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OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Eighteenth session

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12-17 December 1994

Item 9 of the Provisional Agenda: Monitoring of the State of Conservation of the World Heritage Cultural and Natural Properties:

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**A. METHODOLOGY OF SYSTEMATIC MONITORING AND REPORTING:
OVERALL ORIENTATION AND FRAMEWORK***

A.1 SUMMARY INTRODUCTION

At its seventeenth session, the World Heritage Committee reviewed the report and the recommendations of the "Expert Meeting on Approaches to the Monitoring of World Heritage Properties" that was held in Cambridge, U.K. from 1 to 4 November 1993. The Committee noted that three types of monitoring can be distinguished:

- **Systematic monitoring:** the continuous process of monitoring the conditions of World Heritage sites with periodic reporting on its state of conservation.
- **Administrative monitoring:** follow up actions by the World Heritage Centre to ensure the implementation of recommendations and decisions of the World Heritage Committee and Bureau at the time of inscription or at a later date.
- **Ad hoc or reactive monitoring:** the reporting by the Centre, other sectors of UNESCO and the advisory bodies to the Bureau and the Committee on the state of conservation of specific World Heritage sites that are under threat. Ad hoc reports and impact studies are necessary each time exceptional circumstances occur or work is undertaken which may have an effect on the state of conservation of the site.

As regards systematic monitoring and reporting, the Committee endorsed the view that, in the spirit of the Convention, it is the prime responsibility of the States Parties to put in place on-site monitoring arrangements as an integral component of day-to-day conservation and management of the sites, but that at the same time, it is essential that external and independent professional advisers are involved in a periodic reporting system. The Committee invited the Secretariat to develop concrete proposals for a system of systematic monitoring and reporting and to undertake the following actions:

- establish guidelines for baseline information and its collection and management;
- revise the nomination and evaluation procedures and process to secure baseline information at the time of inscription of sites on the World Heritage List;

* *A draft text for a chapter on monitoring and reporting for inclusion in the Operational Guidelines is presented in working document WHC-94/CONF.003/9.*

- establish a format for periodic reporting;
- prepare a draft text on monitoring and its procedures for inclusion in the Operational Guidelines;
- determine, jointly with ICCROM, ICOMOS, and IUCN, the need for training in monitoring;
- estimate the costs to States Parties of the implementation of a systematic monitoring programme and look into possibilities of assistance to States Parties;
- establish a small unit at the World Heritage Centre to oversee the implementation of a systematic monitoring and reporting system.

A progress report on the implementation of the Committee's decisions, including detailed proposals for the framework of the methodology of systematic monitoring and reporting, was presented to the eighteenth session of the Bureau in July 1994. The Bureau endorsed the proposals and requested the Secretariat to enter into consultation with States Parties and site-managers and to prepare final proposals, including a **draft text on monitoring for inclusion in the Operational Guidelines**, for consideration by the eighteenth session of the World Heritage Committee.

The methodology for systematic monitoring and reporting that was endorsed by the Bureau, integrates two complementary elements, both of which are indispensable for a credible and successful monitoring and reporting system.

The first is the systematic and repeated observation of the conditions of a site and its periodic reporting -with independent advice- to the World Heritage Committee. These activities are generally being understood to be the prime responsibility of the States Parties and the agency with management authority.

The second element is the Committee's strategy towards systematic monitoring which would be characterized by a regional approach and the provision of advice and assistance to the States Parties in putting management and monitoring structures in place and in preparing the periodic state of conservation reports.

Such an integral monitoring and reporting system would have an immediate and long-term impact on actions and decisions taken on all levels:

World Heritage site: Improved site management, advanced planning, reduction of emergency and ad-hoc interventions.

State Party: Improved World Heritage policies, advanced planning, improved site management.

Region: Regional cooperation, regional World Heritage policies and activities better targeted to the specific needs of the region.

Committee/Secretariat: Better understanding of the conditions of the sites and of the needs on the site, national and regional levels. Improved policy and decision making.

It could also imply a considerable shift from reactive monitoring -which is, per definition, an outside inspection in response to information received from others than the State Party- towards preventive action and a more cooperative effort between the site-manager, the States Parties and the World Heritage Committee, with two objectives in mind: improved site-management and conservation, and a more effective regional, national and site specific World Heritage cooperation.

The Committee is requested to adopt the methodology, as described in this document, as the general framework for monitoring and reporting, and to revise the Operational Guidelines accordingly. A draft text for the Operational Guidelines is presented in working document WHC-94/CONF.003/9.

A.2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. It is recalled that the World Heritage Committee at its sixteenth session in 1992 adopted specific recommendations on 'monitoring the state of conservation' as follows:

"Monitoring should no longer be seen as a periodical inspection, but as a process of continuous co-operation involving local partners in a regional context, and including information and research activities. (...) The possibility should be considered of a clause which would require a periodical review of the properties on the World Heritage List, in order to determine after a given period whether the sites still meet, totally or partially, the criteria under which they had been originally included. Representatives of the Centre or experts from the NGOs will participate at this periodical review.

The Centre should produce a document on the state of the world cultural heritage, beginning with the Latin American region, (...).

In order to strengthen the guidelines and procedures for systematic and continuous monitoring of the state of conservation of World Heritage sites, the Centre, in cooperation with IUCN, ICOMOS and ICCROM, should convene an expert's meeting during the year 1993." (see Report of the sixteenth session of the Committee, annex II, page 9).

2.2 The immediate background to these proposals are, therefore, the World Heritage Committee's recommendations cited above, the expert meeting which was held in Cambridge in November 1993 and the decisions taken by the seventeenth session of the Committee and the work of the eighteenth session of the Bureau. To set the proposals in context, however, it is useful to go all the way back to the World Heritage Convention and the Operational Guidelines themselves.

2.3 Article 4 of the Convention states:

"Each State Party to this Convention recognizes that the duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage referred to in Articles 1 and 2 and situated on its territory, belong, primarily to that State. It will do all it can to this end, to the utmost of its own resources and, where appropriate, with any international assistance and co-operation, in particular, financial, artistic, scientific and technical, which it may be able to obtain." This is further elaborated in article 5 of the Convention where it is said that '(...) each State Party to this Convention shall endeavour (...) to take the appropriate legal, scientific, technical, administrative and financial measures necessary for the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation of this heritage (...)'

Article 27.2 states:

"They [the States Parties] shall undertake to keep the public broadly informed of the dangers threatening this heritage and of activities carried on in pursuance of this Convention."

2.4 Article 29 of the Convention states:

"1. The States Parties to this Convention shall, in the reports which they submit to the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on dates and in a manner to be determined by it, give information on the legislative and administrative provisions which they have adopted and other action which they have taken for the application of this Convention, together with details of the experience acquired in this field.

2. These reports shall be brought to the attention of the World Heritage Committee."

It is also worth noting that the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention require the State Party to inform the Committee "of their intention to undertake or authorize in an area protected under the Convention major restorations or new constructions which may affect the World Heritage value of the property" (par. 58) and a state of conservation report to accompany all requests for technical assistance (par. 94.e).

2.5 By adhering to the Convention the States Parties have thus accepted the obligation to report to the Committee on the implementation of the Convention in general and on the conditions of and threats to the sites in particular.

2.6 Following the sixteenth session of the Committee where "The Committee noted that the monitoring of the state of conservation of World Heritage sites will receive greater emphasis than the identification and designation of sites in the future work of the Convention", the Operational Guidelines also define the role of the Committee in monitoring. Paragraph 3 states that the Committee "has four essential functions." The second of these is to "monitor the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List" (ibid).

Other references to monitoring in the Operational Guidelines relate to the List of World Heritage in Danger. Paragraph 81 reads: "The Committee shall review at regular intervals the state of property on the List of World Heritage in Danger. This review shall include such monitoring procedures and expert missions as might be determined necessary by the Committee."

2.7 Taken together with the calls for assessments of nominated sites before inscription and before inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, the Operational Guidelines thus indicate what might be termed reactive quasi-judicial monitoring, the assessment of sites by external experts against objective criteria with a view to procedural action as a consequence.

2.8 In practice, as shown widely in the papers of the World Heritage Bureau and of the Committee, there has been much monitoring and reporting of sites on the World Heritage List. Since the mid 1980's there has also been a continuing feeling that a more systematic

and less reactive system should be introduced. The expert meeting in Cambridge in November 1993 was conceived in order to carry this work forward.

A.3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The Cambridge meeting focused on the difference between monitoring, the systematic repeated observation of a site at regular intervals, and reporting, the compilation of summary reports of those observations together with proposals for remedying problems identified. It considered the importance of involving different agencies at different levels in the monitoring process and stressed the need to obtain and up-date information on a systematic basis. Underlying this discussion there was a commonly held view amongst the participants that monitoring should lead to better management of the sites and should enable the achievement or non-achievement of management aims to be recorded.
- 3.2 Before bringing forward proposals for advancing this work, it may be worth briefly considering the underlying assumption about systematic observation. This implies that in respect of each World Heritage Site it will be possible to establish indicators and baseline information which can be measured at regular intervals in order to observe the condition of a site and the quality of its management. These indicators will need to be specific to a site or type of site, but the expectation seems to be general that they can be found.
- 3.3 Consideration of the evidence and practical experience in monitoring sites suggest that this is a false hope. Factual data about the name, ownership, location and extent of sites need to be recorded, but say nothing about their state of conservation. In the case of many of the natural sites the number of species and their population size are highly important. An important decline in number would be significant, but would come at the end of a process of poor management, increasing pollution, natural disaster or other threat or impact. Other data held by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) is selective and descriptive and is not in the form of measurable indicators.
- 3.4 In the case of cultural sites the problem is greater in that many of the objective indicators which might

be chosen -the rate of erosion of a stone surface, for example- present problems of measurement as well as of selection. It would be wrong, however, to over-stress the differences between the types of sites; in both cases objectivity is not easily achievable by statistical means.

- 3.5 This apparently negative point has been stressed for several related reasons. It explains the aspiration for a methodology which is consistent and objective, and at the same time it explains why previous attempts to devise questionnaires and centralized approaches have not been fruitful. It also points to the difficulties faced by any external observer who wishes to measure change over time. It underlines the need for any account of a site to be both descriptive and to be based on an informed judgement, preferably on the part of someone closely familiar with the site.
- 3.6 In the light of these considerations it is possible to set out some criteria for a system of monitoring and reporting.

A.4. REQUIREMENTS FOR MONITORING AND REPORTING PROCEDURES

- 4.1 Documentation should be prepared on a consistent basis, not because sites are the same or the same indicators can be applied, but simply for ease in compiling, storing, accessing and handling information.
- 4.2 Within the operation of the World Heritage Convention, the process of describing a site should take the same form from its nomination and inscription onwards.
- 4.3 Information about a site and an expert view of its condition and changes over time should be reported regularly through the World Heritage Centre to the World Heritage Committee and stored with the papers relating to each site in a way which makes it readily accessible to the Committee and to other interested parties. It is essential that the site managers be involved in the process of monitoring, and that there be a participation by professionals or an agency independent of the national organization with direct management responsibility in order to ensure the credibility and objectivity of the reporting.

