

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-second extraordinary session
Kyoto, Japan
27-28 November 1998

Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

SUMMARY

In accordance with paragraphs 48-50 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. If 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 consider to take its decisions under the following three categories:

- (a) The Bureau recommends the Committee to inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
- (b) The Bureau transmits the state of conservation report to the Committee for action;
- (c) The Bureau transmits the state of conservation report together with its own observation/recommendation to the Committee for noting.

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. It is recalled that the World Heritage Committee at its nineteenth session discussed its working methods. At that occasion, the Committee adopted the following text regarding the examination of the state of conservation reports (Report of the nineteenth session of the World Heritage Committee, paragraph XVI.6. point 6):

"The aspect of the Committee's work which is expanding most rapidly and can be expected to continue to increase is the consideration of state of conservation reports. One approach to streamlining how these reports are dealt with could be for the Committee to consider only those reports which deal with properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger or proposed to be added to that List, with written reports on other sites being provided for the Committee for noting."

3. In accordance with the above, reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger are directly submitted to the Committee for consideration (Working Document WHC-98/CONF.203/7).

4. The Bureau is requested to examine the state of conservation reports on properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and to consider taking its decisions under the following three categories:

- (a) The Bureau recommends the Committee to inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
- (b) The Bureau transmits the state of conservation report to the Committee for action;
- (c) The Bureau transmits the state of conservation report together with its own observation/recommendation to the Committee for noting.

5. 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 the twenty-first session of the Committee and/or the twenty-second session of the Bureau. In addition, each of the reports is accompanied by a draft decision for examination and adoption by the Bureau.

6. The present document is also made available to the members of the Committee for consideration as Working Document WHC-98/CONF.203/8. The observations/recommendations of the Bureau will be reflected in the report of the Bureau session and will be transmitted to the Committee as Working Document WHC-98/CONF.203/8.Rev.

NATURAL HERITAGE

7. At its twenty-second ordinary session in June 1998, the Bureau examined the state of conservation of eighteen natural properties inscribed on the World Heritage List (excluding those properties which are included in the List of World Heritage in Danger) and made appropriate recommendations. These recommendations of the Bureau were transmitted to the respective States Parties.

8. This document provides state of conservation reports on thirty-two World Natural Heritage sites.

Great Barrier Reef (Australia)

(Twenty-first session of the Committee, paragraph VII.41)

(Twenty-second ordinary session of the Bureau, paragraph V.18)

At its twenty-first extraordinary session (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). At its twenty-second ordinary session (June 1998), the Bureau was informed that the Australian authorities have set rigorous environmental conditions on development activities in the Hinchinbrook region, and have implemented several other measures to strengthen the conservation of the Great Barrier Reef.

Since the conclusion of the Bureau session in June 1998, the Australian authorities have informed the Centre that they have acted on the findings of the financial review. In accordance with the review's key recommendations, the Australian Government has reorganised GBRMPA to assist the Authority to meet critical challenges in protecting and managing the Great Barrier Reef. The Australian authorities have indicated that they are unable to provide the Centre with a copy of the financial review of the GBRMPA since it is considered an internal working document of the Government.

IUCN has informed the Centre that it will submit a report on the state of conservation of this site, based on information to be provided by its Australian National Committee, at the time of the twenty-second extraordinary session of the Bureau.

Decision required: The Bureau, after reviewing new information that may be submitted by IUCN at its session, may make recommendations as appropriate.

Heard and McDonald Islands (Australia)

(Twenty-first session of the Committee, chapter VIII, section A.3)

The Committee, when it inscribed this property on the World Heritage at its last session (Naples, 1997), had requested documentation on the marine resources surrounding this property. The Australian authorities have informed the Centre that the Australian Antarctic Division has recently granted Commonwealth funding to collate and analyse existing data on the benthic environments surrounding this property, including the territorial sea. In accordance with Australia's plans to establish a marine

protected area in the region, the project aims to assess whether the 12 nautical miles, territorial sea provides a representative sample of marine biodiversity in the region. To enable such an assessment, a comprehensive research program will be undertaken to clearly identify the marine values of the area. A report on the project is expected within six months. As an interim measure, the Australian authorities have submitted a 1992-report entitled “The Conservation Values of the Seas Surrounding Heard Island and McDonald Islands” which has been transmitted to IUCN for review.

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

“The Bureau invites the State Party to submit a report, before 15 April 1999, on the findings of the project to establish a marine protected area so as to enable it to review the report at its twenty-third session in mid-1999.”

Shark Bay, Western Australia (Australia)

(Twenty-second session of the Bureau, para V.19)

At its twenty-second ordinary session (June 1998), the Bureau was informed that a petroleum exploration permit had been granted by the State Government of West Australia (WA) for an area located within the World Heritage site. The Observer of Australia assured the Bureau that no development that threatens the World Heritage values of the site will be allowed to take place. IUCN however, voiced its concern about the issue of granting of prospecting licences by State Governments of WA, and of Queensland for locations within World Heritage areas, and called for closer liaison between Commonwealth and State Governments on this matter.

Since the conclusion of the Bureau session in June 1998, the State Party has provided a detailed report describing the administrative structure established, and the resources committed for the conservation of this property. In addition, the Australian authorities have informed the Centre that a mining lease of the Shark Bay Salt Joint Venture (SBSJV) had attracted public comment but is outside of the property and that levee construction occurred outside the World Heritage area. The levee is 5.6 km long and was constructed across Useless Inlet to enclose 2,600 ha of marine waters, adjacent to SBSJV’s existing primary concentration pond, and as part of the expansion of the company’s operations. Approval for the levee construction was granted under the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act of 1986 and construction works complied with the environmental requirements set by the Minister for the Environment. The WA Department of Environment conducted two environmental compliance audits and concluded that SBSJV had satisfactorily implemented environmental conditions during the construction phase. Furthermore, in accordance with a post-construction environmental requirement, marine mega-fauna, namely 13 bottlenose dolphins, 6 loggerhead turtles and 23 green turtles, which were trapped behind the levee, were transferred to open marine waters by SBSJV with the help of professional assistance provided by the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

IUCN has informed the Centre that it will submit a report on the state of conservation of this site, based on information to be provided by its Australian National Committee, at the time of the twenty-second extraordinary session of the Bureau.

Decision required: The Bureau, after reviewing new information that may be submitted by IUCN at its twenty-second extraordinary session, may make recommendations as appropriate.

Wet Tropics of Queensland (Australia)

(Twenty-second ordinary session of the Committee, para V.20)

The Bureau, at its twenty-second ordinary session (June 1998), learnt that the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment had investigated concerns that vegetation clearing may have occurred within this property and determined that World Heritage values were not at risk and that no further action was needed on this matter.

Since the conclusion of the Bureau session in June 1998, the Australian authorities have informed the Centre that the arrangements for the management of this site are now fully effective and meet with the full confidence of the Australian Government. They have pointed out that the Management Plan, effective as of 1 September 1998, had been prepared with the full involvement of all stakeholders including Aboriginal groups. The Plan provides the Wet Tropics Management Authority with a full suite of powers to act in the interests of the World Heritage values of the property.

IUCN has informed the Centre that it will submit a report on the state of conservation of this site, based on information to be provided by its Australian National Committee, at the time of the twenty-second extraordinary session of the Bureau.

Decision required: The Bureau, based on new information that may be made available by IUCN at its twenty-second extraordinary session, may make recommendations as appropriate.

Belovezhskaya Pushcha/Bialowieza Forest (Belarus/Poland)

(Twenty-first session of the Committee, paragraph VII.41)

The Bureau at its twenty-first extraordinary session (November, 1997) was informed that sustainable forestry operations in the Polish side of this trans-border site were restricted to forests outside of the World Heritage area. The Bureau had invited the Polish authorities to inform the Centre as to whether they plan to extend the World Heritage area to conform to the new boundaries of the 10,500 ha Bialowieza National Park, as established in 1996.

The Polish authorities submitted, on 10 September 1998, an extension of the Bialowieza Forest. The proposed extension is substantial and will be evaluated by IUCN in accordance with paragraph 64 of the Operational Guidelines and recommendations submitted to the twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau in mid-1999. The Belarus authorities have submitted a publication entitled “Belovezhskaya Pushcha Forest Biodiversity Conservation” which focuses on strengthening forest and wildlife conservation and improving land-use management. The publication is based on results of the “Belarus Forest Biodiversity Protection Project” financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

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

“The Bureau commends the Polish authorities for nominating an extension to their part of the World Heritage site. The Bureau reiterates its previous request that the two States Parties co-operate to prepare a management plan for the Belarus part and consider removing the fence separating the two parts.”

Iguacu National Park (Brazil)

(Twenty-first session of the Committee, paragraph VII.35)

(Twenty-second ordinary session of the Bureau, para V.21)

Since 1997, the Bureau and the Committee have repeatedly called for the permanent closure of the 18km road traversing this Park which had been illegally opened by local people. The Bureau, at its twenty-second ordinary session (June 1998) requested the Centre and IUCN to undertake a joint mission to review the situation and to assist the State Party to mitigate the threats to the Park and asked the State Party to provide by 15 September 1998:

- (1) a copy of the revitalisation programme and a time frame for the rehabilitation of damaged areas, and
- (2) a detailed report on the state of conservation of the site and actions taken with regard to the permanent closure of the road.

IUCN and the Centre are awaiting the receipt of information requested. In the meantime IUCN has drawn the Centre’s attention to a new threat to Iguacu’s integrity, arising from plans to fill a hydropower reservoir in Southwest Brazil that would divert a considerable volume of Iguacu’s waters for seven to eight weeks every year.

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

“The Bureau reiterates its request that the State Party provide information on items (1) and (2) as described above and on plans to divert Iguacu’s waters to fill a hydropower reservoir in Southwest Brazil. The Bureau also urges the State Party to invite a Centre/IUCN mission to the site in order to determine whether the site needs to be included in the List of World Heritage in Danger.”

Dja Faunal Reserve (Cameroon)

(Twenty-first session of the Committee, paragraph VII.36)

(Twenty-second extraordinary session of the Bureau, para V.22)

The Bureau may recall that the Committee, at its twenty-first session (Naples, 1997), had expressed its 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 local people. At its twenty-second ordinary session (June 1998), the Bureau noted the findings and recommendations of the Regional Training Workshop, organized with the support of a US\$ 29,900 grant from

the World Heritage Fund. It suggested that Cameroon take urgent measures to act on the Workshop recommendations and present to the twenty-second session of the Committee, a statement of actions to be implemented, particularly in order to:

- (a) strengthen law enforcement against poaching and improve management of hunting and trade in wildlife products; and
- (b) halt the issue of new licences for forest exploitation in areas immediately adjacent to the boundaries of the World Heritage site.

The Bureau requested the Centre, IUCN and the State Party to co-operate in designing and launching a rapid bio-diversity assessment to evaluate the impacts of on-going forestry activities on the contiguity of habitats and gene pools in and around the Dja World Heritage site. The Centre is currently discussing possible financial support for such a study with UNDP, Cameroon, and bilateral donors, such as the Netherlands.

The Cameroon authorities, via a letter dated 11 September 1998 and attachment have transmitted information concerning follow up actions they have taken to implement the recommendations of the Workshop. The letter and attachment have been transmitted to IUCN for review.

Decision required: The Bureau, based on IUCN's analysis of the information provided by the State Party to be made available at its twenty-second extraordinary session, may recommend measures for the conservation of Dja.

Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks (Canada)

(Twenty-first session of the Committee, paragraph VII.37)

Twenty-second ordinary session of the Bureau, para V.23)

At its twenty-first session (Naples, 1997) the Committee expressed its serious concerns over the potential threats posed by the Cheviot Mine Project, designed to exploit a large, open-pit coal mine, located 2.8 km from the Jasper National Park portion of this site. A case filed by conservation groups challenging the EIA of the Federal-Provincial Environment Assessment Panel in favour of the mining project was dismissed because the judge decided that the Panel report is not subject to judicial review. At its twenty-second ordinary session (June 1998), the Bureau had requested the State Party to provide to the Centre a status report, before 15 September 1998, on the proposed mining project, including information on any proposed start-up date for the project. The Assistant Deputy Minister of Parks Canada, via his letter of 15 September 1998, has informed the Centre that it is unlikely that construction work on any component of the mine will begin before the spring of 1999. On 27 August 1998, the Government of Alberta announced the creation of Whitehorse Wildland Park between Jasper National Park and the proposed mine, with a view to help to protect the ecological integrity of Jasper National Park and its surrounding area.

