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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**

**Twenty-first session**  
**UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, Room X (Fontenoy)**

**23-28 June 1997**

**Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda: Examination of the report of the Committee on its activities during the period 1996-1997 to be submitted to the twenty-ninth session of the General Conference of UNESCO**

**SUMMARY**

In accordance with Article 29.3 of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage shall submit "a report on its activities at each of the ordinary sessions of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization".

Therefore, the Secretariat has prepared the report and submits it in this document for examination and approval by the Bureau.

It will then be submitted to the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention and to the twenty-ninth session of the General Conference of UNESCO.

Item ..... of the Provisional Agenda

**REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR  
THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL  
HERITAGE ON ITS ACTIVITIES (1996-1997)**

**SUMMARY**

The Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage was established by the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by the General Conference at its seventeenth session, on 16 November 1972.

This report is submitted to the General Conference by the above-mentioned Committee in accordance with Article 29.3 of the Convention, which stipulates that "the Committee shall submit a report on its activities at each of the ordinary sessions of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization".

## I. COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

1. The number of States Parties having deposited an instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession in respect of the World Heritage Convention was 143 at the beginning of the tenth General Assembly, which met during the twenty-eight session of the General Conference of UNESCO (Paris, 1995). On 18 March 1997, the number of States Parties had increased to 148. The List of States Parties is available upon request.

2. At its tenth session, the General Assembly elected **seven** members of the Committee to replace those members whose terms of office are due to expire. The World Heritage Committee is composed at present as follows:

Australia\*\*\*<sup>1</sup>, Benin\*\*\*, Brazil\*\*, Canada\*\*\*, China\*, Cyprus\*, Cuba\*\*\*, Egypt\*, Ecuador\*\*\*, France\*\*, Germany\*, Italy\*\*, Japan\*\*, Lebanon\*\*, Malta\*\*\*, Morocco\*\*\*, Mexico\*, Niger\*\*, Philippines\*, Spain\*, United States of America\*\*.

3. Since the previous report, submitted to the General Conference during its twenty-eighth session (Document 28C/98), the Committee met twice: the first time at the invitation of the German authorities from 4 to 9 December 1995 in Berlin (Germany), and the second, at the invitation of the Mexican authorities, in Merida, (Mexico), from 2 to 7 December 1996.

4. The Bureau of the Committee met twice in 1996. In 1997, the first meeting was held in June and the second will be held in November. It is composed as follows:

### **From December 1995 to December 1996:**

Chairperson: H.E. Dr Horst Winkelmann (Germany)  
 Vice-Chairpersons: Australia, Italy, Japan, Lebanon and Mexico  
 Rapporteur: H.E. Mr Lambert Messan (Niger)

### **Since December 1996:**

Chairperson: Ms Teresa France (Mexico)  
 Vice-Chairpersons: Australia, Germany, Italy, Japan and Morocco  
 Rapporteur: H.E. Mr Lambert Messan (Niger)

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<sup>1</sup> \* States whose terms of office will expire at the end of the twenty-ninth session of the General Conference.

\*\* States whose terms of office will expire at the end of the thirtieth session of the General Conference.

\*\*\* States whose terms of office will expire at the end of the thirty-first session on the General Conference.

5. The World Heritage Committee, hereinafter referred to as "the Committee", has four essential functions:

- (i) to identify, on the basis of nominations submitted by States Parties, cultural and natural properties of outstanding universal value which are to be protected under the Convention, and to list these properties on the "World Heritage List" (Sections I and II of the Document);
- (ii) to monitor, in liaison with the States Parties, the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List (Section IV);
- (iii) to decide which properties inscribed on the World Heritage List are to be included in the List of World Heritage in Danger (Section IV); and
- (iv) to determine the most appropriate ways and conditions under which the resources of the World Heritage Fund can be used to assist States Parties, as far as possible, in the protection of their properties of outstanding universal value (Sections V and VI).

