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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE  
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-first extraordinary session  
Naples, Italy

28 -29 November 1997

**Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda: Reports on the state of conservation of specific properties inscribed on the World Heritage List**

**SUMMARY**

In accordance with paragraphs 48-50 and 83-85 of the Operational Guidelines, the Secretariat submits herewith reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. If appropriate, the Secretariat or the advisory bodies will provide additional information during the session of the Bureau.

**Decision required:** The Bureau is requested to examine the attached state of conservation reports and consider to take its decisions under the following three categories:

- (a) The Bureau recommends the Committee to inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
- (b) The Bureau transmits the state of conservation report to the Committee for action;
- (c) The Bureau transmits the state of conservation report together with its own observation/recommendation to the Committee for noting.

## INTRODUCTION

1. This document deals with **reactive monitoring** as it is defined in the Operational Guidelines: "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". Reactive monitoring is foreseen in the procedures for the eventual deletion of properties from the World Heritage List (paragraphs 48-56 of the Operational Guidelines) and for the inclusion of properties in the List of World Heritage in Danger (paragraphs 82-89 of the Operational Guidelines).

2. It is recalled that the World Heritage Committee at its nineteenth session discussed its working methods. At that occasion, the Committee adopted the following text regarding the examination of the state of conservation reports (Report of the nineteenth session of the World Heritage Committee, paragraph XVI.6. point 6):

*"The aspect of the Committee's work which is expanding most rapidly and can be expected to continue to increase is the consideration of state of conservation reports. One approach to streamlining how these reports are dealt with could be for the Committee to consider only those reports which deal with properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger or proposed to be added to that List, with written reports on other sites being provided for the Committee for noting."*

3. In accordance with the above, reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger are directly submitted to the Committee for consideration (Working Document WHC-97/CONF.208/8A).

4. The Bureau is requested to examine the state of conservation reports on properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and to consider taking its decisions under the following three categories:

- (a) The Bureau recommends the Committee to inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
- (b) The Bureau transmits the state of conservation report to the Committee for action;
- (c) The Bureau transmits the state of conservation report together with its own observation/recommendation to the Committee for noting.

5. To facilitate the work of the Bureau, references are made at the beginning of each of the reports, to relevant sections of previous reports of the twentieth session of the Committee and/or the twenty-first session of the Bureau. In addition, each of the reports is accompanied by a draft decision for examination and adoption by the Bureau

6. The present document is also made available to the members of the Committee for consideration as Working Document WHC-97/CONF.208/8B. The observations/recommendations of the Bureau will be reflected in the report of the Bureau session and will be transmitted to the Committee as Working Document WHC-97/CONF.208/8B.Add.

## NATURAL HERITAGE

7. At its twenty-first ordinary session in June 1997, the Bureau examined the state of conservation of 22 natural properties inscribed on the World Heritage List (excluding those properties which are included in the List of World Heritage in Danger) and made appropriate recommendations. These recommendations of the Bureau were transmitted to the respective States Parties, via letters dated 15 July 1997.

8. IUCN made available to the Centre, on 8 September 1997, written state of conservation reports on the following sites: Iguacu National Park (Brazil); Dja Wildlife Reserve (Cameroon); Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks (Canada); Manouva-Gounda-St. Floris National Park (Central African Republic); Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves/La Amistad National Park (Costa Rica/Panama); Okapi Faunal Reserve and Kahuzi Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of Congo), Galapagos Islands (Ecuador) and Canaima National Park (Venezuela). Information contained in these reports has been incorporated into this document.

9. This document provides brief progress reports on selected Australian, and nine other World Natural Heritage sites which were reviewed by the Bureau in June 1997. New state of conservation reports on six World Natural Heritage sites are also included.

10. IUCN has informed the Centre that its report on Kamchatka (Russian Federation) based on a mission undertaken in August 1997 is being finalised and that a monitoring mission to Shirkami-Sanchi and Yakushima Island (Japan) is foreseen in October 1997. IUCN is carrying out a desk review of the Skocjan Caves (Slovenia), including the proposed extension of the site's boundaries to become identical with those of the Skocjan Caves Regional Park, as suggested by the State Party in a letter dated 9 June 1997 to the Centre. Oral presentations on the findings of the above-mentioned activities will be made to the Bureau, and written reports made available for consultation, at the time of its twenty-first extraordinary session.

### **Australian World Heritage Sites**

WH Committee twentieth session para. VII.43

WH Bureau twenty-first session para. IV.17

At its twenty-first ordinary session in June 1997, the Bureau, based on written and oral presentations made by IUCN, noted several positive developments with regard to the state of conservation of the following World Heritage sites: Tasmanian Wilderness, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park and the Great Barrier Reef. The Australian authorities have been requested to provide, before 15 October 1997, a copy of the Regional Forest Agreement and a report on the relevance of that Agreement for the maintenance of the integrity of the Tasmanian Wilderness. Since the conclusion of the twenty-first session of the Bureau in June 1997 however, the following communications, addressed to the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, were received by the Centre:

- from the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) highlighting the actual and potential threats to the integrity of the Kakadu National Park, arising from the proposal to mine the Jabiluka uranium deposit located within the outer boundaries of the Park; and
- from the Friends of Hinchinbrook Society in Queensland, Australia, highlighting threats to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area due to developments in the Hinchinbrook area and requesting the Committee to consider including the Great Barrier Reef in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

These communications were transmitted to the Chairperson, the Permanent Delegate of Australia to UNESCO and IUCN for their review and comments.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to examine information that may be available at the time of its session and take appropriate action thereupon.

### **Belovezhskaya Pushcha/Bialowieza Forest (Belarus/Poland)**

In early 1997, the Centre transmitted to the Permanent Delegations of Belarus and Poland, respectively, information received from IUCN concerning logging in this World Heritage site. The Polish Ministry of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources and Forestry of the Department of International Co-operation has provided a report highlighting the fact that logging operations occur only in forests outside of the Bialowieza National Park, an area of about 4,700 ha. However, the original nomination submitted by Poland was for a total area of 5,069 ha; according to the WCMC data sheet on the site however, the World Heritage site includes 4,747 ha of the National Park, together with other protective and buffer zones, as indicated in the map attached to the original nomination and comprises a total of 5,346 ha. Furthermore, the Polish authorities have expanded the area of the National Park to 10,500 ha in July 1996. Forest management in the primeval forests outside of the National Park is carried out in accordance with "Principles of Protective and Sylvicultural Measures", issued by the Minister of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources and Forestry in 1995 and is considered sustainable.

The Bureau may wish to recall that the Committee at the time when it inscribed this trans-border property in the World Heritage List in 1992 (Santa Fe, USA), called upon the Belarus authorities to prepare a management plan for the Belarus part of the site, in co-ordination with the plan available for the Polish part, and recommended that the two States Parties consider removing the fence between the two parts of the site if the management plan indicated that the fence's removal would lead to enhanced viability.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to transmit the above report to the Committee for examination and recommend the following for adoption:

"The Committee requests the Polish authorities to verify the total area designated as World Heritage within their territory and inform the Centre as to whether or not they intend to extend the World Heritage area to include all or parts of the expanded, 10,500 ha Bialowieza National Park, established in 1996. Furthermore, the Committee requests the Belarus and Polish authorities

to co-operate in the elaboration of a management plan for the Belarus part of this trans-border site and consider removing the fence separating the two parts."

### **Iguacu National Park (Brazil)**

WH Bureau twenty-first session para. IV.18

The Bureau at its twenty-first session learnt that a local organisation was campaigning to re-open a road, closed in 1986 to strengthen protection of the Park. In early May 1997, 800 people had invaded the Park and set up camp to begin unauthorised work to clear the road. Conservation authorities had not been able to resist political pressures and had not acted to contain the damage. As recommended by the Bureau, the Centre encouraged Brazilian authorities re-establish control over the Park to close the road and rehabilitate areas damaged by the illegal invasion; the attention of the Brazilian authorities was also drawn to the opportunity to link this Park with the World Heritage site of Iguazu National Park (Argentina) and to establish a trans-border World Heritage area. The response of the Brazilian authorities to these suggestions made by the Bureau, requested by 15 September 1997, is awaited.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to examine information that may be available during its session and take appropriate action thereupon.

