime.

The Committee decided to retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee invited the Director-General of UNESCO and the Chairperson of the Committee to write once again to the President of CAR drawing his attention to their letters already sent in 1999 and calling for the President's urgent intervention to ensure protection of the site. The Committee requested UNESCO to collaborate with the Embassy of the CAR in France and urged both UNESCO and IUCN to work through their Offices in Central Africa and the UN Resident Co-ordinator's Office in the CAR to encourage the relevant authorities in the State Party to invite a Centre/IUCN mission to prepare a detailed state of conservation report and an emergency rehabilitation plan for the site.

X.4 Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Virunga National Park Garamba National Park Kahuzi Biega National Park Okapi Wildlife Reserve

The Committee recalled the fact that at its last session (Kyoto, Japan, 1998) it had requested the Centre and IUCN to consult with ICCN and conservation NGOs working in the DRC and estimate the cost of paying allowances to staff at Virunga National Park as an interim measure, and submit a proposal for emergency assistance for consideration by the twenty-third session of the Bureau in 1999. The conservation NGOs, ICCN, concerned bilateral organisations (GTZ (Germany)), IUCN and UNESCO met in April 1999 (in Naivasha, Kenya), and at the time of the twenty-third session of the Bureau in July 1999. Discussions were held on the state of conservation of the World Heritage sites of DRC and the implementation of the recommendation made by the last session of the Committee. Discussions during these two meetings revealed that staff in all the four World Heritage sites in Danger urgently needed assistance. The Director-General of ICCN informed the twenty-third session of the Bureau in July 1999 that his office in Kinshasa no longer has direct access to the four sites. He requested the Bureau and the Committee to help the staff in the four sites by providing assistance through the conservation NGOs and other partners who had field presence in the four sites. In response to requests submitted by ICCN in co-operation with the conservation NGOs and other partners, the Bureau approved a total sum of US\$ 105,000 for the four sites. These funds are being disbursed via contracts established with UNESCO and ICCN's partners as follows:

- (i) World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) - Virunga National Park: to pay, for the period of six months between July and December 1999, salaries of 500 persons at the Rwindi and the Mutsora Field Stations and salary supplements to selected staff who are active in anti-poaching surveillance operations (US\$ 35,000);
- (ii) International Rhino Foundation (IRF) - Garamba National Park: to pay, for the period of six months between July and December 1999, salaries of approximately 238 persons and additional salary supplements to selected staff who are active in anti-poaching surveillance operations (US\$ 30,000);
- (iii) To the GTZ(Germany)/ICCN Project – Kahuzi Biega National Park: to purchase equipment essential for patrolling and surveillance operations of guards; i.e. 100 patrolling gear, 8 walkie-talkies, 15 large and 15 small tents and local travel, transport and miscellaneous expenses (US\$ 20,000); and
- (iv) Gilman International Conservation (GIC) -Okapi Faunal Reserve: for staff training and guard camp construction activities (US\$ 20,000).

The Committee noted that the implementation of the above-mentioned contracts are proceeding satisfactorily.

The Committee was pleased to learn that the support for the above-mentioned activities initiated by the request approved by the Bureau will be extended over a period of 4 years through a project, approved by the United Nations Foundation (UNF), for a sum of US\$ 4,186,600 and entitled: "Biodiversity Conservation in Regions of Armed Conflict: Protecting World Natural Heritage in the Democratic Republic of the Congo". UNF will provide US\$ 2,895,912 as an outright contribution and co-operate with UNESCO and its partners to raise the balance of US\$ 1,290,688 from alternative sources. The UNF project assures payment of allowances to significant numbers of guards and workers in the four sites for 4 years beginning in the year 2000. This would free the partners from costs that they have incurred thus far in paying those allowances. The partners have assured UNESCO and UNF that they will use the savings to assist ICCN to meet the costs of indemnities and other payments due to large numbers of staff

who are due to retire from service in all four sites. The partners have informed the Centre that special arrangements for meeting the needs of retiring staff in the northern and central sectors of Virunga, commemorating its 75th anniversary as Africa's first national park in 2000, would be required.

UNESCO and ICCN designed and developed the project with the close co-operation of specialists from UNESCO's Division of Ecological Sciences, and their partners. The Centre will be the international manager of the project with technical support from the UNESCO Division of Ecological Sciences and IUCN. ICCN will ensure national level co-ordination of the project. Site level activities will be implemented through the partners. In addition, the project will provide, via the GTZ/ICCN Project staff, assistance to the fifth World Heritage site of the DRC, i.e. Salonga National Park, which has been included in the List of World Heritage in Danger by the current session of the Committee.

The Committee noted that the Centre and the UNESCO Division of Ecological Sciences participated at a meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, from 18 to 22 November 1999 to discuss the finalization of the UNF project document. The meeting was attended by all NGO partners, GTZ, ICCN and the Legal Advisor of the Ministry of Environment of the DRC and representatives of staff of all the five World Heritage sites of the DRC. The Vice-Minister for the Environment of the DRC attended the last day of the meeting and was presented with the conclusions of the meeting. He said his Ministry will fully support the implementation of the UNF project and that ICCN would serve as the national coordinating body and will enable the work of the partners and UNESCO for delivering assistance provided by UNF directly to the sites.

The Committee was informed that representatives of staff from the four sites in Danger as well as Salonga provided reports on the state of conservation of the sites at the Nairobi meeting mentioned above. Ability of staff to undertake regular patrols and surveillance activities has improved in Okapi, Kahuzi Biega and Garamba and are more or less stable in Virunga and Salonga. The site representatives thanked the Committee for the assistance provided by the July 1999 session of the Bureau that is contributing significantly to raising staff morale and effectiveness of surveillance work. The guards and workers in the sites are eagerly awaiting the beginning of the implementation of the UNF project that would assure them a certain stability of working conditions over a 4-year period. Despite improvements or stabilisation in working conditions, the threats to the integrity of the five sites continue to prevail. These threats mainly arise from the presence of armed groups within the sites that deny accessibility to significant parts of the site to staff. These armed groups are under the influence of forces outside of the DRC but factions of the rebel movement in DRC are also active in some sites. Return to normalcy cannot be assured until such armed groups allow staff to patrol and survey all parts of the sites under consideration. Several reports received by the Centre and IUCN describe the situation in the sites in DRC as an ecological catastrophe and poaching on gorillas, elephants and other wildlife species appear to be intensive. However, IUCN has received other reports that have observed a reduction in encounters between rangers and poachers in Garamba National Park during 1999. IUCN, in response to the issue raised by the Delegate of Thailand regarding possible removal of one or more of the DRC sites from the World Heritage List, pointed out that detailed information to explore such options was not available at present. Following further interventions by the Delegate of Benin, the Centre and IUCN, the Committee agreed that it should provide all necessary support for the satisfactory implementation of the UNF project to fully explore the feasibility of restoring the sites in the DRC over the next four years.

The Committee took into account the message from representatives of site staff who were present at the Nairobi meeting, that the Committee appeal to all parties concerned with the on-going armed conflict in the eastern parts of DRC to respect the international status of World Heritage sites and create the necessary conditions for staff to carry out their duties and functions in an effective manner. Furthermore, the Committee was informed that site representatives and partners at the Nairobi meeting had requested that the Committee consider providing financial assistance to cover the cost of the implementation of some critical activities, i.e. a mission to DRC to explain to authorities in Kinshasa and in the regions where the sites are located about the international significance of the sites and the importance of the effective execution of the UNF project; paying staff, due to retire soon, in the central and northern sectors of Virunga, necessary allowances and ensuring their integration into the life of the local communities. These two activities need to be implemented as soon as possible and before the execution of the UNF-financed project that is scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2000.

The Committee, while expressing its serious concerns regarding the threats facing the sites and retaining all four sites in the List of World Heritage in Danger, welcomed the international response to the protection of these sites. The Committee commended the dedication of the resident guards and workers to the protection of the sites and the UNF for its generous contribution over a 4-year period to meet basic needs of protection of these globally important sites suffering from the impacts of armed conflict. In addition, the Committee called upon the Centre, in co-operation with ICCN, partner NGOs, GTZ and IUCN to:

- Estimate the total costs of organizing the intermediary mission recommended by the Nairobi meeting of partners and site representatives and the additional amount needed to pay pension benefits to staff at the central and northern sectors of Virunga and submit an emergency assistance request for consideration and approval by the Chairperson;
- Identify an appropriate and neutral person who could undertake the intermediary field mission to the DRC as quickly as possible with the co-operation of UNDP and UN agencies that have a presence in Kinshasa and in the regions where concerned sites are located; and
- Ensure an early launch and effective implementation of the UNF-financed project and submit progress reports to the annual sessions of the Committee beginning from the year 2000.

Furthermore the Committee,

- Requested its Chairperson to write to the President of the UNF thanking him for the generous support provided for the conservation of the World Natural Heritage sites in Danger in the DRC;
- Invited the Director-General of UNESCO to write to the President of the DRC and to the Heads of States of all neighbouring countries implicated in the war in eastern DRC, drawing their attention to the need to ensure the conservation of the universal values of these sites that are protected by international law. In that letter, the Director-General may also wish to request that the Heads of States concerned take all measures within their powers to ensure that staff working in the World Heritage sites of the DRC are given the necessary safety and assistance to carry out their work in a normal and effective manner;
- Invited all of its Members and States Parties to the Convention, through their embassies and other contacts, to call upon the President of the DRC and the Heads of neighbouring states implicated in the war in eastern DRC, and to urge them to ensure respect for international law

protecting World Natural Heritage and seek assurances and support for the work of staff resident in the sites;

- Invited the Director-General of UNESCO to write to heads of concerned UN agencies, including the UN Secretary General and UN resident Co-ordinators in the DRC and the neighbouring states, asking for their co-operation in ensuring support for the work of the staff in the sites protected by international law and for the effective implementation of the UNF project for the conservation of the World Heritage sites in the DRC;
- Invited the Director-General of UNESCO to lead a mission, as soon as possible, to Kinshasa and the capitals of nearby countries implicated in the war in eastern DRC, to meet with the Heads of States and call for their attention and respect for compliance with international law that the conservation of these sites urgently demand; and
- Invited the Director of the Centre to write to the Heads of all the partner conservation NGOs and GTZ, thanking them for the support rendered for the conservation of the sites in the DRC and co-operating with the Centre for developing the project approved for financing by the UNF. In that letter, the Director should also invite the Heads of the partner organisations to use savings that they may obtain due to the approval of the UNF Project to reinvest in other activities in support of the conservation of the World Natural Heritage sites of the DRC and continue their co-operation with the Centre and the UNF to raise additional resources and to establish a long-term financing mechanism for conservation of the World Natural Heritage of the DRC.

X.5 Sangay National Park (Ecuador)

The Committee was pleased to note that, in accordance with the recommendation of its twenty-second session (Kyoto, 1998), the State Party had invited a mission to the site. The mission had been undertaken by IUCN experts and representatives of WWF, Fundacion Natura and the Ministry for the Environment of Ecuador, from 10 to 14 June 1999. The State Party did not have adequate time to respond to the mission's findings at the time of the twenty-third session of the Bureau (5-10 July 1999). Hence, the Bureau had requested that the State Party provide a detailed report on the findings and recommendations of the mission to the site before 15 September 1999. The report of the mission, presented in Document WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.13, noted several positive developments with regard to the state of conservation of this site and made a number of recommendations. However, the mission team suggested that the Committee retain the site in the List of World Heritage in Danger until the outcome of efforts to implement the management plan and restore damage caused by the Guamoto-Macas road is assessed. As requested by the July 1999 session of the Bureau, the State Party provided its views on the mission's findings and recommendations. In reviewing the position of the State Party, IUCN has made the following observations and suggestions:

- IUCN welcomes the completion of the management plan and activities underway to define strategies for its implementation. It acknowledges the contribution of the Project "Biodiversity Conservation and Participatory Management of Sangay National Park" in establishing base line information necessary for restoring areas damaged by the Guamoto-Macas road and commends the Dutch Government for the support and guidance provided for the project;
- IUCN agrees with the State Party's suggestion that the site be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger and be continuously monitored, particularly with regard to on-going activities to implement the management plan, including the restoration activities along the Guamoto-Macas road;
- IUCN assigns high importance to the State Party's proposal to evaluate the effects of the inclusion of the site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. IUCN recommends that the

scope of such an evaluation and its application be extended beyond this site and include other sites inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. IUCN is of the view that a series of such evaluations could contribute to changing the negative perceptions associated with the inclusion of sites in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The Committee decided to retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee commended the State Party's positive and constructive approach to the inclusion of this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger and using the Committee's decision to increase international support for the conservation of the site. The Committee commended the support of the Government of the Netherlands to the conservation of this site and invited donors to assign high priority to support projects to strengthen conservation of World Heritage sites in Danger. Furthermore, the Committee, in accordance with the suggestion of the State Party that has been endorsed by IUCN, called for evaluations of the impacts of the inclusion of Sangay and other natural properties in the List of World Heritage in Danger. Such an evaluation could provide lessons for the future and highlight the instrumental role of the Danger Listing in enhancing the conservation of sites.

X.6 Simen National Park (Ethiopia)

The Committee noted with concern that the Centre has not yet received a response from the State Party to the letter transmitting the observations and recommendations of the twenty-third session of the Bureau (5 – 10 July 1999). IUCN had requested to consult with relevant authorities, particularly those in Bahir Dar, who disagreed with the decision of the twentieth session of the Committee (Merida, Mexico, 1996) to include Simen in the List of World Heritage in Danger. IUCN has not yet received any response to its requests in this regard. The lack of any written response from the State Party to repeated communications from the Bureau and the Committee had been a continuing constraint to updating information on the state of conservation of this property and for planning measures for its rehabilitation.

In a letter dated 28 October 1999 to the Director of the Centre, the Secretary General of the Ethiopian National Agency for UNESCO has:

- Thanked the Centre for the unreserved concern and efforts to rehabilitate Simen;
- Pointed out that the Regional Government has rehabilitated the site and the number of Waliya Ibex has increased to 550 and that the numbers of other animals are on the rise;
- Informed the Centre that studies are underway for finding solutions to settlements around the Park and that 75% of the work has been completed and that analyses will be finalised and the results and recommendations made available soon; and
- Requested that UNESCO consider removing the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger, given the high priority assigned to its conservation by the Regional authorities.

During a meeting between the Centre and a staff member of the UNESCO Office in Addis Ababa it was agreed that a site visit may be planned by a UNESCO team comprising staff from the Addis Ababa Office and the Centre to explain to the regional authorities the significance of the inclusion of Simen in the List of World Heritage in Danger and possible ways in which the Committee could assist in the rehabilitation efforts in and around Simen

The Committee decided to retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee recommended that the Chairperson undertake a mission to Ethiopia to meet relevant national and regional authorities and to re-establish a basis for regular exchange of formal communications between the State Party and the Committee, Centre and IUCN for monitoring the

state of conservation of the property and mitigating threats to its integrity. The Committee requested that the Centre consult with the Permanent Delegation of Ethiopia to UNESCO as well as the UNESCO Office in Addis Ababa to study the need for a UNESCO mission to the Bahir Dar Region and the site in order to prepare the work and negotiations to be undertaken by the Chairperson of the Committee.

X.7 Mount Nimba Nature Reserve (Guinea/Cote d'Ivoire)

The Director-General of the Centre for Environmental Management of Mount Nimba (CEGEN), via his letter of 21 September 1999, has informed the Centre that the Government of Guinea created the CEGEN in 1995. It continues to explore the feasibility for exploiting the mine immediately adjacent to Mt. Nimba in a manner that would respect the integrity of the World Heritage site. The Government of Guinea, through CEGEN, has over the last few months entered into negotiations with UNDP and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to finance a project to protect of Mount Nimba and for the integrated development of its surrounding areas. The project is being conceived within the framework of a sustainable development programme that would integrate the mining project as the motor for enhancing the economic growth of the whole region. The study phase of the project was due to commence in October and the project is financially supported by the French part of the GEF and USAID. The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research has also, via its letter of 20 September 1999, pointed out to the Centre that the dissolution of the Mining Company of Mt. Nimba (i.e. NIMCO), mentioned in the report of the last session of the Committee (Kyoto, Japan, 1998) is incorrect. According to the letter of the Ministry, NIMCO was never dissolved.

CEGEN has confirmed that over the last fifteen months the Ministry of Mines, Geology and the Environment has been trying to re-launch the project to exploit the iron-ore mine near Mt. Nimba. The Ministry is continuing negotiations with industry partners with a view to concluding an agreement before the end of 1999. Furthermore, the Director General of CEGEN has noted that CEGEN has been associated with the elaboration of an environmental agreement with potential investors of the mining project. The attachment to the letter from the CEGEN includes several articles of the agreement that is being elaborated. The agreement calls upon the two parties (i.e. the Guinean Government and the investors) to recognise that the mining area is adjacent to the core zone of the Mt. Nimba Biosphere Reserve which is inscribed on the World Heritage List. The two parties shall take all measures to protect the environment and, in particular, the World Heritage area, and re-affirm their commitment to follow the eighteen recommendations made by the World Heritage Committee in 1993. Furthermore, the two parties will invite the involvement of all international (i.e. World Heritage Centre, UNDP, UNEP and IUCN) and non-governmental organisations that participated in discussions that led to the revision of the boundaries of the World Heritage site in the elaboration of the agreement. CEGEN has pointed out that it is obligatory that the agreement be signed before the feasibility study for the mining project is finalised. The Director General of the CEGEN believes that the implementation of the mining project would help set up an International Foundation for Mt. Nimba.

The Committee decided to retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee took note of the fact that, contrary to the reports submitted at its last session in 1998, the National Mining Company has not been dissolved and that the Ministry of Mines, Geology and the Environment is still undertaking negotiations with potential investors for beginning mining operations. However, the Committee recognised the efforts of CEGEN to establish an environmental agreement which investors interested in exploiting the mine would be

required to sign before finalising the feasibility study of the mining project. It also welcomed CEGEN's intention to invite UNESCO, IUCN and other international agencies to participate in the elaboration of the agreement. Nevertheless, the Committee reiterated its recommendation made at its last session, that Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire invite the IUCN Regional Office for West Africa in Burkina Faso to undertake a site visit and prepare a detailed state of conservation report. This should include the future of the mining project and implications for the conservation of the site, and be submitted to the Committee at its twenty-fourth session in the year 2000.

X.8 Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras)

The Committee was informed that the State Party has not yet responded to the recommendation of the last session of the Committee (Kyoto, Japan, 1998), reiterated by the twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau held from 5 to 10 July 1999, to invite an IUCN/Centre mission to the site. IUCN has informed the Centre that some reports it has received question whether the Patuca II hydro power project will get approval for its implementation. The damage caused by Hurricane Mitch in 1998 appears to have revived concerns over the ecological vulnerability of the area where the hydro-power project has been proposed and raised doubts regarding the feasibility of the project's implementation. An EIA of the Patuca II project has been carried out but it has been criticized by a number of national NGOs and local people's organizations. Nevertheless, the National Enterprise on Electric Energy continues to stress the need for Patuca II and has even begun to speculate on the possibility of a Patuca III project. IUCN also informed the Committee that logging and illegal grazing by domestic stock are also issues that need to be addressed by the authorities concerned.

The Committee retained this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee requested the Centre to contact the State Party and obtain detailed EIA information on the Patuca II project, including a copy of the EIA that has been prepared. Furthermore, the Committee reiterated its request made at its last session in Kyoto (1998) that the State Party consider inviting a Centre/IUCN mission to the site.

X.9 Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India)

The Committee was informed that, as requested by the twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau (5-10 July 1999), IUCN has reviewed the justifications, provided by Indian authorities, to the budgetary revisions for the utilization of the US\$ 70,000 of the US\$ 90,000 approved by the twenty-first session of the Committee (Naples, Italy, 1997). The US\$ 70,000 was originally intended for the reconstruction of guard camps and staff residential facilities destroyed during the Bodo militancy from 1989 to 1992. The revisions proposed suggested that the construction of guard camps be restricted to parts of the Sanctuary where security conditions had sufficiently improved. The site management had proposed to use the savings made from reducing the number of construction activities foreseen for outreach activities, such as the organization of veterinary and health camps, repair of existing irrigation facilities etc., that directly benefit villagers. These activities are considered critical by the site management for continuously improving the relationship between staff and local villagers. As advised by IUCN, the Centre has accepted these budgetary revisions and implementation of the project has been accelerated.

IUCN had also reviewed the state of conservation report on this site provided by the State Party as attachment to its letter of 21 June 1999 to the Centre. IUCN has noted several positive developments brought about by the implementation of the rehabilitation plan agreed upon by the State Party and the Bureau in 1997. For example, the Nansbari Range Headquarters as well

as the Directorate Headquarters now contain members of the Assam Forest Protection Force who act as a rapid reaction force for patrols and surveillance operations in vulnerable areas. The site has been opened to the public since 1995 and visitor numbers are slowly increasing. Ecological damage to the habitats of the site during the Bodo militancy has been negligible and large mammal populations are expected to return to pre-1989 levels over the next few years. However, the restoration of site infrastructure, i.e. roads, staff accommodation etc., proceeds at a slow pace and staff training requires attention. The main problem facing the site is the alienation of local villagers. People living in the vicinity of the site are poor and depend on natural resources for their livelihood. The site management is attempting to increase outreach activities but further efforts are needed in this regard. IUCN has submitted to the Centre a recent report that indicates the intention of the Minister for the Environment and Forests to establish an armed police force to protect endangered wildlife from poachers and save forests from timber poachers. IUCN is verifying other unconfirmed reports of the take-over of parts of the Sanctuary by tribal guerillas and the withdrawal of paramilitary forces from those parts.

The Committee decided to retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee invited the State Party to co-operate with the Centre and IUCN to prepare a progress report on the implementation of the rehabilitation plan since mid-1997 for submission to the twenty-fourth session of the Committee in 2000. Such a report may include an assessment of the time needed for the satisfactory rehabilitation of the site and for the removal of this site from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

X.10 Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger)

The Committee was informed that the Chairperson had approved, in April 1999, US\$ 20,000 for the sensitization of all stakeholders to the conservation needs of the site. The project is one of the five activities foreseen in the emergency rehabilitation plan prepared by the State Party and submitted to the twenty-third session of the Bureau in July 1999. The total cost of implementing the plan is estimated at US\$ 127,000. The Bureau had endorsed the plan and recommended that the Centre and IUCN explore ways and means for financing the implementation of the rehabilitation plan, including submission of other projects for assistance from the Fund to the consideration of the Chairperson and to the twenty-third session of the Committee. Accordingly, based on requests submitted by the State Party, the Chairperson had approved, in October 1999, the following two additional requests:

- US\$ 20,000 for organizing a training workshop on the protection of natural heritage for Reserve staff, border police and other agents concerned with the control of trade in wildlife products;
- US\$ 12,000, under technical co-operation, for cleaning up damaged vehicles and other debris left over in rebel bases of the past (US\$ 2,000) and the purchase of communication equipment for improving patrolling and surveillance capacity (US\$ 10,000)

Furthermore, the Committee noted that the State Party has submitted an emergency assistance grant for a sum of US\$ 75,000 for consideration by the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau. The US\$ 75,000 comprised the following activities:

- purchase of a four-wheel drive vehicle to enhance surveillance capacity (US\$ 25,000)
- evaluation of the impacts of rebel activities and subsequent rehabilitation measures on wildlife populations (US\$ 15,000); and

- building enclosures for the protection and breeding of wild ostriches to rehabilitate population numbers to pre-rebel estimates (US\$ 35,000); the site's ostrich population dwindled to 10% of early-1990s estimates during the period of rebel activity.

Further breakdown of the US\$ 15,000 requested for evaluation of impacts on wildlife populations and of the US\$ 35,000 for the protection and breeding of ostriches are contained in the emergency rehabilitation plan endorsed by the twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau in July 1999. (Please refer to document WHC-99/CONF.204/INF.12 of that session). Since the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau had delayed the consideration of this and other international assistance requests until the Committee had decided on the budget allocations for the World Heritage Fund for 2000, the Committee noted that the Bureau would have to consider this request at a special session to be held during the remaining days of its twenty-third session. However, the Committee noted that, if the Bureau approved this emergency assistance grant, then the World Heritage Fund would have financed all activities included in the rehabilitation plan within a period of one year. In addition, the Committee was pleased to note IUCN's efforts to co-operate with the State Party under the terms of an MOU to ensure co-ordination and co-operation among donors such as the GEF, SDC (Swiss Development Corporation) and the DANIDA (Danish International Development Agency) in supporting projects for the long-term conservation of the site and the sustainable development of surrounding regions.

The Committee decided to retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee invited the State Party to provide a progress report on the implementation of the rehabilitation plan to the twenty-fourth session of the Committee in 2000, including its views on when this site could be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger,

X.11 Ichkeul National Park (Tunisia)

The Committee was informed that the Bureau, at its twenty-third ordinary session in July 1999, agreed with the recommendations of a joint IUCN/Ramsar/Centre mission to the site, undertaken in February 1999, in accordance with the wish of Bureau and the Committee expressed at their respective sessions in 1998. The Bureau had welcomed the suggestion of the mission team that the State Party include, in its threat mitigation status report to the twenty-third session of the Committee, definitions of current and expected values for a set of indicators, e.g. water salinity levels, counts of selected numbers of endangered species of birds, the availability of preferred food plants etc., that could provide the basis for a 5-year monitoring programme for the implementation of the rehabilitation plan from 2000 to 2004. The Committee took note of the threat mitigation status report submitted by the State Party in document WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.9. As suggested by the twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau, and in response to the suggestions made by IUCN during the deliberations of the Committee, the representative of the State Party pointed out that the threat mitigation report has defined some possible parameters that could be useful in monitoring the success of restoration efforts. However, he was willing to discuss with IUCN to mutually agree upon a final set of indicative parameters and to set target values of those parameters that the 5-year restoration effort may endeavour to reach. He pointed out the positive progress that had taken place lately and which had not been reflected in the report. He also stressed his Government's commitment to consider the requirements for Ichkeul Lake during the planning of the utilisation of the water from the Sidi E Barrak dam.

The Delegate of Morocco noted the difficulties in reverting to the "original ecological conditions" of the Ichkeul Lake which restoration efforts may wish to achieve, particularly in light of

the crucial rôle that the waters of the Lake play in meeting several development needs of the surrounding areas. The Representative of IUCN, while noting the statement of the Delegate of Morocco, stressed the need to set rigorous targets for parameters that are to be used for monitoring the success in restoration efforts implemented by the State Party. IUCN also called for a specific institutional strategy to coordinate the conservation of Ichkeul and the sustainable use of its water resources.

The Committee decided to retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee invited the State Party, the Centre and IUCN to discuss the threat mitigation report in detail and agree on a set of parameters, frequency of monitoring and the target range of values for each of the selected parameters that could be considered as success of restoration efforts at the end of the 5-year monitoring programme. The Committee invited the Centre and IUCN to report on the outcome of their discussions with the State Party to the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau in mid-2000. In addition, the Committee invited the State Party to submit its first progress report of the 5-year monitoring cycle to the twenty-fourth session of the Committee at the end of the year 2000.

X.12 Everglades National Park (United States of America)

The Committee recalled that at its last session it had requested the State Party to submit an up-to-date state of conservation report on the site, including proposed action being taken by the State Party to determine impacts of rehabilitation measures on the integrity of the site and plans for the eventual removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Observer of the United States of America regretted the delay in the submission of the report requested by the last session of the Committee but informed the Committee that the report was expected to be received during the week of the Committee's deliberations. He said that the delay was partly due to the State Party's efforts to provide a detailed analysis of the impact of mitigation measures and derive a process and a plan for the possible removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Observer, however, informed the Committee that his Government was of the view that although most threats to the integrity of the site were being effectively mitigated, at present the site needs to be retained in the List of World Heritage in Danger pending the review of the report requested by the Committee.

The Committee decided to retain the site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee invited the State Party to submit the report to the Centre as soon as possible and IUCN to undertake a thorough review of the report and submit its findings and recommendations to the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau in mid-2000.

X.13 Yellowstone National Park (United States of America)

The Committee recalled that at its last session it had requested the State Party to submit an up-to-date state of conservation report on the site. This should include proposed measures being taken by the State Party to determine impacts of rehabilitation measures on the integrity of the site and plans for the eventual removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Observer of the United States of America regretted the delay in the submission of the report requested by the last session of the Committee but informed the Committee that the report was expected to be received during the week of the Committee's deliberations. He said that the delay was partly due to the State Party's efforts to provide a detailed analysis of the impact of mitigation measures and derive a process and a plan for the possible removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in

Danger. The Observer, however, informed the Committee that his Government was of the view that although most threats to the integrity of the site were being effectively mitigated, at present the site needs to be retained in the List of World Heritage in Danger pending the review of the report requested by the Committee.

The Committee decided to retain the site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee invited the State Party to submit the report to the Centre as soon as possible and IUCN to undertake a thorough review of the report and submit its findings and recommendations to the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau in mid-2000. The Committee noted that the State Party provided the reports on Yellowstone and Everglades National Parks on 1 December 1999 to the World Heritage Centre.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

X.14 Butrint (Albania)

In response to the UNESCO-ICOMOS-Butrint Foundation assessment mission (October 1997), the Government of Albania has taken important decisions to strengthen management, planning and protection for the site. In August 1998, it created the Office for the World Heritage site of Butrint, for the co-ordination and implementation of actions at Butrint. In June 1999, it declared the surroundings of Butrint as a "*National Park*" in order to prevent illegal and inadequate developments; it is foreseen that the extended area will be incorporated in an even bigger Butrint Park. The Government, in collaboration with the Butrint Foundation, is developing a Master Plan for the extended site and specific research has been undertaken on the preservation of the baptistery. Finally, in July 1999, the Government submitted a request for the extension of the World Heritage site for examination by the Committee at its twenty-third session.

The Secretariat presented a report on the implementation of the emergency assistance of US\$ 100,000. This assistance had been committed for more than fifty percent and additional proposals had been submitted by the State Party.

The Committee took note of the progress made in the implementation of the programme of corrective measures for the World Heritage site of Butrint. It commended the Government of Albania for its important decisions to expand the protected area and to introduce institutional, management and planning arrangements for the site. It particularly welcomed the proposal for the extension of the World Heritage site.

The Committee encouraged the State Party to pursue the implementation of the programme of corrective measures in response to the recommendations made by the UNESCO-ICOMOS-Butrint Foundation mission under the World Heritage Emergency Assistance allocated by the Committee at its twenty-first session.

The Committee decided to retain the property in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

X.15 Angkor, Cambodia

The Secretariat reported on the results of the International Co-ordination Committee for the Safeguarding and Development of the Historic Area of Angkor (ICC) which convened its plenary session in June 1999. The Committee's attention was drawn to the decision taken by the Royal Government of Cambodia to grant to a private company the collection of entry fees to Angkor Park for a five-year period, and the allocation in 1999 of US\$ 800,000 by this company to the Authority for the Protection of

the Site and Development of the Region of Angkor (ASPARA) for conservation activities. The Committee noted the report submitted by the State Party on the reorganization of APSARA and that some one hundred projects are being implemented by more than a dozen countries and agencies, including large-scale infrastructural projects such as road and bridge constructions, airport extension and public utilities upgrading of the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) and other bilateral and multilateral financial and development co-operation agencies, as well as privately-funded projects, notably for the construction of tourism facilities. To ensure that such works, necessary for the socio-economic welfare of the population, do not undermine the World Heritage value of the site, the Committee requested the strengthening of international co-ordination efforts by APSARA and the ICC to review all public and private works affecting the site in addition to the monumental conservation projects. Recalling paragraph 56 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*, the State Party was invited to inform the Committee through the Secretariat, of major restorations or new constructions which they intend to undertake or to authorize which may affect the World Heritage values of the site, before the drafting of basic documents of the specific projects and before granting authorization.

As a management tool to record and monitor the various development works, the updating of the Geographical Information System (GIS) of Angkor developed in 1993, and to make this consolidated data available to all concerned parties was proposed.

Concerning the conservation projects, the Committee, while expressing appreciation for the high quality of the standards applied in the on-going projects, stressed the necessity to ensure the transfer of knowledge and skills to the national and local experts through training. In this regard, ICCROM, recognized by the Committee as the principal partner for training in cultural heritage conservation, reiterated its readiness to evaluate the training aspects of the on-going projects and to improve, as appropriate, the effectiveness of such endeavours.

The Committee furthermore expressed its deep concern over the alarming reports on the continued looting and illicit traffic of cultural properties in Angkor and other cultural sites on the Tentative list of Cambodia. The Committee urged the State Party to take further action to enhance the protection of the site against looting and the national frontiers against illicit export of cultural properties and requested the signatories of the 1970 Convention to take all measures possible to prevent the importation and sales of Khmer cultural objects of uncertain provenance.

The Observer of Indonesia informed the Committee of his Government's assistance to the State Party to enhance the technical capacity of the conservation laboratories in Angkor through training activities.

The Observer of Japan, expressing his Government's wish to continue to co-chair the ICC alongside the Government of France, informed the Committee of the commitment of the Japanese Government to continue providing financial assistance to Angkor.

The Observer of the United States of America informing the Committee of its recent accession to the 1970 Convention, stated its commitment to strengthen measures restricting the importation into the United States of Cambodian cultural heritage.

The Committee adopted the following decision:

The Committee decided to retain this property on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee, after having examined the report on the state of conservation of the site,

congratulated the Royal Government of Cambodia for the significant progress made in the funding and reorganization of the Authority for the Protection of the Site and Development of the Region of Angkor (ASPARA). The Committee encouraged the ASPARA to strengthen its action in the field of training so as to ensure control over the ongoing restoration and maintenance of the monuments and the protection of the site against looting and illicit traffic of cultural objects. It invited ASPARA and the ICC to monitor closely the rapid development of the activities and collections of the International Centre for Scientific and Technical Documentation for Angkor, which should in due course house all the documentation produced by the safeguarding and development projects of the site. The Committee requested the State Party to prepare an updated state of conservation report with support of the UNESCO Office in Phnom Penh and the Division of Cultural Heritage of UNESCO of the actions being undertaken in addressing the concerns expressed above. The Committee invited the Chairperson of the Committee to write to the Co-Chairpersons of the ICC requesting them to assist the State Party in the preparation of this report. This report should include information concerning the on-going and planned major public and private works in the region of Angkor, as well as the status of measures being undertaken at the national and local levels to control looting and illicit traffic of cultural properties from Angkor and other sites on the Tentative List of Cambodia. The Committee requested that this report be provided to the Secretariat by 15 April 2000 for examination by the Committee at its twenty-fourth session.

X.16 Bahla Fort (Oman)

The Secretariat reported that monitoring missions were proceeding regularly and covered the preparation of the management plan of the site and of the surrounding oasis. Restoration works were entirely financed by the Omani Government that, since 1993, invested an amount of more than six million US dollars.

The Mining Museum in Bochum, Germany, provided photogrammetric records of the Fort that are indispensable for the restoration work.

The Committee thanked the State Party for its decision to finance the monitoring missions and the full cost of the restoration activities. The Committee requested the State Party and the Centre to explore ways and means to accelerate the pace of implementation of the restoration programme.

The Committee, furthermore, recalled that the Bureau at its twenty-third session had decided to evaluate the progress after two years in order to assess if it can recommend the Committee to delete the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The Committee decided to retain the property in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

X.17 Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru)

The Secretariat informed the Committee that it had received, some ten days before the Committee session, a copy of the very extensive and recently completed Master Plan for the site. This plan was prepared by an interdisciplinary group of experts with assistance from the World Heritage Fund. The Secretariat also reported that at the time of the meeting, the *Second Pan-America Course on the Conservation and Management of Earthen Architectural and Archaeological Heritage (Government of Peru, ICCROM, CRATerre EAG, Getty Conservation Institute)* was being held in Chan Chan and that this course would directly benefit the preservation and management planning for the site.

The Observer of Peru thanked the Committee for the support it had allocated to the preservation of the site and for the

preparation of its Master Plan. She announced that the President of her country would sign, within the next days, the Decree that would formally adopt the Master Plan and that the Management Unit had started its work already to obtain funding for its implementation. She said that periodic reports on the progress would be submitted to the World Heritage Committee.

The Committee congratulated the Government of Peru for the accomplishment of the preparation of the Master Plan and encouraged the State Party to implement it. It requested ICOMOS and ICCROM to examine the Master Plan and to present their observations to the Bureau at its twenty-fourth session.

It requested the State Party to submit a progress report on the implementation of the Master Plan by 15 September 2000 for examination by the Committee at its twenty-fourth session.

The Committee decided to retain the property in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

B. REPORTS ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

X.18 The Bureau at its twenty-third extraordinary session (November 1999) examined the state of conservation of sixty-six properties inscribed on the World Heritage List (thirty natural, four mixed and thirty-two cultural properties). The extensive deliberations and recommendations of the Bureau in November 1999 were included in the report of the session that was made available to the Committee as Working Document WHC-99/CONF.209/6. The relevant section of the report of the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau is attached as Annex VIII.

X.19 The Committee examined the state of conservation of twenty-one properties and noted the decisions of the Bureau on the remaining forty-five properties. The following section reflects the discussions that actually took place during the Committee session as well as the decisions that were taken by the Committee.