The Secretariat of the World Heritage Committee is provided by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

## II. THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

6. On the basis of nominations put forward by States Parties in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention, the World Heritage Committee has, since its last report to the General Conference, decided to add **66** new inscriptions to the World Heritage List. It should be noted that some of these properties consist of several monuments or sites. As of 1 January 1997 the total number of inscriptions to the World Heritage List numbered **506**, distributed as follows: **380** cultural properties or sites, **107** natural sites and **19** mixed sites, the list of which is available upon request.

7. In drawing up the World Heritage List, the Committee has been guided by the need to ensure, as far as possible, the representative nature of the List for all cultural and natural properties which meet the requirements of outstanding universal value stipulated by the Convention and satisfy the criteria adopted by the Committee for the evaluation of cultural and natural properties; these criteria are set out in the document "Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention" (Document WHC/97/2, February 1997). The Committee has evaluated each nomination in terms of these criteria, and in doing so taken note of the comments of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) or the World Conservation Union (IUCN), which, together with the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and the Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), attend the meetings of the Committee in an advisory capacity.

8. In view of the increasing number of nominations from States Parties, it is highly desirable that **tentative lists** be drawn up of properties which may be nominated for inclusion on the World Heritage List, as provided for in Article 11 of the Convention. ICOMOS, which at the request of the Committee, must examine all cultural nominations in the light of comparative studies, needs to have the tentative lists drawn

up by the States Parties concerned in order to evaluate new cultural nominations. For IUCN which, in 1982, published an inventory of the world's greatest natural areas, such tentative lists are useful for improving and updating the world inventory. Henceforth, the tentative lists, both cultural and natural, will be brought to the attention of the Bureau and Committee members on a regular basis. As of 1 December 1996, 72 States had submitted tentative list of cultural properties.

### **III. GLOBAL STRATEGY**

9. In December 1994, the Committee adopted the Global Strategy to improve the representivity of the World Heritage List. In 1996, a subregional meeting was organized for Africa, more precisely for those under-represented on the List (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 1996). This meeting and the one held in Harare (Zimbabwe) in October 1995, which preceded it, brought together experts from 21 States Parties or States not yet party of the Convention. Amongst the latter, six States have announced their intention to initiate the ratification process. Two high-level bilingual scientific publications, which were widely diffused in Africa, resulted from these meetings.

10. The third sub-regional meeting in 1997 focuses on the Pacific region, which at the present time comprises very few States Parties to the Convention. A scientific publication will be produced and distributed.

11. At the request of the World Heritage Committee a Global Strategy for the natural part was initiated in 1996. The results of the Expert Meeting on the "Evaluation of general principles and criteria for nominations of natural World Heritage sites (Parc National de la Vanoise, March 1996) were distributed to all States Parties to the Convention. A second meeting for the implementation of this Global Strategy (natural) focused on geological and fossil sites held during the International Geological Congress (Beijing, August 1996). Furthermore, activities were undertaken regarding European cultural landscapes, such as the organization of an expert meeting in Vienna (Austria) in April 1996, and the establishment of cooperation with the Council of Europe to examine complementarity between the European Convention on Landscapes and the World Heritage Convention.

12. Two meetings on cultural landscapes are foreseen in Latin America and in Africa in 1997/1998, and one on cultural heritage in the Caribbean region in April 1998.

13. All these meetings have been and will continue to be organized in close cooperation with ICOMOS. IUCN has been associated in 1997 in encouraging the study of interaction of cultural and natural heritage in many so-called "traditional" societies.

### **IV. STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST**

14. The World Heritage Committee, in reviewing the implementation of the World Heritage Convention on the occasion of its twentieth anniversary in 1992, recognized monitoring and reporting on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List as an essential function. Making a distinction between systematic and reactive monitoring, the Committee allocated amounts of US\$ 200,000 in 1996 and

US\$ 245,000 in

1997 for support to States Parties for systematic monitoring and reporting activities, and amounts of US\$ 60,000 (1996) and US\$ 80,000 (1997) for reactive monitoring.

### **Systematic monitoring and reporting**

15. The Committee adopted in December 1994 procedures for systematic monitoring and reporting and invited States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Committee, every five years, a scientific report on the state of conservation of the World Heritage properties on their territories.

