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AND NATURAL HERITAGE

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Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda: Report of the Secretary on the activities undertaken by the Secretariat since the twentieth session of the Committee

SUMMARY

This document presents an overview of some of the activities carried out by the World Heritage Centre, in servicing the World Heritage statutory organs, between December 1996 and November 1997 according to the following subject headings:

1. Introduction
2. States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention*
3. Statutory meetings, 1997
4. Financial Audit of the World Heritage Fund for 1996 and Management Review of the World Heritage Centre
5. Cooperation with the advisory bodies, other convention secretariats and organizations
6. The Global Strategy
7. The World Heritage List
8. Monitoring and reporting of the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List
9. International Assistance
10. World Heritage in Danger and World Heritage under threat
11. Other training activities
12. Documentation, Information and Education

Further details may be found in the relevant working documents (WHC-97/CONF.208/1 to WHC-97/CONF.208/16) and information documents (WHC-97/CONF.208/INF.1 to WHC-97/CONF.208/INF.16), presented to the twenty-first session of the World Heritage Committee.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
1.	Introduction	4
2.	States Parties to the <i>World Heritage Convention</i>	4
3.	Statutory meetings, 1997	4
4.	Financial Audit of the World Heritage Fund for 1996 and Management Review of the World Heritage Centre	5
	(i) Consultative Body	
	(ii) Financial Audit of the World Heritage Fund for 1996	
	(iii) Management Review of the World Heritage Centre	
	(iv) The UNESCO World Heritage Centre, 1997	
5.	Cooperation with the advisory bodies, other convention secretariats and organizations	6
	(i) Cooperation with the advisory bodies	
	(ii) Cooperation with other convention secretariats	
	(iii) Cooperation with other organizations	
6.	The Global Strategy	9
	(i) Tentative lists	
	(ii) The Global Strategy	
7.	The World Heritage List	10
	(i) The World Heritage List	
	(ii) Nominations to the World Heritage List, 1997	
	(iii) Nominations to the World Heritage List, 1998	
	(iv) Regional analysis of the World Heritage List	
8.	Monitoring and reporting of the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List	11
9.	International Assistance	12
	(i) Preparatory Assistance	
	(ii) Technical Assistance	
	(iii) Training Assistance	
	(iv) Emergency Assistance	
10.	World Heritage in Danger and World Heritage under threat	16
	(i) The Democratic Republic of the Congo	
	(ii) Fires in Indonesia	
	(iii) Butrinti, Albania	
	(iv) Ichkeul National Park, Tunisia	

11.	Other training activities	17
12.	Documentation, Information and Education	18
	(i) Overview	
	(ii) World Heritage Information	
	(iii) Exhibitions and special events	
	(iv) Publications	
	(v) The Internet	
	(vi) Young People's World Heritage Education Project	

Annexes

Annex I	Increase in States Parties to the <i>World Heritage Convention</i> , 1973-1997
Annex II	Sites inscribed on the World Heritage List by region
Annex III	New Nominations 1997
Annex IV	State of Conservation reports by region, 1997
Annex V	World Heritage Web Usage Statistics, May 1996 to September 1997

1. Introduction

This document presents an overview of some of the activities carried out by the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO (Paris, France) in servicing the World Heritage statutory organs between December 1996 and November 1997. This work was undertaken in cooperation with States Parties, the advisory bodies (ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN), other Sectors of UNESCO and other partners.

Detailed information on each of these activities may be found in the relevant working documents (**WHC-97/CONF.208/1 to WHC-97/CONF.208/16**) and information documents (**WHC-97/CONF.208/INF.1 to WHC-97/CONF.208/INF.16**), presented to the twenty-first session of the World Heritage Committee.

Additional information on some of these activities is available on the World Heritage Centre's web site www.unesco.org/whc as well as in the three issues of the *World Heritage Newsletter* and the 18 electronic bulletins of *WHNEWS*, disseminated in 1997.

2. States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention*

As of 7 November, 1997 152 of the 185 Member States of UNESCO are States Parties to the 1972 UNESCO *Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*.

Since the twentieth session of the World Heritage Committee in December 1996, Andorra, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, South Africa, Papua New Guinea and Suriname joined the *Convention*.

In 1997, the Centre continued to appeal to those countries who have not ratified the *Convention* to become States Parties.

Annex I shows the cumulative and incremental increase in the number of States Parties to the *Convention* from 1973 to 1997.

3. Statutory meetings, 1997

The twenty-first session of the **Bureau** of the World Heritage Committee was held at UNESCO Headquarters from 23 to 28 June 1997 (see Report of the Rapporteur **WHC-97/CONF.208/4A**).

At the time of the twenty-ninth session of the General Conference of UNESCO, the eleventh **General Assembly of States Parties** met on 27 and 28 October, 1997. Seven new members of the Committee were elected during the General Assembly, namely, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Zimbabwe. The other fourteen members of the Committee are Australia, Benin, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Ecuador, France, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Niger and the United States of America.

The General Assembly considered and adopted a recommendation on monitoring and reporting on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List which had been proposed by the World Heritage Committee at its twentieth session. The Draft Resolution which is based on Article 29 of the *World Heritage Convention* was then considered and adopted by the twenty-ninth General Conference of UNESCO.

On 29 October, 1997, an **extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee** met at UNESCO Headquarters to elect a new Bureau. The new Chairperson is Professor Francesco Francioni of Italy, the five Vice-Chairpersons are Benin, Ecuador, Japan, Morocco and the United States of America, and the new Rapporteur is Mr Noel Fattal of Lebanon.

The **twenty-ninth session of the General Conference** held at UNESCO Headquarters from 21 October to 13 November, 1997 approved the Programme and Budget for UNESCO for 1998-1999. The 29C/5 includes Sub-programme III.1.2, "Promotion of the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage", with six main lines of action for the new biennium, namely: statutory functions, the Global Strategy for a representative World Heritage List, capacity building for protection and management of World Heritage properties, monitoring and reporting on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties, World Heritage awareness-raising and World Heritage Education.

The twenty-first extraordinary session of the **Bureau** will be held in Naples, Italy from 28 to 29 November, 1997 (see Report of the Rapporteur **WHC-97/CONF.208/4B**).

4. Financial Audit of the World Heritage Fund for 1996 and Management Review of the World Heritage Centre

(i) Consultative Body

A **Consultative Body** was established by the World Heritage Committee at its twentieth session to take action on the proposal adopted by the Committee, "to undertake a review of the way in which the World Heritage Centre has assisted the Committee in implementing the World Heritage Convention". The members of the Consultative Body are Australia, Benin, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Malta and Mexico. It met in Paris on 1 to 2 April, 1997 (see Annex VIII.3 of **WHC-97/CONF.208/4A**), 20 June, 1997 (see Annex VIII.4 of **WHC-97/CONF.208/4A**), on 30 and 31 October, 1997 (**WHC-97/CONF.208/5**) and is expected to meet again at the end of November. The report of the work of the Consultative Body will be presented to the twenty-first session of the Committee.