NATURAL HERITAGE

i) Natural properties which the Committee inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

X.20 Iguacu National Park (Brazil)

The Committee noted that an IUCN/UNESCO mission was carried out to this site in March 1999 and that the results were presented to the July 1999 Bureau session. The mission report dealt with four issues relevant to the integrity of this World Heritage site: The Colon road, helicopter flights, dams on the Iguacu River, and management planning. The Committee noted that the Bureau, at its twenty-third extraordinary session, examined the issues and progress made and recommended inscription of this property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The Committee recognized the efforts made by the State Party to implement the recommendations of the mission. However, in the absence of satisfactory progress with regard to the permanent closure of the road and the implementation of the recovery plan, the Committee decided to include Iguacu National Park in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

X.21 Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC))

The Committee noted that the heightened levels of threats due to poaching and illegal encroachments as well as the conditions which led the Bureau at its July session to recommend that the Committee inscribe this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger still prevail.

The Committee requested the Centre and IUCN to extend to Salonga the co-operation with the conservation NGOs, ICCN and other partners, targeted to raise international awareness and support for four other World Heritage sites in Danger in the DRC (Garamba, Virunga and Kahuzi Biega National Parks and the Okapi Faunal Reserve). They should also explore ways and means to strengthen the conservation and management of Salonga National Park. The Committee decided to inscribe Salonga National Park in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

X.22 Rwenzori Mountains (Uganda)

The Committee noted the reports on lack of resources, suspension of projects and serious security issues at the Park and that a greater part of the Park is not monitored by Park staff. The Committee also noted that the Bureau at its twenty-third session, examined the issues and recommended inscription of this property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The Committee expressed its serious concerns regarding the security situation at this site. The Committee requested the Centre and IUCN to work closely with the Uganda Wildlife Authority. Communication with conservation NGOs and other international organizations present in the region, to discuss ways and means to publicize the need for all parties involved in the conflict in the region to respect the site's World Heritage status and to develop projects to support site management should be sought. The Committee decided to inscribe Rwenzori Mountains in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

ii) State of conservation reports of natural properties examined by the Committee

X.23 Great Barrier Reef (Australia)

The Committee recalled the reports from the twenty-third ordinary and the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau on the state of conservation of this property and adopted the following decision:

"The Committee noted progress reported on the "Focused Recommendations" and the "Framework for management" relating to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA) at the twenty-third and the twenty-third extraordinary sessions of the Bureau. IUCN noted the framework for action, which has been prepared and that it concerns a long-term strategy.

The Committee accepted the "Focused Recommendations", and the "Framework for management" of the GBRWHA as a basis for monitoring the implementation of those recommendations. The Committee commended the process and the product arising from the consultative approach used in monitoring the state of conservation of the GBRWHA and recommends its adoption as an approach to other World Heritage natural properties in Australia. The Committee invited the State Party to submit progress reports on the implementation of the "Focused Recommendations" to the annual sessions of the Committee for review."

X.24 Comoe National Park (Côte d'Ivoire)

The Committee recalled the reports from the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau on the state of conservation of this property and adopted the following decision:

“The Committee noted the discussions at the twenty-third and twenty-third extraordinary sessions of the Bureau concerning illegal logging activities that are threatening the integrity of the site.

The Committee requested the State Party to consider inviting a Centre/IUCN mission to the site during the year 2000 to review threats to the integrity of the site and plan appropriate emergency rehabilitation measures. The Committee invited the State Party to co-operate with the Centre and IUCN to submit to the twenty-fourth session of the Committee, in accordance with paragraphs 86 – 90 of the Operational Guidelines, a detailed state of conservation report and corrective measures for mitigating threats to the site, to enable the Committee to consider including this property in the List of World Heritage in Danger.”

X.25 Whale Sanctuary of El Vizcaino (Mexico)

The Committee recalled the reports from the twenty-third ordinary and the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau on the state of conservation of this property.

The Committee noted that following its request and at the invitation of the Mexican authorities, a mission was carried out to the Whale Sanctuary of El Vizcaino from 23 to 28 August 1999. The full report and the recommendations of the mission were presented in Information Document WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.20.

The Secretariat introduced the report and the main findings of the mission. The issues were found to be extremely complex and could certainly not be reduced to a concern about one species or event. In fact, the team specifically considered a variety of issues including the management structure, the integrity of the site, status of the whale population, salt production, sustainable use and tourism. The World Heritage area, composed of the two lagoons Ojo de Liebre and San Ignacio, retains its quality and significance as a largely natural habitat and fulfils the criteria and conditions of integrity for which it was inscribed in 1993. The Committee was informed that the mission invited the Mexican Government to take fully into account the World Heritage values of the site when evaluating the proposed salt facility at San Ignacio. This evaluation would include not only the population of grey whales and other wildlife but also the integrity of the landscape and the ecosystem.

IUCN informed that it participated in the UNESCO mission and that the technical report is comprehensive and credible. IUCN supports the efforts of the Mexican Government in protecting the site, and in particular in relation to capacity building efforts and the involvement of local people and highlighted a number of specific recommendations in the report. IUCN indicated that the current salt production activities at Ojo de Liebre Lagoon do not impact the grey whale population. IUCN commented that should there be any change to the existing situation at this site, the position of IUCN would be reviewed.

The Delegate of Canada agreed with the conclusions of the mission and congratulated the Government of Mexico for its protection effort. He stated his concerns about potential damage to the site in the event of a new major industrial development and encouraged the State Party to take the World Heritage values fully into account, in particular concerning all measures taken to protect this World Heritage site.

The Delegate of Belgium noted the interest of the public and that the wider public should therefore be informed of the developments concerning this question.

The Chairperson noted the forward-looking decision and his confidence in the State Party to fully protect the site. At present, there are no concerns, as stated in the report. He informed the Committee that he himself had met with the representatives from the NGOs to listen to their views. The Chairperson ensured that the Committee will fully co-operate with the State Party and if any changes to the current state of conservation should occur, he would contact the relevant authorities.

The Delegate of Mexico thanked the Chairperson for his words. He expressed his gratitude to the World Heritage Committee and underlined the involvement of all interested parties. He quoted from the report: “The mission team was impressed by the present condition of the site as a whole and appreciated the ongoing efforts by local people, the staff of the Biosphere Reserve, Exportadora de Sal (ESSA) and governmental regulators to maintain and enhance the integrity of the site. In particular, the team was reassured about the conservation status of grey whales and wished to emphasize the importance of Mexico’s demonstrated commitment to population monitoring, scientific research, and habitat protection for this flagship species of the World Heritage site.” The Mexican Government endorsed the recommendations and informed the Committee that actions have been already taken, in particular with regard to the voluntary audit and the diversification of tourism. Finally, he emphasized that the Government of Mexico reaffirms its political will to maintain and enhance its co-operation with the World Heritage Committee to preserve the exceptional values of El Vizcaino.

Following these discussions the Committee adopted the following:

“The Committee took note of the report of the mission and the full set of recommendations as indicated in WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.20. The Committee noted that the World Heritage site under present circumstances is not in danger, and scientific data show that the whale population is not endangered and continues to increase. However, if any significant change to the present situation should occur, documented by appropriate evidence, the conclusion concerning the site’s status under the World Heritage Convention should be promptly re-evaluated in co-operation and co-ordination with the State Party, and appropriate consideration should be given to this new information by all relevant Parties and the World Heritage Committee.”

The Chairperson thanked the State Party for its collaboration and the Committee for the debate.

X.26 Doñana National Park (Spain)

The Committee recalled the reports from the twenty-third ordinary and the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau on the state of conservation of this property and adopted the following decision:

“The Committee noted that during 1998 and 1999 a number of actions were undertaken to mitigate the impacts of the ecological disaster following the spill in April 1998, in particular the results of the *International Expert Meeting on the Regeneration of the Doñana Watershed* in October 1999 with the participation of the World Heritage Centre, IUCN, the Secretary-General of the Ramsar Convention, WWF and other organizations.

The Committee commended the Spanish authorities for the continued clean up effort of the Guadamar Basin and affected areas. However, the Committee expressed its concerns for the re-opening of the mine without taking into account the points raised by the twenty-second session of the Committee and the twenty-third session of the Bureau. The Committee suggested that a review meeting be held during the year 2000/2001 to review progress of the implementation of the Doñana 2005 project, taking into account the points raised by IUCN and involving all concerned parties and institutions including the international collaborators from the meeting on Doñana 2005 held in October 1999. The State Party is encouraged to take into account the WCPA Position Statement on mining activities and protected areas, which was reviewed by this Committee.”

X.27 St. Kilda (United Kingdom)

The Committee recalled the reports from the twenty-third ordinary and the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau on the state of conservation of this property and adopted the following decision:

The Committee noted that a round table meeting on the state of conservation of the site was held in Edinburgh on 24 September 1999 with the participation of a representative from IUCN/WCPA and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

IUCN underlined that it does not recommend that this site be placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The Delegate of Portugal highlighted comments made by the Observer of France at the Bureau session, namely the issue of economic development at maritime sites. He underlined that this applies to coastal areas in general. A technical meeting could be organized on the problems of tourism and economic development in coastal areas and he recommended the involvement of the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) to start a dialogue on these issues.

Following the discussion, the Committee decided the following:

“The Committee noted the results of the St. Kilda Round Table of September 1999. The Committee recommended (1) that the boundaries of the World Heritage area should be expanded to include the surrounding marine area and consideration be given to a buffer zone as was recommended in the IUCN’s original evaluation in 1986; (2) that a revised management plan should be prepared. The Committee also recommended that, until the management plan and the risk assessment of any proposed development that might affect the integrity of the site had been prepared, consideration be given to placing a moratorium on oil licensing nearer to St Kilda other than that already licensed. The Committee decided not to include the site in the List of World Heritage in Danger.”

The Observer of the United Kingdom informed the Committee that his Government would be happy to respond to the Committee’s request.

(iii) State of conservation reports of natural properties noted by the Committee

X.28 The Committee noted the decisions of the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau as reflected in the Report of the Bureau session (Working Document WHC-99/CONF.209/6) included as Annex VIII to this report. Additional observations made during the Committee session are reflected below.

Shark Bay, Western Australia (Australia) Wet Tropics of Queensland (Australia)

Heard and McDonald Islands (Australia)

The Delegate of Australia thanked IUCN for the consultative process started, which could be a model for other State Parties. He also informed the Committee that the area of marine protection around Macquerie Island had been extended and now comprises 16 million ha, the world’s largest highly protected marine zone.

Belovezhskaya Pushcha/Bialowieza Forest (Belarus/Poland) Dja Faunal Reserve (Cameroon) Los Katios National Park (Colombia)

The Delegate of Colombia informed the Committee that a visit by a delegation from the Ministry for Environment to Los Katios was recently carried out. The visit included areas that were previously not accessible. He emphasized that the proposal to grant collective land ownership over 100,000ha would be outside the Park in the buffer zone. He commented that his Government

would be pleased to receive the visit of the monitoring mission to this site in 2000. The Colombian authorities have enhanced transboundary co-operation with Darien National Park (Panama) and strengthened the protected area system.

Morne Trois Pitons National Park (Dominica) Galapagos Islands (Ecuador)

The Observer of the United States underlined his Government’s role in safeguarding Galapagos Islands and congratulated the Government of Ecuador on progress made. He noted the landmark decision of the Galapagos Law and questioned whether it had been implemented, in particular concerning the forty-mile zone.

The Secretariat informed the Committee that some threats related to illegal fishing have been reported. IUCN noted the implementation of this pioneering legislation is vital and specific regulations need to be developed and implemented as soon as possible.

The Delegate of Ecuador provided information from the Ministry of Environment noting progress concerning control of introduced species and general improvements in relation to biodiversity conservation at the site. Concerning the control of the 40-mile zone, she stated that the law has not yet been implemented, but that the basis for the conservation and environmental control is there. She thanked the Committee for all its efforts to safeguard the Galapagos.

Kaziranga National Park (India) Komodo National Park (Indonesia) Mount Kenya National Park (Kenya) Sagarmatha National Park (Nepal)

The Observer of Nepal expressed his gratitude for the international support for the important project on tourism carried out at Sagarmatha National Park. The Observer of the United Kingdom noted that it is a ground-breaking project.

Te Wahipounamu – South West New Zealand (New Zealand) Arabian Oryx Sanctuary (Oman)

The Delegate of Thailand noted the raised serious concerns raised by the Bureau regarding the management of this site, given the decline in numbers of the Arabian Oryx and the fact that the boundary marking and management planning is long overdue for completion. He recalled that the Committee inscribed the site without legislation and management plan in December 1994. He highlighted the Operational Guidelines in relation to the deletion of properties. The Delegate of Benin noted that rigour was not always applied in the past years and that a number of sites would not have been accepted if they were presented today. Concerning the question of deletion, a site would be put first on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Delegate of Thailand made it clear that he had not proposed the deletion of the site from the World Heritage List and that he was totally aware of the modalities in that respect. The Observer of the United Kingdom noted that similar problems concerned a number of sites and that these issues would certainly be dealt with by the periodic reporting process. IUCN pointed out that it had consistently raised concerns about this site. IUCN noted that legislation does not have effect if there is not sufficient resources for its implementation. The Chairperson reminded the Committee members about the rarity of Arab natural sites on the List.

In concluding, the Chairperson thanked the Committee for the debate and noted that awareness needs to be raised in countries about the World Heritage Convention, its obligations and World Heritage values to be preserved for future generations, in particular among decision-makers. He thanked the Delegate of Thailand for his statement and encouraged the Committee to further reflect on how to enhance the protection of World Heritage sites.

Huascarán National Park (Peru)
Lake Baikal (Russian Federation)

The Observer of Russia requested that the information provided during the adoption of the report of the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau on this site be included in the Bureau report.

Bwindi Impenetrable Forest (Uganda)
Gough Island (United Kingdom)
Ngorongoro Conservation Area and the Serengeti National Park (United Republic of Tanzania)
Canaima National Park (Venezuela)
Ha Long Bay (Vietnam)
Mosi-oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls (Zambia/Zimbabwe)

MIXED (NATURAL AND CULTURAL) HERITAGE

(i) **Mixed properties which the Committee inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger**

The Committee did not inscribe any mixed sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

(ii) **State of conservation reports of mixed properties examined by the Committee**

X.29 Tasmanian Wilderness (Australia)

The Committee recalled the reports from the twenty-third ordinary and the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau on the state of conservation of this property and adopted the following decision:

“The Committee requested the Australian Committee for IUCN (ACIUCN) to complete its review process on the state of conservation of the Tasmanian Wilderness with the aim of submitting an up-to-date report to the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau in 2000. ACIUCN's review should include reference to any continuing concerns, such as those noted at the twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau, and suggestions relating to any future extension of the World Heritage property and the management of areas of the dedicated Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) reserve system which have been previously identified as having World Heritage value.

The Committee commended the State Party for the recent completion of the 1999 Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan, and recommended that its effectiveness be regularly monitored over time.”

X.30 Mount Emei Scenic Area, including Leshan Giant Buddha Scenic Area (China)

The Committee recalled the report from the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau on the state of conservation of this property and adopted the following decision:

“The Committee requested the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, before 15 April 2000, a state of conservation report on developments at “Mount Emei Scenic Area, including Leshan Giant Buddha Scenic Area.”

X.31 Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru)

The Committee recalled the reports from the twenty-third ordinary and the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau on the state of conservation of this property and adopted the following decision:

“The Committee, having examined the report of the World Heritage Centre-IUCN-ICOMOS mission to the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (made available to the Committee as Information Document WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.21), endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in it.

The Committee congratulated the Government of Peru on the adoption of the Master Plan and the establishment of the Management Unit. It urged the Government of Peru to ensure that all institutions, authorities and agencies involved in the Sanctuary give their full support to the Management Unit for the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu so that this unit can effectively and efficiently fulfil the tasks entrusted to it.

The Committee recognized that there is strong tourism pressure on the site and that the studies proposed in recommendations 6, 7 and 8 of the mission report would allow this matter to be addressed in an integrated manner.

The Committee requested the Government of Peru to submit, by 15 April 2000 for transmission to and examination by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth session, a report that should include its response to the mission's conclusions and recommendations, as well as information on the progress made in the preparation and execution of operational plans for the implementation of the Master Plan for the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu.”

(iii) **State of conservation reports of mixed properties noted by the Committee**

X.32 The Committee noted the decision of the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau as reflected in the Report of the Bureau session (Working Document WHC-99/CONF.209/6) and included in Annex VIII on the following property.

Kakadu National Park (Australia)

CULTURAL HERITAGE

(i) **Cultural property which the Committee inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger**

X.33 Groups of Monuments at Hampi (India)

The Committee recalled the reports from the twenty-third ordinary and the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau on the state of conservation of this property and adopted the following decision:

“The Committee examined the findings of the UNESCO reactive monitoring mission, and expressing deep concern over the partial construction of two cable-suspended bridges within the protected archaeological areas of Hampi, decided to inscribe the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

In view of the ascertained and potential dangers threatening the integrity and authenticity of the site, the Committee requested the national authorities concerned to urgently elaborate a comprehensive conservation, management and development plan, with the assistance of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre.

The Committee requested the Government of India to report on the progress made in reducing the dangers facing the site, and in developing the comprehensive management plan, for examination by the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau.”

The Observer of India expressed his Government's appreciation to the Committee for its concern over the state of conservation of Hampi. He stated that the protection of the extraordinary site of

Hampi, the result of centuries of interaction between man and nature, was no easy task. However, the Observer underlined that the integrity of Hampi, comprising approximately 40 kilometers of villages, banana fields, rice paddies, the river, rocks and monuments, must be preserved. The Observer informed that the problem of preservation of the archaeological remains was a classic example of the conflict between heritage conservation and development, and that innovative solutions would have to be found in solving this problem. The Committee was informed that the construction of the two bridges had been halted, but that corrective measures would have to be undertaken to remove the threats facing the site.

The Observer stated that the inscription of the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger would strengthen the capacity of the Archaeological Survey of India and the State Government of Karnataka in their efforts to safeguard this unique site, and will ensure its long-term protection. Finally, the Observer called upon the Committee and the World Heritage Centre for assistance to ensure the integrity of the site.

The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Government of India by acclamation.

(ii) State of conservation reports of cultural properties examined by the Committee

X.34 Peking Man Site at Zhoukoudian (China)

The Committee recalled the reports from the twenty-third ordinary and the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau on the state of conservation of this property and adopted the following decision:

“The Committee took note of the findings of the report and recommendations of the ICOMOS-ICCROM Joint Mission, undertaken in September 1999, which examined the state of conservation, management and factors affecting the Peking Man Site at Zhoukoudian. The Committee expressed appreciation to the Government of China, the advisory bodies and the Secretariat for the organization of the Joint Mission, which resulted with concrete recommendations for short and long term actions for enhanced management of the site. The Committee underlined the importance of putting into place a systematic low-cost monitoring system for the whole site, as well as the need for preparing an overall conservation and management plan.

The Committee welcomed the Government’s intention to seriously examine the Joint Mission’s recommendations, and requested the advisory bodies and the World Heritage Centre to closely co-operate with the national authorities in the necessary follow-up actions. As to the Joint Mission recommendation to add criterion (iv) and remove criterion (vi) under which the site is inscribed on the World Heritage List, the Committee requested ICOMOS to examine this matter further in consultation with the State Party. The Committee requested ICOMOS to make a further recommendation for examination by the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau.”

X.35 Islamic Cairo (Egypt)

The Committee recalled the reports from the twenty-third ordinary and the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau on the state of conservation of this property and adopted the following decision:

“The Committee thanked the national authorities and the international community for its commitment in supporting this important and complex site. The Committee wished to remind the State Party of the need to ensure the continuity of the long-term action for the success in the safeguarding and revitalization of

Islamic Cairo. It encouraged the State Party to continue its direct and indirect financial contributions to the project and to foresee the involvement of the local population in the safeguarding and revitalization programme.”

States Parties thanked the Secretariat for the quality of the co-operation programme, stressing that it represents a model for urban World Heritage sites conservation and revitalization strategies.

X.36 City-Museum Reserve of Mtskheta (Georgia)

The Committee recalled the report from the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau on the state of conservation of this property and adopted the following decision:

“The Committee welcomed the initiative of the Government of Georgia and the Mtskheta Foundation to develop a Heritage and Tourism Master Plan for the City-Museum Reserve of Mtskheta. It expressed its full support for this initiative that will provide the appropriate framework for a coherent set of actions to be financed by different sources and donor institutions. The Committee recognized that on the middle and long-term major investments will be required for the actual implementation of the Master Plan and called upon States Parties, international institutions and organizations to collaborate in this effort.

The Committee urged the Government of Georgia to take immediate measures for the protection of the Armaztsikhe archaeological site and for the recuperation of the total area of the Samtavros Veli Necropolis site. It requested the Georgian authorities to provide the plans for the bell tower at the cathedral for further study by ICOMOS.”

X.37 Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin (Germany)

The Committee recalled the report from the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau on the state of conservation of this property and adopted the following decision:

“The Committee commended the German authorities for their fifth report on the state of conservation of the Parks and Palaces of Potsdam and Berlin. It acknowledged the efforts made to restrict as much as possible the negative effects of the Havel project (German Unity Project 17) on the integrity of the World Heritage site. Nevertheless, it considered that considerable threats persist to the landscape and certain historic monuments, such as the Sacrow Church and the Babelsberg Engine House.

The Committee wished to know whether it would be possible to restrict passage through the World Heritage site to standard-sized vessels and to develop the Havel Canal, which lies outside the site (the northern route) so as to permit the passage of larger vessels.

It requested the German authorities to continue its efforts to find a solution in conformity with the requirements of the World Heritage Convention. A report should be provided before 15 April 2000 in order that it may be examined by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth session.”

X.38 Sun Temple of Konarak (India)

The Committee recalled the reports from the twenty-third ordinary and the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau on the state of conservation of this property and adopted the following decision:

“The Committee, having examined the developments at the Sun Temple of Konarak, expressed concern over its state of conservation. The Committee reiterated the Bureau’s requests to

the Government of India to submit information concerning the structural study implemented with the financial assistance from the World Heritage Fund emergency assistance reserve, made available in 1998. The Committee requested the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to continue its arrangements for an urgent reactive monitoring mission, in close co-operation with the national authorities concerned. The Committee requested the findings of this ICOMOS mission, and reports submitted by the Government of India, to be submitted for examination by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth session. The Committee also requested the Secretariat and ICOMOS to clarify whether or not the Government of India intends to nominate this site for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.”

X.39 Byblos (Lebanon)

The Committee recalled the reports from the twenty-third ordinary and the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau on the state of conservation of this property and adopted the following decision:

“The Committee noted with satisfaction the quality of the co-operation that had been established with the Lebanese authorities and the Municipality of Byblos. It congratulated and thanked the Netherlands for its generous contribution and encouraged all parties to continue their efforts in favour of this site. The Committee requested the Secretariat and ICOMOS to organise a mission to examine the state of conservation of the archaeological mound of Byblos.”

X.40 Tyre (Lebanon)

The Committee recalled the reports from the twenty-third ordinary and the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau on the state of conservation of this property and adopted the following decision:

“The Committee thanked the Lebanese Government for their co-operation in the preservation of the City of Tyre. In view of the serious and persistent threats to the safeguarding of the site, the Committee requested that the recommendations of the International Scientific Committee be urgently implemented, particularly the adoption of a city management plan to ensure the safeguarding of the archaeological zones as well as their protection through the creation of an appropriate landscape design in co-operation with ICOMOS, ICCROM and IFLA. The Committee also requested the authorities to appoint a national co-ordinator and open a national account for the International Safeguarding Campaign as it was agreed with UNESCO, and recalled in the letter dated 7 July 1999 from the Director-General to the Minister of Culture”.

X.41 Historic Centre of Puebla (Mexico)

The Committee recalled the reports from the twenty-third ordinary and the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau on the state of conservation of this property and adopted the following decision:

“The Committee thanked the Mexican authorities for the detailed report on the damages caused by the earthquake of 15 June 1999 to the World Heritage sites of the Historic Centre of Puebla and the Earliest 16th-Century Monasteries on the slopes of Popocatepetl. It commended the authorities for the immediate response given to the earthquake and the emergency measures that have been taken to prevent further damage and collapse.

The Committee requested the Mexican authorities to submit, by 15 September 2000, a report on the progress made in the consolidation of the monuments, for examination by the Committee at its twenty-fourth session.”

X.42 Kathmandu Valley (Nepal)

The Secretariat, in reporting on the discussions during the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau and its recommendations, reminded the Committee that the Kathmandu Valley inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1979 is composed of seven Monument Zones. While these zones also contain built-up areas composed of traditional buildings, the boundaries of the protected areas were defined on the basis of a monumental vision, rather than with the objective of protecting a larger urban heritage. Thus, given the relatively limited number of traditional buildings in the World Heritage area, their protection is even more important in forming the essential setting within each Monument Zone. The Committee noted that in the case of Bauddhanath Monument Zone, there were approximately 88 historic buildings surrounding the stupa in 1979 that provided the setting, both physical and spiritual, of this important site of pilgrimage. In 1993 at the time of the UNESCO-ICOMOS Joint Mission, there remained 27, and despite concerted efforts in conserving the site with substantive support from the international community, only 15 remained in 1998.

During the discussions, the Committee noted that inscription of the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger has been deferred many times, in order to provide more time to apply conservation measures in accordance with the 16 Recommendations of 1993, and the 55 Recommendations and a Time-Bound Action Plan of Corrective Measures of 1998, officially adopted by HMG of Nepal. The Committee, although noting that periodic reports, submitted either by the State Party or the World Heritage Centre, examined by each session of the Bureau and Committee since 1993, demonstrated the efforts being made by the State Party, it was obliged to note the deterioration of the site in its ensemble.

ICCROM congratulated the State Party for its continuing efforts to strengthen protection of the site over the last six years, but stated that it remained deeply concerned over the apparent and increasing loss of the authentic historic fabrics of the site, which it recalled, was the reason that prompted the 1993 UNESCO-ICOMOS Joint Mission to recommend inscription of the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Representative of ICCROM stated that if the Committee is to support the recommendation of the Bureau to send a High Level Mission, the mandate of the mission should focus on:

- clarifying to the authorities at the highest level, the purpose of inscribing a site on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
- defining more precisely the conditions to be met to warrant eventual inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger in the Committee’s deliberations in year 2000;
- giving further attention to measures which can address the root causes of the demolitions of the vernacular fabrics of the Monument Zones;
- giving attention to establishing base-line data for continuing documentation of the historic buildings.

The advice given by ICCROM was supported by the Delegate of Thailand. To mitigate the real danger threatening this site, the Delegate of Hungary underlined the importance of co-operation between States Parties for enhanced urban heritage management, and in this regard, invited Nepal to participate at the *Integrated Urban Conservation Training Workshop and Seminar for Central European Historic City Managers* which Hungary planned to organize in 2000.

The Committee underlined that, while it had deferred inscription of the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger until its next session, it recognized the serious loss of the authentic urban fabrics detected within the site over the past years. Several

members of the Bureau had been willing to inscribe the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger right away, and it was only after a working group that the Bureau had deferred the inscription. It stressed that the gravity of the situation should not be underestimated. Moreover, the Committee underscored that inscription of a site on the List of World Heritage in Danger should not be considered as an exercise of black-listing sites, but understood to serve as a conservation tool and as part of a process to draw international technical assistance and to rally the necessary political will and public support at the national level in favour of conservation.

The Observer of HMG of Nepal expressed his Government's gratitude for the Committee's keen interest in the protection of the site, as well as for the professional assistance provided over the years by the advisory bodies and the World Heritage Centre. He reported on the Government's efforts made in implementing the 55 Recommendations and the Time-Bound Action Plan for Corrective Measures adopted by HMG of Nepal, but stressed the difficulties faced by his Government in controlling damage in the Monument Zones. He therefore requested the Committee to consider prolonging the deadlines for implementing the Time-Bound Action Plan of Corrective Measures. The Observer informed the Committee that the Prime Minister, aware of the need for concerted national efforts beyond those being made by the Department of Archaeology, had instructed the relevant Ministries to take necessary action for enhancing the management of the site. The Observer stated that although Kathmandu Valley is a Nepalese World Heritage site, the responsibility to ensure its integrity and authenticity is also that of the international community at large and the Committee. Finally, he assured the Committee that the HMG of Nepal would welcome the High Level Mission, composed of the Chairperson of the Committee, the Director of the World Heritage Centre and international experts selected by ICOMOS.

The Committee, in conclusion, recalled the reports of the twenty-third ordinary and extraordinary session of the Bureau, and adopted the following:

“The Committee examined the state of conservation reports presented in WHC-99/CONF-209/INF.17A,B,C,D, and expressed deep concern over the serious degree of uncontrolled change and deterioration of the authenticity and integrity of the Monument Zones placed under the protection of the World Heritage Convention. It noted with appreciation that the State Party had made every effort to implement the 16 Recommendations of the 1993 UNESCO-ICOMOS Joint Mission, as well as the 55 Recommendations of the 1998 UNESCO-ICOMOS-HMG of Nepal Joint Mission and the Time-Bound Action Plan for Corrective Measures.

The Committee requested HMG of Nepal to continue making all possible efforts to protect the remaining authentic historic urban fabric within the Kathmandu Valley site. The Committee requested the Secretariat and the Advisory Bodies to continue to assist the State Party as appropriate and to the extent possible: in strengthening its capacity in controlling development, retaining historic buildings *in-situ*, and in correcting illegal construction and alteration of historic buildings within the Kathmandu Valley site.

The Committee decided to defer inscription of the Kathmandu Valley site on the List of World Heritage in Danger again, until the next session of the Committee.

Moreover, in view of the fact that the demolition and new construction or alterations of historic buildings within the Kathmandu Valley have persisted in spite of the concerted international and national efforts, resulting in the loss or continuous and gradual deterioration of materials, structure, ornamental features, and architectural coherence making the

essential settings of the Monument Zones as well as in their authentic characters, the Committee requested a High Level Mission to be undertaken to hold discussions with representatives of HMG of Nepal in early 2000. This High Level Mission would be composed of the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee or a representative of the Committee members, a senior staff of the World Heritage Centre, and two eminent international experts selected by ICOMOS. The findings of the mission would be reported the next sessions of the Bureau and Committee, in 2000.”

X.43 Taxila (Pakistan) Fort and Shalamar Gardens of Lahore (Pakistan)

The Committee recalled the reports from the twenty-third ordinary and the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau on the state of conservation of this property and adopted the following decision:

“The Committee examined the report of the Secretariat. The Committee expressed concern over the demolition of the 375-year old essential hydraulic works of the Shalamar Gardens, which had been carried out to enlarge the 4-lane Grand Trunk Road into a 6-lane motorway, as well as the completed football stadium built on the archaeological remains of Bhir Mound, the most ancient citadel site dating between 6th BC – 2nd AD within Taxila. In view of the ascertained threats undermining the authenticity and integrity of these two sites, the Committee requested the State Party to take urgent corrective measures to restore the hydraulic works at Shalamar Gardens, and to consider removing the football stadium negatively impacting upon the archaeological remains of Bhir Mound. The Committee requested the State Party to report on the actions taken for examination by the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau. Should the Bureau find that the World Heritage values have been compromised, it would recommend the Committee to consider inscription of these sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its twenty-fourth session, in view of the threats facing these sites.

Taking note of the need to elaborate a comprehensive management plan for both the Fort and Shalamar Gardens of Lahore, the Committee requested the World Heritage Centre to urgently organize a reactive monitoring mission by the advisory bodies to Lahore. The Committee requested that consultation on the proposals for protecting the Shish Mahal Mirrored Ceiling be undertaken by ICCROM with the national authorities, during this mission. The Committee requested the advisory bodies and the World Heritage Centre to report on findings and recommendations of the mission for examination by the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau.”

X.44 Central Zone of Angra do Heroismo in the Azores (Portugal)

The Committee recalled the reports from the twenty-third ordinary and the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau on the state of conservation of this property and adopted the following decision:

“The Committee took note of the information provided by the State Party on the marina project in the Bay of Angra do Heroismo and the opinions expressed by ICOMOS. The Committee endorsed the views of ICOMOS regarding the proposed rehabilitation of the waterfront and urged the Portuguese authorities to take these into account in reconsidering the plans for this area, more particularly for the area of the Patio da Alfandega, Jardim dos Corte-Reais and Antigo Mercado do Peixe, the Encosta do Cantagalo and the S. Sebastiao Fort.

The Committee took note of the wish of the Portuguese authorities to continue its collaboration with ICOMOS on the

further development of the plans for the marina and the waterfront and their integration into the overall urban plan for Angra do Heroísmo.

It requested the authorities to submit a report on the above matters by 15 April 2000 for consideration by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth session.”

X.45 Complex of Hué Monuments (Vietnam)

The Committee recalled the report from the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau on the state of conservation of this property and adopted the following decision:

“The Committee examined the report of the Secretariat and expressed sympathy for the victims of the November floods and concern over the serious extent of the damage caused by the floods to the monuments and urban landscape of the Hue World Heritage site. Having examined the new information provided to the Bureau by the Vietnamese authorities and the Secretariat, the Committee allocated an initial sum of US\$ 50,000 under the emergency assistance fund to support the rehabilitation of Hue and Hoi An, and the preparation of a comprehensive emergency rehabilitation programme, including risk assessment and mitigation schemes. The Committee noted the deployment of an expert mission organized by the Secretariat for early December, and requested the Centre to support the State Party in preparing the emergency rehabilitation programme and in mobilizing international co-operation.

With regard to the new focus since 1997 on urban heritage conservation, the Committee noted the efforts being made by the Provincial and Municipal Authorities of Hué and the Hué Conservation Centre in mitigating the deterioration of the historic urban fabric of the World Heritage protected areas and commends Lille Metropole, UNESCO and the French Government for the support provided to the local authorities in integrating conservation concerns in the overall urban development plan. In this regard, the Committee reiterated the importance of preserving the authenticity and integrity of the Citadel of Hué marked by its urban morphology, spatial organization and vegetation which together form the « feng shui » philosophy adopted in the original construction and subsequent transformation of this imperial city. The Committee encouraged the State Party for its initiative in organizing the donors’ meeting scheduled in April 2000 with technical support from the World Heritage Centre and Lille Metropole, and suggests that the emergency programme for the rehabilitation of the flood-caused damages be presented at this donors’ meeting in addition to the urban conservation programme. It suggested, furthermore, that the project proposals be forwarded in advance to the members of the Committee, and that invitations be extended to the Committee and advisory bodies, as well as to the international development co-operation agencies and Vietnam-based diplomatic missions. Finally, the Committee noted that the written report that the Bureau at its twenty-second session requested the State Party to submit by 15 September 1999, had not been received to date. The Committee therefore requested the State Party to prepare an initial progress report on the rehabilitation effort, as well as on measures taken to ensure the conservation and appropriate development of the urban heritage of Hué by 1 May 2000 for review by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth session.”

(iii) State of conservation reports of cultural properties noted by the Committee

X.46 The Committee noted the decisions of the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau as reflected in the Report of the Bureau session (Working Document WHC-99/CONF.209/6)

and included in Annex VIII of this report on the following properties:

Jesuit Missions of the Guarani (Argentina and Brazil):

The Jesuit Mission of Santa Ana (Argentina)

The Potala Palace, Lhasa (China)

City of Quito (Ecuador)

The Delegate of Ecuador informed the Committee that the volcano Pichincha had erupted on 5 October and November 26 1999 and that the National Institute for Cultural Heritage (INPC) and the Municipality of Quito had taken preventive measures to protect the population and the monuments.

Historic Centre of Tallin (Estonia)

Mont-Saint-Michel and its Bay (France)

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

Ashanti Traditional Buildings (Ghana)

Churches and Convents of Goa (India)

Luang Prabang (Laos)

Island of Mozambique (Mozambique)

Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (Nepal)

The Observer of HMG of Nepal assured the Committee that the conservation of the Maya Devi Temple would be undertaken following international conservation norms prescribed by the World Heritage Convention. He informed the Committee that HMG of Nepal would be grateful to receive expert suggestions from UNESCO concerning the draft conceptual design for the Maya Devi Temple conservation work, as such advice would be a guideline for elaborating the details of the design under preparation. The Observer assured the Committee that the designs for the works at Maya Devi Temple, once completed, would be transmitted to UNESCO, as assured by HMG of Nepal. The Observer informed the Committee that a technical co-operation request for the organization of an international technical meeting to discuss the proposed project for the conservation, restoration, and presentation of the Maya Devi Temple, would be submitted, following the request of the Bureau at its twenty-third session.

Archaeological Site of Chavin (Peru)

City of Cuzco (Peru)

Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines)

The Observer of the Philippines assured the Committee that the long-term integrated development plan of the site, including a tourism development plan for the site, would be submitted in due course to UNESCO, preferably before 15 September 2000. To ensure that the authenticity and sustainable conservation of this fragile site is maintained, the Observer stated that his Government would avail of the generous offer of the Committee to provide technical expertise under the World Heritage Fund.

Auschwitz Concentration Camp (Poland)

The Sokkuram Grotto and Pulguksa Temple (Republic of Korea)

Alhambra, Generalife and Albaycin, Grenada (Spain)

Historic Areas of Istanbul (Turkey)

The Observer of Turkey thanked the Bureau for the sympathies expressed for the victims of the earthquake this year. The Observer stated that Istanbul is the only one among the nine World Heritage sites in Turkey located in the region impacted by the August 1999 earthquake. While the damage can only be measured over time, initial assessment has noted minor cracks in several historic monuments including the Hagia Sophia, and four museums. Severe cracks have, however, been noted in the Istanbul Archaeological Museum, the conservation laboratory which is housed in an historic monument, in two historic library buildings, and in more than ten tombs as well as in the city walls (ramparts). The Committee was informed that the impact report of the second earthquake (in November 1999) on World Heritage sites had not been received by the Ministry of Culture of Turkey from its regional offices. The Observer said that a detailed report

would be submitted to the Committee through the Secretariat as soon as it is completed.