### **Dja Faunal Reserve (Cameroon)**

IUCN has reported that commercial logging in adjoining natural forests is increasingly threatening this site with biological isolation. New logging-roads facilitate access for hunters, and concessionaires have logged forests up to the boundary of the Reserve. Reports of poaching in the Reserve are on the rise. Employees of a French logging company, i.e. Societe Forestiere R. Pallisco, when apprehended for taking poached wildlife out of the Reserve, threatened the staff with violence. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is assisting the development of forest concessions along the southern boundary of Dja, which are not welcomed by local people and may be ecologically unsustainable. An IUCN project in the area is attempting to minimise the effects of biological isolation through the establishment of a buffer zone, and a protected corridor linking Dja with nearby natural forests. Conservationists in Cameroon have called for a moratorium on logging in the area and on the building of new access roads. The Park administration has proposed the organisation of a Regional Training Workshop in Dja and requested financial assistance from the World Heritage Fund; IUCN has supported the request, subject to the proposal being revised to address some of the problems and issues, and potential solutions reported above. Details of the request for organising the training workshop are given in Document WHC-97/CONF.208/12.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to transmit the above report to the Committee for examination and recommend the following for adoption:

"The Committee expresses its concern over the significant increase in logging around Dja and attendant problems of poaching and encouraged the application of the concepts of buffer zone and corridors. The Committee requests France to investigate reported allegations of involvement of the employees of the Societe Forestiere R. Pallisco in transporting poached wildlife, and Canada to ensure that assistance provided by CIDA to logging concessions does not conflict with the interests of local people. The Committee requests IUCN to submit a progress report to the next session of the Bureau and requests the Bureau to assess whether Dja needs to be included in the List of World Heritage in Danger."

### **Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks (Canada)**

WH Committee twentieth session para. VII.30

IUCN has reported to the Centre that the Provincial Government of Alberta has approved a project to exploit a large (22 km long and 3 km wide), open-pit coal mine, located 1.8 km from the Jasper National Park portion of this World Heritage Area. Additional approvals of the mining project, which would affect fish-habitat in eight rivers, are needed from the Federal Ministries for the Environment and Fisheries. IUCN has endorsed the following conclusion of Parks Canada on the proposed mining project: "the Cheviot Mine Project, as proposed, has the potential to adversely impact the ecological integrity of Jasper National Park....Parks Canada's concerns relate specifically to the loss or alienation of habitat, impacts on essential wildlife travel-corridors which link Jasper National Park and the high quality habitat in adjacent provincial lands, increases in wildlife mortality and the cumulative impacts of this project and other planned or proposed activities such as timber harvesting access, and oil and gas exploration in the vicinity of Jasper National Park".

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to transmit the above report to the Committee for examination and recommend the following for adoption:

"The Committee expresses its concern over the impacts which the proposed mine would have on this site and urges the Canadian authorities to seek alternative mining sites in the region that would have less damaging effects. The Committee requests the Canadian authorities to provide detailed information on the proposed mining project to the Centre for review by the Bureau at its next session."

### **Manovo-Gounda-St.Floris National Park (Central African Republic (CAR))**

The Bureau may wish to recall that the Committee, at its twelfth session (1988, Brasilia), inscribed this property on the World Heritage List, following assurances given by the State Party in respect of its commitment to improve the conditions of integrity of the Park, notably with regard to poaching and illegal grazing. Moreover,

the Committee had expressed the wish that a 10-year project, to be financed by EEC/FED at a cost of US\$ 27 million, which had been launched at the time of inscription of this site on the World Heritage List, would soon show positive results. Two of the Committee members had however, expressed a reservation about the timing of this site's inscription on the World Heritage List.

At present, an emergency situation exists in the Park due to uncontrolled poaching by groups originating from within CAR, and from CAR's borders with Sudan, and Tchad. Poaching groups are heavily armed, enter the Park at will, set up camp and move large quantities of meat. No effective anti-poaching force exists in the Park and four Park staff had been killed in early 1997. In 1996, tourism came to a halt due to deteriorating security conditions and the EEC/FED Project has not provided any tangible benefits. The Government of CAR has given most of the site management responsibility to a private Foundation, which is hoping to raise US\$ 700,000 in the first year of its operations. The Director of the Park and an assistant belonging to the Foundation are attempting to manage this vast area and have contacted the Centre to express their wish to include this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to transmit the above report to the Committee for examination and recommend the following for adoption:

"The Committee expresses its serious concern over the integrity of this site and decides to include it in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee requests the Centre and IUCN to contact the State Party, relevant authorities in EEC/FED and the private Foundation currently responsible for the management of the site and prepare a detailed state of conservation report and a rehabilitation plan for this site."

### **Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves/La Amistad National Park (Costa Rica/Panama)**

The Bureau may recall that the Committee, in 1990 (Banff, Canada) encouraged the Costa Rican authorities to better define the boundaries of the World Heritage site of Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves. The Costa Rican authorities, facilitated by IUCN's Office in San Jose, have defined a 363,045 ha area for the World Heritage site within Costa Rica. A map of the area has been transmitted to the Centre via IUCN. The total area of 363,045 ha comprises five contiguous, and two nearby protected areas. Together with the 207,000 ha of the La Amistad National Park of Panama, this trans-border World Heritage site now covers 570,045 ha. IUCN has noted that the increase in the Costa Rican, Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves is small, i.e. from 358,420 ha to 363,045 ha or about 1.3%, and suggested that the Committee approve this extension without requiring Costa Rica to submit a new nomination.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to transmit the above report to the Committee for examination and recommend the following for adoption:

"The Committee approves the modified boundaries of the Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves of Costa Rica (363,045 ha) and the trans-border World

Heritage site (570,045 ha) and commends the Costa Rican authorities for consolidating their portion of the World Heritage site."

### **Democratic Republic of Congo**

WH Bureau twenty-first session para. IV.19

#### **Okapi Faunal Reserve**

The Bureau, at its last session in June 1997, learnt with concern that the military conflict which spread throughout the eastern region of this country led to looting of the facilities in this site and the killing of several elephants. Fortunately the staff and the captive Okapis have escaped unharmed. Only a small number of staff have opted to remain in the site; they have no equipment and receive minimal salaries paid by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and other international conservation agencies. Gold mining within the Reserve has been reported and the new Government's policy with regard to respecting the current boundary of the site remains unclear. IUCN has recommended setting aside US\$ 50,000 as emergency assistance for the Okapi Faunal Reserve for purchase of equipment, to be undertaken as soon as security conditions permit.

**Decision required:** See below.

#### **Kahuzi Biega National Park**

IUCN has provided the Centre with a 3-page report, based on a WCS reconnaissance mission to the Park, undertaken after the outbreak of the civil war in the eastern parts of the country. The Park has been damaged due to: influx of 850,000 Rwandan refugees, during 1994-96, into areas around Goma on the border of the Park; deforestation, and poaching of elephants, chimpanzee and other wildlife for commercial and subsistence purposes; habitat destruction; looting of Park equipment; and guards and officials fleeing the Park. Rehabilitation would require collaboration between the new Government, Park administration and international NGOs to augment resources available for conservation, carry out censuses of wildlife and human populations and design and implement integrated programmes linking biodiversity conservation and the needs of human populations. IUCN has recommended 15 measures for implementation in and around the Park and eight actions with regard to co-operation with international conservation organisations. However, IUCN has stressed that the sending of a high-level mission to Kinshasa, as recommended by the Bureau at its June 1997 session, to be the most urgent action needed.

The Centre has discussed with UNESCO's Deputy Director-General for Africa the feasibility for organising a high-level mission to Kinshasa, with a view to drawing the attention of the new Government to its obligations under the Convention and clarifying its legal and policy framework for the conservation of World Heritage sites. The need to field such a high-level mission has been acknowledged; however, dates for the mission are yet to be fixed.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to transmit the reports on Okapi Faunal Reserve and the Kahuzi Biega National Park to the Committee for examination and recommend the following for adoption:

"The Committee decides to include both Okapi Faunal Reserve and the Kahuzi Biega National Park in the List of World Heritage in Danger and urges the Director-General of UNESCO to field the high-level mission to Kinshasa as soon as possible. The Committee set aside a sum of US\$ 50,000 as emergency assistance for Okapi Faunal Reserve to enable the purchase of essential equipment as soon as security conditions allow safe transfer."