- 4.4 At the level of the individual site, however, monitoring should be a normal part of the management process, keeping track of expenditure, works of maintenance and repair, staffing changes, external threats and so on. It should be carried out by those with the greatest relevant knowledge, those with direct management responsibility for the site. In larger sites, notably but not exclusively historic towns, this management approach will need to be incorporated into the work of a number of agencies.
- 4.5 At the level of the State Party, information which results from monitoring should be used to generate a report on the way in which it is meeting its obligations under the World Heritage Convention and an indication of the strength of its heritage management systems. The systems devised to establish and oversee monitoring should also provide a way of ensuring co-ordination and co-operation between the various agencies responsible for World Heritage sites.
- 4.6 At the level of the Committee and its Secretariat, the World Heritage Centre, a properly functioning monitoring and reporting system should provide the evidence that the Convention is fully respected by States Parties. It should provide the basis on which the resources of the Fund and other kinds of assistance can be directed. In time, it should reduce the need for exercise in reactive monitoring in response to specific problems and reports (but see paragraph 6.16 below). The main objective, therefore, is to produce a system which leads to a gradual improvement in the management and state of conservation of the sites.
- 4.7 At the level of the Centre, the system should improve information and communication with the site managers and the State Parties. It should enable the Centre and other World Heritage partners to make the best use of their ability to assess, advise and train, as well as to enhance their information base.
- 4.8 In order to optimize the impact and efficiency of monitoring and the results thereof, a national or regional approach to monitoring should be applied by the Centre. For each programme of monitoring, appropriate partners should be identified for involvement. Such programmes could be initiated with workshops for the partners and other participants in the monitoring activity with the objectives of establishing the framework, defining needs for training in the methods of management and monitoring, and identifying professional resources in the region.

A.5. THE BASIS OF THE PROPOSALS

- 5.1 Under the Convention it is the States Parties which accept obligations towards the World Heritage sites and obligations to prepare reports for the Committee. The State Party, therefore, is crucial to, and should be at the centre of, the world-wide monitoring and reporting system which it is intended to introduce.
- 5.2 This is not to say that the State Party at the level of central government or national institution should carry out the task in isolation. On the contrary, it should already be clear that involvement at the site level is imperative if monitoring worth the name is to take place. It will also be necessary to provide authority and credibility to the monitoring reports, which could be obtained through the involvement of an independent element, working alongside the site authorities and the state parties. This might come from an individual or organization with relevant experience from within or outside the country. Regional cooperation can also provide a useful mechanism for establishing systems and providing an independent element: these proposals draw heavily on the pilot monitoring programme in Latin America. What is vital, however, is that there should be a reporting relationship between the State Party and the Committee underlying any other relationship or form or organization involved in the monitoring. These proposals will only be made to work effectively if States Parties accept the obligation to produce regular reports and introduce arrangements for doing so.
- 5.3 A pro-active strategy from the World Heritage Committee towards the States Parties and the sites is equally indispensable. The experience of the Latin American monitoring programme has shown that an external element in monitoring is fully acceptable to most of the States Parties if this is based upon a continuous cooperation between an external partner -in this case a UNESCO project- and the States Parties and the site managers. Essential elements of a monitoring strategy should be: regional cooperation, the provision of information, advice and assistance in setting up adequate management and monitoring structures, and involvement in the preparation of credible state of conservation reports.

A regional approach will optimize the impact and efficiency of monitoring and will enable the Committee to define regional strategies for World Heritage activities.

5.4 The basis of these proposals can be described as follows:

- a) Monitoring, the continuous observation of the conditions of the site, is (to be) incorporated in the day-to-day management of the site, resulting in annual reports to be prepared by the site manager or management authority for submission to the State Party and transmission to the World Heritage Centre.
- b) Parallel to inviting the States Parties to put monitoring and reporting systems in place and in order to systemize the organization of the work, the Committee will ask its Secretariat to initiate monitoring programmes on a regional or sub-regional basis.
- c) Once the Committee has decided which regions should be dealt with in the coming years, the Secretariat establishes a workplan and identifies the most appropriate partner(s) for monitoring in each of the regions.
- d) In the context of these regional programmes, the Centre establishes contacts with States Parties, site-managers and other possible participants and defines jointly with them the most appropriate regional monitoring strategy. If necessary, regional seminars will be held to initiate the monitoring process.
- e) 5-year state of conservation reports will be prepared by the States Parties with the involvement of the site-manager/management authority, preferably in the context of the regional monitoring programmes.
- f) Upon request and in line with the decisions of the World Heritage Committee, the Centre provides assistance and external advice to the States Parties and the site-manager on management practices and collaborates in the preparation of the 5-year state of conservation reports.
- g) The State Party will be asked to present the 5-year reports to the Secretariat.
- h) The Secretariat will collect the 5-year reports, verify their contents and prepare with the help of its decentralized regional structure Regional State of the World Heritage Reports for presentation to the World Heritage Committee. The first of these reports will be presented to the

World Heritage Committee at its eighteenth session: the State of the cultural World Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be the result of the UNDP/UNESCO Latin American Monitoring Programme. Regional monitoring programmes will be launched in the coming years for other regions to be determined by the Committee. Once the monitoring system is properly launched, the Committee would review every year the report on one specific region.

- i) On the basis of these reports, the World Heritage Committee will, if appropriate, make specific recommendations to the State Party on actions to be taken. Decision-making regarding regional or national World Heritage policies and activities and regarding requests for technical cooperation will equally be based on those reports.

A.6. DETAILED PROPOSALS

Nomination Form

- 6.1 Since the beginning of the process for a potential World Heritage site is the compilation of a nomination form, it seems appropriate to begin detailed proposals with that form. Annex I lists the headings under which it is proposed to group the questions on the form and the questions themselves. The aim is to produce a logical series of groupings for the questions, to seek for more precision in replies than the current form, and to give much more weight to management considerations. The notes to the form should emphasize the need to provide specific information and to annex important documents such as management plans. In this way the question of World Heritage site nomination should from the beginning be brought close to the management process. Site managers should always be involved in the completion.

"Baseline" Information

- 6.2 Once completed, the nomination form, together with the evaluation report of the advisory bodies and the Committee's statement of the World Heritage values at the moment of inscription of the property on the World Heritage List, should also serve as the first "monitoring report" on each World Heritage site. It should be regarded as the basic source of data. For that reason, if the Centre or the advisory bodies have significant questions to raise about a nomination, it is recommended that they are answered by way of a specific amendment or revision of the nomination form.

No site should be recommended by the advisory bodies for inscription until they are satisfied with the contents of the form.

- 6.3 The Secretariat will make the necessary arrangements for the adequate storage and management of the nomination file, state of conservation reports and other relevant material such as already existing information management systems, forwarding copies to the appropriate advisory bodies and making full use of the information/documentation services of WCMC/IUCN, ICOMOS and ICCROM, and others. Particularly where cultural sites are concerned, there is a need for considerable further work to develop systems for storing, handling and networking information.

Monitoring

- 6.4 Once a site has been inscribed, monitoring should be the responsibility of those in day-to-day charge of the site. This should be built in to the planning and budgeting process. Each year, at the start of the planning round, the information in the nomination form should be reviewed. Much of the information will not change from year to year and only significant changes need to be noted.
- 6.5 On certain matters, however, a brief written statement should be prepared each year for the use of site managers and information of the State Party.

These are:

- 6.5.1 Present state of conservation (Ref. 3d in the form)
- 6.5.2 Agreed plans relating to the property (Ref. 4f in the form)
- 6.5.3 External Factors Affecting the Site (Ref. 5a-f in the form).
- 6.6 In the light of the report described in the previous paragraph, annual budgets and plans for maintenance, conservation and management should be prepared or rolled forward.

Monitoring and Reporting Strategy

- 6.7 The Secretariat develops proposals for monitoring programmes organized by regions for approval by the Committee for each of which the most appropriate partner(s) should be identified. These regional programmes should aim at establishing a communication

and collaboration between the States Parties, the sites and the Secretariat, promoting regional cooperation, providing information, advice and assistance in setting up adequate management and monitoring structures, assisting in the preparation of credible five-year reports (as described in the following section) and preparing regional state of conservation reports for presentation to the World Heritage Committee.

Regular Reporting

- 6.8 It is proposed that every five years the information in the nomination form should be carefully reviewed, and a written report should be sent by the State Party to the World Heritage Centre. Site managers should be involved in the preparation and the State Party should be responsible for ensuring that credible reports are prepared, i.e. through the involvement of a qualified agency or individual from outside the organization responsible for managing the site, e.g: in the context of the regional programmes that will be set up by the Secretariat (see paragraph 6.7).
- 6.9 In addition to providing up-to-date information, each report should include a schedule of recommended action to deal with problems or threats identified, together with an identified agency for taking the action and an indication as to whether the agency concerned has accepted responsibility for, and the practicality of, the action concerned. These recommendations may involve the State Party, the Bureau and the Committee, as well as agencies more directly involved.
- 6.10 In cases where a request for technical assistance is made to the Centre, such a report should always be prepared and annexed to the request (Operational Guidelines, paragraph 94.(b)). In the case of sites which are already inscribed on the list, it is proposed that within five years reports based on the revised nomination form be prepared and submitted.

Reactive Monitoring

- 6.11 In the case of sites which are threatened or damaged by natural disasters or unforeseen dangers, or where for whatever reason there is perceived to be a major problem or concern, it will remain necessary to undertake special missions of investigative analysis and recommendations. Such cases will continue to be handled as they arise. It is, however, to be hoped that as a system of systematic monitoring and reporting is introduced, the need for such missions will gradually decline.

6.12 Properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger will, in accordance with the Operational Guidelines paragraphs 75-82, be systematically monitored on a regular basis so as to assess whether additional measures are required to conserve the property, whether the property should be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger if the property is no longer under threat, or whether to consider deletion of the property from the World Heritage List.

Training

6.13 It will be clear from what has been said above that it would be wrong to conceive of monitoring as a subject for separate training. A site which is well-managed will be well-monitored and it would be contrary to the spirit and intention of these proposals to specify training based simply around the proposals set out in this paper.

6.14 Two training approaches to these proposals seem to be appropriate:

6.14.1 Discussion of the proposals once adopted as an item on the agenda of existing meetings, seminars and training activities, both national and regional.

6.14.2 Regional workshops on the management and monitoring of World Heritage sites for site managers directly involved.

Resource Requirement

6.15 Systematic monitoring by management staff will not impose an additional requirement on managers. Experience suggests that an independent contribution to a five-yearly monitoring report should take of the order of 10 person days (in the range 5-15 days depending on the complexity of the site). In exceptional cases and within the limits of the available resources, assistance may be provided to this effect.

