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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 December 1997

Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda : Examination of nominations  
of cultural and natural properties on the World Heritage List  
and the List of World Heritage in Danger

SUMMARY

This document contains recommendations made by the Bureau at its twenty-first session (June 1997) regarding the nominations of properties for inscription on the World Heritage List and information received. The Bureau is asked to make recommendations to the Committee regarding referred back nominations for complementary information as well as earlier deferred/referred nominations for which additional information has been received. The Bureau's recommendations will be transmitted to the Committee during its session under working document WHC-97/CONF.208/10Rev.

Decision required : In accordance with paragraph 65 of the Operational Guidelines, the Bureau is requested to examine the nominations for inscription on the World Heritage List and make recommendations to the Committee in the following four categories:

- (a) properties which it recommends to inscribe on the List of World Heritage in Danger (after examination of the working document (WHC-97/CONF.207/2);
- (b) properties which it recommends to inscribe on the World Heritage List;
- (c) properties which it decides not to recommend to inscribe on the List;
- (d) properties whose consideration is deferred.

## A. NATURAL PROPERTIES

The Bureau, at its twenty-first session, examined 13 natural nominations and one mixed site received for review by IUCN. The Bureau also examined two previously deferred nominations. The Centre furthermore informed the Bureau that two sites were withdrawn by States Parties: Fossil Forest of Dunarobba (Italy) and Vodlozero National Park (Russian Federation).

The Bureau decided not to examine the nomination of Biogradska Gora National Park (No. 838) submitted by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) as well as the nomination of Central Karakorum National Park (No. 802) submitted by Pakistan.

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

The Bureau, at its thirty-first session, recommended to the Committee to inscribe the following two sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger :

- Okapi Faunal Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
- Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

The Bureau is requested to consider if other properties should be recommended for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger (after examination of the working document WHC-97/CONF.207/2).

### A.2 Properties for which the nominations were referred back for complementary information

Macquarie Island	629 Rev.	Australia	N(i)(iv)
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The Bureau noted that the nomination was submitted for its geological features resulting from its location at the edge of two tectonic plates.

The Bureau noted that IUCN has received further information from the Australian authorities and external reviewers of the nomination dossier. These concern both the significance of Macquarie's geological and biological values and further comparative data on islands of the southern ocean.

The Bureau referred this nomination back to Australia in order that this new material can be assessed in light of additional natural heritage criteria. If this information is received by 15 September 1997, IUCN is asked to provide its evaluation to the twenty-first extraordinary session of the Bureau in November 1997. The information received from the Australian authorities on 15 September 1997 has been transmitted to IUCN for evaluation.

The Sunderbans                      798                      Bangladesh                      N(ii)(iv)

The Bureau decided to refer the property back to the State Party, as it does not meet the conditions of integrity on its own. The Bureau suggested that the authorities of Bangladesh consider enlarging the nomination to include the Sunderbans East and South Wildlife Sanctuaries.

The Bureau furthermore encouraged the authorities of Bangladesh and of India to discuss the possibility for creating a transfrontier site with the adjoining Sunderbans National Park and World Heritage site (India). The information submitted by Bangladesh, on 3 September 1997, has been transmitted to IUCN for evaluation.

National Reserve of                      799                      Kenya  
Maasai Mara

The Bureau noted that the site, on its own, does not meet natural criteria. However, the Bureau noted that this site is an integral component of the Serengeti ecosystem and hence could be considered as an extension to the World Heritage site of Serengeti National Park in Tanzania.

The Bureau encouraged the Kenyan authorities to work together with the Government of Tanzania for a transfrontier agreement to extend the Serengeti World Heritage site to include the National Reserve of Masai Mara. The Bureau expressed concerns over the integrity of the National Reserve of Maasai Mara and asked the Centre to transmit these comments to the authorities of both Tanzania and Kenya and to request their replies by 15 September 1997. The information received from the Kenyan authorities, dated 8 September 1997, has been transmitted to IUCN for evaluation.

Mount Kenya National                      800                      Kenya                      N(ii)(iii)  
Park/Natural Forest

The Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe this property under natural criteria (ii) and (iii) as one of the most impressive landscapes of Eastern Africa with its rugged glacier-clad summits and forested slopes illustrating outstanding ecological processes.