### **Galapagos National Park (Ecuador)**

WH Committee twentieth session para. VII.31

WH Bureau twenty-first session para. IV.20

The Committee, at its last session in Merida, Mexico, decided to "include the Galapagos National Park in the List of World Heritage in Danger, effective 15 November 1997, unless a substantive written reply by Ecuador is received by 1<sup>st</sup> May 1997, and the Bureau, at its twenty-first session determine that effective actions have been taken". At its twenty-first ordinary session in June 1997, the Bureau, after having studied the reports of the State Party and IUCN, were convinced that effective actions had been taken and that it would not be appropriate to include the Galapagos National Park in the List of World Heritage in Danger. Nevertheless, the Bureau requested Ecuador to submit, by 15 November 1997, an up-to-date report describing the situation in Galapagos, and addressing the following issues: decree; law; control of residency; quarantine; environmental management of populated areas; introduced species; marine reserve; tourism; and financing. In addition, the Bureau recommended that if the decrees issued by the Government of Ecuador are not reflected in law by the time of the twenty-first session of the Committee, in December 1997, the Committee once again consider adding the Galapagos to the List of World Heritage in Danger.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to examine the report from the State Party due by 15 November 1997 at the time of its session and take appropriate actions thereupon.

### **Whale Sanctuary of El Viscaíno (Mexico)**

WH Committee twentieth session para. VII.34

WH Bureau twenty-first session para. IV.27

At its twenty-first ordinary session in June 1997, the Bureau noted with appreciation the State Party's efforts to ensure a rigorous evaluation of the environmental impacts of the proposed industrial salt production facility at this site. The Scientific Committee, set up by the Mexican Government to carry out the environmental impact study of the project had given assurance that the industrial salt production project will only be authorised if the Scientific Committee found that the project will not compromise the conservation of natural resources of the region and does not pose a risk to the protection of the biological heritage of the Mexican people. The receipt of a progress

report of the findings of the Scientific Committee, requested for 15 September 1997, is awaited.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to examine the information that may be provided at the time of its session and take appropriate action thereupon.

#### **Arabian Oryx Sanctuary (Oman)**

WH Committee twentieth session para. VII.39

WH Bureau twenty-first session para. IV.30

At its twenty-first ordinary session in June 1997, the Bureau was informed of an interim plan submitted by the authorities of Oman which foresaw a new outer boundary, and provisional boundaries for five management zones, construction of an administrative headquarters, visitor and local service centres and other facilities, launching pilot projects in a variety of fields including environmental tourism and possible allocation of financial and human resources for the development of the site as Oman's first national park. The Bureau thanked the authorities of Oman and suggested that the State Party submit a map showing the outer boundary of the Sanctuary and the provisional boundaries of the five management zones and a report on the status of the Arabian Oryx population in the Sanctuary. The receipt of the map and report, requested for 1 October 1997, is awaited.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to examine new information that may be available at the time of its session and take appropriate action thereupon.

#### **Lake Baikal (Russian Federation)**

The Bureau may wish to recall that the Committee, when it inscribed this property on the World Heritage List at its last session (Merida, 1996), noted that the special Lake Baikal Law was in its second reading in the Duma, and expressed its concern over a number of integrity issues, including pollution of the Lake. The Centre has been informed that the special Lake Baikal Law passed the second reading in the Duma; however, the President of the Russian Federation did not sign the law due to formal considerations. Furthermore, the Centre has received a copy of the Federal Target Programme entitled "Reprofiling of the Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill and Solution of Related Social Issues in the City of Baikalsk (1997-2006)" which has been transmitted to IUCN for review. During the Centre's mission to Lake Baikal in July 1997, questions pertaining to the legal status of some parts along the border of the site, in particular that of the Sarminskal Forest at the border of the Pribaikalsi National Park, were raised with the authorities of the State Committee for the Environment and the local Government.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau expresses its concern regarding the adequacy of the legal basis available for the protection of the entire World Heritage site and requests the Russian authorities to provide, before 1 May 1998, detailed information on the status of the special Lake Baikal Law, and the legal status of forests located adjacent to the boundaries of the World Heritage site."

### **Virgin Komi Forests (Russian Federation)**

The Centre has received information concerning a proposal of the mining company "Terra" to exploit a gold mine at the Kozhim River Basin (Yugyd Va Nature Park). This proposed mining project poses a significant threat to the integrity of the World Heritage site. The information on the mining project obtained from an NGO (i.e. Greenpeace, Russia) has been transmitted to the Permanent Delegation of Russia to UNESCO, and IUCN for review and comments.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau expresses its serious concern about the proposed gold mining project in the World Heritage site and requests the Russian authorities to provide, before 1 May 1998, detailed information on the proposal, including any environmental impact studies that may have been carried out."

### **Canaima National Park (Venezuela):**

WH Bureau twenty-first session para. IV.33

The Bureau at its twenty-first ordinary session in June 1997 learnt that this site was under threat from a proposed project of the national electricity company (EDELCA) to erect a series of power transmission lines, expected to extend 160 km across the Park and to supply power from the Guri Dam to Brazil and to a mining site north of the Park. The traditional Pemon community who inhabit a certain portion of the Park are opposed to the project. In recent years, large scale mining has led to significant loss of forests and pollution of rivers in areas adjacent to the Park. An adequate environmental impact study of the project has not yet been carried out; construction is expected to begin soon, although it is not known whether funds for financing the construction have been secured. The Bureau noted that the Committee, at the time of the inscription of this site on the List in 1994, had made several recommendations, including the finalisation of the boundaries of the World Heritage area, which are yet to be implemented. As directed by the Bureau, the Centre has requested the views of the Venezuelan authorities on the possibility for fielding a high level mission to gather information, and discuss and resolve problems facing the conservation of Canaima National Park. A response from Venezuela is awaited.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to examine new information that may be available at the time of its session and take appropriate action thereupon

### **Ha Long Bay (Vietnam)**

WH Committee twentieth session para. VII.41

WH Bureau twenty-first session para. IV.34

The Bureau may recall that the Committee, at its sessions in Berlin (1995) and Merida (1996), had expressed concerns regarding impacts which a port construction project, to be financed by Japan, and the establishment of a large floating hotel, could have on this site. At its twenty-first ordinary session in June 1997, the Bureau was informed that the Vietnamese authorities have withdrawn plans to issue a license for the establishment of a floating hotel. The Bureau encouraged Vietnamese and Japanese authorities to co-operate in carrying out JICA's environmental study of the coastal and marine environment of Ha Long Bay, and urged the Vietnamese authorities to search for ways and means to direct large ships that are expected to pass through the World Heritage area, after the completion of the Cailan port construction project, along alternative routes. The Centre has requested the Vietnamese authorities to provide, by 15 October 1997, information on the concept and terms of reference of JICA's environmental study which is expected to begin in early 1998; the receipt of a response from the Vietnamese authorities is awaited.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to examine information that may be available at the time of its session and take appropriate action thereupon.

### **Durmitor National Park (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro))**

WH Committee twentieth session para. VII.42

WH Bureau twenty-first session para. IV.35

The Bureau, at its twenty-first ordinary session held in June 1997, had requested the Park management to submit, before 15 September 1997, a map showing the proposed modification of the Park's boundaries to excise a 40 ha area around the village of Zabljak; this proposed modification had already been approved by the Government of the Republic of Montenegro. Furthermore, the Bureau sought clarification from the Park authorities on whether they considered that an engineering evaluation of the earthen containment structures in the flood plains of the Tara River was needed. In addition, the Bureau expressed its concerns regarding plans for tapping the hydropower potential of the Tara River and suggested that more information on such plans be submitted to the Committee session in December 1997. The response of the Park authorities to all the requests of the Bureau, outlined above, is awaited.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to examine information that may be available at the time of its session and take appropriate action thereupon.

## MIXED (CULTURAL AND NATURAL) HERITAGE

### **Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru)**

WH Committee twentieth session para. VII.45

WH Bureau twenty-first session para. IV.36

ICOMOS and IUCN will report during the session on the results of their joint mission to Machu Picchu which was requested by the Bureau at its twenty-first session.

On 6 September 1997, a series of fires broke out within the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu and close to the Inca ruins and the village of Aguas Calientes. The fire was extinguished by heavy rain on 10 and 11 September. A detailed report on the damage to the archaeological site was received from the National Institute for Culture of Peru on 29 September. All information was transmitted to ICOMOS and IUCN for examination in the context of the mission.

