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WHC-94/CONF.001B/3.ADD
Paris, 14 November 1994
Original: English

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Bureau of the World Heritage Committee
Eighteenth session

Phuket, Thailand
9-10 December 1994

Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda: Requests for International Assistance

A. NATURAL HERITAGE

TRAINING

A.1. Seventeenth International Protected Areas Course CATIE, Costa Rica

Background: Since 1976 about 2,000 persons from all over Latin America have participated in training courses on protected area conservation and management at CATIE (Tropical Agricultural Center for Research and Education). CATIE has received support from the World Heritage Fund in the past, e.g. in 1993 the Bureau approved a sum of US\$25,000 for the course held in 1994. The seventeenth course will be held in 1995 and focuses on protected area managers and gives due consideration to the World Heritage Convention, both in its training programme and the selection of participants.

Description of the request: The course is scheduled from 13 March to 15 April 1995 and consists of four components: conferences and readings covering protected areas, participants' presentations on site planning and management, field exercises and practical application of analysis of strategic planning in protected areas, including field exercises in La Amistad National Park, a World Heritage site and biosphere reserve in the Cordillera Volcanica Central. The requested financial contribution will be used for food and lodging, tuition, teaching material, international and local transportation and instructional fees.

Amount requested from the Fund: On 3 November 1994 a request

for US \$ 30,000 was received from CATIE to support this programme. The total budget for the course is US \$ 72,000. WWF/USA provides US \$ 15,000 and funding is sought from other sources (The Nature Conservancy).

Action by the Bureau: The Bureau may wish to approve a sum of US \$ 30,000 for the organization of the seventeenth International Protected Areas Course CATIE, Costa Rica.

B. CULTURAL HERITAGE

TRAINING

B.1. Region of Latin America (request presented by Peru)

Background: Great part of the cultural heritage of Latin America is constructed of mud-brick or **adobe**. This building material is particularly vulnerable to wind and rain, pollution and seismic movements and requires very specific conservation techniques. In 1983, an International Symposium and Workshop on the Conservation of Adobe took place in Peru which paid particular attention to Chan Chan. As research and the training of professionals in adobe conservation are by necessity continuous processes, it is now proposed to organize in Chan Chan in 1995 a Regional and International Course on the Conservation of Earthen World Heritage Sites.

Description of the request: The National Institute for Culture of Peru, the Regional Institute for Culture of La Libertad (where Chan Chan is situated), ICCROM and CRATERre will organize in October 1995 a four-week Regional/International Course on the Conservation of the Adobe World Heritage. The course will be held in Chan Chan, Peru with the participation of eleven international and eight national experts/professors and twenty to twenty-five trainees (site managers). The participants will follow lectures and practical exercises in which Chan Chan will be used as the case study. The teachers and participants of the course will examine the state of conservation of the site and will evaluate the past conservation efforts and experiences in Chan Chan. The course will thus also benefit directly the conservation of the site.

The total budget of the course amounts to US\$ 152,350 as follows:

materials	:US\$ 6,550
course faculty and participants	:US\$ 94,490
communication and transportation	:US\$ 13,310
equipment	:US\$ 8,000
TOTAL	:US\$ 152,350

National contribution: Of the total budget of US\$ 152,350, US\$ 90,000 will be covered by the national institutions:

National Institute for Culture (in cash)	:US\$	60,000
National Institute for Culture (in kind)	:US\$	30,000
ICCROM-CRATerre	:US\$	42,350
World Heritage Fund	:US\$	20,000
TOTAL		U S \$
	152,350	

Amount requested from the Fund: The amount of US\$ 20,000 is requested under the World Heritage Fund.

Action by the Bureau: The Bureau is recommended to approve the request for US\$ 20,000 as requested by the Peruvian Government as a contribution to the Regional and International Course on the Conservation of Earthen World Heritage Sites to be held in Chan Chan in October 1995.