With regard to the urban conservation plan of the historic peninsula of Istanbul, the Observer informed the Committee that the 1/5000 scale plan has just been completed and submitted to the Greater Istanbul Council and upon approval, will be transmitted to the Regional Conservation Council for clearance. As soon as this is officially approved, the 1/1000 scale plan will be prepared for the Fatih and Eminonu municipalities. In addition, the 1/500 scale detailed conservation plan for the Zeyrek district prepared by Istanbul Technical University, which was co-funded by the World Heritage Fund is about to be completed, and will be submitted to the Fatih Municipality for approval. The Observer thanked the UNESCO World Heritage Centre for having mobilized international support for the conservation of Istanbul's urban heritage, and in this regard, expressed particular appreciation for the financial support extended by the European Commission and the Government of France.

The Observer concluded her intervention by saying that due to the need to finance earthquake rehabilitation activities, the budget of all government services had been severely cut, including that of the Ministry of Culture. While on-going joint conservation projects with the municipalities of Istanbul will be continued, no expansion in the area of work or additional activities will be possible for 2000.

The Delegate of Greece called upon the Committee to provide support to Turkey in the rehabilitation of the earthquake damage. In this regard, she recalled her statement at the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau, which pointed to the need to prioritize the object of international support in view of the vast conservation needs of the Istanbul World Heritage area. The Chairperson, in his personal capacity stated that this spirit of collaboration and solidarity expressed by Greece in favour of Turkey was a demonstration of the spirit of the World Heritage Convention.

X.47 The Delegate of the Republic of Korea and the Observer of Germany remarked that they would have appreciated it if the presentations of the state of conservation reports would have been accompanied by illustrations and/or plans. This would help the participants to better understand and form an opinion on the problems and characteristics of the property. The Chairperson suggested that the way in which the state of conservation reports are dealt with by the Committee could be looked at in the framework of the examination of the Strategic Task Force.

C. OTHER ISSUES

World Heritage and Mining

X.48 The Committee recalled that, based on discussions of specific cases at its twenty-second session, the former Chairperson, Professor Francioni, recommended the establishment of an informal contact group on mining and World Heritage sites during the annual sessions of the Committee and the Bureau.

X.49 The Committee noted that a dialogue with the mining industry had commenced and that the Centre, IUCN and ICOMOS had been invited by the International Council on Metals and the Environment (ICME) to a working session on "Mining and Protected Areas and other Ecologically Sensitive Sites" on 20 October 1998 in London (UK).

X.50 The Committee was informed that the Bureau (July 1999) took note of the "WCPA Position Statement on Mining and Associated Activities in Relation to Protected Areas" (Information Document) and of further initiatives, including

collaboration with UNEP's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics and other units in UNESCO. The Chairperson, noting that the Bureau might wish to reflect on the relevance of WCPA's Position Statement in the light of its deliberations on mining threats to specific sites, suggested that the WCPA Position Statement be submitted as a working document to the twenty-third session of the Committee. The document was presented as WHC-99/CONF.209/20.

X.51 IUCN reported to the Bureau that the statement had been prepared by the WCPA, one of the six commissions of IUCN with more than 1,400 members in 140 countries. The Position Statement on Mining was developed within the WCPA network. IUCN stated that mining is a key issue in many countries and this statement had been developed for the world's protected areas in general, rather than for World Heritage sites specifically. However, the principles in the Position Statement may be applicable. The aims of the Statement are to: (a) provide a global framework to guide WCPA approaches; (b) provide a framework for countries to consider and adapt as needed in local circumstances; (c) establish a framework based on the IUCN protected area categories system which is focused on the objectives of protected area management. Finally, IUCN noted that mining is an issue at many World Heritage sites. IUCN is prepared to continue consultations on this issue, including with UNESCO and UNEP, as well as the mining industry and its International Council on Metals and the Environment (ICME).

X.52 The Representative of ICOMOS commended WCPA for the Position Statement and fully supported it. He underlined that the exploitation of mineral resources and its impacts do not concern only natural sites, but also cultural landscapes and other cultural properties.

X.53 The Delegate of Canada supported the WCPA Position Statement and the ongoing work on protected areas and mining, and stated that there are specific concerns on mining in relation to World Heritage sites. He strongly supported a technical session, which should be carried out in collaboration with the mining industry.

X.54 The Observer of the United States of America wished to ensure that the status of the discussion paper provided by the WCPA as a working paper for the Committee meeting be clarified. The WCPA draft statement was the subject of a recent hearing before the United States Congress, because the impression had been conveyed that it would be proposed to the World Heritage Committee in Marrakesh, to adopt a policy that would ban mining outside World Heritage sites. Some of the confusion on this point occurred because Bureau document prepared for the July session suggested that the WCPA position statement on mining be recommended to the Committee for adoption. It is the understanding of the United States that this document was tabled for information purposes only. It is therefore noted for the record that this document is not recommended for adoption by the Committee. If the Committee chooses to authorize or participate in any follow-up discussions on the subject of mining and World Heritage, it is the position of the United States that these discussions must be fully transparent and open to stakeholders. It is noted, for example, that the International Council on Metals and the Environment (ICME) was invited to comment on the WCPA policy, but the National Mining Association of the United States was not involved at all. The United States Observer further noted that mining policy is an internal matter for sovereign states and that the Committee is not dictating what domestic policies on this issue should be. Any results of follow-up discussions on mining policy will be strictly advisory to the States Parties.

X.55 To further clarify the discussion, she provided a text of the testimony presented at the hearing referenced above, given by the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks of the

U.S. Department of the Interior, a former head of the U.S. Delegation to the World Heritage Committee. Her statement is provided in Annex IX.

X.56 In responding, IUCN reiterated to the Committee that the WCPA document is for information only, as it is clearly an internal document of IUCN. There is no intention to ban mining outside World Heritage sites, as has been suggested.

X.57 The Delegate of Australia stated his support for the IUCN work on protected areas and noted that collaboration with the mining industry exists, in particular in relation to the IUCN Protected Area Category VI. He informed the Committee that his Government would be pleased to share experiences on this issue.

X.58 The Observer of France commended the approach taken by the Secretariat and IUCN and underlined that there are threats to World Heritage sites. He suggested a code of conduct would be needed. This should also be taken into account in relation to marine sites and oil exploration, in particular in view of the expansion of economic activities.

X.59 The Delegate of Benin shared the view expressed by France and welcomed the debate, as in the past years this issue had been discussed in relation to specific World Heritage sites. He underlined that different regions should be involved in this debate. The Delegate of South Africa noted support for the Position Statement and commented that cultural sites be also taken into account.

X.60 The Director of the Centre and the Chairperson thanked the Committee for the rich debate. The Committee adopted the following decision:

“The Committee

(a) took note of the document in light of its deliberations on threats and potential threats from mining to specific World Heritage properties,

(b) recognized that there may possibly be additional issues and problems that are specific to the management of World Heritage sites facing ascertained and potential impacts from mining projects;

(c) requested the Centre to co-operate with interested UNESCO units, the advisory bodies, UN agencies (such as the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics in Paris), other concerned agencies and representatives from interested States Parties to the Convention and representatives of the mining industry, to organize a technical meeting to analyse case studies on World Heritage and mining during global events already planned for the year 2000 (e.g. the IUCN World Conservation Congress due to be held in Amman, Jordan, in October 2000), and develop recommendations for review and discussion by the twenty-fourth session of the Committee.

(d) asked the Chairperson to write a letter to the Director-General of IUCN concerning the organization of a technical session on World Heritage and Mining at the World Conservation Congress (Amman, Jordan, in October 2000).“

X.61 The Committee also took note of a debate on two other general issues, relevant to a number of World Heritage sites, discussed by the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau: Fire management/control, and invasive species. The Delegate of Thailand recalled that he had made a statement during the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau.

XI. ACTIVITIES CONCERNING WORLD HERITAGE DOCUMENTATION, INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

XI.1 The Secretariat presented the activities detailed in Document WHC-99/CONF.209/15 on World Heritage Documentation, Information and Education Activities.

XI.2 The Director of the Centre introduced this item by recalling the new orientations of the Strategic Plan for Documentation, Information and Education approved by the Committee in 1998 at its twenty-second session. He further recalled the key strategic objectives set forth in the Strategic Plan. He stressed the need to strengthen the documentation function of the Centre, prepare new information materials with particular emphasis on state of conservation giving priority to sites inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. He further emphasized the importance of promoting awareness through education and media related activities.

XI.3 In an audio visual presentation, the Secretariat presented the five chapters of the proposed programme for 2000 to the Committee : I. Documentation, II. Information, III. Internet and WHIN, IV. Self-financing programme for partnerships with the media and publishers and V. Education.

XI.4 The Chairperson thanked the Secretariat for their clear presentation. The Delegate of Hungary expressed his strong support of the World Heritage Centre’s Documentation and Information Unit, recognizing the earnest dedication of this small team. He made reference to UNESCO’s Special Project for Young People’s Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion and confirmed his country’s interest in this programme. In noting the success of the Centre’s Internet site, he expressed his view that there is a tremendous overlapping in the World Heritage Centre’s information activities. He called attention to the urgent need for a long-term information strategy aimed at consolidating activities under this Chapter with the activities foreseen under the Information Management System.

XI.5 The Committee adopted the programme and its budget without further discussion.

XII. EVALUATION OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE: EXAMINATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TWENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE CONCERNING PRIORITIZATION IN GRANTING INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

XII.1 The Chairperson introduced item 12 of the agenda concerning the evaluation of international assistance and gave the floor to the representative of the Central Evaluation Unit of UNESCO, who reported on the progress made in the evaluation process, and underlined the competence and independence of the consultants retained. He also insisted upon the training character of this evaluation exercise and the interest in retaining this as an organizational learning process. He finished by presenting a proposal to foresee a reserve of US\$ 40,000 in the next budget to carry out impact studies in the field on a selected number of international assistance cases.

XII.2 During the debate, several delegates and members of the advisory bodies showed their interest in the on-going evaluation and referred to the management component of this exercise and expressed the wish that the impact studies would closely involve field specialists, certain of whom are members of the advisory bodies. ICCROM expressed its concern about the process and scope of the evaluation process. It stressed the difference between doing a study of “Efficiency and

Management” which can easily be done by management consultants, and that of “Effectiveness Impact” which may best be done by professionals that are experts in the areas to be examined. It expressed its hope that the Centre will take this into account in follow-up phases of the evaluation.

XII.3 The following decision was adopted:

The Committee took note of the progress made in the evaluation of international assistance and recommended that, in the framework of the examination of the budget of the World Heritage Fund, a reserve of US\$ 40,000 be foreseen for the impact studies. This amount is dependent upon the approval of the terms of reference by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth session in June 2000.

XII.4 The Delegate of Thailand suggested that the work made by the External Auditor be taken into account and that duplication of work be avoided.

XIII. REVISION OF THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

XIII.1 The Chairperson informed the Committee that the Working Document (WHC-99/CONF.209/17) concerning the proposed revisions to the *Operational Guidelines* included four sections :

1. Revision of Section I of the *Operational Guidelines*
2. Revision of Paragraph 65 of the *Operational Guidelines*
3. Revision of Paragraph 68 of the *Operational Guidelines*
4. Revision of Paragraphs 113-116 of the *Operational Guidelines*

A. REVISION OF SECTION I OF THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

XIII.2 The Secretariat recalled that the *Operational Guidelines* have been revised many times over the last twenty years and are generally considered as requiring substantial editing and reorganization. In 1998 a Global Strategy meeting for cultural and natural heritage experts was held in Amsterdam in the Netherlands. The meeting discussed the application of the “test of authenticity” and the “conditions of integrity”, the question of a unified set of criteria for cultural and natural heritage and the notion of “outstanding universal value”. The report of the Amsterdam meeting was presented to the Committee at its twenty-second session in Kyoto, Japan.

XIII.3 The Secretariat recalled that the Amsterdam meeting made several recommendations including a proposal to develop a unified set of criteria to bring together the existing six cultural and four natural heritage criteria currently presented in Paragraphs 24 and 44 in the first section of the *Operational Guidelines*. The expert meeting concluded that a unified set of criteria would improve the logic of the *Guidelines* and emphasize and more clearly express the underlying principles of the *Convention* in relation to both cultural and natural, and mixed heritage, and cultural landscapes demonstrating outstanding interactions between people and the environment. The Amsterdam meeting also recommended that conditions of integrity be prepared for all ten criteria. For cultural properties this would include a test of authenticity.

XIII.4 The Secretariat informed the Committee that the Working Document concerning revisions to Section I of the *Operational Guidelines* examined by the twenty-third session of the Bureau in July, had been made available to the Committee as WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.12. The Secretariat recalled that the

draft revisions had been prepared in full consultation with all three advisory bodies. The draft revisions, included a draft unified set of criteria with minimal change to the actual text of the criteria as a way of improving the presentation and clarity of Section I of the *Guidelines* and to better reflect what has been described as the nature/culture continuum expressed at many World Heritage properties around the world.

XIII.5 The Secretariat recalled that at its twenty-third session, the Bureau welcomed the generous invitation by the Observer of the United Kingdom to host an international expert meeting on the *Operational Guidelines*. The meeting will take place in Canterbury in the United Kingdom from 10-14 April 2000.

XIII.6 The Representative of ICOMOS noted the considerable importance of the discussions on the proposed unified set of criteria and on interpretations of the “test of authenticity”. He noted that the meeting to be held in Zimbabwe in May 2000 would examine the application of the “test of authenticity” and “conditions of integrity” for Africa. He informed the Committee that the ICOMOS General Assembly held in Mexico in October 1999 had approved the *Nara Document on Authenticity* and that it therefore became part of the corpus of reference texts of ICOMOS. He emphasized the importance of the *Nara Document* in recognising, in differing regional contexts, the diversity of cultural heritage and human development. He referred to the constructive discussions that are linking culture and nature, and that had recognised cultural landscapes. Finally, he highlighted the need to recognise authenticity in the context of heritage of spiritual value.

XIII.7 The Observer of the United Kingdom informed the Committee of the aims, objectives and expected outcomes of the Expert Meeting on the *Operational Guidelines* to be held in Canterbury in 2000. He noted that representatives, including States Parties and site managers, from all regions would be invited. He indicated that the meeting would not re-write the *Operational Guidelines* but instead work on proposals to reorganise them to ensure a more user-friendly version. He thanked the Committee for having provided funds, additional to those contributed by the United Kingdom, for the meeting.

XIII.8 The Representative of ICCROM provided complementary comments to those of ICOMOS. He informed the Committee that ICCROM and ICOMOS had prepared a joint paper on the subject that they would provide to the Secretariat. He commented that it was important that a unified set of criteria did not blur the distinction between integrity and authenticity.

XIII.9 In recalling the resolution of the twelfth General Assembly of States Parties, the Observer of France commented that a unified set of criteria could contribute to ensuring a more representative World Heritage List. He expressed his concern that the Committee continued to delay the unification of the criteria and called for immediate action in this respect.

XIII.10 IUCN expressed their strong agreement with the Delegate of France stating that it was time for action by bringing the natural and cultural criteria into a continuum of criteria for World Heritage. IUCN stated that they had consulted widely within its constituency and that there is consistent support for the change to the criteria and that a decision is keenly awaited. IUCN urged that the Canterbury meeting be encouraged to work towards a draft which accommodates the integration of the criteria and endeavour to include both the conditions of integrity and the test of authenticity. The Observer of France underlined the confusion that the draft decision II.3 might encourage. With such a procedure, the Committee would confer a ‘decisional’ character to the evaluations of the advisory bodies that only the Bureau session in June disposes. The Delegate of Morocco noted that the revision of the *Operational Guidelines* is not in itself negative. What is of concern is more the rhythm of the revisions.

He added that it would be advantageous to have a revised text that could be valid for the next twenty years. The importance of a concertation between the different working groups created by the Committee was emphasized.

XIII.11 The Delegate of Zimbabwe referred to the Amsterdam meeting as a milestone and expressed his agreement with the statements made by France and IUCN saying that it was time to act on the proposal to unify the criteria.

XIII.12 The Committee decided to refer the subject of a unified set of criteria to the Expert Meeting to be held in Canterbury, United Kingdom for review.

B. REVISION TO PARAGRAPH 65 OF THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

XIII.13 The Committee considered the revision to paragraph 65 of the Operational Guidelines as recommended by the Bureau at its twenty-third session. The Committee recalled that discussions took place at the twenty-second session of the Committee and the twenty-third session of the Bureau on the proposal made by the Delegate of Italy, and that a working group chaired by Professor Francionni had reviewed the implications of paragraph 65 during the twenty-third session of the World Heritage Bureau, and indicated that the evaluations of nominations, prepared by the advisory bodies, be transmitted to the States Parties concerned at the same time as they are transmitted to the members of the Committee.

XIII.14 The Observer of France stated that the proposed revision might seem to add transparency but as a matter of fact it would give the advisory bodies a role of a decision-maker which does not belong to them but to the World Heritage Bureau and Committee. He noted, as did many delegates, and also the advisory bodies, that the revision could create confusion about the nomination and evaluation procedures. It was also observed that the Operational Guidelines had been revised frequently over the past years and that it would be advisable that this revision be considered in the context of the overall revision of the Operational Guidelines. Two delegates reminded the Committee that the intention of the proposed revision was to enhance equity between the Committee members and those States Parties who are not members of the World Heritage Committee.

XIII.15 The Committee decided to defer the examination of the proposed revision. It requested that this matter be considered in the framework of the meeting on the Operational Guidelines that will take place in the United Kingdom in April 2000.

C. REVISION TO PARAGRAPH 68 OF THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

XIII.16 The Committee recalled that the Bureau at its twenty-third session considered a proposal made by the Delegate of Australia that reactive state of conservation reports also be transmitted to the States Parties concerned prior to the Bureau and Committee sessions. The Bureau had subsequently transmitted to the Committee a proposed revision to paragraph 68 of the Operational Guidelines.

XIII.17 The Committee decided to defer the examination of the proposed revision. It requested that this matter be considered in the framework of the meeting on the Operational Guidelines that will take place in the United Kingdom in April 2000.

D. REVISION TO PARAGRAPHS 113-116 OF THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

XIII.18 The Bureau at its twenty-third session had requested the Secretariat to propose specific revisions to paragraphs 113-116 related to priorities in providing International Assistance to

States Parties. The Secretariat, however, proposed to the Committee that these revisions be prepared on the basis of the outcome of the evaluation of International Assistance that was currently being undertaken.

XIII.19 The Delegate of Belgium stated that a revision was necessary, as the present Guidelines do not exactly reflect the priorities set out in the resolution adopted by the twelfth General Assembly of States Parties. The Observer of Japan made reference to the statement of the former Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee at the twelfth General Assembly that, in the absence of clear guidelines, he had to evaluate requests for international assistance on the basis of *first come, first served*. Instead, the international assistance should have a linkage with the Global Strategy and thus priority should be given to least developed countries as well as low income countries and especially those that are under-represented on the World Heritage List. In supporting the Observer of Japan, the Delegate of Benin recalled that the Bureau at its twenty-third session had encountered the situation whereby there were insufficient funds for international assistance requests and therefore precise priorities should be defined and adhered to when examining these requests. The Committee expressed its gratitude that the Government of Japan had made a voluntary contribution of US\$ 300,000 in order to respond in a timely fashion to requests for preparatory assistance that were fully justified and responded to the objectives of the Global Strategy.

XIII.20 The Committee decided to refer this matter to the Strategic Task Force chaired by Canada for further consideration. It requested that this be done on the basis of the concerns expressed during the discussions by the Bureau at its twenty-third session, the deliberations at the twenty-third session of the Committee, the outcomes of the evaluation of International Assistance and in line with the resolution adopted by the twelfth General Assembly of States Parties.

XIV. EXAMINATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND AND APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET FOR 2000 AND PRESENTATION OF A PROVISIONAL BUDGET FOR 2001

XIV.1 The Chairperson presented the following documents concerning the agenda item 14 :

- WHC-99/CONF.209/18, which presents the World Heritage Fund, the income and forecasts, the work plan and the proposed budget. This document also presents the justification of the annual requirements of the advisory bodies as well as the accounts of the World Heritage Fund as at 31 December 1998, the detailed financial statement as at 31 December 1998 and the accounts and income of the World Heritage Fund as at 30 September 1999.
- WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.18, which presents the activity reports of ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM undertaken since the twenty-second session of the World Heritage Committee.

The Chairperson then reminded the Committee of the decisions that should be taken during this session :

- Firstly, to take note of the approved accounts of the World Heritage Fund as at 31 December 1998 and of provisional accounts for 1999 as at 31 October 1999.
- Adopt the budgetary ceiling for 2000, allocate budgetary amounts to the different chapters in accordance with the approved ceiling and the decisions of the Committee during its discussions on other items of the agenda,
- Examine and approve the provisional budget for 2001,

- Finally, decide upon the situation of the World Heritage Fund and compulsory and voluntary contributions, notably the minimum ceiling and the implementation of resources to improve the availability of financial resources for inscribed sites, and to formalise co-operation with international and regional finance development institutions.

XIV.2 The Deputy Director of the Centre then presented in the following order :

- The available resources for the implementation of the Convention (States Parties' contributions, Regular Programme Budget, extrabudgetary funds, staff costs of the World Heritage Centre), as well as the state of approved accounts of the World Heritage Fund as of 31 October 1999,
- The situation of the World Heritage Centre as at 31 October 1999,
- The budget proposal for 2000 and provisional budget for 2001.

XIV.3 After several questions concerning the Reserve Fund and its provision, the total budget for the World Heritage Fund including funds allocated to promotional activities was approved. This amounted to five million one hundred and fifty six thousand United States dollars (US\$ 5,156,000). The provisional budget for the year 2001 was fixed at four million eight hundred and sixty-three thousand United States dollars (US\$ 4,863,000). The approved Emergency Reserve Fund for 2000 is six hundred thousand United States dollars (US\$ 600,000).

XIV.4 The resource situation of the World Heritage Centre was also discussed by the Committee.

As at 31 October 1999, the number of established posts at the Centre was twenty-two, of which eleven are professional posts. Three associate expert posts at the Centre financed by Austria, Germany and Japan. Another associate expert post (Italy) joined the Centre on 8 November 1999.

Income other than the World Heritage Fund available to the World Heritage Centre for 2000 can be estimated as follows :

- US\$ 2,463,300 from the Regular Programme of UNESCO of which US\$ 1, 928, 850 for staff costs,
- US\$ 3,847,350 extrabudgetary funds from Finland, France, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the United Nations Foundation, as well as other States Parties and finance and development institutions.

The Committee accepted that these funds could be utilised by the Centre in accordance with the objectives specified by the donors until such time as simplified procedures for the approval of these funds be established by the Committee.

XIV.5 The Committee noted that, in spite of a substantial increase in the annual budget of the Fund, the average available amount per site has not varied since 1989 and is approximately US\$ 5,000. This clearly demonstrates the lack of resources available from the World Heritage Fund in the face of increasing needs. Following the proposal made by the Secretariat, the Committee requested the Centre to prepare a proposal for the formalisation of co-operation with international funding institutes for development to be studied by the Task Force chaired by Canada before its submission to the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau.

XIV.6 An in-depth discussion on the different components of the budget followed this presentation. The Committee's attention particularly drawn to the amounts **proposed** for 2000 as follows :

- the development of a Management Information System (US\$ 125,000 from Chapter I),
- Coordination with other Conventions and Programmes (US\$ 45,000 under Chapter I),
- The amounts proposed for the Advisory Bodies under Chapter II (US\$ 435,000 for ICOMOS, \$US 325,000 for IUCN) and in Chapter III for ICCROM (\$US 127,325),
- Support to the Arab States for the submission of periodic reports in 2000 (\$US 140,000) under Chapter IV.

XIV.7 Many delegates intervened to propose that the advisory bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM) be given the amounts that they had asked and that the budgets reserved for them should not be cut any more. The delegates recalled the considerable increase of nominations during the last years and noted that as the advisory bodies were asked to render more services, they should be paid for that too. The Delegate of Canada wished to recall that this integral approval of the budgets submitted by ICOMOS and IUCN should be considered as an exception to the rule. Furthermore, the Delegate requested that in the future the advisory bodies present their annual budgets and plans according to an agreed upon format.

XIV.8 There was a long discussion about the amount needed for development of an Information Management System. Some delegates noted that the proposed sum of US\$ 125,000 was not justified. Other delegates and the Observer of the United States of America recalled the specific recommendation made by the External Auditor on the urgent need to improve the Information Management System and supported the proposal of the Secretariat.

XIV.9 The Delegate of Canada expressed her frustration about the way the budget was currently being discussed and approved. The Delegate proposed that a financial sub-committee be created. This body could have a proper and detailed discussion on the different aspects of the budget, including the budget proposal made by the advisory bodies. Many delegates expressed the same concern and supported the idea of creating a financial sub-committee. The Task Force, chaired by Canada, was asked to reflect on this issue.

XIV.10 The Delegate of Hungary proposed that a separate budget line be created for the Eastern and Central European countries as well as for the countries of Central Asia. This would be in line with UNESCO practice where these countries are addressed as a separate electoral group II. The Delegate of Hungary felt obliged to speak on behalf of these forty-eight countries of which twenty-six fulfil the criteria of least developed countries and are facing serious economical problems. He stated that less financial support should be given to wealthy western European and North American countries, in favour of other regional groups.

XIV.11 The Delegation of the Republic of Korea expressed his concern about the insufficient attention paid to the needs of Asian countries that represent roughly two-thirds of the world population and are under-represented on the World Heritage List. He proposed that these countries be given sufficient financial support under the budget Chapter IV.

XIV.12 The discussions and responses to questions raised by Committee members and observers led to the following decisions of the Committee for the Chapters and components of the budget herebelow :

Chapter I – Implementation of the Convention

- The continuation of the evaluation of International Assistance for an amount of US\$ 40,000 of which the

use is submitted to the decision of the next Bureau based on the proposal for approval of an impact study to be presented by the Secretariat.

- An amount of US\$ 114,000 was approved for the development of a Management Information System instead of the initial US\$ 125,000, the remaining amount be covered by the Regular Budget of the Centre. It was agreed that the proposals should be subject to independent evaluation and the Observer of the United Kingdom offered the services of English Heritage for this purpose.
- The amount proposed for coordination with other Conventions and Programmes was reduced to US\$ 25,000.

The amount approved for Chapter I amounts to US\$ 264,000.

Chapter II – Establishment of the World Heritage List

- A special line is created under the Global Strategy for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe with an allocation of US\$ 20,000.
- The sum allocated to ICOMOS for thematic studies amounts to US\$ 40,000.
- The budgets of the advisory bodies (ICOMOS and IUCN) are approved as submitted (US\$ 495,000 for ICOMOS and US\$ 355,000 for IUCN).
- The budget line « other institutions and individuals » was reduced to US\$ 20,000.

The sum approved for Chapter II amounts to US\$ 1,148,000.

Chapter III – Technical Implementation of the Convention

In the discussion of this Chapter, the Director-General of ICCROM made reference to the proposal for a global training strategy (WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.22 – Progress Report on the Development of a Global Training Strategy for Cultural Heritage in the Framework of the World Heritage Convention). He regretted that given time constraints ICCROM was unable to present the report to the Committee. He then presented the details of his proposed plan of co-operation for 2000. In doing so, the Director-General explained that he was not seeking the financial support for the functioning of ICCROM but rather to cover support costs in the form of external consultants.

- The amount foreseen for ICCROM for training was adjusted in accordance with the decisions of the Committee and amounts to US\$ 192,635 including ICCROM management costs and coordination operations for World Heritage as requested by ICCROM. In this respect, the Director of the World Heritage Centre recalled that ICCROM was an intergovernmental organisation receiving contributions from its Member States and that consequently ICCROM should easily be able to cover its management costs within the framework of its budget for co-operation with the Centre.

- The amount foreseen for on-site promotional activities was reduced by US\$ 20,000 in favour of the budgetary line for the development of an Information Management System (Chapter I).

The other budgetary lines were approved.

The sum approved for Chapter III amounts to US\$ 2,630,000.

Chapter IV – Reactive Monitoring and Submission of Periodic Reports

For reactive monitoring, it was decided to add a special budgetary line for state of conservation monitoring activities for Kakadu National Park (Australia) by ICSU for an amount of US\$ 61,000. The Delegate of Australia noted that this allocation flowed from the decision of the recent extraordinary session of the Committee and that the State Party was concerned at delays in carrying out this work.

The distribution of allocated funds for support to States Parties for the submission of periodic reports was discussed at length and revised as shown in the budget table.

The sum approved under Chapter IV amounts US\$ 622,000.

Chapter V – Documentation, Information and Education

The amount for this Chapter was approved without any modifications.

The following table provides details of the approved budget by Chapter and component.

Approved budget for 2000 and provisional budget for 2001

Chapters and components	Approved budget 1999	Approved Budget 2000	Provisional Budget 2001
Chapter I – Implementation of the Convention			
Participation at statutory meetings	70 000	60 000	70 000
Extraordinary session of the WHC	30 000		
Working group for WH strategic planning	0	10 000	10 000
Working group on revision of Operational Guidelines	0	15 000	0
Financial, Management Reviews and Consultative Group	0	0	0
Development of an Information Management System	60 000	114 000	100 000
Cartography (NB : financed by EXB)	0	0	0
Evaluation of International Assistance	40 000	40 000	0
Coordination with other Conventions and Programmes etc...	25 000	25 000	45 000
Sub-total Chapter I	225 000	264 000	225 000
Chapter II – Establishment of the World Heritage List			
Global Strategy	213 000	278 000	250 000
<i>Africa</i>	<i>11 000</i>	<i>40 000</i>	
<i>Arab States</i>	<i>38 000</i>	<i>8 000</i>	
<i>Asia, including Central Asia*</i>	<i>21 000</i>	<i>50 000</i>	
<i>Pacific</i>	<i>30 000</i>	<i>50 000</i>	
<i>Europe & North America</i>	<i>30 000</i>	<i>10 000</i>	
<i>Eastern and Central Europe</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>20 000</i>	
<i>Latin America and the Caribbean</i>	<i>45 000</i>	<i>45 000</i>	
Thematic studies:			
ICOMOS	23 000	40 000	
IUCN	15 000	15 000	
Advisory services:			
ICOMOS	407 000	495 000	420 000
IUCN	325 000	355 000	300 000
Others	30 000	20 000	35 000
Sub-total Advisory Services :	762 000	870 000	755 000
Sub-total Chapter II	975 000	1 148 000	1 005 000
Chapter III – Technical Implementation of the Convention			
Preparatory Assistance	300 000	325 000	350 000
Technical Co-operation	1 245 000	1 245 000	1 250 000
<i>Including IUCN/WHC Africa 2002 Nature</i>		<i>60 000</i>	
Training	981 000	980 000	985 000
<i>Including ICCROM</i>	<i>241 000</i>	<i>192 635</i>	
<i>Including IUCN</i>	<i>30 000</i>	<i>30 000</i>	
<i>Including training activities for the preparation of monitoring reports</i>	<i>50 000</i>		
<i>Africa 2009</i>		<i>80 000</i>	
Support to on-site promotional activities	100 000	80 000	100 000
Sub-total Chapter III	2 626 000	2 630 000	2 685 000

Chapters and components	Approved budget 1999	Approved Budget 2000	Provisional Budget 2001
Chapter IV – Monitoring the state of conservation of sites			
Reactive Monitoring	195 000	262 500	200 000
<i>Including ICOMOS</i>	<i>60 000</i>	<i>60 000</i>	
<i>Including IUCN</i>	<i>45 000</i>	<i>56 500</i>	
<i>Including ICSU (monitoring of Kakadu National Park)</i>		<i>61 000</i>	
Support to States Parties for the submission of Periodic Reports:			
Methodology development	15 000	22 500	20 000
Support to States Parties of a Region selected by the Committee (Article 29)			
Technical Coordination for Submission	0	35 000	35 000
Africa	60 000	77 000	130 000
Arab States	45 000	100 000	40 000
Asia and Pacific	60 000	55 000	90 000
Europe and North America	10 000	15 000	20 000
Eastern and Central Europe	30 000	20 000	20 000
Latin America and the Caribbean	50 000	35 000	40 000
Sub-total support for periodic reporting	255 000	337 000	375 000
Sub-total Chapter IV	465 000	622 000	595 000
Chapter V – Documentation, Information and Education			
Documentation	35 000	38 000	40 000
Information material	155 000	140 000	150 000
Production and distribution of an explanatory note on the Implementation of Article 29 of the Convention	20 000	0	0
Internet and WHIN	75 000	70 000	75 000
Media and Publishers	10 000	8 000	8 000
Education	90 000	80 000	80 000
Sub-total Chapter V	385 000	336 000	353 000
TOTAL ANNUAL BUDGET OF WHF	4 676 000	5 000 000	4 863 000
Emergency Reserve Fund	600 000	600 000	600 000
Promotional Activities and services for these activities	150 000	156 000	150 000
GRAND TOTAL	5 426 000	5 756 000	5 613 000

XV. REQUESTS FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

XV.1 The Bureau met during the twenty-third session of the Committee after the budget for Technical Assistance of year 2000 under Chapter III was approved, to take decisions or recommend decisions to the Committee concerning international assistance requests.

XV.2 The attention of the Committee and Bureau was drawn to the documents WHC-99/CONF.209/6, WHC-99/CONF.209/19 and WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.10 concerning International Assistance Requests. The Secretariat pointed out the difficulties it faced in preparing the working document, due to the ever increasing number of international assistance requests submitted, in particular those received **after the prescribed deadline of 1 September 1999** indicated in paragraph 112 of the *Operational Guidelines*. The Secretariat had counted a total of 55 international assistance requests which were considered by the World Heritage Centre Regional Desks to have sufficient information for examination and decision by the Committee, Bureau or Chairperson, including one submitted on 2 December 1999. However, the Secretariat stated that there were numerous other requests which are pending due to insufficient information or on-going consultation with the concerned States Parties.

XV.3 The Secretariat and the advisory bodies underscored the very difficult task of processing and evaluating requests for presentation to the Committee and Bureau, when requests were prepared and submitted at the very last minute. ICCROM, drawing the attention of the Committee to the fact that no training requests transmitted to ICCROM for evaluation had been received before the prescribed deadline, underlined the importance of adequate evaluation for ensuring a wide sharing of benefits. The Delegate of Belgium, appreciating the increasing workload and time constraints faced by the Committee, Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre, stressed the importance of having sufficient time to the study the detailed working documents. In order to allow sufficient time for the Secretariat, Advisory Bodies, and Committee to adequately examine individual requests, and in view of the limited funds available under the World Heritage Fund technical assistance budget, the Committee adopted the following:

“The Committee urged States Parties to respect the deadline for submission of international assistance requests, as indicated in paragraph 112 of the *Operational Guidelines*, to ensure that the Secretariat, Advisory Bodies, and Committee have adequate time to evaluate and examine requests. Taking note of the growing number of international requests submitted by States Parties and the increasing amounts being requested, the Committee encouraged States Parties, to the extent possible, to plan activities well in advance and in close co-operation with the Advisory Bodies and the Secretariat, in order to plan projects which have a “catalytic effect” and are likely to generate contributions from other sources than the World Heritage Fund, per paragraph 113 of the *Operational Guidelines*.”

XV.4 The Secretariat recalled the Committee’s past decisions concerning the allocation of international assistance between cultural and natural heritage. Upon examination of 55 requests, the Bureau approved 20 requests for a total amount of US\$ 582,700, the Committee approved 15 requests for a total amount of US\$ 744,348, and the Committee took note of 18 requests to be approved by the Chairperson for a total amount of US\$ 298,229, and two requests to be approved by the Director of the World Heritage Centre for a total amount of US\$ 10,000.

1. International Assistance for Natural Heritage

Twelve requests for international assistance for natural heritage were presented in Document WHC-99/CONF.209/19. The Committee noted that the following three requests for a total amount of US\$ 60,000 had been submitted for examination and approval by the Chairperson for Natural Heritage.

1.AFRICA(c).II GABON Training assistance
Workshop on implementation of the World Heritage Convention, preparation of Tentative List & Nomination of natural properties
US\$ 20,000 requested US\$ 20,000 recommended for approval

1.ASIA(d).II REGIONAL (NEPAL) Training assistance
Support for natural World Heritage site managers from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka participants at South Asian Forum on Protected Area Management
US\$ 20,000 requested US\$ 20,000 recommended for approval

1.LATIN(c).III COSTA RICA Training assistance
CATIE training course for Latin American Protected Area managers
US\$ 20,000 requested US\$ 20,000 recommended for approval

The Committee took note that the following eight requests for international assistance for natural heritage had been approved by the Bureau for a total of US\$ 265,700.

1.AFRICA(a).I KENYA Preparatory assistance
Preparation of nomination for «Great Rift Valley Lakes System» incorporating Lake Nakuru and the Naivasha National Park and Lake Bogoria National Reserve
US\$ 30,000 requested US\$ 30,000 approved

The Committee noted that the amount approved is conditional to the State Party providing a detailed explanation on the potential cultural heritage values of the area being considered for nomination, to be reviewed by ICOMOS.

1.AFRICA(b).I NIGER Emergency assistance
Emergency rehabilitation plan for Air & Tenere Natural Reserves
US\$ 75,000 requested US\$ 75,000 approved

The Bureau approved the amount of US\$ 75,000 requesting the World Heritage Centre to explore obtaining cost savings in the purchase and delivery of the four-wheel drive vehicle. The Bureau invited the State Party to include information on the progress made in implementing all projects financed by the World Heritage Fund in the report on the state of conservation on this site included in the List of World Heritage in Danger to be submitted to the twenty-fourth session of the Committee in 2000 (Chapter X, paragraph 10).

