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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 5.2 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 World Heritage List.

SUMMARY

In accordance with paragraphs 47-50 and 83-85 of the Operational Guidelines, the Secretariat submits herewith reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.

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 decision.

INTRODUCTION

1. This document deals with **reactive monitoring** as it is defined in the Operational Guidelines: "The reporting by the Centre, other sectors of UNESCO and the advisory bodies to the Bureau and the Committee on the state of conservation of specific World Heritage sites that are under threat". Reactive monitoring is foreseen in the procedures for the eventual deletion of properties from the World Heritage List (paragraphs 48-56 of the Operational Guidelines) and for the inclusion of properties in the List of World Heritage in Danger (paragraphs 82-89 of the Operational Guidelines).

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

NATURAL HERITAGE

Australian World Heritage sites

WH Bureau twenty-first extraordinary session, para. III.A.c)

At its twenty-first extraordinary session in November 1997, the Bureau requested the Australian authorities to provide specific information on the results of the financial review of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA). The Minister for the Environment in Australia has informed the Centre that until the financial review of GBRMPA has been completed, he is unable to provide details as the findings of the review are still under consideration by the Government. The Minister has informed the Centre that he will provide further information when relevant decisions have been made.

Since the conclusion of the twenty-first session of the Committee in December 1997, a letter from the National Campaign Office of The Wilderness Society signed on behalf of thirteen Australian conservation groups, addressed to the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, was received by the Centre. The letter refers to threats to four natural properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, namely **Great Barrier Reef, Shark Bay, Western Australia** and the **Wet Tropics of Queensland**, and to two mixed natural and cultural properties, i.e. Kakadu National Park and Tasmanian Wilderness. The threats referred to in the letter include commercial exploitation (e.g. mining, fishing, logging and tourism projects) within, and adjacent to the World Heritage properties. The Chairperson transmitted to the Permanent Delegate of Australia to UNESCO and to **IUCN** and **ICOMOS** seeking their review and comments. In addition, a copy of a letter to the Editor of the Australian newspaper concerning the state of conservation of the **Great Barrier Reef**, signed by world renowned conservationists, has also been received by the Centre and transmitted to the Permanent Delegate of Australia to UNESCO and to **IUCN** for their review and comment. To date no comments have been received from the Australian authorities on either of the letters mentioned above.

IUCN has acknowledged in its report to the Centre that it receives a large volume of reports and statements concerning threats to many of the thirteen World Heritage sites of Australia and that it does not have the capacity at its Headquarters in Switzerland to evaluate all of them. IUCN's Australian Committee had offered, in November 1997, to undertake annual assessments of selected properties and expects to complete reports on two properties before the twenty-second session of the Committee.

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

“The Bureau recommends that IUCN in co-operation with its Australian Committee, establish a mechanism for assessing, in a timely manner, the continuous stream of information received by the Centre on the state of conservation of Australian World Heritage sites and ensure that an updated state of conservation report on the Great Barrier Reef and one other natural site is submitted to the twenty-second session of the Committee.”

Iguacu National Park (Brazil)

WH Committee twenty-first session, para. VII.35

The Bureau may recall that at its twenty-first ordinary session it requested the Brazilian authorities to close the 18km road traversing the Park that had been illegally re-opened by local people. The Committee at its last session (Naples, 1997), was informed by IUCN of the fact that the road had been temporarily closed, and of several actions undertaken by the Brazilian authorities to strengthen management of the Park. Nevertheless, the Committee called for the permanent closure of the road and requested the Brazilian authorities to provide information concerning the rehabilitation of damaged areas.

The Centre received, on 10 March 1998, from the UNESCO Office in Brazil, information which indicated that: (1) the Park has been invaded again and the road illegally re-opened on 11 January 1998; (2) the Brazilian National Congress had established a Task Force under its Permanent Environmental Commission to investigate the issue; (3) the Task Force visited the area on 5 March 1998 and urged that a solution to the conflict be found; (4) the National Institute for the Environment envisages the preparation of a new management plan as soon as invaders leave the area; and (5) members of the Brazilian judicial community have reiterated their call for the closure of the road. A formal response from the Government of Brazil to the recommendations made by the Committee at its last session is awaited.

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.

Dja Faunal Reserve (Cameroon)

WH Committee twenty-first session, para. VII.36

The Committee, at its last session (Naples, 1997) noted with concern that logging activities, carried out under commercial, as well as sustainable forestry schemes, are contributing to the growing biological isolation of the Reserve and are not welcome by the local people. An IUCN project is aiming to minimise the degree of the Reserve's isolation through the establishment of a buffer zone and a protected corridor linking Dja with adjacent forests. Moreover, logging roads facilitate access for hunters, and concessionaires have logged forests up to the boundary of the Reserve. Conservationists in Cameroon have called for a moratorium on logging in the area and on the opening up of new access roads.

The Bureau, at its twenty-first extraordinary session approved US\$29,900 to organise an *in-situ* Regional Training Workshop at Dja and the Committee, at its last session, had urged the State Party to use the workshop as a forum for discussing, with representatives of donors financing forestry operations, IUCN and others concerned, ways and means to minimise the threat of biological isolation of Dja .

The training workshop was held from 23 to 26 March 1998 in Sangmelima, Cameroon, and was attended by sixty participants representing four countries of the region, several national and international development and conservation organisations including IUCN's Dja Project staff, and UNESCO's Division of Ecological Sciences and the Centre. The following are some important findings of the workshop:

- Cameroon has adopted a national policy for natural resources conservation, which foresees the extension of its protected areas coverage from 9% to 30%;
- a survey carried out by ECOFAC indicated that 80% of the local people of Dja are in favour of maintaining Dja as a World Heritage Site and a Biosphere Reserve and are ready to collaborate in its protection;
- more than six international development organisations are implementing projects in and around Dja in co-operation with various non-governmental organisations, including local ones;
- case studies and project reports submitted during the workshop showed that even though there is some poaching going on in certain areas of the Reserve, the overall integrity of the site is still intact;
- logging around the Reserve has not impacted the World Heritage site as yet;
- the Ministry for the Environment is in the process of finalising the management plan with the assistance of IUCN and ECOFAC for the entire Reserve and surrounding areas which would eventually assist in the Reserve's management;
- a zoning plan will accompany the management plan for Dja taking into consideration the essential needs of the local population as well as biodiversity conservation;
- the Minister for Environment and Forestry has underlined the determination of the Government of Cameroon to promote conservation of the Dja Reserve by classifying the Forest of Ngoila – Mintom, situated south of the Dja Reserve, as a protected forest;
- scientific data and information are required on population and distribution status of fauna and flora in order to determine the seriousness of the threat of biological isolation of Dja; and

- there is an urgent need to undertake a rapid biodiversity assessment to know the current status of faunal and floral populations in Dja and in surrounding areas so as to enable a scientific evaluation of the threat of the biological isolation of Dja.

IUCN has emphasised some additional findings of the workshop:

- the need for ECOFAC and IUCN to reinforce their collaboration with local NGOs, local authorities and community leaders to develop a more participatory approach to conservation;
- the need for improved framework for operational and structural co-ordination between organisations and the Government;
- the need for revising legislation and regulations governing hunting in order to improve management of hunting; and
- the need for the Ministry for Environment and Forestry to consult with the Ministry's "Direction de la Faune et des Aires Proteges" in granting licences for forest exploitation.