16. However, the Tenth General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, held in 1995, did not reach a conclusion and decided '*to continue the debate on the systematic monitoring and reporting on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties at the Eleventh General Assembly of States Parties that will be held in 1997*'.

17. As requested by the Tenth General Assembly of States Parties, the Committee prepared a report and a draft resolution on monitoring and reporting for examination by the Eleventh General Assembly, which are based on the following principles:

- i) monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage properties is the responsibility of the State Party concerned and is part of the site management;
- ii) the commitment of the States Parties to provide regular reports on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties is consistent with the principles of the World Heritage Convention and should be part of a continuous process of collaboration between the States Parties and the World Heritage Committee;
- iii) regular reports may be submitted in accordance with Article 29 of the Convention. The General Conference of UNESCO should be asked to activate Article 29 of the Convention and to entrust the World Heritage Committee with the responsibility to respond to these reports;
- iv) the World Heritage Committee should define the form, nature and extent of the regular reporting in respect of the principles of State sovereignty.

18. Following the decision making of the Eleventh General Assembly, the World Heritage Committee will submit a Draft Resolution to the General Conference regarding the application of Article 29 of the World Heritage Convention.

### **Reactive monitoring**

19. In 1996-1997, reports on the state of conservation of all properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger were submitted to the Committee and its Bureau. No property inscribed on this List was removed.

20. Twenty-one properties are at present inscribed on the List of World Heritage in

Danger (see Annex II); special attention, as well as financial considerations, are accorded to them by the Committee. Since its nineteenth session (Berlin, December 1995), the World Heritage Committee has inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger the following sites : Yellowstone National Park (United States of America), Simen National Park (Ethiopia), Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras), Ichkeul National Park (Tunisia) and Garamba National Park (Zaire).

21. Furthermore, each year, the Committee and its Bureau have examined annually more than fifty reports on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties and made specific recommendations to the States Parties for corrective or preventive measures.

22. The 1996-97 biennium saw States Parties to the Convention become increasingly active in undertaking systematic monitoring of World Heritage sites and elaborating state of conservation reports. In the case of natural heritage sites, regional and sub-regional meetings were convened for synthesising state of conservation reports on individual sites in: Queensland, Australia for Southeast Asia and the Pacific (April, 1996); New Delhi, India for South Asia (January, 1997); Morocco for the Arab Region (May, 1997); and Santa Marta, Colombia for the Latin American Region (May, 1997). In Africa similar meetings were held at the country level in Uganda (February, 1996) and Guinea (May, 1996), and at the subregional level for Central and West Africa, in Cote d'Ivoire (June, 1996), and for Francophone Africa, in Niger (October, 1996).

23. A good example of regional cooperation in this field is that of the Nordic States. In accordance with the Environmental strategy for 1996-2000 which it has promoted, the Nordic Council of Ministers produced in November 1996 a report on the "Nordic World Heritage", evaluating the Nordic region representation in the World Heritage List.

## V. THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND

### (i) Contributions

24. As at 31 March 1997, contributions received from States Parties for the period **1996-1997** amounted to US\$ <sup>2</sup>xxxxxxxxxx, of which US\$ xxxxxxxxxxxx were mandatory contributions and US\$ xxxxxxxxxxxx voluntary contributions. Mandatory contributions still receivable for 1996-1997 amount to US\$ xxxxxxxxxxxx and to US\$ xxxxxxxxxxxx, if account is taken of the total of unpaid contributions for the years 1996-1997 and the previous years. There is a bank deposit of US\$ xxxxxxxxxxxx as at 31 March 1997. It is recalled that paragraph 4 of Article 16 of the World Heritage Convention stipulates that voluntary contributions shall be paid on a regular basis at least **every two** years, and should not be less than the contributions which they should have paid if they had been bound by the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article.

25. The budgets approved by the World Heritage Committee respectively for its nineteenth (Berlin, December 1995) and twentieth (Merida, December 1996) sessions for 1996 and 1997 are as follows:

<u>Details</u>	<u>1996 (US\$)</u>	<u>1997 (US\$)</u>
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<sup>2</sup> The missing figures are not available for the moment. They will be provided at a later date.