1.AFRICA(c).I TANZANIA Training assistance
Three fellowships for African specialists in protected area / wildlife management for the academic year 2000-2001
US\$ 30,000 requested US\$ 30,000 approved

The Observer of Germany noted that assistance from the World Heritage Fund should not be continuous over a period of decades or a long period of time, but should ideally be utilized in a catalytic manner, as “seed money”. He suggested that the Committee may wish to request the State Party to submit an evaluation of the activity which had continued over many years with the assistance of the World Heritage Fund, and moreover to urge the State Party to seek financial support from other sources than the World Heritage Fund. The Delegate of Zimbabwe underlined that this activity benefited the African region as a whole and not only to the State Party of Tanzania. The Bureau

approved US\$ 30,000, requesting the World Heritage Centre to report to its twenty-fourth extraordinary session, any cost savings and other benefits accrued through the implementation of this fellowship project through the UNESCO Fellowship Unit.

1.AFRICA(d).I. TANZANIA Technical Co-operation
 Workshop for strengthening research and monitoring capacity for natural world heritage sites in Tanzania
US\$ 30,000 requested US\$ 30,000 approved
 The Bureau recommended that the State Party closely involve its GEF focal points in the planning and organization of the workshop and to ensure that the proposal developed as an outcome of the workshop meet GEF financing criteria.

1.ARAB(a).I MOROCCO Preparatory assistance
 Nomination of Atlas Mountain Nature Reserve
US\$ 15,000 requested US\$ 15,000 approved
 This request for US\$ 15,000, normally eligible for approval by the Chairperson, was approved by the Bureau in accordance with paragraph 110(a) of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*.

1.ASIA(d).I JAPAN Technical Co-operation
 Support to 7 participants from China (1), Indonesia (2), India (1), Nepal (1) and Vietnam (1) to attend the Kagoshima International Conference on World Natural Heritage, Kagoshima and Yakushima Island World Heritage site, 18-22 May 2000
US\$ 25,700 requested US\$ 25,700 approved

1.LATIN(c).I. BRAZIL Training assistance
 Implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela
US\$ 30,000 requested US\$ 30,000 approved
 The Bureau authorized the Chairperson to approve the release of funds subject to the receipt of the revised proposal incorporating all comments and suggestions made by IUCN

1.LATIN(c).II. VENEZUELA Training assistance
 Workshop for stakeholders concerned with the conservation of Canaima National Park
US\$ 30,000 approved

The Bureau authorized the Chairperson to approve the release of funds subject to the receipt of the revised proposal incorporating all comments and suggestions made by IUCN.

The Committee examined and approved the following request for international assistance for natural heritage for a total of US\$ 50,000, which had been recommended by the Bureau:

1.AFRICA(d).II. COTE D'IVOIRE Technical Co-operation
 Strengthening protection of Comoe National Park
US\$ 59,500 requested US\$ 50,000 approved
 The Committee approved a sum of US\$ 50,000 of the US\$ 59,500 requested by the State Party and requested the World Heritage Centre and the State Party to co-operate to achieve cost-savings in the budget lines concerned with the purchase of vehicles and computers and printers. The Committee invited the State Party to provide a detailed progress report on the implementation of the project to the twenty-fourth session of the Committee in 2000.

XV.5 The Chairperson expressed some reservations towards approving large amounts of international assistance conditional to the concerned States Parties submitting revised budgets and workplans, to be approved by him later. The Delegate of Australia stated that it was reasonable that requests be approved by the Chairperson once full information is received from States Parties. IUCN informed the Bureau and Committee that for some cases, inquiries and clarifications requested by IUCN were the cause for delay. However, IUCN further stated that for the natural heritage requests examined by the Committee and Bureau as presented in WHC-99/CONF.209/19, it was confident that the requests were reasonable requests, although finetuning may be necessary for some.

XV.6 The requests for international assistance for natural heritage approved by the Committee and Bureau are listed below according to region and type of assistance. (amounts in US dollars).

	Allocation for natural heritage for 2000	Africa	Arab States	Asia & Pacific	Latin America & Caribbean
(a) Preparatory assistance	N/A	30,000	15,000		
(b) Emergency assistance	N/A	75,000			
(c) Training assistance	At least 490,000	30,000			30,000 30,000
(d) Technical Co-operation	At least 415,000	30,000 50,000		25,700	
Subtotal		215,000	15,000	25,700	60,000

2. International Assistance for Mixed Heritage

Three requests for international assistance for mixed heritage were presented in Document WHC-99/CONF.209/19. The Committee noted that the following two requests for a total amount of US\$ 34,500 had been submitted for examination and approval by the Chairperson for mixed heritage:

2.ARAB(a).I EGYPT Preparatory assistance
 Nomination of St. Catherine Area and South Sinai, as mixed (natural and cultural landscape) site
US\$ 19,500 requested US\$ 19,500 recommended for approval

The Committee took note that the State Party was to be invited to withdraw its 1999 nomination of St. Catherine and to re-submit a nomination of St. Catherine and south Sinai as a mixed property before 1 July 2000 for examination by the Bureau and Committee in 2001. The Observer from Germany noted that in order to mitigate threats caused by development pressure, an impact analysis was desirable and that ways and means to mitigate threats should be examined for the long-term conservation of this important site.

2.LATIN(a).I GUATEMALA Preparatory assistance
Elaboration of Tentative List for cultural & natural heritage
US\$ 15,000 requested US\$ 15,000 recommended for approval

The Committee took note that the Bureau had approved the following request for international assistance for mixed heritage for a total of US\$ 30,000.

2.PACIFIC(a).I PAPUA NEW GUINEA Preparatory assistance

Preparation of the Bobongara nomination
US\$ 31,123 requested US\$ 30,000 approved
The Bureau approved US\$ 30,000 subject to the State Party paying its dues to the World Heritage Fund in 1998 and 1999. The Bureau requested the State Party to give consideration for preparing the nomination of Bobongara as a mixed site or as a cultural site, taking into consideration the comments from the Advisory Bodies. The Bureau welcomed the request submitted by the State Party, which would enhance the implementation of the Global Strategy. The Delegate of Zimbabwe, noting that many States Parties who were in arrears were also States Parties in need of international assistance, recalled the discussion during the 12th General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention whereby developed States Parties were called upon to assist Least Developed Countries and Low-Income Countries in paying arrears. The Delegate of Australia informed the Bureau that his Government would try to support Papua New Guinea in paying its dues (US\$ 488) to the World Heritage Fund.

The request for international assistance for mixed heritage approved by the Bureau is listed below according to region and type of assistance (amount in US dollars).

	Allocation for mixed heritage for 2000	Asia & Pacific
(a) Preparatory assistance	N/A	30,000
Subtotal		30,000

3. International Assistance for Cultural Heritage

38 requests for international assistance for cultural heritage were presented in Document WHC-99/CONF.209/19, and two additional requests were submitted to the Bureau for examination and approval.

The Committee noted that the following thirteen requests for a total amount of US\$ 203,729 had been submitted for examination and approval by the Chairperson for cultural heritage:

3.AFRICA(a).I BOTSWANA Preparatory assistance
Tsolido nomination preparation
US\$ 19,094 requested US\$ 19,094 recommended for approval

3.AFRICA(a).IV KENYA Preparatory assistance
Preparation of the Lamu nomination dossier
US\$ 15,924 requested US\$ 15,924 recommended for approval

3.AFRICA(a).VI TOGO Preparatory assistance
Tentative List
US\$ 18,085 requested US\$ 18,085 recommended for approval

3.AFRICA(d).II TANZANIA Technical Co-operation
Radio calls & solar panels for the Ruins of Kilwa and Songo Mnara, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area
US\$ 19,426 requested approval recommended after further clarification is received

3.ASIA(a).I CHINA Preparatory assistance
Expert Meeting & preparation of group nomination of ancient canal towns of Jiangnan, China
US\$ 20,000 requested US\$ 20,000 recommended for approval

3.ASIA(a).III INDIA Preparatory assistance
Nomination of Padmanabhapuram Palace, Tamil Nadu
US\$ 15,000 requested US\$ 16,362 recommended for approval

3.ASIA(c).III NEPAL & NORWAY Training assistance
Tourism training workshop in Kathmandu Valley
US\$ 17,000 requested US\$ 17,000 recommended for approval

3.ASIA(d).I PAKISTAN Technical Co-operation
Research & documentation for enhancement of Master Plan of Shalamar Gardens
US\$ 10,000 requested US\$ 10,000 recommended for approval

3.ASIA.(e).I REPUBLIC of KOREA Promotional assistance
Publication of World Heritage Fortress Cities seminar background documentation
US\$ 10,000 requested US\$ 10,000 recommended for approval

3.LATIN(b).I GUATEMALA Emergency assistance
Rehabilitation of Quirigua
US\$ 32,248 requested US\$ 27,248 recommended for approval

3.LATIN(b).II GUATEMALA Emergency assistance
Clean up and preventive measures for Antigua Guatemala
US\$ 20,216 requested US\$ 20,216 recommended for approval

3.LATIN(c).I BRAZIL Training assistance
Evaluation of CECRE regional training programme
US\$ 14,800 requested US\$ 14,800 recommended for approval

3.LATIN(c).II DOMINICA Training assistance
Preparation of training course on cultural heritage
US\$ 15,000 requested US\$ 15,000 recommended for approval

The Committee took note that the Bureau had approved the following 11 requests for international assistance for cultural heritage for a total of US\$ 287,000.

3.AFRICA(a).II GAMBIA Preparatory assistance
Follow-up actions to ICOMOS recommendations for James Island & Albreda Juffure Santo Domingo Historic Zone
US\$ 30,000 requested US\$ 30,000 approved
The Bureau approved US\$ 30,000 for this activity, which is in line with the implementation of the Global Strategy and aims at the preparation of a nomination file in accordance with ICOMOS recommendations, subject to the State Party paying its dues to the World Heritage Fund.

3.AFRICA(a).III GUINEA Preparatory assistance
Establishment of a Tentative List of cultural and natural heritage sites
US\$ 30,000 requested US\$ 30,000 approved
The Bureau approved US\$ 30,000 for this activity, subject to the State Party paying its dues to the World Heritage Fund.

3.AFRICA(a).V TANZANIA Preparatory assistance
Preservation of Kondoa Irangi Rock Art Paintings
US\$ 30,000 requested US\$ 7,000 approved
The Bureau approved US\$ 7,000 to finance a mission by an international expert to address the issues raised by ICCROM (see WHC-99/CONF.209/19) and for the organization of an initial national seminar to identify stakeholders, create a task force, and to prepare project work plans.

3.AFRICA(d).I GHANA Technical Co-operation
Enhanced management for Forts & Castles of Ghana
US\$ 30,000 requested US\$ 30,000 approved
The Bureau approved US\$ 30,000 subject to the State Party paying its dues to the World Heritage Fund, requesting the World Heritage Centre to clarify the issues raised by ICCROM before drawing up a contract for ensuring successful implementation of the project.

3.ASIA(a).II DPR of KOREA Preparatory assistance
Finalization of Tentative List & Koguryo tomb nomination preparation
US\$ 30,000 requested US\$ 30,000 approved
The Bureau approved US\$ 30,000, requesting the State Party, World Heritage Centre, and the Advisory Bodies to closely cooperate in formulating the Tentative List and nomination dossier of the Koguryo Tombs, in organizing the study tour of the national experts.

3.ASIA(c).I CHINA Training assistance
Training course on using GIS for the preservation and management of Historic and Cultural sites in China
US\$ 30,000 requested US\$ 30,000 approved
The Bureau approved US\$ 30,000 subject to further clarification from the Chinese authorities on the points raised by ICCROM. The Bureau recommended that consideration be given to providing an opportunity to include regional participants to expand the benefits beyond those gained by the Chinese professionals. The Bureau finally requested the World Heritage Centre to closely monitor the implementation of this activity, in consultation with the Chinese authorities and ICCROM.

3.ASIA(c).IV REP KOREA Training assistance
International Fortress Cities management seminar
US\$ 25,000 requested US\$ 20,000 approved
The Bureau approved US\$ 20,000 as a contribution for the organization of the International Fortress Cities management seminar and to facilitate the participation of experts from developing States Parties, taking into due consideration the comments of ICCROM.

3.ASIA(c).V REGIONAL (Philippines & Indonesia) Training assistance
Request to supplement the South East Asian Global Strategy Meeting
US\$ 30,000 requested US\$ 30,000 approved
The Bureau recalled that US\$ 5,000 had been approved under the Global Strategy budget for organizing the South East Asian Global Strategy Meeting to identify and discuss themes such as archaeological sites in the region and cultural landscapes maintained by minorities inhabiting the highlands of mainland South East Asia and the forests and coastal enclaves of insular South East Asia (reference WHC-99/CONF.209/8). The Bureau approved US\$ 30,000 under training assistance to seek the balance required for the year 2000 for organizing this Global Strategy meeting in Toraja, Indonesia.

3.EUROPE(d).II LATVIATechnical Co-operation
Regional Seminar on authenticity & reconstruction work
US\$ 25,000 requested US\$ 25,000 approved
The Bureau noted that the request was endorsed by Lithuania, and other Eastern and Central European States Parties.

3.EUROPE(d).III LATVIATechnical Co-operation
Restoration of Reutern House interior, Old Riga
US\$ 25,000 requested US\$ 25,000 approved

3.LATIN(d).II CUBA Technical Co-operation
Consolidation & rehabilitation of cloister of Convent of Santa Clara, Old Havana
US\$ 30,000 requested US\$ 30,000 approved

The Committee examined and approved the following 14 requests for international assistance for cultural heritage for a total of US\$ 694,348, which had been recommended by the Bureau.

3.AFRICA(c).I REGIONAL Training assistance
AFRICA 2009
US\$ 80,000 requested US\$ 80,000 approved
The Committee approved US\$ 80,000 for this training activity in the sub-Saharan African region bearing in mind that the activity would be implemented by the World Heritage Centre, ICCROM and CRATerreEAG.

3.AFRICA(d).III ZIMBABWE Technical Co-operation
Implementation of a management plan for Khami Ruins
US\$ 50,300 requested US\$ 50,300 approved
The Committee approved US\$ 50,300 for this activity, requesting the National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe to support the cost of connectivity of Internet after the year 2000 and to submit to the twenty-fifth session of the Committee, a report on the conservation, monitoring and management activities carried out at Khami in 1999 and 2000.

3.ARAB(c).I SYRIA Training assistance
Seminar on cultural tourism, sustainable development and management of World Heritage sites
US\$ 58,000 requested US\$ 35,000 approved
ICCROM presented its evaluation of the request, which was received on 17 November 1999. Although ICCROM viewed the objectives and themes of the proposed seminar positively, ICCROM presented some reservations concerning the schedule, participants and amount of funds requested for the seminar. Upon review of documentation and discussion with the World Heritage Centre, ICCROM recommended approval of US\$ 35,000 subject to the State Party agreeing to the following points:

- (a) the structure of the seminar is improved to provide maximum impact;
- (b) concrete desired outputs are developed to ensure that the seminar will have relevance beyond the end of the meeting;
- (c) the proposed budget is reviewed to ensure that costs are realistic.

ICCROM extended its advisory services, if desired, to consult with the State Party to reformulate the programme as appropriate. The Committee approved US\$ 35,000, subject to the State Party reformulating the programme and budget in consultation with ICCROM.

3.ARAB(c).II TUNISIA Training assistance
Training and information international workshop for protecting Carthage
US\$ 50,000 requested US\$ 40,000 approved
ICCROM offered its full support for the excellent initiative proposed by the request. However, ICCROM noted that the request provided insufficient information concerning participants, resource persons, training plan, and budget. Therefore, ICCROM, while supporting the request in principle, recommended that the

request be referred back to the State Party for additional information. ICOMOS reiterated the comments of ICCROM. In light of the fact that the proposed activity would benefit the conservation of Carthage, underlined that ICOMOS should have been consulted in evaluating the request. The Committee referred the request, asking the State Party to undertake consultations with ICOMOS and ICCROM for reformulating the proposed activity. The Committee approved US\$ 40,000 subject to the State Party reformulating the proposal in close co-operation with the advisory bodies.

3.ARAB(d).I EGYPT Technical Co-operation

Rehabilitation of Islamic Cairo

US\$ 100,000 requested US\$ 80,000 approved

ICOMOS informed the Committee that the request was transmitted very late, posing difficulties in the evaluation of the request. However, in light of the threats facing Islamic Cairo, ICOMOS recommended approval to the suggestion by the Secretariat for a reduced amount of US\$ 80,000 to be approved by the Committee. ICCROM informed the Committee that it did not receive the request for evaluation, although it was indicated in the working document that it had been transmitted to ICCROM. The Chairperson expressed his concern over the large amount being requested, although he stated that he had strongly supported the first phase of this request in 1998 during the twenty-second session of the Committee. The Committee decided to approve US\$ 80,000, subject to the State Party providing further information on the details of the activities to the Advisory Bodies and approval of a revised budget by the Chairperson of the Committee.

3.ARAB(d).II LEBANON Technical Co-operation

Restoration works for the Monasteries of Ouadi Quadisha and Forest of the Cedars of God

US\$ 50,000 requested US\$ 35,000 approved

ICOMOS and ICCROM, upon evaluation of the request, recommended that the activity be phased over a period of two years. IUCN, noting that the request included an ecological research within the project, suggested that the item be further developed during the reformulation of the project, in consultation with IUCN and the Ministry for Environment of Lebanon-Protected Areas to better identify the natural values of the valley. Following the evaluation by IUCN, ICOMOS and ICCROM, the Committee approved US\$ 35,000 for the first phase of the activity proposed to take place in year 2000, requesting the State Party to consult IUCN in undertaking the ecological research, and to consult ICOMOS and ICCROM on the international experts to be engaged for this activity. The Committee recommended that the State Party submit a request for US\$ 15,000 for the second phase of the activity in year 2001.

3.ASIA(b).I VIETNAM Emergency assistance

Emergency assistance for Hue & Hoi An, following the floods of November 1999.

US\$ 100,000 requested US\$ 50,000 approved

The Committee recalled that it had already taken a decision to allocate US\$ 50,000 during the agenda item concerning the state of conservation reports. The Committee approved US\$ 50,000 to assist the State Party in the rehabilitation works of Hue and Hoi An and for the preparation of a comprehensive emergency rehabilitation programme including risk assessment and mitigation schemes.

3.ASIA(c).II LAOS Training assistance

Plain of Jars archaeological survey and documentation

US\$ 83,055 requested US\$ 30,000 approved

The Committee approved US\$ 30,000, requesting the State Party to revise the budget in co-operation with the UNESCO Bangkok Office, or to find co-financing from other extrabudgetary sources.

3.ASIA(c).VI UZBEKISTAN Training assistance Training Workshop in the Preparation of the World Heritage Nomination Files on Urban Heritage Sites

US\$ 41,000 requested US\$ 30,000 approved

The Secretariat informed the Committee that this request had been prepared by the State Party and the World Heritage Centre during the Committee session, and submitted on 2 December 1999. ICCROM and ICOMOS, who had received the request for evaluation at the last minute, noted that the activity could be viewed as a preparatory assistance request as the training was to prepare nomination forms for submission to the Committee. ICCROM noted that the training activity could be designed to benefit site managers for urban conservation, and with the exception of the documentation costs for the nomination dossier, found the budget for training to be well detailed and reasonable. Both ICOMOS and ICCROM recommended approval of US\$ 30,000 for the training activity. The Committee approved US\$ 30,000 for the activity.

XV.7 The Committee noted that the last-minute submissions of international assistance requests resulted in great constraints on the part of the Secretariat and the advisory bodies, and reiterated the need to respect deadlines in submitting requests. The Director of the World Heritage Centre underlined that this was an exceptional case, where a State Party from the under-represented Central Asian sub-region urgently required training for preparing the necessary supplementary documentation for incomplete nomination forms.

1.EUROPE(c).I HUNGARY Training assistance

ITUC training workshop for Central European Historic Cities managers

US\$ 33,840 requested US\$ 33,840 approved

1.EUROPE(d).I GEORGIA Technical Co-operation

Study and development of the Mtskheta Heritage and Tourism Master Plan

US\$ 35,000 requested US\$ 35,000 approved

The Committee approved US\$ 35,000, subject to the State Party paying its outstanding dues to the World Heritage Fund for 1998 and 1999.

3.EUROPE(d).IV TURKEY Technical Co-operation

Completion of documentation of the buildings and monuments within the city walls of the Historic Centre of Istanbul site

US\$ 58,376 requested US\$ 35,208 approved

The Committee noted that the State Party had agreed to the revised budget proposed by the World Heritage Centre, endorsed by ICOMOS and ICCROM. The Committee therefore approved US\$ 35,208.

3.LATIN(b).III MEXICO Emergency assistance

Repair and consolidate Monastery of Tochimilco, Puebla

US\$ 100,000 requested US\$ 100,000 approved

The Committee approved US\$ 100,000 for this activity, subject to the State Party submitting a detailed budget breakdown and clarification and identification on the tasks planned, to be approved by the Chairperson.

3.LATIN(d).I COLOMBIA Technical Co-operation

Integral conservation of Cloister of San Pedro Claver of Cartagena de Indias

US\$ 60,000 requested US\$ 60,000 approved

The Committee noted that a detailed budget breakdown of the activities to be carried out had been submitted to the Secretariat, which found the information to be sufficient and reasonable.

XV.8 The Delegate of Hungary suggested that assistance allocated to Eastern and Central Europe be separated from Western Europe and North America in the future, to indicate how Least Developed Countries or Low-Income Countries in the Eastern and Central European sub-region were being assisted. He

further emphasized that Central Asian States Parties should receive particular attention.

The requests for international assistance for cultural heritage approved by the Bureau and Committee are listed according to region and type of assistance (amounts in US dollars).

	Allocation for cultural heritage for 2000	Africa	Arab States	Asia & Pacific	Europe	Latin America & Caribbean
(a) Preparatory assistance	N/A	30,000 30,000 7,000		30,000		
(b) Emergency assistance	N/A			50,000		100,000
(c) Training assistance	Less than 490,000	80,000	35,000 40,000	30,000 30,000 20,000 30,000 30,000	33,840	
(d) Technical Co-operation	Less than 830,000	30,000 50,300	80,000 35,000		25,000 25,000 35,000 35,208	30,000 60,000
(e) Promotional						
Subtotal		227,300	190,000	220,000	154,048	190,000

XV.9 The Committee and the Bureau together approved US\$ 345,700 for natural heritage requests, US\$ 30,000 for a mixed heritage request, and US\$ 1,058,983 for cultural heritage requests, amounting to a total of US\$ 1,434,683. Should all recommended amounts for the requests under US\$ 20,000 for cultural heritage training be approved by the Chairperson, there will be virtually no funds remaining for this category of assistance for year 2000. Moreover, should all recommended amounts for preparatory assistance be approved by the Chairperson, there will remain approximately US\$ 29,035 under

this category of assistance, funded from the World Heritage Fund Chapter III.

XV.10 The table below (next page) indicates the amount of funds committed by the Bureau (underline) and the Committee (**bold**) during the twenty-third session of the Committee. The amounts to be submitted for approval by the Chairperson are indicated in *italics*.

Type of assistance	TOTAL	N A T U R A L		M I X E D	C U L T U R A L		Subtotal Approved (or to be approved)	
	Budget allocation for 2000	Budget allocation for 2000	Requests approved	Requests approved	Budget allocation for 2000	Requests approved		
Preparatory Assistance		N/A		<i>19,500</i>	N/A.	<i>19,094</i>	<i>123,965</i>	
				<i>15,000</i>		<i>15,924</i>		
						<i>18,085</i>		
						<i>20,000</i>		
						<i>16,362</i>		
				<u>30,000</u>	<u>30,000</u>		<u>30,000</u>	<u>172,000</u>
Subtotal	325,000		<u>15,000</u>			<u>30,000</u>		
					<i>34,500</i>		<i>89,465</i>	<i>123,965</i>
					<u>45,000</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>97,000</u>	<u>172,000</u>
Emergency Assistance		N/A			N/A	<i>27,248</i>	<i>47,464</i>	
						<i>20,216</i>		
				<u>75,000</u>		50,000	75,000	
Subtotal	600,000					100,000	150,000	
				<u>75,000</u>		<i>47,464</i>	<i>47,464</i>	
Training			<u>20,000</u>			<i>17,000</i>	<u>106,800</u>	
Subtotal			<u>75,000</u>			150,000	<u>225,000</u>	

	TOTAL	N A T U R A L		M I X E D	C U L T U R A L		Subtotal
Type of assistance	Budget allocation for 2000	Budget allocation for 2000	Requests approved	Requests approved	Budget allocation for 2000	Requests approved	Approved (or to be approved)
			20,000 20,000			14,800 15,000	
			30,000 30,000 30,000 30,000			30,000 30,000 20,000	<u>200,000</u>
		(including US\$30,000 for IUCN)			(including US\$ 192,635 for ICCROM)	80,000 35,000 40,000 30,000 30,000 33,840 107,635	356,475
		At least 490,000	60,000		Less than 490,000	46,800	106,800
Subtotal	980,000		<u>120,000</u>			436,475	<u>556,475</u>
Technical Cooperation						10,000	10,000
			30,000 25,700			25,000 25,000 30,000	<u>135,700</u>
			50,000			50,300 80,000 35,000 35,000 35,208 60,000	345,508
Subtotal	1,245,000	At least 415,000	<u>105,700</u>		Less than 830,000	<u>375,508</u>	481,208
Promotion		N/A			N/A	10,000	10,000
Subtotal	80,000					10,000	10,000
Total	3,230,000		60,000 <u>345,700</u>	34,500 <u>30,000</u>		203,729 <u>1,058,983</u>	298,229 <u>1,434,683</u>

XVI. DATE, PLACE AND PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

XVI.1 The Committee decided that the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau would be held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France, from 26 June to 1 July 2000. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda for the session (Annex X), including the item proposed by the Delegate of Greece (training of personnel).

XVI.2 Several delegates noted that the follow-up to the General Assembly should be included in the agenda of the Bureau and that the discussion on this agenda item should be given enough time and attention. The Delegate of Hungary informed the Committee about the Resolution Number 40 of the thirtieth session of the General Conference dealing with the proposed World Heritage Fellowship Programme. This item

should be included in the agenda of the Bureau meeting in order to prepare a report to be brought to the 160th session of the Executive Board. The Rapporteur asked for clarification whether this resolution was adopted by the Plenary session of the General Conference and whether this involved financial implications.

XVI.3 The Director of the Centre informed the Committee that, indeed, such a proposal was submitted for an amount of US\$ 200,000 and that the Programme Commission IV of the General Conference of UNESCO took note of it, but that no budget allocation was made available. As a number of fellowships programmes already exist, the Centre will study the question and will report back to the next session of the Bureau. The Delegate of Thailand noted that no funds were provided for such a programme and that the Committee should not make any commitment at this stage but look further into this matter. The Delegate of Hungary noted that the resolution was adopted by the Plenary Meeting of the General Conference and that the Secretariat has to do the follow-up work and that at this stage it

would not involve financial implications. He also recalled that this proposal was first presented at the session in Kyoto and is included as Annex II.4 of the report. The Delegate of Benin suggested that the Committee mandate the Chairperson to closely examine this question together with the Secretariat, and decide whether it should be studied by the Bureau as an agenda item, and that eventually an information document be prepared on the follow-up of the General Conference Resolution. This proposal was endorsed by the Chairperson and approved by the Committee. The Chairperson decided to request the Secretariat to review the situation and to report back to the next session of the Bureau.

XVII. DATE AND PLACE OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

XVII.1 The Chairperson recalled that the Australian Government had invited the World Heritage Committee for the year 2000 during the twentieth, twenty-first and twenty-second sessions of the Committee, as indicated in the respective reports. He also referred to official letters of invitation by the authorities of Australia and of Hungary to the Director-General of UNESCO on this matter.

XVII.2 The Delegate of Hungary announced that his Government is withdrawing its invitation to the Committee for the year 2000 and supports the Australian invitation, and that the Hungarian authorities wish to invite the World Heritage Committee for the year 2002, taking into consideration the invitation from Finland in 2001. His full statement is included in Annex XI.

XVII.3 The Delegate of Australia warmly thanked the Hungarian authorities for their understanding, and he reiterated that it would be an honour for his country host the Committee in Australia in November/December 2000. His full statement is included in Annex XII.

XVII.4 The Chairperson emphasised the immense work of the Secretariat, and suggested that two days between the extraordinary session of the Bureau and the twenty-fourth session of the Committee would allow the Secretariat to conclude its work on the Bureau and the preparations for the Committee session.

XVII.5 The Committee decided that the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau would be held in Cairns, Australia, from 23 to 24 November 2000, followed by the twenty-fourth session of the Committee, from 27 November to 2 December 2000.

XVII.6 The Delegate of Benin noted that the reports of the sessions could be much shorter and should just reflect decisions made by the Committee. The Rapporteur welcomed any suggestions to improve the quality of the reports. She noted that the actual reporting system was far from being perfect and indeed many improvements could be made in that respect. She recalled the ongoing process of improving the working methods of the Committee and its Bureau, which would bring modifications to the actual reporting system. This issue merits a thorough reflection and thus it could be referred to the task force chaired by the Delegate of Canada. The Delegate of Hungary, in highlighting his experience as Rapporteur, noted that the World Heritage Committee and Bureau reports are important documents, as they are the only ones that are available to the public. He stated that the Committee should be very careful and not introduce changes to the actual reporting system without having reflected upon it.

XVII.7 The Delegate of China informed the Committee that his Government wishes to host one of the sessions of the World Heritage Committee session, in 2003, taking into consideration the earlier invitations from Australia, Finland and Hungary. The Delegate of Benin wished that in the future there would be no misunderstandings concerning the invitations to host Committee meetings and that the Committee members would be reminded of the invitations at each of its sessions. The Chairperson thanked the Delegate of Benin for his remarks and noted that the order of invitation should be respected.

XVIII. OTHER BUSINESS

XVIII.1 The Chairperson informed the Bureau that an Algerian non-governmental organization, "Algerie 2000", volunteered to assist in the Periodic Reporting of the Maghreb region and that this NGO has experience, in particular in the restoration of the Kasbah of Algiers. The Committee expressed its appreciation by acclamation.

XVIII.2 The Observer of Uganda informed the Committee that the question of the involvement of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) should be reviewed, in particular with regard to the movable heritage, in particular with regard to moveable heritage and the serious problem of illicit traffic in Africa.

XVIII.3 The Observer of Poland underlined the importance of a pluridisciplinary approach in the safeguarding of heritage. The criteria of the World Heritage Convention should respect the wealth of regional diversity.

XIX. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

XIX.1 The Director of the Centre, Mr. Mounir Bouchenaki, on behalf of the Director-General of UNESCO, expressed his gratitude to the Moroccan authorities for having organized and provided the facilities for this session. He thanked Morocco for the generosity and co-operation accorded to all the participants, and all members of the Committee for their constructive participation in the debates. In thanking the Rapporteur, Mr. Bouchenaki commended her hard work on the Committee report and said that the Rapporteur worked with the Centre staff from day to day and into the night. Turning to the Chairperson, Mr. Bouchenaki said that Mr. Touri, a specialized and highly experienced archaeologist who has authored several books in the field of culture and archaeology, will make positive contribution to the Convention and to the work of the Centre throughout the year 2000. The Director thanked the support staff of Morocco, the Secretariat, the interpreters and translators for the hard work and well done. He concluded by assuring the Committee that the Secretariat will do its utmost to implement the decisions of the Committee in a timely and appropriate manner.

XIX.2 The Delegate of Australia, speaking on behalf of all participants, thanked the Government of Morocco for its generous hospitality and for the excellent facilities provided. He expressed the Committee's appreciation for the Moroccan culture and cultural traditions and commended the Government on the high standards of management and conservation of its national heritage that has contributed to the economy of Morocco.

XIX.3 The Delegate of Portugal expressed on the behalf of his delegation the sentiments, and his gratitude on the quality of welcome, generosity and the organization of the Committee session which he said contributed to the success of the meeting. He underscored the Royal message from His Majesty the King Mohammed VI and the attendance of several Moroccan Ministers at the opening of the Committee session, which he said demonstrated the great interest Morocco attaches to the work of the Committee. Referring to the cultural heritage preservation in

the country, the Delegate mentioned that Morocco is proceeding on the right direction.

XIX. 4 The Delegate of Benin joined Australia and Portugal in congratulating the Moroccan authorities. He termed the Committee report as excellent compared to previous years, timely produced and in two languages, and for this he thanked the Rapporteur, the Director and the members of the Secretariat.

XIX.5 Speaking on behalf of the African continent, the Delegate of the Republic of South Africa congratulated the Chairperson for the excellent manner in which he conducted the twenty-third session of the World Heritage Committee. She congratulated the Chairperson for his strategic skills, his commitment and his considerable efforts to conclude in a satisfactory way many difficult and sensitive matters discussed at the Committee session. The Delegate thanked the Director of the Centre and the members of the Secretariat. Referring to the committee report and its prompt production, the Delegate said that the World Heritage Centre was the only Centre able to utilize time economically. The Delegate concluded by thanking all the States Parties to the Convention for inscribing three South African sites in World Heritage List.

XIX. 6 The Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, Mr. Abdulaziz Touri thanked His Majesty the King Mohammed VI of Morocco for honouring this Committee session with a Royal message and the Director-General of UNESCO for his presence at the opening ceremony and for his inspiring speech. He expressed the Committee's appreciation for the work and dedication of the Director of the Centre, and all staff of the World Heritage Centre.

XIX. 7 The Chairperson thanked the Committee the Director of the Centre and staff and the Advisory Bodies for the confidence placed in him. He committed himself to furthering the work of the World Heritage Convention. Mr. Touri said that it was the spirit of cooperation, constructive attitude, and the trust bestowed upon him by the members of the Committee that contributed to the success of the meeting. He said that he enjoyed his Chairmanship that, he said, was due to enlightened participation by all Delegates. He said he believed the results of the session were attained, and felt that forty hours of was not enough to address in detail the points raised during discussions, but he raised hope for the future of the Convention.

XIX. 8 In considering that the Convention is 27 years old, Mr. Touri remarked that it was indeed clear that the Convention has evolved rapidly in response to several emerging needs that have characterized this Century. Encouraging greater synergy between the Convention and other regional and international instruments, providing opportunities of being involved in the workings of the Convention as well as ensuring the integrity of the rapidly increasing number of sites while promoting the contribution of the global heritage to the development of our nations, he said, would be the major challenge for the coming millenium. He said that it was indeed his great pleasure to have shared this session that marked an important period in the history of the Convention.

XIX. 9 Mr. Touri thanked the Rapporteur for the extensive report, the UNESCO Secretariat for its extremely hard work, as well as the Moroccan authorities and staff for contributing to the excellent preparation and development of the session. He thanked the interpreters, both from UNESCO and those provided by the host country for having facilitated simultaneous interpretation, and extended an invitation to all participants to remain in Morocco.

XIX. 10 The Chairperson declared the twenty-third session of the World Heritage Committee closed.

Royal Letter of His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco

*In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful
May the Blessings and the Prayers be upon the noblest of Messengers*

Ladies and Gentlemen

The Kingdom of Morocco is delighted to welcome you in one of its prestigious historical capitals, Marrakech, the hospitable city where abound so many splendors of the past, all telling of the notorious status of this city among the most celebrated antique cities of the world.

It is indeed a happy occasion for Us of which We avail Ourselves at the dawn of Our reign to share your ambitious and preoccupations regarding the civilizational heritage humanity has assembled as an expression of its genius, its values and its being worthy of the divine favor which makes of man the noblest of the creatures.

Twenty-seven years have elapsed already since the approval by UNESCO General Assembly in 1972 of the World Heritage Agreement. Much progress in dealing with cultural and natural heritage has been scored since then, due to the fact that the countries involved all agree on the same signifying reference, namely that the preservation of local and national heritage means, by common consensus, the preservation of a patrimony belonging to mankind.

This increasing international awareness shows in the yet-open world legacy list where are recorded the main natural and historical sites, whether they be full cities or unique buildings. This, indeed, is a token for the bright future of world civilization in its various aspects and manifestations. Future generations will find in this momentum enough material and inspiration for further improvements, as science and technology are ever in progress.

This meeting, the last of its kind in this Century, will certainly dwell on the new conditions brought about by the ongoing media revolution affecting human communication and sources of information. These conditions allow us to better conceive of our globe as the property of all, considering the means available to us to investigate its current state and the perils lying ahead. They likewise bring about a better apprehension of the Other, hence giving greater depth to the notion of world cultural and historical heritage of which co-habitation and tolerance are major components. In this new context, our duties are greater than ever before, in protecting this legacy in its various forms for the sake of future generations. We can certainly not claim ignorance regarding the multiple aspects of human civilization and the many existing dangers as a result of wars, poverty and illiteracy.

Before this awesome responsibility, it has become mandatory for us to coordinate international action to come to the rescue of our cultural heritage wherever it may be, our conviction being that a loss incurred anywhere is a loss to mankind. We also know that the limited means available to many of the countries of the south may make us lose many treasures and essential aspects of the wealth of our multiplicity.

In this respect, UNESCO is to be praised for the efforts exerted in working for a greater appreciation of this issue and for remarkable action undertaken for the protection of world heritage.

Ours, however, is to be a dynamic strategy to be integrated within our development plans; not an embalming of our heritage within a sacralized vision of the past. This calls for the establishing of strong links between the legacy of the past and the present creativity of modern man, for tomorrow's heritage is what we invent today. If it is mandatory, then, to make of man's heritage a common ground for an exchange between civilizations, generations and historical eras.