The workshop participants were of the view that Dja did not warrant designation as a World Heritage site in Danger. IUCN however, remains concerned that commercial hunters are having far more impact than the workshop participants were aware and that quotas for wildlife trade established under the CITES Convention are often disregarded. Furthermore IUCN has pointed out that logging companies show little respect for regulations and are not subject to enforcement by Government officials. For example, the local IUCN Dja project concluded an agreement with a foreign logging company to prevent illegal hunting in Dja; but the agreement has not been respected by the company under consideration. IUCN is also concerned with processes and consultations leading to the issue of forest exploitation licences and urges that no new licences be issued for exploitation of forests along the boundaries of the Dja Faunal Reserve.

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

“The Bureau recommends that the State Party takes urgent measures to act on the recommendations of the workshop and presents, to the next session of the Committee in December 1998, a statement of actions to be implemented. The Bureau invites Cameroon to give priority consideration to implementing actions that would (a) strengthen law enforcement against illegal poaching and improve management of hunting and trade in wildlife products, and (b) halt the issue of new licences for exploitation of forests immediately adjacent to the boundaries of the World Heritage area. The Bureau requests the Centre, IUCN and the State Party to co-operate in designing and launching a rapid biodiversity assessment, so as to evaluate the impacts of on-going forestry operations on maintaining contiguity of habitats and gene pools in and around the Dja World Heritage site.”

Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks (Canada)

WH Committee twenty-first session, para. VII.37

The Committee, at its last session (Naples, 1997), expressed its serious concerns with regard to potential threats to the integrity of this site due to the proposed Cheviot Mine Project, designed to exploit a large (22 km long and 3 km wide), open-pit coal mine, located 1.8 km from the Jasper National Park portion of this World Heritage area. A range of conservation organisations and Parks Canada had expressed concern regarding the negative impacts, e.g. loss or alienation of wildlife habitat, impacts on essential wildlife travel corridors etc., which the proposed mining project would have on the integrity of the World Heritage site. Nevertheless, the Federal Government of Canada and the Provincial Government of Alberta had subsequently approved the project and published a full EIA in favour of the project. However, the proposed mining project has been legally challenged by conservation groups.

As requested by the Committee, detailed information on the proposed mining project, its expected impacts on the World Heritage site, and proposed measures for mitigating those impacts, are expected to be received from the Canadian authorities by 1 May 1998. The receipt of this information is awaited.

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

Los Katios National Park (Colombia)

The state of conservation of this Park was the subject of an extensive review submitted by a representative of Colombia's Ministry of Environment at a Regional World Heritage workshop held in Everglades National Park in November 1997. IUCN brought the attention of the Centre to serious threats to the integrity of this Park, caused by a breakdown of law and order in the area. The Centre has contacted the Colombian authorities for confirmation of reports received by IUCN on the state of conservation of Los Katios. The Delegation of Colombia informed the Centre on 28 November 1997 that further information would be made available from the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the receipt of that information is awaited.

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.

Morne Trois Pitons National Park (Dominica)

IUCN and the Centre have been informed of a proposed cable construction project into the centre of the Park. The feasibility of the project, proposed by a private individual concerned with tourism development, is questionable due to the heavy rains, high winds and steep terrain which characterise the site. The construction of major access facilities in this area is not

consistent with the management plan of the Park. IUCN has been advised by the Dominican authorities that they will exercise great caution when considering this project.

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

“The Bureau requests the Centre to contact the Dominican authorities to obtain detailed information on the project and request them to keep the Centre and IUCN fully informed of progress in their review of the cable construction project proposal.”

Galapagos National Park (Ecuador)

WH Committee twenty-first session, para. VII.38

The Committee, at its last session (Naples, 1997) commended the recent efforts and commitment of the Government of Ecuador to address the complex threats to the integrity of this site and the surrounding marine ecosystem and noted that the draft "Special Galapagos Law", that had been approved in a first debate by the Ecuadorean Congress, is the centrepiece of an effective conservation strategy for the site. The Committee, however, invited the Government of Ecuador to notify, in a timely fashion, the Chairman of the Committee of the final enactment and entering into force of the Law. The Committee, although it did not include the site in the List of World Heritage in Danger decided that if, by the opening date of the twenty-second session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee, the Government of Ecuador had not notified the Chairman of the World Heritage Committee of the enactment and entry into force of the "Special Galapagos Law", then the Galapagos Islands be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The Permanent Delegate of Ecuador to UNESCO, via his letter of 22 April 1998, transmitted a copy of the "Special Law on the Galapagos", which has been published by the Official Registry of Ecuador as Law No. 278 on 18 March 1998, to the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee. At a meeting between the Ambassador of Ecuador, the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee and the Director of the Centre, the Chairperson took note of the official notification and commended the Government of Ecuador for its efforts. The Chairperson however, stressed the importance of the implementation of the Special Law to protect this World Heritage site.

IUCN, in its report to the Centre on the state of conservation of Galapagos, has pointed out that the Law if implemented, will greatly strengthen conservation in both the islands as well as in the surrounding marine reserve, which was extended from 24 to 64 km offshore. The Law addresses most of the major issues (particularly alien species and management of the marine reserve) relating to conservation and sustainable development of Galapagos and has been drafted on the basis of the outcome of an intense national debate. The main highlights of the Law and the evaluation of its effectiveness as provided by the Charles Darwin Foundation may be summarised as follows:

- (1) **Regulations:** The law deals with control of introduced species, regulation of transport of introduced organisms, their eradication in agricultural lands, establishment of a quarantine inspection system, environmental impact assessment (EIA) and audit. However, the law

says little about regulation of tourism, an activity which is part of the introduced species problem, but could contribute towards its solution as well.

- (2) **Local appreciation, participation and incentives:** Environmental education is strongly promoted. Institutions and individuals have a duty to participate in all aspects of the control of introduced species. Incentives have been provided by promoting local economic benefit in terms of improved social service, exclusive rights to future tourism and fishing opportunities and promotion of locally based tourism. Local responsibility for the conservation and development of the Islands is greatly enhanced, through participation in the INGALA (the Instituto Nacional de Galapagos) Council and the Marine Reserve authority.
- (3) **Local skills:** The law provides tax incentives for organisations to preferentially hire local permanent residents rather than outside contractors and temporary residents.
- (4) **Conservation institutions:** The GNPS will be strengthened by the retention of 40% of visitor entry fees, 5% each will be used to support the quarantine system, Marine Reserve and Navy, and a further 40% will go to the Town Councils and other local authorities which they must use for projects and services related to environment and tourism. The Town Councils have also been charged with additional environmental protection duties.
- (5) **Co-ordination:** INGALA (the Instituto Nacional de Galapagos) has been re-created with responsibilities for co-ordinating policies and planning throughout Galapagos. Its 13-member Council and three Committees will be the key for resolving conservation and development problems. It will be important that their decisions are based on technical information and the principles established in the Law and, within protected areas, policy differences between INGALA and the protected areas authority should be resolved in favour of conservation. The Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF), which has been included in INGALA as a non-voting member of the Council, could play an important role in this regard.
- (6) **Population size:** The law introduces residence controls, which are a vitally important requirement for conservation of Galapagos. The extent to which the measures would effectively reduce inward migration would depend on INGALA's firmness and transparency in implementing the relevant provisions. However, the residence provisions of the Law have a series of weaknesses whose minor reforms need to be given some consideration during the implementation of the Law.
- (7) **Marine Resources:** The CDRS and GNPS initiated in mid-1997 a participatory planning process which generated a consensus within Galapagos on the principles for marine conservation. These principles were adopted in the Law, which provides for: (a) the Establishment of the Marine Reserve as a protected area and (b) the expansion of the Reserve boundaries to 64 km around the whole archipelago within which area only tourism and artisanal fishing are permitted. Although the definition of "artisanal" still requires clarification the provisions of the Law concerning marine areas has provided a historic opportunity for conserving 130,000 sq. km of a very important marine ecosystem.