**Decision required:** The Bureau is requested to examine the ICOMOS/IUCN report and take the appropriate action thereupon.

## CULTURAL HERITAGE

11. At its twenty-first ordinary session in June 1997, the Bureau examined the state of conservation of 24 cultural properties inscribed on the World Heritage List (excluding those properties which are included in the List of World Heritage in Danger) and made appropriate recommendations. These recommendations of the Bureau were transmitted to the respective States Parties.

### Africa

#### **Ashanti Traditional Buildings (Ghana)**

At its twentieth session (June 1996), the Bureau was concerned by the insufficient resources available for the conservation of fragile Ashanti buildings, and recommended that the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board prepare, in cooperation with the Centre, conservation and management plans for the entire site, in the context of the envisaged integrated regional development plans.

It requested that the Ghanaian authorities inform the Committee, before its twenty-first session at the latest, of initiatives undertaken in this respect.

In February 1997, during a mission financed by CRATerre - EAG, at the request of the World Heritage Centre, an expert reported that important restoration work had been carried out during the 1960s on almost all the classified buildings (12), however, this work had been effected without any serious scientific, documented research. Although some aspects of the work have effectively reinforced the structures, other buildings require more periodic frequent examination, as some technical faults (often repeated)

are apparent. Moreover, the GMMB has for many years forbidden the local population to intervene in the maintenance of the buildings, employing a guardian at each site responsible for cleaning.

The major restoration work remains the responsibility of the Ghana Museum and Monuments Board (GMMB). As the economic situation of Ghana has greatly suffered, the GMMB has experienced increasing difficulty in effecting this work, which is less and less frequently undertaken. In fact, at the beginning of 1997, certain buildings presented a state of degradation and there were serious high risk situations. Alarmed by the necessary emergency work required in the Ashante country, and following an official request from the authorities concerned, the US\$ 20,000 which had been approved by the Committee for Fort Prinzenstein (Accra Fort) and which had not been utilized as preliminary work for the placing of beach protection structures had not been carried out by the GMMB, were finally allocated to the Ashante monuments.

These funds were used to carry out a rapid study of the state of all the sites and a training workshop seminar by CRATerre - EAG, which was held in June 1997 at the most degraded site. Other than the participation of craftsmen of the GMMB, other craftsmen and village workers were trained during this course, partially on the basis of community participation. Following this training session, the local GMMB service engaged upon a similar type of work at six other sites, at their own expense, with the participation of local populations, thus avoiding further damage.

This action, although beneficial, cannot be considered as being sufficient and it will require completion through a training programme. The present conservation methods must be reviewed to make them better adapted to available means and the specific needs at each of the sites.

For this it is recommended to begin the preparation of a conservation plan which involves local populations. Particular interest should be given to the conservation of traditional techniques (which will also be necessary to maintain the roofs, the bas reliefs) which are disappearing due to the strong influence in the region of western decoration and construction methods.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau congratulated the Ghanian authorities for having followed up the Bureau recommendations of June 1996 and encouraged them to continue co-operation with the World Heritage Centre and ICCROM/CRATerre - EAG, to prepare a conservation plan for the entire site".

## **Churches of Lalibela (Ethiopia)**

WH Committee twentieth session para VII.49

### Background

The Committee, at its nineteenth session took note of a project for the "Restoration and Preservation of the Churches of Lalibela" funded by the European Union and formulated in the framework of the "International Campaign for the Conservation and Preservation of the Monuments of Ethiopia" and implemented by the Division of Cultural Heritage of UNESCO.

The Committee, at its twentieth session noted the work between all the national and international partners engaged in the activities of conservation and preservation of the site and considered that the Centre for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage (CRCCH) should assume the co-ordination. It requested the Ethiopian authorities to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the actions taken before 15 September 1997 so that this information could be examined by the Committee at its twenty-first session.

In December 1996, the Committee also approved a Technical Assistance request from Ethiopia, which enabled the World Heritage Centre, in co-operation with CRCCH, to organise a mission (29 April-4 May 1997) to Lalibela in order to:

- (i) advise the Ethiopian authorities on the restoration programme;
- (ii) evaluate the work already carried out; and
- (iii) advise on the construction of the shelters to be constructed for the protection of the Churches under the project funded by the European Union.

In September 1997, the World Heritage Centre received the "Competition File for International Design: Shelters for five Churches in Lalibela" foreseen within the European Union Project which was sent by Mr. G. Morozzo della Rocca, Bureau d'Architecture A.C.EL s.p.r.l., Belgium, who requested the Centre to provide comments. The document was sent to Prof. Laureano (World Heritage Consultant) and ICOMOS for comments.

### Diagnosis

The World Heritage Centre's consultant noted that although the existing shelters protect the top of the monuments from the infiltration of the rain water from above as well as from the sun, they do not provide the full protection and, may indeed, themselves cause other problems which contribute to the decay of the churches. They prevent the normal drying process and create a shady environment which allows birds to refuge and contributes to growth of vegetation which, subsequently, penetrates the walls of the monuments.

It is obvious that the current shelters are inadequate, they should be substituted with a solution that is more effective, of a better quality and easy to remove. However, the

shelters are not a definite solution but only a temporary answer which must be eliminated as the restoration work goes ahead, as only the latter will be able to solve the problem of rainwater in a way that is architecturally suitable.

### Plan of Action

The World Heritage consultant proposed a programme in his report which ensures the maintenance and the long term management of the site, with the following objectives:

- (i) to use suitable techniques of restoration using local workforce and materials;
- (ii) to evaluate on site, the need for technologically more advanced procedures and training for their use;
- (iii) to organise a long term management of the site which takes the territorial problems into account.

The proposed plan of action presents a methodology of intervention which is suited to the specific characteristics of the site and which could resolve its current problems such as:

- (i) the need to operate immediately in order to avoid a general covering of the Churches;
- (ii) the need for stages in the study which do not postpone the start of work, and which are connected with the work;
- (iii) the possibility of being able to modify the work according to the results that are gradually obtained;
- (iv) the possibility of establishing a close collaboration between external experts and the local workforce;
- (v) the need for an integrated and global approach. Should the restoration work start, the cost of establishing an *in situ* laboratory, the cost of recruiting international experts and local staff is estimated at **US\$ 436,200** for a year.

### Comments on the “Competition File for International Design: Shelters for five Churches in Lalibela” prepared for the European Union:

Professor **Laureano** in his written statement “Regarding the competition for the shelters” stated that “Several critical considerations need to be made:

- 1) the concentration of attention on the shelters (the importance of the competition and the size of the budget) creates the impression that the vertical protection from the rain is the best way to safeguard the site;
- 2) the length of time that the shelters will stay in place without any maintenance, a period calculated as being at least 20 years, confirms the idea that the shelters must not be simple structures intended only for the restoration work, but that they must represent a definite solution;
- 3) therefore, there is a risk that the architects may be orientated towards projects that are very significant in terms of scenery and technological complexity, but such work runs the risk of diminishing the importance of the monuments themselves”.

ICOMOS World Heritage Co-ordinator statement was the following:

“ICOMOS finds itself in full agreement with Professor Laureano’s comments. It does not believe that the erection of new cover structures or shelters represents the best solution of the problems of conservation at Lalibela. (...) Emphatically, as Professor Laureano points out, they are no more than a temporary solution at Lalibela”. ICOMOS therefore recommends that further serious consideration should be given to the desirability of the competition project by the Ethiopian authorities. It is felt that the 2 million ECUs from the European Union would be much better spent in the development and implementation of “an overall approach to the preservation of the site” as recommended by Prof. Laureano (page 7 of his report), which would obviate in the years to come emergency action with no more than short-term benefits of the kind proposed in the Competition File. This overall approach should involve the application in the first instance of traditional techniques in conservation and restoration interventions, the clearing and re-integration of the traditional methods of disposing of water, and the implementation of a properly conceived system of ongoing maintenance and conservation. This approach must also include an important element for the training of personnel and the development of an overall management plan for the whole site”.

Meeting with a representative of the European Union:

On 30 September a meeting was held at UNESCO with representatives of the European Union and the consultant’s firm which had prepared the "Competition File".

