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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION
OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Eighteenth session

Phuket, Thailand

12-17 December 1994

Item 9 of the Provisional Agenda: Monitoring of the State of Conservation of the World Heritage Cultural and Natural Properties:

Addendum to section C: Reports on the State of Conservation of Specific Properties

The working documents for this agenda item, prepared by the Secretariat and the advisory bodies contain **forty-four** reports on the state of conservation of natural and cultural properties on the World Heritage List. In addition, the UNDP/UNESCO Regional Project for Latin America and the Caribbean has prepared state of conservation reports on four sites in Latin America and one site in Mozambique.

In preparing the eighteenth session of the World Heritage Committee, the Bureau at its session on 9 and 10 December 1994, examined these reports and recommends the Committee to examine particularly, at its plenary session, those site reports in response to which an action from the Committee is required.

The list of sites which are recommended for examination by the Committee is attached.

In order to facilitate the work of the Committee, the Bureau has prepared draft texts regarding the remaining state of conservation reports. The Bureau recommends the Committee to adopt the attached texts for inclusion in the Committee's report.

THE BUREAU RECOMMENDS THE COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS ON THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES:

A. NATURAL PROPERTIES

A.1. Natural properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Air-Ténéré Reserve (Niger)

A.2. Natural properties on the World Heritage List

Great Barrier Reef (Australia)

Galapagos National Park (Ecuador)

Keoladeo National Park (India)

Ngorongoro Conservation Area (Tanzania)

Serengeti National Park (Tanzania)

Redwood National Park (United States of America)

Kahuzi-Biega National Park and Virunga National Park (Zaire)

B. CULTURAL PROPERTIES

B.1. Cultural properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Angkor (Cambodia)

Natural and Culturo-historical Region of Kotor (Yugoslavia)

B.2. Cultural properties on the World Heritage List

Memphis and its Necropolis - the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur (Egypt)

Petra (Jordan)

Megalithic Temples (Malta)

Hal Saflieni Hypogeum (Malta)

Kathmandu Valley (Nepal)

Kizhi Pogost (Russian Federation)

The Complex of Hue Monuments (Vietnam)

Pueblo de Taos (United States of America),

as well as the following five properties that have been monitored in the context of the Latin American pilot monitoring programme:

Serra da Capivara (Brazil)

Quirigua (Guatemala)

Ilha de Mozambique (Mozambique)

Lima (Peru)

Rio Abiseo (Peru).

THE BUREAU RECOMMENDS THE COMMITTEE TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TEXT FOR INCLUSION IN ITS REPORT:

Reports on the State of Conservation of Specific Properties

I. INTRODUCTION

The Committee recalled that the World Heritage Committee at its seventeenth session and the Bureau at its eighteenth session examined reports on the state of conservation of seven natural and six cultural properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger and on seventeen natural and fifty-nine cultural properties on the World Heritage List.

The Committee commended the States Parties which had responded to its recommendations or observations and urged the States Parties which had not done this, to do so. In this context, the Committee emphasized that, according to the Operational Guidelines, one of the essential functions of the Committee is to monitor the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and that a continuous communication between the Committee and the States Parties regarding the state of conservation of the World Heritage sites is indispensable in this respect.

The Committee examined the state of conservation reports prepared by the secretariat and the advisory bodies and concluded the following:

II. Natural Heritage

II.1. Natural Properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Srebarna Nature Reserve (Bulgaria)

The Committee was informed that the Secretariat is continuously in contact with the Bulgarian authorities, which presented a

report on their restoration efforts at the last session of the Bureau and have recently updated this report.

The Committee confirmed the decision of the Bureau at its eighteenth session that a detailed report on conservation measures should be presented to the nineteenth session of the Bureau in 1995. The Committee decided to retain this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Plitvice Lakes National Park (Croatia)

The site was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1992. Missions to the site were carried out in 1992 and 1993. Given the fact that there has been a recent outbreak in fighting in the Bihac region, the situation remains critical. The Committee decided, therefore, that another fact-finding mission to this area, particularly to the Korkaova Uvala Virgin forest should take place. The Committee decided to retain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Sangay National Park (Ecuador)

The site was inscribed in 1983 and added to the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1992 due to threats from poachers, boundary encroachment and unplanned road construction. The situation at the site was discussed between a representative of the president of Ecuador and World Heritage Centre staff and the Committee's continuous concerns were brought to the attention of the Government of Ecuador.

The Committee decided to retain this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger and that another fact-finding mission should be carried out.