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

“The Bureau reiterates its concerns over the impacts of the proposed Cheviot mining project on the integrity of the site. The Bureau welcomes the initiative of the Government of Alberta to establish the new Whitehorse Wildland Park to improve the ecological integrity of the Jasper National Park and its

surrounding areas. The Bureau invites the State Party to provide the Centre and IUCN advance notice of any proposed start-up date for the mining project and provide a status report on the project to the Centre, before 15 April 1999, for review at its twenty-third session in mid-1999.”

Jiuzhaigou Valley Scenic and Historic Interest Area (China, People’s Republic of)

A Centre/IUCN mission to this site in September 1998, found that the management of this site has been effective in restricting hotel construction to areas outside of the property. Within the site, visitors have no option other than staying in small-scale tourist facilities established in the homes of the Tibetan villagers resident there. The mission found that the management and the local people have entered into an effective partnership and the material and social conditions of the villagers have considerably improved due to benefits deriving from tourism. Economic benefits accrued through tourism has eliminated the need for natural resources exploitation. The State Council of China has issued a directive to bring illegal logging in the site to a complete halt. Despite these positive features, the mission team found the site to be congested with tourists; the management has made it too easy for the visitors to enter the site en-masse and in vehicles that drive through the core area. Increasing visitation appears to be leading to mushrooming of several new hotels immediately outside the boundaries of the site.

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

“The Bureau encourages the Chinese authorities to establish a “park-and-drive” system and to limit travel within the site to smaller, environment-friendly vehicles. Visitors should be accompanied by trained guides who have the capacity to interpret the natural and World Heritage values of the site. The Bureau draws the attention of the Chinese authorities to the need to improve training of site staff so that they can better monitor and mitigate tourism impacts on the site.”

Huanglong Scenic and Historic Interest Area (China, People’s Republic of)

A Centre/IUCN mission visited this site in September 1998 and was favourably impressed with tourism management there. The site is located within the same Minshan mountain range as the Jiuzhaigou World Heritage area described above. Tourist accommodation facilities in Huanglonggou are limited and future development of facilities is being confined to the town of Chuan Zhu Si, in Songpan County, 40 km from the Huanglong World Heritage area. The 7km boardwalk within the site is well managed and a visitor centre is currently under construction at Huanglonggou.

The mission team urged the Chinese authorities to implement the recommendation of the Committee, made at the time of inscription of this site and Jiuzhaigou in 1992, to link the two sites into a single Minshan Mountain World Heritage Area. The Chinese authorities pointed out that scientific studies needed to link the two sites into a single World Heritage area nomination have not yet been carried out and that the co-

ordination between two different County administrations could also pose difficulties. The mission team provided information concerning cluster nominations in other countries and as a result the Chinese authorities have expressed an interest in taking necessary steps to implement the Committee's 1992 recommendation. In doing so, the Chinese authorities have been urged to explore possibilities for linking the Jiuzhaigou-Huanglong cluster with a selected number of reserves set aside for the protection of the giant panda in Sichuan.

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

“The Bureau commends the State Party for effectively managing tourism in Huanglong. The Bureau requests the Centre and IUCN to co-operate with the State Party to undertake necessary studies for preparing a Minshan Mountain Range World Heritage area nomination linking Jiuzhaigou and Huanglong World Heritage sites and other giant panda reserves as appropriate.”

Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area (China, People's Republic of)

A Centre/IUCN mission-team visited this site in September 1998 and found this site to be overrun with tourist facilities and having a considerable impact on the aesthetic qualities of the site. The Chinese authorities have not taken any steps to implement the recommendation of the Committee, made at the time of the site's inscription in 1992, to prepare a species status conservation report in order to determine whether the site would qualify for inscription under natural heritage criterion (iv). At present the site is inscribed under natural heritage criterion (iii) only. The mission team found that several buildings and roads have been damaged as this site has been severely impacted by the recent floods in China. The site management has been encouraged to consider submitting a plan for rehabilitation of damaged areas within the site and a financial assistance request to the World Heritage Fund for emergency assistance. The site requires enhanced support from the Central and Provincial Governments of China owing to its location in a relatively remote region with a poorly developed economy.

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

“The Bureau invites the Provincial and Central Government authorities to augment the resources for the management of the site. Co-operation with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and other such institutions may be needed in order to assess the World Heritage values of the site's biodiversity. The Bureau draws the attention of the State Party to manage tourism development in and around the site on a sustainable basis. Furthermore, the Bureau urges the State Party to assess the extent of damage caused to the site by the recent floods and prepare a rehabilitation plan for implementation with financial support from Provincial and Central Governments, the World Heritage Fund and other sources.”

Los Katios National Park (Colombia)

(Twenty-second ordinary session of the Bureau, paragraph V.24)

In November 1997, a representative of Colombia's Ministry of Environment informed IUCN that the security situation in this site is threatened by conflicts between armed groups. A significant portion of the Park area is off-limit to staff due to the presence of such armed groups and tourism to the area had come to a halt. At its twenty-second ordinary session (June 1998), the Bureau, noted that the Colombian authorities had provided a report to the Centre and requested IUCN to review that report and submit its findings to the twenty-second extraordinary session of the Bureau. IUCN has informed the Centre that a major restructuring of Columbia's conservation administration is currently underway, for devolving responsibilities for the management of Los Katios to the provincial level. At a meeting with the Centre on 24 September 1998, the Permanent Delegation of Colombia to UNESCO confirmed this fact. IUCN is gathering further information on the decentralisation process to assess its implications for the conservation of Los Katios. However, IUCN has informed the Centre that it believes that the site is under serious threat and should be considered for inclusion in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

“The Bureau requests the Centre and IUCN to consult with the State Party in order to find out whether the State Party wishes to include Los Katios in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Bureau requests the Centre to report on the results of those consultations to its twenty-third session in mid-1999.”

Plitvice Lakes National Park (Croatia)

(Twenty-first session of the Committee, paragraph VII.12)

Since the Committee decided to remove this site from the List of World Heritage in Danger at its last session (Naples, 1997), the Centre has received a brief status report on the site's protection. A seven-member Administrative Council is responsible for the management of the site. The Park has statutes and rules of procedures, with regulating principles for residents, staff and visitors. Further positive results have been achieved with the efforts to limit transport activities through the Park and the construction of a detour around the Park. The authorities had provided a map showing the extension of the Park's boundaries by about 100 km². The map has been returned to the Croatian authorities requesting them, in accordance with the recommendation of the last session of the Committee, to nominate the extension of the 100 km² extension using standard nomination procedures set out in paragraph 64 of the Operational Guidelines.

Decision required: The Bureau may wish to transmit the above report to the Committee for examination and recommend the following for adoption:

“The Committee commends the authorities for their continuing efforts to enhance the protection of Plitvice and urges them to nominate, as soon as possible, the 100km² extension, using standard nomination procedures set out in paragraphs 64 of the Operational Guidelines.”

Morne Trois Pitons National Park (Dominica)

(Twenty-second ordinary session of the Bureau, para V.25)

At its twenty-second ordinary session (June 1998), the Bureau was informed of a cable car construction project through the centre of the Park, proposed by a private individual concerned with tourism development. The feasibility of the project is questionable due to the heavy rains, high winds and the steep-terrain that characterise this site. The construction of major access facilities in this area is not consistent with the management plan of the Park and the Bureau was in agreement with IUCN that the Dominica authorities need to exercise great caution when evaluating the feasibility of this proposal. The Director of the Centre visited the site during his participation in the International Conference on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Caribbean (2-5 August 1998). He observed that the project foresees the “sky-train” taking visitors to the heart of the core area and was of the view that the proposed project is unlikely to be compatible with Dominica’s obligations under the Convention for conserving this site. The Government of Dominica, via its letter of 7 July 1998, informed the Centre that the terms of reference for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the proposal have been prepared and reviewed by the Natural Resource Management Unit of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States. The terms of reference have also been forwarded to the proponent of the cable way system. The Government informed the Centre that the report of the EIA will be submitted to the Centre for review as soon as it is available.

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

“The Bureau invites the State Party to keep the Centre and IUCN fully informed of the process for carrying out an EIA and the outcome of that process. The Bureau invites Dominica to submit a status report on the cable car development proposal, before 15 April 1999, for review by the twenty-third session of the Bureau in mid-1999.”

Galapagos Islands (Ecuador)

(Twenty first session of the Committee, paragraph VII.38)

(Twenty-second ordinary session of the Bureau, para V.25)

The Committee at its twenty-first session (Naples,1997) invited the Government of Ecuador to notify the Chairperson of the Committee of the final enactment and entering into force of the Galapagos Special Law. The Committee decided that if, by the opening date of the twenty-second ordinary session of the Bureau, the Government of Ecuador had not notified the Chairperson of the enactment and entry into force of the “Special Galapagos Law”, the Galapagos Islands be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

At its twenty-second ordinary session in June 1998, the Bureau was informed that the «Special Law on the Galapagos» was published, on 18 March 1998, by the Official Registry of Ecuador as Law No. 278, and that the Chairperson of the Committee had been officially notified of the enactment and the entry into force of the Law. Hence, the Bureau recommended that the Committee not consider Galapagos Islands for inclusion in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The Bureau noted that the Law, if implemented, would greatly strengthen conservation in both the Galapagos Islands as well as in marine waters surrounding them. The Law provides for the extension of the outer boundary of the marine reserve from 24 to 64 km offshore and for the establishment of a significant 130,000 km² Reserve for the conservation of marine biodiversity where only tourism and artisanal fisheries will be permitted. The Bureau was satisfied to note that the Law addresses most of the major issues relating to conservation and sustainable development of Galapagos, including:

- regulations for the control and eradication of introduced species and the establishment of a quarantine inspection system;
- appreciation of Galapagos by local people and their participation in its conservation through environmental education;
- building local skills and conservation institutions, including the strengthening of the GNPS and improving inter-agency co-ordination through the work of a revived INGALA (Instituto Nacional de Galapagos);
- immigration and residence control measures to stabilise the rate of growth of human population size; and
- a participatory planning process for marine resources conservation.

The Bureau commended the Government of Ecuador and all agencies, groups, local residents and experts for reaching a consensus on this new Law. The Bureau urged the Ecuadorian authorities to ensure the effective implementation of the Law and invited them 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 Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS) and the Galapagos National Park Service (GNPS) have jointly implemented a project, partly financed by a US\$ 20,000 grant from the World Heritage Fund, to gather basic information needed for the establishment of an ecological monitoring system for Galapagos. The final report of the project has been submitted and includes an exhaustive list of introduced species belonging to a number of animal and plant taxa. CDRS and GNPS have also submitted an international assistance request for US\$ 100,000 for a 15 month-project for developing and building the necessary capacity for establishing a quarantine system for the control of the introduction and spread of alien species. Furthermore, the Centre and IUCN have been informed that an Inter-American Development Bank Project is being developed for Galapagos and, if approved, could facilitate the effective implementation of the Special Galapagos Law, particularly with regard to the conservation of marine resources and for ensuring sustainable tourism development.

Decision required: The Bureau may wish to transmit the above report to the Committee for examination and recommend the following for adoption:

“The Committee commends the Ecuadorean Government for ensuring the passage of, and entry into force of the Special Galapagos Law and decides not to consider including the Galapagos in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee urges the State Party to re-nominate, in 1999, the Marine Reserve as an extension of the World Heritage site. The Committee draws the attention of the State Party to the Bureau’s recommendation, made at its

twenty-first ordinary session in June 1997, that the State Party submit annual reports on the state of conservation of Galapagos until the end of the year 2002. The Committee invites the State Party to submit the first of the requested series of annual reports to the twenty-third session of the Committee in 1999.”