(ii) Financial Audit of the World Heritage Fund for 1996

A Financial Audit of the World Heritage Fund for the year ended 31 December 1996 was requested by the World Heritage Committee at its twentieth session. The Financial Audit undertaken by the Auditor General of Canada was completed in June 1997. The overall comment of the Auditor was good. The Auditor stated that,

" ... in my opinion, the transactions of the [World Heritage] Fund that have come to my notice during my audit of the financial statements have, in all significant respects, been in accordance with the Fund's and UNESCO's Financial Regulations and legislative authorities."

The report of the External Auditor is included as Annex VIII.1 of **WHC-97/CONF.208/4A**. The written comments of the Director-General on the report are included as Annex VIII.2 of **WHC-97/CONF.208/4A**.

Following the recommendations of the Auditor work to improve the administrative performance of the Centre is proceeding. The Director-General has ensured further

strengthening of the administration of the Centre with the recent, but delayed, appointment of a professional administrator.

(iii) Management Review of the World Heritage Centre

The World Heritage Committee at its twentieth session also requested a Management Review of the Centre. This Review was also undertaken by the Auditor General of Canada whose report was made available to the Director-General of UNESCO in the third week of November, 1997 (see **WHC-97/CONF.208/5**).

(iv) The UNESCO World Heritage Centre, 1997

A table showing the staff and consultants working in the Centre and the organizational chart are included in **WHC-97/CONF.208/13**.

In 1997 two staff members at the P5 level were transferred out of the Centre with their posts. A professional administrator at the P3 level was recruited.

A total of five Associate Experts were provided by Austria, Denmark, Japan (two) and Sweden respectively and personnel were seconded from the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO and France (two).

5. Cooperation with the advisory bodies, other convention secretariats and organizations

(i) Cooperation with the advisory bodies

The coordination of World Heritage activities between the **advisory bodies** and the World Heritage Centre was discussed at a meeting held on 3 February, 1997 at ICCROM in Rome, Italy and a second meeting on 8 September, 1997 at ICOMOS in Paris, France.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Centre and the World Conservation Union (**IUCN**) signed in October 1996 has facilitated the management of contracts established with IUCN for advisory services pertaining to evaluation of nominations, reactive monitoring, training and global studies and enhanced participation of IUCN's global network of experts in the work of the *Convention*. These improvements, in the cooperation between the Centre and IUCN (including the World Commission on Protected Areas (**WCPA**) and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (**WCMC**)) in 1997 are expected to be further consolidated in 1998. A detailed report of the activities undertaken by IUCN since the twentieth session of the World Heritage Committee and justification of expenses according to the workplan approved by the Committee are presented in **WHC-97/CONF.208/INF.6A**.

An MOU between the Centre and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (**ICOMOS**) is awaiting signature. A detailed report of the activities undertaken by ICOMOS since the twentieth session of the World Heritage Committee and justification of expenses according to the workplan approved by the Committee are presented in **WHC-97/CONF.208/INF.6B**.

An MOU between the Centre and the International Centre for the Preservation of Cultural Property (**ICCROM**) is awaiting signature. A detailed report of the activities undertaken by ICCROM since the twentieth session of the World Heritage Committee and justification of

expenses according to the workplan approved by the Committee are presented in **WHC-97/CONF.208/INF.6C**.

(ii) Cooperation with other convention secretariats

In 1997, the World Heritage Centre took part in a series of meetings to review the **1954 Hague Convention**. At these meetings the recently launched International Committee of the Blue Shield was discussed and proposals to create better links between the *Hague Convention* and the *World Heritage Convention* were made. At its twenty-first session, the Committee will receive a report on World Heritage and the Prevention of **Illicit Traffic** in Movable Cultural Property (see **WHC-97/CONF.208/15**).

In 1997 the Chairperson approved a contribution from the World Heritage Fund to a feasibility study, currently being undertaken by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), for harmonized information management among the different conventions dealing with biodiversity conservation. Other convention secretariats participating in the activity all of which have also made financial contributions are: **Biodiversity Convention, CITES Convention, RAMSAR,** and the **Convention on Migratory Species**. The results of the study, due in early 1998, will indicate possibilities for cooperation for information sharing between conventions and the feasibility for consolidated reporting by States Parties to the different conventions.

The Centre is in consultation with the **Biodiversity Convention** Secretariat to explore the feasibility of establishing an MOU.

In 1997 the Centre contributed to the draft of a legal text for the "European Landscape Convention" at hearings of the **Council of Europe**. The draft text proposes an agreement between the *World Heritage Convention* and the proposed "European Landscape Convention" (see **WHC-97/CONF.208/INF.12**).

(iii) Cooperation with other organizations

The Director of the Centre attended the **World Bank's** Fifth Annual Conference on "Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development", in Washington D.C., United States of America from 6 to 8 October, 1997. The Director of the Centre made a presentation on biodiversity conservation. Opportunities for closer cooperation between the World Bank and Centre, in particular with regard to natural heritage and World Heritage cities, were discussed and will be further explored in 1998.

The Centre strengthened its collaboration with the **World Monuments Fund** through participation at the World Monuments Watch Selection Panel held in New York, United States of America in April 1997. The World Monuments Watch List provides funding opportunities for conservation projects at a number of World Heritage sites.

Continuing cooperation between **Europa Nostra** and the Centre is focussing on monitoring and cultural landscape protection.

The Centre participated in the Fourth International Symposium of the **Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC)** in Evora, Portugal from 17 to 20 September 1997 on the theme of "Tourism and World Heritage Cities: Challenges and Opportunities", and the third General Assembly of the Organization.

In 1997, cooperation between the Centre and the **Nordic World Heritage Office (NWHO)** (established in 1996 and fully funded by Norway) continued. The annual report of the NWHO is presented as **WHC-97/CONF.208/INF.10**.

Missions to Latvia and Estonia by the Centre and **NWHO** were organized to discuss future cooperation and to assist the States Party with the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*. The authorities in Riga expressed the need to rehabilitate the city but that a concept for integrated urban planning in conformity with the *Convention* is needed. Upon request of the Latvian Government, the NWHO jointly with UNESCO, has been asked to provide assistance with wood conservation (one of the pressing priorities in Latvia). A small project on the conservation of wooden houses has been identified which could be funded by the Nordic countries.