A.7. ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE

The Committee is requested to:

- a) adopt the methodology, as described above, as the general framework for monitoring and reporting;

- b) to revise the Operational Guidelines so as to introduce the notion of monitoring and reporting accordingly (see proposals made under agenda item 14, working document WHC-94/CONF.003/9); and
- c) to invite the Secretariat to undertake the following actions:
- Prepare a revised nomination format for presentation to the nineteenth sessions of the Bureau and the Committee, in such a way that at the time of inscription of properties on the World Heritage List adequate baseline information be provided.
 - Organize in early 1995, with the participation of the advisory bodies and other relevant institutions, an expert meeting on World Heritage information management with the objective to develop guidelines for the establishment of a World Heritage Data Base.
 - Inform the States Parties of the decisions of the Committee, invite them to put monitoring structures in place and to report on the state of conservation of the property to the Committee on a 5-year basis.
 - Prepare workplans for and implement regional programmes to provide advice and assistance to the States Parties in setting up adequate monitoring and management systems, to promote the preparation of 5-year state of conservation reports, to handle and analyse these reports and to present 5-year Regional State of the World Heritage Reports to the World Heritage Committee.
 - Incorporate monitoring as a management tool in World Heritage training courses and other activities.
 - Report to the nineteenth session of the Bureau on the implementation of the decisions of the Committee and on the application of the new monitoring procedures.

WORLD HERITAGE LIST NOMINATION FORM

To be completed on A4 paper
with maps and plans to a maximum of A3

1. Identification of the Property

- a. Country
- b. State, Province or Region
- c. Name of Property
- d. Category of Property (e.g. historic town, medieval cathedral, tropical forest)
- e. Exact location on map and indication of geographical coordinates
- f. Maps and/or plans showing boundary of area proposed for inscription and of any buffer zone
- g. Area of site proposed for inscription (ha.) and proposed buffer zone (ha.) if any (natural sites only).

2. Justification for Inscription

- a. Statement of signification
- b. Comparative analysis (including state of conservation of similar sites)
- c. Criteria under which inscription is proposed (and justification for inscription under these criteria).

3. Description

- a. Description of Property
- b. History and development
- c. Form and date of most recent records of site
- d. Present state of conservation
- e. Authenticity/integrity

4. Management

- a. Ownership
- b. Legal status
- c. Protective measures and means of implementing them
- d. Agency/agencies with management authority
- e. Level at which management is exercised (e.g., on site, regionally) and name and address of responsible person for contact purposes

- f. Agreed plans related to property (e.g., regional, local plan, conservation plan, tourism development plan)
- g. Sources and levels of finance
- h. Sources of expertise and training in conservation and management techniques
- i. Visitor facilities and statistics
- j. Site management plan and statement of objectives (copy to be annexed)
- k. Staffing levels (professional, technical, maintenance).

5. Factors Affecting the Site

- a. Development Pressures (e.g., encroachment, adaptation, agriculture)
- b. Environmental Pressures (e.g., pollution, climate change)
- c. Natural disasters and preparedness (earthquakes, floods, fires, etc.)
- d. Visitor/tourism pressures
- e. Number of inhabitants within site, buffer zone
- f. Other

6. Monitoring

- a. Key indicators for measuring state of conservation
- b. Administrative arrangements for monitoring property
- c. Results of previous reporting exercises.

7. Documentation

- a. Photographs, slides, and, where available, film
- b. Copies of site management plans and extracts of other plans relevant to the site
- c. Bibliography
- d. Address where inventory, records and archives are held.

B. Monitoring Activities at a National and (Sub-)regional Level

B.1 Overview of systematic monitoring activities

Parallel to the development of the conceptual framework of monitoring, the Committee had already in the past encouraged the conduct of pilot monitoring programmes in Latin America and the Mediterranean. Progress reports, particularly those concerning the Latin American monitoring programme, have been presented regularly to the Bureau and the Committee and have provided a basis for continuous reflection and a practical test ground for systematic monitoring. The Committee also decided, at its fifteenth session, to create a special budget line for monitoring, thus recognizing the importance of systematic monitoring activities.

The following examples of systematic monitoring activities are presently being implemented or in preparation:

B.1.1 Latin America and the Caribbean:

Natural sites

First steps have been made towards a future systematic monitoring approach for natural sites in Latin America for which collaboration will be sought with the FAO Office in Santiago de Chile during 1995.

Cultural sites

At the request of the World Heritage Committee, the UNDP/UNESCO Regional Project for the Cultural, Urban and Environmental Heritage in **Latin America and the Caribbean** has, since 1991 undertaken a pilot monitoring programme of cultural World Heritage sites in the region. The Regional Project presented to the World Heritage Committee at its seventeenth session in December 1993, state of conservation reports on 26 sites. Another four sites have been monitored in 1994. The regional monitoring programme will be concluded with a regional state of conservation report that will be presented to the World Heritage Committee at its eighteenth session.

In 1994, the National Institute for Anthropology and History (INAH) of **Mexico** has undertaken the monitoring of the ten cultural World Heritage sites in Mexico in collaboration with experts of the National School for Conservation and Restoration (ENCRM). The report, in Spanish, was presented to the Bureau at its eighteenth session. A version in English and/or French is awaited. In response to a request made by the Secretariat, ICOMOS has advised the following: 'ICOMOS is very impressed by the high standard of these reports. They are objective and do not seek to disguise problems where these exist. The format adopted corresponds very closely with that proposed for the systematic monitoring programme.' Detailed observations have been

transmitted to the Mexican authorities for clarification and comments.

B.1.2 North America:

An internal monitoring system is already in place in both the United States National Park Service and the Canadian Park Service. The United States of America and Canada may wish to complement their monitoring systems with the monitoring procedure which the World Heritage Committee will establish at its eighteenth session and subsequently report on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties on their territories in 1996.

B.1.3 Asia and the Pacific:

Natural and Cultural sites

The World Heritage Centre is at present cooperating with the UNESCO Regional Offices in Bangkok/Thailand and Jakarta/Indonesia to prepare a strategy for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Asia-Pacific Region. This strategic document will derive its goals and objectives from the World Heritage strategy approved by the World Heritage Committee at its sixteenth session in December 1992. The strategy for Asia-Pacific will include a section on the monitoring of the state of conservation of natural and cultural heritage sites in Asia-Pacific. An outline will be provided to the World Heritage Committee. Particular attention will be given to the implementation of the decisions of the eighteenth session of the World Heritage Committee regarding targets for monitoring.

Furthermore, the World Heritage Centre is pleased to report that the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories of **Australia** has presented an annual "Monitoring Report on Australia's World Heritage Properties", July 1992 - June 1993. The report addresses issues such as management, including visitor management, research and presentation.

B.1.4 Africa:

Natural sites

In accordance with the decisions of the World Heritage Committee at its last session, a meeting organized by IUCN/CNPPA at Krüger National Park (South Africa) has been supported by the World Heritage Fund to include a special workshop on the state of conservation of natural World Heritage sites. The meeting took place from 11 to 17 October 1994. The Committee will receive a separate summary report.

B.1.5 Arab States and the Mediterranean region:

Cultural sites

In the framework of UNEP ("Mediterranean Action Plan"), the Heritage Workshop of the City of Marseille (France) implements an activity entitled "The 100 Historical Sites", which involves regular monitoring of World Heritage sites situated in riverain countries in the region of the Mediterranean and the Arab States.

During its sixteenth session at Santa Fe, in December 1992, the World Heritage Committee granted US\$ 20,000 to support this operation, which involves 23 sites in the Arab States and in Europe. A report on the programme was presented by the Coordinator of the Action Plan at the eighteenth session of the Bureau (Paris, July 1994).

Moreover, the World Heritage Centre foresees the organization, with ICCROM, in January 1995, in Tunis (Tunisia), of a sub-regional meeting for the managers of World Heritage sites in the Maghreb region. This meeting, which could be extended to other countries in the region, will deal with questions concerning monitoring procedures for inscribed sites and will attempt to lay the foundations for a programme of systematic monitoring in the region.

B.1.6 Europe: Cultural sites

As a result of the collaboration of Norway (ICOMOS) and ICCROM for the monitoring of sites of Bryggen and Roros, the **Nordic Countries** will evaluate all of their World Heritage sites with the objective to improve management and conservation practices. World Heritage assistance has been allocated to support this endeavor (US\$ 10,000).

The **United Kingdom** (ICOMOS) is running a World Heritage monitoring project funded by a government grant of about £30,000 per annum and which is matched by an equal sum from private sources. This project involves the preparation of a brief monitoring report on each World Heritage site in the United Kingdom. Each report records the main facts about the condition and use of the site and arrangements for management. These reports, which will be completed by the end of 1994, are prepared around a 3-page pro-forma listing topics and questions.

B.2 Proposed Action for 1995

The World Heritage Centre will increase its efforts to develop systematic monitoring as stated in section A of this document. In doing so, special attention will be devoted to develop monitoring systems in Asia and Africa by taking full advantage of the Latin American pilot monitoring programme.

C. Reports on the State of Conservation of Specific Properties

I. Introduction

This section deals with **ad-hoc or reactive monitoring** as it was defined by the Committee at its seventeenth session: "The reporting by the Centre, other sectors of UNESCO and the advisory bodies to the Bureau and the Committee on the state of conservation of specific World Heritage sites that are under threat. Ad hoc reports and impact studies are necessary each time exceptional circumstances occur or work is undertaken which may have an effect on the state of conservation of the site."

This document, therefore, includes reports on most of the sites that are inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, as well as reports prepared in response either to requests of the World Heritage Committee or to information received by the Secretariat or the advisory bodies that specific World Heritage sites are under threat.

The seventeenth session of the World Heritage Committee and the eighteenth session of the Bureau examined reports on the state of conservation of seven natural and six cultural properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger and on seventeen natural and fifty-nine cultural properties on the World Heritage List. For detailed information please refer to **Section X** of the Report of the seventeenth session of the World Heritage Committee and to **Section VI.B** of the Report of the eighteenth session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee.

As decided, the Secretariat informed the States Parties concerned of the observations made by the World Heritage Committee and the Bureau and requested to be informed of any follow-up taken. In those cases where relevant information has been received from the State Party or other sources, the Secretariat and/or the advisory bodies will report on it to the eighteenth session of the Committee.

The Committee may wish to commend the States Parties which have responded to its recommendations or observations and may wish to urge the States Parties which have not done this, to do so. In this context, the Committee may also wish to emphasize that, according to the Operational Guidelines, one of the essential functions of the Committee is to monitor the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and that a continuous communication between the Committee and the States Parties regarding the state of conservation of the World Heritage sites is indispensable in this respect.

II. Natural Heritage

II.1. Natural Properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger

At the seventeenth session of the World Heritage Committee held in Cartagena, Colombia, from 6 to 12 December 1993, the Secretariat and IUCN reported on the seven natural sites which are now inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. These were: the Air-Ténéré Reserve, Niger (inscription 1981, List of World Heritage in Danger 1992); Manas Wildlife Sanctuary, India (inscription 1985, List of World Heritage in Danger 1992); Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve, Guinea/Côte d'Ivoire (inscription 1991, List of World Heritage in Danger 1992); Plitvice Lakes National Park, Croatia (inscription 1979, List of World Heritage in Danger 1992); Sangay National Park, Ecuador (inscription 1983, List of World Heritage in Danger 1992); Srebarna Nature Reserve, Bulgaria (inscription 1983, List of World Heritage in Danger 1992) and the Everglades National Park, United States of America (inscription 1979, inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger during the seventeenth session in 1993).