Nanda Devi National Park (India)

At its twenty-first ordinary session (June 1997), the Bureau noted that the management of this site is based on enforcing a policy of strict protection. The Deputy Director of the Park, who presented a paper on this site at a sub-regional meeting on Himalayan Heritage, (Kathmandu, Nepal, August-September 1998), drew attention to an Indian Supreme Court ruling of 1996 which suspended, until further review by concerned authorities, rights of the local people to collect forest produce in protected areas including in their buffer zones. This ruling has been applied to the “Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve”, including in its buffer zone surrounding the Nanda Devi National Park and World Heritage area. The enactment of the Supreme Court ruling has led to a rise in conflicts between the management and local people. Co-ordination between the Ministry of Tourism and site management also needs to be improved; site-staff had to apprehend tourists who had entered the Park with permits issued by tourism authorities without informing site management. Furthermore, the Deputy Director of the Park was of the view that the boundaries of the World Heritage area could be extended to include the Valley of Flowers National Park and the Khedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary.

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

“The Bureau invites the State Party to review site management policy with a view to minimising conflicts between management and local people and to seek the co-operation of local people in the protection of the site. Co-operation between conservation and tourism authorities also needs to be strengthened in order to define a policy for visitor entry and use of the site. The Bureau requests the Centre and IUCN to co-operate with the Indian authorities in studying the feasibility for enlarging the World Heritage area by including the Valley of Flowers National Park and the Khedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary.”

Royal Chitwan National Park (Nepal)

At its twenty-first ordinary session (June 1997), the Bureau noted this site’s success in conserving the great one-horned rhinoceros. At a sub-regional meeting on Himalayan Heritage, (Kathmandu, Nepal, August-September 1998), the Director General of Nepal’s Department of National Parks and Wildlife, pointed out that the Park celebrated its 25th year anniversary in 1998. The management of the Park is faced with problems of pollution of the Narayani River due to industrial sewage discharged into that River by private enterprises located outside the Park. An increase in the natural rate of mortality of the rhinoceros in 1998 remains unexplained and is perhaps attributable to the possibility that the population consists of a considerable number of older individuals. The National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act has been recently amended to ensure that 30-50% of the tourism revenues from the Park is used for development projects benefiting local communities. The Director General called for the

use of the large volume of scientific data available on ecological and managerial aspects of Royal Chitwan in setting up a systematic monitoring regime for the Park.

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

“The Bureau recommends that the Centre and IUCN co-operate with the State Party to design and implement international assistance projects for mitigating the impacts of the pollution of the Narayani River. The Bureau urges the Centre and IUCN to co-operate with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife to establish a systematic monitoring scheme for tracking long-term changes in the ecology and the management regime of Royal Chitwan.”

Sagarmatha National Park (Nepal)

At its twenty-first ordinary session (June 1997), the Bureau noted that supplying the energy needs of the growing number of tourists, staff and the Sherpa community is the most critical management issue in this site. At present, site staff and a considerable number of the Sherpa families resident in lower elevations have shifted to the use of kerosene and micro-power plants to meet their energy needs. However, tourist installations in the higher alpine zones continue to exploit the juniper bushes to meet their fuel-wood needs. The site management is initiating a project for which the Chairperson, based on a request submitted by the State Party, approved a sum of US\$ 15,000 from the Fund, to update information-displays at the interpretation Centre at the Park entrance and in the Namche Bazar Visitor Centre. New displays are to be designed in order to inform visitors of the growing energy demands of the tourist industry and to suggest possible ways and means by which tourists could help the management to find solutions. Restrictions to the number of visitors to the Park is likely to be resisted by the Sherpa community who derive about 75% of their income from tourism; at least one member of each Sherpa household is employed in the tourism industry. The site management intends to start a process for revising the management plan of the site, in connection with the commemoration of the site's 25th anniversary in 2001. As part of that process detailed analyses of trends in the growth in the numbers of visitors and local population and associated energy demands will be undertaken. Future scenarios in the relationship between the increase in visitor numbers and energy demands will be modelled in order to elaborate a long-term strategy for tourism development in and around the Park area.

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

“The Bureau encourages the State Party to seek a long-term, strategic approach for managing the increase in the growth of the numbers of visitors and local people and the parallel rise in energy demands. The Bureau requests the Centre and IUCN to co-operate with the State Party to ensure that visitor rates, tourism infrastructure development and energy demand planning become an integral part of the process to revise the site's management plan in connection with the commemoration of Sagarmatha's 25th anniversary in 2001.”

Whale Sanctuary of El Viscaïno (Mexico)

(Twenty-first session of the Committee, paragraph VII.41)

The Bureau may recall that during 1996-97, the State Party, by establishing a Scientific Committee which set up stringent environmental conditions on the proponents of an industrial salt production facility, successfully averted threats which the construction of that facility could have posed to the integrity of this site. However, IUCN and the Centre have received a large number of messages about threats to this site arising from a renewed consideration of the project for constructing an industrial salt production facility. Several of these messages include calls for declaring El Viscaïno a World Heritage site in Danger. Moreover, IUCN has pointed out that new settlements are occurring in the area, increasing pollution, logging and over-fishing and are crowding out endangered and endemic species. There are indications of a decline in the population of various marine mammals, shellfish, and sea turtles that are unique to the area. IUCN has recommended that a mission to the site be planned in 1999 to evaluate various threats to the integrity of the site and assess whether or not this site should be included in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

“The Bureau recommends that the Centre contact the State Party to obtain information on any plans for renewal of considerations for the construction of the industrial salt production facility. The Bureau suggests that the State Party consider inviting a Centre/IUCN mission to El Viscaïno. The mission should prepare an up-to-date state of conservation report, including an assessment of whether or not the site needs to be considered for inclusion in the List of World Heritage in Danger and submit it to the twenty-third session of the Committee in 1999.”

Arabian Oryx Sanctuary (Oman)

(Twenty-first session of the Committee, paragraph VII.41)

(Twenty-second ordinary session of the Bureau, para V. 27)

In 1997, the authorities of Oman submitted an interim zoning plan that foresaw a new outer boundary, and provisional boundaries for five management zones. In addition they provided brief descriptions of their plans for implementing several projects and a report on the population status of the Arabian Oryx in the Sanctuary.

At its twenty-second ordinary session (June 1998), the Bureau agreed with IUCN’s position that it would be better to review the zoning plan and other associated proposals after the overall management plan and the boundaries for the site are finalised. Hence, the Bureau invited the State Party to inform the Centre about progress with regard to the finalisation of the management plan and submit the plan to IUCN and the Centre for review. A response from the authorities of Oman is awaited.

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

“The Bureau requests the Oman authorities to expedite the finalisation of the management plan, including the boundaries of the site and its management zones. The Bureau invites the State Party to submit the finalised plan for review by IUCN and the Centre before 15 September 1999. The Bureau requests the Centre and IUCN to submit the findings of their review of the management plan to the twenty-third session of the Committee in 1999.”

Huascarán National Park (Peru)

(Twenty-second ordinary session of the Bureau V.28)

At its twenty-second ordinary session (June 1998), the Bureau was informed 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, located 20km east of this Park. Mining is expected to commence in 2001 and have a life span of 20 years. The Bureau noted that the concentrates may be transported from the mining site to the coast, either via a Central Road that traverses the Park, or an alternative Southern Road circling around the Park. The mining company had agreed to take the Southern Road, which is completely outside the Park, but traverses the buffer zones of the Huascarán World Heritage site and the Biosphere Reserve. No EIA has been carried out for the use of the Southern Road so far. The Central Road would however, be used for bringing heavy equipment to the mining area for approximately one year, until the construction of a by-pass along the Southern Road is completed to allow for the transport of such heavy equipment along that Road. IUCN underlined the importance of monitoring all impacts of the use of the Central Road during the one-year period. The Bureau took note of the different options for accessing the mining area and the preference expressed by INRENA to use the Southern Road. The Bureau requested the Centre and IUCN to collaborate with the State Party to control impacts of the temporary use of the Central Road through the Park until the Southern Road becomes fully operational. The Bureau agreed with the proposal of the Chairperson to establish a *Study Group* to reconcile environment and development needs and to use Huascarán as a case study which could provide guidance and lessons to other World Heritage sites whose integrity is threatened by potential mining projects. The Bureau suggested that a future mission to this site may be useful, and requested the State Party to provide a status report on the mining project to its twenty-second extraordinary session. The Bureau recommended that the State Party consider inviting a Representative of IUCN to be part of the “Working Group” being established by INRENA on the management of the site.

The Centre has proposed names of a number of experts, who may be included in the *Study Group*, to be established to the consideration of the Chairperson. The Centre and IUCN have been invited by the International Council on Metals and the Environment to a working session on “Mining and Protected Areas and Other Ecologically Sensitive Sites” on 20 October 1998 in London, UK. On 14 September 1998, INRENA informed the Centre that the “Working Group” on the management of the site had several meetings to prepare the future consortium of NGOs which is expected to monitor mining operations. Representatives from the IUCN Office in Peru participated in the meetings of the “Working Group”. On 28 September 1998, additional information on the state of conservation of Huascarán National Park and the

Huascarán Biosphere Reserve was submitted by the Permanent Delegation of Peru to UNESCO to the Centre. This information has been transmitted to IUCN for review.

Decision required: The Bureau based on IUCN's review of the additional information on the state of conservation of the site submitted by the State Party, expected to be available at the time of its twenty-second extraordinary session, may consider recommending measures for the conservation of Huascarán as appropriate.

Kamchatka Volcanoes (Russian Federation)

(Twenty-first session of the Committee, paragraph VII.39)

(Twenty-second ordinary session of the Bureau, para V. 28)

At its twenty-second ordinary session (June 1998), the Bureau recalled that a proposed mining project, located at about 5 km outside of the Bystrinsky portion of this site, if executed will disrupt migratory wildlife in the region and impact fisheries resources. The Bureau was informed of communications from the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation and the Governor of the Province of Kamchatka reiterating their commitment to the site's protection. The Governor of Kamchatka supported the controlled development of the Aginskoe gold deposit and pointed out that a formal EIA of the mining project had been carried out. Nevertheless, the Bureau expressed its concern to the Russian Government and the Kamchatka Administration over the potential consequences of the proposed mine, and requested the Centre to obtain more information, particularly on details of the EIA carried out.

Since the conclusion of the last session of the Bureau in June 1998, IUCN has informed the Centre that a GEF funded project for this site could significantly strengthen biodiversity conservation in the area and that WWF has also initiated projects for the conservation of the site. Furthermore, IUCN has been informed by Kamchatka authorities that they intend to extend the World Heritage area by including an additional volcano within the region; IUCN has recommended that the Bureau encourage the State Party to proceed with their plans to extend the World Heritage area.

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

“The Bureau notes the activities of GEF and WWF for the conservation of Kamchatka. The Bureau recommends that the Centre and IUCN maintain contact with the State Party and Kamchatka Administration in order to obtain detailed information on the EIA carried out, and to systematically monitor the status of the proposed gold mining project. The Bureau welcomes the possibility that the Kamchatka authorities may be considering to extend the area of the site to include another volcano within the Region and encourages the State Party to proceed with such plans in consultation with the Centre and IUCN.”

Lake Baikal (Russian Federation)

(Twenty-first session of the Committee, paragraph VII.41)

(Twenty-second session of the Bureau, para V.30)

At its twenty-second ordinary session (June 1998), the Bureau was informed that a number of laws for the national protection of the Lake existed and that the Duma had adopted the Federal Law on “The Protection of the Baikal Lake” which was, however, vetoed by the President. The Federal Law had been tabled for a third reading in the Duma, taking into account comments made by the President’s intervention. In addition to the legal concerns, the authorities had not come to any conclusions regarding the re-profiling the Baikal Pulp and Paper Mill at Baikalsk, one of the main polluters of the Lake. The Observer of the Russian Delegation attending the Bureau session in June 1998 pointed out that the situation at Lake Baikal is of major concern, due to its unresolved legal status, continuing and increasing pollution, lack of resources for management and monitoring, and logging and other negative factors. The Observer was of the view that the site is under serious threat and that the State Party would not oppose inclusion of the site in the List of World Heritage Danger.

The Bureau, expressed its serious concerns over the threats to the integrity of Lake Baikal, and urged the State Party to inform the Centre, before 15 September 1998, the status of the Baikal Law and its adoption as well as a time-table for its implementation. The Bureau drew the attention of the Russian authorities to paragraphs 82-89 of the Operational Guidelines (“Procedure for the Inclusion of Properties in the List of World Heritage in Danger”) and invited them to prepare a programme of corrective measures for submission to its twenty-second extraordinary session. The State Party’s response to the Bureau’s concerns and recommendations is awaited.