Cultural revival is the leading theme in Tallinn, Estonia which is greatly supported by the active awareness and willingness of the citizens to preserve their heritage. Although visibly many restoration projects are being carried out the authorities feel that more awareness of the importance of the historic buildings and the importance of the use of authentic materials by citizens and private investors is required. Also a masterplan of the entire area of Tallinn is urgently needed.

The **NWHO** intends jointly with the Latvian authorities to organise a seminar in Riga on sustainable development in cities. Under the umbrella of the "Sustainable Historic Cities" programme, case studies will be conducted with Tallinn, Estonia and Visby, Sweden in 1998 which will help to establish practical guidelines. for urban management.

Financing of some cooperation projects for safeguarding and sustainable development of World Heritage cities in Asia is being secured by the Centre, through agreements between the local authorities of Asia, the **European Union (EU)** and EU countries such as France and the United Kingdom, as well as through donations from the private sector. Building on the experience of the cooperation between Luang Prabang, Laos and Chinon, France, the Centre has facilitated cooperation between Hué, Vietnam and the "Communauté urbaine de Lille", France; Bhaktapur and Patan Monument Zones of Kathmandu Valley, Nepal with Bath and Chester, United Kingdom. The Intramuros Commission which manages the Manila Intramuros, the Philippines where the World Heritage San Augustin Church is located, has requested the support of the Centre to find a suitable European partner under this EU programme. The Centre arranged for an umbrella agreement to be signed between UNESCO and the Government of France for the safeguarding and development of monumental and urban heritage sites in October 1997. This agreement is a significant opportunity to enhance the policy of decentralized cooperation, fostering the sustainable development of World Heritage cities.

A project on cultural tourism in Mali has been finalised with **UNDP** funds and a project in Ethiopia shall be financed by **NORAD**.

The integrated conservation project for the Isle of Mozambique was finalised and a Trust Fund was opened. **UNDP** provided funds for the preparation of the project proposal and an Associate Expert was made available by Finland for two years to work on the conservation of the Isle of Mozambique.

6. The Global Strategy

(i) Tentative lists

Of the 152 States Parties to the *Convention*, 84 have submitted tentative lists that comply with the format specified in the *Operational Guidelines* (see **WHC-97/CONF.208/9**). This figure represents a gradual improvement compared to 1996 when 72 tentative lists had been received.

Further efforts are however required to ensure the systematic preparation and use of tentative lists for the identification, assessment and evaluation of properties for inclusion in the World Heritage List.

The December 1996 Nordic Council of Ministers' report entitled "Nordic World Heritage" systematically reviewed the Nordic Countries natural and cultural heritage in that region with the objective of ensuring a balanced and representative World Heritage List. The content of the report was reviewed in detail at a follow-up meeting held in Iceland on 11 to 13 August.

(ii) The Global Strategy

An overview of progress made in 1997 in implementing the Global Strategy for a more representative and balanced World Heritage List is included in **WHC-97/CONF.208/11**.

In 1997 a follow-up workshop to the 1995 and 1996 Global Strategy meetings that were held in Africa took place in Bagamoyo, Tanzania from 19 to 21 August 1997 with the attendance of ten countries from Eastern and Southern Africa. Recommendations of the workshop are included as Annex II of **WHC-97/CONF.208/11**.

A Global Strategy meeting for the Pacific region was held in Suva, Fiji from 15 to 18 July 1997. The "Findings and Recommendations" of the Fiji meeting are presented to the Committee as information document **WHC-97/CONF.208/INF.8**. The twenty-ninth General Conference of UNESCO adopted a Resolution defining a unifying and transdisciplinary approach to sustainable development initiatives in the Pacific and a Plan of Action for a programme "Focus on the Pacific" is now underway. The Centre is participating in the elaboration of the Plan of Action and will emphasise the realisation of goals and objectives of the Global Strategy for the Pacific, particularly the Findings and Recommendations of the Global Strategy meeting held in Suva, Fiji, as part of its contribution to the activities of the "Focus on the Pacific".

For natural heritage, thematic studies on tropical forests, wetlands, coastal and marine ecosystems funded by contribution from Australia are currently being undertaken by IUCN and WCMC. Examples of some publications based on the findings of the studies are available for review by Committee members.

Preparations for the Global Strategy Expert Meeting on Natural and Cultural Heritage to be held in the Netherlands in 1998, have begun. Most notably a consultation meeting to discuss the scope and agenda of the meeting was held on 28 June 1997.

A second meeting of Directors of Cultural Heritage was held in Cartagena, Colombia, on 27 and 28 May, 1997 in preparation for the Ninth Forum of Ministers of Culture of Latin America and the Caribbean. The Ministers supported the initiative of Colombia to work towards the inscription of a coherent ensemble of fortifications in the Caribbean in the World Heritage List. They also supported the study of new categories of cultural and natural heritage within the framework of

the *World Heritage Convention* such as cultural landscapes, cultural routes, industrial heritage, the heritage of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and expressions of living cultures.

The traveling exhibition "Africa Revisited" circulated in Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania. It consists of 21 panels, 114 photos, 33 drawings, maps and engravings.

A representative of the Centre presented a keynote speech at a World Heritage workshop on European Natural Heritage organized by WCPA/IUCN and the German authorities in Vilm/Rügen, Germany from 8 to 13 November, 1997.

Actions to strengthen the application of the World Heritage cultural landscape categories were taken in 1997 with the participation of the Centre in a number of site specific conferences on the identification (e.g. Rhine Valley, Germany, 6-7 November 1997) and the protection (Heritage and Landscape, Sintra/Portugal, 23-25 October 1997) of cultural landscapes.

7. The World Heritage List

(i) The World Heritage List

Following the decisions made by the World Heritage Committee at its twentieth session in Merida, Mexico in December 1996, the World Heritage List now includes a total of **506** properties (**380** cultural properties, **107** natural properties and **19** mixed properties) located in the territories of a total of **108** States Parties.

(ii) Nominations to the World Heritage List, 1997

At its twenty-first session the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee (23 to 28 June, 1997) examined a total of **55** new nominations for inscription in the World Heritage List (**13** natural, **41** cultural and **1** mixed cultural and natural properties). (see Report of the Rapporteur of the Bureau presented to the Committee as **WHC-97/CONF.208/4A**).

Annex II shows the cumulative and incremental increase in the number of sites inscribed on the World Heritage List by region from 1978 to 1996.

Following the recommendations of the Bureau, the twenty-first session of the World Heritage Committee will examine a total of **48** nominations for inscription in the World Heritage List (**7** natural, **39** cultural and **2** mixed cultural and natural properties) (see **WHC-97/CONF.208/10**).

(iii) Nominations to the World Heritage List, 1998

For 1998 a total of **42** nominations (5 natural, 1 mixed and 36 cultural) have been forwarded to IUCN and ICOMOS by the World Heritage Centre for evaluation.