-	World Heritage Fund	3,000,000	3,500,000
-	Emergency Reserve Fund	500,000	500,000

(ii) **Assistance to States Parties**

26. From 1 January 1996 to 1 May 1997, various types of international assistance have been provided to States Parties from the World Heritage Fund.

(a) **Preparatory assistance:** At its nineteenth and twentieth sessions, the World Heritage Committee, granted respectively preparatory assistance of **US\$ 175,000** for 1996 and **US\$ 300,000** for 1997. Assistance for the preparation of tentative lists of properties suitable for inclusion on the World Heritage List, the preparation of nomination dossiers or projects was provided to the following States Parties:

**1996-1997**

Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guyana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Latvia, Malta, Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Tanzania, Uruguay, Zimbabwe.

(b) **Training:** At its nineteenth and twentieth sessions, the World Heritage Committee granted respectively for 1996 **US\$ 550,000** and for 1997 **US\$ 745,000** for training activities. The Committee continued to give priority to group training rather than individual fellowships.

27. The following training activities were approved, by the Committee for amounts above US\$ 30,000, by the Bureau for amounts between US\$ 20,000 and 30,000, and by the Chairperson of the Committee for amounts below US\$ 20,000.

**Cultural Heritage**

	US\$
- Interregional Postgraduate Course for Conservation of Monuments and Rehabilitation of Historic Cities CECRE, Salvador de Bahia (Brazil)	65,000
- Central America: Training Seminar for Managers of Archaeological Sites (Honduras)	35,000
- Regional training course for the Conservation and Protection of Cultural Monuments and Sites for architects of the Maghreb (Tunisia)	36,000
- Regional training course for Integrated Urban and Territorial Conservation (third year) - CUTI/BR (Brazil)	40,000
- Pilot project for the Conservation of James Island (Gambia)	10,000
- Seminar on the Conservation of movable properties in sub-Saharan Africa (ICCRUM)	30,000
- Training course for an Integrated Approach to Urban Conservation (ICCRUM)	40,000
- Training seminars - Director of programmes for World Heritage Conservation (Argentina)	20,000

- International Study and Conservation Project for Tumulat (Egypt)	20,000
- Regional course on the financial and institutional capacities for the Urban Renovation of Historic Cities (Cuba)	30,000
- Regional course for Latin America and the Caribbean on the Scientific Conservation Principles (ICCRUM)	30,000
- Regional training workshop in Tbilissi and Signagi on the importance of Vernacular Architecture and Conservation Problems (Georgia)	27,500
- Training workshop for responsables in charge of Urban Management in Historic Cities of China (China)	25,000
- James Island and Albreda, Juffure, San Domingo, Prehistoric Circle of Stones (Gambia)	10,000
- Training of Algerian architects for the Kasbah of Algiers (Algeria)	8,700
- Documentation and recording of 7 zones of monuments in Kathmandu Valley (Nepal)	14,000
- Training course by the Old Town Renewal Trust of Edinburgh for Vilnius (Lithuania)	8,630
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>449,830</b>

**Natural Heritage**

**US\$**

- Regional training course on Habitats of Wet Tropics Keoladeo National Park (India)	30,000
- First Asia CNPPA meeting in Jakarta (Indonesia)	15,000
- Training of the local population for the Protection and Conservation of Lake Malawi (Malawi)	4,850
- Regional Scientific Conference on Monts Rwenzori (Uganda)	12,249
- Training on the Use of Economic Tools for Site Management (Slovakia)	9,860
- 19th International Course on Protected Areas (CATIE) (Costa Rica)	30,000
- Two-year Individual fellowships at the Training School for Wildlife Specialists at Garoua (Cameroon)	45,000
- Training fellowships (3) for the College of African Wildlife Management (Tanzania)	30,000
- Training fellowships at Mackay, Queensland, Australia (Indonesia)	17,000
- Three training fellowships at Colorado University, USA (Regional)	16,050
- Training Course, ENGREF - Cameroon (Regional)	19,000
- Seminar for Site Managers at Santa Marta (Colombia) (Regional)	19,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>248,009</b>

28. Furthermore, the Committee approved the preparation by ICOMOS of guidelines for the provision and preparation of risks at cultural World Heritage sites (US\$ 30,000) and decided to contribute an amount of US\$ 25,000 with ICCROM to a technical assistance programme, including documentation and small-scale equipment/material for the conservation and management of sites. The Committee also approved an amount of US\$ 20,000 to complete the training strategy for cultural heritage, in close collaboration with ICCROM. With IUCN, the Committee decided to contribute an amount of US\$ 15,000 to the IUCN World Congress which was held in Montreal (Canada, in 1996). Finally, an amount of US\$ 50,000 was also approved for the production of video films on the World Heritage Convention for training purposes.