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

“The Bureau commends the Government of Ecuador and all the agencies, groups, local residents and experts for reaching a consensus on this new Law but underlines the challenge that must now be addressed with regard to the effective implementation of the Law. The Bureau invites the Ecuadorian authorities to re-nominate the Marine Reserve, deferred by the Committee in 1994, to be a part of the World Heritage site as soon as the management plan for the Marine Reserve is finalised in 1999. The Bureau recommends that the Committee not consider Galapagos Islands for inclusion in the List of World Heritage in Danger and urges the Ecuadorian authorities to ensure effective implementation of the Law.”

Arabian Oryx Sanctuary (Oman)

WH Bureau twenty-first extraordinary session, para. III.A.c)

At its twenty-first ordinary session in June 1997, the Bureau was informed of an interim plan submitted by the authorities of Oman which foresaw a new outer boundary, and provisional boundaries for five management zones, construction of an administrative headquarters, visitor and local service centres and other facilities, launching of pilot projects in a variety of fields including environmental tourism and possible allocation of financial and human resources for the development of the site as Oman's first national park. As requested by the Bureau, the authorities of Oman submitted a map showing the outer boundary of the Sanctuary and the provisional boundaries of the five management zones and a report on the status of the Arabian Oryx population in the Sanctuary. IUCN's review of the information contained in the map and the report is underway and is expected to be submitted to 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.

Huascarán National Park (Peru)

IUCN has informed the Centre that a Canadian/Peruvian mining consortium is in the final stages of obtaining approval to develop one of the world's largest copper and zinc deposits found at Antamina which is located 20km from this Park. Mining would commence in 2001 and have a life span of 20 years. An EIA has been conducted which notes that the concentrates from this mine will be transported via an existing road through the Park. This 40km section of the road rises over a pass at an elevation of 4800m and would be substantially upgraded to accommodate heavy truck traffic. The EIA acknowledges that there will be an increase in traffic volume through the Park and the mining consortium is intending to work with the Park authorities to better protect the endangered *Puya raimondi* vegetation. Officials in Parks Canada have also been consulted on mitigation measures.

Several local members of IUCN have expressed concern over the effects that a major industrial truck route would have on the integrity of the Park. A secondary concern would be that a precedent would be set to open up Huascarán to other mining and development interests. There is an optional route for the truck traffic that bypasses the Park and the feasibility of using this option is now being reviewed. In view of the urgency of the situation (hearings are scheduled 24 April in Peru on the EIA), IUCN has already written to the Peruvian authorities to express concern over the impacts of the road through the Park and the need to look at an alternative route.

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

“The Bureau expresses its concerns with regard to the mining proposal and its potential threats to the World Heritage site and requests the State Party for further information on the project and on measures being taken to protect the World Heritage site. The Bureau also invites the Canadian authorities to consider the possibility of contributing their expertise to the project component concerned with the World Heritage site, particularly to investigate the possibility of using alternative routes for transporting mining concentrates and to design and implement other mitigation measures as may be necessary.”

Kamchatka Volcanoes (Russian Federation)

WH Committee twenty-first session, para. VII.39

The Bureau may recall that IUCN presented a report to the last session of the World Heritage Committee (Naples, 1997) reviewing a proposed mining project, whose location was determined to be about 5 km outside of the Bystrinsky portion of the World Heritage area. The location of the mine did not pose a major environmental or aesthetic problem but would disrupt migratory wildlife that inhabit the region and impact fisheries resources. While the question of whether or not mining and conservation can co-exist in the area is yet to be answered, the organisation financing the mining company has placed the maintenance of the integrity of the World Heritage site as one of the conditions for the granting of the loan for the mining operations to commence. The setting up of an International Review Panel to monitor the environmental impacts of the proposed mining project has been proposed. IUCN has been in contact with proponents of the mine and has had a request from Canada regarding financial service support that could be provided by the Export Development Corporation (EDC). In this request it is noted that "as a critical first step in their due diligence, and in determining whether such support would be available for the project, EDC wants to be assured that it would not be contravening article 6, paragraph 3 of the World Heritage Convention."

IUCN recommends that the Bureau follows the precautionary principle based on the potential risk that the proposed Aginskoe mine will pose to the integrity of the site. The Bureau should express its concern to the Canadian and Russian Governments and the Regional Administration of Kamchatka over the potential consequences of the proposed mine. This IUCN recommendation is based on (1) broader policy issues relating to export credit agencies and on (2) findings of IUCN's site mission undertaken in September 1997. IUCN recommends that the Bureau send a strong message on its concerns over this proposed mine; as eight other natural World Heritage sites are threatened by mining proposals, a strong statement of

concern will establish an important precedent with regard to the policy of the Bureau and the Committee in addressing threats posed by mining projects to the integrity of World Heritage sites.

As requested by the Committee at its last session, the Centre had requested State Party to provide detailed information on the proposed mining project, particularly on EIAs carried out and other pertinent information. A letter from the Deputy Minister for Natural Resources of the Russian Federation has been received by the Centre on 22 April 1998. However, the letter is in Russian and the Centre has contacted the Russian Delegation to UNESCO to obtain an official translation.

Decision required: The Bureau, after reviewing the official translation of the letter from the State Party, may wish to register its serious concerns concerning the potential impacts of the Aginskoe mining project with the Russian and the Canadian Governments and with the Regional Government in Kamchatka and propose other appropriate actions to the consideration of relevant authorities concerned as well as to the Centre and IUCN.

Lake Baikal (Russian Federation)

WH Bureau twenty-first extraordinary session, para. III.A.c)

The Bureau may recall that the Committee, when it inscribed this property on the World Heritage List at its twentieth session (Merida, 1996), noted that the special Lake Baikal Law was in its second reading in the Duma, and expressed its concern over a number of integrity issues, including pollution of the Lake. The Bureau at its last session expressed its concern regarding the inadequacy of the legal basis available for the protection of the entire World Heritage site and requested the Russian authorities to provide, before 1 May 1998, detailed information on the status of the special Lake Baikal Law, and the legal status of forests located adjacent to the boundaries of the World Heritage site.

A letter from the Deputy Minister for Natural Resources of the Russian Federation was transmitted to the Centre on 22 April 1998. The letter received is in Russian only and the Centre has contacted the Russian Delegation to UNESCO to obtain an official translation of the letter.

Decision required: The Bureau, after reviewing the official translation of the letter from the State Party, and based on other 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.

Virgin Komi Forests (Russian Federation)

WH Bureau twenty-first extraordinary session para. III.A.c)

The Bureau at its last session expressed its serious concern about the proposed gold mining project in the World Heritage site and requested the Russian authorities to provide, before 1

May 1998, detailed information on the proposal, including any environmental impact studies that may have been carried out. In addition, the Bureau requested the Russian authorities to keep the relevant authorities in the Komi Republic fully informed of the Bureau's concerns and involve them in discussions aimed at ensuring the integrity of the World Heritage site. A letter from the Deputy Minister for Natural Resources of the Russian Federation was transmitted to the Centre on 22 April 1998. The letter received is in Russian only and the Centre has contacted the Russian Delegation to UNESCO to obtain an official translation.

Decision required: The Bureau, after reviewing the official translation of the letter from the State Party, and based on other 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.