(iv) Regional analysis of the World Heritage List

The regional distribution of new nominations remains skewed in favour of Western Europe for 1997 as shown in **Annex III**.

However, it is pleasing to note that in 1997 the Committee is examining nominations from five States Parties (Dominica, Estonia, Kenya, Latvia and Myanmar) for the first time.

8. Monitoring and reporting of the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

A total of 127 state of conservation reports will have been examined by the twenty first sessions of the Bureau and/or the Committee in 1997 (see **WHC-97/CONF.208/4A**, **WHC-97/CONF.208/8A** and **WHC-97/CONF.208/8B**). Of the 59 reports for cultural heritage, 5 are from Africa, 15 from the Arab States, 12 from Asia and the Pacific, 21 from Europe and North America and 6 from Latin America and the Caribbean. Of the 66 reports for natural heritage, 16 are from Africa, 5 from the Arab States, 20 from Asia and the Pacific, 12 from Europe and North America and 13 from Latin America and the Caribbean. Both of the reports for mixed sites are from Latin America and the Caribbean (see **Annex IV**). In some instances state of conservation reports for a property have been examined by both the Committee and the Bureau. State of conservation reports of all 22 properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger will have been examined by the Committee and/or the Bureau in 1997.

Particular attention has been given by the World Heritage Centre to World Heritage properties affected by civil unrest: the natural heritage sites in the Democratic Republic of Congo (former Zaire) and the archaeological site of Butrinti in Albania. A rapid assessment mission was sent to Butrinti in late October (see **WHC-97/CONF.208/INF.15**) and a rapid assessment mission will be sent to the Democratic Republic of Congo as soon as the security situation permits (see Section 10 for further details).

A Synthesis Report on the State of Conservation of World Heritage cultural properties in the Asia and the Pacific Region inscribed before 1992 is under preparation. Most of the reports of the state of conservation of the 99 World Heritage sites in the Asia and the Pacific Region have been received by the World Heritage Centre. It is foreseen that the draft Synthesis Report will be presented to the Bureau at its twenty-second session. The Report will contain a presentation of the different types of legal and regulatory frameworks that protect and conserve cultural properties in States Parties of the Asia and the Pacific Region, as well as country and site profiles. Major problems and « best practices » in the conservation of World Heritage cultural sites will also be presented in this Report.

The Centre participated in a monitoring seminar which was held in Røros, Norway, in September 1997 at which the concept of **monitoring and state of conservation reporting for the Nordic sites** was discussed. The seminar was part of the three year strategy of the NWHO. A Nordic state of conservation report will be prepared by NWHO for the end of 1998 and is envisaged to be updated in the future.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests of India hosted a **South Asian World Natural Heritage site managers meeting** at New Delhi and Keoladeo National Park, India from 16 to 19 January 1997. State of conservation reports on all 8 natural heritage sites of South Asia were presented at this meeting. Site visits to three Indian World Heritage sites (Manas, Kaziranga and Keladeo) were undertaken and emergency (Manas) and technical (Kaziranga) assistance projects developed for two of them for the period 1997-1999.

At the twenty-ninth **General Conference of UNESCO a Resolution on monitoring and reporting on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List** was adopted. The Resolution:

Invites the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention to submit in accordance with Article 29 of the Convention, through the World Heritage Committee, via its secretariat the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, reports on the legislative and administrative provisions and other actions which they have taken for the application of the Convention, including the state of conservation of the World Heritage properties located on its territories;

and

requests the World Heritage Committee to define the periodicity, form, nature and extent of the periodic reporting on the application of the World Heritage Convention and on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties and to examine and respond to these reports while respecting the principle of State sovereignty;

and

Requests the World Heritage Committee to include in its reports to the General Conference, presented in accordance with Article 29.3 of the Convention, its findings as regard to the application of the Convention by the States Parties.

The twenty-first session of the Committee is now being asked to consider the decision of the General Conference and take the appropriate decisions (see **WHC-97/CONF.208/6** and **WHC-97/CONF.208/7**).

9. International Assistance

The implementation of international assistance as approved by the Bureau, Committee and Chairperson is summarised in Annex III of **WHC-97/CONF.208/14** as of 31 August 1997. Some highlights of international assistance activities supported by the World Heritage Fund in 1997 are also summarised very briefly below.

(i) Preparatory assistance

During 1997, **preparatory assistance** was approved for the following States Parties: Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Guyana, Jamaica, Laos, Latvia, Malta, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, the Philippines, Senegal and Sudan, amongst others.

(ii) Technical assistance

Some examples of projects supported through technical assistance from the World Heritage Fund are described below.

A technical assistance grant for the assessment of the state of conservation of Lalibela, **Ethiopia** was approved and a pilot conservation project was prepared.

At the World Heritage in Danger site of Chan Chan Archaeological Zone, **Peru** a Pan-American Course on the Conservation and Management of Earthen Architectural and Archaeological Heritage was held in late 1996. The course studied the conservation and management policies for the site and will contribute to future planning. **Technical assistance** under the World Heritage Fund was provided in 1997 to strengthen the management structure, as well as **Emergency Assistance** to prepare the site for the El Nino phenomenon which is expected to have a major impact on the site.

Technical assistance grants for the restoration work at Al-Sinnari House, Islamic Cairo, **Egypt** were approved in 1996 and 1997. The restoration work undertaken in cooperation with the French Embassy is expected to be completed by 1998.

The implementation of a technical assistance grant for flood control work at Petra, **Jordan** approved in 1995 continues to be delayed and interrupted due to bad weather conditions last spring.

The first phase of work has been completed, and the second phase begun, on restoration work at the Baths south of Bosra, **Syrian Arab Republic** for which a technical assistance grant was approved in 1996.

Protective work against flooding at Quseir Amra, **Jordan** supported through a technical assistance grant approved in 1995, has now been completed in close collaboration with the Directorate of Antiquities of Jordan and the French Archaeological Institute for the Near East (IFAPO). Furthermore, within the same framework, French specialists have completed the plans of the Visitors' Centre with the concerned national authorities having already approved the building plan.

A technical assistance grant was provided for a study on the "**Identification of potential natural heritage sites in the Arab Countries**", prepared by Professor Ghabbour (Cairo University). Natural World Heritage sites are currently underrepresented in the Arab Region with only three natural and one mixed World Heritage site. A copy of the study will be provided to States Parties in the Arab Region for information.

Technical Assistance was provided to Vilnius Historic Centre, **Lithuania** in the framework of the rehabilitation programme for the Old Town. The report on the International Conference of Potential Donors and Investors, which was held from 24 to 26 February 1997 has been published. The World Heritage Centre and the UNDP are proceeding with the joint project for the rehabilitation and the establishment of the Old Town Revitalisation Agency (OTRA) is currently being formalised. Further assistance was also provided for an expert mission and for ICCROM to advise on the restoration and conservation of a 17th century church and its frescoes located in Vilnius Old Town.