Additional information was provided to the eighteenth session of the Bureau on Srebarna Nature Reserve (Bulgaria); Sangay National Park (Ecuador) and Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India).

The Secretariat presents the following information on the natural properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

Srebarna Nature Reserve (Bulgaria)

The Bureau at its eighteenth session recalled that the site was inscribed in 1983 and placed on the World Heritage in Danger List in 1992. The Centre is continuously in contact with the Bulgarian authorities, which presented a report on their restoration efforts at the last session of the Bureau. Two small scale international assistance projects from the World Heritage Fund are presently under way at the site, as well as international assistance from other sources.

Action by the Committee: The Committee is requested to confirm the decision of the Bureau that a detailed report should be presented to the nineteenth session of the Bureau in 1995. It is recommended that the site be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Plitvice Lakes National Park (Croatia)

The site was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1992. Missions to the site were carried out in 1992 and

1993. Given the fact that the situation remains critical due to armed conflict and that the political situation in the region has not changed, the Centre suggests another fact-finding mission to this area, particularly to the Korkaova Uvala Virgin forest.

Action by the Committee: It is recommended that the site be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger and to carry out another mission at an appropriate time.

Sangay National Park (Ecuador)

The site was inscribed in 1983 and added to the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1992 due to threats from poachers, boundary encroachment and unplanned road construction. A technical assistance project from the World Heritage Fund is under way. No response has been received so far the letters signed by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee and the Director-General of UNESCO expressing the Bureau's concerns.

Action by the Committee: It is recommended that the site be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger and that another mission be carried out.

Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Guinea/Cote d'Ivoire)

The site was included on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1992 because of a proposed iron-ore mining project and threats due to the arrival of a large number of refugees. An expert mission was undertaken in 1993 and proposals to revise the boundaries of the site were endorsed by the seventeenth session of the Committee in 1993. An international assistance project under the World Heritage Fund was carried out in 1994. Furthermore, the French Ministry of the Environment in cooperation with IUCN France is carrying out a study and review of the site with regard to potential future investment. A report on this project is expected in due course. On 19 October, 1994, the Centre received a report of a second expert mission, which was undertaken in 1994, which underlines the continuous precarious state of the site.

Action by the Committee: It is recommended that the site be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India)

At its eighteenth session, the World Heritage Bureau took note of the response by the Indian Government concerning Manas Wildlife Sanctuary which was inscribed on the List of World Heritage In Danger in 1992. The Bureau endorsed international assistance, if it is officially requested by the Indian Government. So far no such request has been submitted.

The Centre is aware of the action undertaken by two non-governmental organizations, WWF-India and the Swaminathan Foundation, which have already commissioned a report on Manas Wildlife Sanctuary, which is expected shortly. Furthermore, WWF-India has expressed interest to prepare a state of conservation report on Kaziranga World Heritage site, and to set up a systematic monitoring for Kaziranga.

Action by the Committee: It is recommended that Manas Wildlife Sanctuary be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Air-Ténéré Reserve (Niger)

The site was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1992 as it was affected by civil disturbances and its staff was held hostage. The Centre has contacted the authorities of Niger and was informed that the situation has not improved and that the civil war continues in spite of attempts to resolve the conflict through negotiations.

Action by the Committee: It is recommended that the site be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Everglades National Park (United States of America)

The site was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1993 due to an increasing number of threats since the date of its inscription on the List in 1979. The Government is providing significant financial support for the management of the site and for its long-term restoration. The American authorities are prepared to present a report to the eighteenth session of the Committee.

Action by the Committee: It is recommended that the site be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

II.2. Natural Properties on the World Heritage List

Other sites which were subject to state of conservation reports at the seventeenth session of the Committee were: Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal), Ngorongoro Conservation Area (Tanzania), Royal Chitwan National Park (Nepal), Sinharaja Forest Reserve (Sri Lanka), Tikal National Park (Guatemala), Victoria Falls National Park (Zimbabwe/Zambia) and Virunga National Park (Zaire). Since the last session of the World Heritage Committee promotional funds have been provided for Niokolo-Koba National Park and emergency funds have been provided for Virunga National Park.

Additional and/or new reports on the state of conservation of the following natural sites were presented to the eighteenth session of the Bureau: Shark Bay, Tasmanian Wilderness and

Willandra Lakes Region (Australia); Galapagos Islands (Ecuador); Mount Athos (Greece); Banc d'Arguin National Park (Mauritania); Te Wahipounamu (New Zealand); Ngorongoro Conservation Area (Tanzania); Thungyai Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries (Thailand); Yellowstone (United States of America) and Mana Pools National Park, Sapi and Chewore Safari Areas (Zimbabwe).

The Secretariat provides information on the state of conservation of the following sites:

Galapagos National Park (Ecuador)

It is recalled that a fire burned some 8,000 hectares of Isabela Island, part of the Galapagos National Park, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1978. Emergency assistance was provided to the site under the World Heritage Fund (US\$ 50,000). Meanwhile, the World Heritage Centre has received a preliminary report, photos and a video film on the fire. The President of Ecuador wrote a letter on 26 July 1994 to the Director General of UNESCO thanking him for the important contribution made by the World Heritage Fund and the immediate action undertaken by the World Heritage Committee and the Centre to preserve the fragile biodiversity system of the islands in the framework of the World Heritage Convention. On 30 September 1994 the Centre was informed that the President of the Republic of Ecuador has taken further action concerning the Galapagos Marine Reserve. IUCN will report in more detail on this issue under the agenda item on nominations.

Action by the Committee: The Committee is requested to examine IUCN's report and then to decide on the appropriate actions.

Banc d'Arguin National Park (Mauritania)

At its last session the Bureau took note of the IUCN report on a planned capture operation of six monk seals from the sea population of the park. The Centre was informed by the French Ministry for the Environment that the experiment was carefully planned and coordinated with IUCN. The capture operation and breeding experiment is surveyed by the "Comité scientifique international pour le suivi du programme français de sauvegarde du phoque moine".

Action by the Committee: The Committee may wish to take note of the above information.

Kahuzi-Biega National Park and Virunga National Park (Zaire)

Kahuzi Biega National Park, inscribed on the World Heritage List under criterion (iv) in 1980, and Virunga National Park, inscribed under criteria (ii)(iii)(iv) in 1979, both contain the last population of mountain gorillas.

Due to the tragic events in Rwanda, both parks are under threat given the massive arrival of refugees from Rwanda. On 31 August 1994 the World Heritage Centre was informed that a UNHCR refugees camp for 50,000 people was going to be established near a three-kilometre strip of the Kahuzi-Biega National Park near Ihembe. The World Heritage Centre contacted immediately the UNHCR (Geneva), the Director of IZCN, Mr. Mankoto Ma Mbaelele, (Kinshasa), who was carrying out monitoring missions at World Heritage sites in Zaire, and a bilateral project by the GTZ (Germany). The Centre obtained relocation of the camp near Uvira which took the pressure from the site.

However, in spite of the relocation of the camp, the entire region and particularly Virunga National Park, situated at the border between Rwanda and Uganda has been destabilized by the uncontrolled arrival of refugees causing deforestation and poaching at the sites. In order to assist Zaire in this critical state and to help stabilize the situation, the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee approved a total of US\$ 50,000 emergency assistance for both sites, Kahuzi-Biega National Park and Virunga National Park. With the relocation of the camp, the Kahuzi-Biega World Heritage site seems to be less threatened, whereas the situation at Virunga National Park remains very critical.

Action by the Committee: The Committee is requested to examine the report to be presented by IUCN and to consider then if any action should be taken.

Redwood National Park (United States of America)

The World Heritage Centre was advised on 15 September 1994 of a proposed road project within the site. The proposal involves 2 miles of highway relocation which has been subject to an Environmental Impact Study. The United States National Park Service and IUCN have been requested to follow up this matter. However, at the time of this report no further response has been received.

Action by the Committee: The Committee may wish to take note of this information.

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

The World Heritage Centre was informed by letter of 5 August 1994 from the National Heritage Conservation Commission of Zambia that the proposal to build the Batoka Dam was dropped. The Batoka Gorge Hydro Electric Scheme would have had a major environmental impact on the World Heritage site and would have flooded the Batoka Gorge of the Zambezi River, a two million year old unique geological and geomorphological formation.

Action by the Committee: The Committee may wish to commend the Government of Zambia on the decisions taken to ensure the integrity of this World Heritage site.

II.3. In a separate document IUCN will be reporting on the state of conservation of a number of natural properties on the World Heritage List (see Working Document WHC-94/CONF.003/6 Add.1).

III. Natural and Cultural Heritage (mixed sites)

Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru)

Technical and training assistance for the preparation of a master plan for this mixed site was provided in 1992 for a total amount of US\$ 78,825. The director of the UNDP/UNESCO Regional Project for Latin America informed the Committee at its seventeenth session on the progress made in the preparation of a master plan and that an international archaeological seminar was held in Cusco/Machu Picchu in September 1993. The report of the seminar was published early 1994 and the Secretariat was informed that further detailed studies are being undertaken on several of the most urgent issues.

In the meantime, the Secretariat was informed of proposed helicopter flights from Cusco to the village of Aguas Calientes, which is only two kilometers from the ruins of Machu Picchu, authorization of which is subject to the approval of an environmental impact study by the National Institute for Natural Resources (INRENA). The Secretariat received the study on 2 September 1994 for comments. IUCN has been requested to examine the study and to report on it to the Committee's session.

Action by the Committee: The Committee is requested to examine the above in the light of the IUCN conclusions and recommendations regarding the environmental impact study.

IV. Cultural Heritage

IV.1. Cultural Properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger

At the seventeenth session of the World Heritage Committee, the Secretariat and ICOMOS reported on the state of conservation of four of the nine cultural sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger: Chan Chan Archaeological Zone, Peru (inscription 1986, List of World Heritage in Danger 1986); Bahla Fort, Oman (inscription 1987, List of World Heritage in Danger 1988); Angkor, Cambodia (inscription 1992, List of World Heritage in Danger 1992) and the Old City of Dubrovnik, Croatia (inscription 1987, List of World Heritage in Danger 1988).

In addition, reports on the state of conservation of Angkor (Cambodia); Timbuktu (Mali) and Wieliczka Salt Mine (Poland) were presented to the eighteenth session of the Bureau in July 1994.

The Secretariat provides the following information on sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

Palace of Abomey (Benin)

In 1992, ICCROM and the Directorate of Cultural Heritage organized in the framework of the 1990-2000 PREMA Programme and UNESCO's World Decade for Cultural Development, a national training course on preventive conservation involving professionals from museums of Benin and Togo.