Donana National Park (Spain)

Information from international newspapers indicated that a toxic spill in southern Spain has caused an ecological disaster, and may affect this World Heritage site. The crisis began on 25 April 1998, when a giant holding pool of the Aznalcollar mine owned by a Canadian-Swedish company burst. The toxic spill affected the surrounding areas of the World Heritage site. The Ramsar Convention Bureau informed IUCN that whilst the main toxic flow may have been diverted away from the National Park itself, the adjoining areas, including the Regional Natural Park 'Entorno de Donana' have been badly damaged. It is also likely that impacts of the spill may spread into the World Heritage area as the pollution becomes more widely dispersed in the days and weeks ahead. The Centre has contacted the State Party to obtain an official report on the spill, its impacts on the World Heritage site and mitigation measures being taken and is awaiting a response.

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. Furthermore, the Bureau may invite IUCN to submit, in accordance with the recommendation made by the Committee at the time of inscription of the site on the World Heritage List in 1994, a state of conservation report on Donana to the twenty-second session of the Committee.

Canaima National Park (Venezuela)

WH Committee twenty-first session, para. VII.40

The Committee, at its last session (Naples, 1997), expressed its concern with regard to the integrity of the Canaima National Park due to considerable threats posed by a proposal to erect a series of power transmission lines across the Park. The Committee invited the Director-General to write to the President of the State Party asking his intervention to search for possible alternatives and to determine the appropriate boundaries of the World Heritage site. The Venezuelan Permanent Delegation to UNESCO, wrote a letter to the Centre on 12 March 1998, explaining the actual situation of the proposed construction of

one electrical power line that would pass through a part of the National Park. The letter indicates that: (1) The Ministry for the Environment and the National Parks Institute are in the process of evaluating the Venezuelan South East Project Transmission System; (2) Distinct alternatives of location of this line have been analysed. A decision has been made for choosing an option that will cut across a smaller percentage of the Park. Moreover the alternatives being considered includes the erection of the power transmission lines along the existing Eldorado-Santa Elena de Uairén road as proposed by IUCN, which would minimize the impact of the project on the site; (3) local population interests are being considered in accordance with the existing laws. The Permanent Delegate of Venezuela has also invited UNESCO to designate a high level mission to visit the site to evaluate the proposals of boundaries that were developed following the recommendations made by the Committee and IUCN.

The President of Venezuela, in his letter of 13 March 1998 to the Director-General has transmitted the Environmental Impact Study on the power transmission line project, which had been finalised in December 1997. He has re-affirmed the commitment of his Government to protect the World Heritage site and the welcomed the possibility of a UNESCO mission to the site.

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

“The Bureau requests the Centre and IUCN to co-operate in sending a mission to Caracas and the Canaima National Park in Venezuela to review with specialists and local technicians proposals for alternative routes for the construction of electrical transmission lines and determine appropriate boundaries for the site in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee and IUCN made at the time of inscription of the site in 1994. The Bureau also recommends that a detailed report of the mission be submitted to the twenty-second session of the Committee.”

Ha Long Bay (Vietnam)

WH Bureau twenty-first extraordinary session, para. III.A.c)

The Bureau may wish to recall that at its twenty-first session (June 1997), it urged the Vietnam authorities to co-operate with the Japanese International Co-operation Agency (JICA) in designing and implementing the study on environmental management for Ha Long Bay. This study was to be undertaken in preparation for the implementation of the JICA financed Cailan Port construction project. A draft of the scope of work for the environmental study was provided to a Centre staff member by the Head of the Ha Long Bay Management Department during an Asia-Pacific Site Managers workshop held in Thailand in January 1998. The draft has been transmitted to IUCN for information, review and comments. The study on environmental management for Ha Long Bay is to be carried out from February 1998 to October 1999.

UNDP/Vietnam has provided the Centre with the minutes of two donor meetings concerning Ha Long Bay. In the first of those meetings held on 9 October 1997, the minutes indicate that a representative from the Japanese Embassy in Hanoi had pointed out that the environmental

study is expected to run parallel to the Environmental Impact Assessment of the Cailan Port construction project.

At a second meeting held at the UNDP Resident Representative's Office, in Hanoi, on 27 February, information concerning negotiations between Vietnam and Japan for the construction of the Bai Chay Bridge, expected to link Bai Chay beach to Ha Long City across the Bai Chay Bay, had been made available. A note covering the entire loan portfolio for the construction of this bridge is expected to be signed by OECF, Japan and the Government of Vietnam, and the development assistance project includes a feasibility study as well as an environmental impact assessment of the bridge construction project.

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

“The Bureau requests the Centre and IUCN to maintain contact with the Vietnam authorities in order to monitor progress and the outcome of the Japan/Vietnam environmental study and the EIA of the Cailan Port construction project, as well as feasibility studies and EIAs that may be undertaken in connection with the Bai Chay Bridge construction project and provide a report to the next session of the Committee.”

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

WH Bureau twenty-first extraordinary session, para. III.A.c)

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

By a letter dated 8 April 1998 the Durmitor National Park authorities have informed the Centre that the map showing the 40 ha area to be excised is under preparation and that documentation concerning other information requested by the Bureau had been submitted to the Federal Ministry for the Protection of the Environment. The Park authorities have pointed out that there is a global protection regime for the Tara River and its canyon. The Centre has contacted the Permanent Delegation of the State Party in UNESCO and is awaiting the receipt of the documentation sent by the Park authorities to the Federal Ministry for the Protection of the Environment.

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.

MIXED (NATURAL AND CULTURAL) PROPERTIES

Kakadu National Park (Australia)

Tasmanian Wilderness (Australia)

WH Bureau twenty-first extraordinary session, para III.B.c)

At its twenty-first extraordinary session held in November 1997, the Bureau invited the Australian authorities to provide any new information pertaining to the Australian Government's efforts to ensure that the proponents of mining in the enclave within but outside of the boundaries of the **Kakadu National Park** address the 77 conditions listed by the Government. The Minister for the Environment in Australia has informed the Centre that the proposed Jabiluka uranium mine is an enclave within, but outside of, the boundaries of the Kakadu National Park World Heritage Area. He has stated that the Australian Government has required that the mine's proponent provide a six-monthly report to the Government on the progress which has been made in the implementation of the more than 70 environmental conditions imposed on the mining proposal by the Government. As the report is due in mid April, the Minister has informed the Centre that the Australian Delegation will provide a full briefing to the report to the twenty-second session of the Bureau.

For the **Tasmanian Wilderness** the State Party was asked to provide information on specific joint action undertaken by the Australian and Tasmanian Governments that may have implications for new proposals for boundary extensions to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage area. The Minister for the Environment in Australia has informed the Centre that there are a number of areas classified as Dedicated Reserve adjacent to the existing World Heritage area that may, under the terms of the 1997 Regional Forest Agreement, be available for boundary modification. However, as yet there have been no discussions between the Australian and Tasmanian Governments on this issue. The Minister has stated that he will keep the Centre informed of any progress in relation to possible boundary extensions.

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.

Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru)

WH Committee twenty-first session, para. VII.42

The Committee at its twenty-first session, having examined the report of a joint IUCN and ICOMOS mission to Machu Picchu, expressed its concern about the deficient management arrangements for the Sanctuary and urged the Peruvian authorities to establish an adequate management structure for the site. It furthermore recommended them to prepare a comprehensive master plan as an overall guiding instrument for conservation, planning, infra-structural interventions, tourism development, etc.

In response to the Committee's request, the Government of Peru submitted on 24 April 1998 a response, prepared by the National Institute for Culture, to report on the IUCN-ICOMOS mission. The response includes a description of the site, a description of the conservation works undertaken by the Institute for Culture and replies to matters raised in the mission report.

The report was transmitted to IUCN and ICOMOS for review with the request to present its views during the Bureau session.