The Bureau noted that Mt. Kenya is also a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and will be the subject of a periodic review to strengthen its Biosphere Reserve functions. Under the statutory framework for Biosphere Reserves, such periodic reviews are required every ten years. The Bureau however expressed concern about illegal deforestation and encroachment on the slopes of Mt. Kenya and recommended that the Kenyan authorities reduce the size of the nominated area by excluding heavily impacted forests. The Bureau asked the Centre to contact the Kenyan authorities and request them to provide details of actions they intend to take to improve management of

the forested zone, and a detailed map of the revised boundaries of the property before 15 September 1997. The information received from the Kenyan authorities, dated 10 September 1997, has been transmitted to IUCN for evaluation.

## B. MIXED PROPERTIES

B.1 Properties which the Bureau recommended for inscription on the World Heritage List under natural criteria and whose nominations have been referred back for complementary information concerning cultural criteria

Name of Property	Identi- fication number	State Party having submitted the nomination in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention	Criteria
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Pyrénées - Mount Perdu	773	France/Spain	N(i)(iii)
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The Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe the site under natural criteria (i) and (iii). The calcareous massif of the Mount Perdu displays in a classic way a number of geological landforms including deep canyons and spectacular cirque walls. It is also an outstanding scenic landscape with meadows, lakes, caves and forests on mountain slopes. In addition, the area is of high interest to science and conservation.

The Bureau took note of the change of the name of the site, from "Mont "Perdu/Tres Seroles" to "Pyrénées - Mount Perdu", as proposed by the two States Parties, and was informed that the site was originally submitted in 1995 under natural criteria. In April 1997 the authorities of France and Spain informed the Centre that they wish also to nominate the area as a cultural landscape under cultural criteria. The Bureau noted that this site is not included in the tentative lists of France and Spain. If the States Parties take action to include the site in their respective tentative lists by 1 September 1997, ICOMOS would be able to carry out an evaluation mission for the cultural landscape aspects in time to report back to the twenty-first extraordinary session of the Bureau. The World Heritage Centre has received the two tentative lists from the States Parties concerned and sent the nomination dossier to ICOMOS for evaluation.

Sibiloi/Central Island	801	Kenya	N(i)(iv)
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## National Parks

The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe this property on the basis of natural criteria (i) and (iv) for the discoveries of mammal fossil remains in the site which led to the scientific reconstruction of the palaeo-environment of the entire Turkana lake basin of the Quarternary period. The Lake Turkana ecosystem with its diverse bird life and desert environment offers an exceptional laboratory for studies of plant and animal communities. The Bureau expressed its concern and drew the attention of the Kenyan authorities to grazing by large herds of domestic livestock in the Parks.

Concerning cultural criteria the Bureau noted ICOMOS' request for further information on the Koobi Fora portion of the site and that a comparative study of fossil hominid sites is expected to be completed in late summer 1997; the results of that study will be presented to the twenty-first extraordinary session of the Bureau in November 1997. However, at the time of the preparation of this document, the Centre has not received any information on Koobi Fora part.

### C. CULTURAL HERITAGE

The Bureau, at its twenty-first session, examined thirty-six new cultural nominations and five nominations which had been deferred or referred back for complementary information. All these nominations are on the tentative lists of the concerned States Parties.

The Bureau recommended to inscribe thirty-two sites on the World Heritage List, six nominations were referred back for complementary information and three sites were deferred.

#### C.1 Inscription of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger

The Bureau is requested to consider if other properties should be recommended for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger (after examination of the working document WHC-97/CONF.207/2).

#### C.2 Properties for which nominations were referred back by the Bureau (June 1997)

The Old Town of Lijiang	811	China	C(ii)(iv)
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The Bureau decided on the referral of this nomination to the extraordinary session of the Bureau in November 1997 in view of the lack of time to fully analyse the additional documents on the management and protective mechanisms provided by the State Party. ICOMOS however stated the site's outstanding universal value as a unique historic town which merges the indigenous Naxi people's building tradition and external forms of

architecture and design. The traditional engineering skills witnessed in the remarkable water system supplying water from the surrounding mountains to every house demonstrates the town's harmonious relationship with its natural environment. ICOMOS paid tribute to the excellent quality of the reconstruction of the town without loss of authenticity after the February 1996 earthquake which demonstrates the living tradition of the indigenous building skills. In relation to this nomination, the Bureau requested the State Party to provide comparative analyses of the historic towns on China's tentative list.