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

The site was included on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1992 because of a proposed iron-ore mining project and threats due to the arrival of a large number of refugees. An expert mission was undertaken in 1993 and proposals to revise the boundaries of the site were endorsed by the seventeenth session of the Committee in 1993. An international assistance project under the World Heritage Fund was carried out in 1994. The Committee was informed that the French Ministry of the Environment in cooperation with IUCN France is carrying out a study and review of the site with regard to potential future investment. A report on this project is expected in due course.

The Committee decided to retain this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger and requested that the Bureau at its nineteenth session be informed of the results of the French mission.

Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India)

At its eighteenth session, the World Heritage Bureau took note of the response by the Indian Government concerning Manas Wildlife Sanctuary which was inscribed on the List of World Heritage In Danger in 1992.

The Committee was informed that the Secretariat received a report on the conditions of the site from WWF-India. The report emphasises the critical situation in the area. Furthermore, the Government of India has indicated its interest in a joint mission to the site by World Heritage Centre staff and local NGO's.

The Committee commended the Indian authorities on this initiative and recommended that this mission be undertaken when conditions in the area are sufficiently stable. The Committee decided to retain Manas Wildlife Sanctuary on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Everglades National Park (United States of America)

The site was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1993 due to an increasing number of threats since the date of its inscription on the List in 1979. The Government is providing significant financial support for the management of the site and for its long-term restoration in the order of hundreds of millions of dollars. The American authorities had prepared a report for the eighteenth session of the Committee.

The Committee decided to retain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

II.2. Natural Properties on the World Heritage List

Shark Bay (Australia)

The Committee recalled that at the time of inscription of this site it requested IUCN to report back on the progress with respect to (1) implementation of the Commonwealth/State management agreement and (2) efforts to achieve more effective conservation of the site.

As the Government of Australia had assured that the October 1990 agreement was to provide the management framework for this site, the Committee was concerned that most of the provisions of the agreement have not been operationalised. Therefore, the Centre wrote to the Australian authorities requesting positive and concrete action, and was informed by the national authorities that a copy of the new agreement would be available by early December. A report from the Australian authorities is anticipated shortly.

Willandra Lakes Region (Australia)

The Committee was informed of IUCN's field evaluation report on the state of conservation of this property. It requested the Australian authorities to review the boundaries of the site to exclude areas which no longer held World Heritage values and to continue their recent progress in improving the management of the site.

Mount Athos (Greece)

A report prepared by WWF and Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople (EPC) has pointed out that the ecology of this site is being impacted by overgrazing, chemical pollution and forestry activities. In early December the World Heritage Centre received a letter from the Greek authorities outlining the measures which are being implemented to address these concerns. The Committee requested that a field review together with the appropriate Greek authorities be carried out to evaluate these conflicting reports.

Banc d'Arguin National Park (Mauritania)

The Committee recalled that IUCN reported to the Bureau at its eighteenth session on a planned capture operation of six monk seals from the sea population of the park. Subsequently, the Centre was informed by the French Ministry for the Environment that the experiment was carefully planned and coordinated with IUCN's Species Survival Commission and that the capture operation and breeding experiment is under the direction of the "Comité scientifique international pour le suivi du programme français de sauvegarde du phoque moine".

The Committee took note of the above information.

Te Wahipounama (New Zealand)

In July 1994 the Bureau was advised of threats to the integrity of this site arising from cattle grazing in some parts of the Park and the impact of potential logging operations in Maori-owned coastal forests immediately adjacent to the Park. As requested by the Bureau, the New Zealand authorities have submitted a report outlining measures being implemented for mitigating these threats. IUCN has expressed satisfaction with these measures and no further action is required at the present time.

Mosi-oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls (Zambia and Zimbabwe)

The World Heritage Centre was informed by letter of 5 August 1994 from the National Heritage Conservation Commission of Zambia

that the proposal to build the Batoka Dam was dropped. The Batoka Gorge Hydro Electric Scheme would have had a major environmental impact on the World Heritage site and would have flooded the Batoka Gorge of the Zambezi River, a two million year old unique geological and geomorphological formation.

The Committee commended the Government of Zambia on the decisions taken to ensure the integrity of this World Heritage site.

Mana Pools, Sapi and Chewore Reserves (Zimbabwe)

The Committee regretted that with the relocation of the ten remaining rhinos from this Park to an intensive protection zone, this World Heritage site has lost one of its "flagship" species. The Committee urged the Centre that in order to protect populations of similar species in other World Heritage sites, it should expand its cooperation with IUCN's Species Survival Commission and the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species (CITES).