Funds were provided to the government of **Sri Lanka** to carry out scientific research for its six World Heritage cultural sites. The funds were used to purchase essential research equipment.

The 1996 project for "Education and Public Awareness Raising for the Protection of the Tubbataha Reef Marine Park", **the Philippines**, has been completed and a new phase on training on "Scientific and Human Dimensions of Managing Tubbataha Reef as a Natural World Heritage Site" is foreseen for 1998.

Other technical assistance projects implemented, included equipment purchases for Ha Long Bay, **Vietnam**; Mt Nimba, **Guinea** and Talamanca La Amistad Ranges, **Costa Rica**.

(iii) Training assistance

Some examples of training activities supported through training assistance from the World Heritage Fund are described below.

For the Arab States, training assistance was provided for: a Regional training course for the Conservation and Protection of Cultural Monuments and Sites for architects of the Maghreb, **Tunisia**; an International Study and Conservation Project for Tumulat, **Egypt**; and, the Training of Algerian architects for the Kasbah of Algeria, **Algeria**.

With the help of training assistance, staff at Ha Long Bay, **Vietnam** benefitted from on-site training and, in one instance, an exchange visit to the Great Barrier Reef, Australia.

The training course on wetlands management in Keoladeo National Park, **India** approved by the Bureau in 1996, is scheduled to take place in November 1997.

In the first ever World Heritage activity relating to the implementation of the *Convention* for natural heritage in Malaysia, three Malaysians (one each from Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak) were supported to attend a 3-month (May-July) wildlife/protected area management course at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehra Dun, India.

Support was provided to three **Latin American** participants to attend the special short-course on "Management of Wildlands and Protected Areas" at Fort Collins, Colorado, USA during July-August 1997 and for the twenty-ninth International Protected Areas Management Course for the Latin American Region organized by CATIE, Costa Rica, during February/March 1997.

A training seminar for site managers of archaeological sites in Mesoamerica was held in Copan, **Honduras** from 3 to 7 February, 1997. The seminar was supported by the World Heritage Fund, organised by the Institute for Anthropology and History of Honduras and attended by nineteen participants from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama.

The first regional course on Integrated Urban and Territorial Conservation was held at the Federal University of Pernambuco, Recife, **Brazil** in collaboration with ICCROM.

Reports submitted at various World Heritage technical workshops supported during 1997 in **Latin America and the Caribbean** have resulted in substantial data and information on the state of conservation of natural and mixed World Heritage sites in the region. A number of publications based on these findings are foreseen in 1998. The workshops included an international seminar for site managers from Latin American World Heritage, organized by the United States National Park Service, held at Everglades National Park from 10 to 14 November, 1997; the First Latin American Parks Congress, held in Santa Marta, Colombia,

from 23 to 28 May 1997; and the second Congress of the "International Rangers Federation", hosted by Costa Rica, from 24 to 29 September 1997.

A training seminar was organized by ENGREF with students from francophone African countries at the Dja Faunal Reserve, **Cameroon**. The training focused mainly on the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* at the site level and on involving local populations in the protection of the site. A detailed report on the seminar was submitted to the Centre in October 1997.

A total of six students from African States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* were sent to the Wildlife Schools at Garoua, **Cameroon** and Mweka, **Tanzania** for the academic year beginning in September 1997.

The fourth training seminar for Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage site managers from the Arab Region was held at the Environmental Education Centre in Mehdia, **Morocco** from 5 to 16 May 1997 with participation by the World Heritage Centre. Participants from Environmental agencies and sites managers from World Heritage sites and other protected area from 8 States Parties from the Arab region attended the course.

An International Training Course on the Significance of the Vernacular Architecture and Problems of its Conservation took place from 15 to 29 September, 1997 in **Georgia**. A detailed report on the training course was submitted to the Centre in October 1997.

(iv) Emergency assistance

Emergency assistance has been provided to two cultural World Heritage sites in the Asia and the Pacific region. Assistance for an urgent structural study to identify appropriate emergency conservation measures for the **Sun Temple of Konarak, India** and for emergency repairs of one of the roofs of the **Patan Palace, Kathmandu Valley, Nepal** was granted. The unusually heavy monsoon rains, related to the current El Nino, are causing increased threats to many World Heritage sites in the south Asian region.

Emergency assistance also had to be provided to **the Archaeological Zone of Chan Chan, Peru**, to protect this fragile earthen site against the heavy rains that are predicted to occur due to the El Nino.

A mission to **Manas Wildlife Sanctuary** in India, due since 1992, was fielded in January 1997. The Government of India is now implementing a rehabilitation plan for the site with substantial contributions from the World Heritage Fund provided as Emergency Assistance. Significant funding for this project has also been provided by the Indian authorities.

In October 1997 a mission to evaluate the work undertaken as part of Emergency Assistance approved in 1994 for the conservation work of the Old Walled City of Shibam and Historic Town of Zabid, **Yemen** was undertaken.

10. World Heritage in Danger and World Heritage under threat

(i) The Democratic Republic of the Congo

The recent internal warfare in the former Zaire (Democratic Republic of the Congo) and the influx of refugees from Rwanda and Burundi has confronted the international community with

humanitarian concerns and has seriously endangered four of the five World Natural Heritage sites in that country. The Committee has already included **Garamba National Park** and **Virunga National Park** on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Bureau at its twenty-first session also recommended **Kahuzi-Biega National Park** and **Okapi Wildlife Reserve** for inclusion in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

In all these World Heritage sites infrastructure has been destroyed, facilities and equipment looted and staff numbers reduced to a bare minimum, totally incapable of mitigating the serious threats facing the integrity of these sites. The Bureau's recommendation that UNESCO field a high level mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to call the attention of the authorities of the States party to their responsibilities and obligations under the *Convention* has not been implemented. Although the Democratic Republic has invited UNESCO to send such a high level mission, UNESCO's ability to urgently send such a mission has been hampered by security and other considerations.

The Centre is in close cooperation with international conservation NGOs which are already active in the country and who are monitoring the situation on the ground. IUCN's Central Africa Office is planning a mission to the Democratic Republic in early 1998 and will prepare state of conservation reports of World Heritage Sites in Danger as well as the other World Heritage site, namely **Salonga National Park**.

During the UNESCO General Conference a meeting was organized between Centre staff and the new Director of the Institut Congolese pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN), who recently carried out a mission to three of the five World Heritage sites in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Updated information will be presented to the twenty-first sessions of the Bureau and the Committee.