Decision required: The Bureau, based on the reports to be presented by IUCN and ICOMOS during the session of the Bureau, may recommend appropriate actions to the consideration of the State Party and the Committee.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Arab States

Islamic Cairo (Arab Republic of Egypt)

WH Committee twenty-first session, para. VII.45

At its twenty-first session, the Committee requested the Centre, in agreement with the national authorities concerned, to organize a mission to study the conservation activities underway at Al-Azhar Mosque in Islamic Cairo. The Centre wrote to the authorities but has not received a response about this specific issue. However, the authorities have requested the Centre to study the final report of a UNDP/Italian Government funded project on Historic Cairo and to submit proposals for better conservation works. The authorities have submitted a request for preparatory assistance aiming at defining a strategy of conservation through a seminar which would bring together international specialists having worked on Historic Cairo with national responsables. This seminar is planned for the month of June and further information could be provided during the Bureau session.

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

“After having taken note of the report of the Secretariat, the Bureau thanks the Egyptian authorities for their cooperation with the Centre; it encourages the authorities to submit a full-fledged strategy/programme of conservation of Historic Cairo to the coming session of the Committee. The Bureau however stresses again the importance of ensuring that the most appropriate restoration techniques are used for all the monuments of Historic Cairo and requests the authorities to submit a detailed technical report on the works underway in the Al-Azhar Mosque before 15 September for submission to the World Heritage Committee. “

Petra (Jordan)

WH Bureau twenty-first session, para. IV.44

A mission of three specialists sent by the Centre in December 1997 to study the state of conservation of World Heritage sites in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon visited the site of Petra and found that the situation had improved especially through the establishment of the co-ordination body at the site, the «Petra Region Planning Council (PRC)» as a follow-up action to the recommendation made by the 1994 UNESCO mission. The PRC is an independent body for the management of the Petra Region reporting to the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. The PRC has four principal objectives:

- creation of an attractive and appropriate environment for the setting of Petra,
- provision of functional and cost-effective development for the area, including infrastructure and environmental protection,
- growth and management of sustainable forms of tourism in the Petra region,
- management and protection of the Petra archaeological site.

The mission found the work of PRC to be successful; but it also noted that technical advice at field level, implementation of the Convention and other international texts, specific problems such as; flash flooding, collapses of rock-cliff, etc. were neglected since the departure from Amman of the Italian associate expert.

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

“After having taken note of the report of the Secretariat, the Bureau warmly welcomes the Jordanian authorities’ effort to follow-up to the recommendation made by UNESCO in 1994. However, the Bureau requests UNESCO to relocate a specialist in the UNESCO Office in Amman to provide technical co-operation on cultural heritage, mainly for Petra.”

Quseir Amra (Jordan)

WH Committee twenty-first session, para. VII.55

In December 1997 the same mission visited Quseir Amra. At the site, the members of the mission found that the highway recently constructed was within the boundaries of the site and that other inappropriate constructions had also been built alongside the boundaries. As for the proposed new Visitors’ Centre, the mission suggested that the location be reconsidered in order not to threaten the landscape of the site, being an isolated monument too close to the Baths.

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

“After having taken note of the report of the Secretariat, the Bureau requests the Jordanian authorities to reconsider the selected location of the proposed Visitors’ Centre because of its excessive visibility and proximity to the monument. Furthermore, the Bureau also requests the authorities to study the possibility of diverting the present road.”

Anjar (Lebanon)

The mission of December 1997 visited the site of Anjar and found that an army camp was located next to the site and that the military were using some of the monuments of the site Anjar as camp facilities.

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

“After having taken note of the report of the Secretariat, the Bureau requests the Secretariat to follow-up with the Lebanese authorities on the recommendations of the report, mainly the removal of any military presence from the vicinity of the site.”

Baalbek (Lebanon)

Due to lack of the master plans for the city and for the management of the site, uncontrolled urbanization, construction works and inappropriate rehabilitation are threatening the authenticity of the site. Moreover, the mission members were informed that the Government was planning to build a vocational school for hotel management within the protected area of the monumental Roman quarry, one of the most important remains in Baalbek. Finally, the mission confirmed the findings of the 1995 mission of MM. Fonquernie and Bizri which reported risks to the Temple of Bacchus caused by rain and frost. Consequently, the Lebanese authorities informed the Centre of their need for international assistance for activities such as:

- holding an international competition for the preservation of the Temple of Bacchus,
- preparing a Management Plan integrating the heritage of the region in the overall development of the Baalbek-Hermel region as a means to develop the economic potential of the archaeology of the region and to better protect these sites through the direct involvement of the local population.

This last aspect of the co-operation was later discussed in March with the UNDP in Beirut. The Resident Representative confirmed his willingness to participate financially in a project that would integrate the management of the physical heritage of this region in an overall development process.

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

“After having taken note of the report of the Secretariat, the Bureau recommends that the new construction of the technical school be relocated to another place outside of the site. Moreover, the Bureau encourages the Lebanese authorities to request international assistance from the World Heritage Fund to proceed with the appropriate preservation works and the preparation of a Management Plan. It thanks the Resident Representative of the UNDP for its offer of co-operation and requests the Centre to proceed with the formulation of the project.”

Byblos (Lebanon)

The Centre was informed by the national authorities that the Ministry of Transport was planning an expansion of the port located within the site in order to improve facilities as a pleasure port. The mission which visited the site last December mentioned in its report that it was obvious that the expansion of the port would bring further leisure components such as shops, parking, restaurants, hotels, etc which would be detrimental to the value of the site. Consequently, in April the Centre sent a team of specialists from the Delft University of Technology to prepare alternative proposals and to formulate the first stages of a master plan scheme for the site and the town of Byblos.

The mission and the concerned national authorities agreed on the relocation of the new harbour to a place about three hundred meters north of the site limits. Moreover, facilities for the new port such as, connection road, shops, parking, etc will be located outside the site.

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

“After having taken note of the report of the Secretariat, the Bureau warmly commends the Lebanese authorities’ for their co-operation and their decision to change the location of the new harbour. The Bureau also urges the authorities to launch the preparation of the management plan for the site in order to prevent further uncontrolled developments within the site.”

Tyre (Lebanon)

WH Committee twenty-first session, para. VII.51

The International Campaign for the Safeguarding of Tyre was officially launched by the Director-General of UNESCO on 3 March 1998. On this occasion, the Director-General declared the creation of the special fund for the safeguarding of Tyre. As a first urgent measure, a sum of \$100,000 will be used to finance conservation works, \$75,000 of which coming from the Regular Programme of UNESCO and \$25,000 from the World Monuments Fund. The declaration is expected to stimulate co-operation for the safeguarding of Tyre. The following actions are expected to be carried out rapidly in the framework of the Campaign:

- the Minister of Culture will create a superior scientific council;
- a mission of a town-planner architect will be undertaken to set up an overall plan for the city of Tyre;
- the first meeting of the council will be organized to establish a detailed action plan.

However, the Centre was informed through an NGO that new infrastructure road works were threatening the underwater archaeological remains at the northern entrance of the city. It requested the Directorate General of Antiquities to submit urgently a report on this matter and the Centre to investigate as well.

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

“After having taken note of the report of the Secretariat, the Bureau congratulates the Lebanese authorities for their official launch of the international campaign of Tyre. The Bureau encourages the Lebanese authorities to continue the Campaign in co-operation with UNESCO and requests the Secretariat to promote it broadly. Finally, the Bureau urges the Lebanese authorities to immediately halt all works endangering the heritage of Tyre, to reinforce co-operation between the national institutions involved in the region of Tyre, and to improve control mechanisms in order to prevent any additional destruction of the heritage of the region.”

