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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

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

22 - 27 June 1998

Item 5.1 of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List:

Reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

SUMMARY

In accordance with paragraphs 82-89 of the Operational Guidelines, the Secretariat submits herewith reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Where 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 to take the appropriate action in preparation for the decision making by the Committee.

INTRODUCTION

1. Reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger are submitted to the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee to facilitate the 'review at regular intervals [of] the state of property on the List of World Heritage in Danger' which is foreseen in paragraph 88 of the Operational Guidelines.

2. The Bureau is requested to examine these reports and to take the appropriate action in preparation for the decision making by the Committee in accordance with paragraph 89 of the Operational Guidelines which reads as follows:

"On the basis of these regular reviews, the Committee shall decide, in consultation with the State Party concerned whether:

- (i) additional measures are required to conserve the property;*
- (ii) to delete the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger if the property is no longer under threat;*
- (iii) to consider the deletion of the property from both the List of World Heritage in Danger and the World Heritage List if the property has deteriorated to the extent that it has lost those characteristics which determined its inclusion in the World Heritage List, in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraphs 46 to 56 above."*

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

NATURAL HERITAGE

4. The Committee at its twenty-first session examined reports on the state of conservation of thirteen natural properties included in the List of World Heritage in Danger. It decided to add three more natural properties to that List and to remove one natural property from it.

5. Since the conclusion of the last session of the Committee, new information has been obtained on the following natural World Heritage properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Srebarna Nature Reserve (Bulgaria)

Inscription on the World Heritage List: 1983

List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992

Ref. WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.11

At its last session the Committee recalled the fact that at its nineteenth session (Berlin, 1995) it had requested the Bulgarian authorities to submit a status report on measures taken to mitigate threats to the integrity of the site in 1998. Hence, the Committee requested the Bulgarian authorities to submit the threat-mitigation status report to the Centre before 1 September 1998, and IUCN to review that report and to recommend measures to the twenty-second session of the Committee.

Decision required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

“The Bureau urges the State Party to ensure that the threat mitigation status report is received by the Centre before 1 September 1998 and that IUCN undertakes a thorough review and analysis of the report and submit its findings and recommendations to the next session of the Committee.”

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

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1988

List of World Heritage in Danger: 1997

Ref. WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.32

At its last session, the Committee was seriously concerned about the uncontrolled poaching by armed groups which had resulted in the death of four members of the Park staff in 1997 and the decimation of more than 80% of the Park's wildlife populations. Deteriorating security conditions had brought tourism to a halt and the efforts of a 10-year EU project appeared not to have generated any tangible benefits for the conservation of the site. The Committee welcomed the efforts of the Government of CAR to assign site-management responsibilities to a private Foundation and requested the Centre and IUCN to contact the State Party and the Foundation to prepare a detailed state of conservation report and rehabilitation plan for the site.

At the time of the preparation of this document, no such report had been received.

Decision required: The Bureau, based on additional information that may be available at the time of the twenty second session of the Bureau, may recommend appropriate actions to the consideration of the State Party and/or the Committee as well as the Centre and IUCN.

World Heritage Sites of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Ref. WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.13, VII.14, VII.33 and VII.34

Virunga National Park

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1979

List of World Heritage in Danger: 1994

Garamba National Park

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1980

List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996

Kahuzi Biega National Park

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1980

List of World Heritage in Danger: 1997

Okapi Faunal Reserve

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1996

List of World Heritage in Danger: 1997

At its last session, the Committee requested the Centre to undertake, in co-operation with the State Party, a high level mission to be led by the Chairperson of the Committee. The Committee, furthermore, approved a sum of US\$ 45,000 for the purchase of two four-wheel drive vehicles to benefit the management of two of the four above-mentioned sites.

The Director General of UNESCO, via his letter dated 6 February 1998 to the President of DRC has invited the President to consider receiving a high-level UNESCO mission to discuss threats facing the four sites referred to above and plan rehabilitation measures. A reply to the Director General's letter is awaited.

In view of the above and due to the security situation in the country, the Committee's request could not be implemented.