Decision required: The Bureau, based on a review of new information that may be available at the time of its twenty-second extraordinary session, may wish to determine whether it should recommend that the Committee include the Lake Baikal in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Virgin Komi Forests (Russian Federation)

(Twenty-first session of the Committee, paragraph VII.41)

(Twenty-second ordinary session of the Bureau, para V. 31)

At its twenty-first extraordinary session (November 1997), the Bureau had expressed its serious concerns over a proposed gold mining project in this site and requested detailed information on the project, including any environmental impact studies that may have been carried out. At its last session (June 1998), the Bureau noted that letters from different Federal and State Level authorities seem to imply that changes to the boundaries of the World Heritage site were under consideration and that the gold-mining project may have been suspended. Hence, the Bureau urged the State Party to provide to the Centre, before 15 September 1998, full information on any proposal to change the borders of the site, and confirm whether the gold mining project had been withdrawn.

IUCN has informed the Centre that following a Federal Government inspection of the site in the context of the proposed gold mining activities, the local authorities were ordered to cancel all activities related to mining. However, the Government of the Komi Republic is taking legal action against this Federal Government Order and the

Duma is in the process of considering a law, despite objections from the State Committee on Ecology, which would allow mining in Russia's national parks.

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

“The Bureau encourages the Government of the Russian Federation to reconsider the issue of mining in national parks, especially in relation to World Heritage sites. Furthermore, the Bureau requests the Centre and IUCN to contact the authorities in the Komi Republic to discuss mining and boundary issues relevant to the Virgin Komi Forests.”

Skocjan Caves (Slovenia)

IUCN has informed the Centre that the Regional Vice Chair of IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) attended a meeting in May 1998 for the preparation of a management plan for this site. The Regional Office of the Park, established in 1997, has completed the first phase of the management plan; however, the May 1998 meeting identified several problems, including the need to improve visitor facilities and training new rangers. WCPA and EUROPARC Federation offered to provide expert advice on park facilities and proposed to organize workshops in the Regional Park for training personnel on cave and karst protection. The Park has also invited IUCN to provide advice on the preparation of the management plan.

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

“The Bureau invites the State Party to submit a request for organizing an *in-situ* training activity focusing on the conservation of European World Heritage sites with cave and karst features for possible financial assistance from the World Heritage Fund. The Bureau requests the Centre and IUCN to co-operate with the State Party to provide any assistance needed in the preparation and finalisation of a management plan for the site.”

Donana National Park (Spain)

(Twenty-second ordinary session of the Bureau, para V.32)

At its last session (June 1998) the Bureau was informed that a giant holding pool of the Aznalcollar mine owned by a Canadian-Swedish company burst resulting in an ecological disaster. Although the main toxic flow had been diverted away from the National Park, the adjoining areas had been badly damaged. The Bureau was informed that the spill could spread into the World Heritage area as pollutants dispersed more widely. The State Party had submitted a number of technical reports on the situation and on actions taken to mitigate the threats. The President of the Spanish MAB Committee had proposed the organization of an international conference to review actions taken and rehabilitation plans elaborated for the conservation of the site and provided an outline for a project entitled “Donana 2005”. The State Party had welcomed UNESCO involvement and suggested that financial support be considered for this purpose. The Bureau had expressed its serious concerns on the long-term

restoration of the property and urged the State Party to undertake all possible measures to mitigate the threats. Furthermore, the Bureau had requested the State Party to collaborate with UNESCO, IUCN and the Ramsar Convention to prepare an international expert conference to develop a long-term vision, and to compile a detailed report in time for the twenty-second session of the World Heritage Committee. The Centre is awaiting an official response from the State Party to the Bureau's recommendations.

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

“The Bureau reiterates its request that the State Party, UNESCO, IUCN and the Ramsar Convention collaborate and submit to the Bureau's twenty-third session in mid-1999 the following: (i) a detailed plan for the organization of an international expert conference; and (ii) a description of the project, “Donana 2005”, outlining goals and objectives, project plan, expected outcome, project financing plan and a timetable for project implementation.”

Thung Yai-Huay Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries (Thailand)

IUCN has informed the Centre that this site has been severely damaged by fires that had affected Thailand and other countries in the region. Most fires in the region are of anthropogenic origin. Local people start fires to clear farmland and fields that are adjacent to protected areas to enhance pasture and mushroom production. Forest fire prevention was identified to be the major management issue in this site by IUCN, Centre and other experts and managers who visited the site as part of a World Heritage workshop hosted by Thailand during 19-23 January 1998. Most participants to the workshop identified the need for greater involvement of local people in the management of the site, including the prevention of forest fires. Following that workshop, the Chairperson has approved a sum of US\$ 20,000 for a project, designed and submitted by the National Committee for the Protection of the World Heritage of Thailand, for research, training and raising awareness of local people on forest fire prevention and control. The results of the project will be used to review and revise the fire management policy of the site. The project foresees the implementation of joint activities by site-staff and representatives of local communities in forest fire prevention and control during the next dry season that will set in after November 1998.

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

“The Bureau requests the Centre, IUCN and the State Party to co-operate to ensure timely implementation of the project and the elaboration of a forest-fire management policy that solicits the co-operation of local people. The Bureau invites the State Party to submit a report on the success of fire management practices that may be tested out during the forthcoming dry season to the consideration of the twenty-third session of the Bureau in mid-1999.”

St. Kilda (United Kingdom)

The Centre transmitted the report “Threats to St. Kilda World Heritage Site from Proposed Oil Exploration and Production in the Atlantic Frontier”, prepared by Greenpeace International, to IUCN for review. This report has raised serious concerns on potential impacts to this site, particularly in the event of a possible oil spill that may result from the use of the Floating Production, Storage and Offloading Facilities (FPSOs). There are important threats associated with pollution derived from by-products of oil exploration and drilling activities. When IUCN undertook the mission to evaluate this site in 1986, it recommended that protection be extended to include the adjoining marine environment. IUCN has informed the Centre that the State Party is currently considering the establishment of a special Area of Conservation for the seas of the St.Kilda archipelago under European Union’s Habitats and Species Directive. IUCN has welcomed this initiative and expressed the hope that it will lead to the eventual extension of the World Heritage site to include the seas of the St. Kilda archipelago.

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

“The Bureau invites the State Party to take all possible measures to protect St. Kilda from potential adverse impacts of oil exploration and production in the Atlantic frontier and to consult with all interested parties before proceeding with such activities. The Bureau welcomes the State Party’s initiative to extend the boundaries of the site to include the seas of the St.Kilda archipelago.”

Canaima National Park (Venezuela)

(Twenty-first session of the Committee, paragraph VII.40)

(Twenty-second ordinary session of the Bureau, para V.33)

The Committee at its last session (December, 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. At its twenty-second ordinary session (June 1998), the Bureau was informed that the Director-General of UNESCO had transmitted the Committee’s concerns and recommendations to the President of Venezuela. In his response, the President of Venezuela had reaffirmed the commitment of his Government to protect the World Heritage site and welcomed the possibility of a UNESCO mission to the site to evaluate the project and determine the boundaries of the World Heritage site. An IUCN-Centre mission to Venezuela, including a site-visit to Canaima, planned for late August 1998, had to be indefinitely postponed due to a deterioration of security conditions in and around Canaima. In the meantime, IUCN has received several reports from indigenous people living in the Gran Sabana and the Imataca areas expressing their strong concerns over the future of the Canaima National Park. Although the Committee’s deliberations have revolved around the construction of the power line, IUCN has pointed out that serious attention should be given to plans to open up the fragile ecosystem of this Park and the Imataca rainforest to large scale mining, tourism and logging concessions. Furthermore, IUCN recognises that the economic crisis affecting Venezuela is also affecting the Government’s key conservation institutions such as INPARQUES.

The Permanent Delegation of Venezuela to UNESCO, via their letter dated 28 September 1998, has invited the Centre and IUCN to field a site visit as soon as possible. The Centre has contacted the UN Resident Representative in Caracas, Venezuela, for security clearance and is awaiting a response. IUCN has suggested that the Committee's recommendation, made at the time of inscription of the site (December 1994), that the Government of Venezuela co-operate with the Centre and IUCN to "initiate a process to review the boundaries of the site, taking into consideration the interests of the local people and the need to focus the nomination on the tepui portion (approximately 2 million ha) of the Park", be used as a basis for establishing the terms of reference for the mission.

Decision required: The Bureau may wish to transmit the above report to the Committee for examination and recommend the following for adoption:

"The Committee calls upon the Centre and IUCN to field a mission to Canaima as soon as security clearance from the UN Resident Co-ordinator for Venezuela is available. The Committee agrees with IUCN that the terms of reference for the mission be derived from the recommendations of the Committee made at the time of the inscription of this site on the World Heritage List in 1994. The Committee requests that the findings of the mission and its recommendation concerning whether Canaima needs to be included in the List of World Heritage in Danger be submitted to the twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau in mid-1999."

Ha Long Bay (Vietnam)

(Twenty-first session of the Committee, paragraph VII.41)

(Twenty-second ordinary session of the Bureau, para V.34)

At its twenty-second ordinary session (June 1998), the Bureau noted that the study on environmental management for Ha Long Bay, designed and implemented by Vietnam and JICA, commenced in February 1998 and is expected to proceed until October 1999. This study will run parallel to the Environmental Impact Assessment of the Cailan Port construction project. The Bureau was also informed of 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. A loan agreement for providing engineering services for the construction of this bridge was signed, in March 1998, by OECF, Japan, and the Government of Vietnam and includes a feasibility study as well as an environmental impact assessment of the bridge construction project.

In response to the Bureau's request for information made at its twenty-second ordinary session in June 1998, the Vietnam authorities have provided the following:

- (a) an "explanation report" of the Bai Chay bridge construction project;
- (b) detailed technical study outline report on the study on environmental management for Ha Long Bay;
- (c) report on Engineering Services and EIA for the Bai Chay Bay bridge construction project; and
- (d) report on the feasibility study on the Bai Chay bridge construction project.

All these reports have been transmitted to IUCN for review.

The National Commission of UNESCO, and the IUCN Office, in Vietnam, are jointly implementing a project, approved by the Chairperson of the Committee, to study the geomorphological, particularly the karst, features of the Ha Long Bay. One of the expected outcomes of the project is a possible re-nomination of the World Heritage site under natural heritage criterion (i); at present Ha Long Bay is recognised as World Heritage solely under natural heritage criterion (iii).

The World Bank Office in Hanoi has transmitted to the Centre information concerning an expert mission it fielded in early October 1998 and its plans for organizing a donor conference in December 1998 on the environmental aspects of the Regional Development of Quanh Ninh-Hai Phong, including the conservation of Ha Long Bay.

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

“The Bureau urges the Centre and IUCN maintain contact with all donors and international agencies to continue monitoring the impacts of the development of the Quanh Ninh-Hai Phong Region on the integrity of the Ha Long Bay World Heritage area. The Bureau requests the Centre and IUCN to provide a state of conservation report on Ha Long Bay, taking into consideration the large volume of information provided by the State Party and the outcome of donor funded studies and conferences, to the twenty-third session of the Committee in 1999.”

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

(Twenty-first session of the Committee, paragraph VII.41)

(Twenty-second ordinary session of the Bureau, para V.34)

At its twenty-second ordinary session (June, 1998), the Bureau was informed that a map showing the 40 ha area to be excised from the Park is under preparation. The Park authorities have transmitted other information requested by the Bureau in November 1997 to the Federal Ministry for the Protection of the Environment (FMPE). The Bureau noted that there is a global protection regime for the Tara River and its Canyon. The Centre has requested the Permanent Delegation of the State Party to UNESCO to obtain the documentation sent by the Park authorities from the FMPE and is awaiting a response.

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

“The Bureau recommends that the State Party submit to the Centre, before 15 April 1998, the map showing the 40 ha area to be excised from the Park to enable the Bureau to review the map at its twenty-third ordinary session in mid-1998. The Bureau requests the Centre to continue its efforts to obtain the information transmitted by the Park authorities to the FMPE.”

