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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-fourth session
Cairns, Australia
27 November – 2 December 2000

Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger and on the World Heritage List:

8.1 Reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

SUMMARY

In accordance with paragraphs 92-93 of the Operational Guidelines, the Secretariat and advisory bodies submit herewith reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Where appropriate, the Secretariat or the advisory bodies will provide additional information during the session of the Committee.

Decision required: The Committee is requested to examine the attached state of conservation reports and take the appropriate decisions and recommend actions to be taken by the States Parties, advisory bodies and the Centre.

1. Reports on the state of conservation of eighteen natural and five cultural properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger are submitted to the Committee to facilitate the 'review at regular intervals [of] the state of property on the List of World Heritage in Danger' as foreseen in paragraph 92 of the Operational Guidelines.

2. At its twenty-third ordinary session held from 26 June to 1 July 2000 at UNESCO, Paris, the Bureau examined the state of conservation of the same eighteen natural and five cultural properties and made recommendations and observations that were subsequently transmitted by the Centre to the concerned States Parties.

3. Responses from States Parties and new information that have become available on the state of conservation of the twenty-three properties are presented for review by the Committee. The Committee is requested to examine these reports and to take the appropriate decisions and recommend actions in accordance with paragraph 93 of the Operational Guidelines, which reads as follows:

"On the basis of these regular reviews, the Committee shall decide, in consultation with the State Party concerned whether:

(i) additional measures are required to conserve the property;

(ii) to delete the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger if the property is no longer under threat;

A. Natural Heritage

Iguacu National Park (Brazil)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1986; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1999.

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.2

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.20

New information

On 16 July 2000, a Brazilian pipeline importing oil from Colombia burst spilling four million litres (1.06 million gallons) of crude oil into the Barigüí River, a tributary of the Iguacú River, causing Brazil's biggest oil spill in 25 years. The leak happened 20 km downstream from the state capital of Curitiba at the Getulio Vargas oil refinery; oil seeped downstream towards the Iguacu Falls, located within the Iguacu National Park and World Heritage site. The state-owned oil refinery company, Petrobras, responsible for the spill, put in place three floating barriers across the river and dug ditches off the river banks to divert and collect the contaminated water. Information

(iii) to consider the deletion of the property from both the List of World Heritage in Danger and the World Heritage List if the property has deteriorated to the extent that it has lost those characteristics which determined its inclusion in the World Heritage List, in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraphs 46 to 56 above."

4. To facilitate the work of the Committee, all state of conservation reports presented herein follow a standard format as follows:

- Name of property (State Party);
- Year of inscription on the World Heritage List and on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
- International assistance provided to the property to-date;
- Summary of previous deliberations. Reference is made to relevant paragraph numbers from the Reports of the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau (26 June - 1 July 2000, UNESCO, Paris; please refer to document WHC-2000/CONF.204/4) and the twenty-third session of the Committee (29 November – 4 December 1999, Marrakesh, Morocco). In order to minimise the number of pages of this document, texts from those two earlier reports have not been repeated herein;
- New information; and
- Action required.

received from the State Party has confirmed that due to the rapid cleaning operations implemented by national and international experts, the spill spread only 40 km along the river. Thus there seems to be no impact to the Iguacu National Park which is located 600 km from the site of the oil spill.

At the time of the oil spill, the Argentinian Delegation to UNESCO met with Centre staff to discuss concerns regarding potential threats from the oil spill to the Iguazu National Park of Argentina and was contemplating requesting emergency assistance from the World Heritage Fund. However, no such request for emergency assistance from Argentina has been received at the time of the preparation of this report.

In relation to the Colon Road, the State Party reported that the Federal Ministry of Justice and IBAMA continue to pressure the State government to close the road. IBAMA allocated 1 million Reals (about US \$560,000) to support action related to the closure of the road and to restore areas affected by road construction. IUCN has however, received a number of communications from its network members who are aware of on-site conditions expressing concerns about the lack of action from local authorities to

implement the decision of the Federal Court to close the road.

Action required: The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Committee commends the State Party for its persistence to strictly enforce the Federal legal decision to close the Colon Road. The Committee urges the State Party to communicate the reasons for the closure of the road to the wider public and take all necessary actions to restore the World Heritage area affected by road construction activities. The Committee invites the State Party to report to the Centre, before 15 April 2001, progress on its efforts to ensure effective closure of the Colon Road and rehabilitate impacted areas, as well as an up-date on the results of monitoring the impacts of the oil spill that occurred in July 2000. The Committee decides that the site be retained in the List of World Heritage in Danger”.

Srebarna Nature Reserve (Bulgaria)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1983; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992.

International assistance: The site has received assistance for training and technical co-operation activities (US\$ 22,000).