Ladies and Gentlemen

As eminent specialists, experts, scholars and technical officials in charge of cultural affairs in your countries, you are aware of the fact that the historical importance of a nation is due to its ancestral urban vestiges, intellectual products, scientific inventions and civilizational achievements. Just as we believe that men, wherever they may be, made some contribution or other in the edification and consolidation of universal culture, We also believe that the maturity of a nation is judged by its awareness of the importance of its heritage and the interest it shows in protecting and renovating it.

With this kind of awareness in mind, the Kingdom of Morocco has taken, since independence, an answerving path in the preservation of its legacy, not in the like of some countries which found it easier to call upon foreign experts, but by inviting Moroccan specialists, whenever available, to take charge of this task and to train, in the process and on the working sites, talented younger people. This, indeed, shows in the first initiative taken by Our Late Father, His Majesty King Hassan II -may God bless His soul - when He decided to restore the Fes Royal Palace, so damaged during the time of the French protectorate. He, therefore, brought together the then-available master craftsmen for the task as well as two thousand youngsters to be trained by them in the crafts of traditional building and decoration. In so doing, he not only rescued an important historical building, but he also ensured the training of many artisans, the very same artisans who contributed to the edification of the two celebrated monuments: Mohammed V Mausoleum and Hassan II Mosque, both representing the synthesis of Moroccan traditional architecture and decoration.

Furthermore, Morocco sought to acquire knowledge of new modern techniques and indispensable scientific methodologies, in dealing with the study and restoration of monuments. Likewise, it established many ties of cooperation and exchange with many friendly and brotherly countries. Hence, many young Moroccans were encouraged to

undertake studies in the fields of archaeology, anthropology, ethnology, zoology, art history, applied physics and chemistry, and other disciplines. Today, their number is sufficient to meet the needs of research, excavation, preservation and restoration.

Whenever necessary, Morocco did not hesitate to call upon distinguished foreign experts just as it did not hesitate to respond favourably to the requests received from abroad. Hence, many foreign scholars and technicians collaborated here with our experts.

In like manner, many of our best specialists were sent abroad at the request of friendly and brotherly nations and participated in the safeguard of various vestiges with the same enthusiasm and abnegation shown in their homeland.

Ladies and Gentlemen

We are delighted to note your increasing interest where regards natural heritage and the issues involving oral tradition, when this interest concerned mainly historical sites and buildings. In so doing, you are only striking a necessary balance; man is in constant interaction with his environment and is intimately part of his society. Just as in the past, influencing and being influenced is still a very powerful fact we cannot afford to ignore on the eve of the new century.

More than a source for the understanding of our geological and environmental globe, and more than a research field for many natural scientific disciplines, our natural heritage is an element of balance between man and his environment and a major factor for the preservation of bio-diversity which, if impoverished in any way, would affect that balance and may, therefore, decrease the chances for the continuation of life on our planet.

Likewise, you are very much aware of the great importance of verbally transmitted heritage in some countries, particularly in Africa where oral tradition was the source of education, training and initiation. Many societies edified their civilization upon this foundation, relying in so doing on the power of the transmitted word as it carried forth significant stories of good behaviour, and wise parables and accounts of significant events, hence enriching substantially the legacy of universal civilization. Our responsibility towards this very endangered and irreplaceable heritage lies in the concern we are to show for it as a priority.

In this respect, the decision by UNESCO to make of Jamaa Lafna Square in Marrakech a listed site constitutes not only a world premiere which honors Morocco, but it also serves as a praiseworthy and bold initiative which opens the way for this sort of patrimony. It will be followed, no doubt, by similar initiatives for the preservation of this kind of inherited sites.

Ladies and Gentlemen

We wish to commend your endeavour in drawing up a balanced list seeking to be representative of nations and regions and recording both cultural and natural sites. We fully appreciate the depth of its significance and the impact of its effect. In the next few years, we can expect to witness a major evolution in this respect thanks to the strengthening of relations, the dissemination of interest and the sincerity of intentions.

Ladies and Gentlemen

We are delighted to note, at the opening session of your Conference, the presence of Mr. Koichiro MATSUURA, UNESCO Director General who, for all of last year, chaired this commission. All along, Mr. MATSUURA has evidenced a wide scholarship, a great competence and a deep understanding of the issues of world civilization. These virtues, along with an impressive diplomatic training and experience, account certainly for the wise firmness and tactful intelligence shown in the task on hand.

As We greet and recongratulate him on the trust of the member states which have elected him to lead UNESCO, We wish him to know that We believe in his being able, like his predecessor, to make our organization take decisive steps ahead, with the understanding and the assistance of us all.

As We reiterate to you Our expressions of welcome to Morocco and among the people of this city whom we greet warmly, We implore God to grant success to your proceedings and blessings to each one of you.

**MOHAMMED VI
KING OF MOROCCO**

The Royal Palace,
Ifrane, November 26th, 1999

**COMITE DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL
WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

**Vingt-troisième session / Twenty-Third session
Marrakech, Maroc / Marrakesh, Morocco**

29 novembre - 4 décembre 1999 / 29 November - 4 December 1999

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS / LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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THE COMMITTEE**

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**Address of the of the Director-General of UNESCO
on the occasion of the
Twenty-third session of the World Heritage Committee**

**Marrakesh, Morocco
10.00 -10.50, Monday 29 November 1999**

Messieurs le Ministre des Affaires culturelles,
Monsieur le Ministre de l'Enseignement Supérieur et Président
de la Commission nationale marocaine pour l'UNESCO,
Monsieur le Ministre de l'Aménagement du territoire Monsieur
le Secrétaire d'Etat à l'Habitat,
Monsieur le Gouverneur,
Madame l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté auprès de l'UNESCO,
Monsieur le Président du Comité du patrimoine mondial,
Excellences,
Mesdames et Messieurs,

Permettez-moi de vous souhaiter la bienvenue à la
vingt-troisième session du Comité du patrimoine mondial. Je
tiens à remercier très sincèrement le Royaume du Maroc de sa
générosité et de son hospitalité.

Cela faisait de nombreuses années qu'une réunion du Comité du
patrimoine mondial ne s'était pas tenue dans un pays de la
Région arabe, et c'est un réel plaisir de renouer avec la beauté et
l'impressionnante histoire de cette ville de Marrakech.

J'aimerais, en cette occasion privilégiée, rendre hommage à Sa
Majesté le défunt roi Hassan II, et à la politique visionnaire qu'il
a menée en matière de protection du patrimoine culturel du
Maroc. C'est en effet dès 1980 que, sollicitant l'assistance de
l'UNESCO il a conduit l'Organisation à lancer une campagne
internationale pour la sauvegarde de la Médina de Fez, puis à
inscrire Fez sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial. Sa Majesté
Hassan II a ainsi permis à un ensemble architectural parmi les
plus importants au monde, ainsi qu'à une importante tradition
artisanale vivante d'être préservés. Je suis certain que Sa Majesté
Mohamed VI poursuivra avec la même conviction l'œuvre de
son père.

La Lettre Royale dont Il nous a honoré nous permet de mesurer
la profondeur et la richesse de Sa vision de Patrimoine culturel,
considéré dans ses dimensions urbanistique, architecturale,
archéologique, naturelle, immatérielle et orale.

En votre nom à tous, je Le remercie pour ce message éclairé et
stimulant qu'Il nous a adressé.

Pour ma part, j'ai été particulièrement sensible à Son appel à la
sauvegarde de la diversité du patrimoine mondial et à son souci
de mettre le patrimoine au service du développement et, surtout,
au service de la connaissance de l'autre et de la défense des
valeurs de convivialité et de tolérance, sans lesquelles l'humanité
ne peut accéder à une culture de la paix.

Je suis également touché par les mots amicaux qu'Il a eu à mon
égard et Lui en suis reconnaissant.

En vous souhaitant à tous la bienvenue, j'aimerais également
vous exprimer ma très haute estime pour le travail du Comité et
pour la Convention de 1972 pour la protection du patrimoine
mondial culturel et naturel. Le travail du Comité est avant tout

l'expression tangible de la solidarité et de la coopération
internationales invoquées par la Convention du patrimoine
mondial.

158 Etats parties y ont à ce jour adhéré, ce qui représente une
large majorité des 188 Etats membres de l'UNESCO. J'aimerais
souhaiter la bienvenue aux représentants des Etats parties qui
participent pour la première fois à une session du Comité, et je
tiens également à féliciter les Etats parties qui ont récemment
été élus membres du Comité par la deuxième Assemblée
générale des Etats parties qui s'est tenue à l'UNESCO les 28 et
29 octobre derniers.

Je félicite en outre ceux des Etats parties qui ont été élus
membres du Bureau, lors de la quatrième session extraordinaire
du Comité le 30 octobre.

Je souhaite adresser des félicitations particulières au nouveau
Président du Comité, Monsieur Abdelaziz Touri, le Directeur du
patrimoine culturel au Maroc. Le choix de Monsieur Touri est
largement justifié pour ce poste de Président, car il est, outre un
expert respecté et un praticien de la conservation du patrimoine
culturel, un homme d'expérience au sein du Comité, dans lequel
il a travaillé pendant de nombreuses années.

Vos délibérations et décisions seront sur les critères que vous
établirez pour le patrimoine mondial seront d'une importance
capitale, non seulement pour la sauvegarde future de
l'exceptionnel patrimoine mondial culturel et naturel - notre
patrimoine mondial -, mais également pour les sites
d'importance nationale ou locale.

Etre Etat partie à la Convention et être membre du Comité
implique de nombreuses responsabilités, dont l'une et non la
moindre est de développer une éthique de la conservation du
patrimoine. Promouvoir équitablement une telle éthique est sans
nul doute un défi majeur, particulièrement à une époque où la
globalisation économique conduit toutes les nations à la
poursuite d'un développement rapide parfois peu soucieux de ses
conséquences pour l'avenir.

Mais la conservation n'est certainement pas une fin en soi. Le
patrimoine que nous cherchons à protéger doit prendre sens pour
la société contemporaine et lui donner sens. Ce n'est qu'à cette
condition qu'il pourra être préservé pour les générations futures.

Si nous sommes réunis aujourd'hui, c'est pour relever
collectivement ce défi, afin que chacun des trésors légués à
l'humanité soit protégé par tous grâce à la Convention, avec la
sagesse, le savoir et la force de persuasion que nous pouvons
créer ensemble.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My first encounter with you was two years ago when I attended
a Bureau session as a representative of a State Party.

For one year afterwards, I dealt intensively with World Heritage in my capacity as Chairman of the World Heritage Committee. Today, I stand before you as the Director-General of UNESCO. And tomorrow, perhaps as a member of one of the Advisory Bodies!

But despite the distinct function of each of these roles, they make up an indivisible whole that must work in unison and in harmony, supporting each other, if the aims of the World Heritage Convention are to be attained.

From normative work to policy formulation, from programme development to project execution, from education and public information, UNESCO implements in every possible way your decisions and attempts to make the voice of the Committee heard across all borders.

As Director-General of UNESCO, I will endeavor to strengthen the World Heritage Centre...

Enhancing its capacity to respond to the increasing demands of national and local authorities, of site managers, research institutes, development agencies, the media and the public. In this way it will, I hope, come to be seen more clearly than ever as the focal point for the defense of world heritage.

When I last addressed you, as Chair of the World Heritage Committee, at the Twelfth General Assembly of States Parties, I reported on the progress made towards resolving some critical issues, and pointed to others that required urgent follow-up.

Since 1992, the debate on Global Strategy has sought to make the World Heritage List more representative of the ethno-cultural and bio-geographical diversities of the world.

That reflection led to a resolution adopted by consensus by the General Assembly on measures to redress this imbalance.

Regional action plans are already in operation and will certainly be complemented by sub-regional and national activities.

The representation issue also gave rise to a new debate - on the demand for equitable representation on the 21-member Committee of the now 158 States Parties.

Ways and means to enable greater participation of States Parties in steering the course of the Convention have been explored.

I note that the General Assembly has asked the Committee to set up a working group to prepare a proposal on this that will be submitted to the Thirteenth General Assembly.

As I said in my report to the Twelfth General Assembly, the aims of the Global Strategy, however, cannot be attained without the commitment of all States Parties, nor independently from the World Heritage conservation process as a whole.

For without adequate legal protection, management capacities and conservation skills, inscription cannot safeguard even the most outstanding site from the underrepresented category.

In this connection, I was deeply touched by initiatives taken by some States Parties in supporting others in meeting the inscription requirements.

Not only have generous financial contributions been made, but secondment of experts is helping to redress the imbalance of the List through training and transfer of knowledge and skills.

I stressed during my chairmanship, the need to review the working method of the Committee to maintain the credibility of the Convention.

With the large number of new nominations which continue to be submitted by States Parties, and the increasing number of state of conservation reports to examine each year, a serious evaluation on how best to use the limited time of the Committee must be made.

In other words, it is becoming a victim of its own success!

But the growing reach of the Convention and the authority of the Committee can only be maintained if the Committee is able to execute its work with all the necessary rigour. This is particularly true for decisions on the inscription of sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

But this authority cannot be maintained, I fear, unless the Committee can execute its work with the rigour that the work demands. This is particularly the case for its task regarding the inscription of sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

I propose that these matters be addressed in priority by the strategic taskforce, the creation of which was suggested by the Bureau at its 23rd session earlier this year.

The credibility of the Committee also depends on its ability to provide tangible support to States Parties, especially to those who do not have the technical and financial means to take corrective measures on their own.

In this regard, I draw the attention of the Committee to the evaluation on international assistance which has just started.

I call upon all of you to contribute actively in this important exercise.

How best can the limited resources of the World Heritage Fund be used to assist States Parties in protecting their properties?

The Committee has increased the annual budgetary allocation from the Fund each year, and a further increase is proposed for the year 2000.

But with more requests and for higher amounts, there are clear limits to the Fund's ability to respond.

I therefore hope that the evaluation currently underway will provide the basis for the Committee to establish clearer guidelines to enable the prioritisation of requests.

I have suggested the linkage of preparatory assistance and training grants to Global Strategy and priority approval for requests from Least Developed Countries and Low Income Countries, particularly for technical co-operation. This has been endorsed by the Bureau and now requires debate by the Committee for sound and fair application.

I also stressed the need for the Committee to reflect on a strategy for preventive action, to address the root cause of the diverse threats to World Heritage. Such a strategy must take development requirements into account, so that our conservation actions become an undeniable force for sustainable development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would also like to mention the other supremely important task of the Committee: public awareness-building and education for World Heritage conservation. This calls for us all to invest in intelligence and knowledge. For without the understanding and support of the public at large, without the respect and daily care by the local communities, which are the true custodians of the World Heritage sites, no amount of funds or army of experts will suffice to protect these sites. It also calls for citizenry, for

the public at large and the individuals comprising that public, to assume the responsibilities and duties for heritage conservation by participating in the democratic process to protect and develop it for the benefit of all.

I think you know that you can count on me to support you in all these tasks.

I shall seek during my term as Director-General, to work with the General Conference and the Executive Board to further

strengthen the World Heritage Centre and to identify ways and means of strengthening co-operation between the Centre and other UNESCO units responsible for natural and cultural heritage conservation, both at headquarters and in the field offices.

Let me say, in conclusion, that I look forward to the same constructive and co-operative ties with you in my new capacity that I enjoyed so much in my former role.

Declaration of the Youth from the Arab Region on World Heritage

The Pledge

We, the young people of the Arab World, convened at the First Arab States World Heritage Youth Forum, held at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco, from 22 to 28 November 1999, believe that:

The present is the product of the past, therefore, we can live the present and dream of the future only through the past. This is the past which our ancestors built and bequeathed to us and which became known as heritage. Thus, by preserving heritage, we preserve our identity, our authenticity and the continuity of our civilization. It is young people who are primarily concerned with the identity of society.

Heritage is not only cultural, but also natural, given that the natural environment plays a major role in shaping civilizations. Cultural heritage is not restricted only to what is tangible. The latter serves as a framework for the spiritual heritage that refers to Man's identity, personality and history.

After having attended lectures, witnessed the international efforts to preserve heritage, visited the World Heritage sites in Morocco, and having participated in the various workshops, we, the Arab youth, would like to make the following points:

First, we, as young people from the Arab region, need to be aware of our essential role in the conservation of heritage. As participants, we shall make every effort to pass on to our peers in our home countries the knowledge we have acquired concerning respect for and conservation of heritage. We request the assistance of UNESCO in organizing further youth forums.

Second, we consider that the media (radio, television, etc.) and modern technology (computers, the Internet etc.) play a major role in raising awareness of the necessity for the preservation of world's heritage. Handicrafts are part of our heritage and identity; it is therefore imperative to revitalize these traditional crafts.

Third, we request that World Heritage issues be included in the educational curricula of UNESCO Associated Schools in a pilot phase, to be followed by all other schools.

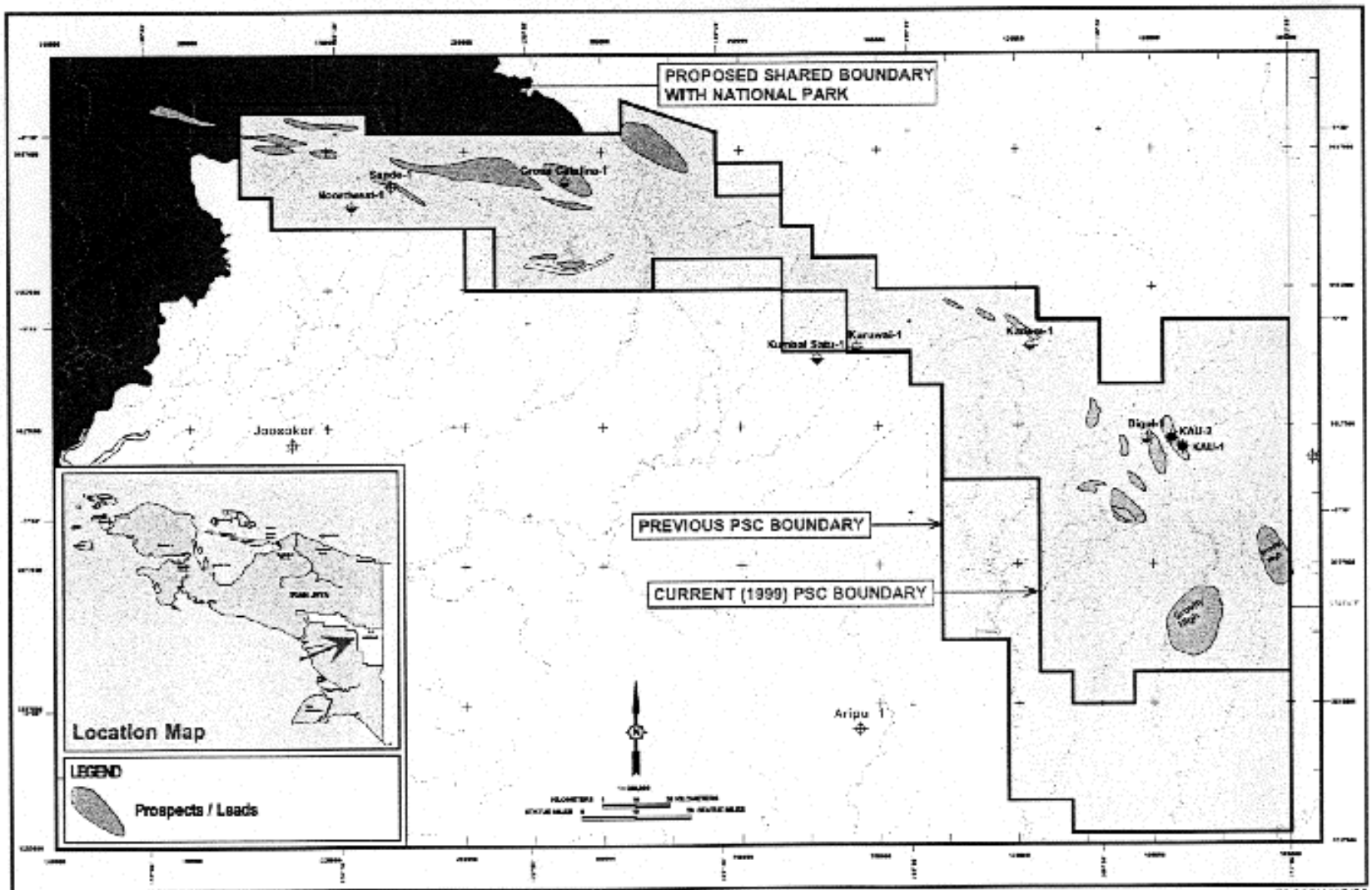
Fourth, we underline the fact that we share a common language, identity and history. It is our responsibility to ensure that this common heritage is a determining factor in bringing together our countries in peace and brotherhood.

Finally, we assert that heritage is a question of behaviour and practical application rather than a theory and an idea, and we call upon the youth of the world to understand this and cooperate with the youth of the Arab region under the motto:

“Let's preserve the heritage of the past and the present to build the heritage of the future”.

This pledge was adopted by 38 *Patrimontos* from twelve Arab States in Ifrane on 27 November 1999.

WARIM / LORENTZ NATIONAL PARK OVERLAP - MAP "C"



Map of Lorentz National Park (Indonesia)

**Acceptance speech of OJO MADUEKWE Minister of Culture and Tourism
On the occasion of the inscription of the Sukur cultural landscape on the World
Heritage list: 23rd session of UNESCO World Heritage Committee
(29th November - 4th December 1999) at Marrakesh Morocco.**

- Your Excellency the President of UNESCO
World Heritage Committee
- Ladies and gentlemen

Our delegation brings fraternal greetings from President OLUSEGUN OBASANJO and the Government and people of Nigeria. We are most delighted with the excellent arrangements which the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco has made for the conference. And may I use this opportunity to wish his Royal Majesty, King Mohammed VI, a long and prosperous reign.

I hasten to mention that with us from Nigeria is the ADAMAWA STATE Governor, His Excellency BONI HARUNA. ADAMAWA is one of the 36 states of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and home to Sukur Cultural Landscape, which has just been honoured by this committee as a World Heritage Site. I also wish to acknowledge the presence in our delegation of His Excellency, Ambassador Abdoul-Wahab Nigerian Ambassador to Morocco; Dr Gella Director-General National Museums, and Monuments of Nigeria; and Dr Eborieme Co-ordinator of UNESCO World Heritage project in Nigeria.

The historic inscription of the first World Heritage Site in Nigeria has implications for the cultural rediscovery of Nigeria by Nigerians and the rest of the world far beyond the most optimistic expectations of those friends who gave early support to the project. It is to all such friends that we dedicate this honour.

With over 120 Million people and 450 ethno-linguistic communities, and every fourth African a Nigerian, recognition of one site out of a possible 31 no less deserving sites might appear to be a drop in the ocean. But it was a drop that came quite timely at a critical point of intolerable thirst in the

midst of so much water. For us in Nigeria what is happening here in this ancient and fascinating city of Marrakech is a great beginning and worthy preface to the future. We cannot thank the UNESCO Heritage Committee enough for making this possible.

Coming on the heels of Nigeria's recent re-entry into all those international fora where its past contributions earned it respect before the years of isolation, the inscription of Sukur is a tonic for the democratic renewal and the national reconciliation that has been in place since the election of President OLUSEGUN OBASANJO. SUKUR has the distinction of being a cultural property admitted into the World Heritage list on the basis of the continuity of customary laws, community ethos, and spiritual values. It is symbolic of the enduring heritage of a very diverse wider African society. **It gives hints of the glue that binds together a complex polity whose leadership, even as at now, remains challenged by the intricacies of nation- building. SUKUR will therefore be for us an enduring metaphor for a re-invigorated Nigeria that is set to bless all humanity with an experience of its rich cultural heritage in the defining years of the next millenium.**

It is indeed on the wings of that pledge that I wish to draw your generous attention to the over 31 cultural heritage sites which have already been submitted to UNESCO World Heritage Committee as at 1999. Your expeditious consideration of the list will represent a long over-due acknowledgement of the significant contribution of Africa to the collective heritage of the world. For now, welcome to Nigeria, on your way to SUKUR, Africa's first cultural landscape.

**Statement by H.E. the Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa to France,
Thithu Skweyiya, on Robben Island, Greater St. Lucia Wetland National Park and the
Fossil Hominid Sites of Sterkfontein, Swartkrans, Kromdraai, and Environs, South Africa**

Mr Chairman, on behalf of my delegation, I wish to express my government's sincere gratitude, especially for President Thabo Mbeki and former President Nelson Mandela, to the World Heritage Committee for inscribing South Africa's cultural and natural jewels to the prestigious World Heritage List. I also wish to extend my appreciation to the work done by ICOMOS, IUCN and the World Heritage Center, as well as the Nordic World Heritage Office and Mr Munjeri for their technical assistance.

The inscription of our sites today is an ongoing welcome of our country to the structures and activities of the community of nations. This is not just a Christmas present as I mentioned yesterday, but a big millennium present from the international community. We appreciate it, Mr Chairman.

To demonstrate its commitment to the Convention and conservation of heritage for the benefit of present and future generations, my government has recently passed legislation focusing specifically on the implementation of the Convention in South Africa.

Mr Chairman I also wish to congratulate all states parties whose sites have been inscribed on the list, especially our colleagues from Nigeria, whom we are looking forward to working with in the region.

My government supports the global strategy initiative and hopes to participate in all regional programs which will ensure a balanced World Heritage List as envisaged by this Committee.

As already mentioned, Robben Island represents the triumph of the human spirit over the forces of evil, it is therefore a shrine for all the people of the world. The second of our cultural sites, popularly known as the "Cradle of Humankind", reminds us of the profound links that bind all of humankind across space and time. This is truly a historical occasion to celebrate and we invite all of you to visit your roots.

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-THIRD EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE BUREAU (WHC-99/ CONF.209/6) RELATING TO THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

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

Great Barrier Reef (Australia)

The Bureau noted that at its twenty-third session (July 1999) it requested the Australian Committee for IUCN (ACIUCN) and the State Party to review the 29 recommendations listed in the March 1999 ACIUCN report "Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area: Condition, Management and Threats". The Bureau also had requested the ACIUCN and the State Party to elaborate a more focused set of recommendations and a detailed plan for their implementation and monitoring. The Commonwealth Government of Australia, in a letter dated 7 October 1999, transmitted to the Centre and IUCN a detailed plan for the implementation and monitoring of a more focused set of recommendations prepared by ACIUCN. These "Focused Recommendations" and the "Framework for management" of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA) were presented in the Information Document WHC-99/CONF.208/INF.5.

IUCN reviewed both the "Focused Recommendations" and the "Framework for management" of the GBRWHA and noted the five priority action areas of the "Focused Recommendations": Management of Land and Coastal Catchments; Management of Fisheries; Management of Shipping and Ship-Sourced Pollution; Representative Marine Protected Areas, and Resources for Research and Management. IUCN considered the "Framework for Management" as proposed by the State Party to be comprehensive and that it establishes a basis for monitoring the implementation of the "Focused Recommendations". IUCN commended the work undertaken by the State Party and the State Government of Queensland. IUCN reiterated its view that catchment issues pose the most serious threat to the GBRWHA and noted the urgency of the need for effective integrated catchment management to reduce environmental impact on the World Heritage site. IUCN however, noted and agreed with the State Party that many of these issues will require social and economic changes of a scale which will take years to achieve, such as in relation to modification of land use related impacts and the management of fisheries. This underlines the importance of developing strategic objectives and actions to ensure the long term protection of the GBRWHA and the establishment of a plan to monitor their implementation, as has been established in the "Framework for management".

The Delegate of Australia thanked IUCN and the Bureau for the consultative approach and highlighted the importance of the State Government of Queensland in the process to achieve a model for the management of a World Heritage area.

The Bureau transmitted the above report and the "Focused Recommendations" and "Framework for management" contained in WHC-99/CONF.208/INF.5 to the Committee for examination and recommended the following for adoption:

"The Committee accepts the "Focused Recommendations", and the "Framework for management" of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA) as a basis for monitoring the implementation of those recommendations. The Committee commends the process and the product

arising from the consultative approach used in developing a basis for monitoring the state of conservation of the GBRWHA and recommends its adoption for the management of other World Heritage natural properties in Australia. The Committee invites the State Party to submit progress reports on the implementation of the "Focused Recommendations" to the annual sessions of the Committee for review."

Comoe National Park (Côte d'Ivoire)

The Bureau was informed that IUCN received a copy of the report provided to the World Heritage Centre, prepared by a scientist from the Centre de Recherche en Ecologie from Côte d'Ivoire entitled "Evaluation de l'état actuel du parc national de la Comoe". The report outlines the serious threat of poaching to the wildlife of this site and sets out a series of recommendations for improved management. IUCN has received several other reports from NGOs and individuals highlighting illegal logging activities that are threatening the integrity of the site. IUCN noted and supported the recommendations of the study that this site is in urgent need of technical and financial support. A request for financial assistance from the State Party is expected to be submitted to the twenty-third session of the Committee. In view of the high level of poaching reported at this site, IUCN recommended that it be considered for inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger and that an expert mission be fielded to verify the information reported by the study quoted above and have discussions with the State Party regarding the possible inclusion of this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

IUCN informed the Bureau that it has received many reports on this site indicating major poaching impacts on wildlife of the site, and that additional threats have been noted as forestry and agricultural incursion, especially cotton. IUCN remarked that these reports, if verified, would indicate this site has potential for inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger. IUCN observed that before any action is taken, there should be a response from the State Party and an appropriate monitoring mission to review the situation and recommend appropriate action

The Bureau adopted the following text and transmitted it to the Committee for examination and further adoption:

"The Committee requests the State Party to consider inviting a Centre/IUCN mission to the site during the year 2000 in order to review threats to the integrity of the site and plan emergency rehabilitation measures as appropriate. The Committee may wish to invite the State Party to cooperate with the Centre and IUCN in order to submit to the twenty-fourth session of the Committee, in accordance with paragraphs 86 – 90 of the Operational Guidelines, a detailed state of conservation report and corrective measures for mitigating threats to the site, so as to enable the Committee to consider including this property in the List of World Heritage in Danger"

Whale Sanctuary of El Vizcaino (Mexico)

Following the request of the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau and at the invitation of the Mexican authorities, a mission was carried out to the Whale Sanctuary of El Vizcaino from 23 to 28 August 1999. The full report and the recommendations of the mission were presented in Information Document WHC-99/CONF.208/INF.6.

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that following the assessment of the information made available to the mission team in background documentation, meetings with Government officials, representatives of non-governmental organizations, local communities and other stakeholders and through observations during a field visit of the site, the mission came to a number of conclusions and recommendations. These were presented to the Mexican authorities by the mission team. The Secretariat then introduced the report and the main findings of the mission.

The issues were found to be extremely complex and could certainly not be reduced to a concern about one species or event. In fact, the team specifically considered a variety of issues including the management structure, the integrity of the site, status of the whale population, salt production, sustainable use and tourism. The World Heritage area, composed of the two lagoons Ojo de Liebre and San Ignacio, retains its quality and significance as a largely natural habitat and fulfils the criteria and conditions of integrity for which it was inscribed in 1993. The Bureau was informed that the mission invited the Mexican Government to take fully into account the World Heritage values of the site when evaluating the proposed salt facility at San Ignacio, which would include not only the population of grey whales and other wildlife but also the integrity of the landscape and the ecosystem.

The mission team concluded that the World Heritage site under present circumstances is not in danger, and scientific data show that the whale population is not endangered and continues to increase. However, if any significant change to the present situation should occur, documented by appropriate evidence, the conclusion concerning the site's status under the World Heritage Convention should be promptly re-evaluated in co-operation and co-ordination with the State Party, and appropriate consideration should be given to all relevant Parties and the World Heritage Committee.

IUCN noted that it participated in the UNESCO mission and that the technical report is both credible and objective. IUCN supports the efforts of the Mexican Government in protecting the site, and in particular in relation to capacity building efforts and the involvement of local people. The mission focused on the existing salt works and the research indicated that these had no significant impact on the grey whale population. IUCN noted that in case of changes to the existing situation the position should be re-evaluated. Any re-evaluation should consider the population of grey whales and the integrity of the landscape and its ecosystem.

The Delegate of Mexico thanked the Committee and UNESCO making the mission possible highlighting the professionalism of the mission team working in an independent process. The Mexican Government fully endorsed the recommendations as far as they are consistent with previous reports and information it has submitted and emphasized: that the World Heritage site is not in Danger, that the Grey Whale population has increased and the National Ecology Institute has not received a proposal by the ESSA company for salt production at San Ignacio. Finally, the Government of Mexico reaffirmed its political will to maintain and enhance its cooperation with the World Heritage Committee, in order to preserve the exceptional values of El Vizcaino.

The Observer of Germany noted that the industrial development might have side effects to the integrity of the site, through population increase and infrastructural measures. The Delegate of Mexico in responding, underlined that the National Ecology Institute is not evaluating such a proposal and therefore any judgement would be premature at this time.

The Chairperson thanked the mission team for its excellent work and the State Party for its collaboration.

The Bureau decided to transmit the report to the Committee for examination and to recommend the Committee to adopt the following:

“The Committee takes note of the report of the mission and the full set of recommendations as indicated in WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.20. The Committee notes that the World Heritage site under present circumstances is not in danger, and scientific data show that the whale population is not endangered and continues to increase. However, if any significant change to the present situation should occur, documented by appropriate evidence, the conclusion concerning the site's status under the World Heritage Convention should be promptly re-evaluated in co-operation and co-ordination with the State Party, and appropriate consideration should be given to all relevant Parties and the World Heritage Committee.”

Following the decision, the Chairperson gave the floor to the Observers from two NGOs, Pro Esteros and the International Fund for Animal Welfare who expressed their concerns about the conservation of El Vizcaino, its natural resources and conditions of integrity according to the World Heritage Convention's Operational Guidelines.

Doñana National Park (Spain)

The Bureau noted that during 1998 and 1999 a number of actions were undertaken to mitigate the impacts of the ecological disaster following the spill in April 1998.

An *International Expert Meeting on the Regeneration of the Doñana Watershed* (Doñana 2005 Conference) took place from 4 to 8 October 1999 with the participation of the World Heritage Centre, IUCN, the Secretary-General of the Ramsar Convention, WWF and other organizations. The meeting produced a number of recommendations concerning steps that could be taken for improving the situation of the decrease in the water table, diversion of surface water flows from entering Doñana and ensuring that water entering the area is free of pollutants. In addition, discussions took place concerning the necessity for strong co-operation between various activities being initiated in the region such as the Doñana 2005 project and the Green Corridor project. Some suggestions included the construction of large artificial lagoons for the control of water flows and reducing pollution and sediment loads. These would be placed in areas outside the World Heritage site in land to be purchased or acquired from agricultural companies or farmers. This recommendation could be of concern because the lagoon construction and operation afterwards could have serious impacts on the hydrology of the region.

IUCN welcomed the continued clean up effort of the Guadiamar Basin and affected areas, the Expert Meeting on the Regeneration of Doñana and the initiation of the Green Corridor project, but noted some concerns relating to the re-opening of the Aznalcollar mine and the impact study, which was undertaken to ensure that the toxic wastes in the old mine pit remain there and not percolate into the surrounding aquifer. IUCN noted that the mine spill has raised awareness of the fragility of the Doñana ecosystem. However, issues associated with the mine need to be considered in conjunction with the issues associated with integrated water management, particularly with the decrease in the water table. This

was highlighted at the Expert Meeting, as well as the need for mechanisms for an integrated management approach.

The Centre informed the Bureau that UNESCO and IUCN had not been informed of the re-opening of the mine prior to the last session of the Bureau. Following the Doñana 2005 Conference, the Centre contacted the authorities to obtain information concerning the exact dates of authorization and production of the Azlacollar mine and clarification with regard to the points raised by the World Heritage Bureau.

On 24 October and on 9 November 1999 a number of documents were submitted by the State Party, which were transmitted to IUCN for review including the Annexes concerning the results of the Doñana 2005 Conference. Furthermore, on 26 November 1999 a "Note concerning the situation of the Doñana National Park in relation to the terms of the IUCN report tabled in November 1999" was provided by the Ministry for Environment. This statement notes that most issues were discussed at the Doñana Conference. In particular, the former mine pond was made completely watertight, its utilization forbidden and it will be completely sealed when the competent legal authority grants its authorization. The mining company has not been authorized to dump any waste into the Guadiamar River and a Joint Commission by the State and Regional Administration has been established in March 1999. The Doñana 2005 project has received broad support, as can be seen by the conclusion of the Expert Meeting. The Observer of Spain thanked IUCN and UNESCO for the participation in the Conference and for the international collaboration in the follow-up. He suggested that a follow-up meeting could be convened in late 2000 or early 2001. He reiterated his Government's commitment to the safeguarding of the Doñana National Park.

The Delegate of Zimbabwe noted the impacts of the mining disaster and that a strict application of the Convention would be needed, as well as a close follow-up by IUCN and UNESCO.

The Bureau decided to transmit the report to the Committee for examination and to recommend the Committee to adopt the following:

"The Committee commends the Spanish authorities for the continued clean up effort of the Guadiamar Basin and affected areas. However, the Committee expresses its concerns for the re-opening of the mine without taking into account the points raised by the twenty-second session of the Committee and the twenty-third session of the Bureau. The Committee suggests that a review meeting be held during the year 2000/2001 to review progress of the implementation of the Doñana 2005 project, taking into account the points raised by IUCN and that should involve all concerned parties and institutions including the international collaborators involved in the meeting on Doñana 2005 held in October 1999. The State Party should also be encouraged to take into account the WCPA Position Statement on mining activities and protected areas to be reviewed by the twenty-third session of the Committee."