B.2. Regional Training Courses in Architectural and Urban Heritage Conservation, 5 September 1994 to 30 June 1995, Bratislava, Slovak Republic (request presented by the Slovak Republic)

Background: While the countries of Western Europe have become largely aware of environmental issues and the need to preserve a common European cultural heritage, and have been developing corresponding activities, in Central Europe there are no comparable institutes at postgraduate level, which would offer comprehensive training in the protection of natural and cultural environments. Moreover, there has been a lack of a multidisciplinary approach to architectural heritage conservation studies. The proposed training project is therefore expected to help redress this situation.

Description of the request: In order to develop a full-time multidisciplinary study programme in Architectural and Urban Heritage Conservation with high educational standards and of international character, the training courses in question are meant to encompass three groups: general courses, applied courses and specialized courses. These are planned as three trimestrial postgraduate programmes and three two-day conferences, to be organized by the Academia Istropolitana (Institute of Advanced Studies) in Bratislava. This programme has been initiated in cooperation with six prominent partners such as the Centre of Conservation Studies, York University (UK), Centre for the Conservation of Historic Towns and Buildings, Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium), Department of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Rome "La Terza" (Italy), Federal Office of Historic Monuments, Vienna (Austria), ICCROM and the US/ICOMOS. The programme foresees also annually a one-week field trip in Slovakia, one-week field trips in Austria and Hungary, and a one-week field trip in some Western European country.

The indicated budget for the courses amounts to US \$ 59,070, which includes organizational costs, personnel, travel

for participants and the publication of material.

National contribution: In kind, US \$ 16,870 (premises, office expenses, etc.); in cash, \$ 16,344 (administrative staff, national consultants, field trip in Slovakia, etc.).

Other contributions (British Council, Austrian Embassy, Royal Dutch Embassy) amount to US \$ 6,826.

Amount requested from the Fund: The amount of US \$ 19,030 is requested from the Fund to be used for international travel of specialists, field trips abroad and a two-day conference.

Action by the Bureau: The Bureau may wish to approve this request for an amount of US \$ 19,030.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION

B.3. The Historic Town of Ouro Preto (Brazil)

Background: The Historic Town of Ouro Preto was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1980. At that time, ICOMOS observed that the town suffers from periodical landslides due to torrential rains. This was confirmed in the 1991 monitoring report which also mentioned urban expansion on the slopes of the surrounding hills which are inappropriate for building purposes. It recommended the preservation of green zones around the town.

The Municipality of Ouro Preto presented through the UNESCO Office in Brasilia a request for World Heritage assistance to undertake a pilot project on one of the slopes which would aim at the relocation of the people now living there and the consolidation of the slope.

Brazil has paid voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund including the 1994 period.

Currently, World Heritage funded activities are being implemented in Salvador de Bahia (technical assistance of US\$ 15,000, approved in 1992), Olinda (technical assistance of US\$ 19,000, approved in 1994) and Ouro Preto (training seminar for site managers of historical towns, approved in 1994).

Description of the request: The request was originally presented as a request for emergency assistance. The Secretariat, however, is of the opinion that this request should be considered under technical assistance.

The Municipality of Ouro Preto, in collaboration with the Federal University of Minas Gerais, has prepared a geological map of Ouro Preto and its surrounding hills identifying the possible areas of occupation and the areas which are absolutely

inappropriate for human settlement. The Municipality is now seeking the ways to liberate the most critical slopes and to consolidate them. A first pilot project will be undertaken on the hill above the Santa Casa de Misericordia. This area was consolidated fifteen years ago by slope reshaping, surface drainage and reforestation. Since then, however, it has been invaded and developed, now posing a threat to the Case de Misericordia and its surroundings. A detailed study has been undertaken for this area and the actual intervention can now take place.

The project will imply the following actions:

Phase 1:

1.1. cleaning and waterproofing of the drainage system	:US\$ 2,333
1.2. reforestation	:US\$ 7,000
1.3. supervision	:US\$ 3,000

Phase 2:

2.1. consolidation of the slopes of the hill	:US\$
10,667	
2.2. construction of five houses for the relocation of the inhabitants	: U S \$
30,000	
2.3. purchase of ground and construction of water system	:US\$ 10,700
2.4. supervision	:US\$ 3,000
TOTAL	US\$ 66,700

National contribution: The request indicates that the national contribution would be of US\$ 16,700 (items 1.3, 2.3 and 2.4).