Mosi-oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls (Zambia/Zimbabwe)

At the request of the Centre, IUCN has reviewed the “Scoping Report: Potential impacts associated with the proposed development of the Mosi-Oa-Tunya Hotel Complex”, prepared by the Division of Water, Environment and Forestry Technology, CSIR, South Africa. This report was commissioned by Sun International, the company that would like to develop this hotel complex in the Zambian side of this trans-border World Heritage site. In brief, IUCN’s comments are:

- The report is of a high technical quality and has fully recognised and considered the recommendations from the “Strategic Environmental Assessment of Developments Around Victoria Falls”, prepared and published by IUCN, in 1996
- The main problem still remains to be the fact that this development is proposed within the boundaries of the World Heritage site. However, as observed in the report, the area proposed for development has been already affected by existing hotel infrastructure and the new development will not cause any further degradation of the site but in fact may contribute to rehabilitating and improving the scenic qualities of the area.
- The report fully recognises a series of potential environmental and social impacts, most of them in line with previous reports prepared by IUCN on this site, but has not suggested clear ways and means to solve or mitigate them.
- Since the proposed development is extensive, Livingstone based authorities may not have the capacity to deal with issues such as security, health problems, sewage disposal, etc. The Central Government of Zambia must intervene to solve these problems. However, no information has been received from the Zambian Government on how it intends to respond to these issues.
- Stakeholders involved in this development proposal stressed the economic importance of this project for Zambia and have expressed the wish that the project is executed as soon as possible.

From IUCN’s point of view, the key issues of concern are:

- The location of the proposed development is within the boundaries of the site and particularly close to the banks of the rivers.
- Institutional support that should be provided by the Zambian Government to address environmental problems is not defined;
- Given that the site belongs to two States Parties, the Government of Zambia needs to discuss the project with the Government of Zimbabwe, to seek the latter’s agreement on implementation policies, procedures and schedules.

The response of the Zimbabwean Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management (ZDNPWLM) to the hotel development proposal of Sun International has been transmitted to the Centre, on 25 September 1998, by the Zimbabwe National Commission for UNESCO. ZDNPWLM has emphasised the need to preserve the World Heritage site as a global asset and stressed that any development proposal should be subject to EIA procedures that invite full public involvement. ZDNPWLM

has pointed out that it lacks details and information on the hotel development proposal. Hence, ZDNPWLM is unable to make specific and constructive comments or endorse the development proposal.

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

“The Bureau requests the Centre to co-operate with the IUCN Regional Office for Southern Africa to organize a bi-national meeting to bring the Governments of Zambia and Zimbabwe together. The meeting should be designed and organized in a manner so as to clarify issues concerning this development project in accordance with the joint responsibility of the two States Parties to conserve and properly manage this trans-border World Heritage property.”

MIXED (CULTURAL AND NATURAL) HERITAGE

9. The Bureau at its twenty-second session examined the state of conservation of four mixed properties. This state of conservation Working Document reports on seven mixed properties.

Kakadu National Park (Australia)

WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.43

WH Bureau twenty-second session para. V.36

At its twenty-first extraordinary session in November 1997, the Bureau’s attention was drawn to the proposed uranium mine at Jabiluka, an enclave within but outside the boundaries of the Kakadu National Park. The Bureau had requested the Australian authorities to provide information pertaining to their efforts to ensure that the proponent of mining address the more than seventy environmental conditions set by the Commonwealth Government. At its twenty-second ordinary session (June 1998), the Bureau reviewed Information Document WHC-98/CONF.201/INF.12, containing the information it had requested from Australia, and additional information on the state of conservation of Kakadu National Park.

IUCN drew the Bureau’s attention to the fact that its advice to the Committee and Bureau on this matter was guided by the use of the precautionary principle. IUCN recommended that mining activity should be deferred until the Committee is satisfied with the implementation of the more than seventy environmental conditions. ICOMOS commented that at the time of Kakadu’s inclusion in the List (in three stages, 1981, 1987 and 1992), nomination as a cultural landscape had not been possible. ICOMOS raised the possibility of Kakadu being considered in the future as a cultural landscape of potential World Heritage value. Two Observers of Australia, responded with detailed statements; the full texts of both statements are annexed to the Rapporteur’s Report of the twenty-second ordinary session of the Bureau.

After hearing the views of Bureau members, the Chairperson summarised the debate as having reached a consensus on the need to proceed on the basis of the precautionary principle even in the absence of complete data. The Chair emphasised that the multi-faceted environmental, cultural and legal issues relating to the conservation of the site highlighted the need for a fact-finding mission. Because of the importance, complexity and sensitivity of the issue, the Bureau proposed that a mission to Kakadu be undertaken by a team headed by the Chairperson with the participation of the Director of the Centre, IUCN and ICOMOS. The mission is expected to examine the situation further, have discussions with relevant Aboriginal groups, officials, non-governmental organisations and the mining company, and submit a detailed report.

The proposed mission to Kakadu, originally scheduled for 4-10 October 1998, has been postponed to 26 October to 1 November 1998. The full text of the mission report will be made available as information document WHC-98/CONF.202/INF.3 to the twenty-second extraordinary session of the Bureau.

Decision required: The Bureau, after reviewing the report of the team to be made available as WHC-98/CONF.202/INF.3 at the time of its twenty-second extraordinary session, may wish to recommend measures for the conservation of Kakadu as appropriate for consideration by the Committee.”

Tasmanian Wilderness (Australia)

(Twenty-first session of the Committee, paragraph VII.43)

(Twenty second ordinary session of the Bureau, para V.37)

At its last session (June 1998) the Bureau had requested the State Party to provide a timetable for the implementation of the Regional Forestry Agreement, including possible boundary extensions to the World Heritage site. The Australian authorities have informed the Centre that negotiations between the Tasmanian and the Commonwealth Governments for setting a timetable, potentially involving the extension of the boundaries of the World Heritage site, are underway. They have undertaken to provide the timetable when the two Governments reach an agreement.

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

“The Bureau recommends that the Centre and IUCN maintain contacts with the Australian authorities to obtain information on the timetable once an agreement between the Tasmanian and Commonwealth Governments has been reached.”

Mount Taishan (China, Peoples Republic of)

Taishan is a pre-eminent cultural heritage of China and its management and promotion as a natural heritage property need to be considered in the light of its cultural priority. The management of 2.5 million visitors a year has had some notable achievements; e.g. some families that were resident along the Central route have been relocated. Nevertheless, the Centre-IUCN mission which visited the site in September 1998 was concerned by the site management’s stated desire to open up three new scenic spots in Heavenly Candle, Rear Rock Basin and Jade Spring scenic spots. The number of

vendor stalls along the walking route may also have to be considerably reduced. Furthermore, the management needs to place an emphasis on learning more about the natural heritage values of the area and on educating visitors on the cultural and natural values of the area of World Heritage significance.

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

“The Bureau invites the State Party to take steps to determine the tourism carrying capacity of the World Heritage site and on the basis of that determination elaborate a visitor management and a tourism development plan for the site.”

Mount Huangshan (China, People’s Republic of)

The IUCN-Centre site-mission in September 1998 found Mt. Huangshan’s management of visitors and tourism development to be exemplary. However, the mission team urged the management to consider implementing a “one-way” walking route for visitors moving across and around peaks in order to further minimise congestion. Even if site management proceeds with its plan to develop a long distance path to the Nine Dragon Peaks to alleviate pressure on the more popular scenic spots, it should not permit the development of any new hotels in the vicinity of those Peaks. The natural heritage values of this site are receiving increasing attention and the team welcomed the management’s interest to promote research on biodiversity of the area and to communicate the findings to visitors. The State Party needs to be encouraged to support the management’s concern to combat the pine-wilt disease that appears to be infesting the legendary Huangshan pines.

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

“The Bureau commends the State Party for its effective management of visitors and tourism development in the site and invites all concerned authorities in the State Party to give due consideration to implementing the recommendations of the Centre-IUCN field mission described above.”

Tongariro National Park (New Zealand)

(Twenty-second ordinary session of the Bureau, para V.38)

At its last session (June 1998) the Bureau was informed that Mount Ruapehu had erupted in 1995 and 1996 draining the volcano’s crater lake and creating a build-up of ash that blocked the lake’s outlet. When the crater-lake refills, probably within the next few years, and if nature is left to take its course, a rapid collapse of the ash dam could occur followed by a major lahar that could put both human life and some natural values at risk. The Bureau was informed that the Park authorities were in continuous consultation with the Maori people, who gifted the sacred volcanic peaks as a National Park in 1887, in order to find a solution that respects their spiritual, traditional and cultural values. An Environmental Impact Assessment is awaited. The Bureau commended the State Party for its recognition of the cultural and natural World

Heritage values of Tongariro National Park. The Bureau requested the New Zealand authorities to keep the Centre informed about the outcome of decisions concerning the management of the ash build-up at the crater outlet of Mount Ruapehu.

The New Zealand, authorities in their letter of 11 September 1998, have pointed out that an eruption of the Mt. Ruapehu in 1953 caused one of the country's major civilian disasters and that there is an inevitability of a lahar from the crater following the present eruption. The Minister for Conservation has called for a comprehensive environmental and cultural assessment identifying the risks and assessing impacts of options for mitigating them. The New Zealand authorities consider the following three as the most practical options at present:

- (a) installing an alarm and warning system;
- (b) building structures off the mountain to contain the lahar expected when the ash-dam fails; and
- (c) bulldozing a trench through the ash-dam itself, although the sub-option of hand digging a shallow trench has not yet been entirely dismissed.

The Park management is in regular consultation with the Ngati Rangi and the Ngati Tuwharetoa tribes to exchange information and views and it appears very clear that they do not like the idea of engineering works at the Crater Lake. Ngati Rangi consider that the excavation at the crater "challenges the indigenous integrity and strength of the cultural World Heritage status" of the Park. However, both tribes understand the risks to public safety and infrastructure (e.g. bridges and roads) and the Paramount Chief of Ngati Tuwharetoa intends to convene a consultation group to work through the issues with Park management. When the draft report on the environmental and cultural assessment is ready to be released both tribes will be consulted. The Department of Conservation is committed to a consultation process that will support an exemplary code of ethical conduct and field conservation practice that emphasise social responsibility and cultural sensitivity. The Director of the Centre is expected to attend the World Heritage Celebrations due to take place in Tongariro National Park during the week-end of 21-22 November 1998 and will provide an update on the situation in Tongariro at the time of the twenty-second extraordinary session of the Bureau.

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

"The Bureau commends the New Zealand authorities for the ethically and culturally sensitive manner in which they are addressing this issue. The Bureau requests the Centre and IUCN to submit a status update on the management of the ash build up at the Crater Lake outlet on Mt. Ruapehu to its twenty-third session in 1999."

Ohrid Region with its Cultural and Historical Aspect and its Natural Environment (Macedonia, Former Yugoslav Republic of)

A joint UNESCO-ICOMOS-IUCN monitoring mission was carried out from 6 to 11 September 1998 for the first time since the inscription of the site on the World Heritage List in 1979. The mission included an on-site visit and meetings with

representatives of the national authorities in Skopje. A high awareness for the need of specific conservation and protection measures at Ohrid exists in the country. However, the site is large in extension, situated in a densely populated and economically prosperous area and bordering an international lake. Several factors, such as traffic, tourism, rural exodus, are threatening the site. These threats can only be reduced through an integrated approach of protection measures linking the natural and cultural heritage. Special attention should be paid to effective legal and operational instruments for town- and regional planning.

The report of the mission was not available at the time of preparation of this document. The main conclusions and recommendations will be presented to the Bureau during its session.

Decision required: The Bureau may wish to examine information that will be made available at the time of its session and take appropriate action thereupon.

Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru)

WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.42

WH Bureau twenty-second session para. V.39

Following the examination of the state of conservation of Machu Picchu by the Committee at its twentieth and twenty-first sessions and considering the report of the joint IUCN /ICOMOS mission of October 1997, the Bureau at its twenty-second session, reiterated the concerns regarding adequate management arrangements and a comprehensive master plan for the Sanctuary. It also reiterated that no actions should be undertaken on the implementation of a cable car system until an adequate master plan is in place.