St. Kilda (United Kingdom)

The Bureau recalled that at its twenty-second session it had noted conflicting information in relation to the state of conservation of St. Kilda. Accordingly, it suggested that the State Party, in co-operation with the Centre and IUCN, initiate a round table process involving interested parties. This round table meeting was held in Edinburgh on 24 September 1999 with the participation of a representative from IUCN/WCPA and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

IUCN noted that the focus at the roundtable was whether risks to the existing World Heritage property were such that it should be included on the List of the World Heritage in Danger. The

boundary of the property is at the high tide mark and, therefore, any matters of marine pollution were considered in the context of impact on the nesting sea birds of St. Kilda while at sea, feeding or roosting, or the food upon which they depended.

The strategy for exploration and possible exploitation of the Atlantic Frontier was explained in detail at the roundtable meeting, together with the procedures for the input of scientific advice by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) on environmental impacts. Information was also provided about the data on which this scientific advice was based. The evidence provided at the round table meeting covered: existing proposals to drill exploration wells; general environmental measures within licensing; preparedness and response to oil spills; environmental impact assessments for each exploration well and for development; assessment of risk of oil spills; details about the likely scale of tanker traffic; data on the probability of spills during the transfer of oil; as well as an analysis of the procedures followed in Oil Spill Risk Assessment; a breakdown of the factors influencing potential oil spill impact — taking into account the nature of the oil, wind and current direction, rate of dispersion and weathering of spilled oil, the distribution and populations of birds (species by species), shore life and sub-tidal life;

The Round Table also discussed the possibility of damage to the inter-tidal and underwater communities round the coast of St. Kilda, even though these are not included in the present property. The Round Table considered the inter-tidal communities are not considered to be at major risk from any pollutants that might reach them for a number of reasons: the dispersed nature of any pollutants by the time they reached the coast; the fact that species which are adapted to the extreme conditions of the inter-tidal zone in St. Kilda also tend to seal themselves effectively against foreign bodies; and the very rapid turn over of individuals and the large reservoir of free-swimming larval and juvenile stages. In view of the information arising from the Round Table Process, IUCN underlined that it does not recommend that this site be placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The Observer of France noted the issue of economic development at maritime sites and that a dialogue with the petroleum industry could be envisaged. The Commission on Sustainable Development started to discuss the use of the sea and its management.

The Bureau adopted the following text and transmitted the above report to the Committee for examination and further adoption:

"The Committee notes the results of the St. Kilda Round Table of September 1999. The Committee recommends (1) that the boundaries of the World Heritage area should be expanded to include the surrounding marine area and consideration be given to a buffer zone as was recommended in the IUCN's original evaluation in 1986; (2) that a revised management plan should be prepared. The Committee also recommends that until the management plan and the risk assessment of any proposed development that might affect the integrity of the site had been prepared, consideration be given to placing a moratorium on oil licensing nearer to St Kilda other than that already licensed. The Committee decides not to include the site in the List of World Heritage in Danger."

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

Shark Bay, Western Australia (Australia)

The Bureau took note of the information provided by the Centre, the Australian Government and IUCN on the consultative process involving the ACIUCN, the State Government of Western Australia and other stakeholders to prepare an up-to-date state of conservation report for this property which is under preparation. IUCN noted that the issues addressed would include potential threats of mining, tourism development and the need to finalize an overall management plan.

The Bureau urged the State Party and IUCN to finalise the consultation process as soon as possible with a view to providing a detailed and up-to-date state of conservation report for Shark Bay, including a focused set of recommendations and a plan for their implementation as have been developed for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, and submit them to the consideration of the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau in 2000.

Wet Tropics of Queensland (Australia)

The Bureau took note of the information provided by the Centre, the Australian Government and IUCN that the consultative process involving the ACIUCN, the State Government of Queensland and other stakeholders to prepare an up-to-date state of conservation report for the Wet Tropics of Queensland has yet to be finalised. IUCN informed the Bureau that issues to be considered in the report would include invasive species, fire management and tourism.

The Bureau urged the State Party and IUCN to finalise the consultation process as soon as possible with a view to providing a detailed and up-to-date state of conservation report on the Wet Tropics of Queensland, including a focused set of recommendations and a plan for their implementation as has been developed for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, and submit them by 15 September 2000 for consideration by the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau in 2000.

Heard and McDonald Islands (Australia)

The Bureau took note of the information provided by the Centre, the Australian Government and IUCN that the major component of the desktop study concerning the establishment of a marine protected area has been completed and that the report is in the process of being finalised. IUCN welcomed this study and noted that it will protect marine biodiversity and facilitate better management of fisheries impacts. The Delegate of Australia informed the Centre that the first stage of the study will be completed before the end of 1999 and that the habitat survey will be submitted to the Centre in mid-2000.

The Bureau requested the Centre and IUCN to review the desktop study report concerning the establishment of a marine protected area surrounding the Heard and McDonald Islands, due to be completed and submitted to the Centre before the end of 1999, and report their findings by 15 April 1999 for consideration by the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau in 2000.

Belovezhskaya Pushcha/Bialowieza Forest (Belarus/Poland)

The Bureau noted that the IUCN evaluation of the extension of the Bialowieza Forest of Poland is to be reviewed under the agenda item "Nominations of cultural and natural properties to the List of World Heritage in Danger and the World Heritage List". IUCN informed the Bureau that the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources, and Forestry has

launched "The Contract for Bialowieza Forest" with its major goal of enlarging national park boundaries to the whole forest complex in 2000 and to strengthen the integrity of the site. However, a final decision has not been taken yet and discussions have reached a crucial point at present with a range of opinions in relation to the desirability of extending the National Park boundaries. IUCN also notes that a management plan for Bialowieza National Park is under preparation.

The Observer of Poland informed the Bureau that the idea of the "Contract for Bialowieza Forest" was initiated by the Polish Ministry of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources and Forestry. It is aimed at enlarging the National Park to the whole area of the Bialowieza Forest (63 000 ha) and providing support for sustainable development. To this end, a multilateral commission was established, including representatives of the Park, communities, NGOs, State Forests and the Ministry. Pro-ecological investments in forest communes are foreseen and the project on the decree by the Polish Cabinet is underway.

The Bureau commended the Polish authorities for their efforts to extend the Bialowieza National Park and to complete the management plan.

Dja Faunal Reserve (Cameroon)

The Bureau recalled that its twenty-second extraordinary session, held on 28 and 29 November 1998, it requested the State Party to submit a report on the implementation of the Sangmelima Workshop recommendations before 15 September 1999. Such a report has not yet been received. A proposal prepared by the Centre to undertake a rapid biodiversity assessment to evaluate the impacts of on-going forestry activities on the contiguity of habitats and gene-pools in and around Dja was under consideration at the time the state of conservation of this site was reported to the twenty-second extraordinary session. Since then, however, the prospective donor, i.e. the Government of Netherlands, has changed its priorities for providing bilateral assistance to Cameroon and the project proposal elaborated by the Centre is no longer under consideration for financing. The Centre is currently in consultation with the NASA's (USA) Earth Studies Unit to explore possibilities for using satellite and remote-sensing images, dating from the present back to the 1970s. This will facilitate the understanding and interpreting of the land-cover changes that have occurred in and around Dja and using the insights gained from such an analysis, in combination with field studies and ground-truthing, to assess the extent of the threat of biological isolation facing this site.

The Centre informed the Bureau that the negotiations with NASA authorities to use satellite images for monitoring land cover changes in and around Dja is progressing well but no specific agreements have been concluded so far. NASA's Earth Studies Unit is investigating the availability of satellite images for dates covering times before and after the site's inscription on the World Heritage List in 1987 as well as a series of images available for more recent years. These could be useful in detecting forest cover changes in areas immediately adjacent to the Reserve. The Bureau was further informed that at present Centre contacts with the NASA Unit for Earth Studies are exploratory, in order to get satellite images and interpretation and analytical expertise at NASA's expense. The results of these negotiations would be known during early 2000 and the Centre will report on the outcome to the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau in mid-2000.

IUCN informed the Bureau that there is still incomplete information about the extent of forestry activities in and around

Dja, and that the IUCN Office in Cameroon notes that threats associated with forestry and roads still exist. The Bureau was further informed that IUCN supports efforts by the Centre to use remote sensing images to ascertain the extent of the problem and, like Iguacu National Park, there is a need to work with the local communities to demonstrate the benefits of World Heritage listing at the practical local level.

The Delegate of Zimbabwe expressed concern that the State Party has not so far produced the report expected by the Bureau that was long overdue. The Delegate further wondered whether there were expenses foreseen for the implementation of the Sangmelima Workshop recommendations that may be causing the delay in their implementation. The Centre informed the Bureau that some of the recommendations of the Workshop do not call for additional expenses on the part of the State Party.

The Bureau urged the Centre and IUCN, in co-operation with the State Party and other potential partners, to continue their efforts to undertake a scientific evaluation of the extent of the threat of biological isolation facing Dja and requested that a report on progress made in this regard be submitted to the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau in 2000. At the same time, the Bureau reiterated its request made at its last extraordinary session to fully implement the recommendations of the Sangmelima Workshop, held in 1998, and submit a progress report to the twenty-fourth session on the Bureau in 2000.

Los Katios National Park (Colombia)

IUCN informed the Bureau that the Ministry of the Environment is in the process of preparing a Management Plan for the area. This new Management Plan will include participatory management arrangements for involving local communities as well as a programme to promote transboundary co-operation with the Darien National Park World Heritage site in Panama. A number of workshops involving local communities and the Special Unit for National Parks of the Ministry of the Environment have been held to discuss how to implement community management arrangements that would enhance the protection of this site. Despite the on-going armed conflict, Park authorities continue to provide some level of management and control in several sectors of the Park. In those areas controlled by Park authorities there has been a reduction in the illegal extraction of natural resources by local communities. However, there is little information provided in the report on what is happening in those sectors of the Park controlled by armed groups. IUCN acknowledged the progress made towards the preparation of the management plan for this site and commended the State Party for these efforts despite the difficult situation facing this site. However, IUCN noted uncertainty in relation to impacts of a number of threats, including that the Park is not fully under the control of the management agency, that the impacts of the proposal to grant collective land ownership over 100,000ha outside of the World Heritage area in the buffer zone are unclear and should be assessed, and the impacts on wetlands from forest fires need to be reviewed.

The Centre informed the Bureau that a fax was received from the Permanent Delegation of Colombia on 22 November 1999. The authorities sent an official invitation for a mission to the site to the Centre and IUCN, and stated that the Bi-national Commission of Colombia and Panama during its last meeting agreed to hold a workshop to discuss the criteria, concepts, methods and strategies for the management of a bi-national park in the Darien Region.

The Bureau recommended that a monitoring mission to this site be carried out in 2000, which could address the issues noted by IUCN and welcomed the invitation by the Colombian authorities. The Bureau commended the State Party for its efforts to strengthen transfrontier co-operation and urged it to accelerate efforts towards the establishment of a single transfrontier World

Heritage site linking Darien (Panama) and Los Katios (Colombia) as recommended at the time of inscription in 1994.

Morne Trois Pitons National Park (Dominica)

IUCN has noted recent correspondence of 16 September 1999 from the State Party, which covered various aspects associated with the proposed cable car. IUCN informed the Bureau that the key elements from the material submitted are the indication that the aerial tramway will terminate approximately 500 metres from the boundary of the National Park, that adjoining state lands will be maintained as a buffer zone; and that the State Party considers that the visual impact on visitors is expected to be minimal.

IUCN commended the efforts of the State Party to construct the aerial tramway outside of the Park, but notes the potential impacts to the Park associated with increased visitation related to the development of the tramway. It notes specifically that the planned linking of the top/return station to the existing nature trail to the Valley of Desolation and Boiling Lake may lead to an increased level of visitation.

The Bureau commended the State Party for actions undertaken to construct the aerial tramway outside the World Heritage area. The Bureau encouraged the authorities to closely monitor visitor use impacts associated with the development of the tramway, and that an overall tourism development planning strategy for the site be developed. The Bureau invited the State Party to provide periodic reports on the state of conservation of this site.

Galapagos Islands (Ecuador)

Information received by the Centre and IUCN from the State Party (15 September 1999) reinforced the fact that positive actions have been taken to enhance the integrity of this site. Following the approval of the Special Law for Galapagos in March 1999, the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador and the Permanent Commission for the Galapagos Islands have been preparing the general regulations by sectors, including tourism, traditional fisheries, agriculture and environmental control. This has been done using a participatory approach to gain support and consent from local communities. The document on the general regulations has been completed and submitted to the President of the Republic where it was recently discussed and approved. It is expected to be in force in the near future. Progress is reported on the application of migratory controls considered under the Special Law for Galapagos. In relation to tourism development, there are national and international pressures to increase the number of visitors to the islands. The application of the Special Law for Galapagos is helping to control these pressures. There has been no further increase in the capacity of hotels, tourist boats and other services. The Ministry of Environment of Ecuador is implementing an Environmental Management Programme that is supporting infrastructure development for sanitation, water supply, water treatment and solid waste management in order to solve existing problems of pollution in the islands. The re-opening of the sea cucumber fisheries from April to July 1999 was carefully monitored by the personnel of the Galapagos National Park and the Charles Darwin Foundation. A joint monitoring and patrolling programme funded by the Frankfurt Zoological Society was implemented using six patrol boats and aerial techniques.

The Bureau recalled that, at its twenty-third session, it had complimented the State Party for its efforts to improve the conservation of the Galapagos Islands World Heritage site, particularly during difficult economic times. The Centre informed the Bureau about the approval of US\$3,999,850 for the UNESCO Project on the Control and Eradication of Invasive Species. The UNF Project document has now been signed by the Government of Ecuador, UNFIP (United Nations Fund for International Partnerships agencies) and UNESCO. The project

aims to ensure that the Galapagos retains their unique biodiversity for the benefit of future generations. Its objectives include testing of the application of the state-of-the-art scientific principles and techniques, as well as of participatory approaches in the development of a quarantine regime, capacity and other essential infrastructure for the control of the introduction and spread of invasive species in the Galapagos.

IUCN welcomed the report from the State Party on the state of conservation of the Galapagos Islands and fully acknowledged the positive steps taken by the State Party to conserve this site. The Special Law on the Galapagos provides a useful model for the management of other World Heritage sites, in particular in relation to tourism management. As for all laws and regulations, it is critical to ensure that there are adequate resources to ensure effective implementation. The results from the re-opening of the sea-cucumber fisheries indicate a low level of catch since 1994, thus raising questions about sustainability. This is the key issue for the future management of this site. The management plan has been reviewed by IUCN. It proposes an expansion of the marine reserve as an integrated management unit. It is recommended that a zoning plan be developed for this area with provisions for no-take zones. IUCN also noted that a high level management authority has been proposed, which reflects the importance given to this area within Ecuador. The management plan may provide a good basis for re-nomination of the marine reserve as an extension to the existing World Heritage site. However, IUCN noted that it is too general and more information would be needed, specifically maps indicating the zoning of the area before any recommendation could be formulated.

The Bureau commended the State Party for actions taken to conserve the site. The Bureau noted that the Management Plan for the marine reserve might provide a basis for the re-nomination of the marine reserve as an extension to the existing World Heritage site. It requested the State Party to provide the information concerning the zoning as noted by IUCN in time for the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau.

Kaziranga National Park (India)

The Centre informed the Bureau that no information was provided by the State Party concerning a detailed report on wildlife censuses that may have been undertaken after the 1998 floods and on long-term measures which are currently being implemented to mitigate future flood damage to Kaziranga, as well as whether or not the State Party intended to propose the inclusion of the recent extension (44 sq. km) of the Park into the World Heritage site.

The Bureau reiterated its invitation to the State Party to provide a report on the results of the studies that may have been undertaken to evaluate impacts of the 1998 floods on wildlife populations in the Park and long term measures currently being implemented to mitigate future flood damage, to its twenty-fourth session of the Bureau in the year 2000. The Bureau also requested the State Party to inform the Centre whether or not it intends to nominate for inclusion the recent 44 sq.km. extension to the Park into the World Heritage area.

Komodo National Park (Indonesia)

The Bureau noted that the Permanent Delegate of Indonesia, via his letter of 4 October 1999, had responded to observations and recommendations made by the Bureau, and had informed the Centre that his Government, i.e. the Directorate General for Natural Protection and Conservation, was also greatly concerned about indications of an increase in illegal dynamite and cyanide fishing in the coastal waters of Komodo National Park. He has pointed out that a Government team is expected to visit the site soon and assess the damage.

The Bureau took note of the letter sent by the State Party on 4 October 1999 and requested the State Party to submit to the Centre, before 15 April 2000, a report on the findings of the Government mission to the Komodo National Park and an assessment of the threats posed by an increase in illegal fishing in coastal waters and possible mitigation measures that need to be undertaken. The Bureau requested the Centre and IUCN to review that report and submit their findings and recommendations, including the need for any additional Centre/IUCN mission that may still prevail, for examination by the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau in mid-2000.

Mount Kenya National Park (Kenya)

The Delegate from the United Kingdom drew the attention of the Bureau to an article recently published in *The Times* which reported on extensive deforestation around Mount Kenya National Park World Heritage site. The Bureau requested the Centre to investigate this matter and report thereon at the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau.

Sagarmatha National Park (Nepal)

Following the recommendation made by the Bureau in November 1998, the Centre and IUCN facilitated a meeting of the International Centre for Protected Landscapes (ICPL), the Department for International Development (DFID, UK) and relevant authorities from His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMGN), the Ministries of Soils and Forests, and of Tourism and Civil Aviation and the Chief Warden of Sagarmatha National Parks, in London, UK, in March 1999.

The Centre and IUCN informed the Bureau that the DFID Office in Kathmandu, Nepal approved a sum of about UK£ 157,000 for the 18-month project entitled "Ecotourism, Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) National Park and the Solu-Khumbu District of Nepal". The project is foreseen as a first phase of a long-term project for implementing the revised management plan expected to be prepared during the 18-month period and DFID may consider financing the later phases of the project.

The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) of Nepal has organized consultation among various stakeholders in and around the Park, under a separate GEF Funded project, to facilitate the revision of the management plan for Sagarmatha in conjunction with its 25th anniversary celebrations in 2001. IUCN informed the Bureau that the Department of Soils and Forest Conservation of His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the IUCN Office in Nepal are jointly hosting the South Asia session of IUCN/WCPA in Sagarmatha National Park in May 2000. The participation of the Centre and IUCN staff at the May 2000 IUCN/WCPA South Asia session is foreseen and an up-to-date state of conservation report is due to be prepared as an outcome.

One of the issues in the DFID-funded project will be to strengthen rural livelihoods through promotion of tourism and conservation at Sagarmatha. It should provide a model for how tourism at World Heritage sites can be managed to improve conservation and community development. The Observer of Germany noted the importance of the Sherpa culture and the expressed concern at tourism impact on wood supply, which leads to the devastation of forests. Support should be provided to local communities. The Observer of Nepal informed the Bureau that tourism improves the economic conditions of local people and that special forest programmes have been developed. IUCN reinforced the comments made and noted that collaboration between New Zealand and Nepal had supported the establishment of this National Park. Work continued towards reforestation with indigenous plants. The significant culture of the Sherpas is an integral part of the nature-culture continuum.

The Bureau commended His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom for their co-operation in successfully developing a project which would address the energy planning and tourism development components of the management of this site. The Bureau recognized the support provided by the International Centre for Protected Landscape of Wales, UK, to the Government of Nepal in project development and urged the continuation of that co-operation to further strengthen international support to the conservation and effective management of Sagarmatha National Park.

Te Wahipounamu – South West New Zealand (New Zealand)

The Bureau was informed that a report was awaited from the State Party responding to concerns expressed by the Forest and Bird Society of New Zealand with regard to the Department of Conservation's management of the introduced thar, a mountain goat. It has been claimed that a high level of thar are maintained for recreational hunting and as a result concerns have been expressed about the effect this is having on the indigenous flora and on the integrity of this alpine ecosystem. This claim has been contested by the Department of Conservation, which has promised a detailed report. IUCN recommended that follow up action on this await the report from the Department of Conservation.

The Bureau noted the intention of the New Zealand Department of Conservation to provide a detailed report by 15 April 2000 on the management of the introduced thar at Te Wahipounamu for examination by the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau.

Arabian Oryx Sanctuary (Oman)

In response to the request of the twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau, a letter of 11 September 1999 from the Director General of the Nature Conservation Department in the Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Environment was received acknowledging that the size of the wild Arabian Oryx population had dropped from 450 to about 100. Of the 100 remaining, only 13 are females, hence the risks of the local extinction of the species are significant. Past re-introduction projects had succeeded but, with the increase in Oryx numbers, the poachers returned once again to reduce the population size sharply. An additional 45 Oryx, rescued from the wild are in captivity and are awaiting release once security in the wild is guaranteed. Recommendations from a recent International Arabian Oryx Conference (March, 1999) held in Abu Dhabi, addressed the issue of illegal trade of oryx and suggested the creation of a co-ordinating body with a permanent secretariat in one of the range states to enhance co-operation and exchange of experience across the Arabian Peninsula. The tightening of regulations and improved regional co-operation to prevent illegal transboundary movement of and trade in Arabian Oryx were also recommended. The oryx breeds well in captivity and with careful management a healthy source of animals can be guaranteed for further re-introduction programmes. Oman intends to host a follow up conference next year and improve local community participation and environmental tourism to improve local support for site protection. The Oryx Project Management team has been strengthened by the appointment of new staff.

The Bureau was informed that, the Director-General's letter informed the Centre of the explorations undertaken by an oil company already holding a concession within a part of the Sanctuary. The letter furthermore stated that a full EIA was undertaken by internationally well-known consultants and that the scope, consultations and assessment were fully in accordance with the planning policies recommended in the management planning study (Final Report) which has been incorporated within the draft management plan. However, none of the above-

mentioned documents, i.e. EIA, management planning study or draft management plan have been submitted to the Centre.

IUCN has raised serious concerns regarding the management of this site, given the fact that the boundary marking and management planning project financed in part by the World Heritage Fund is long overdue for completion. Other issues of concern include impacts of off-road vehicle use and overgrazing by domestic wildlife. A «Regional Capacity Building Training Workshop for the Promotion of Awareness in Natural Heritage Conservation in the Arab Region», for which the Committee approved a sum of US\$ 40,000 at its last session in Kyoto, Japan, is due to be held in Oman in February 2000. Participants of this Regional Capacity Building activity are expected to visit the site and assess the status of conservation of the site, including progress made in the implementation of the boundary marking and management planning project.

The Centre informed the Bureau that following the approval by the last Committee of US\$40,000 for the organization of a regional capacity building training workshop for the promotion of awareness in Natural Heritage conservation in the Arab Region, a letter addressed to the Centre dated 26 March 1999 from the Permanent Delegate of Oman to UNESCO, stated that it appeared to the Oman Authorities that the approved amount of US\$40,000 would not cover all the expenses since the programme of the workshop will include a visit to the Arabian Oryx Sanctuary, 750 km from the venue (Muscat), and the State Party had hoped that the funds would be increased to US\$60,000. A meeting to discuss this matter was held with the Ambassador and the Permanent Delegate of Oman to UNESCO on 19 October 1999 during which it was agreed to reduce the number of participants to the workshop to fifteen and for the State Party to make efforts to minimize other workshop expenses. It was agreed that the Oman would not require additional funds for the organization of this meeting. The Permanent Delegate informed the Centre that the Workshop would be held early in 2000.

In its intervention IUCN highlighted three issues: (1) the reports of the decline of the Arabian Oryx indicate serious grounds for concern, that the main impact is heavy poaching, other issues including impacts of off-road vehicle use and overgrazing by domestic wildlife; (2) IUCN noted that effective control of poaching in this area is a difficult issue and that there needs to be effective co-ordination between relevant bodies, and the allocation of adequate resources; (3) IUCN endorsed the need for a joint approach to this issue with the State Party and looked forward to co-operating in the proposed meeting in Oman in February 2000. IUCN therefore supported the recommendation as stated.

The Delegate of Zimbabwe supported the remarks of IUCN and observed as noted in the "Action required", the inadequate focus on the core problem - the real threat to the Oryx which are faced with extinction. He informed the Bureau that the issues of poaching and security are immediate and therefore needed to be addressed urgently.

The Delegate of United Kingdom while endorsing the remark made by IUCN and the Zimbabwe Delegate, stated that time is running out on the site.

The Chairperson, speaking as a citizen of Morocco, stated that the Kingdom of Morocco has close ties with the Sultanate of Oman and he will take action to draw the attention at the highest level of authorities in Oman to the international concern about the site and the Arabian Oryx. The Chairperson mentioned that the Arabian Oryx is the symbol of the Arab culture, and that the Bureau and the Committee and other consultations should lead to tangible results on this issue.

The Bureau expresses its serious concerns regarding the continuing delays in the implementation of the boundary marking and management planning project, impacts of oil exploration and of off-road vehicles use and overgrazing by domestic stock. The Bureau requests the Centre and IUCN to raise these issues with the relevant State Party officials during their participation at the Regional Capacity Building Workshop in February 2000. The Bureau suggests that the Centre and IUCN co-operate with the State Party to provide a report to the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau in mid-2000. The report should address all unresolved issues and problems threatening the integrity of this site and advise the Bureau on whether or not this site should be considered for inclusion in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Huascarán National Park (Peru)

The Bureau recalled that at its twenty-third session it encouraged the State Party to give high priority to the preparation and implementation of a restoration programme and to submit a request for technical assistance. The Bureau further encouraged the State Party to give priority attention to implement key actions as proposed by IUCN and to provide regular progress reports on its implementation, including progress achieved in the implementation of key priorities identified by the working group established on the use of the Pachacoto-Yanashallay road. The Bureau requested the State Party to submit the first of these reports by 15 September 1999 and IUCN and the Centre to prepare a mission to be carried out in 2000. IUCN commends the State Party for seeking solutions to minimize the impacts on the Park from the temporary use of the central road, but considers that further review of this issue should await the provision of information from the State Party.

The Centre informed the Bureau that two reports were received on 20 October 1999, the report on the temporary use of the central road (INRENA) and the Report of the Mountain Institute on the temporary use of the Pachacoto-Yanashallay road. IUCN commended the State Party for seeking solutions to minimize the impact on the park from the temporary use of the central road. Concerns have been raised in a recent document from the State Party (Technical Report on Monitoring Activities in Huascarán National Park) relating to opening up of new areas along the road and associated resources extraction; and also in relation to increased traffic on this road, as well as mitigation measures by the mining company. This should be taken into account by the proposed mission.

The Observer of Peru informed the Bureau that the reduction of the impacts of the mining activities is important and that mining activities, protection and development have to be seen together, as the area is one of the poorest in Peru. She stated that her Government would be pleased to invite a mission to the site.

The Bureau took note of the reports submitted by the States Party for the actions taken to monitor the temporary use of the central road at Huascarán National Park. The Bureau requested the Centre and IUCN to continue to monitor the impacts of the mining activities on the World Heritage site and its buffer zone. The Bureau welcomed the invitation by the State Party for a mission to the site in 2000 to prepare a report for the twenty-fourth session of the World Heritage Committee.

Lake Baikal (Russian Federation)

The Bureau was informed that in April 1999, the State Duma of the Russian Federation adopted the law on the Lake Baikal. It is a framework law and it requires several other legal acts to be adopted.

IUCN fully supported the Baikal law and underlined the importance of its implementation and adequate resources are

made available to ensure its effective implementation. IUCN noted the on-going concerns associated with pollution of Lake Baikal from pulp mills operating in close proximity to the site. Recent reports from Greenpeace are also noted, in relation to the lawsuit by the State Bodies for Environmental Protection in relation to the "suspension of ecologically harmful activities of the Baikalsky Pulp and Paper Plant (BP&PP)". IUCN noted there has been a large number of World Heritage monitoring and training missions to Lake Baikal (1993, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999) and before recommending another mission there is a need to carefully assess findings and recommendations from past missions.

The economic difficulties in this region are noted and it is considered that there is a need to identify and examine innovative options and solutions to this issue, specifically in relation to the legal, financial and other requirements associated with re-profiling of the Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill. Discussion of such options and solutions should address environmental, social and economic concerns and should involve donors and should ideally be addressed under the umbrella of the Baikal Commission.

The Observer of the Russian Federation informed the Bureau that the Federal "Baikal Law" was entered into force in May 1999. Some measures under this law are already under implementation. For example, the Government of the Russian Federation issued the Decree No. 1203-p, dated 2 August 1999, that confirmed the plan to prepare seven legislative documents, which will be carried out by 10 Federal State bodies in co-operation with the governments of the Baikal region. At present the administration of the Irkutsk region elaborates a proposal for the social-economic development of the city of Baikalsk, including the problem of the transformation of the Baikal Pulp and Paper Mill. After achieving an agreement with the stakeholders in the region including NGOs, it will be submitted to the Governmental Baikal Commission. In the case of adoption of this proposal, an appropriate programme will be elaborated, including fundraising and investment proposals.

The Observer of Germany insisted on the necessity to have specific regulations and stated that the framework law should be developed. To this end, international assistance should be provided to the State Party to the extent possible.

The Bureau commended the State Party for the adoption of the Baikal Law but urged that the State Party ensure its effective implementation as well as addressing pollution issues associated with the Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill. The Bureau noted the need to provide international assistance for more effective implementation of the Federal Baikal Law. The Bureau asks the State Party to prepare an application for the World Heritage Fund for a training request for a workshop on this subject. It was however noted that the State Party was not up-to-date with its contributions to the World Heritage Fund. The Bureau requests the State Party to present a state of conservation report by 15 April 2000.

Bwindi Impenetrable Forest (Uganda)

The Bureau recalled that, at its twenty-third session it recommended that the State Party submit to the Centre, before 15 September 1999, a report on measures taken to enhance security conditions in this site and to ensure the recovery of visitor numbers to pre-March 1999 levels. An email report submitted by the Chief Executive Officer of the Uganda Wildlife Authority notes the following:

A number of measures have been taken by the site-management to improve security, including: (a) the deployment of additional security personnel in and around the site; (b) joint guarding of tourist facilities by the rangers and the defence force (UPDF); (c)

establishment of a mobile strike force that cordons off and searches any place suspected to be insecure; (d) regular contact with security officers on the Uganda/DRC border to share security information and co-ordinate patrol operations; (e) opening an additional trail to improve accessibility of the joint forces near the border with the DRC; (f) improving radio communication links between security units and Bwindi site management; (g) regular briefing between the Uganda Park Authority Headquarters and the site; (h) training of relevant rangers for one month in anti-terrorism in Egypt; (i) increased publicity, nationally and internationally, of security conditions in the site by the Government; and (j) enlisting of local community support who share tourism benefits. The report also mentions that some limited donations were received to purchase walkie-talkies, sleeping bags and a 4-wheel drive vehicle. Already, as a result of the measures taken, the number of visitors has increased from 83 in April to 256 in August 1999.

There is an urgent need to train park staff to appropriately handle any security threats that may arise, given that the site borders an area of instability. Training is needed in anti-terrorism preparedness, monitoring intelligence information and community relations. Support is required to implement this training as well as to assist with the purchase of four-wheel drive vehicles.

The Bureau was informed that the Centre has received two official letters, the first dated 14 May 1999 from the Executive Director of Wildlife Authority, and a second dated 3 November 1999 from the Permanent Delegation of Uganda to UNESCO. Both letters confirm the above information provided to the Bureau concerning the site.

The IUCN informed the Bureau that a number of measures are underway by the Ugandan authorities especially regarding deployment of staff in and around the site, and capacity building for staff to enable them to deal with this site. The IUCN stated there is need for further discussions about what needs to be done, for example, what are the priorities and what role the World Heritage Centre can play. He mentioned that IUCN will continue this dialogue with the Centre and the State Party, particularly working with and through the IUCN country office in Uganda.

The Bureau requests the Centre and IUCN to verify, with the Ugandan authorities, their needs for support for purchase of vehicles and staff training and, if confirmed as reported above, facilitate efforts of the Ugandan authorities to obtain financial support from suitable sources including the World Heritage Fund. The Bureau requests that the Centre and IUCN report on measures taken to support site management at the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau in mid-2000.

Gough Island (United Kingdom)

IUCN noted several reports received, including from its Antarctic Advisory Committee (AAC) on the management of the island. There appears to be ongoing concern over long-line fishing in the waters around Gough Island, but that it is occurring outside the boundaries of the World Heritage site. The reports suggest that, even if the UK Government could enforce strict controls on all fishing within the 200 nautical mile EEZ around the islands, it would not totally prevent the problem, as the affected birds forage much further than even the 200 nautical miles, even while breeding. On the terrestrial front, Gough Island is managed according to the management plan and there are relatively few problems. In August 1999 a comprehensive report from the environmental observer to Gough Island was submitted to IUCN. The report details: preventative measures to be taken against the introduction of alien species; outlines actions to be taken to maintain the area; and lists the status and recommendations relating to the operations in the logistic zone (i.e., waste control,

response to fuel spillage, management regulations on entry to the reserve and fishing, and conservation awareness).

One issue that emerged last year was the resurgence of the *weed sagina cf. procumbens* that was believed to have been transported from Marion Island where there was a problem with this plant. A specialist had visited the site this year to assess the extent of the invasion and attempt to eradicate it. Also a two-year inventory of invertebrate communities, begun in September 1999, will give better insight into this fauna, and the impact mice have had on the island. IUCN notes that the boundaries of the Gough Island Wildlife Reserve area lie three nautical miles out to sea, since this was the extent of territorial waters when the Tristan Conservation Ordinance of 1976 and the Wildlife Reserve were promulgated. Subsequently, territorial waters in the Gough-Tristan group were extended to 12nm.

The Observer of the UK confirmed to the Bureau that the weed accidentally introduced last year is an issue and that a Dutch expert had visited the island and produced a detailed report about the invasive species. This is currently being conveyed to the Centre. It is hoped that an eradication team can be sent to the Island in February 2000.

The Bureau recommended that the State Party encourages the St. Helena Government (of which Tristan and Gough are dependencies) to expand the boundaries of the Gough Island Wildlife Reserve to 12nm. Following that, the Bureau recommended that the UK Government should consider extension of the World Heritage boundary and to report on what it can do to protect the wider marine environment.

Ngorongoro Conservation Area and the Serengeti National Park (United Republic of Tanzania)

The Bureau was informed that the Ngorongoro Conservation Area was included in the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1984 due to poaching and threats posed by illegal agricultural encroachments. Continuous monitoring and technical assistance projects contributed towards improving the state of conservation leading to the removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1989.

The Bureau was informed that IUCN's East African Regional Office has been approached by a consultant firm working with the Tanzanian Ministry of Works to provide input to a feasibility study on a gravel access road to Loliondo (the administrative centre of the Ngorongoro District). Four routes are being considered for upgrading. Two of the routes proposed would pass through the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. The other route would cut across the eastern end of Olduvai Gorge. However, there are two other possible alignments that start from Monduli and Mto-wa-Mbu. The two roads would come together near Engaruka, from where the road would pass between Lake Natron and Oldonyo Lengai Volcano before ascending the Rift Valley escarpment towards Loliondo. IUCN has welcomed the consultative approach taken by the Government of Tanzania in the planning phase of this road. IUCN considers that options should be carefully considered and should take fully into account potential impacts on the values of both Ngorongoro Conservation Area and the Olduvai Gorge.

The Centre reported to the Bureau about the two vehicles which have been stored at the Kenyan port of Mombasa since 1998 and could no longer be delivered to the sites in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, their original destination. Following a recommendation of the twenty-third session of Bureau, the two vehicles are in the process of being delivered to the United Republic of Tanzania which had requested similar support for Kilimanjaro and Serengeti National Parks, with the assistance of WWF East African Regional Office and UNESCO Office in Dar-es-Salaam. The Chairperson had approved US\$20,000 to enable

the WWF Office to clear customs duty and to forward the vehicles to the Tanzanian sites.

IUCN confirmed to the Bureau that IUCN's East African Regional Office has been involved with the State Party on the review of options for an access road to Ngorongoro. He stated that IUCN believes that the potential impact on the World Heritage value of the site should be a critical factor in the assessment of the options.

The Hungarian Delegation suggested that the mandate of the mission could be expanded so that it could also study the proper definition of the boundaries of the site.

The Zimbabwe Delegation applauded the enlightened approach adopted by Tanzania. He stated that the problem of access to Loliondo (the administrative centre of Ngorongoro District) were such that a drive to it, for example, from Arusha was difficult. The suggestion to have a mission to Tanzania was very welcome and that such a mission should consider the balance of the issues of both integrity of the property as well as the crucial one of access.

ICOMOS drew attention to the cultural importance of this site, which contained one of the most famous fossil hominid sites in the world, Olduvai Gorge, as well as the more recently discovered Laetoli site. ICOMOS had been in contact with the State Party which was proposing to nominate Ngorongoro under the cultural criteria in the near future.

The Bureau invited the State Party to fully extend its co-operation to involve UNESCO and IUCN and ICOMOS in the consultation process and to invite a mission to consider the various options available, with a view to minimising impacts of the road construction project to the two World Heritage sites.

The Bureau requested the Centre and IUCN and ICOMOS submit a status report on the proposed road construction project, impacts of the various options available on the two sites and recommendations which the Bureau could submit to the consideration of the State Party after the proposed mission is undertaken.