Amount requested from the Fund: an amount of US\$ 50,000 (items 1.1, 1.2, 2.1 and 2.2 of the above budget).

Action by the Bureau: The Bureau is recommended to approve a maximum amount of US\$ 20,000 for the consolidation of the slopes of the hill above the Casa de Misericordia under the following conditions:

- a) that assurance be given that the construction of five houses (item 2.2. for an amount of US\$ 30,000) will be financed locally/nationally;
- b) that the national authorities endorse the request presented by the municipal authorities.

B.4. Kathmandu Valley (Nepal)

Background: The Kathmandu Valley World Heritage site is composed of seven Monument Zones (Kathmandu Darbar Square, Patan Darbar Square, Bhaktapur Darbar Square, Swayambhu, Baudhdhanath, Pashupati, and Changu Narayan) which together represent the array of historic and artistic achievements of the inhabitants of this Valley. Inscribed on the World Heritage List by decision of the third session of the World Heritage Committee on 26 October 1979, the inscription of this cultural site was approved on the basis of cultural criteria (iii), (iv) and (vi).

Management policies and national legislations to ensure the protection of this World Heritage Site are in the process of being reviewed in view of the increasing encroachment of tourism facilities, other commercial activities and expansion of various physical infrastructure for modern services, posing further challenge to the efforts of the national cultural authorities to maintain the integrity of the large and complex site.

Description of the project: This technical co-operation project is centred on the presence of a resident expert as an International Technical Advisor for a period of 6 months to assist the Department of Archaeology and other concerned authorities to investigate, promote and develop the effective implementation of national legislations and regulations pertaining to the preservation and presentation of the Kathmandu Valley in accordance with the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines. The need for a resident International Technical Advisor (ITA) has been the subject of numerous discussions between representatives of the Nepali Government, UNESCO and ICOMOS, and within the context of the Committee's debate on the possibility of placing the Kathmandu Valley on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The expected outcome upon the termination of the 6-month period would be a written report on the state of conservation, containing: (a) review on the progress of the UNESCO/ICOMOS 16-point recommendations, (b) draft text on further amendments to the national legislations and regulations, as well as the management structure related to the preservation of Kathmandu Valley as a World Heritage Site, (c) a package of draft project documents prepared in either the standard UNDP-format or UNESCO Funds-in-Trust format, addressing activities that may require international co-operation as recommended by the eighteenth session of the Bureau, and (d) a written report on the state of conservation, illustrated by relevant photographs, drawings, maps and other documentation.

The estimated total cost of this 6-month project activities is US\$ 62,500.

National contribution: The national contribution will be for US\$ 10,000 for local expenses.

Amount requested from the Fund: US\$ 52,500 (for consultant fees, daily subsistence allowance, international and local transport, international communications cost, reporting and documentation cost).

Action by the Bureau: The Bureau may wish to recommend the Committee to approve this request for the full amount of US\$ 52,500 in view of the critical state of conservation of this site which has been the focus of considerable debate at the seventeenth session of the Committee as well as the eighteenth session of the Bureau.

B.5. Wieliczka Salt Mine (Poland)

Background: The Wieliczka Salt Mine, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1978, and on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1989, is a massive underground complex, with some 2,000 chambers and 300 km of corridors, from which 7.5 million cubic meters of salt have been removed during 700 years of excavation. Relief carvings in the rock salt walls, life-size sculptures, and well-preserved equipment of mining and medieval times attract as many as 5,000 visitors per day. Annually about 150,000 cub.m. of salt brine is pumped from the site to control ground water intrusion and 20,000 to 30,000 cub.m. of sand slurry are backfilled in lower levels to stabilize the formation. The site's function today is primarily a cultural one; its salt is extracted only as a by-product of the site-conservation activities.

