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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

**Twenty-first session
Naples, Italy**

28 - 29 November 1997

Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda : Requests for International Assistance

A.2.3. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

A.2.3.2 Democratic Republic of the Congo (Purchase of Vehicles for four World Heritage Sites)

Concerned World Heritage sites :

- (i) Virunga and Garamba National Parks already declared by the Committee as World Heritage in Danger ; and
- (ii) Kahuzi Biega National Park and Okapi Wildlife Sanctuary recommended by the Bureau (June 1997) for inclusion in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Previous World Heritage Fund Contributions : Substantial amounts of international assistance to the four World Heritage sites mentioned above had been disbursed in the past :

Preparatory assistance :

- US\$ 3,000 for the nomination of Okapi (1994) ;
- US\$ 15,000 preparation of indicative list (1995).

Emergency assistance :

- US\$ 77,845 for equipment for Garamba (1986-89 and in 1994) ;
- US\$ 20,000 for Virunga (1993).

Technical co-operation :

- US\$ 14,848 for a Jeep (1988) and US\$ 30,000 for equipment (1995) for Kahuzi Biega ;
- US\$ 50,000 for vehicles for Garamba (1989) ;

Training : a total of US\$ 44,866 during 1981-1990 for training of specialists.

Monitoring :

- US\$ 6,100 for a monitoring mission to Virunga and Kahuzi-Biega National Parks carried out in May 1996

Summary Description : Since July 1994, war and civil unrest have ravaged the Democratic Republic of Congo (previously, Zaire). The eastern parts of the country where the four World Heritage sites under consideration are situated have been particularly affected. Refugee activities are estimated to have damaged large areas in and around these four sites ; about 800,000 ha in Virunga National Park and 600,000 ha in Kahuzi Biega National Park have been significantly degraded. In Garamba and Okapi, the damage to ecosystems has been less severe, but an estimated area between 500,000 and 1,000,000 ha is estimated to be impacted. The inventory of equipment in all four sites has been looted and most of the staff have fled the area; staff remaining in the site have no means of mobility to survey the large surface areas of each of the four parks and loss of surveillance capacity has resulted in the widespread increase in poaching.

From September 1997 however, the Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism of the Democratic Republic of Congo has started to re-establish its control over the four sites as the socio-political situation in the eastern parts of the country has begun to stabilise. Personnel are returning to the sites and preparations, in co-operation with international conservation organisations such as WWF and IUCN and potential donors like UNDP and GTZ, for elaborating rehabilitation plans for the four World Heritage sites of the Democratic Republic of Congo are underway.

The Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism welcomed the high-level mission from UNESCO, as recommended by the Bureau at its twenty-first session in June 1997. The mission has not yet been fielded due to prevailing security restrictions on all UN travel to the Democratic Republic of Congo. However, IUCN has included a monitoring mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo in its work plan and budget for 1998. The planning of UNESCO's high-level mission in early 1998 will be co-ordinated with the timing of the IUCN mission.

This emergency assistance request is for the purchase of one four-wheel drive vehicle for each of the four World Heritage sites to enable staff to carry out basic survey and surveillance operations essential to gather data needed for rehabilitation planning.

Budget Breakdown : Total Amount requested : JY 11,414,000 or US\$ 88,400
(at a rate of US\$ 1 = JY 125)

National and other input : Not specified

Requested from the Fund: A sum of JY 11,414,000 or US\$ 88,400 is requested for the purchase of four units of Toyota Land Cruiser HZJ 175 Hardtop Model and their delivery directly to the World Heritage site via Mombasa (Kenya) and Kigali (Rwanda). The breakdown of the cost per unit (JY 2,853,500 or US\$ 22,100) is as follows :

• unit costs of Toyota Land Cruiser	JY	2,321,500.00	
• freight charges	JY	490,000.00	
• insurance	JY	42,000.00	
	Total	JY 2,853,500.00	or US\$ 22,100

The quotation and best route for delivery of the vehicles to the sites were determined, as requested by the authorities of the Democratic Republic of Congo, by UNESCO's Unit for the Purchase of Equipment.

Comments from Advisory Bodies : The request has been prepared in consultation with IUCN representatives in Africa and is supported by IUCN's Senior Advisor for Natural Heritage.

Action by the Bureau : The Bureau recommends that the Committee approves a sum of US\$ 90,000 under emergency assistance, allowing for fluctuations in US\$/JY exchange rates, to enable the purchase of four units of Toyota Land Cruisers to benefit the staff of the World Heritage sites of Garamba, Virunga and Kahuzi Biega National Parks and the Okapi Wildlife Sanctuary.