It was agreed that:

- i) the terms of reference of the Competition File will be revised,
- ii) that the pre-selection process would be delayed, and would start only after the present session of the World Heritage Committee.

It was also proposed that:

- i) The project funded by the European Union will also include activities geared towards the socio-economic development of the surrounding villages.
- ii) Professor Laureano (World Heritage Centre Consultant) co-ordinates the conservation studies in the European Union Project,
- iii) a joint mission to Ethiopia by UNESCO and the European Union be organized in January 1998 to discuss with the Ethiopian authorities the modalities of implementation of an integrated project which will ensure the preservation of the rock-hewn churches and their environment.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to transmit the report to the Committee for examination and to recommend the Committee to adopt the following:

“The Committee:

- 1) thanks the Ethiopian authorities for having requested the European Union to inform the World Heritage Centre of the International Competition foreseen for the erection of five shelters in Lalibela;

- 2) notes the results of the meeting held on 30 September at UNESCO between the European Union, the World Heritage Centre and UNESCO's Division of Cultural Heritage;
- 3) recommends that the Competition File be reviewed to integrate the points of view of the World Heritage Centre Consultant and ICOMOS with a view to preserving the World Heritage value of the site;
- 4) endorses the conservation programme prepared by the UNESCO-WHC consultant;
- 5) underlines the importance of an integrated preservation and long term management plan on a site endangered by new environmental contingencies and requests the World Heritage Centre to organise a mission to Lalibela before the end of January 1998, to review the situation with the Ethiopian authorities and the European Union, in order to (a) ensure a long term protection of the monuments within the context of the eco-system; (b) integrate the problems of the growth of Lalibela and, (c) to draw up a plan of action of the approved conservation programme which should be requested by the Ethiopian authorities under the European Union "Programme to support initiatives in the conservation field" (PSIC)."

### **Ilha de Mozambique (Mozambique)**

At the nineteenth session of the World Heritage Committee (1995), the Committee was informed that an "Integrated Rehabilitation Programme" had been defined and that the creation of a funds-in-trust was envisaged to finance the programme. Subsequently, in July 1996, under assistance of the World Heritage Fund, a comprehensive and detailed report "Ilha de Mozambique - an Agenda for Sustainable Human Development and Integral Conservation" was prepared, and its action plan foresees:

- a) establishing a project authority jointly between the Government and the United Nations system through UNESCO, with UNDP and multi-donor contributions;
- b) establishing a national Steering Committee under the leadership of a minister which the Government considers appropriate (it could be the Prime Minister and the Minister of Culture) working together with the Ministries and their respective technicians of Public Works, the Environment, Tourism, Housing and other sectors involved in privatisation and investment;
- c) setting up a Project Office on the Island

In July 1997, the WHC was informed by the UNESCO Office in Maputo that the Government of Mozambique has responded positively to the report. Consequently, a revised version of the 1996 report - "A Programme for Sustainable Human Development and Integral Conservation", was prepared at the request of the authorities of Mozambique.

The approach of a joint integrated rehabilitation which has been adopted will ensure that the Island's heritage will be preserved in a sustainable manner. The comprehensive social and economic programme for the Island has the following aims:

- a) Rehabilitation of the human settlement: (infrastructure, education, health);
- b) An overall cultural component:
  - \* cultural tourism
  - \* handicrafts programme
  - \* centres for artists and creative arts
  - \* sub-marine archaeology
  - \* enhancement of national heritage legislation;
- c) Physical restoration of the cultural heritage.

On 14 July 1997, UNDP New York, established a Trust Fund for the Ilha of Mozambique and has already allocated US\$ 300,000, decentralised to the UNESCO Office in Maputo. The Programme, a copy of which was circulated to potential donors in Maputo, has generated considerable interest. The UNESCO Office in Maputo has requested the World Heritage Centre's co-operation for the preparation of a donors' meeting in Maputo. The meeting is expected to take place in 1998. In addition, the Director-General of UNESCO launched on the 3 September 1997, during his visit to Mozambique, an appeal to the international community for the support of the rehabilitation of the Island.

The **conservation and restoration** component shall be supervised by the World Heritage Centre which has already provided an Associate Expert, an architect, for two years, as of September 1997.

In addition, training activities foreseen in the rehabilitation programme for the Ilha could be provided from the World Heritage Fund if a request is prepared. It is clear that the World Heritage Centre has neither the mandate nor the capability to implement the Programme approved by the authorities of Mozambique.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau:

- (i) congratulates the Mozambique authorities for having made a commitment for the implementation of the Programme for Sustainable Human Development and Integral Conservation of the Ilha de Mozambique,
- (ii) notes that assistance from the World Heritage Fund has enabled the preparation of a comprehensive programme which will allow the Mozambique authorities to better conserve, preserve and present the heritage of the Ilha,
- (iii) requests the World Heritage Centre to oversee the conservation component of the programme, and
- (iv) urges the UNESCO Office in Maputo to co-ordinate activities with donors and the Culture Sector in order to raise additional funds and ensure the full implementation of the Programme."

## **Arab States**

### **Islamic Cairo (Egypt)**

WH Bureau twenty-first session para. IV.39

#### **Al Azhar Mosque:**

Further to the request of the Bureau to the authorities to ensure that the authenticity of the monument is respected in the rehabilitation works currently taking place, the Secretariat wrote again to the concerned authorities offering expert advice. While no response has been received, unofficial information indicates that the work on the monument was still progressing at a rapid pace.

**Decision required :** The Bureau may wish to transmit the report to the Committee for examination and recommend the following for adoption:

"The Committee urges the national responsible authorities to receive a specialist who could review the state of conservation of the monument and provide the necessary advice for the works underway."

### **Quseir Amra (Jordan)**

WH Bureau twenty-first session para. IV.45

Further to the request put forward by the Bureau on improving visitor control mechanisms, the Secretariat has received from the French Cultural Attaché in Jordan the plans for a visitors' centre. These plans were financed by the French Embassy in the framework of co-operation established with UNESCO and have been approved by the Jordanian authorities.

**Decision required :** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau requests the Jordanian authorities to consider submitting a request for assistance under the World Heritage Fund as a contribution to the construction of the visitors' centre. Finally, the Bureau congratulates the Jordanian authorities on the results achieved at this site and recommends that all these efforts be integrated in a comprehensive plan for the management of the site which the Secretariat could help prepare."

### **Tyre (Lebanon)**

WH Bureau twenty-first session para. IV.46

In the framework of the preparation of the International Campaign for the Safeguarding of Tyr; the Physical Heritage Division of UNESCO sent a series of missions responsible for the preparation of different elements of the Campaign. In this framework, a number of priority actions were proposed (preventive excavation for threatened sites, creation of a conservation and documentation centre, conservation of

in-situ vestiges, systematic prospection of the archaeological zone, improvement of storage conditions, conservation and enhancement of the basilica).

According to this mission, the Directorate General of Antiquities has already successfully carried out a series of positive activities which have halted the destruction of archaeological vestiges (establishing a team of technicians working on the spot, public awareness in favour of heritage protection, increased systematic protection of excavations).

However, threats still remain: abandon of the sites for long periods of time, encouraging erosion and vandalism, appearance of non-conformist structures around the sites, lack of personnel and means from the Directorate General of Antiquities and finally, absence of an updated and adapted master plan.

**Decision required:**

"The Committee commends the Lebanese authorities for the quality of the protection work carried out successfully and recommends that particular attention be paid to the rapid preparation of a master plan covering all the archaeological zones of Tyr and its surroundings, including the City of Tyr. The Committee reminds the Lebanese authorities that the Secretariat had already stated its willingness to contribute technically and substantially to the preparation of similar master plans for all the other World Heritage sites in Lebanon."

**Ancient City of Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic)**

WH Committee twentieth session para. VII.55

WH Bureau twenty-first session para. IV.57

**Tekiya Suleymaniah:**

In August 1997, three UNESCO experts undertook a mission to the site in co-operation with the Syrian authorities and jointly examined the offers to the tender that the Ministry of Awqaf had launched for the underground consolidation work of Tekiya Suleymaniah. Since no appropriate offers to the tender were received, their work could not be accomplished. In their mission report submitted to the authorities, the experts strongly recommended that any consolidation work should be preceded by careful studies taking into account the whole structure and the specificity of the building and not just the decrease in groundwater level.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to transmit the report to the Committee for examination and recommend the following for adoption:

"After having taken note of the report of the Secretariat concerning the situation at Tekiya Souleymaniah in the Ancient City of Damascus, the Committee thanks the Syrian authorities for having co-operated with the UNESCO experts, and requests them to prepare the next tender in co-operation with UNESCO, in order to proceed with the project in the light of its

experts' recommendations and inform the Secretariat before 31 March 1998 of the progress made."