Ancient City of Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic)

WH Committee twenty-first session, para. VII.55

The consolidation project for Tekiya Suleymaniah, one of the most important monuments of Damascus, has been a serious problem due to the rising of groundwater level. Three experts undertook a third mission to the site in February 1998 in order to examine offers for the tender. The experts informed the Centre that the Ministry of Awqaf finally found an appropriate offer from an international engineer at their second tender. Consequently, consolidation works will start soon and the authorities have requested the Centre to continue its co-operation in order to supervise the works.

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

“After having taken note of the report of the Secretariat, the Bureau thanks the Syrian authorities for their efforts in addressing the issue of Tekiya Suleymaniah. It also requests the Syrian authorities to continue informing the Secretariat of the progress of the consolidation work. It finally requests the Centre to continue this co-operation as requested by the authorities.”

Palmyra (Syrian Arab Republic)

The December 1997 mission visited the site of Palmyra and identified the following issues :

- lack of a co-ordinated development plan for the Palmyra region and a management plan for the site itself. Several different national and local government services are operating in the Palmyra area without proper co-ordination, each having its own line of authority with Damascus;
- strong urban growth encroaching on the archaeological zone;
- inadequate infrastructure.

Consequently, the mission recommended that an overall management and development plan for the site and the region of Palmyra be prepared in co-operation with UNESCO.

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

“After having taken note of the report of the Secretariat, the Bureau recommends that the Centre provides support to the Syrian authorities to elaborate the necessary

management and development plans and provide training courses for capacity building.
“

Old Walled City of Shibam (Yemen)

WH Committee twenty-first session, para. VII.55

During a mission in November 1997, the Centre sent a mission to reschedule the emergency repair works in Shibam and Zabid which had been delayed by lack of supervision. The consultant also reported the following to the Centre :

- there is no conservation concept and this prevents the integrated and harmonious preservation of the distinctive architectural and urban characters of the city, which should be based on information gained from a complete city survey;
- based on this concept, an overall management plan should be prepared combining an urban planning with the general conservation project.

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

“After having taken note of the report of the Secretariat, the Bureau invites the Yemeni authorities to prepare an overall management plan in collaboration with the Centre. The Bureau also requests the Centre to study the possibility of initiating a large-scale rehabilitation programme in co-operation with the international community.”

Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen)

WH Committee twenty-first session, para. VII.55

The same mission reported that :

- the conservation concept and the overall management plan should be established as mentioned for the Old Walled City of Shibam;
- the new sewer project underway should be urgently appraised in order to avoid a rapid deterioration;
- use of traditional architectural materials should be required for the new construction of the building in order not to threaten the value of the site.

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

“After having taken note of the report of the Secretariat, the Bureau invites the Yemeni authorities to prepare an overall management plan in collaboration with the Centre. The Bureau also requests the Centre to study the impact of the new sewer project on the architecture and conservation of buildings of the city.”

Asia

Sun Temple of Konarak (India)

WH Committee twenty-first session, para. VII.50

A report on the structural stability study being undertaken with the World Heritage Fund emergency assistance grant has not yet been received by the Secretariat.

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

“The Bureau requests the Secretariat to assist the State Party, if necessary, to ensure that the report on the structural stability study on the Sun Temple of Konarak be ready in time for examination by the twenty-second extraordinary session of the Bureau.”

Tchoga Zanbil (Iran)

ICCROM undertook a mission to this site in March/April 1998. ICCROM will report on this mission during the session of the Bureau.

Decision required: The Bureau, based on the report that will be given 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.

Kathmandu Valley (Nepal)

WH Committee twenty-first session, para VII.52

A UNESCO/ICOMOS/Government of Nepal Joint Mission was undertaken in March - April 1998, to report on the state of conservation of the seven Monument Zones of the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage site and to elaborate a programme of corrective measures, following the request of the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-first session. A full state of conservation report will be submitted by His Majesty's Government of Nepal before the twenty-second extraordinary session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee. A programme of corrective measures with fixed deadlines for enhanced management of the seven Monument Zones is being finalised.

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

"In view of the continued demolition of traditional buildings of architectural value and illegal new development within the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage site, despite the building control efforts made by His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the concerned local authorities, the Bureau requests that the Report of the Joint Mission be submitted to its members well in advance of the twenty-second extraordinary session to enable a careful examination of the progress made in building control and the programme of corrective measures. On the basis of this examination, the Bureau

will then formulate a conclusive recommendation to enable the Committee to decide whether or not to inscribe this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger and to consider actions it may wish to take in regard to the programme of corrective measures, as well as on the pending nomination submitted by the State Party to inscribe Kokhana as an additional Monument Zone of the site."

Cultural World Heritage sites in Sri Lanka

WH Bureau twenty-first extraordinary session, para III.C.c)

The Bureau at its twenty-first extraordinary session, decided to examine ICOMOS' report at its twenty-second session.

Decision required: The Bureau, based on the report that will be given 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.

Itchan Kala, Historic Centre of Bukhara (Uzbekistan)

WH Bureau twenty-first extraordinary session, para III.C.c)

The Bureau at its twenty-first extraordinary session decided to consider the findings of the ICOMOS mission to these sites at its twenty-second session.

Decision required: The Bureau, based on the report that will be given 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.

North and South America and the Caribbean

Historic Centre of Santa Cruz de Mompox (Colombia)

The Minister of Culture of Colombia informed the Secretariat that on 5 March 1998 a fire occurred in the centre of Mompox which affected part of a building block north of the Plaza de la Concepcion. Three buildings were practically destroyed. The roofs of three other buildings were removed to avoid further spreading of the fire. All six buildings date from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

The lack of fire-fighting equipment and a fire-brigade aggravated the damage considerably: the fire-brigade from a nearby village arrived three hours after the alarm was given and the local population could only limit the damage by hand-carrying water from the river.

The Minister reported that the city is very vulnerable to fire, due to the fact that electrical wiring is old and, in most cases, incorporated in the structural elements of the buildings.

The Minister submitted requests for consideration by the Chairperson of the Committee for technical cooperation (for the purchase of fire-fighting equipment and the training of a voluntary fire-brigade) and emergency assistance (for the restoration of the six damaged buildings).

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

“The Bureau takes note of the information on the fire that occurred in Mompox and the damage caused to six of its historic buildings. It urges the national and local authorities to take the necessary measures for fire-prevention. It requests the Colombian authorities to keep the Committee informed on the measures taken in this respect as well as on the restoration works undertaken.”

Historic Centre of Puebla (Mexico)

WH Bureau eighteenth session, para VI.21

WH Bureau nineteenth session, para VI.22

At the request of the national and local authorities, an international expert undertook from 1994 onwards a series of missions to Puebla. The objective was to advise on urban development plans that were being prepared in the context of a regional development programme called Angelopolis and that would affect 27 building blocks within the World Heritage site. The final report of the expert was transmitted to the Mexican authorities on 13 January 1998 for their review and a request for up-dated information on the plans for Puebla was made.

At the time of the preparation of this document no reply 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.

Pre-Hispanic City of Teotihuacan (Mexico)

WH Bureau twenty-first extraordinary session, para III.C.c.

The Bureau at its twenty-first extraordinary session requested the Mexican authorities to submit a report on the implementation of the recommendations of the UNESCO expert mission to Teotihuacan (February 1997) regarding the state of conservation and management of 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 the Committee.