In response to the concerns expressed by the Committee and the Bureau, the Government of Peru is taking decisive measures. Through a report dated 8 September 1998, the National Institute for Natural Resources (INRENA) and the National Institute for Culture (INC) informed that :

- immediately after the Bureau session a work plan was established to respond to the main concerns expressed by the Committee, the Bureau and the IUCN /ICOMOS mission, i.e. management arrangements and planning mechanisms ;
- a working group was established from INRENA and INC to elaborate, on the basis of a draft prepared by the Region Inka in 1996, a comprehensive Master Plan. A workshop was held in August 1998 to define the results that should be obtained by the year 2008. Another workshop was scheduled for September 1998 on the management of the Sanctuary ;
- recent national legislation foresees (i) a clear co-ordinating responsibility of INRENA in the management of protected areas in Peru, particularly in matters as Environmental Impact Studies, and (ii) the participation of all institutions involved in the management of protected areas through the creation of Management Committees ;
- there is a consensus that all projects in the Sanctuary necessarily need to be considered in the context of a long-term vision for the site.

As to the cable car system to access the ruins of Machu Picchu, it should be noted that point 1.15 of the desired results by the year 2008 includes the following: « there exists a cable car system with minimal environmental, social and landscape impact. »

IUCN informed the Secretariat that recent information received from IUCN from WCPA members is that Peru are encouraging on measures taken by the Peruvian Government in order to implement the recommendations of the IUCN/ICOMOS mission as well as those coming from the Bureau. Main actions underway are:

- a) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is playing an active role to oversee the State Party's response; an inter-sectoral commission has been established to this effect;
- b) INRENA established a technical group between INRENA, INC and external experts to finalise the Master Plan for Machu;
- c) As to the cable car, the company that won the bidding process commissioned an Environmental Impact Study to an internationally well known consulting firm.

IUCN would like to recommend that the Bureau in its twenty-second extraordinary session recognize the interest and actions taken by the Peruvian Government and that support from Finnish International Co-operation be acknowledged. The WHC and IUCN should follow-up on the development of these actions providing technical assistance as required. The Master Plan for the site should be available for review by WHC, IUCN and ICOMOS.

Decision required: The Bureau may wish to transmit the above report to the Committee for examination and recommend the following for adoption:

"The Committee commends the Government of Peru for the actions it has taken to respond to the concerns expressed by the Committee and its Bureau. It encourages the Government to continue this process which should lead to adequate management arrangements and a comprehensive master plan for the Sanctuary.

It requests the Peruvian authorities to transmit all relevant documentation and decisions with regard to the management structure and Master Plan for the Sanctuary, the cable car system (Environmental Impact Study, detailed plans etc.), as well as other works or projects that are or will be considered for implementation within the boundaries of the World Heritage site as soon as they become available, to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS and IUCN.

The Committee request the Peruvian authorities to submit, by 15 April 1999 at the latest a progress report on the actions for examination by the Bureau at its twenty-third session."

CULTURAL HERITAGE

10. At its twenty-second ordinary session in June 1998, the Bureau examined the state of conservation of thirty-three cultural properties inscribed on the World Heritage List (excluding those properties which are included in the List of World Heritage in Danger) and made appropriate recommendations. These recommendations of the Bureau were transmitted to the respective States Parties.

11. This working document provides state of conservation reports on thirty-seven cultural properties.

Africa

Forts and Castles of Ghana (Ghana)

The Forts and Castles of Ghana, as inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1979, consists of 3 castles, 15 forts in a relatively good condition, 10 forts in ruins and 7 sites with traces of former fortifications. All sites are protected monuments in the custody of the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board (GMMB), with the exception of James Fort, Accra and Fort William, Anomabu, which are still being used as prisons. The sites are periodically inspected, however, their regular maintenance and conservation is severely affected by the limited financial resources of the GMMB.

During the period 1992 – 1997 major conservation works were carried out on Cape Coast Castle in Cape Coast, St. George’s Castle and Fort St. Jago in Elmina within the scope of the Historic Preservation component of the “Central Region Integrated Development Programme” funded by UNDP and USAID.

The main threats to the sites can be confined into three principal areas:

- (i) Environmental pressures. The maritime tropical climate with its strong winds, heavy rainfalls and corrosive salt-laden atmosphere is a primary cause of the deterioration of the physical fabric of the buildings. In addition, some of the sites are affected by the encroachment of the sea and the erosion of the ground on which the structures are located.
- (ii) Lack of buffer zones and development pressure. None of the sites included in the World Heritage property have a buffer zone or fully defined boundaries. The encroachment of human settlements and activities on the areas in the direct vicinity of the World Heritage sites, and the subsequent erosion and pollution of the surroundings, create a serious threat to the safeguarding of the properties. The most serious issue is the on-going illegal quarrying of sand and soil around the forts, which can eventually undermine the stability of the structures. The waste dumping and contamination of the beaches around the forts are another disturbing practice.
- (iii) Lack of adequate funding for the regular maintenance and conservation of the sites. Apart from the above-mentioned assistance provided by UNDP and

USAID, practically all finance for the sites is provided by the Government of Ghana through its annual budget. However, the level of funding is far too inadequate to meet the basic needs of maintenance and conservation. As a result, some of the structures have deteriorated so badly that an urgent intervention is needed to prevent them from collapsing.

Decision required: The Bureau may wish to transmit the above report to the Committee for examination and recommend the following for adoption:

"The Committee:

- thanks the national authorities in Ghana for their efforts in preservation of the World Heritage Sites in Ghana and congratulate them on the recent conservation works carried out in Cape Coast and Elmina;
- urges the national authorities to ensure that all the Forts listed as World Heritage are not used for unrelated purposes and that their World Heritage values are preserved;
- recommends that action be taken urgently to define buffer zones around the properties, as well as other protective measures to stop further environmental degradation of the areas in the direct vicinity of the World Heritage sites.
- recommends that the national authorities in Ghana submit an Emergency Assistance request with regard to the urgent conservation works on some of the Forts".

Old towns of Djenné (Mali)

In close co-operation with the village populations adjacent to the archaeological sites, and the administrative offices, the Cultural Mission of Djenné has carried out, since 1994, information, awareness-building and education activities with the local population, stressing the imperative need to preserve and promote cultural heritage.

Following an inventory of the conservation of the monuments of the Town of Djenné, the Cultural Mission had undertaken the restoration of some monuments, and, thanks to support from young participants of the international youth workshop, held in December 1996, the inner walls of Konofia were restored.

Co-operation between Mali and The Netherlands resulted in a project comprising the restoration of 168 dwellings in the old quarter, which began in October 1996. This project, for a duration of six years, has the following essential objectives:

- safeguard of cultural heritage
- strengthen cultural identity through the promotion of the significance of earth architecture
- ensure training in the field of the restoration of historical monuments, whilst respecting the local construction techniques,

- contribute towards the economic development of the populations.

At the request of the Minister for Culture, a project entitled « Reappropriation and improvement of the urban area of Djenne » with the objective of an integrated and concerted development of cultural tourism, will permit the implementation of harmonized action. This would concern the improvement of solid and liquid waste management and their co-ordination with other conservation projects carried out through co-operation between the Cultural Mission of Djenne and The Netherlands. The project, which is decentralized to Dakar, will be financed up to 100 million CFA, in the framework of a shared phase with local populations. The project is part of the network of activities implemented by the « Human Habitat » Unit of the Social Sciences Sector of UNESCO.

In the framework of the Third Urban Project, the execution of a global plan for the conservation of the old Town of Djenne is foreseen. This plan will comprise activities to improve sanitation, the construction of the Museum, and the construction of green areas, all of which will contribute towards the development of sustainable tourism to benefit the local population.

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

« The Bureau:

- (i) congratulates the Mali authorities for the efforts undertaken to preserve this site inscribed on the World Heritage List,
- (ii) invites the Mali authorities, in accordance with paragraph 56 of the « Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention » to:
 - i) co-ordinate international assistance,
 - ii) inform the World Heritage Committee, through the UNESCO Secretariat, of their intentions to undertake or to authorize, within the area protected by the Convention, major restoration work. »

Cliff of Bandiagara (Land of the Dogons) (Mali)

Comprising an area of 400,000 hectares, the site inscribed on the World Heritage List covers three geographical regions (plateau, plain and cliffs) and stretches from east to west across three administrative districts (Circles of Bandiagara, Bankass and Koro). Since January 1994, the management of the site has been undertaken by a decentralized structure attached to the Secretary General of the Ministry responsible for Culture, entitled the Cultural Mission.

A cultural heritage inventory programme, financed by UNESCO's World Heritage Fund in 1995-96, was the starting point of an important work of identification, diagnostic and ad hoc interventions that the Cultural Mission and other partners

(Konstanz University and Mali research architects) carry out to improve the conservation of this heritage, which is both cultural and natural.

The Cultural Mission, with funding from the State of Mali, carries out in a continuous manner an awareness campaign throughout the 289 villages of the site, concerning the protection and the enhancement of the heritage elements. The «cities and historical sites» comprising the project «Urban Development and Decentralization» (UNDP), Land of the Dogons, are: the creation of a Documentation Centre on the Dogon Culture at Bandiagara, the rehabilitation of the Songo encampment and the management of the trails in the Sangha region.

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

« The Bureau:

- (i) congratulates the Mali authorities for the efforts undertaken to preserve this site inscribed on the World Heritage List,
- (ii) invites the Mali authorities, in accordance with paragraph 56 of the «Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention» to:
 - i) co-ordinate international assistance,
 - ii) inform the World Heritage Committee, through the UNESCO Secretariat, of their intentions to undertake or to authorize, in an area protected by the Convention, major restoration works. »

Island of Mozambique (Mozambique)

Thanks to a contribution from the World Heritage Fund, the World Heritage Site - Ilha de Mozambique, has been the object of the World Heritage Centre's "Programme for Sustainable Human Development and Integral Conservation". The programme, prepared in 1996, is funded by: UNDP – US\$ 300,000 (over the period 1997-1999), UNESCO – US\$ 100,000, European Union – US\$ 100,000 and the Finnish Government, which is financing a post of an Associate Expert for the 2-year period (1997-1998). Currently, a number of micro-projects in such areas as: water and sanitation, tourism development and heritage restoration, are being developed. These projects will be presented to potential donors during the donor meeting scheduled for February 1999.

In addition, works have already started on the restoration of the Casa da Cultura building to be used as the project office. The restoration is progressing relatively quickly and is expected to be completed by January 1999.

Decision required: The Bureau may wish to transmit the above report to the Committee for examination and recommend the following for adoption:

“ The Committee congratulates the Mozambican authorities for their efforts to preserve the Ilha de Mozambique by taking into account the social and economic aspects of the site” and calls upon the potential donors to support this endeavour”.

Island of Gorée (Senegal)

The international campaign for the safeguarding of the Island of Gorée has as its objective the rehabilitation of the heritage and the socio-economic revitalization of the Island, the principal tourist destination in Senegal.

The preservation of the architectural heritage is linked to the protection of the natural environment (coastal areas) and the improvement of the infrastructure (water, sewers, refuse disposal, etc.).

Priority projects that have given rise to or demand interventions:

- The Relais de l’Espadon and the old military hospital (restoration financed by private funding from the United States). It will be the principal hotel on the Island.
- Restoration of a building intended as a Catering School
- Restoration of the Old William-Ponty School
- Restoration of the Hortala House
- Restoration of the Diouga-Dieng House.

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

« The Bureau

- (i) congratulates the Senegalese authorities for the efforts undertaken to preserve the Island of Gorée and its rehabilitation and socio-economic revitalization, taking into consideration the natural environment and the improvement of infrastructure,
- (ii) invites the international community to support the efforts undertaken by the Senegalese authorities. »

Arab States

Memphis and its Necropolis – the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur (Egypt) WH Committee nineteenth session para. VII.34

In 1995, a mission from the World Heritage Centre visited Egypt to prevent the construction, within the boundaries of the protected zone, of a portion of the Greater

Cairo “Ring-Road”. A joint declaration was then issued and the project cancelled. A proposal for the diversion of the Ring Road was then suggested. On 6 September 1998, the Secretariat received a letter from the President of the Supreme Council of Antiquities requesting UNESCO to send a mission of specialists to study details of the diversion plan and provide them with technical advice.

On the 3 October, a mission from UNESCO proceeded to Cairo and worked on this issue with the Supreme Council of Antiquities and the concerned ministries. The result of the mission will be presented at the twenty-second extraordinary session of the Bureau.