Following this course, Benin and ICCROM agreed to launch a follow-up project for the conservation and enhancement of the Royal Palaces of Abomey inscribed on the World Heritage List. This ensemble is composed of 13 palaces, two of which house the museum collections. Eleven palaces are in a dilapidated state. Through the PREMA and GAIA Programmes, Benin and ICCROM have decided to organize Phase II of this project from August 1994 to August 1996.

Amongst the objectives, the following should be noted:

- a) the establishment of basic documentation at the Abomey Palace on the architecture and construction techniques of the palaces and on the collections of the Kings of Abomey;
- b) training for: two architects in charge of the site, a team of craftsmen in charge of the regular maintenance of the structure, and two conservator technicians for exhibits.

US\$ 240,000 have been made available to ICCROM by the Government of Italy through UNESCO for this project.

Action by the Committee: It is recommended that this site be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee may wish to request the Secretariat to ensure that a monitoring mission be undertaken to Abomey to evaluate the state of conservation of the eleven palaces that have not yet been subject to restoration and to report on it at the nineteenth session of the Bureau.

Angkor (Cambodia)

At its eighteenth session, the Bureau applauded the progress made by the Royal Government of Cambodia in meeting the requests made by the Committee at its sixteenth session when Angkor was inscribed on the World Heritage List and List of World Heritage in Danger:

- The UNESCO-executed project Zoning and the Environmental Management Plan for Angkor (ZEMP), served as the basis of the definition of four categories of protected zones, (i) monumental sites, (ii) protected archaeological reserves,

- (iii) protected cultural landscapes, (iv) archaeological, anthropological and historic areas of interest.
- At the time of writing, approval by the National Assembly of the legislation on protected areas and their categories was still pending, although a Decree had been issued in May 1994.
- Confirmation on the official establishment of a management agency for Angkor, APSARA, and copy of its statutes were also awaited.
- A mission of a UNESCO legal consultant to assist the National Assembly in reviewing legislations on the protection of cultural property is scheduled to take place in October 1994.

The UNESCO Secretariat assisted the Cambodian authorities in the preparation of an emergency project for the consolidation of the fragile brick monument of Pre Rup in Angkor. Financial assistance of US\$ 50,000 was provided under the World Heritage Fund to supplement funds from the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan and the Government of Italy.

Action by the Committee: The Committee may wish to adopt the following: The Committee, having noted the tremendous efforts made by the Cambodian authorities in spite of the difficult conditions of the country, commends the Royal Cambodian Government for the achievements to date in meeting the recommendations of the sixteenth Session of the Committee. The Committee also applauds UNESCO for its success in mobilizing wide international support for the safeguarding effort and for devising the conceptual framework linking archaeological conservation as an integral process in the promotion of sustainable development of the Angkor-Siem Reap region, as exemplified by the UNESCO-executed project, Zoning and Environmental Management Plan for Angkor (ZEMP).

The Committee urges the Royal Cambodian Government and its National Assembly to enact the laws on the protection of cultural property and protected areas scheme as soon as possible. The Committee further requests the Royal Cambodian Government to establish a management body to ensure the implementation of national legislations and regulations relevant to the protection of Angkor as a World Heritage Site. The texts of the above mentioned laws and the statute of the Angkor management body should be submitted to the nineteenth session of the Committee, together with the cartographic data indicating the permanent boundaries of the Angkor World Heritage area and its buffer zone.

Dubrovnik (Croatia)

This World Heritage site was placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1991 and has since then received numerous UNESCO missions, with a view to help in the ongoing restoration process and the monitoring of the work underway.

It is recalled that immediately after the bombing of the city in December 1991, the Director-General announced the donation of a large number of tiles for the damaged roofs in the Old City. The donation, worth some US\$ 200,000 and covering some 10-15% of the needs, has helped to restore what is called the fifth façade of the city - its rooftops. This process is almost completed and there remain but a few insulae awaiting repairs.

A major project where UNESCO's involvement has been paramount is the publication of the Plan of Action document which gives an overview of the damages in the Old City and approximate costs of restoration works. Some of these works have been undertaken during the last two years, and important objects and works of art have been restored, such as the dome of the communal clock-tower, the dome of the small Sigurata Church, or the decorative medallion on the front of the Saint Blasius Church on the main street, the well in the ancient convent of the Clarissae, etc. Most of these activities were undertaken thanks to donations of private citizens or national and international institutions. The medallion of the Saint Blasius Church is the work, and gift, of French stonemasons from the restoration enterprise Quelin. The well has been restored by Polish craftsmen working for the PKZ.

Recently, an American foundation offered the money needed to repave the main street of the Old City - Straduk. Various donors have helped to equip with modern technology the new restoration laboratory housed in the Franciscan monastery.

The whole process is being operated and monitored by the Regional Institute for the Protection of Monuments and the Institute for Restoration of Dubrovnik, with the help of national authorities. A Parliamentary Committee charged to analyze the overall process of rehabilitation in the city and the region has been formed two years ago. On the other hand, the Expert Committee on Restoration is composed of national experts in restoration, who, together with a number of international experts selected and partly financed through UNESCO, establish criteria for restoration works in the Old City. Sessions of this Committee take place at least twice a year.

After the priority needs have been taken care of (such as the roof tiles), other works such as the restoration of nine destroyed palaces and details of Franciscan and Dominican cloisters need to be undertaken. For further details on the proposed projects refer to the request for technical assistance presented in document WHC-94/CONF.003/8.

Action by the Committee: It is recommended that this site be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee may wish to commend the Government of Croatia and UNESCO on the progress made in the conservation and restoration of Dubrovnik. It may also wish to approve the request for technical assistance which is presented to the Committee in working document WHC-94/CONF.003/8 which would assist the Croatian authorities to solve some of the most urgent needs.

Timbuktu (Mali)

The three mosques of Djingareiber, Sankore and Sidi Yahia were placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1990. These properties are threatened by obvious, precise and imminent dangers:

- a) serious alteration of the mud construction materials
- b) serious alteration of the structures
- c) the climatic factor of desertification.

A UNESCO mission was undertaken earlier this year. The report of the mission recommends a method of intervention involving the local population which, since the construction of the mosques, has been responsible for their upkeep, thus perpetuating a living religious culture. This method foresees the organization of a pilot work site in a restricted zone of each mosque, to be implemented in three stages:

- 1) preparation of a documented study recording all the stages of the annual maintenance work, so as to clearly determine the organization of the voluntary work sites;
- 2) identification, together with specialists, of the appropriate additives and stabilizers for the "banco" of Timbuktu;
- 3) organization of a pilot work site which should be entrusted to a Mali architect assisted by municipal technicians. The architect would also have the responsibility for defining a long-term conservation programme taking account of the local realities, whilst respecting and improving traditional techniques.

Having examined the state of conservation report, the Bureau requested the World Heritage Centre to ask the Mali authorities to prepare a report to be submitted to the eighteenth session of the Committee, concerning follow-up action with regard to the report of the UNESCO mission. Since then, the Minister of Culture has given his full backing and support to the recommendations made by the UNESCO mission. The Chief of the "Mission culturelle de Tombouctou" informed the Secretariat of the World Heritage Centre that he had already commissioned a documented study recording all stages of the maintenance work which is conducted annually in July. He furthermore attended an international course in the preservation of "Earth Architecture", in Grenoble, 19 September to 7 October 1994 organized by CRATerre-EAG and ICCROM-ARC. The World Heritage Centre was able to award a financial grant under the Regular Programme to cover the fees and per diem which allowed the Chief of the "Mission culturelle de Tombouctou" to attend the above-mentioned course.

Action by the Committee: The Committee is recommended to endorse the three-step action plan mentioned above and to support

the State Party, if and when requested, in its implementation. It is recommended that this site be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Bahla Fort (Oman)

The World Heritage Centre informed the Committee during its seventeenth session on the progress of the restoration work at this site inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The Delegate of Oman informed the Committee that the national authorities were studying the situation and would present a report to the Centre as soon as possible.

During a mission to Oman at the invitation of the Government, from 19 to 24 March 1994, the Director of the World Heritage Centre was able to examine the progress of restoration work underway, being carried out mainly by foreign specialists recruited for this task in the framework of a project of several million US dollars that the national Government has initiated for the restoration of the Fort, for the 1993-1996 period. As the Committee was informed during its December 1993 session, it appears probable that the nature of the material used by this team for the restoration work, the rapidity with which the work is being carried out and the methods used could raise a certain number of questions with regard to conserving the authenticity of the monument.

By a letter dated 19 July 1994, the Omani authorities replied favourably to the World Heritage Centre's proposal to send an ICOMOS expert who had already evaluated the site in 1988, at the time of its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in order to evaluate the working methods being used, the use of the US\$50,000 approved by the Committee in 1988 and new alternatives which could be considered.

In September 1994 it was agreed with the national authorities that the mission would take place from 10 to 19 December, and the results would be presented to the nineteenth session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee in 1995.

Action by the Committee: It is recommended that this site be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger. No further specific action is required at this moment.

Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru)

The Chan Chan Archaeological Zone was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1986 in view of the fragility of its adobe structures. An extensive monitoring report on the conditions of the site, prepared in the context of the regional monitoring programme for Latin America, was presented to the seventeenth session of the Committee. It was concluded that the conservation and maintenance of the site require continuous

efforts as well as the recuperation of the land within the protected area that is presently being occupied by farmers.

In order to carry further the research and training in adobe conservation, the Peruvian authorities have taken the initiative to organize in 1995 a regional/international training course in Chan Chan which will be organized with ICCROM and CRATerre. Parallel to the course, the participants and international experts will also evaluate the conservation practices and experiences in Chan Chan and define new conservation policies. A request for financial assistance for this activity will be presented to the Bureau for approval.

Action by the Committee: The Committee is recommended to welcome this initiative and to request the authorities to submit the results of the course and the assessment of the conservation policies and practices to the Secretariat so that recommendations for future actions can be presented at the next session of the Committee. It is recommended that this site be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Wieliczka Salt Mine (Poland)

At its July session, the Bureau was informed that a long-term conservation strategy had been developed, which includes a project for ventilation and dehumidification for which the purchase of equipment amounting to US\$ 156,000 is anticipated.

Action by the Committee: The Committee may wish to encourage the Polish authorities to implement the long-term conservation strategy and request to be kept informed on its implementation. It is recommended that this site be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

IV.2. Cultural Properties on the World Heritage List

The Committee, at its seventeenth session, reviewed the state of conservation of 26 sites in Latin America and the Caribbean which were monitored in the context of the regional monitoring programme as well as of the following 17 sites: Delphi and Samos (Greece); Historic Centre of Puebla (Mexico); Avila, Burgos Cathedral and Santiago de Compostela (Spain); Hadrian's Wall (United Kingdom); Lübeck (Germany), Santa Maria Maggiore/San Giovanni Latrano (Holy See); Pueblo de Taos (United States of America); Kasbah of Algiers (Algeria); Auschwitz Concentration Camp (Poland); Saint Sophia (Turkey); St. Petersburg and Kizhi Pogost (Russian Federation); Shibam (Yemen) and Kathmandu Valley (Nepal).