Canaima National Park (Venezuela)

The Bureau recalled that the full report of the UNESCO/IUCN mission to the site was presented to its last session which endorsed the following recommendations made by the mission team: to encourage the State Party to submit a request for technical assistance to organize and implement a national workshop on Canaima National Park; to request the Government to provide increased support to the National Park Institute (INPARQUES) and the Ministry for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (MARNR) and to explore ways to enhance the institutional capacity of these institutions; that MARNR and INPARQUES should give maximum priority to establishing a buffer zone around Canaima National Park, including Sierra de Lema; to recommend that an adequate follow-up to the implementation of the mission's Short-Term Action Plan, including the possible revision of the boundaries of the site, be implemented; to invite the State Party to submit annual progress reports on the state of conservation of this site; and to recommend that the State Party creates mechanisms to promote dialogue between all relevant stakeholders interested in the conservation and management of this area.

IUCN informed the Bureau that the Action Plan, jointly developed with the State Party, provides a useful framework for further action. IUCN noted that concerns have been raised about recent conflicts between Pemons communities and the National Guards. The Bureau was informed that an international assistance request has been submitted for a workshop aimed at various

target groups with a view to raising awareness of the status of the World Heritage sites and its international significance.

The Bureau recalled the recommendation from the mission report (presented to its twenty-third session) on the need to create mechanisms to promote dialogue between all relevant stakeholders, including the Pemons communities, and on the conservation and management of this area. The Bureau invited the State Party to follow-up on the Action Plan recommended by the mission.

Ha Long Bay (Vietnam)

The Centre informed the Bureau that the Vietnam authorities, via their letter of 18 August 1999, have transmitted the following to the Centre: Two volumes of the EIA of the Bai Chay Bridge Construction Project which has been approved by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (MOSTE) of Vietnam; A draft report of the study on «The Environmental Management for Ha Long Bay Project» jointly prepared by the Japanese International Co-operation Agency (JICA), MOSTE and the Quang Ninh Province Government. These voluminous reports have been transmitted to IUCN for review. IUCN provided comments based on its preliminary review of these reports. In addition, the Government of Vietnam has re-nominated the Ha Long Bay under natural heritage criterion (i). The re-nomination will be evaluated by IUCN in the year 2000 and a report submitted to the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau in mid-2000. The World Bank Office in Vietnam has responded to the observations and recommendations of the twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau, via a letter dated 19 August 1999, and has indicated that it intends to implement an augmented lending programme for Hai Phong – Ha Long improvement over the next few years in accordance with the Bank's Country Assistance Strategy.

IUCN highlighted the Bank/IUCN co-operation to prepare a proposal for a GEF Block B grant to develop a marine management programme for the North Tonkin Archipelago, which included Ha Long Bay. IUCN Vietnam has recruited a marine officer from one of the local institutions to assist with the development of this proposal. The project will implement an integrated management programme for the Archipelago which will lay the foundation for a model Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) programme for the region. The project, according to the letter from the Bank Office in Vietnam will provide for pilot scale development of methods of reducing pollutants carried into the Archipelago from agriculture, forestry, industrial and urban development activities in the Hai Phong and the Quang Ninh Provinces. IUCN has informed the Centre that Environment Australia and the Embassy of the Government of the Netherlands in Hanoi have also been approached in relation to support for this project. The latter has also been approached to support other projects, such as the implementation of a project to strengthen the capacity of the Ha Long Bay Management Department. They have expressed an interest in principle to offer support for both projects should the request come directly from the Vietnam Government. The World Bank Office in Vietnam has committed itself to support and co-ordinate development and conservation activities made by UNESCO as well as by other donors in the World Heritage. The Bureau also noted standards for environmental monitoring of the Ha Long Bay used as data in the JICA/Government of Vietnam Environmental Study could be improved through obtaining data on environmental quality standards used for Bay waters and atmospheric conditions from a number of internationally significant protected areas (e.g. Great Barrier Reef etc.) The environmental qualities would have to be improved according to those internationally acceptable standards.

The Observer of Vietnam informed that as requested by the Bureau the draft final report on the study of the Environmental Management Plan for Ha Long Bay and the Environmental

Impact Assessment of Baichay Bridge have been submitted to the Centre. He said that they are comprehensive and take into account all potential and possible sources of pollution, which could have impacts on the environment and the ecosystem of Ha Long Bay. The two documents also included many effective measures and projects, to be implemented in the future for environmental protection of Ha Long Bay, especially the World Heritage area. The implementation of the two projects will constitute positive factors for the economic development as well as the environmental preservation of Ha Long Bay World Heritage site. However, their sound realization and implementation would need a lot of time, funds and efforts by all related local authorities and agencies as well as the co-operation and assistance from international institutions including UNESCO, thus making positive contributions to the preservation and environmental protection of Halong Bay and the World Heritage area in particular.

The Delegate of Australia informed the Bureau that the co-operation with Vietnam on this project has already begun.

The Observer of Japan stated that information on the JICA project could be obtained in time for the next session of the Bureau. The Delegate of Hungary underlined the importance of the UNESCO Office in Hanoi for the co-ordination between the State Party and donor agencies.

The Bureau noted that the Government of Vietnam has submitted to the Centre comprehensive reports on the EIA of the Baichay Bridge project and on the JICA/Government of Vietnam Environmental Study of Ha Long Bay. The Bureau also noted the views of the Observer of Vietnam that economic development of the region could contribute positively to the environmental protection of Ha Long Bay. The Bureau expressed its satisfaction with the commitment of the World Bank Office in Hanoi, Vietnam, in co-operation with the UNESCO Vietnam Office to support the State Party in co-ordinating conservation and development activities in the Ha Long Bay World Heritage area. The Bureau invited the State Party to use the rising donor interest to support the conservation of the Ha Long Bay World Heritage area and implement measures, in particular, to upgrade the profile, authority and the capacity of the Ha Long Bay Management Department which has the principal responsibility to manage the World Heritage area as a coastal and marine protected area located in an area of intensive economic development. The Bureau invited the State Party to submit annual reports to the extraordinary sessions of the Bureau, highlighting in particular, measures that are being taken to build capacity for the management of the site and monitor the environment of Ha Long Bay in accordance with internationally acceptable standards and norms applicable to a coastal and marine protected area.

MIXED HERITAGE

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

Tasmanian Wilderness (Australia)

The Bureau recalled that at its twenty-third ordinary session, in July 1999, the Australian Government was requested to inform the Centre of (i) any potential boundary extensions that may be foreseen together with a timetable for the implementation of the Regional Forestry Agreement (RFA); (ii) its assessment of the implications of the RFA on other areas identified as having World Heritage value and (iii) the potential impacts on forest catchments in the World Heritage site of other areas which may be logged under the RFA.

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

The Bureau noted that IUCN's Regional Office for Southern Africa was intending to organize a bilateral meeting for 28 July 1999 but it was not held due to lack of funding. IUCN recommended that a formal request be submitted by the State Parties to fund this meeting in 2000.

The Centre informed the Bureau that the Zimbabwean Department of Physical Planning had informed IUCN's Regional Office for Southern Africa, i.e. IUCN/ROSA, on the status of the Victoria Falls Environmental Capacity Enhancement and Master Plan. CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) has pledged to provide financial and technical support for the implementation of this Master Plan Project. A Memorandum of Understanding between CIDA and the Government of Zimbabwe was to be signed in mid-October. The Canadian Executing Agency has been contracted and the inception phase of the project has begun. IUCN/ROSA and other agencies have been invited to a preliminary meeting, scheduled for October, to discuss project implementation arrangements and progress to date. IUCN/ROSA has been co-opted on to the Project Steering Committee for the Master Plan Project, specifically to represent interests of the Zambia/Zimbabwe Joint Commission, formed at the time of the Victoria Falls Strategic Environmental Study.

IUCN informed the Bureau that the priority was to move forward on the Victoria Falls Environmental Capacity Enhancement and Master Plan as quickly as possible. IUCN/ROSA has been co-opted on the Steering Committee for this Master Plan. IUCN further reiterated its willingness to work with both State Parties to help organize the bilateral meeting mentioned in the Bureau report, and hoped that support would be provided from the World Heritage Fund to convene this meeting in 2000.

The Zimbabwe Delegate remarked that there are two issues in the report of the Bureau: one relating to the development on the hotel project on the northern side (Zambia) and the other relating to IUCN/ROSA on the status of the Environmental Capacity Enhancement and Master Plan.

Following clarifications from the Centre that the meeting was in the first context, Zimbabwe supported the recommendation and the action required of the Bureau.

The Bureau invites the States Parties to expedite the organization of the bilateral meeting as soon as possible in 2000 in order to report the outcome of the meeting to the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau in mid-2000. The Bureau urges the two States Parties to submit a joint request for financial support for the organization of the meeting to be submitted to the Chairperson for approval.

The Bureau noted that the State Party responded in a letter dated 14 September 1999 stating that its priority was in enhancing the management regime for the existing World Heritage property and ensuring that all World Heritage values are protected. Boundary extensions are not being actively considered at this stage. The State Party had informed the Centre of the recently completed Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan developed by the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service and the new Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, which will come into effect no later than July 2000.

The Bureau noted that IUCN has informed the Centre that the Australian Committee for IUCN (ACIUCN) proposes to undertake an assessment of the conservation status of the Tasmanian Wilderness within the next year. IUCN noted and supported, in principle, the Tasmanian Regional Forestry Agreement (RFA) process as it represents a significant step towards a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system, as well as potentially providing the basis for the ecologically sustainable management of forests in Tasmania. IUCN also noted that the RFA consolidates relationships between state and federal governments on matters affecting the World Heritage site relating to policy, management and funding. IUCN had also expressed its view that it is important that options for any future extension of the World Heritage property should not be foreclosed. IUCN thus considered that areas of the dedicated RFA reserve system which have been previously identified as having World Heritage value should be managed in a manner consistent with potential World Heritage status.

IUCN expressed its concern that the timeframe proposed for the preparation of a report for the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau may not be able to be realized, being contingent on the human and financial resources available to ACIUCN. IUCN commended the recently completed management plan for the site and reiterated that it is important that options for extension of the World Heritage property should not be foreclosed. IUCN considered that the possibilities provided by the Regional Forest Agreement to support the integrity of the property need to be realized as soon as practicable.

The Delegate of Australia also expressed concern about the time limits and the considerable commitments of ACIUCN. He informed the Bureau that his Delegation would have discussions with IUCN with a view to expediting the ACIUCN process for a state of conservation report on the Tasmanian Wilderness. He noted the importance of drawing constructively on the knowledge gained in the RFA process for the future management of the Tasmanian Wilderness.

The Bureau decided to transmit the report to the Committee for examination and to recommend the Committee to adopt the following:

“The Committee requests the Australian Committee for IUCN (ACIUCN) to complete its review process on the state of conservation of the Tasmanian Wilderness with the aim of submitting an up-to-date report to the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau in 2000. ACIUCN’s review should include reference to any continuing concerns, such as those noted at the twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau, and suggestions relating to any future extension of the World Heritage property and the management of areas of the dedicated Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) reserve system which have been previously identified as having World Heritage value.

The Committee commends the State Party for the recent completion of the 1999 Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan, and recommends that its effectiveness be regularly monitored over time.”

Mount Emei Shan Scenic Area, including Leshan Giant Buddha Scenic Area (China)

The Bureau recalled that at the time of its inscription at the twentieth session in 1996, the Committee recommended that the Chinese authorities carefully control tourism development at the site and encourage involvement of the Buddhist monasteries in conservation activities on the mountain. The Bureau noted that IUCN has recently been informed that the construction of the light railway for tourists between Golden Summit and the main

summit of Emei Shan (Wanfoding) has resumed and is well advanced. The Bureau was informed that the World Heritage Centre has requested that the Chinese authorities provide further information on the latest progress with this development.

IUCN said that it awaits the report of the State Party with great interest because of its concern about the construction of the light railway and the implications of tourism facilities associated with it. ICOMOS noted the considerable cultural values of the property. The Bureau noted that a Tourism Development Plan had been prepared for the site in 1998. The Plan expressed deep concern about the construction of the railway and recommended the development of a detailed management plan for the site.

The Observer of China thanked the Bureau for its concern about the state of conservation of the site. He reported that the Chinese authorities and the World Heritage Centre had organized an on-site meeting to prepare a strategy for the better protection of the World Heritage property. He expressed the commitment of his authorities to protect the site and to provide the World Heritage Centre with a report by 15 April 2000.

The Bureau recommended that the Committee adopt the following decision:

“The Committee requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, before 15 April 2000, a state of conservation report on developments at “Mount Emei Shan Scenic Area, including Leshan Giant Buddha Scenic Area””.

Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru)

The Bureau recalled that the state of conservation of the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu was discussed at several sessions of the Committee and the Bureau, particularly with reference to the management and planning for the Sanctuary as well as a proposed project for the construction of a cable car.

At the request of the Bureau at its twenty-third session, the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and ICOMOS undertook a mission to the site to assess five issues identified by the Bureau. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the mission took place from 18 to 25 October 1999, that the conclusions of the mission were presented on 25 October 1999 to the National Institute for Natural Resources (INRENA), the National Institute for Culture (INC) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and that the draft report was transmitted to the Government of Peru on 15 November 1999 for comments. The full report of the mission was presented in Information Document WHC-99/CONF.208/INF 7. The Secretariat then introduced the report, conclusions and recommendations of the mission.

The Secretariat recalled that the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1983 under cultural criteria (i) and (iii) in recognition of the testimony to the Inca civilization and under natural criteria (ii) and (iii), as they were formulated in 1983, for man’s interaction with his natural environment and for the beauty of its landscape.

As to the planning and management arrangements for the site, the mission reported that the Master Plan for the Sanctuary was adopted in October 1998 and that a Management Unit was established jointly by the National Institute for Culture and the National Institute for Natural Resources in June 1999. In this respect it was noted that only the successful operation of the Management Unit and the full application of the Master Plan and the operational plans derived from it, will ensure that a situation of gradual deterioration over many years will be reversed and a process of improved management and preservation will be initiated. Important initiatives had been

developed already at the time of the mission, such as a fire prevention programme, waste management and the initiation of a plan for the village of Aguas Calientes.

With regard to specific projects, the mission concluded that any proposed development or intervention could not be studied in isolation but only in the overall context of the site and considering the specific criteria applied for the inscription on the World Heritage List. Having analysed the overall state of conservation of the site, the mission noted very strong tourism and demographic pressure particularly on the area surrounding the Ciudadela. In this sense, the mission concluded that any intervention in this area would very seriously affect the World Heritage value, the integrity and authenticity of the site. At the same time, the mission concluded that decisions on means of access to the Ciudadela could only be taken in relation to the carrying capacity of the Sanctuary and its components.

The mission, therefore, recommended the preparation of detailed studies on the carrying capacity of, and the means of access to the Sanctuary and its components, the reorganization and, if possible, reduction of visitor facilities in the area surrounding the Ciudadela, and for overall planning for the village of Aguas Calientes. The mission concluded that studies and plans should be developed within the framework of the Master Plan for the Sanctuary and in full recognition of the need to preserve the natural and cultural values of the World Heritage property, its authenticity and its integrity.

Representatives of both IUCN and ICOMOS expressed strong support for the mission's findings and recommendations that, for the first time, had analysed the state of conservation of Machu Picchu in a holistic and integrated approach. They commended the Government of Peru for the actions it had recently taken and emphasized that a key issue will be to ensure that the Management Unit has the resources and support to convert the strategic Master Plan into action and to implement the recommendations of the mission. IUCN also emphasized the desirability of extending the site, as recommended by the Committee at the time of its inscription, to enhance the property's natural values.

The Delegate of Zimbabwe commended the way in which the report, for the first time, presented the issues at stake with clarity, enabling the Bureau to make an informed opinion on a question that is complex and not just refer to the construction of a cable car. He made particular reference to recommendations 6, 7 and 8 of the mission report that would establish a period of study of issues related to tourism management. Finland also expressed support for the report and made reference to the

involvement of his country in a major support programme for Machu Picchu.

The Bureau decided to transmit the report to the Committee for examination and to recommend the Committee to adopt the following:

“The Committee, having examined the report of the World Heritage Centre-IUCN-ICOMOS mission to the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu, endorses the conclusions and recommendations contained in it.

The Committee congratulates the Government of Peru on the adoption of the Master Plan and the establishment of the Management Unit. It urges the Government of Peru to ensure that all institutions, authorities and agencies involved in the Sanctuary give their full support to the Management Unit for the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu so that this unit can effectively and efficiently fulfil the tasks entrusted to it.

The Committee recognizes that there is strong tourism pressure on the site and that the studies proposed in recommendations 6, 7 and 8 of the mission report would allow this matter to be addressed in an integrated manner.

The Committee requests the Government of Peru to submit, by 15 April 2000 for transmission to and examination by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth session, a report that should include its response to the mission's conclusions and recommendations, as well as information on the progress made in the preparation and execution of operational plans for the implementation of the Master Plan for the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu.”

The Observer of Peru commended the co-operation between her Government and the World Heritage Committee. She confirmed that her Government would transmit all available information on the application of the Master Plan to the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau. While she expressed reservations about certain parts of the mission report, there was full agreement on the need to undertake in-depth studies on the carrying capacity of the site and the management of tourism and these will be undertaken as soon as possible within the available means. She concluded by saying that the Government is committed to preserve the integrity and authenticity of the site and that no new constructions will be undertaken unless impact studies are first approved by the competent authorities.

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

Kakadu National Park (Australia)

The Bureau recalled the decision of the third extraordinary session of the Committee on 12 July 1999 concerning the state of conservation of Kakadu National Park.

The Bureau noted that on 25 October 1999 the Centre received a letter from the State Party providing a report on progress made since the third extraordinary session of the Committee. The report recalled that a formal report would be submitted in April 2000 in accordance with the request of the Committee. In summary, the report from the State Party highlighted the following results:

- Drilling at Jabiluka has ceased
- Discussions have taken place on the future

implementation of the Kakadu Regional Social Impact Study (KRSIS)

- Work on resolving the cultural issues has been delayed due to the withdrawal by the Mirrar Aboriginal people of their application for a declaration of protection under Section 10 of the 1984 *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act* for an area described as the “Boyweg-Almudj Sacred Site Complex”.
- Stakeholders (for example, ICOMOS) have been invited to participate in the development of projects to contribute to the Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

The report from the State Party expressed concern about a delay in the commencement of the assessment of the remaining scientific issues and noted that this may make it difficult for the Independent Scientific Panel (ISP) of the International Council

for Science (ICSU) and the Australian Supervising Scientist to provide the Committee with further advice by the 15 April 2000 as had been requested. This point was also made in a letter received from the Australian Supervising Scientist on 21 October 1999 in which he also outlined suggestions as to how to proceed with the assessment of scientific issues relating to the Jabiluka mine development.

The Bureau also noted that the State Party had informed the Centre that the Aboriginal traditional owners of the Koongarra mine site (located within another enclave to the south) had recently instructed the Northern [Aboriginal] Land Council (NLC) to continue negotiating an agreement with the mining company (Koongarra Ltd). These negotiations were reported by the State Party as having been on-going for the last twenty-two years.

The Bureau noted that the Centre received supplementary information from the State Party on 27 October 1999. Energy Resources of Australia Ltd (ERA) had received advice that the Northern Land Council (which negotiates on behalf of the Aboriginal Traditional Owners) would not consider any proposal in relation to trucking ore from the Jabiluka mine to the existing Ranger mill for processing until at least 1 January 2005. ERA's

remaining option would be to build a new mill at Jabiluka. The State Party reported that ERA would now focus on refining the best outcomes that could be delivered by developing a milling operation at Jabiluka. The State Party informed the Centre that ERA has resolved to work in consultation with the traditional owners, and other key stakeholders, in developing the Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP). The Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Senator Hill, wrote to the Mirrar on 25 October 1999 providing copies of studies on the potential impacts of dust and vibration on the rock art at Jabiluka and a copy of a peer review of the Interim CHMP prepared by ERA. The Senator's letter also sought the co-operation of the Mirrar in the preparation of the CHMP.

The Delegate of Australia expressed the State Party's support for the Bureau's decision. In recalling their commitment to provide a more comprehensive progress report by 15 April 2000, the Delegate of Australia stated that they would continue to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of new information concerning the state of conservation of Kakadu National Park.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

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

Peking Man Site at Zhoukoudian (China)

The Bureau took note of the report and recommendations of the ICOMOS-ICCROM Joint Mission, undertaken in September 1999, which examined the state of conservation, management and factors affecting the Peking Man Site at Zhoukoudian. ICOMOS underlined the importance of the basic, systematic, low-cost monitoring regime to be instituted for the whole site, for assessing the needs for major and expensive physical site protection measures, such as the construction of shelters over various localities. ICOMOS also reiterated the Joint Mission's recommendation in preparing an overall conservation and management plan. The Observer of China expressed his Government's appreciation to the Bureau, the World Heritage Centre and the advisory bodies for organizing the Joint Mission. The Observer of China expressed his Government's wish to co-operate closely with the advisory bodies and the World Heritage Centre in seriously examining the Joint Mission findings and recommendations, and his Government's intention to propose a detailed plan of action for examination by the twenty-fourth Bureau. As to the recommendation concerning the criteria under which the site was inscribed on the World Heritage List, the Government of China agreed with the view of the Joint Mission that the justification for inscription of this site on the World Heritage List should include cultural criterion (iv).

The Bureau recommended the following for adoption by the Committee:

“The Committee takes note of the findings of the report and recommendations of the ICOMOS-ICCROM Joint Mission, undertaken in September 1999, which examined the state of conservation, management and factors affecting the Peking Man Site at Zhoukoudian. The Committee expresses appreciation to the Government of China, the advisory bodies and the Secretariat for the

organization of the Joint Mission, which resulted with concrete recommendations for short and long term actions for enhanced management of the site. The Committee underlines the importance of putting into place a systematic low-cost monitoring system for the whole site, as well as the need for preparing an overall conservation and management plan.

The Committee welcomes the Government's intention to seriously examine the Joint Mission recommendations, and requests the advisory bodies and the World Heritage Centre to closely co-operate with the national authorities in the necessary follow-up actions. As to the Joint Mission recommendation to add criterion (iv) and remove criterion (vi) under which the site is inscribed on the World Heritage List, the Committee requests ICOMOS to examine this matter further in consultation with the State Party. The Committee requests ICOMOS to make a further recommendation for examination by the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau.”

Islamic Cairo (Egypt)

The Bureau took note with satisfaction of the progress of the work begun on the project and achieved in 1999 for the revitalisation of Islamic Cairo and the excellent co-operation established with the Governor of Cairo and the Ministry of Culture – Supreme Council of Antiquities. He considered that the priority given to the co-ordination of the various actions undertaken by the national institutions and the international co-operation at the site is of major importance for the launching of the pilot projects for urban rivalization. In this framework, he acknowledged the importance of co-operation established with France with the secondment to the project of an architect-restorer already working in Cairo. The Bureau finally took note

of the decision of the Minister of Culture to allocate an additional amount of US\$ 120,000 for this project.

With regard to the Al-Azhar Mosque, the Bureau was informed that an ICOMOS specialist would undertake a mission to Cairo shortly.

The Bureau recommended that the Committee approve the following text:

“The Committee thanks the national authorities and the international community for its commitment in supporting this important and complex site. The Committee wishes to remind the State Party of the need to ensure the continuity of the long-term action for the success in the safeguarding and revitalization of Islamic Cairo. It encourages the State Party to continue its direct and indirect financial contributions to the project.”

City-Museum Reserve of Mtskheta (Georgia)

From 1996 to 1999 an amount of US\$ 36,800 was made available under technical co-operation for expert services on a management and tourism policy. A preliminary study for a Master Plan for the heritage and tourist policy for the World Heritage site was prepared. In September 1999, the major elements of this study were presented during a World Heritage Centre mission to potential donor institutions in the form of "Terms of Reference for 9 Actions". As a result, a project is being prepared with UNDP (to be financed by UNDP and the World Heritage Fund) for the development of a Heritage and Tourism Master Plan.

The mission team particularly noted the critical conditions of two archaeological sites: the Armaztsikhe and the Samtavros Veli sites. Furthermore, the mission took note of a plan to build a new bell tower within the enclosure of the cathedral.

The Observer of Germany inquired about the results of the previous assistance and pointed out that urgent interventions and rehabilitation works are needed in the site. These issues should be taken into account by the Committee when examining a request for technical co-operation for the preparation of the Master Plan.

The Bureau decided to transmit the report to the Committee for examination and recommended the following for adoption:

“The Committee welcomes the initiative of the Government of Georgia and the Mtskheta Foundation to develop a Heritage and Tourism Master Plan for the City-Museum Reserve of Mtskheta. It expresses its full support for this initiative that will provide the appropriate framework for a coherent set of actions to be financed by different sources and donor institutions. The Committee recognizes that on the middle and long-term major investments will be required for the actual implementation of the Master Plan and calls upon States Parties, international institutions and organizations to collaborate in this effort.

The Committee urges the Government of Georgia to take immediate measures for the protection of the Armaztsikhe archaeological site and for the recuperation of the total area of the Samtavros Veli Necropolis site. It requests the Georgian authorities to provide the plans for the bell tower at the cathedral for further study by ICOMOS.”

Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin (Germany)

The fifth state of conservation report, requested by the twenty-second session of the Committee was submitted by the German authorities and evaluated by ICOMOS.

ICOMOS stated that important progress had been made in the planning for and preparation of urban planning mechanisms for the Quartier am Bahnhof and the Potsdam area in such a way that the cultural landscape values are preserved.

ICOMOS expressed concern about the so-called German Unity Project 17, a project to improve waterways in the eastern part of Germany. In Potsdam two alternatives exist, one of which goes through the World Heritage site and large vessels might be a danger for the landscape and individual monuments. The other alternative, the northern route, would use existing waterways that do not affect the World Heritage value of the cultural landscape of Potsdam.

The Bureau decided to transmit the report to the Committee for examination and recommended the adoption of the following decision:

“The Committee commends the German authorities for their fifth report on the state of conservation of the Parks and Palaces of Potsdam and Berlin. It acknowledges the efforts made to restrict as much as possible the negative effects of the Havel project (German Unity Project 17) on the integrity of the World Heritage site. Nevertheless, it considers that considerable threats persist to the landscape and certain historic monuments, such as the Sacrow Church and the Babelsberg Engine House.

The Committee wishes to know whether it would be possible to restrict passage through the World Heritage site to standard-sized vessels and to develop the Havel Canal, which lies outside the site (the northern route) so as to permit the passage of larger vessels.

It requests the German authorities to continue its efforts to find a solution in conformity with the requirements of the World Heritage Convention. A report should be provided before 15 April 2000 in order that it may be examined by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth session.”

Sun Temple of Konarak (India)

The Bureau examined the updated state of conservation report presented by the Secretariat, and transmitted the following for adoption by the Committee.

“The Committee, having examined the developments at the Sun Temple of Konarak, expresses concern over its state of conservation. The Committee reiterates the Bureau’s requests to the Government of India to submit information concerning the structural study implemented with the financial assistance from the World Heritage Fund emergency assistance reserve, made available in 1998. The Committee requests the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to continue its arrangements for an urgent reactive monitoring mission, in close co-operation with the national authorities concerned. The Committee requests the findings of this ICOMOS mission, and reports submitted by the Government of India, to be submitted for examination by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth session. The Committee also requests the Secretariat and ICOMOS to clarify whether or not the Government of India intends to nominate this site for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.”

Byblos (Lebanon)

The Bureau decided to transmit the state of conservation of this site to the Committee for examination and the provision of information concerning the second expert meeting that was held in Byblos in November 1999.

Tyre (Lebanon)

The Director CLT/CH and WHC, reported on the progress made in the activities relating to the archaeological site of Tyre which had suffered considerably for several years from the lack of appropriate archaeological regulations, an archaeological map and a management plan.

It is for this reason that the Lebanese authorities have requested UNESCO at every General Conference and once again during its thirtieth session, to ensure the participation of international experts in long-term missions to the site.

The Bureau adopted the following recommendation :

“The Committee thanks the Lebanese Government for their co-operation in the preservation of the City of Tyre. In view of the serious and persistent threats to the safeguarding of the site, the Committee requests that the recommendations of the International Scientific Committee be urgently implemented, particularly the adoption of a city management plan to ensure the safeguarding of the archaeological zones as well as their protection through the creation of an appropriate landscape design. The Committee also requests the authorities to appoint a national co-ordinator and open a national account for the International Safeguarding Campaign as it was agreed with UNESCO, and recalled in the letter dated 7 July 1999 from the Director-General to the Minister of Culture”.

Historic Centre of Puebla (Mexico)

In response to a request from the Bureau at its twenty-third session, the Mexican authorities submitted a detailed inventory of damages caused to the Historic Centre of Puebla and the Earliest 16th-Century Monasteries on the slopes of Popocatepetl by the earthquake of 15 June 1999. The inventory refers to 102 buildings in the State of Puebla, a great number of which are located within the two World Heritage sites. The report included immediate actions that have been taken already by the Mexican authorities, as well as an estimate of the funds needed for consolidation, restoration and repair.

The observer from Germany commended the Government of Mexico for the immediate response to the earthquake so that collapse of monuments could be prevented. ICOMOS informed the Bureau that it had also received a detailed report on damages to the site of the Historic Centre of Oaxaca and Archaeological Site of Monte Alban and that it would make this report available to the World Heritage Centre.

The Delegate of Mexico informed the Bureau that a special commission had been set up to deal with the damages caused by the earthquakes and that it had consulted with other States Parties on defining the appropriate response to this situation.

A request for emergency assistance for an amount of US\$ 100,000 will be considered by the Committee at its twenty-third session. The request refers particularly to the Monastery of Tochimilco, one of the monasteries on the slopes of the Popocatepetl.

The Bureau recommended the Committee to adopt the following decision:

“The Committee thanks the Mexican authorities for the detailed report on the damages caused by the earthquake of 15 June 1999 to the World Heritage sites of the Historic Centre of Puebla and the Earliest 16th-Century Monasteries on the slopes of Popocatepetl. It commends the authorities for the immediate response given to the earthquake and the emergency measures that have been taken to prevent further damage and collapse.

The Committee requests the Mexican authorities to submit, by 15 September 2000, a report on the progress made in the consolidation of the monuments, for examination by the Committee at its twenty-fourth session.”

Kathmandu Valley (Nepal)

Background

At its sixteenth session in 1992, the Committee, at the initiative of ICOMOS, examined the state of conservation of Kathmandu Valley, which was the subject of a UNESCO International Safeguarding Campaign, and of numerous reports written since the 1970s. ICOMOS expressed concern for the future safeguarding of this site, especially due to the absence of technical personnel and skilled labour, and to the quality of some restorations of wooden monuments with true architectural value. The Delegate of Germany, who expressed his concern at the alarming report, suggested recommending to the Nepalese Government to substantially increase the staff of at the Department of Archaeology and the funds at their disposal so that they may act effectively with regard to urban development threatening the Valley. The Delegate of Pakistan and ICCROM stressed the importance of acting in order to preserve the heritage of the Kathmandu Valley. The Committee adopted the recommendations made by ICOMOS and asked the Secretariat to contact the Nepalese authorities to study all the recommendations of ICOMOS and the Committee.

In 1993, a Joint UNESCO-ICOMOS Mission was undertaken, whose conclusions stressed the continuing urgency of the situation and defined sixteen areas in which significant improvements should be made in order to maintain the integrity of the original inscription. The Joint Mission **recommended that the site be placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger and returned to the World Heritage List within a period of one to three years, after sixteen specific matters of concern had been met.** The mission further recommended the effective delisting of parts of the Hanuman Dhoka Darbar Square and Baudhanath Monument Zones, following a general failure to control development, but an extension of the monument zones of Swayambhunath, Patan and particularly Bhaktapur, which was considered at the time to be the only Newari city to retain its overall traditional character. At the seventeenth session of the Committee, the Observer of Nepal pledged to follow-up on the recommendations of the Joint Mission.

At its eighteenth session, the Bureau examined the 1993 Joint Mission report, and the Representative of Thailand stated that it was important to judge the degree to which the site had deteriorated and whether it was now worthy of being included in the World Heritage List. The Bureau recommended to the Committee to envisage partial delisting and redefinition of the part still intact and qualifying as World Heritage, which should be placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, to bring particular attention to the site to avoid further deterioration. The Nepalese State Party was informed of the Bureau's concerns and UNESCO was asked to work out an

international assistance project.

At its eighteenth session, the Committee took note of the Secretariat's report on the Nepal/UNESCO/ICOMOS strategy meeting held in 1994 immediately following the Kathmandu Valley International Safeguarding Campaign Review Meeting. The Committee also **took note of the action plan: to be coordinated by an inter-ministerial task force which the representatives of various ministries agreed to establish and which included the establishment of a Development Control Unit in the Department of Archaeology to work closely with the municipalities and town development committees.** The Committee called upon the State Party to take into consideration the recommendation for ensuring the protection of the site from uncontrolled development, especially by adopting a more stringent policy in the granting of demolition and construction permits and other land use authorization. Recognizing the limited national resources in carrying out the variety of required activities, the Committee requested UNESCO to assist the authorities in seeking international donor support, including the documentation of the site to be undertaken as a priority. In this connection, **the Committee discussed the advantages of the Kathmandu Valley being put on the List of World Heritage in Danger to draw the priority attention of the international community, and urged the Government to reconsider this option.**

In 1995 at its nineteenth session, the Committee noted that the official gazettes of the revised boundaries of the Monument Zones had not yet been issued despite repeated indication by the Department of Archaeology of its imminent publication, and expressed its concern over the continued demolition of and inappropriate alterations to historic buildings within the World Heritage protected zones.

At its twentieth session in 1996, the Committee while expressing appreciation for the progress made by the Government towards the fulfilment of the 16 Recommendations of the 1993 Joint Mission, it expressed its hope that efforts would be continued to strengthen the institutional capacities of the Department of Archaeology and the concerned municipalities by officially adopting and publicizing regulations on building control and conservation practice.

In view of the continued deterioration of the World Heritage values in the Baudhanath and Kathmandu Monument Zones affecting the integrity and inherent characteristics of the site, the Committee at its twenty-first session in 1997, requested the Secretariat again, in collaboration with ICOMOS and the State Party, 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 was to take into consideration the intention of the State Party to nominate Khokana as an additional Monument Zone. **The Committee, at its twenty-first session, decided that it could consider whether or not to inscribe the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its twenty-second session.**

Financed with US\$ 35,000 authorized by the Committee, a UNESCO-ICOMOS-HMG of Nepal Joint Mission was undertaken in March 1998, resulting in 55 Recommendations and a Time-Bound Action Plan of Corrective Measures for Enhanced Management, adopted by the State Party. Recommendations to delete selected areas were not made by the Joint Mission in view of the clearly evident necessity to protect the essential setting of the monuments, and as the Hanuman Dhoka Darbar Square and Baudhanath Monument Zones were already limited to the areas immediately surrounding the main monuments and historic buildings.

At its twenty-first session in 1998, the Committee decided to defer consideration of the inscription of the Kathmandu

Valley site on the List of World Heritage in Danger until its twenty-second session. However, the Committee requested the State Party to continue implementing the 55 Recommendations, and in addition, recommended that the State Party adopt the three additional ICOMOS recommendations annexed to the 55 Recommendations. Finally, the Committee requested the State Party to take measures to ensure that adequate protection and management are put into place at Khokana, prior to its nomination as an additional Monument Zone.

Deliberations during the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau

The Secretariat presented the findings and recommendations of the October 1999 mission undertaken by an independent international expert, who represented ICOMOS at the time of the March 1998 UNESCO-ICOMOS-HMG of Nepal Joint Mission. The report confirmed that Kathmandu Valley remained in danger. The Bureau examined this report, together with the reports of the Secretariat and His Majesty's Government of Nepal, presented as Documents WHC-99/CONF.208/INF.8A,B,C. The Observer of Nepal stated that his Government was making all efforts to implement the 55 Recommendations of the 1998 Joint Mission and the Time-Bound Action Plan of Corrective Measures for Enhanced Management, adopted by his Government.

The Bureau, although appreciating the efforts made by HMG of Nepal, expressed serious concern over the persisting problems of demolition or alteration of historic buildings within the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage site. The Bureau acknowledged that although continuous and large sums of international assistance and technical support had been provided to the Government from the World Heritage Fund, UNESCO Funds-in-Trust projects and numerous international donors over the years, the very serious degree of uncontrolled change and gradual deterioration of the historic fabric continued to threaten the authenticity and integrity of the site.

The Bureau, referring to discussions at every session of the Bureau and Committee since 1992, noted that the Committee had deferred inscription of the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger many times since the Committee's attention was drawn to the alarming situation in 1992. The Bureau underlined the importance of inscribing sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger at an early stage to mitigate the threats endangering a World Heritage site. Bureau members and observers stressed that the inscription of sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger should be utilized in a more constructive and positive manner, to mobilize the support of policy makers at the highest level and international donors.

Four Bureau members and some observers recommended that it was now the time for Kathmandu Valley to be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, especially as the important integrity of the site has gradually been undermined over a long period of time. The Delegate of Australia stated his Government was of the view that that the concerned State Party should agree before a decision is taken for inscribing a site on the List of World Heritage in Danger. ICOMOS stated that as the Committee did not inscribe the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1993, ICOMOS was reluctant to recommend inscription of the site on the List of World Heritage Danger at this time, as improvements had been made since 1993 as a result of efforts made by the State Party.

After further consideration, the Bureau recommended the following for adoption by the Committee:

“The Committee examines the state of conservation reports presented in WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.17A,B,C and expresses deep concern over the serious degree of uncontrolled change and deterioration of the authenticity and

integrity of the Monument Zones placed under the protection of the World Heritage Convention. It notes with appreciation that the State Party has made every effort to implement the 16 Recommendations of the 1993 UNESCO-ICOMOS Joint Mission, as well as the 55 Recommendations of the 1998 UNESCO-ICOMOS-HMG of Nepal Joint Mission and the Time-Bound Action Plan.