Chavin (Archeological site) (Peru)

WH Committee seventeenth session, para X.4

The National Institute of Culture of Peru informed the Secretariat about the delicate state of conservation of the Chavin Archaeological Site and the threat posed to it by the El Nino phenomenon. It was reported that torrential rains had occurred in early 1998 and that an imminent danger existed of flooding and infiltration of water in underground galleries. With the support of the World Heritage Emergency Fund (US\$ 37,250 approved by the Chairperson on 3 March 1998), preventive measures are being undertaken, including improvement of the drainage system, construction of protective structures, application of cappings on the walls and filling in of old excavations.

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

“The Bureau takes note of the information on the emergency situation at Chavin caused by the El Nino phenomenon. It requests the Peruvian authorities to keep the Committee informed on the measures taken in this respect as well as on the impact of El Nino on the site. It also encourages the authorities to plan for long-term preventive measures and the stabilization of the site in the context of a comprehensive management plan for the site.”

Europe

Cathedral of Notre-Dame, Former Abbey of Saint-Remi and Palace of Tau, Reims (France)

In autumn 1997, the World Heritage Centre was informed by a private association in Reims of a building project to construct a media library in the place of certain buildings directly surrounding the square of Reims Cathedral. Photographs and documents on the progress of this project provided by the above-mentioned association have permitted the Centre to contact the national authorities as well as ICOMOS. Furthermore, a study of the nomination dossier revealed that no buffer zone or management plan existed. However, the Centre learnt that a development study of the surroundings of the Cathedral was prepared in 1989 but was never approved or implemented.

On 7 April the Centre was informed that the Cultural Directorate had been made responsible for the problem of the media library and decided that the matter would be studied by the High Commission for Historic Monuments on 23 April. The Directorate therefore requested the Centre to postpone the ICOMOS mission until after this date.

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

« The Bureau takes note of the report of the World Heritage Centre concerning the proposed construction of a media library on the square opposite the entrance to Reims Cathedral, as well as the action undertaken by the Centre in this regard. The Bureau thanks the French authorities for their efforts to find a solution in conformity with the implementation of the Convention. The Bureau also requests the authorities concerned to undertake the delimitation of a buffer zone for the properties inscribed on

the World Heritage List at Reims and to elaborate a management plan for these properties and their buffer zone. To this end, the Bureau requested the concerned authorities to present to the Centre a progress report on the work required by 15 September for submission to the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-second session. »

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

WH Committee twenty-first session, para. VII.48

The World Heritage Committee at its twenty-first session in December 1997, expressed its concern about new adjacent constructions north of the Roman theatre which may affect its authenticity. The Committee requested the State Party to submit, by 15 April 1998, a report on the following issues: revision of the plans respecting the authenticity of the monument; conservation and integration of recently discovered Roman ruins; adoption of an enlarged protective zone.

The World Heritage Centre has not, as of yet, received the report.

Decision required: The Bureau, based on 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.

Central Zone of the Town of Angra do Heroísmo in the Azores (Portugal)

The World Heritage Centre has been informed about a new waterfront, which has been constructed in the Centre d'Angra do Heroísmo. The Centre expressed its concern about the possible impact of the project on the World Heritage values of the site and has requested the State Party to provide more information about the project. The Centre has also requested ICOMOS advice on this matter.

Decision required: The Bureau, based on 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.

Historic Centre of Porto (Portugal)

The secretariat received information from ICOMOS-Portugal about infrastructural works in Porto with the aim to improve navigability of the river and the protection of the shorelines. The Secretariat has requested the Government of Portugal for a report on this matter.

Decision required: The Bureau, based on 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.

Alhambra, Generalife and Albayzin, Grenada (Spain)

WH Bureau twenty-first session, para. IV.43

WH Committee twenty-first session, para. VII.53

Following the decision of the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-first session, actions were undertaken to resolve the problems created by the construction of the Rey Chico, the preparation of a new management plan and the revitalisation of the Albayzin quarter. A seminar organized by the UNESCO Centre of Andalucia, based in Grenada, brought together participants of the Andalucia Junta, the City of Grenada and peoples' associations of the Albayzin, to evaluate the actions already undertaken and to elaborate concrete proposals for the revitalisation of the quarter and the participation of the inhabitants in this process.

New construction of the Rey Chico

Repeated interventions by the Director-General of UNESCO and the World Heritage Committee and Secretariat have finally resulted in a solution which was outlined in a letter to the Centre from the Ambassador of Spain to UNESCO dated 15 April 1998. In conformity with the Law 16/1985, Article 37, the Mayor's Office of Grenada informed the Ministry of Culture and the Andalucia Junta that it had begun expropriation procedures of the building. At the same time, the Mayor's Office concluded an agreement with the property developer of the Rey Chico to exchange the new Rey Chico construction with the « Carmen de las Palmas », building belonging to the Mayor's Office situated outside the site.

Revision of the management plan of the site

The Committee's request for the revision of the management plan of the Alhambra and the Generalife, by an overall management plan for the entire site and the creation of a Spain-UNESCO scientific committee has not been implemented. In recent correspondence to the Director-General, the Councillor of the Andalucia Junta informed that it was not possible to create an institutional co-ordination structure because, on the one hand, the management of the Alhambra and the Generalife was attached to the Alhambra Patronat and on the other Albayzin was attached to the City of Grenada.

Revitalisation of Albayzin

A seminar organized by the UNESCO Centre of Andalucia with assistance from Treasury Funds of Grenada, was held from 2 to 6 February 1998 in the offices of the Escuela de Estudios Arabes in Albayzin. In spite of the fact that the preparations for the seminar were carried out under difficult conditions (Rey Chico problem and restricted funds available from the UNESCO Centre), the seminar had positive results and several commitments were made:

- a) the inhabitants recognized their heritage and their role in its conservation,
- b) the savings bank of Grenada undertook to grant low interest loans for the rehabilitation of these buildings,
- c) the Chamber of Commerce will create an artisan's label for Albayzin,
- d) the Mayor's office will repair the roads and bury the cables, improve the access roads and establish a minibus network; the inhabitants appreciate its technical office for Albayzin,
- e) the Junta will fund up to 300 million pesetas for the rehabilitation of Albayzin heritage over four years, not counting the investment foreseen in the other sectors,

- f) the Episcopat will open a part of the Santa Isabel La Real Monastery and churches to visitors and create a school for artisans,
- g) the Escuela de Estudios Arabes will continue the rehabilitation of Moorish dwellings with funding from the World Monument Fund (American Express) and the Aga Khan Foundation.

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

«The Bureau thanks the national, regional and local authorities for the efforts undertaken and the results achieved in the satisfactory conclusion of the matter concerning the new construction of the Rey Chico. The Bureau also commends the UNESCO Centre of Andalucía for the success of the seminar in revitalising Albayzin and thanks those who contributed towards its convening and successful outcome. It finally thanks the Mayor's Office, the Junta and the religious and economic authorities for the work undertaken in the rehabilitation of the quarter, its encouragement of tourism and development of its artisans. However, the Bureau reminds the authorities of the absolute necessity to apply the Convention and the Guidelines with regard to the management plan and the unicity of the site. Consequently, the Bureau forthwith requests the Spanish authorities to establish without delay the Spain-UNESCO scientific committee and to convene it as soon as possible so that the measures necessary for the appropriate management of the site be identified and programmed. »

Historic Walled Town of Cuenca (Spain)

The Spanish National Committee of ICOMOS informed the Centre of a series of projects which the Mayor of Cuenca intended to implement in the part of the Town inscribed on the List: cybernetic fountain, underground parking of 400 places, panoramic lifts to serve the inscribed part from other quarters of the town. These projects are in contradiction to the protection plan.