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.3

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.2

New information: At its twenty-fourth ordinary session from 26 June to 1 July 2000, the Bureau noted that a cyanide spill in the Danube River had been contained without any major impacts to the integrity of the site. Nevertheless, the Bureau had encouraged the State Party to continue to monitor the impact of the spill and other major pollutants entering the Lake. The state of conservation report from the State Party due by 15 September 2000, as recommended by the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau, has not yet been received by the Centre at the time of the preparation of this report.

Action required: The Committee may wish to review new information that may be available at the time of its session and take necessary decisions and recommend appropriate actions to the consideration of the State Party, advisory bodies and the Centre.

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

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1988; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1997.

International assistance: None.

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.4

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.3

New information:

In July 2000, the Centre was contacted by Earth Conservancy, a US based non-governmental organisation, claiming that it has been given the opportunity to manage three national parks in CAR for a twenty-year period beginning from the year 2000. As requested by representatives of the NGO, a meeting was held in UNESCO on 20 July 2000 in which staff from the Centre, UNESCO's Bureau for Extrabudgetary Resources and the Director General's Office participated. The representatives of the NGO and a staff of the Government of CAR visited the Centre from 1 to 7 August 2000, soon after their on-site visit during the latter part of July 2000, and informed the Centre that poaching and illegal entry into the site by armed groups from neighbouring countries continued to occur.

A representative of the CAR Ministry of Forests, Environment and Water and Hunting and Fisheries is due to present a paper on the state of conservation of the site at a Centre/IUCN workshop on the "Role of World Heritage in Danger Listing in Promoting International Cooperation for the Conservation of World Natural Heritage" in Amman, Jordan, during 6-7 October 2000. Information reported at the workshop and the outcome of discussions between the CAR participant and the Centre and IUCN staff will be reported at the time of the twenty-fourth session of the Committee.

Action required: The Committee may wish to review new information that may be available at the time of its session and take necessary decisions and recommend appropriate actions to the consideration of the State Party, advisory bodies and the Centre.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Virunga National Park – Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1979; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1994.

Garamba National Park - Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1980; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996.

Kahuzi Biega National Park - Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1980; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1997.

Okapi Wildlife Reserve - Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1996; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1997.

Salonga National Park: Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1984; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1999.

International assistance: **Virunga National Park:** US\$ 55,000 for equipment and staff allowances under emergency assistance and US\$ 9,500 for staff training. **Garamba National Park:** US\$ 107,845 for equipment and staff allowances under emergency assistance and US\$ 50,000 for equipment under technical co-operation. **Kahuzi Biega National Park:** US\$ 44,848 under technical co-operation and US\$ 20,000 under emergency assistance for equipment purchase. **Okapi Wildlife Reserve:** US\$ 3,000 for the preparation of the nomination dossier of the site and US\$ 20,000 for guard training and camp construction. **Salonga National Park :** US\$ 6,000 as preparatory assistance, US\$ 72,000 as technical co-operation and US\$ 7,500 for staff training.

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV. 5

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraphs X.4 and X.21

New information: At its twenty-fourth ordinary session (June 26 - July 1, 2000, Paris), the Bureau reviewed a summary report of an intermediary mission to DRC, including to the war-impacted eastern parts of the country, and to the capital cities of neighbouring Rwanda and Uganda, both of which are implicated in the war in eastern DRC, and made four specific recommendations for action (see pages 7-8 of the document WHC-2000/CONF.204/4). In response, the Centre has implemented the following measures:

(1) The Director of the Centre wrote to the Chief of the UNOMC formally transmitting the memorandum submitted to the Chief of UNOMC by the UNESCO World Heritage mission team. The Office of the Chief of UNOMC in New York, via a letter dated 26 September 2000, has assured the Director of the Centre that within the constraints of its mandate and available resources, UNOMC will assist UNESCO, ICCN and their partners to conserve the World Heritage sites in the DRC. Such assistance could be in the form of transport of personnel and equipment and materials destined for the sites. However, the Chief of UNOMC has observed that in the long-term, conservation of the five World Heritage sites in the DRC will essentially depend on the progress achieved to implement the Lusaka Cease-fire Agreement and other pertinent Security Council resolutions concerning the DRC;

(2) The Centre has recruited a consultant, from 10 September 2000 for a period of 3 months, for setting up a co-ordination unit for the execution of the UNESCO/DRC/UNF-UNFIP Project in Nairobi, Kenya. A co-ordinator for the project is expected to be recruited before the end of 2000. On the basis of the recommendations of ICCN, Kinshasa, and other project partners, namely WWF, IRF, GTZ-Germany, GIC and WCS, the Chief of the Garamba National Park, currently working with WWF-Nairobi, will serve as the "ICCN Homologue" in the co-ordination unit. The contract with the "ICCN Homologue" is being finalised and his services to the project co-ordination unit will begin in October 2000;

(3) The Centre is currently in the process of negotiating a meeting of technical personnel representing the three different governance regimes within the territory of the DRC to be convened from 30 October to 1 November in Nairobi, Kenya. The consultant and the "ICCN Homologue" referred to in (1) and (2) above, and the leader of the two-person team that undertook the intermediary mission to DRC, Rwanda and Uganda from 8 May to 11 June, will facilitate the organisation and conduct of that meeting; and

(4) The possible composition and timing of the proposed high-level mission to the DRC, Rwanda and Uganda is likely to be one of the subjects of discussions during a luncheon meeting between the Director-General of UNESCO and the Executive Director of UNEP, scheduled for 28 September 2000. The meeting participants have been briefed of the desirability of UNESCO and UNEP Heads leading such a high-level mission to the capitals of the three countries implicated in the war in eastern DRC to meet with the Heads of States and other important personalities and draw their attention to the need to respect international law and strengthen conservation of the all World Heritage sites in the area, and particularly those in eastern DRC.