(c) **Technical cooperation :** At its nineteenth and twentieth sessions, the World Heritage Committee approved respectively, a budget of **US\$ 685,000** for 1996 and **US\$ 900,000** for 1997. The following requests submitted by States Parties for the period 1996-1997 were approved by the Committee in the framework of this budget.

29. As at 1 May 1997, the following projects have been approved by the Committee for amounts above US\$ 30,000, by the Bureau for amounts between US\$ 20,000 and 30,000 and by the Chairperson of the Committee for amounts below US\$ 20,000.

**For 1996**

	<b>\$US</b>
- Training architects for the Safeguarding of the Kasbah of Algiers (Algeria)	18,900
- Management and Conservation Plan for the Archaeological Park of San Agustin (Colombia)	10,400
- Preparation of technical studies for the restoration of the roof of Santo Domingo, Quito (Ecuador)	20,000
- Flood Control Project at Petra (Jordan)	32,500
- Integrated conservation project, Ile du Mozambique (Mozambique)	19,900
- Conservation of Salt Sculptures of Wieliczka Salt Mine (Poland)	100,000
- Equipment for Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Zaire)	2,450
- Conservation of Spisky Hrad (Slovakia)	23,333
- Restoration of the Baths, S. Bosra (Syria)	20,000
- Reinforcing management at the Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Guinea/Côte d'Ivoire)	18,000
- Transport and communication equipment for Rwenzori National Park (Uganda)	20,000
- Surveillance vehicle for Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Zaire)	
30,000	
- Equipment for excavation work at Mankhor, Tassili n'Ajjer (Algeria)	16,000
- Preparation of Guidelines for the Management Planning of the Megellan Peninsula as buffer zone of the Los Glaciares National Park (Argentina)	11,012

-	Water resources development project for the buffer zone of Ujong Kulon National Park (Indonesia)	40,000
-	Purchase of a boat for Komodo National Park (Indonesia)	30,000
-	Biological inventory and management plan for the Lake Malawi National Park (Malawi)	30,000
-	Preparation of a strategy for the Jesuit Missions of the Chiquitos (Bolivia)	30,000
-	Equipment to improve security at the Museum site of the Chengde Temples (China)	34,150
-	Thracian tomb of Kazanlak, Madara Rider, Boyana Church Rock-hewn Churches of Ivanovo, Rila Monastery, Ancient City of Nessebar, Thracian tomb of Sveshtari (Bulgaria)	30,000
-	Islamic Cairo, restoration of a monument (Egypt)	30,000
-	Timbuktu mosques - List of World Heritage in Danger (Mali)	40,000
-	Tourism Impact Study on the Historic Centre of Mompox (Colombia)	30,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>636,645</b>

**For 1997 (up to 1 May)**

**US\$**

-	Conservation strategy and preparation of a management plan for the Biosphere Reserve of Rio Platano (Honduras)	30,000
-	Technical Workshop on the Conservation of Simen National Park (Ethiopia)	30,000
-	Establishment of a Project Office in the Historic Centre of Olinda (Brazil)	33,000
-	Conservation of traditional houses, Luang Prabang (Laos)	39,900
-	Documentation, studies and inventory of rock-art paintings, Serra de Capivara National Park (Brazil)	35,000
-	International Seminar on Conservation and Management of Joya de Ceren (El Salvador)	10,000
-	Assistance for the organization of the Third General Assembly of the of World Heritage Cities Organization Evora (Portugal)	30,000
-	Logistic support for the renovation programme for the Old City of Vilnius (Lithuania)	25,000
-	Studies and restoration programmes for Lalibela, Fasil Ghebi, Lower Valley of the Awash, Tiya, Aksum and Lower Valley of the Omo	27,500
-	Technical assistance for Vlkolinec (Slovakia)	10,000
-	Establishment of construction standards for Hué (Vietnam)	12,500
-	City-Museum Reserve of Mtskheta (Georgia)	16,500
-	Restoration of the monument Al-Sinnari, Islamic Cairo	20,000