Description of the request: In view of the severe degradation by dissolution of the earliest salt sculptures, due to too much moisture brought in by current air ventilation, the Maria Slodowska-Curie Joint Fund II, under the auspices of the US-Polish Joint Commission, funded in 1992 an environmental monitoring effort to determine the causes of the site's deterioration. In 1993, the World Heritage Fund provided supplementary support for a technical seminar at which United States and Polish experts evaluated the data and prepared recommendations for long-term conservation of the sculptures. As a result, the present request aims at executing the recommended conservation strategy, i.e., to cool and dehumidify air entering the mine during summer, using a commercially available air-conditioning system which would be mounted next to the entrance building.

The estimated cost for equipment, shipping costs and operator training is US\$ 170,000; the installation of the system would cost US\$ 65,000 and the microclimate monitoring US\$ 25,000. Altogether, the estimate amounts to US\$ 260,000.

National contribution: The Polish Government is spending this year approximately 8 million dollars for maintenance and conservation of the mine. The Marie Curie Fund is providing US\$ 70,000 and an additional US\$ 25,000 have been requested from this Fund (for microclimate monitoring of treatment efficacy).

Amount requested from the World Heritage Fund: The amount of US\$ 100,000 is requested from the Fund.

Action by the Bureau: The Bureau may wish to recommend to the Committee the approval of this request for an amount of US\$ 100,000.

B.6 Palmyra (Syrian Arab Republic)

Background: The Syrian Arab Republic has four sites inscribed on the World Heritage List, including the archaeological site of Palmyra, which was inscribed in 1980. Among the numerous outstanding monuments of the Roman era, is an Agora and the Temple of Bel.

1) The Temple of Bel, which measures 210 m x 210 m, is considered as one of the most important structures of mid-eastern antiquity. The central part is well-preserved, as is the general structure and the greater part of its constituent elements, and furthermore there are numerous finely sculpted ornaments of Hellenistic, Egyptian and ancient mid-eastern influence. Although the central part is in relatively good condition, a large part of its walls and outer columns have collapsed.

2) The annex of the Agora is one of the most important monuments of Palmyra. It was the major warehouse for goods which arrived by caravan from all parts of the Antique world, making Palmyra an important commercial centre. The construction measures 100 m x 60 m, and although its west and southern walls as well as three big rows of columns are still well-preserved, the eastern and northern walls collapsed during the 19th century.

The Syrian Arab Republic has already received technical cooperation funding for three requests: Damascus (US\$ 65,190 in 1981 and US\$ 19,500 in 1992); and for Palmyra (US\$15,000 in 1989). Its dues to the World Heritage Fund are paid up.

Description of the project : These requests fall within the framework of the recommendations of the UNESCO expert mission which visited the site in December 1993 and whose main recommendations were presented to the eighteenth session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee in July 1994. They were also discussed and agreed upon during a meeting held at the World Heritage Centre on 1 June 1994 with the Director-General of Antiquities and Museums and the Permanent Delegate of the Syrian Arab Republic to UNESCO.

1) **Temple of Bel:** topographical and architectural studies and recordings must also be carried out, then parts of the outer walls will be raised, especially at the north-west corner of the Temple, and columns will be rebuilt. The work should commence in April 1995 and continue in 1996.

2) **Agora annex:** topographical and architectural studies and recordings must first be carried out, after which restoration of the walls will proceed using fallen stones lying nearby. The work will ensure better conservation of the monument and give it a more complete appearance. Work should commence in April 1995 and finish in October 1996.

Amount requested from the Fund: By correspondence dated 16 and 20 August 1994, the authorities of the Syrian Arab Republic addressed two technical cooperation requests for an amount of **US\$ 90,000** (US\$ 30,000 for the Agora annex, and US\$ 60,000 for the Temple of Bel).

National contribution: The authorities of the Syrian Arab Republic will contribute four million Syrian pounds (approximately US\$ 60,000) for the Agora annex, and the Temple of Bel.

Action by the Bureau: The Bureau may wish to recommend to the Committee:

- (i) to request the relevant authorities to prepare a coherent global conservation programme for the site of Palmyra which suffers from numerous problems and undertake the topographical studies and architectural recordings, so that the funds allocated from the WHFund be solely engaged for the restoration work on the site;
- (ii) approval of an amount of \$60,000 in 1995 for the Temple of Bel and an amount of \$30,000 in 1996 for the Agora annex.