As suggested by the Delegate of Zimbabwe at the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau, the Centre has given priority to initiate, under the UNESCO/DRC/UNF-UNFIP Project, those actions that directly benefit the sites. Contracts with project partners for payment of salaries, performance related bonuses and medical and food rations to site staff are nearing finalisation and implementation is expected to commence in October 2000. In this regard, the benefits to each site for the first year of project execution are as follows:

- 348 persons in Virunga will receive a total sum of US\$ 175,392;
- 236 persons in Garamba will receive a sum of US\$ 118,944;
- 83 persons in Kahuzi Biega will be paid a total sum of US\$ 41,832;
- 56 persons will be paid a total sum of US\$ 28,224; and
- 150 persons from Salonga will be paid a sum of US\$ 75,600.

These sums for all five sites were estimated on the basis of a standardized rate of US\$ 42/month/person, comprising a basic salary of US\$ 30/guard and US\$ 26/labourer and additional amounts of US\$ 12/guard and US\$ 16/labourer to cover performance related bonuses and medical and food rations. The project partners who will be responsible for transfer of payments from UNESCO to the site staff are: WWF Office for Eastern Africa in Nairobi, Kenya for Virunga; IRF Office in Nairobi, Kenya for Garamba; Gilman International Conservation for Okapi; and GTZ-Germany projects responsible for Kahuzi Biega and Salonga. The UNESCO/DRC/UNF-UNFIP project has set aside funds for the continuation of such payments to site-staff over the next three years; i.e. until October 2004. At the same time, project partners continue to support financing the positions of some of the other senior staff, as

they have done in the past, in the respective sites for which they have assumed responsibilities.

The US\$ 21,000 of the US\$ 48,000 approved as emergency assistance by the Chairperson in April 2000, and earmarked for the payment of pensions for 70 persons at the rate of US\$ 300 per person employed in the Virunga National Park has been decentralised to the UNESCO Office in Nairobi, Kenya for execution in co-operation with the WWF Eastern Africa Programme Office in Nairobi.

The Committee may wish to recall the fact that UNF and UNFIP approved, in November 1999, a sum of US\$ 2,895,912 of the total cost of US\$ 4,180,600 and urged the Centre and its partners to raise the additional funds from other sources. The Centre, in co-operation with its partners including ICCN, Kinshasa, elaborated a project to support local communities resident in and around the five World Heritage sites in Danger in the DRC. The 4-year project estimated to cost a sum of US\$ 500,000 has attracted the interest of the Belgium Government's Cabinet for Development Co-operation. The UNESCO Bureau for Extrabudgetary Resources is currently in the process of finalising negotiations. The Centre and the Division of Ecological Sciences of UNESCO and the project partners are also in contact with other donors such as the European Union to raise the remaining funds to arrive at the total estimated cost of US\$ 4,180,600 in order to implement the UNESCO/DRC/UNF-UNFIP project in its totality.

In Kahuzi-Biega, guard training sessions in monitoring and a refresher course in paramilitary techniques, with the objective of increasing the guard surveillance capacity to 10% of the National Park area that is regularly accessible have been conducted. Two patrol posts were reoccupied by staff in May 2000 but had to be evacuated a month later as the posts were attacked by armed gangs on two occasions causing the guards to retreat. Nevertheless, guards continue to patrol accessible areas on a regular basis. During August/September 2000, a team comprising Park staff, local authorities and representatives of several government services carried out work on marking the Park's borders in the corridor area linking the highland and lowland sectors. Some 50 soldiers accompanied the team. On 5 September the team's camp was attacked by a large force of rebels from the Liberation Army of Rwanda. eleven people were killed; many were injured including some who were seriously wounded. None of the staff from the Park or local offices of the ICCN were seriously injured. five people were taken hostage but were later released unharmed. However, the group's equipment was taken by the rebels and has not been returned.

In mid-June 2000, some security measures were put in place and allowed a team to start inventory work in the highland sector of the Park in order to obtain a better view of the numbers of gorillas and elephants remaining in the area. It will enhance the capacities of the Park staff since the newly constituted Park monitoring team is taking part in the work. When the work is finished, the inventory project will hand over most of the equipment used to the Park team, in order for it to continue the monitoring

programme. The scientific organization and a large part of the budget for this inventory are being provided by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund (DFGF) and Born Free. The GTZ-Germany project for Kahuzi Biega has provided vehicles, tents, radios and other equipment.