Additional and/or new reports on twenty-three cultural properties were presented at the eighteenth session of the Bureau in July 1994: Butrinti (Albania), five cultural sites in China, Arles (France), Lübeck (Germany), Delos and Samos (Greece), Pisa (Italy), Petra and Quseir Amra (Jordan), Puebla (Mexico),

Kathmandu Valley (Nepal), Kizhi Pogost (Russian Federation), Goree (Senegal), Burgos Cathedral (Spain), Damascus and Palmyra (Syrian Arab Republic), Goreme and Cappadocia (Turkey), Pueblo de Taos (United States of America) and Stonehenge (United Kingdom).

The Secretariat provides information on the state of conservation of the following sites:

Europe Region

Medieval City of Rhodes (Greece)

The Coordinator of the MAP/UNEP Programme "100 Historical Sites" provided information on the Medieval City of Rhodes, with fortifications dating back to the Middle Ages, constructed on a part of the antique urban tissue (Hippodamos), of great historical interest dating from the Knight Templars (fortifications, castles, taverns, churches and houses) of gothic and flamboyant gothic style. This centre also includes monuments of the Byzantine period (churches, remains of fortifications), of the Turkish period (houses, mosques, baths, etc.) and the Italian period (intervention and reconstruction of the castle and other buildings).

In his state of conservation report, the Coordinator noted that in spite of the restoration work which had been carried out, the actual state of the existing monuments within the walls, and dating after the Second World War, requires first of all archaeological studies and then transformation and reconstruction.

The walls, which surround the Old City require safeguarding action as in several places they are in a state of collapse.

The Coordinator recommends: To assist in the safeguarding and enhancement of the Medieval City of Rhodes: **to provide a legal framework for the main principles guiding the restoration of the buildings of the Medieval City of Rhodes** in cooperation with the Greek Ministry of Culture and its representatives.

Action by the Committee: The Committee could request the Greek authorities for more precise information on the legal protection of the Medieval City as well as to define a legal framework.

Kremlin and Red Square (Russian Federation)

The Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of the Russian Federation to UNESCO informed the Director-General of UNESCO of a project concerning the possible erection of a monument in honour of Marshal G. Zoukhov in Red Square. If this is acceptable, given the obligations of the States Parties, as defined in the 1972

Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. In the absence of any documents concerning the project, it was difficult to assess whether or not the integrity of the site would be respected. The Director-General underlined that the responsibility for protecting a cultural property lies with the State Party concerned, which should conserve it and avoid taking any measures that would damage it.

It was suggested that the Russian authorities forward all available information to the World Heritage Centre which, in turn, will consult its relevant advisory body, ICOMOS.

Action by the Committee: The Committee may wish to express concern about the erection or destruction of any structure which would be a threat to the integrity of the site.

Burgos Cathedral (Spain)

At its last session, the Bureau congratulated the various Spanish organizations involved in the actions taken for the conservation of Burgos Cathedral. At the same time, however, it expressed a desire to see those components of the total project which are still under negotiation put into effect with the minimum delay.

In August 1994, a statue fell off the façade of the cathedral and ICOMOS was requested by the World Heritage Centre to assess the state of conservation of the cathedral and make sure that preventive measures are taken.

Action by the Committee: The Committee may wish to request ICOMOS to keep the Secretariat informed of any further developments.

Historic areas of Istanbul (Turkey)

Haghia Sophia

Parallel to the important restoration work on the mosaics of the dome which should resume shortly, after an interruption of several months due to problems with the project's financing, work has begun on the facades and roofs.

Although considerable means have been mobilized by the Turkish authorities, UNESCO's experts present on the site have expressed their regret to the authorities responsible for the work that, in spite of their recommendations, the metallic covering of the building was executed with a material which was too thin and therefore fragile.

Roman and Byzantine walls

UNESCO has received several protests against the reconstruction of long portions of the Roman and Byzantine walls using new stones. This work, which was undertaken by municipal services

without taking account of the advice of archaeologists and art historians, appeared to the experts at the site as a threat to the authenticity of these constructions.

Action by the Committee: The Committee may wish to recommend to the Turkish authorities to take the necessary steps to speed up the transfer of funds approved under the World Heritage Fund for the restoration of the mosaics in the Haghia Sophia to those responsible for its conservation.

The Committee may also wish to request that the Turkish authorities immediately stop this reconstruction of the Roman and Byzantine walls, and to undertake their restoration, in accordance with principles accepted by the international community, and in collaboration with the Turkish antiquities services which apparently have not been consulted.

Xanthos-Letoon (Turkey)

In the framework of the UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan, the Coordinator of the Programme "100 Historical Sites of the Mediterranean" carried out a mission to Turkey at the request of the World Heritage Centre.

Taking into consideration the size of the site and the importance of the discoveries made, and also that the Lycian District is now open to mass tourism, there is an urgent need for protective and restoration measures. The implementation of the following actions, which could increase the touristic and cultural values of the site, have not been undertaken due to the lack of financial support:

- insertion of castings of the sculptured frieze of the inscribed column of Xanthos, and complete restoration of the monument,
- anastylosis of the Temple of Leo at Letoon, of which 75% of the architectural structure is preserved and requires only a few additional materials.

The Xanthos site includes an archaeological area approximately covering the ancient city. This area is crossed by a well-travelled earthen road, the re-routing of which would be advisable. An overall study on the development of the site is indispensable.

With regard to the Letoon site, the protected zone is insufficient: the area surrounding the theatre is not included and, to the south, ruins which are probably Paleochristian can plainly be seen emerging from the alluviums.

Furthermore, the vast necropolis zone which extends to the borders of the Xanthe, between Xanthos and the Letoon, is unprotected.

Taking into account the intensive agricultural activity of the fertile alluvial soil and the recent appearance in the countryside of numerous greenhouses for tomato-growing, the proposed boundary, although compatible with the present situation, appears insufficient in the short-term.

A management plan including environmental control and a study of the conservation of monuments threatened by the seasonal rising of the phreatic water of the Letoon, is highly desirable.

Xanthos

Viability. A road crosses the site. Made of gravel in the past, it was asphalted in 1989. Not only is it used by an ever-increasing flow of tourist traffic, but it also services several big villages of the Xanthe Valley (Esen Cay) involving a heavy flow of tractors, trucks and minibuses. This road successively skirts the monumental door of the Old City, the theatre, and a large tomb set on a pedestal. These ancient monuments are therefore constantly threatened by the vehicles using this road. It would be appropriate that this road be re-routed so as to avoid the ancient zone.

At present a dirt road exists which skirts round the acropolis of Xanthos and afterwards rejoins the asphalt road. Its rehabilitation would allow the preservation of the access to the mountain villages whilst protecting the site. The necessary expropriations would not be excessive. It would appear desirable that this solution be studied and implemented.

Theatre. The theatre excavations encroach on the road referred to above. It is indispensable to develop the surrounding area for both practical and aesthetic reasons, in order to:

- improve the appearance of the theatre and its approaches which are highly frequented by tourists,
- better understand the stages and characteristics of its construction.

Reinforcement and restoration. The General Directorate of Monuments and Museums/Ministry of Culture, wishes that the Paleochristian mosaics of the Agora Church be restored, the reinforcement of the mosaics of the Great Paleochristian Cathedral be continued, that the nave be covered, and that the container of the so-called "Dancers" Sarcophagus, damaged by acts of vandalism, be replaced.

This work was undertaken during the 1991 Campaign.

Letoon

Protection against water. The first urgency was to halt the collapse of alluviums alongside the present access road to the sanctuary by the construction of a small support wall, and to dig a new irrigation canal which would divert the waters of the

archaeological site onto the strip of land, expropriated by the French Mission, running alongside the road.

Mosaics. The consolidation of the mosaics of the Temple of Apollo will be terminated by their repositioning and final cleaning.

Viability. The through traffic of tractors, trailers, trucks and cars is permitted at the southern point of the site, alongside the Paleochristian church and the Roman nymphaeum. However, even when excavations are not in process, the vehicles cross the sanctuary using the terrace of the temples. This access, which is very damaging to the aspect (dust) and the preservation of the monuments, should be forbidden in the future.

Theatre The theatre is used each year by the community of Kumlu Ova to celebrate the "tomato festival". There is a danger of subsidence of certain unstable architectural blocks. Reinforcement works should be undertaken at the north-east gate.

The Ministry of Culture informed the Permanent Delegation of Turkey to UNESCO that the studies regarding the Conservation Plan for the site of Patara were on the point of being completed in July 1992. This Plan should be transmitted to the Secretariat as soon as it is available.

At Xanthos the mosaics of the Paleochristian Church had been partially removed, consolidated and replaced. The "Dancers" Sarcophagus, which was damaged in 1969, has been completely restored and retains its antique aspect.

At Letoon, the Hellenistic mosaic of the Temple of Apollo was removed, consolidated and reinstalled in its original location; one of the irrigation canals which runs along the road servicing the site had been cemented to avoid water seepage; a wooden support of 5 x 15 m was erected at the boundary of the excavations, alongside the road, to avoid rockfall and winter landslides, and to limit flood damage; various measures were undertaken to increase security regarding excavation deposits, such as the replacement of the wooden doors by iron ones, and the sealing of openings by a grill.

The administration of the village of Kinik (Xanthos) approved the principle of the reuse of the ruins of the old primary school of the village, situated below the Xanthos Acropolis, to set up a second excavation deposit area. A final plan must be elaborated in 1994 and submitted to the General Directorate of Monuments and Museums which make the final decision.

Furthermore, the ever-increasing traffic of tractors and trucks on the road which crosses the site of Xanthos, now asphalted, to reach the villages of Cavdir and Alamut, has caused cracks in the blocks of the Monumental Arch called the "Vespasien Gate" because of the vibrations. Over many years it has been proposed that the road should be reserved for tourist traffic only and that the neighbouring villages be serviced by a road which skirts the site

and which already exists in the form of a footpath. But to da this proposal has not been followed up.

Finally, it must be noted that in May 1994, the Municipality of Kinik set up at the summit of the Byzantine-Roman Xanthos Acropolis a two-mast television relay, three parabolic antennae and a cement guard house. Although this relay was constructed on the rock and therefore caused no damage to the antiquities, it is evident that the aesthetic impact on the landscape is not in the best taste.

Action by the Committee: The Committee is requested to recommend the Turkish authorities:

- to transmit to the World Heritage Centre the Protection Plan for the Development of the Patra/Xanthos/Letoon site, which should have been ready in 1992;
- to implement the measures for the diversion of traffic on the roads crossing the sites of Xanthos and Letoon;
- to review the construction of the superstructure of the television relay installed at the summit of the Xanthos Acropolis.