III. Natural and Cultural Heritage (mixed sites)

Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru)

The Committee was informed on proposed helicopter flights from Cusco to the village of Aguas Calientes, which is only two kilometers from the ruins of Machu Picchu, authorization of which would be subject to the approval of an environmental impact study by the National Institute for Natural Resources (INRENA). IUCN informed that it was finalizing the examination of the impact study and that it will transmit its recommendations to the Secretariat as soon as these are available.

The Committee requested that the Bureau at its forthcoming nineteenth session be informed of the outcome of IUCN's observations.

IV. Cultural Heritage

IV.1. Cultural Properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Palace of Abomey (Benin)

The Committee commended the Government of Benin and ICCROM for the activities undertaken since 1992 in training in preventive conservation and for the project for the conservation and enhancement of the Royal Palaces of Abomey which is foreseen for 1994-1996 in collaboration with ICCROM and the Government of Italy. The Committee decided to retain this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger and requested the Secretariat to ensure

that a monitoring mission be undertaken to Abomey to evaluate the state of conservation of the eleven palaces that have not yet been subject to restoration and to report on it to the Bureau at its nineteenth session.

Dubrovnik (Croatia)

The Committee was informed that the restoration of what is called the fifth facade of the city -the roofs- was almost completed and that there remained but a few insulae awaiting repairs, and that important progress had been made in the restoration of several of the most important monuments of the city.

The Committee commended the Government of Croatia and UNESCO on the progress made in the conservation and restoration of Dubrovnik. It noted, however, that after the priority needs had been taken care of, other works such as the restoration of nine destroyed palaces and details of Franciscan and Dominican cloisters needed to be undertaken. The Committee decided, therefore, to retain this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Timbuktu (Mali)

The Committee was informed that the Government of Mali had fully endorsed the recommendations of a UNESCO mission that was undertaken in early 1994 and which recommended a method of intervention involving the local population which, since the construction of the mosques, had been responsible for their upkeep, thus perpetuating a living religious cultural tradition. The Committee also endorsed this proposal and decided that it would support its implementation, if and when requested by the State Party. The Committee decided to retain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Bahla Fort (Oman)

The Committee recalled that it was informed during its seventeenth session, that intensive restoration works were being undertaken at this site and that it appeared probable that the nature of the material used for the restoration work, the rapidity with which the work was being carried out and the methods used could raise a certain number of questions with regard to conserving the authenticity of the monument. The Committee was informed that, the Director of the World Heritage Centre, at the invitation of the Government of Oman, undertook a mission to Oman in March 1994 at which he was able to examine the progress of restoration work underway. Following this mission it was agreed with the national authorities that an expert mission would take place from 10 to 19 December 1994.

The Committee decided to retain this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger and requested that the results of this mission

be presented to the nineteenth session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee in 1995.

Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru)

The Committee welcomed the initiative of the Government of Peru to organise in October 1995, in collaboration with ICCROM and CRATERre, a regional course on the conservation of adobe parallel to which the participants and international experts would also evaluate the past conservation practices and experiences in Chan Chan and define new conservation policies for this site. The Committee requested the authorities to submit the results of the course and the assessment of the conservation policies and practices to the Secretariat so that recommendations for future actions can be presented at the next session of the Committee. It decided that this site be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Wieliczka Salt Mine (Poland)

The Committee took note of the long-term conservation strategy that had been developed for this site, which included a project for ventilation and dehumidification. The Committee encouraged the Polish authorities to implement this long-term conservation strategy and requested to be kept informed on its implementation. It decided that this site be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Natural and Culturo-historical Region of Kotor (Yugoslavia)

IV.2. Cultural Properties on the World Heritage List

Medieval City of Rhodes (Greece)

The Committee requested the Greek authorities for precise information on the legal protection of the Medieval City as well as to define a legal framework for the main principles guiding the restoration of the buildings of the Medieval City of Rhodes.

Kremlin and Red Square (Russian Federation)

The Committee was informed that the Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of the Russian Federation to UNESCO informed the Director-General of UNESCO of a project concerning the possible erection of a monument in honour of Marshal G. Zoukhov on the Red Square. The Director-General, in a letter to the mayor of Moscow dated 2 December 1994, underlined that the responsibility for protecting a cultural property lies with the State Party concerned, which should conserve it and avoid taking any measures that would damage it. The Director-General suggested in his

letter that another appropriate location be sought for the monument and requested that UNESCO be consulted prior to undertaking any proposed work on the Red Square and the Kremlin. The Committee fully endorsed this position and requested to be kept informed on any development in this World Heritage site.