The Committee requests HMG of Nepal to continue making all possible efforts to protect the remaining authentic historic urban fabric within the Kathmandu Valley site. The Committee requests the Secretariat and the advisory bodies to continue to assist the State Party as appropriate and to the extent possible: in strengthening its capacity in controlling development, retaining historic buildings *in-situ*, and in correcting illegal construction and alteration of historic buildings within the Kathmandu Valley site.

The Committee decides to defer inscription of the Kathmandu Valley site on the List of World Heritage in Danger again, until the next session of the Committee.

Moreover, in view of the fact that the demolition and new construction or alterations of historic buildings within the Kathmandu Valley have persisted in spite of the concerted international and national efforts, resulting in the loss or continuous and gradual deterioration of materials, structure, ornamental features, and architectural coherence making the essential settings of the Monument Zones as well as in their authentic characters, the Committee requests a High Level Mission to be undertaken to hold discussions with representatives of HMG of Nepal in early 2000. This High Level Mission would be composed of the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee or a representative of the Committee members, a senior staff of the World Heritage Centre, and two eminent international experts. The findings of the mission would be reported the next sessions of the Bureau and Committee, in 2000.”

Taxila (Pakistan) Fort and Shalamar Gardens of Lahore (Pakistan)

The Secretariat reported that since the October 1999 mission undertaken during the political disturbance and change of Government, numerous discussions had taken place between the national authorities and the World Heritage Centre concerning the completed football stadium on Bhir Mound, Taxila, and the demolished hydraulic works of Shalamar Gardens. The Secretariat further reported that the former President of the UNESCO Executive Board informed the Secretariat that the Government would review the situation urgently and examine the possible measures to correct the recent developments at these sites.

Concerning the Shish Mahal Mirrored Ceiling within the Lahore Fort, ICCROM congratulated the authorities of Pakistan for preventing further water leakage during the 1999 monsoon. Underlining the importance to carefully consider proposals for constructing a temporary roof, ICCROM recommended that a follow-up mission be undertaken to discuss the protective measures with the national authorities concerned.

The Bureau examined the report of the Secretariat and recommended the following for adoption by the Committee.

“The Committee examined the report of the Secretariat. The Committee expresses concern over the demolition of the 375 year old essential hydraulic works of the Shalamar Gardens, which has been carried out to enlarge the 4-lane Grand Trunk Road into a 6-lane motorway, as well as the completed football stadium built on the archaeological remains of Bhir Mound, the most ancient citadel site dating between 6th BC –

2nd AD within Taxila. In view of the ascertained threats undermining the authenticity and integrity of these two sites, the Committee requests the State Party to take urgent corrective measures to restore the hydraulic works at Shalamar Gardens, and to consider removing the football stadium negatively impacting upon the archaeological remains of Bhir Mound. The Committee requests the State Party to report on the actions taken for examination by the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau. Should the Bureau find that the World Heritage values have been compromised, it would recommend the Committee to consider inscription of these sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its twenty-fourth session, in view of the threats facing these sites.

Taking note of the need to elaborate a comprehensive management plan for both the Fort and Shalamar Gardens of Lahore, the Committee requests the World Heritage Centre to urgently organize a reactive monitoring mission by the advisory bodies to Lahore. The Committee requests that consultation on the proposals for protecting the Shish Mahal Mirrored Ceiling be undertaken by ICCROM with the national authorities, during this mission. The Committee requests the advisory bodies and the World Heritage Centre to report on findings and recommendations of the mission for examination by the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau.”

Central Zone of Angra do Heroismo in the Azores (Portugal)

The Portuguese authorities submitted in July and September 1999 substantive documentation on the project for the marina and the rehabilitation of the waterfront of Angra do Heroismo. These reports were examined by the ICOMOS expert who undertook several missions to the site. The expert was of the opinion that the justification for the location of the marina had been provided and he was in agreement with the solution proposed for the connection of the dam to the waterfront of the city.

The expert agreed with the proposals for the revitalisation of some of the parts of the waterfront, but he made specific observations and reservations about other parts. The expert furthermore noted that a general urban development plan was still missing and that an integration of the marina/waterfront project in the city plan was not shown.

To conclude, the ICOMOS expert observed that the construction of the marina will have a visual impact on the Bay and the waterfront of the city and that this should be accompanied by a rehabilitation that should fully respect, and with minimal change, the structure and characteristics of the waterfront. Particular attention should be given to the area between the city and the proposed marina.

The Bureau decided to transmit the report to the Committee for examination and recommended the following for adoption:

“The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State Party on the marina project in the Bay of Angra do Heroismo and the opinions expressed by ICOMOS. The Committee endorses the views of ICOMOS regarding the proposed rehabilitation of the waterfront and urges the Portuguese authorities to take these into account in reconsidering the plans for this area, more particularly for the area of the Patio da Alfandega, Jardim dos Corte-Reais and Antigo Mercado do Peixe, the Encosta do Cantagalo and the S. Sebastiao Fort.

The Committee requests the authorities to continue its collaboration with ICOMOS on the further development of the plans for the marina and the

waterfront and their integration into the overall urban plan for Angra do Heroísmo.

It requests the authorities to submit a report on the above matters by 15 April 2000 for consideration by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth session.”

The Observer of Portugal informed the Bureau that the regional authorities of the Azores informed him that they are in full agreement with the observations made by the ICOMOS expert on the plans for the waterfront and wished to continue their co-operation with ICOMOS.

Complex of Hué Monuments (Vietnam)

The Bureau was informed that since the drafting of the state of conservation report, this site has been seriously impacted by the worst flood in 48 years that occurred in November 1999. On the basis of information received from the Hue Conservation Centre, the Secretariat reported that some 14 monumental complexes out of the 16 in the World Heritage protected area, were damaged. The Imperial City was under 1.5 metres of water, and two of the mausoleums were under 5-4 metres of water, with others under 1 metre of water, causing ground erosion and risk of structural instability. Moreover, the urban landscape of the site, characterized the lush vegetation has been seriously impacted by the uprooting of several centenarian trees. The Observer of Vietnam expressed appreciation for the Committee’s support for the conservation of this site and thanked the World Heritage Centre for the international assistance it has been mobilizing. Stressing the seriousness of the damage caused by the flood, he requested the Committee to call on the world community to extend emergency assistance to Vietnam. He welcomed the reactive monitoring mission to Hue and Hoi An being organized by the Centre for December 1999.

The Bureau recommended the following for adoption by the Committee:

“The Committee examines the report of the Secretariat and expresses sympathy for the victims of the November floods and concern over the serious extent of the damage caused by the floods to the monuments and urban landscape of the Hue World Heritage site. Having examined the new information provided to the Bureau by the Vietnamese authorities and the

Secretariat, the Committee allocates an initial sum of US\$ 50,000 under the emergency assistance fund to support the rehabilitation of Hue and Hoi An, and the preparation of a comprehensive emergency rehabilitation programme including risk assessment and mitigation schemes. The Committee notes the deployment of an expert mission organized by the Secretariat for early December, and requests the Centre to support the State Party in preparing the emergency rehabilitation programme and in mobilizing international co-operation.

With regard to the new focus since 1997, on urban heritage conservation, the Committee noted the efforts being made by the Provincial and Municipal Authorities of Hué and the Hué Conservation Centre in mitigating the deterioration of the historic urban fabric of the World Heritage protected areas and commends Lille Metropole, UNESCO and the French Government for the support provided to the local authorities in integrating conservation concerns in the overall urban development plan. In this regard, the Committee reiterated the importance of preserving the authenticity and integrity of the Citadel of Hué marked by its urban morphology, spatial organization and vegetation which together form the « feng shui » philosophy adopted in the original construction and subsequent transformation of this imperial city. The Committee encouraged the State Party for its initiative in organizing the donors’ meeting scheduled in April 2000 with technical support from the World Heritage Centre and Lille Metropole, and suggests that the emergency programme for the rehabilitation of the flood-caused damages be presented at this donors’ meeting in addition to the urban conservation programme. It suggested, furthermore, that the project proposals be forwarded in advance to the members of the Committee, and that invitations be extended to the Committee and advisory bodies, as well as to the international development co-operation agencies and Vietnam-based diplomatic missions. Finally, the Committee noted that the written report that the Bureau at its twenty-second session requested the State Party to submit by 15 September 1999, had not been received to date. The Committee therefore requested the State Party to prepare an initial progress report on the rehabilitation effort, as well as on measures taken to ensure the conservation and appropriate development of the urban heritage of Hué by 1 May 2000 for review by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth session.”

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

Jesuit Missions of the Guaranis (Argentina and Brazil): The Jesuit Mission of Santa Ana (Argentina)

Following the examination of the state of conservation by the Bureau in July 1999, the Secretariat received a report from the authorities of Argentina on the construction of an industrial plant in the village of Santa Ana. It is reported that the plant is at a distance of 700 meters from the ruins of the Jesuit Mission and that it is not visible from there. A new access road to the mission is being planned that will improve security for visitors, will re-introduce the historical access to the site and will avoid visitors being directly confronted with the industrial plant.

The Bureau took note of the information provided by the authorities of Argentina on the construction of an industrial plant in the village of Santa Ana. It concluded that the plant has no visual impact on the World Heritage site and that the proposed new access road to the missions will improve the presentation of the site.

Following an observation made by ICOMOS, the Bureau also requested the authorities of Argentina to define buffer zones around the Jesuit missions and to inform the Secretariat about the measures taken to this effect.

The Potala Palace, Lhasa (China)

The Secretariat reported on increased international co-operation with the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) of China for the conservation of the historic areas of Lhasa. This co-operation also involves the participation of the Lhasa Municipality in activities carried out within the framework of the World Heritage Centre’s Special Programme for the Cities of Asia, and among others, exchanges through the Tibet-Norway University Network Co-operation scheme. The organization of a technical workshop with support from the Centre and NIKU (Norwegian Conservation Institute), was proposed to: (1) review the Old Lhasa Historical Map, a Norwegian-supported project carried out since 1996 by a German NGO, and (2) add to recent mural

painting conservation skills through an on-the-job training workshop to restore the paintings of Lukhang Temple of the Potala Palace.

The Bureau was also informed that in anticipation of the extension of the Potala Palace World Heritage site to cover Jokhang Temple and the historic areas, to be examined by the Committee in December 2000, the Centre and the State Party are discussing measures to raise awareness and respect for conservation among the local population, in view of the continued incidents of illegal demolition and inappropriate reconstructions in the Barkhor Historic Area, mainly by private and business concerns.

An ICOMOS mission would be visiting Lhasa early in 2000 to evaluate the Jokhang Temple Monastery, which was nominated as an extension to the Potala Palace. The expert would be requested to visit the Potala Palace and provide a report on the state of conservation.

The Bureau expressed appreciation for enhanced international co-operation for the conservation of the monumental and urban heritage of the Historic Area of Barkhor, notably the long-term support offered by various international non-governmental organizations and universities. The Bureau took note of the proposed training activities in urban conservation planning and mural painting restoration with the involvement of UNESCO and the Norwegian Conservation Institute (NIKU) among others. The Bureau recalled the interest expressed by ICCROM and ICOMOS in these activities and requested the State Party to consider their involvement, especially in training activities. The Bureau expressed its readiness to consider international assistance from the World Heritage Fund to support the national and local efforts in these areas and requested the World Heritage Centre to work in close collaboration with the State Party in reviewing the conservation plan of the Historic Area of Barkhor.

City of Quito (Ecuador)

The Ecuadorian authorities provided detailed information on the disaster preparation scheme introduced to respond to the possible impact of the re-activation of the volcano La Pichincha that is at a close distance to the World Heritage site.

The Bureau requested the Ecuadorian authorities to keep the Secretariat informed on the threats posed by the volcano activities to the historic centre of Quito and on the disaster preparedness activities undertaken.

Historic Centre of Tallin (Estonia)

The Estonian authorities informed the Secretariat that, in response to the ICOMOS expert monitoring mission (1998) and the Bureau's recommendations, the national and local governments are now looking for an alternative location for the construction of a new theatre. The historic buildings at the originally foreseen location of the theatre have been consolidated and new functions are being sought for them.

The authorities pointed out, however, that as long no development plan for the Protected Area of Tallin exists, similar cases might occur in the future.

The Bureau congratulated the authorities of Estonia for their efforts to find a more suitable location for a theatre that was planned within the Historic Centre of Tallin and to preserve the historic structures on its planned location. It urged the authorities to proceed with the preparation of a development plan for the Historic Centre of Tallin in order to provide the adequate framework for interventions and preservation in the Historic Centre. It offered its support to such effort, if requested by the State Party.

Mont-Saint-Michel and its Bay (France)

On the occasion of the Assembly of the Friends of Mont-Saint-Michel, on 24 September 1999, to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the inscription of the site on the World Heritage List, the project «Re-establishment of the Maritime character of the Mont-Saint-Michel», prepared by the Ministry for Equipment, was presented to the public. This project will greatly contribute towards the rehabilitation of the spiritual nature of Mont-Saint-Michel and will help regulate the tourist influx (more than three million per year).

The Delegate of Greece inquired about the tourism installations that affect the morphology of the monument. The Observer of France responded that this would be dealt with by relocating functions that are not appropriate to the site.

The Bureau took note of the development of the project for the re-establishment of the maritime character of the Mont-Saint-Michel prepared by the French authorities and congratulated them for their continuing commitment for the protection of the World Heritage. The Bureau appreciated the quality of the work and the aims of the project. It hoped that its implementation, which has also to respect the needs of the residents of the Mont-Saint-Michel, would be carried out as soon as possible. Finally, the Bureau requested the Secretariat to study, together with the French authorities, the possibility of organizing an exhibition on the Mont and on the project.

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

The German authorities submitted a report and plans on the protection and development of the surroundings of the Roman amphitheatre. This included information on the extension of the area protected by a municipal ordinance, as well as the reduction of the number and the height of the buildings north of the theatre. The draft plan on the proposed integration of the Roman water pipes and town ramparts was not available yet.

ICOMOS observed that significant progress had been made in the extension of the protected area and in the restructuring of the buildings.

The Bureau welcomed the information provided by the German authorities on the extension of the protected area around the Roman amphitheatre and the revision of the building plan for the area to the north. It encouraged the German authorities to develop the plan for the integration of the Roman water pipes and town ramparts and to submit this plan, if possible before 15 April 2000, for evaluation by ICOMOS.

Ashanti Traditional Buildings (Ghana)

The Bureau noted with satisfaction the progress achieved for the improvement of the state of conservation of the property, and the efforts undertaken for the development of promotional activities, and its attempts to generate revenues to achieve sustainability. However, it requested the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board to proceed with the preparation of an overall management plan as soon as possible and report to the Committee at its twenty-fifth session.

ICCROM recalled that most of the activities in this site are undertaken in the framework of the Africa 2009 programme and supported the need of an overall management plan. He suggested that AFRICA 2009 would use a meeting of its co-ordination committee, already scheduled to take place in Ghana in early 2000, to visit the site and meet with officials of the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board to discuss a proposal for drafting the management plan.

Churches and Convents of Goa (India)

The Bureau took note of the state of conservation report of the Secretariat, and while expressing its appreciation to the State Government on its plans to divert National Road No. 4 away from the Churches and Convents of Goa, it requested further information to be provided to the advisory bodies for their examination. The Bureau also requested the World Heritage Centre to provide any available reports on the management of the site to be transmitted to the advisory bodies for their comments.

The Bureau requested the World Heritage Centre to continue assisting the relevant authorities in addressing the conservation needs of the monuments and historic urban fabric composing the World Heritage site. The Bureau encouraged the local, regional and national authorities concerned to continue to follow-up on the decision of the Bureau at its twenty-third session, and to submit a report on the actions taken by 15 April 2000 for examination by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth session.

Luang Prabang (Laos)

The Secretariat reported that catalytic funds provided to this site from the World Heritage Fund since its inscription in 1995, amounting to a total of approximately US\$ 70,000 have raised some US\$ 4.5 million in projects designed by the Centre and the Luang Prabang-Chinon (France) joint team under the decentralized co-operation scheme supported by the Government of France and the European Union, among other donors. The draft conservation and development plan for the core historic centre within the World Heritage site of the Historic Town of Luang Prabang is due for completion by the end of 1999. Upon approval by the Inter-ministerial Commission for the Protection of Cultural, Natural and Historic Properties of Laos, the plan is to be enforced provisionally for a period of one year prior to finalization. The Secretariat reported on concerns over a number of large-scale public works and the rapid growth in tourism. The Bureau was informed that an international donors meeting is scheduled for late-January 2000 for the Luang Prabang Provincial Government to present the conservation and development plan to sensitize the donors on the need to design infrastructural development projects will not undermine the World Heritage value of the site.

The Bureau congratulated the national and local authorities for the progress made in strengthening the legal and administrative structure for the protection of the Luang Prabang World Heritage site, as well as in the elaboration of the conservation and development plan of the site. However, the Bureau expressed concern about the delay in the official enactment by the National Assembly of the law for the protection of national cultural, natural and historic properties, as well as over the absence in the decree of reference to the financing of conservation. Noting the important financial and technical assistance mobilized by UNESCO from bilateral and multilateral sources over the past four years for the conservation of this site, the Bureau requested the State Party to consider the ways and means to ensure the long-term sustainability of conservation and maintenance activities of this World Heritage site.

Moreover, the Bureau expressed concern over the potential negative impact of a number of public works projects financed by international development co-operation agencies, as well as over the rapid tourism development works at the site. Commending the initiative of the Governor of Luang Prabang in organizing a donors' meeting, the State Party was requested to submit a written report to the Secretariat by 10 May 2000 on the outcome of this meeting and on the concerns raised over the riverbank consolidation, drainage and sewage works, electricity transmission poles, and the proposed bridge construction, as well as the results of the tourism study. In the preparation of this

report, the Bureau requested the international development co-operation agencies concerned and the World Heritage Centre to support the national and local authorities of Laos. The Bureau, moreover, requested the Secretariat to discuss with the State Party on the feasibility of establishing an international co-ordinating committee composed of donor governments for the safeguarding and development of Luang Prabang, modelled on the committee established for Angkor in Cambodia.

Island of Mozambique (Mozambique)

The Bureau congratulated the Mozambican authorities for their efforts to preserve the Ilha de Mozambique by taking into account the social and economic aspects of the site and the successful donors' meeting, and called upon the donors' community to provide a wide support to this endeavour, by making contributions to the UNDP-UNESCO Trust Fund, or by implementing projects on a bilateral basis, or by taking into account the Programme for Sustainable Human Development and Integral Conservation in order to achieve better synergy with the projects that have already been funded.

Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (Nepal)

The Bureau examined the undated report of the Secretariat concerning the announcement by the Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture that the construction of the Maya Devi Temple would start by mid-November 1999. The Observer of Nepal stated that the Government had been seeking international contribution for the rehabilitation of the Maya Devi Temple for many years, but regrettably without response. HMG of Nepal is therefore determined to undertake work at the Maya Devi Temple site, regardless of the availability of financial support from international donors. The Observer, however, assured the Bureau that his Government was fully prepared to accept international expert advice and assistance from the World Heritage Committee, the advisory bodies and the World Heritage Centre, during the construction of the Maya Devi Temple. The Bureau requested the World Heritage Centre to organize a reactive monitoring mission in co-operation with the advisory bodies and the State Party, for further consultations with the authorities concerned, and to examine the management and conservation needs of the fragile archaeological site. The Bureau decided to examine the findings of this report at its twenty-fourth session.

Archaeological Site of Chavin (Peru)

An ICOMOS expert undertook a mission to Chavin in September/October 1999 to update the 1993 state of conservation report and advise on future actions for the management and preservation of the site.

ICOMOS reported that the site is in a very fragile state and that urgent interventions are needed. ICOMOS pointed out, however, that there had been a lack of financial and human resources for a long time. Future planning for the site should consider the rational use of tourism and the re-definition of the boundaries of the site, particularly in view of the vicinity of the village of Chavin. In ICOMOS's view, no excavations should be undertaken until a Master Plan is adopted and financial means are available for preservation.

The Observer of Peru then informed the Bureau that she had just transmitted information to the Secretariat that a special commission had been established with the participation of recognized experts to: 1) define and implement emergency measures at the site; 2) prepare an emergency intervention plan, and 3) to prepare a Master Plan. She informed the Bureau that considerable funding was being negotiated with the Government of Japan and a private mining company for these activities. She expressed the wish of her Government to continue the

collaboration with ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre in this endeavour.

The Bureau commended ICOMOS for its report and the Government of Peru for the decisions taken for emergency intervention and future planning for the archaeological site of Chavin. It welcomed the wish of the Government of Peru to continue to collaborate with ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre and requested the Peruvian authorities to submit a report on the progress made by 15 September 2000 for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-fourth session.

City of Cuzco (Peru)

Technical co-operation for an amount of US\$ 20,000 for the preparation of a Master Plan was provided in 1997. This assistance was provided under the condition that adequate arrangements be made between the National Institute for Culture and the Municipality of Cusco for the joint preparation of the Master Plan. There is now a joint committee and a contract has been signed between UNESCO and both the INC and Municipality of the city. The Secretariat is awaiting the work plan for its implementation.

The Bureau encouraged the National Institute for Culture and the Municipality of Cusco to collaborate in the preparation of the Master Plan for the city and to inform the Secretariat, by 15 April 2000, on the progress made. This information will be transmitted to the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-fourth session.

The Observer of Peru informed the Bureau that a report on the situation had been prepared and would be submitted to the Secretariat shortly.

Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines)

The Bureau examined the state of conservation report of the site. The Bureau was informed that additional reports from the national authorities had been transmitted to the Secretariat before the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau, but due to time constraints, the World Heritage Centre had not been able to transmit the information to ICOMOS, but would do so immediately. In response to the report submitted by the Banaue Rice Terraces Task Force (BRTTF), ICOMOS considered that it answers the points raised by ICOMOS Germany in December 1998. However, ICOMOS expressed its view that the conservation process and enhanced management of this fragile site should be a continuing project. It recommended that the Bureau thank the State Party for its report and at the same time request periodic reports for examination by the Bureau.

The Observer of the Philippines expressed appreciation to the Committee and the World Heritage Centre for the attention given to the state of conservation of this site. He reported that the GIS activity supported with the World Heritage Fund would commence in December 1999, utilizing the financial assistance in a catalytic manner to generate further assistance from other funding sources. The Observer informed the Bureau that the Philippines National Commission for UNESCO was joining forces with the Banaue Rice Terraces Task Force to reinforce co-operation with the local communities through heritage education programmes and by carrying out hydrological studies aimed to reinforce the cultural identity, revive and update traditional agricultural skills.

The Delegate of Zimbabwe noted that the maintenance of the ecosystem of this site, being intimately linked to the traditional ways of life of the local communities provides a good case study for sustainable management of the site, particularly for the protection of World Heritage cultural landscape sites. The Observer of Germany added that this site was one of the first

cultural landscapes to be protected under the World Heritage Convention, inscribed with the full awareness by the Committee of the great challenges the conservation process would pose. Underlining the importance of the participation of the local communities, he expressed appreciation for the interdisciplinary approach adopted by the State Party.

The Bureau expressed its appreciation for the informative report of the Banaue Rice Terraces Task Force (BRTTF) dated 30 August 1999 on the on-going activities for the protection of the Rice Terraces of the Philippines Cordilleras. The Bureau stressed the importance of these activities, notably the watershed management of the site and its buffer zone as well as those to mitigate the negative impact of infrastructural development works on the site. The Bureau recommended the State Party to update the existing development plan to ensure that the socio-economic development needs of the local inhabitants are met while maintaining the authenticity and sustainable conservation of this fragile site. In this connection, the Bureau expressed concern over the impact of increasing tourism to the site and requested the State Party to inform the Bureau through the Secretariat by 15 September 2000 on whether or not the integrated development strategy including a tourism development plan for this site which were reportedly under preparation at the time of the site's inscription had been completed. Should the State Party require international expertise in completing this, the Bureau expressed its readiness to support the national effort through technical co-operation under the World Heritage Fund.

Auschwitz Concentration Camp (Poland)

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that major progress had been made in the implementation of the Strategic Governmental Programme for Auschwitz and of the Act for the Protection of Former Nazi Extermination Camps. The Bureau at its twenty-third session requested the Government of Poland to submit a further progress report by 15 April 2000 for examination by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth session. The Observer of Poland confirmed that the Spatial Management Plan would be completed shortly for submission to the local authorities and to the International Expert Group. A request for assistance for this meeting from the World Heritage Fund is forthcoming.

As to the request from the Polish National Commission for UNESCO for the Committee's views on the matter of the restitution to the author of portraits made while she was imprisoned in the camp, the Director of the World Heritage Centre stated that this is probably more a matter of national than of international law. The Observer of Poland made a statement explaining the background and implications of this request. Several delegates and observers supported the view expressed by the Director of the Centre. Subsequently, the Bureau concluded that legal advice is required before this matter can be further examined by the Bureau or the Committee.

The Sokkuram Grotto and Pulguksa Temple (Republic of Korea)

The Bureau was informed of the written report submitted by the State Party as requested by the Bureau at its twenty-third session in June 1999. It was noted that the construction of the incinerator has not yet been approved by the Kyongju City Council and that no scientific study exists on the effect of dioxin on construction material. ICOMOS confirmed the latter point and stressed the urgent need of such a study.

The Bureau, upon examining the report presented by the State Party and the Secretariat thanked the State Party for its commitment to monitor the planning and eventual construction process of the incinerator, if and when the project is approved in order to ensure that international standards based on scientific

research are respected. Negative impacts on the inhabitants or on the environment of the Sokkuron Grotto and the Pulguksa Temple will also be monitored. The Bureau requested the State Party to keep the Bureau informed through the Secretariat of future developments regarding the incinerator construction and of any other works which may impact upon this World Heritage site.

Alhambra, Generalife and Albaycin, Grenada (Spain)

The Bureau took note of progress in the revision of the Special Plan of the monumental part of the site (Alhambra and Generalife) as well as the substantial improvement made in the co-ordination of the management of the two components of the site (monumental part and urban part).

Consequently, the Bureau congratulated the Spanish authorities for the progress made in the revision of the special plan of the monumental site and for the co-ordination of the different protection and management plans. It also congratulated the responsible authorities for the work in progress in the Albaycin and especially for the role of the Albaycin Foundation and encouraged them to deal with the remaining problems concerning the respect of the Convention and the characteristics of the site. However the Bureau remains concerned about the possible extension of the municipal cemetery which could affect the site.

Historic Areas of Istanbul (Turkey)

The Bureau was informed that the State Party submitted a written report on the state of conservation of the site as requested by the Bureau at its twenty-third session and the Committee at its twenty-second session. It noted that the Ministry of Culture had allocated an important sum (US\$250,000) to Fatih Municipality for the conservation of Zeyrek and that the conservation plan of the historic peninsula of Istanbul was under preparation by the Greater Istanbul authorities and the concerned municipalities. The Bureau was informed that the August 1999 earthquake in Turkey had caused only minor damage to the rampart and not to any other part of the World Heritage protected zones. The Delegate of Greece however indicated that the impact of earthquakes are only evident over time and therefore requires continued surveillance. With regard to Zeyrek, she recalled the statement of ICOMOS at the twenty-third session of the Bureau that the degraded condition of the timber buildings of Zeyrek and the poverty of the inhabitants, makes the on-going conservation effort a utopian cause, and suggested the need to set priorities for assistance, especially in view of the many monumental and urban heritage of importance within the World Heritage site. The Bureau noted the concern raised by the Secretariat that the revoking, after the August 1999 earthquake, of all construction plans and permits by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, pending completion of the urban conservation and development plan, may result in an even greater number of illegal constructions. The Bureau also noted the on-going efforts to support Greater Istanbul and the municipalities in expediting the finalization of the urban conservation and development plan (at 1/5000 and 1/1000) which are being undertaken by the Istanbul Technical University and French technical experts seconded to the Centre under the France-UNESCO Agreement.

The Bureau expressed its sympathies to the victims of the tragic earthquake of 17 August 1999. Noting that the impact of earthquakes on monuments and sites are only evident over time, the Bureau requested the World Heritage Centre to support the national rehabilitation effort and to monitor the effects of the earthquake. The Bureau noted its appreciation for the significant allocation of funds to the Fatih Municipality by the Government to prepare the conservation plan and to undertake rehabilitation activities in Zeyrek. In this regard, the Bureau suggested that the feasibility of conserving the timber buildings of Zeyrek should be considered within the context of the overall conservation needs

of the World Heritage areas of Istanbul, and on the basis of prioritizing such needs. The Bureau encouraged the continued efforts of the Centre in mobilizing international technical support, particularly to expedite the elaboration of the 1/5000 scale urban development and conservation plan by Greater Istanbul and the 1/1000 scale detailed conservation plan by the municipal authorities of Fatih and Eminonu. Finally, it requested the State Party to submit a report to the Bureau through the Secretariat by 15 September 2000 of progress in corrective measures being carried out in Zeyrek and in the adoption of the conservation and development plan if the historic peninsula of Istanbul.

Statement of the United States of America on Mining Activities

STATEMENT OF DONALD J. BARRY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE AND PARKS, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES FOR AN OVERSIGHT HEARING CONCERNING A "PROPOSED WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE POLICY PROHIBITING MINING IN AREAS SURROUNDING WORLD HERITAGE SITES."

October 28, 1999

I want to thank the Chairman of the Committee for the opportunity to appear before the Subcommittee today to discuss the Department of the Interior's views regarding the proposed policy to prohibit mining in areas surrounding World Heritage Sites.

At the outset of this discussion it is important to clarify exactly what is at issue here and what is not. First, I note that the invitation the Department received to testify references "The Proposed World Heritage Committee Policy Prohibiting Mining in Areas Surrounding World Heritage Sites," which is an understandable but incorrect characterization of the document you have invited us here to discuss. The document entitled "A Position Statement on Mining and Associated Activities in Relation to Protected Areas," a copy of which is attached to my testimony, has been drafted by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

This statement does not propose a ban on mining around parks and protected areas. Moreover, this statement has not been formally proposed for adoption by the World Heritage Committee and there is no indication that it will be proposed for adoption. It was provided to the World Heritage Committee as an information document only.

Furthermore, even if such a statement of policy were adapted by the World Heritage Committee, it would not bind the United States in any way. The World Heritage Convention explicitly recognizes the sovereignty of parties over sites in their territories that are on the World Heritage List. Actions taken in the United States to protect World Heritage Sites are taken pursuant to our own domestic laws.

Further background on IUCN's Position Statement and on United States participation in the World Heritage Convention is offered in the interest of putting concerns surrounding this document to rest. The World Heritage Committee was established under the 1972 World Heritage Convention to place natural and cultural sites of outstanding universal value on the World Heritage List. The Committee also identifies sites on the List for inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The United States has played a long-standing and leading role in all aspects of the World Heritage Convention. To begin with, the idea of negotiating the Convention was an environmental initiative of the Nixon Administration. Following the ratification of the Convention by the United States Senate in 1973 with a 95-0 vote, the United States has been active in the work of the World Heritage Committee. The first meeting under the Convention to list sites took place here in Washington in 1978. The Committee's 1992 meeting was held in Santa Fe. The United States is just concluding a second consecutive 6-year term on the Committee under the Convention. With 150 parties, the Convention is one of the most universally adopted international environmental treaties.

The lead authority for United States participation in the World Heritage Convention rests in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks of the Department of the Interior. This responsibility was prescribed in Federal law of 1980 and program regulations promulgated during Secretary of the Interior Watt's tenure in 1982.

The World Heritage List currently includes 20 of America's most outstanding natural wonders and cultural sites that are recognized as of world importance. Mesa Verde, Grand Canyon, and Hawaii Volcanoes National Parks, and the Statue of Liberty are some of the United States sites on the World Heritage List. These United States World Heritage Sites are beloved by the American public. They also attract tourists from all over the world.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), also known as the World Conservation Union, is an international non-governmental organization. Established in 1948, it is one of the world's oldest international conservation organizations. IUCN is a union of governments, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations who work with scientists and experts to protect nature. The State Department, NOAA, EPA, USAID, FWS, and NPS are some of the U.S. government agency members. In addition to bringing together governments and non-governmental organizations, IUCN has set up international networks of volunteer experts grouped together in six global commissions that perform specialized work. The World Commission on Protected Areas is one of these commissions; it is concerned with parks and nature reserves generally.

The World Heritage Convention itself designated IUCN as its official advisor on natural site issues. The World Heritage Bureau, a subcommittee of the World Heritage Committee, was informed in December 1998 that a "Position Statement on Mining and Associated Activities" was being prepared by IUCN. The Bureau requested that IUCN make the document available for information purposes at the Bureau's July 1999 meeting. To the best of our knowledge, it will be nothing more than an information document for the full Committee meeting in December. I would like to emphasize again that the Statement is not being proposed for adoption by the Committee as a policy to be applied to World Heritage Sites.

Insofar as the content of IUCN's mining statement is concerned, it defines positions towards mining and associated activities in and adjacent to protected areas. The statement recommends that mining be considered an incompatible activity within national parks and equivalent reserves that are managed mainly for science, wilderness protection, ecosystem protection, or the protection of specific natural features or species. In protected areas managed for mixed uses, the statement suggests that mining could be permitted under controlled conditions. Regarding mining outside parks, it concerns itself only with the indirect impacts that mining may have on the parks.

The Department receives advice all the time from many quarters on how to manage and operate the national parks in the United States. These suggestions are considered, but they do not control us nor do they dictate in any way United States park policy. We protect parks because they are America's national treasures and it is our responsibility under United States law, not because an IUCN document suggests we should. We are sworn to protect the parks and the American people and your constituents expect us to do so.

In conclusion, let me emphasize that there will be no occasion for the United States to either endorse or accept the IUCN's statement, inasmuch as such informational policy statements by IUCN or the World Heritage Committee do not supersede U.S. law under any circumstances.

This concludes my prepared statement.

World Heritage

23 COM

Distribution limited

WHC-99/CONF.209/21
Marrakech, 3 December 1999
Original : French/English

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL
AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-third session
Marrakesh, Morocco
29 November – 4 December 1999

Item 16 of the Provisional Agenda: Provisional Agenda of the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee (UNESCO Headquarters, June 2000)

1. Opening of the session by the Director-General of UNESCO or his representative
2. Adoption of the agenda and the timetable
3. Report on the activities undertaken by the Secretariat since the twenty-third session of the Committee
4. State of conservation of properties inscribed on List of World Heritage in Danger and on the World Heritage List
 - 4.1 State of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
 - 4.2 Reports on state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List
5. Information on tentative lists and examination of nominations of cultural and natural properties to the List of World Heritage in Danger and the World Heritage List
6. Reports of the Working Groups :
 - 6.1 Task Force on the implementation of the Convention
 - 6.2 Working Group on Operational Guidelines
 - 6.3 Working Group on the Representativity of the World Heritage List

6.4 Working Group on Equitable Representation in the World Heritage Committee

7. Requests for international assistance
8. Provisional agenda of the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau (November/December 2000)
9. Provisional agenda of the twenty-fourth session of the World Heritage Committee (December 2000)
10. Other business
11. Adoption of the report of the session
12. Closure of the session

**Statement by the Hungarian Delegation
concerning the twenty-fourth session of the World Heritage Committee**

Distinguished President, Honorable delegates,

As you may remember, Hungary officially invited the Committee to hold one of its sessions during our Committee membership that will expire in 2003. In our written statement in Kyoto, December 1998 the Hungarian delegation underlined that the year 2000 is of particular importance for Hungary, since it is the Millennium of our Statehood. The Committee certainly was well aware that Australia has already invited the Committee for the year 2000. Australia and Hungary carried out intensive negotiations during the last year to resolve the issue. Hungary also carefully considered the interest of Finland; who will, in case the Committee decides so in 2000, host the Committee meeting in 2001. As Finland, Hungary was also worried about the level of understanding within Committee members regarding the tremendous differences that divide the region "Europe II", as it is called in UNESCO, and "Europe I" that comprises Western Europe and North America. We hope after the events of the last Bureau and Committee meetings during the last days it is even more evident than before. Hungary is confident that the 26 Emerging Countries, without a single representative from 1991 to 1997, among them 22 Low Income and Least Developed Countries, with more than 71 World Heritage sites, including some Central Asian countries, former parts of the Soviet Empire, deserve your special attention. Hungary, if the honor will fall upon us, will do all to demonstrate it to the distinguished members of the Committee in 2002. In short, Hungary withdraws its invitation for the year 2000 in favor of Australia, and asks the Committee and the Secretariat to register our official invitation for 2002. Hence Hungary strongly supports the candidature of our Australian friends to host the next Committee meeting.

Annex XII

Statement by the Australian Delegation Concerning the Twenty-Fourth Session of the World Heritage Committee

Australia welcomes the Committee's decision to accept Australia's long standing invitation to host the December 2000 meeting in Cairns, Queensland.

Cairns is a gateway to two of Australia's World Heritage areas - the Great Barrier Reef and the Wet Tropics of Queensland. The meeting will provide us with an excellent opportunity to showcase Australia's World Heritage management. Cairns is also well placed to profile World Heritage management in the Asia-Pacific region and we hope that delegates from the region will be able to more easily attend the meeting and associated activities. We look forward to delegations taking the opportunity to visit and study the World Heritage areas in Australia.

We strongly welcome and appreciate Hungary's generous offer to withdraw their invitation in favour of Australia, noting that such generosity of spirit has characterised the excellent contribution made by Hungary to the success of the Convention.