Arab States and Mediterranean Region

Memphis and its Necropolis - the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur (Egypt)

In October the Centre was informed by the international press and other sources in Egypt of a project to extend the alternative urban motorway, cutting in two the site of the Plateau of the Pyramids, isolating it from the desert and passing between the pyramids of Giza and those of Sakkarah. It is also to be feared that constructions would soon proliferate along this motorway.

By letter of 11 October, the Centre immediately requested from the Dr Nur-el-Din, Secretary-General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, detailed information on this project which, if implemented, would cause serious and irreparable damage to this World Heritage site.

Action by the Committee: The Committee is requested to express its concern about a possible project to extend the alternative urban motorway and to request the Egyptian authorities to provide all information available to the Secretariat for examination and subsequent reporting to the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee at its nineteenth session.

Petra (Jordan)

A UNESCO mission was undertaken to Petra in April 1994. The mission was briefed by the MTA (Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities) on the creation of the Higher Committee for Petra under the authority of the Prime Minister and chaired by the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities. Its purpose was to develop plans for 'the continuous development of tourism in the area of Petra, including Wadi Musa'. The Committee has created a Technical Committee comprising a group of experts whose task will be to establish the framework for a future Petra Authority on the lines of the Aqaba and the Jordan Valley Development Authorities. This Technical Committee has already proposed a series of resolutions aiming to develop tourism infrastructure within the site. Its recommendations include the widening of the service road to the centre of the site, the creation of a bus service from the restaurant, and the expulsion of the Bdul from Um Sayhun. The Minister informed the mission that no decisions would be taken until the final draft of the Management Plan has been discussed and agreed upon with UNESCO.

The Bureau at its eighteenth session was informed in detail of the findings of the UNESCO mission of April 1994, particularly regarding the following items:

- Impact of new hotel projects in the vicinity of Petra
- Sewage disposal project
- Village development
- Shops
- Conservation of antiquities.

Immediate follow-up of the mission

By letter of 10 May 1994 addressed to the Jordanian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, UNESCO expressed its concern regarding these different points and requested, in particular, their support in order that the Movenpick Hotel at Wadi Musa remain within the authorized construction limits in accordance with the construction plans previously approved by the Municipality. UNESCO also requested that, in the area of Tayibe and Petra a moratorium be enforced on the construction of all new hotels or facilities until a Master Plan for Petra and its region could be finalized and approved by the Jordanian Government. This Master Plan was available in August 1994 and will serve, among others, to determine the characteristics and the limits of future constructions in order to ensure the integrity of the site.

The World Heritage Bureau during its eighteenth session in July 1994 expressed its grave concern with regard to the preservation of the integrity of the site to the Jordanian authorities (letter of 18 July 1994 sent by the World Heritage Centre) and granted financial support for the convening of a technical meeting on-site, in association with the Jordanian national authorities, national and international agencies involved, the two coordinators of the Master Plan and UNESCO, in order to

accelerate the effective implementation of the Master Plan. This technical meeting was scheduled to take place in October 1994 and the Committee will be informed of the outcome during its forthcoming eighteenth session.

Action by the Committee: The Committee is requested to examine the report of the technical meeting which was scheduled for October 1994 and to consider the necessary actions.

Megalithic Temples (Malta)

UNESCO sent a mission to Malta from 21 to 25 August, 1994, at the invitation of the Museums Department which is responsible for the conservation of the archaeological heritage of the island.

The six temples inscribed on the World Heritage List share a number of general problems, but two of them (Mnajdra and Ggantija) are also cause for great concern.

a) General problems

1. None of the temples are sufficiently guarded, but particularly those at Mnajdra, Hagar Qim, Ta'Hagrat and Skorba.

At Skorba, no guard was present on the site and a large opening had been made in the fence surrounding the monument, thus allowing free access to it. This insufficiency or absence of surveillance is due both to the lack of personnel available to the Museums Department and the absence of minimal conveniences (water, electricity...) in the guard houses, even though permanent 24-hour surveillance should be ensured to avoid theft, vandalism, displacement of the stones or deterioration of the structures.

2. General erosion of the stones was observed, especially the most fragile limestone (globigerina). This erosion affects the general state of conservation, the structural stability of the buildings, and the preservation of the sculpted figures which have not yet been transferred to the Museum and replaced by copies.

b) Special problems

1. Mnajdra

The Temple of Mnajdra is in great danger. The violent storms of 4 and 5 April 1994 caused huge mudslides which resulted in the destabilisation of the waterlogged earth. This in turn caused the slipping of the earth between the stone walls of the temples, and the disappearance of support materials between the stones of the wall. The combined strength of the wind and rain has caused the total collapse of the upper third of a wall located between one of the temples and a lateral chamber, and the fall of blocks weighing several tons. This accident is already

extremely serious, and is aggravated by the hole thus opened in the two walls and in the reduced level of the earth separating them, making the entire structure particularly vulnerable to further assaults of wind and rain.

Rebuilding the wall and resetting the fallen stones is especially delicate since no precise record, photogrammetric or other, has ever been made. In addition, resetting blocks that are so heavy and of such irregular shapes raises major statical problems, and any error might cause an overall collapse of the walls concerned.

A scientific committee composed of five experts has been set up by the Museums Department and has already prepared a detailed report including a description of the most urgent repairs to be made and the long-term conservation measures. Within the Government, the Ministry of Finance has agreed to an allocation of funds totalling 120,000 LM (approx. US\$ 380,000), spread over three years. But as of September 1994, the first portion had not yet been unblocked and it is not certain that the total sum will suffice to ensure the repairs and the long-term conservation of the site.

In addition, vast stone quarries are exploited in the immediate vicinity of the monument (extraction beginning at about 30 meters from the surrounding wall of the site). After considerable efforts on the part of the Museums Department, the use of dynamite in these quarries was abandoned. However, it appears that the continued exploitation of the site -- because of the constant vibrations produced by the use of heavy machinery and trucks, noise, pollution and dust -- remains not only a permanent threat to the conservation of the site (recent breaks, cracks and splinters have appeared in the megaliths which could have been caused by this exploitation) but also, more generally, for the entire natural environment of the site, which has a particularly attractive setting beside the sea. This quarrying activity must not be allowed to develop, and all efforts must be made to halt any further activity.

Once these two serious problems are resolved, the Archaeological Park of Mnajdra and Hagar Qin, presently in a preparatory phase, will represent considerable progress in protecting the site and welcoming visitors. To achieve the project, sufficient funds must be provided to set up the visitor centre, finish the construction of the encircling wall and especially to ensure permanent and effective surveillance, through the attribution of a sufficient number of well-qualified personnel.

2. Ggantija

The site has a serious structural stability problem concerning the facade of the south wall, which may totally collapse in the next few years if no action is taken.

Many of the wall's megaliths have recently broken or cracked. This is probably due to the settling or irregular movements of the soil, thus weakening the all-over rigidity.

In addition, certain megaliths have also shifted horizontally, and at present the entire wall has a pronounced slant, the megaliths at the top markedly jutting out over the bottom of the wall. If no action is taken and if this movement continues, the entire wall, about ten meters high, will topple, along with all hope of ever being able to restore it to its former state.

A team from the University of Florence Faculty of Architecture, directed by Professor Gennaro Tampone, carried out an in-depth study of this problem and prepared a comprehensive project for restoration, reinforcement of the structural stability and photogrammetric record accompanied by an entire group of scientific and technical studies. The cost of the project is 720 million Italian liras (about US\$ 450,000) and the Museums Department has requested the necessary funds from the Government. But, here again, the delay involved in receiving the funds and the final amount are not assured.

Action by the Committee: Faced with the alarming situation at this World Heritage site, the Committee may wish to inform the Maltese national authorities of its grave concern, and insist that the afore-mentioned problems be treated at Government level, and that all the necessary technical and financial means, manpower and legislation, be urgently made available to the national authorities responsible for conservation in order to:

- a) restore the Temple of Mnajdra according to the recommendations of the Scientific Committee of the Museums Department, and take the necessary steps especially regarding drainage, so that this type of accident does not reoccur;
- b) halt the exploitation of the quarries adjoining the site as quickly as possible;
- c) finish installing the Archaeological Park of Mnajdra and Hagar Qim by providing a sufficient number of well-qualified personnel;
- d) undertake the necessary work on the Ggantija site to avoid all risk of collapse, in accordance with the project established by the University of Florence;
- e) provide all the archaeological sites inscribed on the List sufficient guards to ensure effective surveillance of the sites.

The Committee may wish to request the authorities of Malta to report before 1 April 1995 on the progress made in the conservation and management of this site.

Hal Saflieni Hypogeum (Malta)

At the invitation of the Museums Department, which is responsible for the conservation of the archaeological heritage of the island, UNESCO sent a mission to Malta from 21 to 25 August 1994.

It is recalled that in 1992, at its sixteenth session, the World Heritage Committee had attributed US\$ 30,000 (of which US\$ 20,000 have already been released) towards the installation of air conditioning on the upper level of the Hypogeum where the guided tour begins. Prior to that, in-depth studies had defined the standards to respect with regard to the number of visitors, frequency and duration of the visits, with the objective of preventing heat and humidity from encouraging the proliferation of micro-organisms which would deteriorate the mural paintings. The site has now been closed for nearly three years, and work on the installation of the visitor service, electricity and air conditioning should have begun 18 months ago. However, almost nothing has been achieved, except for the masonry work of the future visitor's hall. As described in Dr. Ercoli's expert report requested by UNESCO in 1992, the decayed sewage and water supply pipes laid under the streets adjoining the site leak permanently into the soil in numerous places. This causes water to stream within the Hypogeum, particularly at the intermediate level, which is the most exceptional part, and where water drips constantly from the ceiling and the walls. No work can be undertaken in these conditions, and the micro-organisms proliferate on certain parts of the walls threatening to irreversibly damage the wall paintings, while elsewhere they are progressively covered over by whitish deposits of calcium carbonate.

The defective pipes should imperatively be replaced without delay but, in spite of continuous and repeated efforts, the Museums Department has been unable to obtain from the technical ministries concerned that even the smallest effective measure be taken, even though funds have been approved to this effect.

Action by the Committee: Faced with the alarming situation at this World Heritage site, the Committee may wish to express its concerns and reiterate that these problems should be treated at Government level, and that all the necessary technical and financial means, manpower and legislation, be urgently made available to the national authorities responsible for conservation in order to:

- a) proceed with the necessary repairs to the sewage pipe system to ensure that the Hypogeum is made impervious;
- b) continue and finish enhancing the site, especially the work partially financed by the World Heritage Fund, so that the Hypogeum can finally be reopened to the public under conditions which will ensure its conservation.

The Committee may wish to request the authorities of Malta to report before 1 April 1995 on the progress made in the conservation and management of this site.

City of Valetta (Malta)

In the framework of UNDP's Action Plan for the Mediterranean, the Programme Coordinator for "100 Historical Sites of the Mediterranean" carried out a mission to Malta at the request of the World Heritage Centre.