The Centre has received, on 18 September 1997, complementary information which has been transmitted to ICOMOS for evaluation and a report will be presented at the twenty-first extraordinary session of the Bureau.

San Pedro de la            841            Cuba            C(iv)(v)  
Roca Castle, Santiago  
de Cuba

The Bureau welcomed the revised and extended boundaries for the site that were submitted by the State Party in response to ICOMOS' recommendations. The Bureau decided to refer this nomination back to the State Party in order to enable the State Party to submit a management plan for the site. This plan has been sent, on 15 September 1997, to the Centre and transmitted to ICOMOS for evaluation and it will be submitted to the twenty-first extraordinary session of the Bureau.

Portovenere,            826            Italy            C(ii)(iv)(v)  
Cinque Terre, and  
the Islands (Palmaria,  
Tino and Tinetto)

The Bureau referred the examination of this property back to the State Party requesting detailed information on tourism management, and legal instruments and mechanisms and community involvement to preserve the characteristics of this cultural landscape. There was a discussion on the role of IUCN in evaluating cultural landscapes. The Representative of IUCN pointed out that, while the Operational Guidelines call for IUCN to be associated with ICOMOS in evaluating appropriate cultural landscape nominations, no additional finance had yet been allocated to ICOMOS to facilitate this.

If this information is provided and judged satisfactory by the next extraordinary session of the Bureau, the Bureau recommends inscription of this property on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (ii), (iv) and (v). At the time of the preparation of this document, the Centre has not yet received any complementary information.

The Costiera Amalfitana	830	Italy	C(ii)(iv)(v)
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The Bureau referred the examination of this property and requested the State Party to provide information on the management of the site.

The Centre has received information which has been transmitted to ICOMOS for evaluation. In case this information be judged satisfactory by the next extraordinary session of the Bureau, the Bureau recommended the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (ii), (iv) and (v).

The Archaeological Area of Agrigento	831	Italy	C(i)(ii)(iii) (iv)
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The Bureau referred the examination of this property and requested the State Party to provide assurance for adequate funding for the management and maintenance of the property.

In case this information be provided and judged satisfactory by the next extraordinary session of the Bureau, the Bureau recommends the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv). At the time of the preparation of this document, the Centre has not yet received any complementary information.

Bagan (Pagan) Archaeological Area and Monuments	796	Myanmar	C(i)(ii)(iii) (iv)(v)
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The Bureau decided on the referral of this nomination to the extraordinary session of the Bureau in November 1997. In view of the unquestionable universal significance of this site, the Bureau recognized the merit for the inscription of this site on the World Heritage List. The Bureau, however, stressed the need for the State Party to define the core protected area and a meaningful buffer zone and adopt legal measures to ensure their effective enforcement. The Bureau expressed concern over the impact of the golf course located in the vicinity of the archaeological site and of the recently upgraded road which cuts across the site. The Bureau therefore urged the State Party to urgently submit a preparatory assistance request to enable an international expert team to carry out a mission to assist the authorities in defining the boundaries of the protection area and buffer zone, as well as to review the master plan and the national legal and management framework to ensure the site's protection, authenticity and integrity.

The World Heritage Centre informed the State Party of the concerns of the Bureau. However, as of 23 September, the request for preparatory assistance was not received.

C.3 Property for which the nomination has been deferred and  
for which complementary information has been received

Rohtas Fort                      586Rev.                      Pakistan

At its sixteenth session, the Committee decided to defer the nomination of Rohtas Fort (Qila Rohtas) until information concerning a comparative study was made available. Since then, a comparative study has been submitted and forwarded to ICOMOS for evaluation. An ICOMOS evaluation mission took place in May 1997. Based upon the information from the comparative study and the findings of the mission, ICOMOS will present its evaluation report to the twenty-first extraordinary session of the Bureau.