(ii) Fires in Indonesia

Fires which originated in the Indonesian islands of Sumatra and Kalimantan, and which have now been burning for many months, have destroyed considerable tracts of forests in a tropical region of the world well known among conservationists as a 'global biodiversity hot-spot'. Threats to designated and perhaps several potential World Natural Heritage sites have subsequently occurred in the region.

Damage to designated World Heritage sites has been negligible. A fire which spread to **Ujung Kulon National Park** was put out with damage being restricted to a two hectare area. However, vast tracts of forests and peat lands have been damaged and the extent to which potential World Heritage values have been lost will become clear when concerned States Parties from Southeast Asia, Indonesia and the Malaysian States of Sabah and Sarawak in particular, nominate new sites from the biogeographic provinces of Sumatra and Borneo.

The fires, which resulted from a combination of effects due to El Nino induced droughts in the West Pacific and intentional burning of vegetation by forest concessionaires and rural peoples, provide a snap shot of the degree and extent of threats which natural World Heritage sites would face if current scientific predictions concerning global warming are even partly accurate.

(iii) Butrinti, Albania

The famous archaeological site of **Butrinti** in Albania, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1992 as an outstanding example of Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Illyrian and Venetian cultural

influences, has suffered damage from looting as a result of the civil unrest. A joint UNESCO-ICOMOS-Butrint Foundation assessment mission was undertaken to the site from 20 to 24 October 1997. The mission prepared an assessment of the conditions of the site and recommends the development of a programme of corrective action (see **WHC-97/CONF.208/INF.15**).

(iv) Ichkeul National Park, Tunisia

Following the inclusion of **Ichkeul National Park, Tunisia** on the List of World Heritage in Danger because of serious threats to its wetland ecosystems and the values of the site, the Ramsar Convention Secretariat carried out a mission to the site in January/February 1997. The States Party provided a detailed report on the "Action Programme to Safeguard Ichkeul National Park" on 11 October 1997 and this information will be provided to the twenty-first session of the Committee.

11. Other training activities

In addition to the training activities funded through training assistance from the World Heritage Fund noted in Section 9 (iii) above, the Centre was involved in other training activities including those noted below.

Following the adoption of Principle Training Guidelines by the Committee at its twentieth session strengthened cooperation between the Centre, ICCROM, IUCN and ICOMOS and States Parties has ensured greater implementation of the Training Strategy.

In 1997 in-situ cultural heritage training projects were implemented in Gambia and Ghana. Forty four countries in sub-saharan Africa received a questionnaire, put together by the Centre and the GAIA project, to assess their cultural heritage training needs.

A protocol was signed with ICCROM, CRATerre EAG and the Centre for implementing the training strategy in Africa. ICCROM and the Centre's mission to Eastern Africa to assess the capability of training centres took place in November 1997.

A training course on "Natural, Cultural and World Heritage" was organized by the University of Lisbon, Portugal, from April to June 1997 with participation from UNESCO and the World Heritage Centre.

Regional cultural heritage training activities in Latin America and the Caribbean focused on collaboration with universities and training centres and support to courses, and networking among site managers.

12. Documentation, Information and Education

(i) Overview

Considerable progress was made in digitizing and indexing official World Heritage documents for easy retrieval. A tentative list database established in 1997 is facilitating implementation of the Global Strategy. Existing databases have been updated and the production of printed material, a slide show kit and a traveling exhibition, approved by the Committee at its twentieth session, have also been completed. A self-evaluation of the Centre's capacity and

working methods relating to documentation and information was initiated and shared with the External Auditors during the Management Review (see Section 4).

A new template of the World Heritage Website was developed to make it more user-friendly so that time-consuming individual responses to public queries can be minimized.

Relations with media partners in the production of World Heritage publications, films, CD-ROMS and other multi-media products have focussed on content validation of media products to ensure an acceptable quality and educational approach.

(ii) World Heritage Information

The **World Heritage Information Kit** composed of the annually updated **World Heritage map** and **brochure**, and other printed material on the *Convention* and its activities have continued to be a vital public-awareness raising tool for the numerous and varied partners in World Heritage conservation. These information materials were particularly useful for distribution to the press at conferences, workshops and special events, such as the Youth Forum in Beijing, the Global Strategy meeting held in Suva, Fiji and at numerous ceremonies held to commemorate the inscription of sites on the World Heritage List.

The basic information kit has also been instrumental in responding to the numerous daily demands for information streaming into the Centre through mail, e-mail and telephone, as well as in inspiring the interest of the media into preparing feature articles, special supplements and television news reports and documentaries.

The **World Heritage map** and **brochure** was redesigned and printed in English (12,500 copies), French (6,500 copies) and Spanish (4,000 copies).

A 4-part **poster series** on the *World Heritage Convention* was produced (2,500 copies in total in English and French).

The **Information Kit** was translated into Spanish, updated in the English and French versions and produced in 10,000 copies in total.

The **World Heritage List**, the **List of World Heritage in Danger** and the **List of States Parties** was updated (English and French).

The **Brief Descriptions** of World Heritage sites were updated (English and French).

(iii) Exhibitions and special events

A **World Heritage Slide Pack**, consisting of photo and text slides, was developed in English.

The travelling **twenty-fifth anniversary exhibition**, an easily transportable exhibition on the World Heritage conservation process in English was completed.

In 1997, special events included an information campaign on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the *Convention* in connection with the French **Journées du patrimoine** (heritage days). The World Heritage flag and information material were made available to the 22 World Heritage sites in France and a major event was organized in Paris by the Centre in cooperation with the French Ministry of Culture and Communications and leading press and

media companies with support from the private sector. 10 million visitors were counted at the various historic monuments in France, many of them at World Heritage sites in France.

To commemorate the **twenty-fifth anniversary of the *Convention*** an International Conference on the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention was organized by the Hungarian Ministry for Environment and Regional Policy in Budapest, Hungary from 2 to 5 October, 1997.

In February, 1997 the United Kingdom Friends of UNESCO organised together with English Heritage a one day meeting to discuss the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* in the **United Kingdom**. On the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the *Convention*, English Heritage organised a one-day conference on 21 October 1997, attended by more than 400 people, to discuss the future implementation of the *Convention* in the United Kingdom and future directions for the cultural heritage policy of the United Kingdom. Management plans and state of conservation reporting were also discussed at the Conference. The meeting demonstrated the United Kingdom's commitment to the *World Heritage Convention* and brought together site managers and decision makers in a debate concerning the future implementation of the *Convention*.

Numerous **World Heritage site inscription ceremonies** were held in 1997, for example in Salzburg, Austria. Organized by the city of Salzburg in cooperation with the Centre and corporate sponsors, the ceremony was accompanied by photo, video film and art exhibitions, as well as concerts and other events involving over 1,000 artists in the city's public space and facilities. Widely covered by the press and media, information on World Heritage was diffused throughout Austria and beyond.