(Egypt)	
- Regional Conference on Universities and World Heritage Cities (Canada)	10,000
- Acquisition of school equipment for Tetouan (Morocco)	20,000

**TOTAL 349,400**

(d) **Emergency assistance** : Thanks to an emergency reserve fund of five hundred thousand dollars in 1996, established from reserves of the World Heritage Fund and maintained at the same level in 1997, several rapid interventions have made it possible to contribute and respond to emergency requests, for both the cultural and the natural heritage.

30. Assistance for work relating to cultural and natural properties inscribed or suitable for inscription of the World Heritage List and which have undergone or are threatened by serious damage due to unpredictable and sudden phenomena, was provided for the period 1 January 1996 to 1 May, for the following properties:

	US\$
- Consolidation of Teatro Sucre of Quito (Ecuador)	65,000
- Consolidation of structures of the Casa de Guaimaro	
46,000	
Valley des los Ingenios (Trinidad)	
- Emergency assistance for the Archaeological site of Joya de Ceren (El Salvador)	20,000
- Fire damage at the Eglise de la Compagnie de Jesus (Ecuador)	40,000
- Historic City of Lijiang, earthquake damage (China)	40,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>211,000</b>

31. Finally, during its twentieth session, the World Heritage Committee unanimously requested that at the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the World Heritage Convention and the fifth year of functioning of the World Heritage Centre, there be an external evaluation of the functioning of the Centre. This financial and management evaluation should provide the Organization and the Committee with indications for the improvement of procedures for the implementation of the Convention.

## **VI. PROMOTION AND EDUCATION**

32. Public awareness building being fundamental to the transmission of values and knowledge, and sense of individual responsibility for the protection of World Heritage, as clearly indicated in the World Heritage Convention, information and promotional activities over the past two years have focused on the dissemination of World Heritage information to as wide a sector of the general public as possible. Partnership with public

and private TV companies and publishing houses have been established for the production of documentary film series, numerous photographic books and a 13-volume encyclopedia on World Heritage, among other media products. A World Heritage Information Network (WHIN) has been built on the Internet through UNESCO's web site during this biennium. The WHIN links over 400 providers of information about World Heritage and World Heritage sites. Receiving well over 40,000 queries a month, the WHIN has proven to be an essential public information and education tool.

33. In addition to its dissemination through Internet, the World Heritage Newsletter is widely distributed in paper form to those countries and regions which do not have access to Internet. The World Heritage Review, a quarterly magazine richly illustrated with photographs is published in co-operation with a Spanish publisher in Spanish, French and English versions.

34. Photographic exhibitions, as well as special regional and thematic publications have also been widely diffused during this period. The ever-increasing public information requests and opportunities for partnership with media partners indicate the growing importance of World Heritage in contemporary society and to future generations.

35. Initiated in 1995 with the Bergen World Heritage Youth Forum, this six-year Special Project adopted by the General Conference at its 28th session involves so far some 60 countries. With the aim of introducing World Heritage Education into the school curricula, a World Heritage Education Kit is being prepared for distribution in 1998, using the experience gained in ASP secondary schools all over the world. In 1996, a total of 150 students and teachers have met in 1996 at Regional World Heritage Youth Fora held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, and Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The Fora have been organized jointly with the National Commissions for UNESCO and the Regional Office in Harare. China has officially proposed to host the Asia-Pacific World Heritage Youth Forum in Autumn 1997.

36. The World Heritage Fund contributed US\$ 85,000 to this project over the two-year period, whereas US\$ 545,000 were obtained from extra-budgetary funding (Rhône-Poulenc \$165,000 1996/97, Norad \$70,000 1996 - plus \$310,000 foreseen in 1997 according to agreement in process).