

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL
AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Eighth Ordinary Session

Buenos-Aires, Argentina, 29 October-2 November 1984

Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda: Nominations to the List of World Heritage
in Danger

Wieliczka Salt Mine (Poland)

The Permanent Delegate of Poland sent a letter dated 12 September 1984 to the Secretariat requesting, on behalf of his government, that the Wieliczka Salt Mine be placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. This request was transmitted to ICOMOS for evaluation.

It is recalled that the Wieliczka Salt Mine was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1978. Furthermore, in December 1982, Poland had presented a request for technical cooperation for the necessary preservation work at the Wieliczka Salt Mine: the Committee was not able to accept this request at its 7th session.

Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary (Senegal)

It is recalled that the World Heritage Committee, at its sixth and seventh sessions, had suggested that the Government of Senegal should nominate this property for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger due to the negative impacts which the agricultural development project on the Djoudj River would have on the natural integrity of the site. By letter of 19 June 1984, the Minister for Nature Protection of Senegal replied favorably to the request of the Director-General of Unesco in this respect. The Minister furthermore recalled that the Second Conference

of Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitats, held in the Netherlands on 5-7 May 1984, made a recommendation that special measures be rapidly taken to safeguard the future of Djoudj. In this respect, he noted that the protective measures outlined in the report of the consultant mission financed by the World Heritage Fund were too costly to be borne by Senegal alone and that the creation of an international support fund could be envisaged.

The IUCN evaluation of this nomination is presented in the IUCN document.

Ngorongoro Conservation Area (Tanzania)

At its seventh session, the Committee had been informed by IUCN of the serious shortcomings in the management of Ngorongoro Conservation Area. On 5 October 1984, in response to letters from the Director-General of Unesco, the Secretariat received a letter from the Minister for Lands, Natural Resources and Tourism requesting that this property be placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee's attention is drawn to the IUCN report on the status of conservation of this site (prepared prior to the official request for inscription) which is presented in the IUCN document.

Garamba National Park (Zaire)

By letter of 21 February 1984, the State Commissioner for Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism of Zaire requested the Director-General of Unesco to consider the possibility of placing Garamba National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger due to the critical situation of its white rhinoceros population.

The Bureau, at its 8th session, recalled that the Committee had granted \$40,000 for emergency assistance for this property in 1983. The Bureau took note of IUCN's technical evaluation in which it was indicated that although Garamba National Park still fulfilled criterion (ii) under the Convention, it would no longer fulfill criterion (iv) (constituting habitats of endangered species) in the event that the rhinoceros population were completely exterminated. Taking account of the IUCN recommendation and noting that all the conditions set out in the Operational Guidelines (paragraph 46) had been met, the Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe this property on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The technical evaluation of IUCN, with up to date information on the status of this site, is presented in the IUCN document.

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Convention concerning the Protection of the
World Cultural and Natural Heritage

NOMINATION TO THE

LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

SUBMITTED BY

Poland

Wieliczka Salt Mine

I. Description of the object

1. The mine was inscribed on the World Heritage List in September 1978.
2. The danger to the property consists of :
 - a) cave-ins
 - b) subsidence
 - c) water seepage
 - d) harmful atmospheric elements
3. The mine requires the following repairs :
 - a) the filling-in of 4.2 million cubic metres of galleries in an imperilled state, out of a total volume of 7.4 million cubic metres of galleries;
 - b) preservation of 23 groups that are unique in value, comprising 342 chambers and galleries;
 - c) the successive filling-in of thirty-two chambers in order to protect the town of Wieliczka from subsidence;
 - d) repair of 252 points where water is seeping in, at a rate of approximately 19.4 cubic metres per hour;
 - e) improvement of the ventilation system in the galleries, and installation of an air conditioning system.
4. The Wieliczka salt mine has hitherto not indicated the cost of the activities proposed above. It is now estimated that the overall cost of the work, which will take some thirty years to complete will amount to 22.8 million zlotys.

II. Description of dangers to the property

The mine has been worked for seven hundred years. The installations, mining tools, and wooden shores that support the galleries and caverns are gradually deteriorating because of rock pressure, seepage and humidity in the air that circulates constantly in the galleries.

An inventory of the chambers and galleries has brought to light such permanent deterioration as cave-ins caused by rock pressure and subsidence, as well as the destruction of vestiges of old work, of sculptures in the chapels and of commemorative plaques.

III. Nature of the danger to the property

- 1 Levels I to III of the mine, between 22 and 135 metres below

ground, represent a threat to the old centre of the town.

2. The very fragility of the salt directly threatens the historical authenticity of the complex of chambers and galleries.
3. The continual pressure of the terrain on the hollowed-out parts of the mine is becoming evident