### **Asia and the Pacific**

#### **Agra Fort, Taj Mahal, Fatehpur Sikri (India)**

Serious air pollution surrounding these sites has led to the deterioration of the white marble, stone inlays and sandstone of the three sites. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the Government of India have systematically cleaned the surfaces of the stone, replaced deteriorated panels, and taken measures to reduce air pollution by imposing various restrictions on the industries concerned. The planned construction of a new industrial complex near the Taj Mahal was recently prevented. However, a comprehensive assessment of the origin and impact of the environmental pollution is necessary.

A French private enterprise, Rhône Poulenc, will provide US \$ 236,735, to fund a three-year research project for the conservation of the Taj Mahal and monuments at Agra Fort and to establish a conservation laboratory in Agra Fort. This will also fund UNESCO participation in the *TA-2474 Agreement for the Environmental Improvement and Sustainable Development of the Agra and Mathura Trapezium Programme*, funded by the Asian Development Bank.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau takes note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the extrabudgetary funded support for the conservation and enhancement of the management of these three sites. It requests the Indian authorities concerned to keep the Secretariat informed on the progress of the research project, the establishment of the conservation laboratory, and of the *TA-2474 Agreement for the Environmental Improvement and Sustainable Development of the Agra and Mathura Trapezium Programme*."

#### **Sun Temple of Konarak (India)**

The heavy monsoon rains of 1996 and 1997 caused the sand-fill and the surrounding foundation, supporting the very large stone structure of the Sun Temple, to subside seriously. Loose stones have already begun to fall into the hollow interior of the Temple, previously supported by the sand-fill. International experts have pointed to the risk of the Temple structure caving in unless immediate conservation measures are undertaken.

Cracks in various parts of the stone walls, triggered by the gradual rusting of the iron clamps supporting the Temple walls caused by the sea breeze, have led to stone fragments falling off. This gradual deterioration and the structural instability aggravated by the heavy monsoon, prompted the Government of India to make a

request in September 1997 for emergency assistance under the World Heritage Fund to conduct a structural study to identify appropriate emergency conservation measures. The Government has plans to nominate this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

**Decision required:** Taking note of further information provided during the Bureau concerning the request for emergency assistance, the Bureau may wish to transmit the reports to the Committee for examination and recommend the following for adoption:

"The Committee requests the Government of India to report on the findings of the structural studies to be undertaken with the World Heritage Fund emergency assistance grant at its twenty-second session of the Bureau in June/July 1998. Furthermore, it requests the Government of India to keep the Secretariat informed in the meantime to enable UNESCO to mobilize additional international co-operation to ascertain the present condition of the property to undertake corrective measures as required."

### **Town of Luang Prabang (Lao People's Democratic Republic)**

WH Committee twentieth session para. VII.51

The Committee at its twentieth session noted the concerns expressed by the Bureau over the inappropriate conservation methods being applied in the renovation of houses and temples in Luang Prabang, particularly, the use of cement facing on historic buildings. The Bureau urged the Government to enact the Cultural Properties Protection Law as soon as possible and to organize an information meeting to present the Safeguarding and Development Plan of the Town to ensure that infrastructural development projects do not undermine the World Heritage value of the site.

The Heritage House (Maison du patrimoine) - advisory service of the provincial authorities, established in 1996 to encourage the local population to respect building regulations - organized a panel exhibition and meeting for the governors of all the provinces in Laos on the outcome of the first phase of the Safeguarding and Development Plan. This 76-panel exhibition on the protection needs of the site is on show at the National Museum of Luang Prabang since June 1997. The European Union, represented by eight ambassadors of the EU member states inaugurated the exhibition during the EU-project inspection trip to northern Laos. This exhibition will be shown in Hanoi, Vietnam during the Summit Conference of Francophone States in November 1997.

Through the Heritage House, the Luang Prabang-Chinon (France)-UNESCO World Heritage Centre joint co-operation project, in addition to the first phase of the Plan and the exhibition, prepared the draft law on Cultural Properties Protection, which was officially adopted by the Council of Ministers as a decree in May 1997. The joint project, with support from the Ecole d'Avignon and French Ministry of Culture, also organized an on-the-job training session for the local construction companies and craftsmen on conservation practice at the Xieng Mouane wooden house, one of the most important traditional houses of the town. Moreover, under this joint project, a

scientific survey of the humid zones of the town was carried out by the University of Tours (France) to develop a project proposal which would address both the health and sanitation improvement measures as well as the urban ecological needs for submission to the EU. An agreement on the next phase of the joint project was signed by the Mayor of Chinon and the Governor of Luang Prabang in August. A new co-operation agreement was signed in October between the President of Region Centre (France) and the Director-General of UNESCO to restore a 19<sup>th</sup> century colonial building for conversion as a Luang Prabang World Heritage Information Centre, as an example of adaptive re-use of historic buildings for contemporary needs. Both the Chinon and Region Centre projects form part of the Agreement signed in October 1997 between UNESCO and the Lao Government.

The US \$ 39,900 technical co-operation request granted in December 1996 from the World Heritage Fund is being used to upgrade the quality of brick roof tiles and to promote the use of lime mortar and facing. A combined socio-economic and architectural survey of the inhabitants and their historic houses to select the beneficiaries of Aid to the Population for Historic Buildings Preservation of Luang Prabang, is also in progress.

A training request has been submitted by the Government to co-finance the preparation of a manual for homeowners of historic buildings, and a series of local training workshops for monks, school teachers, women's organizations and other civic groups aimed to promote consultations on the Safeguarding and Development Plan, before the second phase of the Plan is launched. The UNESCO Bangkok Office will provide technical support to this local population training.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau takes note of the report of the Secretariat and commends the Government of Lao PDR and the provincial authorities of Luang Prabang for the numerous achievements made in protecting this site through the joint Luang Prabang-Chinon-UNESCO project which range from the adoption of legal and management measures, to the training on conservation practice and production of traditional building material. The Bureau, however, expresses concern over the continuation of inappropriate conservation methods on historic houses and use of certain modern building material that undermines not only the authenticity but also the integrity of the site. The Bureau recommends that law enforcement measures be combined with public awareness and training activities of the local population to ensure their commitment and participation which are crucial in protecting this site, mainly composed of privately-owned traditional vernacular buildings."

### **Kathmandu Valley (Nepal)**

WH Committee twentieth session para. VII.52

WH Bureau twenty-first session para IV.50

The World Heritage Committee at its seventeenth session in 1993 expressed deep concern over the state of conservation of Kathmandu Valley site and considered the

possibility of placing this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger, following discussions on the findings of the 1993 Joint UNESCO-ICOMOS Review Mission (hereafter referred to as the 1993 Mission).

Since then, H.M. Government of Nepal has given priority to responding to the sixteen points of concern raised by the 1993 Mission. However, the Bureau, at its twenty-first session, wished that in view of the continued deterioration of the monument zones of Bauddhanath and of Kathmandu (two of the seven monument zones protected under the Convention), to consider placing the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its twenty-first extraordinary session. In order to make a sound recommendation to the Committee in this regard, the Bureau requested H.M. Government of Nepal to provide a full report on the progress made on each of the sixteen points of the 1993 Mission recommendation.

A draft report was submitted to the Secretariat by H.M. Government of Nepal in September 1997. The content is summarized in Information Document WHC-97/CONF.208/INF.14, combined with additional information from the UNESCO International Technical Advisor, who conducted a mission to Kathmandu Valley in September 1997 (within the framework of the preparatory assistance for the nomination of Kokhana as an additional monument zone of the Kathmandu Valley site). The full report on the state of conservation of the site, to be submitted by H.M. Government of Nepal, will be made available to the Bureau and the Committee.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to consider the information presented in WHC-97/CONF.208/INF.4, transmit it to the Committee for examination, and recommend the following for adoption:

"The Committee takes note of the information provided by H.M. Government of Nepal and the Secretariat concerning the implementation of the sixteen-point recommendation of the 1993 UNESCO-ICOMOS Review Mission.