In Salonga, a report on a 1998-survey on bonobos and other large mammals has been received by IUCN. The survey data showed that bonobo, bongo, black mangabey, and leopard were present at that time in reasonable numbers in the northern part of the Park. Some elephants were also present, although in much reduced numbers. However, it is not clear how the unrest in the DRC has affected the bonobo population and other large mammals. This factor and the significance of the Park for bonobo conservation call for further, detailed evaluations. The report concludes that poaching within the Park is increasing due to human encroachment.

In the case of Okapi Faunal Reserve as well as the Garamba National Park, partners concerned with the protection of the site, namely the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in Okapi and the International Rhino Foundation (IRF) in Garamba, respectively, have detected increased poaching of elephants which appear to be supported by certain sections of the armed forces of Uganda. Both WCS and IRF have written to the Honourable Minister of State, Foreign Affairs and Regional Co-operation of Uganda requesting his intervention to investigate the matter and urging him to ensure that the Ugandan forces do not in any way aid elephant poachers and wherever possible they support and strengthen local officials working to conserve World Heritage sites in eastern DRC. WCS and IRF have transmitted copies of their letters to the Honourable Minister of Uganda to the Centre for transmission to the attention of the Permanent Delegate for Uganda in UNESCO for verification and necessary action. In Virunga, the situation remains unchanged from that reported at the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau in June/July 2000.

The Director General of ICCN, Kinshasa, via his letters of 29 August and 15 September 2000 has acknowledged receipt of the observations, conclusions and recommendations of the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau and thanked the Bureau for its appreciation of the work of the site staff and continuing support for the conservation of the five sites.

Action required: "The Committee requests the Centre to further develop its relations and explore optimal ways of liaising with UNOMC in order to promote the links between peace-building and World Heritage conservation in DRC and in neighbouring countries. The Committee recommends that the Centre, in co-operation with ICCN and other partners ensure effective execution of the UNESCO/DRC/UNF-UNFIP project emphasising and prioritising project components that strengthen the work of site-staff. The Committee urges the Centre to work with relevant administrative and

support units of UNESCO to find ways and means to ensure rapid and effective transfer of funds via project partners to on-site beneficiaries who are attempting to protect World Heritage sites in a zone of high security risks. The Committee thanks and welcomes the interest of the Government of Belgium to support a project that would enable local communities to work with site-staff to support conservation of the five sites and urges UNESCO and the Centre to expedite finalisation of negotiations with Belgium to enable early transfer of assistance to local communities resident near the five sites. The Committee decides that all five sites be retained in the List of World Heritage in Danger."

Sangay National Park (Ecuador)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1983; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992

International assistance: Sangay National Park has received international assistance under technical co-operation for equipment and environmental awareness-raising activities among local communities (US\$ 48,500) and for training of Park staff (US\$ 10,000).

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.6

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.5

New information: IUCN has reviewed the state of conservation report submitted by the State Party as attachment to a letter dated 27 July 2000 to the Centre. This report addresses the efforts of the State Party in trying to enhance conservation of this site despite the difficult economic situation of the country. The conclusions of the report point to the fact that as accessibility to the site has improved due to the Guamate-Macas road, threats to the integrity of the Park are also rising. Pressures arising from the intention of local people to move into the Park following the eruption of the Tungurahua Volcano are also a major concern. This report from the State Party reinforces the findings of the IUCN mission to this site in July 1999. IUCN has commended the State Party's efforts to strengthen conservation of this site and recommended that the site should be retained in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Minister for Environment for Ecuador is due to make a presentation on the case of Sangay National Park at the Centre/IUCN workshop on the "Role of World Heritage in Danger Listing in Promoting International Co-operation for the Conservation of World Natural Heritage", in Amman, Jordan, during 6-7 October 2000. At that workshop Centre and IUCN staff will discuss with the Ecuadorean authorities the elaboration of a plan, including the description of indicators and benchmarks, for the continuous monitoring of the state of conservation of Sangay and for the eventual removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Action required: The Committee may wish to review new information that may be available at the

time of its session and take necessary decisions and recommend appropriate actions for the consideration of the State Party, advisory bodies and the Centre

Simen National Park (Ethiopia)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1978; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996.

International assistance: Simen National Park has been awarded a sum of US\$ 110,307 under technical co-operation and US\$ 9,000 for staff training.