The purchase and transfer of the two four-wheel drive vehicles using the US\$ 45,000 approved by the Committee at its last session is being effected in co-operation with the Office of the German bilateral agency, i.e. GTZ, in Kigali.

During December 1997, and in early 1998, the Centre and IUCN were informed by UNHCR that it was withdrawing its staff working in projects dealing with environmental rehabilitation of Kahuzi Biega and Virunga. UNHCR also froze funds available for certain environmental rehabilitation projects in and around World Heritage sites and which were earmarked for disbursement through international NGO's like the International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP). Nevertheless, several NGO's are maintaining a presence in the sites and a high level delegation from WWF, including its Director General met with officials in Kinshasa in February 1998. The Centre and IUCN continue to maintain contact and co-operate with international conservation NGOs to the extent possible in order to monitor the state of conservation of the four sites included in the List of World Heritage in Danger and assist in their rehabilitation.

Decision required: The Bureau, based on additional information that may be available at the time of the twenty-second session of the Bureau, may recommend appropriate actions for the conservation of each of the four sites above to the consideration of the State Party and/or the Committee as well as the Centre and IUCN.

Sangay National Park (Ecuador)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1983

List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992

Ref. WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.15

At its last session, the Committee was informed that colonisation, and small scale mining activities had been stopped, a new management plan was nearing finalization and that several conservation projects funded by WWF had begun. The Committee urged the Centre, in collaboration with IUCN, agreement with the State Party and possible support from WWF, to plan and organise a site visit to address the problem of the Guamote Macas road construction project and other threats to the integrity of the site.

IUCN informed the Centre that the on-going construction of the Guamote-Macos road is still the main issue facing this park. The road is being built primarily for strategic purposes and there has not been an EIA despite the Committee's requests. Construction has been slow but very destructive to the environment. Although only a small section of the road is inside the World Heritage site, the remainder forms its southern limit. As the completion of construction is likely inevitable, IUCN recommends that: (1) higher standards of construction to lessen the damage caused to the remaining sector needs to be encouraged; and mitigation measures for the disturbed sections are also encouraged and indeed will be required if the road is to stay open; (2) urges the State Party to complete the management plan which has been in preparation for three years but is still not completed; (3) review the expanding presence of livestock in certain portions of the park. It is assumed that the management plan will address this problem; (4) The fourth area of concern is unconfirmed reports that an oil exploration concession was awarded in early 1998 which includes the northern part of the World Heritage site.

On the positive side, WWF has received US\$1.6 million from the Dutch Government (DGIS) to support protection of the park. The project is being implemented over the next five years by a local NGO, Fundacion Natura.

IUCN has submitted to the Centre a budget for its staff, based in Quito, Ecuador, for undertaking a monitoring mission to the site. The Centre is urging IUCN and the State Party to minimise costs of the site-monitoring mission by seeking greater co-operation of WWF which is currently implementing a conservation project for Sangay. The outcome of these on-going negotiations between the Centre, IUCN, State Party and the WWF will be reported at the time of the twenty second session of the Bureau.

Decision required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

“The Bureau recommends the Committee to retain Sangay on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Bureau requests the Centre to write a letter to (1) strongly encourage the Government of Ecuador to improve the standard of construction of the Guamote-Macos road, (2) to undertake mitigation measures for the damaged sections. The Bureau furthermore requests the Government to complete the long over-due management plan and to provide clarification for any oil exploration concession that may have been given over part of the park. The Bureau commends the Government of

the Netherlands and for their efforts to assist INEFAN to improve protection of the site through the Fundacion Natura.”

Simen National Park (Ethiopia)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1978

List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996

Ref. WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.16

At its last session, the Committee was informed of the fact that the Regional Authorities in Bahr Dar, where Simen National Park is located, had expressed their disagreement with the decision of the Committee, taken at its twentieth session (Merida, 1996), to include Simen in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee urged the Centre to consult and co-operate with the Permanent Delegate for Ethiopia at UNESCO and to encourage the Bahr Dar authorities to view the Committee's decision in a positive manner and proceed with the organisation of the workshop for stakeholders and donors for which the Committee had approved a sum of US\$ 30,000 in December 1996. The Centre is continuing its negotiations with all the relevant Ethiopian authorities, both in Paris and Addis Ababa, and is exploring the possibility for fielding a staff-mission to Ethiopia in order to enter into an open dialogue with all relevant authorities in Addis Ababa and Bahr Dar and resolve the problem and expedite the organisation of the workshop for stakeholders and donors.

