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

BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Eighteenth session

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, Room X (Fontenoy)

4-9 July 1994

Items 5.1. and 5.2. of the Provisional Agenda: State of Conservation of Properties inscribed on the World Heritage List:

- **Methodology of Systematic Monitoring**
- **Monitoring Activities at a Regional Level**

A. Methodology of Systematic Monitoring

A.1 The development of the methodology of systematic monitoring

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.

The Committee also 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 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;
- 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.

Following the Committee meeting, the Secretariat convened a meeting with the advisory bodies to set up a workplan for the implementation of the above decisions of the Committee. It was decided that the Secretariat would, in consultation with the advisory bodies and the participants of the expert meeting, develop proposals on the subject matters indicated by the Committee, most importantly a **draft chapter on monitoring for inclusion in the Operational Guidelines**. A report on the progress of the implementation of the Committee's decisions will be presented to the Bureau in a separate document (see Working Document WHC-94/CONF.001/3a.Add.1).

A.2 Proposed actions 1994-1995:

The Bureau is requested to consider the proposals as presented in document WHC-94/CONF.001/3a.Add.1 and to formulate recommendations thereon.

The Bureau is requested to endorse the following workplan for the remainder of 1994 and for 1995:

- July - October 1994: initiate discussions of the amended proposals with World Heritage site managers and representatives of States Parties at the occasion of regional/national seminars.
- December 1994: report on the outcome of these consultations and presentation of the proposals for consideration and decision-making to the Committee at its eighteenth session. The Secretariat will attempt to present a draft text on monitoring for inclusion in the Operational Guidelines.
- Early 1995: inform the States Parties of the decisions of the Committee and invite them to put monitoring structures in place. Implement the decisions of the Committee.
- Bureau Meeting mid-1995: first evaluation of the application of the new monitoring procedures.

B. Monitoring Activities at a Sub-regional and 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 will be monitored in 1994 and a seminar for a selected number of site managers will be held so as to evaluate the monitoring programme. 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.

The authorities of **Mexico** have informed the Secretariat that in 1994 the National Institute for Anthropology and History will undertake the monitoring of the ten cultural World Heritage sites in Mexico in collaboration with experts of the National School for Conservation and Restoration (ENCRM) . This report is expected to be presented to the Bureau at its eighteenth session.

B.1.2 North America:

An internal monitoring control system is in place in both the United States National Park Service and the Canadian Park Service. These States Parties will be briefed on the monitoring procedures that will be established by the World Heritage Committee to enable reporting in 1996.

B.1.3 Asia and the Pacific:

Natural sites

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.

The Australian authorities are organizing a regional workshop for World Heritage Managers in **Australia, Southeast and Southwest Pacific** to be held in North Queensland in September 1994. The workshop is being coordinated by the Australian Wet Tropics Management Authority with support from the Great Barrier Marine Park Authority and the Commonwealth Department of Environment, Sport and Territories. A desired outcome of the workshop will be a network of World Heritage Area managers among the countries in the region and the identification of future priority actions, based on the evaluation of the state of conservation of the sites.

B.1.4 Africa:Natural sites

In April 1994 the World Heritage Centre initiated a systematic monitoring approach for the Natural World Heritage sites in francophone **Africa** through an IZCN (Institut Zaïrois pour la Conservation de la Nature) consultant. At the CNPPA (IUCN Commission for National Parks and Protected Areas) Africa Working Session, which will take place from 11 to 17 October 1994 in Krüger National Park (South Africa), a special session will be dedicated to World Heritage.

B.1.5 Arab States and the Mediterranean region:Cultural sites

In the framework of the UNEP Programme (entitled "Action Plan for the Mediterranean"), and under the name of "100 Historical Sites", a regular monitoring of World Heritage sites located in the border countries of the Mediterranean and the Arab States region is assured by the "Heritage Workshop of the City of Marseilles" (France). During its sixteenth session in Santa Fe in December 1992, the World Heritage Committee approved an amount of US\$20,000 to finance this operation which covered 23 sites in the Arab States and in Europe. The Coordinator of the Action Plan has been requested to present a report on the programme to the eighteenth session of the Bureau (Paris, July 1994).

Furthermore, the World Heritage Centre anticipates the organization jointly with ICCROM, in November 1994 in Tunis (Tunisia), of a sub-regional meeting for the managers of World Heritage sites of the Maghreb, which could be extended to include other countries of the region. This meeting will deal with questions concerning monitoring procedures for inscribed sites and will attempt to lay down the basis for a systematic monitoring programme for the region.

B.1.6 Europe: Cultural sites

As a result of the collaboration of ICOMOS-Norway 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 at the natural and cultural sites. The World heritage Centre has contributed US\$10,000 towards this endeavour.

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. The project outline is as follows:

1. The United Kingdom World Heritage sites are all managed by responsible owners and all enjoy statutory protection. There has, however, been no formal monitoring of any of these against the reasons they were designated as World Heritage sites. No English site has in place a comprehensive management plan which has been endorsed by all the agencies with an interest.
2. To demonstrate its commitment to World Heritage sites and their protection, the Department of National Heritage has grant-aided ICOMOS-UK, the International Council of Monuments and Sites, to carry out a programme of work. This involves:
 - i) the production of brief monitoring reports on each World Heritage cultural site in England. Each report is to be the first of a series recording the main facts about the condition and use of the site, its management arrangements and its visitor numbers. These reports will be completed within the year 1993-94;
 - ii) continuing work on policy questions affecting World Heritage sites, such as questions relating to cultural landscapes.
3. The monitoring reports are prepared around a 3-page pro-forma listing topics and questions. They are based on site visits and inspections by ICOMOS members and staff and on discussions with:
 - i) owners/managers
 - ii) local authorities
 - iii) other agencies with an interest, e.g. English Heritage, the National Trust, the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England, and the Cathedrals Advisory Commission. Some staff support for the exercise is also being provided by a number of agencies which support this initiative.

B.2 Proposed Action for 1994-1995

July 1994-December 1995

The Bureau is informed that the World Heritage Centre will continue its efforts to develop concrete proposals for the development of systematic monitoring as stated in paragraph A.1. Special attention will be devoted to regions such as Africa and South-east Asia, where monitoring activities still have to be initiated.

List of addendums to Working Document WHC-94/CONF.001/3a:

WHC-94/CONF.001/3a.Add1

Progress report on the implementation of the decisions of the World Heritage Committee regarding the development of the methodology of systematic monitoring (Secretariat)