The Committee expresses appreciation to H.M. Government of Nepal in establishing the Development Control Unit and in its efforts to ensure enhanced management of the Kathmandu Valley site as well as in mobilizing international assistance from the World Heritage Fund and other sources. The Committee takes note of the special efforts made by the Municipalities of Bhaktapur and Patan in safeguarding the monument zones under their authority.

However, in view of the continued deterioration of the World Heritage values in the Bauddhanath and Kathmandu monument zones, effecting the integrity and inherent characteristics of the site, the Committee requests the Secretariat, in collaboration with ICOMOS and H.M. Government of Nepal, to study the feasibility of deleting selected areas within some monument zones, without jeopardizing the universal significance and value of the site as a whole. This review should take into consideration the intention of H.M. Government to nominate Kokhana as an additional monument zone.

The Committee authorizes the approval of up to US \$ 35,000, from the World Heritage Fund technical co-operation budget for a joint UNESCO-ICOMOS-

H.M. Government of Nepal team to conduct a thorough feasibility study and to elaborate a programme for corrective measures in accordance with paragraphs 82-89 of the Operational Guidelines.

Furthermore, the Committee requests H.M. Government of Nepal to submit a report to the Secretariat for presentation to the Bureau, at its twenty-second session in June/July 1998, on the progress made with the on-going or new international assistance projects funded by the World Heritage Fund and other sources, and on further progress in implementing the sixteen-point recommendation.

Based upon the information from the feasibility study and the report from H.M. Government, and recommendations from the Bureau, the Committee may wish to consider including this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its twenty-second session."

### **Moenjodaro (Pakistan)**

The excavated remains of this site continue to be threatened by the environment. The US\$ 24 million International Campaign for the Safeguarding of Moenjodaro, launched by UNESCO and the Government of Pakistan in 1974, was concluded in September 1997. The Campaign's International Advisory Committee, at its final meeting, made recommendations to the Government of Pakistan to create an administrative structure to manage the site with assistance from international experts.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau takes note of the information provided by the Secretariat concerning the conclusion of the International Campaign for the Safeguarding of Moenjodaro, and requested the Government of Pakistan to keep the Secretariat informed on the implementation of the final recommendations of the International Advisory Committee."

### **Sacred City of Kandy, Old Town of Galle and its Fortifications, Golden Temple of Dambulla (Sri Lanka)**

ICOMOS will present the final results of its monitoring mission to Sri Lanka.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to examine information that will be provided at the time of its session and take appropriate action thereupon

### **Itchan Kala, Historic Centre of Bhukara (Uzbekistan)**

In 1995, one of the four minarets collapsed and resulted in destabilizing the entire structure of Chor Minar, Bhukara. Emergency assistance under the World Heritage Fund was provided to undertake urgent conservation measures. Reconstruction and consolidation work was carried out between 1995-97. Despite the original agreement

between UNESCO and the concerned authorities that the reconstruction, consolidation and conservation works would be carried out using traditional methods, the work has been conducted using non-traditional building material, such as poor quality cement and steel.

The Secretariat has received reports that major refacing and rebuilding of historic monuments and replacement of traditional architectural elements with inappropriate modern materials are being carried out at both Bukhara and Itchan Kala. These works, some irreversible, are being conducted for the 2500<sup>th</sup> Jubilee celebrations. They are altering the appearance of the two sites and are affecting the value of the properties.

The Secretariat and ICOMOS will report on the reactive assessment mission to Bukhara and Itchan Kala during the session.

**Decision by the Bureau:** The Bureau may wish to examine information that will be provided at the time of its session and take appropriate action thereupon.

### **Complex of Hué Monuments (Vietnam)**

WH Committee twentieth session para. VII.70

The Committee at its twentieth session endorsed the recommendation of the Bureau, calling upon the Vietnamese authorities to re-evaluate the land-use and building regulations concerning the site's protected area and its buffer zones 2 & 3, and to strengthen its inter-ministerial co-ordination to ensure that the infrastructural development projects do not undermine the World Heritage value of the site. The Bureau, furthermore, requested the Government to continue collaboration with the Governments of France and Japan, the main donors of the road construction projects, to reflect on the safeguarding needs of the site within the context of the regional development scheme. The Secretariat has not received any report from the Government in regard to the above.

In view of continued incidents of illegal constructions in the buffer zones and in pursuant to the request of the Bureau, the Secretariat assisted the Government by mobilizing international support to redress this situation. This led to the development of a decentralized co-operation project with the City and Province of Hué, the City of Lille (France) and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. A project agreement is scheduled to be signed in November 1997. The first phase of the project to evaluate the building regulations and the establishment of a Heritage House within the local urban planning office as an advisory service for the local population and investors, has been funded by the French Government and the City of Lille itself. This co-operation between the two local authorities will bring technical input to the safeguarding effort, and should lead to the strengthening of civic society in Hue through the involvement of local population in the conservation process.

The Hué Monuments Conservation Centre reported to the Secretariat that a typhoon which hit central Vietnam caused extensive damage to the historic buildings within the

core monument zone, and that an emergency request is being prepared. To date, the Secretariat has not yet received a report on the damage nor the request.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to transmit the report by the Secretariat to the Committee for examination and recommend the following for adoption:

"The Committee takes note of the information provided by the Secretariat concerning damage caused by the 24 September 1997 typhoon to the historic buildings of Hué; and of continued building violations in the buffer zones which may undermine the integrity of this site. The Committee expresses its appreciation for the decentralized co-operation project agreement between Hué, Lille and UNESCO which should enable a thorough review of the land-use and building regulations of the protected area and the buffer zones of the site and the establishment of the Heritage House - an advisory service for the local population attached to the municipal urban planning office. The Committee requests the Government to submit to the twenty-second session of the Committee, a written report on the options being considered for the upgrading and construction of roads affecting Hué, and of measures being undertaken to stop building violations. The Committee also requests the Government to provide the Secretariat with a technical report on the impact of the typhoon on the site."

## **Latin America and the Caribbean**

### **Maya Site of Copan (Honduras)**

In July 1997, a scientific seminar took place at Copan to examine the state of conservation of the Hieroglyphic Stairway. This Stairway is one of the most important elements at Copan which justified the application of criterion (vi) at the time of its inscription. The Stairway has deteriorated considerably over the past hundred years and inappropriate interventions have been undertaken in the past.

As a result of the meeting, which was funded under the World Heritage Fund, a Task Force has been set up between the National Institute for Anthropology and History (IHAH), the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the Getty Conservation Institute and the Smithsonian Institution. The Task Force will advise and assist in the implementation of a two-year monitoring and research programme with the aim to preserve the Stairway on its original location.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau commends the Government of Honduras for the exemplary approach taken in studying the conservation problems at the Hieroglyphic Stairway at Copan with the aim to preserve the Stairway in-situ. The Bureau

requests IHAH to keep the Committee informed on a regular basis of the progress made in this respect."

### **Joya de Ceren Archaeological Site (El Salvador)**

In July 1997, an international seminar took place on the conservation and management of the Joya de Ceren Archaeological Site. The seminar was funded under the World Heritage Fund.

The seminar concluded that a **management plan** is required for the archaeological site of Joya de Ceren **in the context of a master plan** for its surroundings. This would permit the interpretation and presentation of the site in its wider context and allow Joya De Ceren to serve as a catalyst for regional development.

The framework for the **management plan** for the archaeological site of Joya de Ceren was adopted, which should consist of six major programmes and an action plan.

In particular, the programme for the management of the archaeological resources was developed, including the setting of priority actions and a detailed work plan for 1997-1999. The most important conclusions in this respect were:

- ◇ identification of immediate actions to stabilise and protect the excavated structures;
- ◇ no new excavations should be undertaken unless they serve the purposes of conservation or presentation of the site;
- ◇ research should be undertaken to define the boundaries of the archaeological site which should enable CONCULTURA to extend the protection and ownership of the site;
- ◇ a two-year monitoring programme should be implemented in order to define the 'ideal' conditions for the preservation of the earthen structures;
- ◇ this would lead eventually to the design of new protective structures.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau takes note of the results of the International Seminar for the Preservation and Management of Joya de Ceren and encourages the authorities of El Salvador to proceed with the implementation of its recommendations, in particular in reference to the preparation of a Master Plan for the site and the 1997-1999 work plan for archaeological research. It requests the authorities to keep the Committee informed on the progress made in these matters."