Decision required: The Bureau, based on additional information that may be available at the time of the twenty second session of the Bureau, may recommend appropriate actions to the consideration of the State Party and/or the Committee as well as the Centre and IUCN

Mount Nimba Nature Reserve (Guinea/Cote d' Ivoire)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1981

List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992

Ref. WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.17

The Committee, at its last session, requested the State Party and the Centre to contact the relevant mining companies, currently exploiting an iron-ore mine in the vicinity of the Reserve, to know more details of their interest and willingness to set up an international foundation for the conservation of Mt. Nimba, along the lines of the Foundation for the World Heritage site of Banc d'Arguin (Mauritania) established in Switzerland. The Centre is in the process of obtaining the details requested by the Committee. The Centre also implemented a project using the US\$ 20,000 approved by the Chairperson in 1997 to equip the Reserve's hydrological laboratory.

Decision required: The Bureau, based on additional information that may be available at the time of the twenty second session of the Bureau, may recommend appropriate actions to the consideration of the State Party and/or the Committee as well as the Centre and IUCN

Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1982

List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996

Ref. WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.18

The Committee included this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1996, and requested the State Party to implement the eleven-point corrective action plan that had been endorsed by the Minister for the Environment of Honduras. As a priority activity the elaboration of a management plan is being carried out with assistance from the World Heritage Fund (US\$ 30,000) and from a GTZ-KFW (Germany), large scale project for strengthening the conservation of Rio Platano. At its last session (Naples, 1997) the Committee requested the Centre and IUCN to plan a site visit in 1999 to review the state of conservation of this site.

IUCN received information that a hydroelectric development (Patuca II), is proposed near the reserve. A draft environmental impact statement terms of reference has been prepared. Potential impacts from the project would include opening of new access roads, reduction in downstream water flow and quality and loss of scenic and biodiversity values. IUCN and the Centre are currently seeking further details.

Decision required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

“The Bureau recommends that the Committee retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger pending a review of the site's state of conservation foreseen during 1999.”

Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1985

List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992

Ref. WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.19

The Committee, at its last session, took note of the fact that the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) of India and the State Government of Assam had begun implementing a 2-3 year rehabilitation plan at a total estimated cost of US\$ 2,135,000 of which US\$ 235,000 had been requested by the State Party as emergency assistance from the World Heritage Fund. The Committee was satisfied with the use of the first instalment of US\$ 75,000, approved by the Bureau at its twenty first session in June 1997 for the purchase of three vehicles, two boats and 55 wireless communication sets. Hence, the Committee at its last session approved a second instalment of US\$ 90,000, as emergency assistance, to cover costs of 2 wooden fibre boats, 400 patrolling gear and construction of buildings to serve as ranger stations and provide for staff housing within the Park

A member of the Centre staff will undertake a mission to New Delhi during late April 1998, and will discuss progress with regard to the implementation of the rehabilitation plan for Manas with relevant authorities in New Delhi. The findings of the mission will be reported at the time of the twenty-second session of the Bureau.

Decision required: The Bureau, based on additional information that may be available at the time of the twenty second session of the Bureau, may recommend appropriate actions to the consideration of the State Party and/or the Committee as well as the Centre and IUCN

Air et Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1991

List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992

Ref. WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.20

The Bureau may recall that the Committee at its twentieth (Merida, 1996) and twenty-first (Naples, 1997) sessions approved the organisation of a mission to this site to: evaluate the state of conservation of the site ; determine the significance of prevailing threats to the site ; compare data and information on the Reserve before and after its inclusion in the List of the World Heritage in Danger (1992); prepare a long term action plan for the protection of the site with the assistance of the IUCN field project staff; and prepare a detailed report for the twenty second session of the Committee. Although a contract, for an amount of US\$ 22,000, was established with the Ministry for Hydraulics and the Environment for the organisation of this mission during February-March 1998, the mission had to be postponed due to the lack of security clearance from the UN Resident Co-ordinator's Office in Niamey. The Centre and IUCN are currently discussing the possibility to field the mission involving only the IUCN field project staff and representatives from the Ministry for Hydraulics and the Environment, and without representation from the Centre, so as to avoid the obligation of obtaining the security clearance from the UN Resident Co-ordinator's Office in Niamey, Niger.