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.7

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.6

New information: The Director of the Centre via a letter dated 28 August 2000 informed the Permanent Delegate of Ethiopia that the Chairperson and he were unable to undertake a mission to Ethiopia before the twenty-fourth session of the Committee due to severe time constraints. However, the Head of the Regional Bureau of Agriculture responsible for the management of this site is due to make a presentation at the Centre/IUCN workshop on the "Role of World Heritage in Danger Listing in Promoting International Co-operation for the Conservation of World Natural Heritage", in Amman, Jordan, during 6-7 October 2000. Centre and IUCN staff will discuss all issues pertaining to the conservation of this site, including the need for a potential mission to the site by the Chairperson and the Director of the Centre in early 2001, and report on their findings at the time of the twenty-fourth session of the Committee.

Action required: The Committee may wish to review new information that may be available at the time of its session and take necessary decisions and recommend appropriate actions for the consideration of the State Party, advisory bodies and the Centre.

Mount Nimba Nature Reserve (Guinea/Côte d'Ivoire)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1981; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992

International assistance: This site has so far received: US\$ 29,082 as preparatory assistance; US\$ 30,000 as emergency assistance; US\$ 179,927 for technical co-operation; and US\$ 22,000 for training.

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.8

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.7

New information: At its twenty-fourth ordinary session (26 June - 1 July, 2000; Paris) the Bureau approved a sum of US\$ 30,000 to strengthen institutional capacity of the Centre for Environmental Management of Mt. Nimba

(CEGEN) and to support a consultant mission to the site to review the state of conservation of the site. The mission was also expected to explore with UNDP, the role of CEGEN in the implementation of the GEF project for the management of Mt. Nimba and participatory development in lands adjoining the site. The three-week mission of the consultant began on 24 August 2000; preliminary information received from the consultant reveal that the site is heavily degraded. Since 1996, settlers in the buffer zone have exploited the forests. A more detailed report of the consultant's mission is expected shortly.

At a World Heritage and Mining Technical Workshop, held at IUCN Headquarters from 20-23 September, 2000, the case of Mt. Nimba was discussed and participants noted that key issues at this site include: (a) the need for clear boundary demarcation, taking into consideration the boundaries proposed at the time of inscription and changes proposed subsequently; (b) the need for effective transboundary co-operation between the two States Parties (Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire) as well as Liberia which has yet to ratify the Convention; and (c) the need to stimulate fund-raising efforts for this site, based on previous proposals and recommendations, including those made by the Committee concerning the establishment of a fund or a foundation for the conservation of Mt. Nimba.

The Director General of CEGEN is due to make a presentation on the case of Mt. Nimba at the Centre/IUCN workshop on the "Role of World Heritage in Danger Listing in Promoting International Co-operation for the Conservation of World Natural Heritage", in Amman, Jordan, during 6-7 October 2000.

Action required: The Committee may wish to review new information that may be available at the time of its session and take necessary decisions and recommend appropriate actions for the consideration of the State Party, advisory bodies and the Centre.

Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1982; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996.

International assistance: Rio Platano has received US\$ 167,025 for technical co-operation and US\$ 11,000 for training.

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.9

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.8

New information: The State Party, via a letter dated 21 June 2000, invited a Centre/IUCN mission to the site. IUCN and the Centre have collaborated to identify experts to undertake the mission from 22-29 October 2000 and a report on the findings of the mission will be provided at the time of the twenty-fourth session of the Committee. A representative of site-management is expected to present a case study on Rio Platano at the Centre/IUCN workshop on the "Role of World Heritage in

Danger Listing in Promoting International Co-operation for the Conservation of World Natural Heritage", in Amman, Jordan, during 6-7 October 2000.

Action required: The Committee may wish to review new information that may be available at the time of its session and take necessary decisions and recommend appropriate actions for the consideration of the State Party, advisory bodies and the Centre

Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1985; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992.

International assistance: US\$ 165,000 as emergency assistance since June 1997, in two instalments of US\$ 75,000 and US\$ 90,000, respectively, for the implementation of a 3-year rehabilitation plan approved by the Bureau in June 1997.

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.10

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.9

New information: No new information has been received on the state of conservation of this site since the conclusion of the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau (26 June - 1 July, 2000; Paris). However, the Deputy Inspector General for Wildlife of the Ministry of Environment and Forests in New Delhi has agreed to present a case study on Manas at the Centre/IUCN workshop on the "Role of World Heritage in Danger Listing in Promoting International Co-operation for the Conservation of World Natural Heritage", in Amman, Jordan, during 6-7 October 2000. During the workshop, Centre and IUCN staff will discuss the timing of the site-visit, originally scheduled to take place in 2000, but delayed as requested by the State Party until early 2001, and report on the outcome of those discussions at the time of the Committee session.

Action required: The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

"The Committee recommends that the the Centre/IUCN mission to review progress in the implementation of the rehabilitation plan adopted in 1997 and partly financed by grants amounting to US\$ 165,000 from the World Heritage Fund be undertaken as soon as possible in 2001 and a report submitted to the twenty-fifth ordinary session of the Bureau in 2001. The Committee urges the Centre and IUCN to use all information to be made available by the State Party during the remaining months of the year 2000 in planning the site-visit, particularly to assessing the impacts of the rehabilitation measures on minimising poaching threats to the rhinos in Manas. The Committee decides that this site be retained in the List of World Heritage in Danger".