Deterioration of the building stone in the city actively continues due to two main factors: the nature and the behaviour, even under normal atmospheric conditions, of the globigerina limestone of which the entire city is constructed, and the noxious and decolorizing fumes produced by modern means of transportation. The exterior sculptures and the facades of the buildings generally undergo the worst damage.

The monuments of Valetta are protected under the Antiquities Law of 1925. Technically, financing for the preservation and conservation of public properties is ensured by the Departments of Museums and Public Works through funds voted annually by the Parliament.

The religious authorities ensure the preservation and restoration of the churches and other properties which belong to them. Individuals finance work concerning their own buildings, upon approval by the public officials.

Building developments in Valetta are strictly regulated by public works legislation which governs all matters pertaining to structure, hygiene, aesthetics, as well as all requests for repair work or renovation affecting the structure or an aspect of a building; these proposals are examined by an official body.

Special attention is given to buildings considered as having architectural and/or historical value. In order to improve traffic circulation in Valetta and avoid congestion in the centre, a ring road has been built.

The Valetta Rehabilitation Project began with the Urban Renovation Project of Valetta in 1986-1987; it was launched officially in August 1987. The first projects began at the end of 1988.

The Valetta Rehabilitation Project functioned as a separate unit within the Department of Public Works, in collaboration with the Antiquities Department. Following departmental reform in 1992-1993, it became a unit of the Department of Engineering and Architecture. The architects, the administrative personnel and the workmen are all staff of the Division of Works, except for the Executive Coordinator. The number of administrative personnel remained low. Today, the team is composed of an administrator, two architects, two designers, two technicians and a few workmen.

The Valetta Rehabilitation Project is responsible for restoration and environmental projects. Since local structures were set up in 1993, certain environmental projects are carried out by the local Board in collaboration with the Rehabilitation Project. The use of natural materials remains at the core of proposals. The guiding principle as concerns restoration is one of minimal intervention, taking into account the lack of financial and human resources, professionals and restoration technicians.

Thus, several projects have already been carried out or are underway, but which only concern buildings treated separately, due to the absence of a local development plan taking account of the historical and monumental aspects of the city.

In addition to the projects and actions that still remain to be taken, it is indispensable to set up a juridical and legal framework which will ensure the safeguard of Valetta. The last bill for an Environmental Protection law (Law No. 5 of 1991) concerning the conservation of Valetta was not ratified and cannot serve as a legal framework for the protection of the monumental heritage of the city.

To date, there is still no safeguarding plan, and the Ministry of Culture is unable to exercise any control over interior transformations of the buildings.

The lack of infrastructures for the restoration work also includes a lack of specialists. Thus it is necessary to create a Works Division in the framework of the Valetta Rehabilitation Project. This Division would make it possible to set up and train a small group of specialized craftsmen, controllers and technicians in conservation techniques. These persons would be able to take charge of the specialized work and oversee and train other non-specialized workmen in conservation, restoration, consolidation, repair, protection, cleaning, etc., as well as in the replacement of materials.

Faced with accelerated degradation affecting the historical buildings of Valetta, the mission recommended the authorities of Malta to take appropriate urgent measures so that:

- the team of the Valetta Rehabilitation Project acquires legal recognition and may call upon a Works Division for the maintenance and restoration of the historical buildings of Valetta;
- the Bill on the protection of Valetta can be finalized as soon as possible in an appropriate form, in keeping with the obligations for inscription on the World Heritage List;
- a regulation on the signs, billboards and commercial storefronts can be better formulated and applied by the competent authorities, in order to preserve the characteristics of the historical buildings of Valetta.

Action by the Committee: The Committee may wish to endorse the above recommendations.

Asia and the Pacific region

Kathmandu Valley (Nepal)

Following a debate on the possible inscription of the Kathmandu Valley on the List of World Heritage in Danger and the delisting of certain parts of the site damaged by uncontrolled development, the Bureau at its eighteenth session in July 1994, recommended an overall evaluation with the view of redefining the monument zones of the site. The Bureau took note of the findings of the November 1993 UNESCO/ICOMOS Review Mission which *inter alia* recommended the delisting of deteriorated sections of the Kathmandu Darbar Square and Baudhanath monuments zones and the extension of the monument zones of Swayambunath, Patan and Bhaktapur. The mission also noted that the Hindu shrine of Pashupati, although part of the World Heritage site had never been gazetted as a protected monument area under Nepali law.

The Nepali National Commission for UNESCO by letter of 21 July 1994, informed the World Heritage Centre of the progress made by the authorities in responding to the 16-point recommendation of the UNESCO/ICOMOS mission. Actions reported include: approval by the Government of the redefinition of the boundary of Swayambunath and publication of this in the Nepal Gazette; reconsideration of the boundaries of Patan and the Pashupati Monument Zone with preparations of new maps underway by the Department of Archaeology and the Pashupati Development Trust; initiation of the preparation of detailed inventory of Kathmandu, Swayambunath, Bauda and Patan; revision in the demolition permit system, making prior approval by the Department of Archaeology obligatory; removal of commercial advertisement panels from the monument zones and the museum building of Swayambunath.

At the time of writing, a Nepal/ICOMOS/UNESCO strategy meeting to prepare an assistance package to support the Nepali authorities' efforts to protect and maintain the World Heritage value of the site was being planned for mid-November 1994, immediately following the International Campaign Review Meeting.

Action by the Committee: The Committee may wish to adopt the following: The Committee, having noted the efforts being made by the Nepali authorities to rectify the damage caused to the Kathmandu Valley, requests UNESCO to support the Government of Nepal in strengthening the mechanism of coordination of all international conservation activities, whether bilateral or multilateral, especially with regard to the method of conservation to be applied. The Committee also calls upon the Government of Nepal to take into consideration, the recommendations made by the joint UNESCO/ICOMOS mission of November 1993 in ensuring the protection of the World Heritage

Site from uncontrolled development, especially by adopting a more stringent policy in the granting of demolition and construction permits and other land use authorization in both the core area and the buffer zone. Recognizing the limited national resources in carrying out the variety of required activities, the Committee requests UNESCO to assist the Nepali authorities in preparing a package of projects to seek international donor support including the documentation of the World Heritage 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 priority attention of the international community and urged the Government of Nepal to reconsider this option.

The complex of Hue Monuments (Vietnam)

On 1 August 1994 a fire broke out due to a bonfire of dead branches set alight by the guards of the mausoleum of the Emperor Minh Mang, situated approximately ten kilometers from the Forbidden City, on the left side of the "Perfume River".

This monument is one of the imperial tombs belonging to the complex inscribed on the World Heritage List by the Committee in 1993.

According to information available in September, it appears that the fire only destroyed the vegetation covering the large tumulus, in the centre of which the actual tomb is buried, and did not attain the wooden buildings and the gardens of the mausoleum, situated some ten meters away, on the other side of the small artificial lake.

A UNESCO mission will visit the site at the end of October with the aim of preparing a technological partnership agreement with a major international agrochemical company regarding an anti-termite campaign for the wooden structures of the World Heritage site. An oral report will be made during the eighteenth session of the World Heritage Committee.

Action by the Committee: The Committee is requested to examine the report of the UNESCO mission and to consider the necessary actions.

North and South America region

Puebla (Mexico)

A rehabilitation plan for a part of the World Heritage site of Puebla was briefly discussed at the seventeenth session of the Committee. More detailed information was provided at the eighteenth session of the Bureau on the basis of a report from the Mexican National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) and the report of a UNESCO expert who visited Puebla in June of this year. The situation can be summarized as follows:

A regional development programme called ANGELOPOLIS is in preparation for an area of the State of Puebla including 14 municipalities and 35% of the population of the State of Puebla. In the context of this regional development plan an urban rehabilitation project is planned for the Rio San Francisco area in Puebla which would include the development of a pedestrian area and the construction of hotels, a convention centre and commercial areas. The project would concern 27 of the 391 building blocks within the World Heritage site and the INAH announced that it would establish a special commission to evaluate the projects for the area.

Upon the request of the Governor of Puebla, a UNESCO expert undertook a mission in June.

The mission report provides an analysis of the urban structure of Puebla and concludes that the San Francisco area is an extremely important element in it: it is a kind of corridor, an open space, from the north to the south only three building blocks from the central square of the town. This area, originally the San Francisco River, which was covered in the sixties to create a boulevard and which is now one of the busiest through roads, divided and divides the city in two parts: the western part, originally occupied by the Spaniards, and the eastern part where the Indian population lived. Since the early nineteenth century, industry developed along the San Francisco river. Most of the industrial buildings are now empty.

The expert considers that the 'San Francisco corridor' can be typologically divided into three sectors: the central zone, where the Convent of San Francisco is located and where most of the empty building lots are to be found, and the northern and the southern zones, which are more residential in character and still reflect the original morphology.

The expert concludes that the general urban policy as proposed by the authorities is acceptable in that it intends to valorize the important north-south axis and to re-establish the connection between the western and the eastern part of town, but that the project should better respond to the morphology and characteristics of the area.

The authorities responded very favourably to the recommendations of the expert mission and requested further advice. Another three missions will be undertaken, therefore, to be financed under a World Heritage assistance, approved by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee on 14 September 1994.

All documentation on Puebla was also transmitted to ICOMOS for advice. ICOMOS will report to the Committee in a separate document.

Action by the Committee: The Committee may wish to commend the authorities of Mexico, the State of Puebla and the Municipality on their positive response to the UNESCO advice, and

to invite them to report on a regular basis to the Secretariat on the further development of the projects for the San Francisco area.

Pueblo de Taos (United States of America)

The Committee at its seventeenth session expressed concerns about the threats to the site of Pueblo de Taos and the local traditions, particularly through the proposed extension of the Taos Airport. The Delegate of the United States of America informed the Bureau at its eighteenth session that the National Park Service had close and continuous consultations with Pueblo's Governing Council, attorneys representing Pueblo interests and with the responsible federal agency (Federal Aviation Administration) in order to evaluate the effects of the airport extension on the historic structures. Since then, the Secretariat has been informed that the National Park Service has been given the status of cooperating agency in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and that the Federal Aviation Administration is promoting further dialogue between the Town of Taos and the Taos Pueblo to explore constructive alternatives that would be mutually beneficial.

Action by the Committee: The Committee may wish to reiterate its concerns about the airport extension plans, and invite the authorities of the United States of America to pay particular attention to the World Heritage values and living traditions of Pueblo de Taos when preparing the Environmental Impact Statement, and to report on this to the Committee at its nineteenth session.

IV.3. In a separate document ICOMOS will be reporting on the state of conservation of a number of cultural properties on the World Heritage List (see Working Document WHC-94/CONF.003/6 Add.2).

V. Proposed actions 1995:

The Committee is requested to endorse the following proposals for 1995, that:

- The highest priority will be given to the monitoring of and reporting on sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger.
- The Secretariat will again report to the Bureau at its nineteenth session in June/July 1995 on the state of conservation of all sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger with an assessment of the appropriateness of their continued inclusion in this List.
- The Secretariat, in collaboration with the advisory bodies, will continue to undertake reactive monitoring whenever deemed necessary.