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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

World Heritage Committee
Sixteenth session

Santa Fe, New Mexico, United States of America
7-14 December 1992

Item 12 of the Provisional Agenda: Requests for International Assistance

Training Course in Protected Area Management (Arab Region)

Background: There are sixteen States Parties to the World Heritage Convention from the Arab (including Maghreb countries) Region. Among the sixteen, only two States Parties (Mauritania and Tunisia) have natural properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. Oman has nominated the Jiddat al Harasis and its adjoining areas (approximately 27,000 sq.km) for consideration by the World Heritage Committee in 1993. Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for training natural heritage specialists in the Arab Region has been provided as follows: 6 fellowships for Egypt, at a total cost of US\$ 93,200, in 1981, 1982, 1985, 1986, 1987, and 1988, respectively, for training specialists at the Mweka College of African Wildlife Management, Tanzania; one study grant each to an Algerian and Moroccan specialist, at a total cost of US\$ 10,000, for attending a three-week seminar at ENGREF, France; US\$ 30,000 for the organization of training workshop, in 1989, in Qatar; US\$ 10,000 as a contribution to a training course in Oman, in 1991, on the protection of wildlife affected by the Gulf war.

Description of Request: The National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development (NCWCD) is organizing a training course on Protected Area Management in the Arab Region, from 6-14 April 1993. The course will focus on the following themes and issues: management planning for protected areas; systems planning; ecological surveys; economic benefits of protected areas; sustainable harvest of wildlife populations; legal issues; and the role of traditional people in protected area management. From 7-13 April the course will include lectures and presentations during which two half-day field visits to a bird

sanctuary and a captive breeding centre for endangered species are foreseen. From 14-15 April the NCWCD will organize field exercises for trainees in the Farasan Islands, which the authorities in Saudi Arabia consider to be a potential World Heritage (natural) property. The trainee participants will assess the ecological diversity (terrestrial, mangrove and coral reef habitats) of the site and the management infrastructure of this protected area in order to make recommendations concerning the suitability of the site for inclusion on the World Heritage List.

The course will include 20 trainees and six resource persons from the Arab region, outside of Saudi Arabia. The total cost of organizing the course is estimated to be US\$ 75,000.

National Contribution: The NCWCD will contribute a sum of US\$ 45,000 to cover the following costs: organization (US\$ 6,400), hotel, living expenses and allowances for resource persons and participants in Riyadh and in the field (US\$ 33,000) and internal travel for participants (US\$ 5,600).

Amount requested from the World Heritage Fund: The NCWCD requests a sum of US\$ 30,000 from the World Heritage Fund to cover the costs of international travel of 20 trainees from the Arab Region and 6 resource persons, of which at least three will be from the Arab Region (US\$ 25,000) and a contribution (US\$ 5,000) towards expenses (vehicle hire, travel between Riyadh and field site etc.) related to the organization of field exercises in the Farasan Islands.

Other information: During their consultations with the World Heritage Centre the NCWCD authorities have indicated their interest in having an IUCN representative as a resource person, particularly during the field visit to the Farasan Islands.

Action by the Committee: The Committee may wish to approve a sum of US\$ 30,000 for the organization of this training course on Protected Area Management for the Arab Region.