Aïr and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1991; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996.

International assistance: Aïr and Ténéré Nature Reserve has benefited from a preparatory assistance grant of US\$ 10,000 and training grants amounting to US\$ 40,000. The twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau endorsed a rehabilitation plan for the site. In 1999, including the twenty-third session of the Committee (Morocco, 1999) when the Committee approved projects to be financed by the World Heritage Fund budget for the year 2000, a total sum of US\$ 127,000 was approved for technical co-operation and training projects that are being currently executed as part of the rehabilitation plan.

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV. 11

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.10

New information: In response to the suggestion of the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau (26 June - 1 July, 2000; Paris) the Centre had sought the views of the State Party on when the site could be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The State Party, via letter dated 16 August 2000, has informed the Centre that it wishes to complete implementation of all activities of the rehabilitation programme before requesting the Committee to consider removing this site from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The State Party estimates that the implementation of the rehabilitation programme will be completed in 2001. A representative from the State Party is due to present a case study on this site at the Centre/IUCN workshop on the "Role of World Heritage in Danger Listing in Promoting International Co-operation for the Conservation of World Natural Heritage", in Amman, Jordan, during 6-7 October 2000

Action required: The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Committee invites the State Party to submit a comprehensive progress report, before 15 April 2001, to the Centre on the achievements of the rehabilitation programme implemented and requests the Centre and IUCN to review that report and submit their findings to the twenty-fifth ordinary session of the Bureau in 2001. The Centre and IUCN should undertake a detailed assessment of the threats to the site that have been effectively mitigated and determine the need for any additional actions that may be required to enable the twenty-fifth session of the Committee to determine whether or not this site could be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger by the Committee at its twenty-fifth session at the end of 2001. The Committee decides that this site be retained in the List of World Heritage in Danger”.

Ichkeul National Park (Tunisia)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1980; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996.

International assistance: Ichkeul National Park has so far been awarded US\$ 50,000 under technical co-operation and US\$ 15,000 under training.

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.12

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph X.11

New information: IUCN has informed the Centre that rainfall during the winter of 1999 and the spring of 2000 in the Ichkeul area has been below average and hence salinity levels in the Lake have increased once again. Following two winters of adequate rainfall that allowed recovery of the freshwater vegetation, this reversal in rainfall patterns has led to a renewed increase in the salinity of Lake waters that prevailed in the area in 1997 and benefits of the restoration of the Lake achieved during the last two years are in danger of being lost. Despite the fact that such unpredictable climate-induced reversals will happen in the future as well, IUCN believes and reiterates the recommendations of the mission to the site undertaken in March 2000 by a team comprising representatives from IUCN, the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and other international and regional organisations:

- Updating of the integrated management plan for the site, with the involvement of all concerned interest groups. This plan should outline an action plan to address key threats to the Park and ensure that resources are made available to implement this plan;
- Implementation of an effective institutional arrangement for the management of the Park, which has strong support at all levels and a clear mandate for managing the site;
- Urgent attention to the priority issues identified by the mission team, including: (a) restoration of the Joumine Marsh; (b) problems caused by siltation of the lake; and (c) the possibility of releasing the water in the immediate future;
- Development of a clear and focused monitoring and assessment programme that would supply data to all concerned groups and the scientific community in an efficient and open manner; and
- Development of a clear timetable of activities leading to measurable improvements of the Lake and surrounding marshes within the next five years.

The State Party has not submitted its report, as requested by the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau,

describing its response to the conclusions and recommendations of the March 2000 mission. A State Party representative is expected to deliver a presentation at the Centre/IUCN workshop on the "Role of World Heritage in Danger Listing in Promoting International Co-operation for the Conservation of World Natural Heritage", in Amman, Jordan, during 6-7 October 2000. Centre and IUCN staff who will participate in the workshop will discuss the findings of the March 2000 mission with the Tunisian representative and obtain his views on the mission's conclusions and recommendations.

Action required: The Committee may wish to review new information that may be available at the time of its session and take necessary decisions and recommend appropriate actions to the consideration of the State Party, advisory Bodies and the Centre.

Rwenzori Mountains (Uganda)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in: 1994; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1999

International assistance: US\$ 32,249 has so far been provided under technical co-operation.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.13

Twenty third session of the Committee – paragraph X.22

New information: In response to the observations and recommendations of the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau, transmitted via the Centre's letter dated 10 July 2000, the Executive Director of the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UAW), in his letter of 13 September 2000, has stressed that the Rwenzori Mountains National Park (RMNP) should be retained in the List of World Heritage in Danger owing to the following reasons:

- RMNP is still closed to visitors and effects of insurgency by armed groups continue to affect management, habitats and wildlife;
- Communities resident around the Park are equally affected and look towards the Park as a major source of resources posing clear threats to habitats and wildlife and in the absence of control and management may adopt unsustainable resource use practices; and
- The Park lacks basic management tools to meet the challenges of insurgency and community pressure for resources.