ICOMOS-Spain and the Centre have written to the Mayor to draw his attention to the dangers which threaten the site through the implementation of these urban projects and the national press have taken the matter up. The Mayor has therefore revised the proposals to be in conformity with the protection plan (fountain moved outside of the site, parking reduced to 140 places, lifts less conspicuous) and invited the World Heritage Centre to visit Cuenca to study with the Mayor the new proposals.

A mission to Cuenca is foreseen at the beginning of June and an oral report will be made to the Bureau.

Decision required: The Bureau, based on additional information that will 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.

Burgos Cathedral (Spain)

WH Bureau eighteenth session para VI.21

In March 1998, a mission was undertaken by a UNESCO staff member. The results of the mission will be presented to the Bureau during its session.

Decision required: The Bureau, based on additional information that will 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.

Old City of Berne (Switzerland)

WH Bureau twenty-first session, para. IV.56

In January 1997 a fire destroyed a number of historic buildings in the Old City. In its final report dated January 1998 the working group “Fire and other Risks to the Old City of Berne” recommended a series of building, technical, financial and legal measures to improve the standard of fire protection.

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

“The Bureau takes note of the final report on fire protection measures for the Old City of Berne and thanks the State Party for its effort in improving the security situation of this World Heritage site.”

Historic Areas of Istanbul (Turkey)

WH Bureau twenty-first extraordinary session, para III.C.c)

A feasibility study on the revitalization of the Balat and Fener quarters of the historic district of Istanbul was undertaken by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre under contract from the European Commission. This study initially included the area of Zeyrek, renowned for the wooden buildings of the Ottoman period, as well as Balat and Fener, all three areas being part of the district of Fatih which is protected under national law as a buffer zone to the World Heritage protected area.

Since the European Commission’s project was focused on the feasibility of restoring historic buildings as social housing, Zeyrek was excluded as a direct beneficiary due to the abandonment of the area by the population caused by the dangerous condition of the buildings. The alarming state of conservation of the historic wooden buildings in Zeyrek led to a reactive monitoring mission by ICOMOS in November 1997.

The EC-commissioned study completed in April enabled a general evaluation on the application of national laws concerning the protection of cultural sites in the Fatih District. Initial conclusions point to the degradation of the historic buildings in this protected district due to the inapplicability of the very strict regulations within the socio-economic reality of the area. The degree of poverty among the local inhabitants compounded by strict building

regulations have led to the “freezing” of development, degradation of the built environment and social conditions.

Close co-operation with the Municipality of Fatih during the implementation of this feasibility study for the EC-led to the establishment of a community advisory service by the Fatih Municipality to continue dialogue with the local inhabitants on their housing improvement needs which will also benefit national and local efforts to protect the built heritage of this historic district.

UNESCO will continue to co-operate with the European Commission, the Fatih Municipality, and the concerned national authorities to strengthen practical measures for the protection of cultural heritage in Fatih aimed to promote the integrity of the World Heritage Historic Areas of Istanbul and for these cultural assets to benefit the socio-economic development of the local community. The European Parliament has decided to allocate ECU 3 million for the operational phase of this housing improvement project which also includes the adaptive re-use of historic buildings for community welfare centres.

ICOMOS will inform the Bureau of the outcome of the reactive monitoring mission to Zeyrek undertaken in November 1997.

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

“ The Bureau takes note of the report of the Secretariat on the study carried out jointly by UNESCO, the Fatih Municipality and the Institut Francais d’Etudes Anatoliennes under contract from the European Commission and supports the integrated community development approach in cultural heritage protection. The Bureau requests the Secretariat and the State Party to inform the Committee at its twenty-second session on the progress of the European Commission’s project. The Bureau, furthermore, expresses its concern over the state of conservation of the historic buildings in Zeyrek which figure within the core protected area of the World Heritage site and requests the State Party to report on its conservation efforts.”

Kiev: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings (Ukraine)

In May 1997 the Secretariat was informed by letter about hotel projects near the World Heritage site. In the letter it was argued that these projects would disturb and diminish the balance and integrity of the historic architectural and landscape complex of this site. The Secretariat requested the State Party a report on this project.

In response, the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO stated that in this regard a wide range of restrictions and construction demands will be taken into consideration and that that the authors of the project will be requested to consider additional work at the hotel design stage to harmonize as far as possible with the existing historical constructions and natural environment. Furthermore, it was stated that the design team was recommended to keep the balance and integrity of the historic architectural and landscape complex.

An ICOMOS expert reported after his visit at the building site in February 1998 that the original height of the project of fourteen stories will be reduced to 8 to 10 stories. But this height is still greater than the height of six floors, built during the post-war period (up until 1945 this site was surrounded by three-story buildings). Already in 1990, ICOMOS recommended that in future “building standards which are in keeping with the extraordinary quality of St. Sophia be respected.”

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

“The State Party may be requested to reconsider its hotel-building policy and to submit a report on this project to the twenty-second extraordinary session of the Bureau.”

Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites (United Kingdom)

WH Bureau eighteenth session, para VI.21

In response to an enquiry by the Secretariat, the Department for Culture, Media and Sports of the United Kingdom, provided information on the most recent planning proposals for Stonehenge. It is now proposed that a new visitor’s centre be located at ‘Fargo North’, which lies to the west of the Stones, that the A344 road, which currently passes close to the Stones, be closed and that the A303 road become a tunnel over a length of two kilometres. It is furthermore announced that English Heritage is considering to proceed with the preparation of a management plan for Stonehenge.

The report was transmitted to ICOMOS, which will report its findings to the Bureau during its session.

Decision required: The Bureau, based on the report of ICOMOS that will be presented at its session, may recommend appropriate actions to the consideration of the State Party and the Committee.

Africa

Churches of Lalibela (Ethiopia)

WH Bureau twenty-first extraordinary session, III.C.c

In accordance with the recommendation adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-first session (December 1997) which « underlined the importance of an integrated conservation and a long-term management plan of the site” the World Heritage Centre organized a mission to Ethiopia from 5 to 12 February 1998. This mission, which was carried out by the Director of the Cultural Heritage Division of UNESCO and a consultant, Professor Laureano, had as objective to first of all establish an action plan for the conservation programme of Lalibela, approved by the Committee in December 1997 in the framework of the co-operation agreement signed between the Ethiopian authorities and the European Union. The visit to the site in the company of His Holiness the Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, representing the highest religious authority of the country, and the Director

of the Cultural Heritage Centre for Research and Conservation, provided an opportunity to study in detail the proposal relating to the construction of shelters for the protection of the five churches against bad weather and which had been the subject of several meetings and exchanges of correspondence between UNESCO and the European Union.

The results of this visit to the site were communicated in Addis Ababa to the Chief of the Delegation of the European Union, who agreed with the documents relating to the bids for the construction of the shelters for the five churches, which should be of a «temporary nature and removable », and that the project funded by the European Union should, parallel to the studies foreseen: record photogrammatic hydro-geological and geological studies, and integrate a thorough conservation programme of the entire site. Furthermore, the European Union has agreed to study the establishment of a pilot project for the restoration of the « Biet Maryam » Church. The project document, with a budget of 200,000 ECU, was prepared by the consultant of the World Heritage Centre and transmitted to the Ethiopian authorities and to the Chief of the Delegation of the European Union in April 1998.

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

The Bureau,

- 1) thanks the civil and religious authorities of Ethiopia and the Delegation of the European Union for the support they have provided for the integrated preservation of the site of Lalibela;
- 2) notes the positive results of the mission organized by the World Heritage Centre which took place in February 1998;
- 3) requests that information on the implementation of the mission's recommendations be communicated to the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-second session in December 1998.