Decision required: The Bureau, based on additional information that may be available at the time of the twenty second session of the Bureau, may recommend appropriate actions to the consideration of the State Party and/or the Committee as well as the Centre and IUCN.

Ichkeul National Park (Tunisia)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1980

List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996

Ref. WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.21

In 1996, the Committee decided to inscribe Ichkeul on the List of World Heritage in Danger and requested the Tunisian authorities to provide a programme of corrective measures to reverse the degradation of the site and alerted them to the possibility of the deletion of Ichkeul from the World Heritage List, if rehabilitation of the site were not possible. The Bureau at its twenty-first session recommended that the Committee establish a three-year time table to review efforts of the restoration of Ichkeul and, in the meantime, retain the site in the List of the World Heritage in Danger. On 14 October 1997 a "Report on the action programme for the safeguarding of Ichkeul National Park" was provided by the "Ministere de l'environnement et de l'aménagement du territoire" and was transmitted to IUCN and the Ramsar Convention

Secretariat for review. IUCN informed the Committee at its last session that this report does not provide a sufficient response to the recommendations of the Ramsar mission indicated above and that the serious threats to the integrity of the site are not adequately addressed. The Committee decided to retain Ichkeul in the List of World Heritage in Danger and requested the Centre to write a letter urging the State Party to implement the recommendations of the Ramsar mission and submit a threat-mitigation status report to the twenty-third session of the Committee, in 1999.

IUCN informed the Centre that it has received additional information from the Mediterranean Wetlands Programme (MedWet). Although this winter has brought better than average rain, the situation in the Park is not improving. As previously noted the ecosystem has been substantially transformed since the dams were constructed. Water salinity now fluctuates between 40 and 70g/l rather than the previous 5-35g/l. Large areas of aquatic monophytes have disappeared, replaced by marine species. The sluice gates to and from the lake which are supposed to regulate exchanges with the sea have not been completed. The situation is aggravated by the fresh water crisis in the country and the diversion of water from the Park will likely be of even higher priority in the future. IUCN in its report underlines that at its last two sessions Committee members suggested that Ichkeul no longer has the values for which it was inscribed and should be removed from the World Heritage List. In the absence of satisfactory corrective measures to restore the site, IUCN reluctantly and sadly agrees that this action is now warranted.

Decision required: The Bureau may wish to consider the appropriate action in accordance with paragraphs 46-52 and 82-89 of the Operational Guidelines.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

6. The Committee at its twenty-first session examined reports on the state of conservation of seven cultural properties included in the List of World Heritage in Danger and decided to add one more cultural property to that List.

7. Since the conclusion of the last session of the Committee, new information has been obtained on the following five cultural World Heritage sites in Danger.

Butrinti (Albania)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1992

List of World Heritage in Danger: 1997

Ref.: WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.44 and VIII.9.C.1

Based upon the recommendations of a joint UNESCO-ICOMOS-Butrint Foundation mission to the site, the Committee at its twenty-first session decided to inscribe Butrinti on the List of World Heritage in Danger. It allocated an amount of US\$ 100,000 as emergency assistance and requested the Secretariat to submit a progress report on the actions taken to the twenty-second session of the Bureau.

Consultations have been undertaken with the Government of Albania and the Butrint Foundation on the implementation of the immediate actions defined in the report of the UNESCO-ICOMOS-Butrint Foundation mission. Proposals have been received from the Albanian authorities for the implementation of immediate actions aimed at improving the security and conditions of the site. Arrangement for their implementation will be made shortly.