Burgos Cathedral (Spain)

The Committee recalled that the Bureau at its eighteenth session congratulated the various Spanish organizations involved in the actions taken for the conservation of Burgos Cathedral and that it, at the same time, expressed a desire to see those components of the total project which were still under negotiation put into effect with the minimum delay.

The Committee noted that in August 1994, a statue fell off the façade of the cathedral and requested ICOMOS to continue to monitor the state of conservation of the cathedral and to report its findings to the nineteenth session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee.

Historic Areas of Istanbul (Turkey)

The Committee was informed that problems with the project's financing had caused some delays in the restoration of the mosaics and that UNESCO's experts present on the site had expressed their regret to the authorities responsible for the work that, in spite of their recommendations, the metallic covering of the Hagia Sophia was executed with a material which was too thin and therefore fragile.

Furthermore, it was informed that, according to the UNESCO experts on site, reconstruction of long portions of the Roman and Byzantine walls was being undertaken using new stones without taking account of the advice of archaeologists and art historians.

The Committee recommended to the Turkish authorities to take the necessary steps to speed up the transfer of funds approved under the World Heritage Fund for the restoration of the mosaics in the Hagia Sophia to those responsible for its conservation.

The Committee also requested that the Turkish authorities immediately stop the reconstruction of the Roman and Byzantine walls, and that they undertake their restoration, in accordance with principles accepted by the international community, and in collaboration with the Turkish antiquities services.

Xanthos-Letoon (Turkey)

In the framework of the UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan, the Coordinator of the Programme "100 Historical Sites of the Mediterranean" carried out a mission to Turkey at the request of the World Heritage Centre.

Having taken note of the extensive and detailed report, which the Committee requested to be made available to the Turkish authorities, the Committee recommended the Turkish authorities:

- to transmit to the World Heritage Centre the Protection Plan for the Development of the Patra/Xanthos/Letoon site, which should have been ready in 1992;
- to implement the measures for the diversion of traffic on the roads crossing the sites of Xanthos and Letoon;
- to review the construction of the superstructure of the television relay installed at the summit of the Xanthos Acropolis.

City of Valetta (Malta)

The Committee was informed that in the framework of UNDP's Action Plan for the Mediterranean, the Programme Coordinator for "100 Historical Sites of the Mediterranean" carried out a mission to Malta at the request of the World Heritage Centre. The Committee took note of the report and endorsed the mission's recommendations that, faced with the accelerated degradation affecting the historical buildings of Valetta, the authorities of Malta should take appropriate urgent measures so that:

- the team of the Valetta Rehabilitation Project acquires legal recognition and may call upon a Works Division for the maintenance and restoration of the historical buildings of Valetta;
- the Bill on the protection of Valetta can be finalized as soon as possible in an appropriate form, in keeping with the obligations for inscription on the World Heritage List;
- a regulation on the signs, billboards and commercial storefronts can be better formulated and applied by the competent authorities, in order to preserve the characteristics of the historical buildings of Valetta.

Puebla (Mexico)

The Committee recalled that a rehabilitation plan for a part of the World Heritage site of Puebla, the Rio de San Francisco area, was briefly discussed at its seventeenth session and that more detailed information was provided at the eighteenth session of the Bureau on the basis of a report from the Mexican National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) and the report of a UNESCO expert in urban rehabilitation and conservation who visited Puebla in June 1994.

The Committee was informed that following the eighteenth session of the Bureau and on the request of the Government of Mexico, the same expert had undertaken a series of missions to Puebla to advise the authorities in the preparation of the urban development plan for the Rio de San Francisco area. The Committee commended the authorities of Mexico, the State of Puebla and the Municipality of Puebla on their positive response to the expert's advice, and invited them to report on a regular basis to the Secretariat on the further development of this project.

Following the examination of the state of conservation reports, the Committee adopted the following proposals for the monitoring and reporting on the state of conservation of individual World Heritage properties in 1995 and invited the Secretariat to ensure their implementation:

- The highest priority will be given to the monitoring of and reporting on sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger.
- The Secretariat will again report to the Bureau at its nineteenth session in 1995 on the state of conservation of all sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger with an assessment of the appropriateness of their continued inclusion in this List.
- The Secretariat, in collaboration with the advisory bodies, will continue to undertake reactive monitoring whenever deemed necessary.