### **Pre-Hispanic City of Teotihuacan (Mexico)**

WH Bureau twenty-first session para IV.48

The Bureau requested the Mexican authorities to respond by 15 September 1997, to the recommendation of an expert mission. At the time of the preparation of this document, no report had been received.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to examine information that may be available at the time of its session and take appropriate action thereupon

### **Europe and North America**

#### **Butrinti (Albania)**

WH Committee twentieth session para. VII.58

WH Bureau twenty-first session para IV.37

The Secretariat and ICOMOS will report on the assessment mission to Butrinti during the session.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to examine information that will be provided at the time of its session and consider whether this property should be included on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

#### **Le Canal du Midi (France)**

In February 1997 the French organisation "Comité des riverains de la Zone industrielle en Tourne-Bagatelle" from Castelnaudary, submitted a report to the Secretariat on the construction of a waste dump for the transformation and re-use of waste in the vicinity of the Canal. This waste comprises the residue (mud) of urban waste purification, manure, slaughterhouse waste as well as bio-degradable industrial waste (carton).

In response to this report, ICOMOS undertook a mission to Castelnaudary in April 1997. The ICOMOS mission report submitted to the World Heritage Centre examined the location of the site which is foreseen for this industrial complex, approximately 700m from the Canal du Midi and 1600m distance from the locks of Saint-Roche. Having examined in detail the possible impact of this plant, in close discussion with the relevant authorities, ICOMOS concluded that it poses no threats to the World Heritage site and that the risk of pollution vis-à-vis the Canal du Midi is minor.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau takes note of the ICOMOS report concerning the waste dump construction. It recommends that the French authorities observe closely the

impact of the industrial site in order to avoid any negative impact on the World Heritage site and to consider the definition of a buffer zone".

### **Mont-Saint-Michel and its Bay (France)**

The Secretariat has received a report from the National Commission of France, prepared by the Ministry of Equipment, concerning a programme for the rehabilitation of the maritime character of Mont-Saint-Michel. The 7-year programme foresees among others the replacement of the dike over a thousand meters, with a bridge, the relocation of the visitor's parking lot two kilometres away from the Mont, and an improved system of public transportation. These actions are foreseen in the context of a master plan for the Mont-Saint-Michel Bay area. The research and procedural studies will take 3-4 years and the works are expected to take a further 3-4 years.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau takes note of the report and commends the French authorities on this programme of rehabilitation which will greatly improve the integrity of the World Heritage site. It requests the State Party to keep the Committee informed on the progress made in the implementation of this project."

### **Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin (Germany)**

WH Committee twentieth session para. VII.50

WH Bureau twenty-first session para. IV.42

The Bureau at its twenty-first session requested the German authorities to provide a detailed report on Potsdam by 15 October 1997. At the time of the preparation of the document no report had been received.

**Decision required:** The Bureau is requested to examine the expected report on Potsdam and to take the appropriate decision thereupon.

### **Roman Monuments, Cathedral and Liebfrauen Church in Trier (Germany)**

WH Committee twentieth session para. VII.67

WH Bureau twenty-first session para. IV.40

As requested by the Bureau at its twenty-first session, the Minister for Culture, Youth, Family and Women of the Land Rheinland-Pfalz submitted a report on the protection and management mechanisms for the Roman Amphitheatre and its surroundings. The report provides the following information.

The winning design of the urban competition for the area north of the amphitheatre is being realized. This plan foresees a large public access area to the north of the amphitheatre. During the demolition of the old brewery buildings a Roman water system was discovered which runs across the northern half of the area. Discussions are currently being held

between archaeological conservationists, the Land Rheinland-Pfalz, the Town of Trier and the investors to analyse how the archaeological findings can be taken into account in the building plans. A request has been made to put the Roman water system under cultural heritage protection.

Buildings east of the Bergstrasse: The buildings have been partly completed or are under construction. The Town of Trier points out that the architectural volume of buildings had already been reduced and that they are the result of a compromise to limit building surface in this area.

Surrounding area: National heritage preservation for the area surrounding the amphitheatre is currently under discussion (from the base of the rampart and including the vineyards on both sides of Bergstrasse/Sichingenstrasse). The Town of Trier is analysing how further protection of the non-built areas can be realized.

The Town of Trier would welcome a workshop in Trier at which experts could discuss long-term development possibilities taking into account the importance of the amphitheatre.

ICOMOS will inform the Bureau during its session of the results of its mission to Trier.

**Decision requested:** The Bureau is requested to examine the report submitted by the Minister for Culture, Youth, Family and Women of the Land Rheinland-Pfalz as well as ICOMOS's report and take the appropriate action thereupon.

### **Collegiate Church, Castle and Old Town in Quedlinburg (Germany)**

WH Bureau twenty-first session para. IV.41

In response to the request of the World Heritage Bureau, the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Land Sachsen-Anhalt submitted a report on the state of conservation and development plans for the City of Quedlinburg which provides the following information.

In 1996 the City Council adopted an urban development plan which includes aspects such as the townscape, traffic and land-use. A design charter for the old town will be adopted by the end of 1997. The town co-operates closely in all investment projects with the competent conservation authorities. An interdisciplinary advisory council of experts provides advice on the rehabilitation work and have laid the groundwork for different support programmes.

At the initiative of the Land Ministry of Construction, a centre has been established which addresses themes such as the teaching of craft techniques, research, recycling of construction materials and information on half-timbered buildings. The half-timbered houses in Quedlinburg have suffered extensive damage and analyses have revealed that damage can be found in all parts of the town centre. To date, 240 buildings have been subject to emergency action. Extensive restoration has been carried out at the seminary Church and castle buildings as well as the green areas and Baroque and herb gardens. Furthermore, an architectural competition has been held for six open areas and a master

plan has been developed to define new uses for industrial wasteland and define a strategy for the redevelopment of open areas and demolition areas.

All plans and projects are seen within the context of the World Heritage Convention and the protection of the World Heritage site. One of the main purposes of the renovation programme is to expand and create adequate visitor/tourist facilities and to improve the infrastructure.

ICOMOS will report on their mission to Quedlinburg as requested by the World Heritage Bureau.

**Decision requested:** The Bureau is requested to examine the report submitted by the Land Sachsen-Anhalt as well as ICOMOS's report and take the appropriate action thereupon.

### **Alhambra, Generalife and Albayzin, Granada (Spain)**

WH Bureau twenty-first session para. IV.54

Since the last session of the Bureau (twenty-first session, June 1997) and in accordance with the requests and recommendations of the Bureau made to the national authorities by the Secretariat, the preparations for the organization of a seminar on the revitalization of the Albayzin quarter have continued and intensified. Furthermore, the social revitalization activities have already begun to be implemented. Also, thanks to the intervention of the Director-General, construction work of the Rey Chico festivities hall situated between the Albayzin and the left bank of the Rio Darro have been halted.

Moreover, the Mayor of Granada requested the Secretariat to provide him with a list of experts to study the computerized simulation of the construction and assist in the successful realization of the impact study. The Mayor was advised that the National ICOMOS Committee should be contacted.

With regard to the constitution of a joint Spain-ICOMOS Scientific Committee, suggested to the authorities by UNESCO, the Secretariat was informed by the Permanent Delegation of Spain to UNESCO that the Direction General of Fine Arts welcomed this idea and that a final official reply would be received by the Centre shortly.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau commends the Spanish national authorities for the very positive co-operation established with the World Heritage Centre, particularly for the preparation of the seminar for the Revitalization of the Albayzin, as well as for the halting of the construction work of the Rey Chico festivities hall. The Bureau emphasised the importance of preserving the authenticity of the emblematic site. Finally, the Bureau reminded the Spanish authorities of the importance it attached to an integrated management approach and, in this

framework, to the rapid implementation of a joint Spain-ICOMOS Scientific Committee".

**Old Town of Segovia and its Aqueduct (Spain)**

WH Bureau twenty-first session para. IV.55

The Bureau at its twenty-first session requested the Spanish authorities to submit a report on the measures taken and the plans adopted for the protection of the site. It also requested ICOMOS to undertake a mission to the site. The reports are awaited.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to examine information that may be provided at the time of its session and take appropriate action thereupon.