On 15 and 16 April 1998, a workshop took place at Butrinti on the management of the site. The workshop was organised by the Butrint Foundation and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and was financed by the Getty Grant Programme. Representatives of Albanian institutions involved in the management of the site participated along with international experts, the Butrint Foundation, UNESCO, World Bank etc. as a result, the Butrint Foundation will start preparing a management plan, a draft of which will be circulated to workshop participants. This draft plan will respond to the middle and long term actions recommended in the above-mentioned report.

Decision required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

“The Bureau welcomes the progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures at Butrinti and the start of the process which should lead to the adoption of a management plan for the site. The Bureau requests the Secretariat to submit a progress report to the twenty-second session of the Committee.”

Angkor (Cambodia)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1992

List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992

Ref.: WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.25

Obligations resulting from the inclusion of the site in the World Heritage List

Following the expert mission for the preparation of the decrees of application necessary for the implementation of the law on the protection of cultural heritage, it appeared indispensable to ensure the training of jurists within the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts. A training programme was proposed to the Cambodian authorities during the plenary session of the I.C.C.

The plenary session of the International Co-ordinating Committee for the Safeguarding and Development of the Historic Site of Angkor (I.C.C), for which UNESCO ensures the Secretariat, was postponed until 19 May 1998. A quadripartite meeting was held in Phnom Penh on 27 March 1998. During this session, the activities of the APSARA (Authority for the Protection of the Site and the Development of the Angkor Region) were evaluated, the conclusions of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts mandated to diagnose the restoration work achieved and in progress were presented, and new proposals for intervention on the site were analysed. APSARA is satisfied with the Khmer version -- that is added to the French and English versions -- of the APSARA/UNESCO Report "Angkor: Past, Present, and Future"

based on studies carried out in the frame of the ZEMP project (Zoning and Environmental Management Plan).

Emergency assistance

The remaining emergency assistance for the Temple of Pr, Rup that had been approved under the World Heritage Fund was used for the maintenance of the monument and the monitoring of its structural deformations by a team comprising two Cambodian architects. This team was trained to interpret the readings of the deformations recorded by the monitoring system set up on the Temple by an Italian team.

A request for emergency assistance for the western moats of Angkor Vat that had collapsed following the torrential rains of the monsoon was submitted by the Cambodian authorities.

Operational projects

In spite of political problems, the operational projects in progress financed through UNESCO funds-in-trust and carried out by the different international teams, are progressing normally. The Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient is working on restoration projects at the Temple of Bapuon and the north steps of the Terrace of the Elephants; the JSA (Japanese Government Team for Safeguarding Angkor) is working on the study and restoration of the Prasat Suor Prat and the north "libraries" of the Temples of Bayon and Angkor Vat, as well as on the elaboration of a master plan for the Bayon. Phase 2 of the restoration project of the Temple of Pr, Rup and the last phase of work on the Temple of Preah Ko is being prepared. A department of digital images is being set up within the photographic laboratory of the Conservation of Angkor. The training project at the Royal University of Fine Arts of Phnom Penh will end, for the academic year 1997/98, in June 1998.

At the bilateral level, the World Monuments Fund (USA) continues its action for the Temple of Preah Khan, and the University of Sophia (Japan) for the Temple of Banteay Kdei and on the Angkor Vat roadway. A conservation project for the Apsaras of Angkor Vat is being carried out by the Fachhochschule of Cologne (Germany), and a restoration project for the East Door of the Royal Palace is presently being implemented by an Indonesian Government team. The JICA (Japan International Co-operation Agency) has invested in a study of the water resources of the region of Siem Reap and the preparation of a topographical map of the Archaeological Park of Angkor.

Illicit traffic

UNESCO and the I.C.C. remain extremely vigilant with regard to this issue, and efforts undertaken to fight the illicit traffic of cultural property have produced concrete results: four cases of restitution were registered in 1997, and several procedures and requests for restitution are currently being processed. In addition, the heritage police has intervened in several cases of repression of works of art in the region of Siem Reap. The procedure for ratifying the Unidroit Convention, signed by Cambodia on 24 June 1995, is underway.