The Executive Director has welcomed suggestions of the Bureau to increase international awareness for the conservation of the site and expressed his readiness to work with the Centre and others concerned for raising funds for the protection of the World Heritage site in Danger.

IUCN has observed that the southeastern and northeastern parts of the Park are relatively safe and that UAW has

resumed operations in the eastern parts of the Park and is exploring the feasibility of opening that sector to tourists. However, in the western parts of the Park bordering the DRC, security risks prevail and management is facing serious resource shortages needed for ensuring effective management of the Park.

Action required: The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Committee suggests that the Centre and IUCN explore possibilities to raise international awareness for the conservation of this site. Furthermore, the Committee recommends that the Centre co-operate with the State Party and concerned UN units in the region to study ways and means, including mobilising necessary financial resources, to support staff responsible for the protection of the site and minimise threats posed by militant and armed groups. The Committee recommends that the site be retained in the List of World Heritage in Danger”.

Everglades National Park (United States of America)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1979; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1993

International assistance: None

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau -paragraph IV.14

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.12

New information: The twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau requested the Centre and IUCN to meet with the State Party and discuss the preparation of a schedule of actions for complete rehabilitation of the site and its eventual removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger. A video-conference between the Centre, IUCN and the State Party has been scheduled for 10 and 11 October 2000 for this purpose. The outcome of the video-conference will be reported at the time of the twenty-fourth session of the Committee.

Action required: The Committee may wish to review new information that may be available at the time of its session and take necessary decisions and recommend appropriate actions for the consideration of the State Party, advisory bodies and the Centre.

Yellowstone National Park (United States of America)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1978; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1995.

International assistance: None

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.15

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.13

New information: The twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau requested the Centre and IUCN to meet with the State Party and discuss the preparation of a schedule of actions for complete rehabilitation of the site and its eventual removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger. A video-conference between the Centre, IUCN and the State Party has been scheduled for 10 and 11

B. Cultural Heritage

Butrint (Albania)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1992 and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1997

International Assistance: Following the decision of the Committee in 1997 to allocate US\$ 100,000 as Emergency Assistance, four contracts have been established for a total amount of US\$ 33,000. In 1999, a proposal for implementation of further activities was received and has been approved for a total amount of US\$ 40,800 by the Chairperson of the Committee. However, there are serious delays in the implementation and reporting on some of the contracts.

Previous deliberation:

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.16

Twenty-third session of the Committee - paragraph X.14

New information: The Bureau at its twenty-fourth ordinary session in June/July 2000, requested the authorities to submit by 15 September 2000 a report on the implementation of the recommendations made by the UNESCO-ICOMOS-Butrint Foundation mission in 1997. To date, the requested report has not been received by the Centre.

Action required: The Committee may wish to review new information that may be available at the time of its session and take necessary decisions and recommend appropriate actions for the consideration of the State Party, advisory bodies and the Centre.

Angkor (Cambodia)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1992; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992.

International assistance: Angkor has so far received US\$ 15,000 as preparatory assistance, US\$ 10,000 for training and US\$ 98,595 as emergency assistance.

Previous deliberations

Twenty-third Committee session (X.15)

Twenty-fourth Bureau session (IV.17)

October for this purpose. The outcome of the video-conference will be reported at the time of the twenty-fourth session of the Committee.

Action required: The Committee may wish to review new information that may be available at the time of its session and take necessary decisions and recommend appropriate actions for the consideration of the State Party, advisory bodies and the Centre.

New information

The plenary session of the International Coordination Committee for the Safeguarding and the Development of the Historic Site of Angkor (CIC), for which UNESCO ensures the Secretariat met on 20 June 2000.

1. APSARA activities: In accordance with the impetus given by the co-Chair of the CIC, its permanent Secretariat and the UNESCO Office in Phnom Penh have undertaken several initiatives to ensure total transparency in the management of the income at the Angkor site. The subject was discussed during the plenary session of the CIC in the presence of the representative of the Prime Minister of the Royal Government. The Government made the decision to increase by US\$ 500,000, the grant allocated to APSARA and to revise in the near future the clauses of the contract of the private company, license holders for the entrance fees of the Angkor site.

At the request of the President Director General of APSARA, a list of suitable members to form an ad hoc Committee to follow the matter of the transfer of the Siem Reap/Angkor airport was proposed to the Cambodian authorities by UNESCO.

The “Institutional Support to the ASPARA Authority” Programme, implemented and financed by France has begun. It comprises four activities: heritage protection measures; regular maintenance of monuments; combat against looting and illicit traffic of cultural property, and training.