The inscription of sites on the World Heritage List was also commemorated **with World Heritage plaquing ceremonies** in Pannonhalma, Hungary, the Aggtelek Karst and Slovak Karst, Hungary and Slovakia, Ravenna, Ferrara and Naples, Italy, Salzburg and Schönbrunn, Austria, Lednice-Valtice, Czech Republic, Meknes, Morocco, etc. In total, thirty **certificates** were delivered to World Heritage sites in 17 countries.

In October 1997, a **World Heritage Press Tour** was arranged by Fritids Resor, a Swedish tourism agency, in cooperation with the WWF Mediterranean Programme and the World Heritage Centre, to promote and create greater awareness of the work of the *World Heritage Convention*, the significance and the need to safeguard World Heritage.

(iv) Publications

The quarterly **World Heritage Review**, now in its second year, is progressing towards commercial viability. Three issues of the Review were published in the period January - November 1997 (in English, French and Spanish: 10,000 copies in total for each issue) under co-editing agreements between San Marcos, Editions Faton and UNESCO. Negotiations are underway with a U.K.-based and a U.S.-based publishing house, which would substantially increase the distribution. Partnerships for other language versions (Japanese and Korean) are under discussion. A **World Heritage photo competition** organized in 1997 by UNESCO with support from Lufthansa/United Airlines and the Hilton Hotel, is expected to result in an increase of subscriptions of the Review.

Three issues of the **World Heritage Newsletter** (5,000 copies each) were printed in English and French, in addition to 18 issues of **WHNEWS** (as of 11 November 1997) in the electronic mail edition.

A **brochure** on World Heritage sites in Cuba was produced in a Spanish/French edition (1000 copies).

The **1998 World Heritage Desk Diary** (co-edited by UNESCO and San Marcos) was produced in a new soft cover format in 10,000 copies.

(v) The Internet

In March, at the request of the twentieth session of the World Heritage Committee, the Centre made available a full **list of international assistance** provided from the World Heritage Fund in 1996 and early 1997 to the Internet.

Annex V shows the number of requests for information from the Centre's world wide web pages for the period May 1996 to September 1997. The **web statistics** indicate that the Centre's web pages continue to increase in popularity. The report for October 1997 indicates that the Centre received approximately **20%** of all requests ("hits") made to the UNESCO server, and that the number of requests received since June 1997 has grown by 66%. The number of requests for the last week in October was 16,661, about twice the number in June.

The **most popular UNESCO web page** is the World Heritage List itself (6,978 hits during October), followed by the Centre's Home Page (6,678). This is followed by "All about the List" (2,169), and "Information Desk" (2,074). The most popular of the individual site pages was Angkor (178), followed by Mont-Saint-Michel (166) and the Great Wall of China (166). The most popular Committee reports were those of 1996 (243), 1979 (164), and 1988 (74 hits in October). In October 1997 the Centre's web site was accessed by people in more than 87 States Parties.

Finally, over the past year, the **Republics of Central Asia** have demonstrated an increased interest in the *World Heritage Convention*. The Centre fielded a mission in September to Kazakstan to assist authorities of the five Republics in implementing the *Convention*, and to discuss the preparation of a regional Internet-based communication network amongst national heritage organisations and agencies in the region. The Centre is collaborating with the UNESCO Sector for Communication, Information and Informatics on this project.

(vi) Young People's World Heritage Education Project

Following the three World Heritage Youth Fora held in 1995 and 1996 (Bergen, Norway; Dubrovnik, Croatia; and Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe), an **Asia and Pacific World Heritage Youth Forum** was held in Beijing, China from 15 to 21 September 1997. The Forum was organized at the kind invitation of the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO. A total of 100 students and teachers from 20 countries in Asia and the Pacific, including 25 Chinese students and teachers, participated in this activity.

In 1997 the UNESCO World Heritage Teacher's Education Resource Kit entitled *World Heritage in Young Hands* was finalized in English and French.

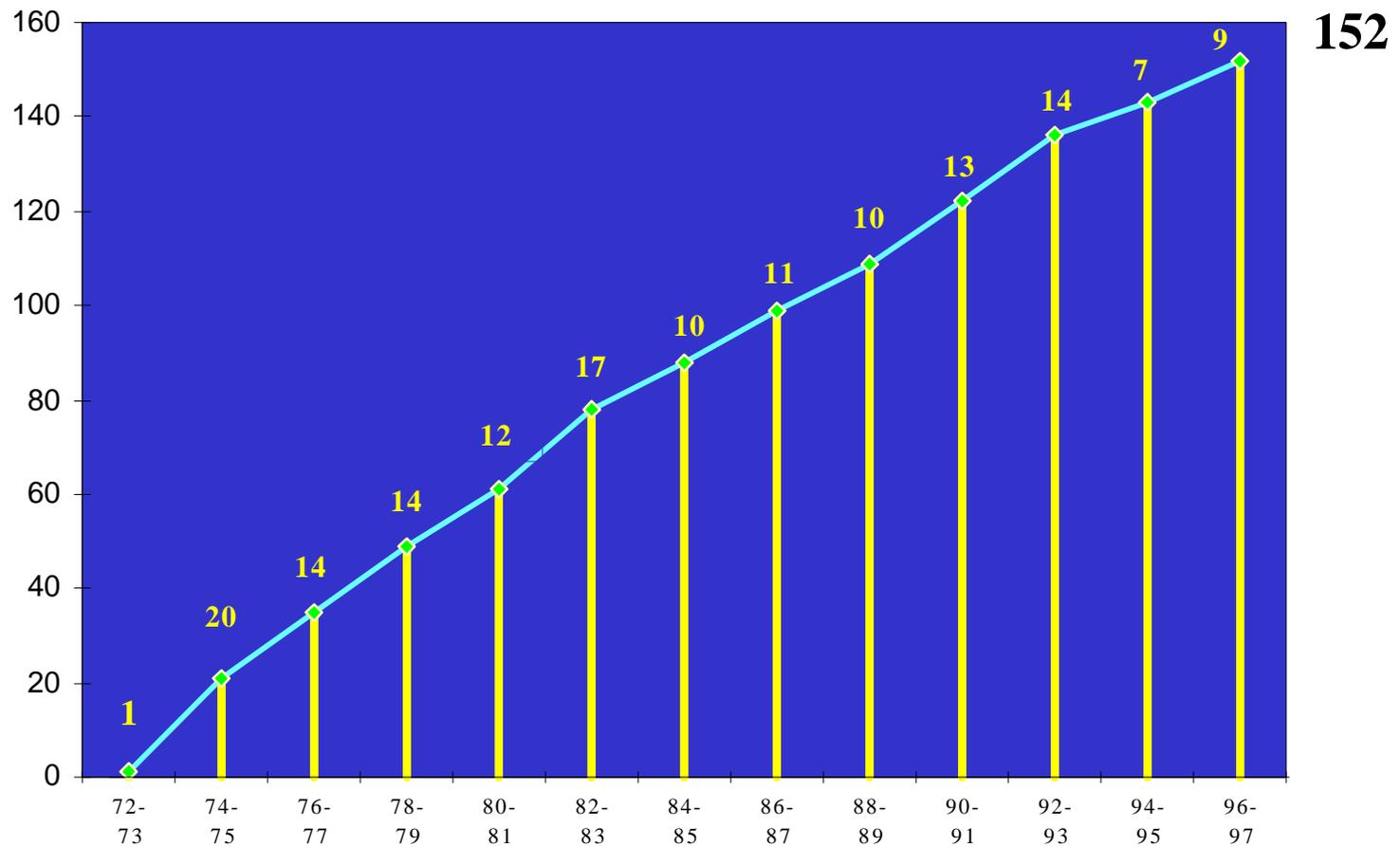
The 165 page Kit includes classroom and extra-curricular activities, photographs of World Heritage sites from different regions of the world and of examples of project activities held to date, a colour poster, stickers. The Kit has the following sections:

- Educational Approaches to World Heritage
- The World Heritage Convention
- World Heritage and Identity
- World Heritage and Tourism
- World Heritage and the Environment
- World Heritage and a Culture of Peace
- Resource Materials

Annexes

Annex I	States Parties to the <i>World Heritage Convention</i>, 1973-1997
Annex II	Sites inscribed on the World Heritage List by region
Annex III	New Nominations 1997
Annex IV	State of Conservation reports by region, 1997
Annex V	World Heritage Web Usage Statistics, 1997

Augmentation du nombre d'Etats parties entre 1973 et 1997



Analyse de la Liste du patrimoine mondial par région



Régions	Sites culturels	Sites naturels	Sites mixtes	Total	%
Afrique	17	28	1	46	9%
Etats arabes	49	2	1	52	10%
Asie et Pacifique	68	26	10	104	21%
Europe et Amérique du Nord	199	36	4	239	47%
Amérique latine et Caraïbes	47	15	3	65	13%
TOTAL	380	107	19	506	
%	75%	21%	4%	100%	

Propositions d'inscriptions de nouveaux sites pour 1997

→ 15 sites naturels

→ 42 sites culturels

→ 1 site mixte (culturel et naturel)

soit : 58 propositions d'inscriptions

1996: 11 sites naturels

33 sites culturels

2 sites mixtes

soit: 46 propositions

1995: 10 sites naturels

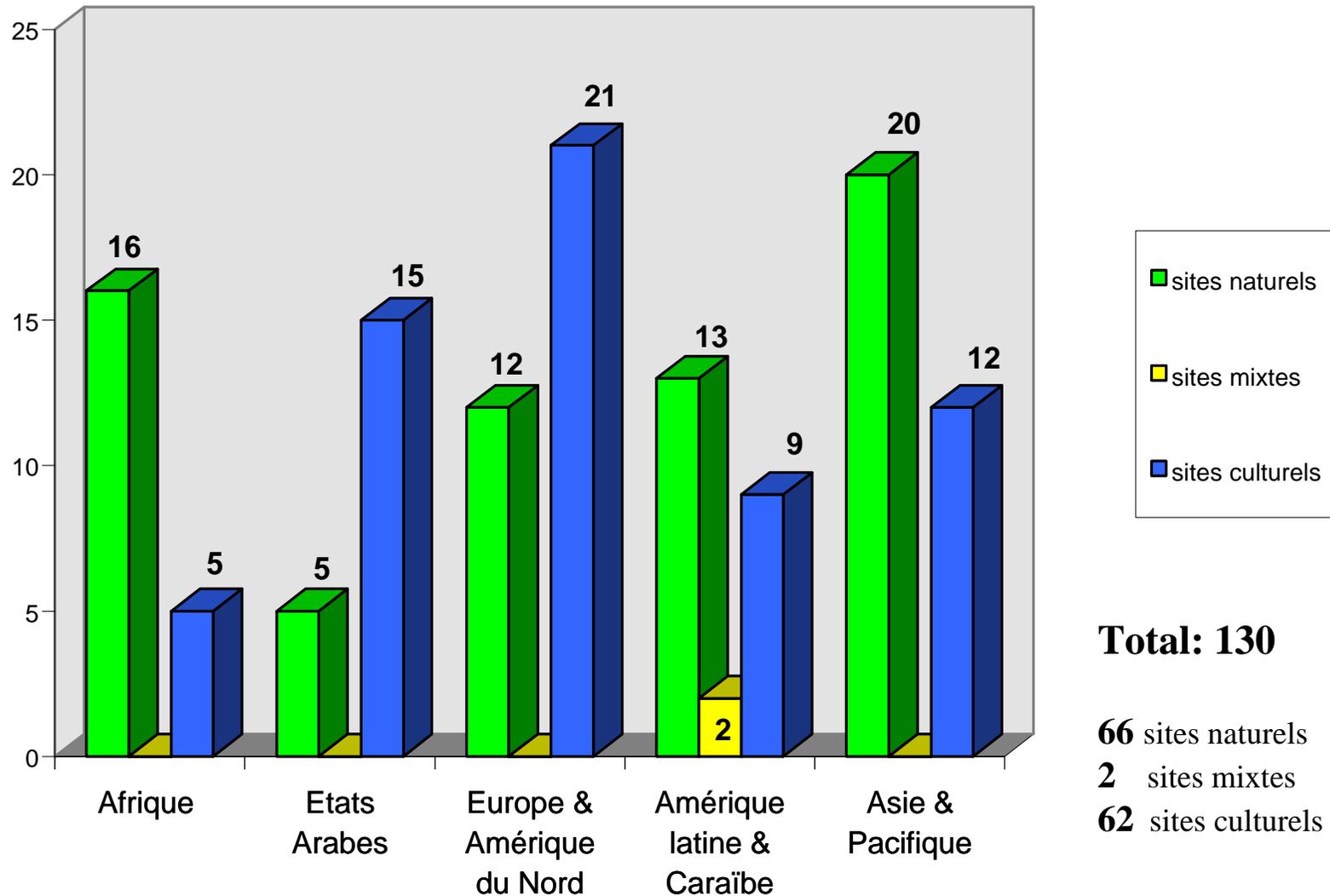
28 sites culturels

1 site mixte

soit: 39 propositions



Rapports sur l'état de conservation des sites remis en 1997



Indice de fréquentation du site Internet sur le patrimoine mondial