Promotion and publications

The exhibition entitled " Mémoires d'Angkor " organised by UNESCO and the Delegation of the Kingdom of Cambodia to UNESCO, was shown at the Departmental Museum of the Abbey of Saint Riquier (France) from 7 March to 26 May 1998. Numerous conferences were held at the time around this exhibition. A study on the structural behaviour of the Khmer Temples was published by UNESCO in April 1998; and a publication on the epigraphy of the Khmer World will appear in 1998.

Decision required : The Bureau may wish to adopt the following :

“The Bureau expresses its appreciation for the continued efforts of UNESCO in mobilizing international cooperation for the protection, preservation and presentation of the site of Angkor, especially through the International Coordinating Committee for the Safeguarding and Development of Angkor. The Bureau, however, requests UNESCO to continue its work in the strengthening of training activities for national capacity-building, especially in measures prohibiting and preventing the illicit traffic of cultural property. In this regard, and alarmed by press reports on the alleged pillage of cultural property from sites of national importance, the Bureau requests the State Party to submit a report to the twenty-second session of the Committee summarizing the steps taken in the preparation of a national inventory of cultural properties and on legal and regulatory measures adopted by the Government in the protection of cultural property in Angkor and in other sites figuring on the Tentative List.”

Old City of Dubrovnik (Croatia)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1979/1994

List of World Heritage in Danger: 1991

Ref.: WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.26

The Committee at its twenty-first session decided to defer the examination of the state of conservation of Dubrovnik and requested the Croatian authorities to submit a report on the state of conservation by 15 April 1998 for examination by the twenty-second session of the Bureau.

At the time of the preparation of this document, no such report had been received.

Decision required: The Bureau, based on additional information that may be available at the time of the twenty-second session of the Bureau, may recommend appropriate actions to the consideration of the State Party and the Committee.

Bahla fort (Oman)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1987

List of World Heritage in Danger: 1988

Ref.: WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.28

An expert mission was undertaken to Bahla Fort in October 1997. The mission report provides detailed information about the collapsed north-west tower of the Fort as well as three proposals for the tower's restoration. Furthermore, the mission strongly urges that in-depth investigations be undertaken as soon as possible on the strength of the original rock and on the whole structure of the Fort. This would allow for taking measures that would prevent new risks of large-scale collapse of the structures. It further recommends that an immediate hydrometric survey be conducted in the oasis and particularly in the vicinity of the Fort to study the causes of the soil humidity and capillarity ascent in large sections of the walls. Finally, it recommends that an overall management plan be prepared encompassing the Fort and the oasis.

Decision required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"Having taken note of the report of the Secretariat concerning the situation at the Bahla Fort, the Bureau thanks the Omani authorities for their effort in safeguarding the site. However, considering the serious deterioration of the monument, the Bureau requests the Omani authorities to continue the collaboration with the international expert and inform the Committee of the progress through the Secretariat. In this connection, it approves the continuation of co-operation on a cost-sharing basis as previously agreed to continue rehabilitation and prepare a management plan for the site. It also recommends the early initiation of the hydrometric survey as a matter of emergency."

Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1986

List of World Heritage in Danger: 1986

Ref.: WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.29

The Committee at its twenty-first session urged the Government of Peru to proceed with the preparation of a management plan for Chan Chan. In response to the Committee's request, the Government of Peru submitted a progress report on the preparation of such plan. It outlines the structure and the general principles of a management plan. The work plan for its preparation consists of three phases: (i) definition of methodology and establishment of working group; (ii) analysis and documentation of the physical, social, legal and administrative conditions of the site; and (iii) formulation of the master plan and detailed work plans.

The Secretariat is pleased to inform the Bureau that the emergency measures that the Government of Peru implemented in late 1997 to protect the site against the impact of the El Nino phenomenon proved to be effective. These measures received a contribution of US\$ 50,000 from the Emergency Reserve Fund. To date, no negative impact on the World Heritage site has been reported.

Decision required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"The Bureau commends the Government of Peru for its initiative to prepare a management plan for the Chan Chan Archaeological Zone. It requests the government to submit a second report on the progress made in this respect by 15 September 1998

for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-second session. The Bureau furthermore requests the government to inform the Committee on the impact of the El Nino phenomenon as well as an assessment of the effectiveness of the emergency measures taken.”