2. Training: The first technical training cycle for conservation specialists of sites and monuments, organized by APSARA with the financial support of Japan and carried out in close cooperation with ICCROM, SPAFA and UNESCO, was completed with excellent results. Twenty qualified young archaeologists, architects and engineers participated in this intensive training exercise. During the last CIC, it was decided to continue this experience. Funding is being sought for the 2000/01 and 2001/02 sessions. Furthermore, in agreement with the CIC, an extensive four-year training programme for

Khmer architects and technicians has been launched by the French Government.

3. Illicit traffic: The CIC was informed that, last June, the Prime Minister of Thailand jointly signed with his Cambodian counterpart, a special agreement concerning the joint combat by the two Kingdoms against the looting of Khmer temples, the objects being transited by way of the Thai frontiers. This agreement is the result of UNESCO intervention with the Cambodian Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts to assist in the application of the Heritage Law and to prepare legal and technical files for the return of the stolen objects.

4. International Centre for Scientific and Technical Documentation of Angkor (CID): The CID has enriched its data thanks to the transfer of all the technical reports retained until now by UNESCO Phnom Penh. A bibliographic data bank is being set up with the CDS/ISIS programme. With the support of Japan and in accordance with the APSARA, the UNESCO expert and the ASPARA staff member will continue to work full-time on this programme in 2001 at the CID.

The next technical session of the CID will be held in Siem Reap on 14 and 15 December. It will be preceded by the fifth international symposium on Bayon, organized by the Japanese Governmental Team for the Safeguarding of Angkor, in cooperation with the APSARA and UNESCO (11-12 December). The ad hoc group of international experts on cultural tourism in the region will be held on 11 to 13 December 2000 in Siem Reap, and is organized by the World Tourism Organization with UNESCO participation.

Action required: "The Committee, after having examined the report on the state of conservation of the site, congratulates the Royal Government of Cambodia for the significant progress made in the field of training thus ensuring the control and maintenance of the monuments and encourages it to continue in its efforts. The Committee invites the APSARA and UNESCO to strengthen development activities for the collection of documents for the International Centre for Scientific and Technical Documentation of Angkor, which should aim at securing all documentation produced during the safeguarding and development projects of the site. It also encourages further efforts to develop partnerships with international teams at the site.

Furthermore, the Committee wishes to obtain additional information on the monitoring of work undertaken on the entrance porch of the central monument and the collapsed tiers of the western moat of the Angkor Vat Temple. It also wishes to be informed about tourism development at the site and the development of infrastructure in this respect, with particular reference to the question of the transfer of the Siem Reap/Angkor airport."

The Committee could maintain this property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Group of Monuments at Hampi (India)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1986; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1999.

International assistance: None

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Bureau (paragraph number IV.60)

Twenty-third session of the Committee (paragraph number X.33)

Twenty-fourth session of the Bureau (paragraph number IV.18)

New information: A sub-national workshop to take place on-site in Hampi (October 2000) on enhanced management of World Heritage sites in India was being organized by the World Heritage Centre at the time of the preparation of this working document. The World Heritage Centre will report at the Bureau session on findings concerning the state of conservation of the site and recent developments at Hampi undertaken by the Central and State Governments responsible for the site, which will be made available after this workshop in October 2000

Action required: The Committee may wish to examine the findings and recommendations of the Secretariat at the time of its session and take appropriate decision thereupon.

Bahla Fort (Oman)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1987 and on the World Heritage List in Danger: 1988

International Assistance: Technical co-operation 1988 (US \$ 7,000), 1989 (US \$ 50,000) and 1995 (US \$ 9,772) for technical advice and urgent conservation works. Missions on an annual basis 1996-1999 (on a cost sharing basis) to monitor restoration works and provide advice to the conservation team.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.19

Twenty-third session of the Committee - paragraph X.16

New Information: Following the recommendation of the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau, two consultants prepared "Guidelines for the establishment of a Management Plan for Bahla Fort and Oasis, a World Heritage site". A mission was scheduled to the site for September 2000 to discuss the management plan; this mission had to be rescheduled.

Action required: The Committee may wish to adopt the following:

"The Committee encourages the authorities to proceed with the preparation of the management plan and to report on the progress made by 15 April 2001. The Committee decides to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger."

Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1986; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1986

International assistance: To date: US \$ 78,650 for conservation of the site and the preparation of its Master Plan.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.20)

Twenty-third session of the Committee - paragraph X.17

New information: The Peruvian authorities informed the World Heritage Centre that legislation was passed to establish a Multisectorial Committee for the Archaeological Zone of Chan Chan, presided over by the Instituto Nacional de Cultura of La Libertad. The Committee will be in charge of general co-ordination of all protection and promotion efforts. Furthermore, a Consultative Council was put in place to advise the Directorate of the Archaeological Zone of Chan Chan on all matters related to the management of the property, especially the implementation of the Master Plan.

Action required: The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Committee commends the State Party for its efforts to protect the property and to implement the Master Plan. The Committee requests the Peruvian authorities to submit a report on further progress made by 15 September 2001 for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-fifth session. The Committee furthermore decided to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.”