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 requests the Secretariat to continue co-operating with the Egyptian authorities on this issue as well as on the overall management of the site and to report on the progress of the work on this site to the Bureau at its twenty-third session.»

Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis (Egypt)

The Secretariat has received from various sources, mainly scholars involved in research work, detailed information about renewed plans by the authorities to transfer the inhabitants of the old village of Gurnah to a new location, outside the boundaries of the site. This plan of relocating Gurnah has been considered for decades, the first attempt having seen the involvement of the reputed Egyptian architect, Hassan Fathi in the conception of the new village of “Gurna El-Gadidah”. The inhabitants of Gurnah, who have always been involved in the archaeological excavations as workers or specialized manpower have opposed their displacement to a new village. The reasons for the decision of the authorities are that the village is built on an archaeological land, that the inhabitants are looting the sites surrounding them and that the waste water created by the village is destroying some archaeological sites.

The Secretariat is of the opinion that this issue be taken in a broader manner and that a full-fledged study of the situation in the site be undertaken (encompassing geological, archaeological and geographical surveys and mapping, anthropological studies, assessment of the historical and cultural landscape qualities of the foothills and of the presence of Gurnah in the site). A comprehensive management plan could then be prepared to include the concept of a separate cultural landscape nomination for the villages of Gurnah and their environment.

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 information provided, the Bureau requests the Secretariat to study with the Egyptian authorities the possibility of launching a cooperation programme encompassing geological, archaeological and geographical surveys and mapping, anthropological studies, assessment of the historical and cultural landscape qualities of the foothills and of the presence of

Gurnah in the site. The Bureau also recommends to the Egyptian authorities the postponement of any further transfer of the population of Gurnah until these investigations have taken place.”

Islamic Cairo (Arab Republic of Egypt)

WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.45

WH Bureau twenty-second session para. V.41

Based on the recommendation of the Bureau at its twenty-second session and on a request of the Minister of Culture addressed to the Director-General of UNESCO endorsing the results of the brain-storming session of June 1998, the Centre has sent from 3 to 11 October a mission of specialists to Cairo to prepare a three-year strategy and conservation programme for Islamic Cairo. This co-operation programme is submitted for consideration to the World Heritage Committee under requests for international assistance.

Regarding the issue of Al Azhar Mosque, the Centre has sent a letter to the Egyptian authorities requesting a technical report containing the architectural standards applied for the work on the monument. Upon receipt, the Secretariat shall forward the report to the advisory bodies (ICOMOS and ICCROM).

Regarding awareness creation among concerned parties in the Arab Region in favour of the built religious heritage, as suggested by members of the Bureau, the Centre is proposing to organize in 1999 a meeting on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and architectural standards in religious sites and monuments.

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 Egyptian authorities for their co-operation with the Centre and requests the Secretariat to do its utmost in the implementation of the co-operation programme in favour of Islamic Cairo.

The Bureau also requests the Secretariat to organize as soon as possible the seminar on religious monuments and properties for the Arab Region.”

Quseir Amra (Jordan)

WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.55

WH Bureau twenty-second session para. V.48

In August 1998, the Centre received a letter from the Director-General of the Antiquities in Jordan stating that the Jordanian authorities in co-operation with IFAPO had already completed the alternative plan of the Visitors’ Centre at Quseir Amra. The proposed location is East of the ancient Roman bath within the fenced area and at a

good distance from the monument. The Director-General of the Antiquities also stated in his letter that the idea to divert the Visitors' Centre to the other side of the highway would be unrealistic and would threaten the safety of the visitors in crossing the highway.

The Centre requested the authority to send a detailed plan to be forwarded to ICOMOS for evaluation.

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 and the evaluation of ICOMOS, the Bureau endorses the views of the Jordanian authorities concerning the location of the Visitors' Centre. However, it requests the authorities to do its utmost to minimize the impact of the Visitors' Centre on the landscape and to provide the Secretariat with a proposal in this respect.»

Baalbek (Lebanon)

WH Bureau twenty-second session para. V.50

Expressions of concern have been received by the Secretariat about extensive rehabilitation works being undertaken by the Lebanese Department of Antiquities against established procedures. After the twenty-second session of the Bureau, the Centre received letters from the Lebanese authorities explaining the waterproofing works of the "crypto-portico", which will be used as an exhibition area for the celebration of the centenary of the German excavations in Baalbek (November 1998). The German Archaeological Institute has confirmed to the Secretariat that the waterproofing works were technically sound and reversible.

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 authorities for the information received. It also thanks the German Archaeological Institute for its assistance in this matter, and congratulates the Lebanese authorities for the protective actions taken for the site by expropriating plots in front of the main entrance. Finally, the Bureau reminds the Lebanese authorities of the necessity to prepare a long awaited management plan for the site.»

Tyre (Lebanon)

WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.51

WH Bureau twenty-second session para. V.52

In September 1998, the Minister of Public Works of Lebanon asked for a meeting with the Secretariat and with the President of the International Association for the Safeguarding of Tyre. At this meeting which was also attended by a UNESCO

consultant working on the Master Plan of Tyre, the Minister presented the work undertaken and planned by his Ministry and requested UNESCO to provide assistance to secure the proper integration of archaeology in the Master Plan and in his Ministry's works. The Division of Cultural Heritage of UNESCO, in charge of the international campaign launched in March 1998, will send the consultant on a monthly basis to Beirut to meet the request of the Ministry of Public 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 welcomed the request of the Ministry of Public Works and recommended UNESCO to reinforce its co-operation with the Lebanese authorities in preparing the master plan of Tyre. The Bureau also requested UNESCO to look into the possibility of a permanent presence of specialists in Tyre for the duration of the Campaign.»

Site of Palmyra (Syrian Arab Republic)

WH Bureau twenty-second session para. V.68

In December 1997, the mission sent by the Secretariat to study the state of conservation of World Heritage sites in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon had recommended that an overall management plan should be prepared for the site of Palmyra. The Syrian authorities have requested the Secretariat to prepare detailed terms of reference for the management. A specialist visited the site in August 1998 and, in close co-operation with the Directorate General for Antiquities and Museums of Syria and with the assistance of the Institut Français d'Archéologie du Proche-Orient (IFAPO), prepared detailed terms of reference for the management plan which encompasses the archaeological site and the oasis and town of Palmyra, which are intertwined. Meanwhile, the authorities have already taken important protection measures, such as the diversion of the international road crossing the site.

The authorities have approved the detailed terms of reference and UNDP has shown interest in being associated with the rest of the work on Palmyra.

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

“The Bureau congratulates the Syrian authorities for their commitment in the conservation of the important site of Palmyra. It supports the continuation of the work for the development of a full-fledged integral management plan covering the oasis, the town and the archaeological zone. It also thanks the IFAPO for its involvement and the UNDP for its interest. It finally requests the Secretariat to continue its work to develop, starting early in 1999, the management plan of Palmyra. It therefore recommends the Syrian authorities to submit as soon as possible a request for international assistance to this effect.”

Old City of Sana'a (Yemen)

A monitoring mission visited the site in June 1998 and found that there was obvious need of co-ordination between the various governmental bodies involved in the city as well as between the World Bank project team and the General Organization for the Preservation of the Historic Cities in Yemen (GOPHCY). The responsible national authorities requested the members of the mission to assist in establishing a new scheme in order to define the roles of various international and national bodies. The mission recommended that UNESCO create a new focal point to co-ordinate preservation activities in Sana'a.

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 requests the Centre to assist the Yemeni authorities in establishing a focal point in Sana'a and provide technical assistance to prepare an overall management plan for the city.»

Asia and the Pacific

The Mountain Resort and Its Outlying Temples in Chengde (China)

The Bureau, at its twentieth extraordinary session in 1996, recommended that the Chinese authorities adopt a development plan for the town of Chengde in line with World Heritage conservation needs. The Chinese authorities reported to the Secretariat, in a state of conservation report on this property submitted in July 1998, that the city planning department has included World Heritage protection in the historic city's urban development plan.

According to this report, conservation work has continued since its inscription on the World Heritage List in 1994. A 10-year Renovation Plan of the site was prepared by national experts and approved by the Bureau of Cultural Relics of Chengde City in 1995. An "Overall Management Plan for Chengde City" was adopted by Hebei Provincial Government in 1995. Afforestation measures have been taken for the gardens and the surroundings of the site, with vegetation coverage currently exceeding 90%.

Training and education activities carried out by the site administration have enabled the training of more than 3,500 persons. Promotion "week" and "month" were organized by the City Government to increase the understanding and application of the Law on the Protection of Cultural Relics. Chengde Research Institute of Cultural Properties was established in 1995. Over 30 on-site staff have been trained at other institutes or universities. With assistance from the World Heritage Fund, a Training Course for Site Managers of Cultural World Heritage Properties in China was organized in September 1997 by the State Bureau of Cultural Relics. In addition, the Mayor of Chengde participated in the International Conference for Mayors of Historic Cities in China and the European Union in April 1998 (Suzhou) organized by the World Heritage Centre in April 1998 and exchanged experiences with counterparts from China and the EU.

Security conditions at the site museum have improved thanks to the technical and equipment support made available from the World Heritage Fund. The security staff has increased from 200 to 300 persons since 1995. 3.4 million RMB *Yuan* (US\$411,600) was invested in the restoration project of Xu Mi Fu Shou Temple and the conservation of artifacts in the site museums.

The management of the site has been strengthened with the Vice-Mayor of Chengde City assuming the responsible supervision of all administration work. A decision was taken to further intensify the protection of the site by the city government so as to strengthen the implementation of the Management Plan.

However, the World Heritage Centre has been informed that the increasing urban and tourism development pressure is affecting the historical setting within the buffer zone of this site.

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

“The Bureau takes note of the state of conservation report submitted by the Chinese authorities and commends the local authorities for their efforts in enhancing the management of the site. The Bureau, however, expresses concern over the rapidly increasing pressure within the buffer zone and encourages the relevant authorities to take appropriate measures to integrate tourism development and urban heritage conservation issues in the Management Plan of the site.”

The Potala Palace, Lhasa (China)

In approving the inscription of this site on the World Heritage List at its eighteenth session in 1994, the Committee recommended the Chinese authorities to extend the boundary to include Jokhang Temple and the surrounding historic quarters. This point was discussed at the twentieth extraordinary session of the Bureau and the Delegate of China informed the Bureau that the Chinese authorities were in favour of this extension as recommended by the Committee. A report was submitted to the World Heritage Centre by the State Bureau of Cultural Relics of China in July 1998, which indicated that the Government of the Tibetan Autonomous Region would be formally requesting the inclusion of Jokhang Temple within this site, and that the responsible Chinese authorities would proceed accordingly. On 18 August 1998, the World Heritage Centre requested the Director-General of the State Bureau of Cultural Relics of China to provide further information on the progress of the extension before 1 October 1998. No written report has been received by the Secretariat.

To protect the setting of the site, modern residences and shops around the square in front of the Palace, which were not in harmony with the historical monuments, were removed by the local authority. The use of traditional building material and methods in the restoration work is being promoted so as to preserve the original architectural features of the site. Publications concerning the architectural styles, paintings,

sculptures and the contents of all the cultural properties of the Potala Palace were issued by the local authorities to raise awareness amongst the general public.

The World Heritage Centre has received numerous reports on the demolition of historic buildings and new construction activities in the Barkhor historic area which encircles the Jokhang Temple in the religiously symbolic urban form of the “mandala”.

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

“The Bureau takes note of the efforts made by the responsible Chinese authorities to prepare the extension of the Potala Palace World Heritage site to include the Jokhang Temple. The Bureau also takes note of the efforts being made by the local authorities in safeguarding the essential historical setting of this site and requests the State Party for additional information concerning Barkhor historic area which is also part of the extension area recommended by the Committee at the time of the inscription of this site.”

Temple and Cemetery of Confucius and the Kong Family Mansion in Qufu (China)

According to a state of conservation report submitted by the Chinese authorities in July 1998, efforts have been made to conserve the authenticity of the site. To improve the setting of the site, the Divine Road connecting the monumental sites was restored by using historical building material and the protection of ancient trees was strengthened. A computerized management system has been put into place to monitor all the cultural properties, ancient trees and the ancient monuments within the site. Lighting facilities in the ancient buildings were replaced and electricity wiring was placed underground. Safety and fire prevention measures have also been strengthened.

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

“The Bureau takes note of the state of conservation report submitted by the Chinese authorities and encourages the responsible authorities to undertake further actions to enhance the management of the site, especially taking into consideration development issues such as land use, sustainable tourism, and vegetation management.”

Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains (China)

According to a state of conservation report submitted by the Chinese authorities in July 1998, a commission of experts for the preservation of this site was established by the local authorities. Subsequently, legal measures which strengthen the protection of Wudang Mountains have been put into effect. The transfer of the local residents inhabiting the ancient buildings to areas outside the site has been undertaken. Restoration work has been carried out to repair the Purple Cloud Hall and a number of ancient buildings. An Administration Bureau was established to enhance the

management and preservation of the site. Increased financial resources have been made available towards the preservation of the ancient building complex. A “Master Plan for the Development of Wudang Mountains” has also been formulated. The local authorities have included the protection, presentation and restoration of cultural properties as one of the top priorities within their programme for social development.

However, the World Heritage Centre has received information that due to the increased visitation of the site, rapid development to accommodate tourists is affecting the historical setting of the site.

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

“The Bureau takes note of the state of conservation report submitted by the Chinese authorities and efforts made by the local authorities to implement adequate management measures to protect this site. The Bureau urges the national and local authorities to incorporate sustainable tourism development strategies within the site management plan to ensure that the integrity of the site’s cultural and historical setting is protected.”

Luang Prabang (Laos)

The Heritage House (*Maison du patrimoine*), a conservation and development advisory service for inhabitants which is a service of the Provincial Authorities of Luang Prabang that reports to the Local Provincial Committee for the Protection and Development of Cultural and Natural Heritage, initiated the second phase of the Safeguarding and Development Plan of Luang Prabang. Architectural surveys of 1000 buildings owned by private individuals or religious groups located within the centre of the World Heritage site were completed and surveys of all Government owned buildings and public space are currently being undertaken. The elaboration of this Plan and other related activities, such as the restoration of the traditional timber building and colonial building through on-site training activities are being carried out within the framework of the Luang Prabang-Chinon (France) decentralized co-operation agreement signed in August 1997 under the aegis of UNESCO. Following the study tour to France by the Governor of Luang Prabang in September 1997 the four Lao architects of the Heritage House visited France in July 1998, both financed by the French Foreign Ministry.

Following the Luang Prabang-Chinon-UNESCO technical meeting held in April 1998, the Governor of Luang Prabang was presented with a list of buildings recommended for protection. Upon approval by the Governor of the list of all scheduled buildings, it will be submitted to the national authorities for official legal protection.

In addition to the daily work of advising on building permits and field inspection of on-going construction works, the Heritage House with support from Chinon and UNESCO developed two major project proposals. One on the protection of the urban humid zone prepared by the Institute of Aquatic and Fluvial Research of Chinon (IMACOF/Tours University), under funding from the World Heritage Fund and Chinon, was approved by the European Commission for ECU 350,000 (US\$ 380,000).

The second, aimed to strengthen local capacity in urban management and to conduct a number of demonstrative rehabilitation of public space, has been approved for the sum of FF 10 million (US\$ 1.95 million) over a 3-year period by the French Agency for Development. Co-operation with Region Centre (France) has continued with the confirmation of their second earmarked contribution to the World Heritage Fund for the sum of FF 300,000 within the total amount of FF 1 million pledged in the Agreement with UNESCO in 1997 for the rehabilitation of the former French customs building being converted for re-use as the Luang Prabang Site Information Centre. Close collaboration has been established between the Heritage House and the project team executing the Asian Development Bank project on road and riverbank upgrading, and with the German development aid agency, KFW, implementing the drainage and sewage improvement project, both being important infrastructural projects that would greatly benefit the inhabitants, but could have a negative impact on the cultural heritage of the town if carried out without adequate care and sensitivity to the fragile patrimonial value of the site.

The 1998 World Heritage grant of US\$ 25000 has enabled the preparation of pedagogical tools to inform the local population of the Safeguarding and Development Plan and its implications to the inhabitants which include a video film, panel exhibition and information leaflets. A community-based meeting foreseen under this WHF project is scheduled to commence in January 1999 upon the completion of the educational tools.

The draft law on Protection of National Cultural and Natural Heritage which was prepared in 1996 with legal assistance from UNESCO and the French Government was issued as a Decree of the Council of Ministers in May 1997 but has not yet been officially enacted as law by the National Assembly.

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

“The Bureau commends the efforts of the Luang Prabang Provincial authorities, particularly the Heritage House as well as the national authorities in the substantive and rapid progress made in strengthening the legal and administrative framework to protect and conserve this site. The Bureau, also commends the Heritage House-Chinon-UNESCO project team for having successfully mobilized close to US\$ 4.5 million from bilateral and multilateral donor sources in less than 3 years by using the World Heritage Fund grants in a catalytic manner to generate other co-operation projects. The Bureau however, recommends the national and local authorities of the State Party to remain vigilant in co-ordinating the numerous aid and investment projects, particularly those of the Asian Development Bank and German KFW to ensure that these infrastructural development projects are carried out without undermining the World Heritage value of the site. The Bureau requests the State Party to make all efforts for the enactment of the national law on cultural and natural heritage protection by the National Assembly and to approve an official list of protected buildings and to forward a copy of these to UNESCO.”

Kathmandu Valley (Nepal)

WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.52

WH Bureau twenty-second session para. V.55

The Committee, at its seventeenth session, expressed deep concern over the state of conservation of the Kathmandu Valley site and considered the possibility of placing this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger, following discussions on the findings of the 1993 Joint UNESCO-ICOMOS Review Mission (hereafter referred to as the 1993 Mission).

At its twenty-first session, the Committee examined the state of conservation report of this site, and in view of the continued deterioration of the World Heritage values in the Baudhanath and Kathmandu Monument Zones, affecting the integrity and inherent characteristics of the site, the Committee requested the Secretariat, in collaboration with ICOMOS and His Majesty's Government (HMG) of Nepal, to study the possibility of deleting selected areas within some Monument Zones, without jeopardizing the universal significance and value of the site as a whole. This review was to take into consideration the intention of HMG of Nepal to nominate Kokhana as an additional Monument Zone.

The Committee authorized up to US\$ 35,000 from the World Heritage Fund technical co-operation budget for a Joint UNESCO-ICOMOS-HMG of Nepal team to conduct a thorough study and to elaborate a programme for corrective measures in accordance with paragraphs 82-89 of the Operational Guidelines. Based upon the information of this study and recommendations of the Bureau, the Committee, at its twenty-first session, decided that it could consider whether or not to inscribe this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its twenty-second session.

Following this decision, a Joint UNESCO-ICOMOS-HMG of Nepal Mission (hereafter referred to as Joint Mission) was organized in March-April 1998, which resulted with the adoption by HMG of Nepal of 55 Recommendations of the Joint Mission and a Time-Bound Action Plan of Corrective Measures. The findings and results of the Joint Mission, recommendations, and the Time-Bound Action Plan of Corrective Measures are presented in Information Document WHC-98/CONF.202/INF.6

Decision required: The Bureau may wish to consider the information presented in WHC-98/CONF.202/INF.6, transmit the above report to the Committee for examination and recommend the following for adoption:

“The Committee examined the findings and results of the Joint UNESCO-ICOMOS-HMG of Nepal Mission. The Committee expresses appreciation to HMG of Nepal for its efforts in strengthening the management of the Kathmandu Valley site as well as in mobilizing international assistance from the World Heritage Fund and other sources.

However, in view of the increased deterioration of the World Heritage values within the seven Monument Zones composing Kathmandu Valley site, affecting the integrity and inherent characteristics of the site, the Committee decides to inscribe the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee

furthermore recommends that HMG of Nepal take appropriate measures to ensure that adequate protection and management are put into place at Kokhana before it is nominated as an additional Monument Zone to the Kathmandu Valley site.

In taking this decision, the Committee encourages HMG of Nepal to continue implementing the Time-Bound Action Plan of Corrective Measures for Enhanced Management of the Kathmandu Valley site, as proposed by the Joint Mission and adopted by HMG of Nepal in July 1998. Furthermore, following paragraph 87 of the Operational Guidelines, the Committee recommends that HMG of Nepal requests further international assistance from the World Heritage Fund to be approved by the Committee for putting into place, necessary and adequate building control measures to safeguard the traditional buildings composing the historical architectural fabric of the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage site.”

The Baroque Churches of the Philippines (The Philippines)

WH Committee twenty-first session para VII.55

The Bureau of the World Heritage Committee, at its the twenty-first extraordinary session, took note of the report of the Secretariat on the state of conservation of the San Augustin Church in Paoay and the request for international assistance submitted by the Government of The Philippines for organizing a training workshop to raise public awareness and to ensure proper conservation measures to be undertaken to preserve the authenticity of the Baroque Churches. The Bureau recommended that the Government continues its effort to safeguard this site and to report on the Government’s restoration plan of the Church of San Augustin in Paoay, to the Committee at its twenty-second session. As of October 1998, the World Heritage Centre had not received further information from the concerned authorities.

At the request of the Government, the World Heritage Centre organized an ICOMOS expert mission in July 1998 to the San Augustin Church of Intramuros Manila, one of the four Baroque Churches composing this World Heritage site. The purpose of this mission was to evaluate whether or not a proposed plan for building an ossuary by the custodians of the San Augustin Church of Intramuros would affect the integrity and authenticity of the monument. The plan proposes to replace the original 159 crypt burials within the Sala de Profundis to a new ossuary to be built outside of the Church. According to the ICOMOS expert, this plan for a new construction of the crypts, if implemented, would alter the original and authentic condition of the rear space of the monument. Furthermore, the displacement of the crypt burials of Sala de Profundis would change a historical event and evolution of the Church. Therefore, this ossuary proposal is not encouraged by the ICOMOS expert.

The ICOMOS expert also analyzed the conservation practices at San Augustin Church of Intramuros Manila. He recommended that a long-term solution for controlling the flow of heavy rain water and appropriate conservation practices using traditional construction material be adopted by the custodians of this monument to preserve the structural stability of the Church.

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

“The Bureau, takes note of the report of the ICOMOS expert, and expresses concerns regarding the plans for removing the original crypt burials from the Sala de Profundis and building a new ossuary at the San Augustin Church of Intramuros Manila. The Bureau requests the national authorities to take measures to ensure that the world heritage values of the San Augustin Church are not endangered with the implementation of such new construction and displacement plans, and that any new design and new land use within the protected World Heritage site be carefully considered by all authorities concerned to ensure the integrity and authenticity of this important historical monument and its setting. Furthermore, the Bureau requests the concerned authorities to consider requesting international expertise to be made available with the assistance of the World Heritage Centre, for advising on appropriate conservation practices using traditional building material to ensure the structural stability of the historical monument. Finally, the Bureau requests the national authorities to report to the Committee on the results of the implementation of the training activities held at the Churches of Paoay and Santa Maria, the restoration plan for the Church of San Agustin of Paoay, and on the measures taken to ensure the integrity and authenticity of the San Augustin Church of Intramuros Manila, by 15 September 1999.”

World Heritage sites in Sri Lanka:

Sacred City of Anuradhapura (Sri Lanka)

Ancient City of Polonnaruva (Sri Lanka)

Ancient City of Sigiriya (Sri Lanka)

WH Committee twenty-first session para VII.55

The ICOMOS monitoring missions to these three World Heritage sites in Sri Lanka were undertaken in November – December 1994. The final and comprehensive report of this mission was submitted by ICOMOS in July 1998, due to a series of unavoidable events which led to the delay in the completion of the report. The preparation of the report was also considered by ICOMOS as a process for the establishment of general parameters for future monitoring reports, which could possibly serve as guidelines for the World Heritage Committee. The report will be made available upon request by the World Heritage Centre for consultation at the twenty-second session of the World Heritage Committee. The report was submitted to the Government of Sri Lanka by ICOMOS in July 1998.

The report of the ICOMOS monitoring mission recommends a ten-point general recommendation for enhanced management and adequate protection of the three World Heritage sites, with a final recommendation that the concerned authorities refer to the ten points as a guide in structuring periodic monitoring activities. The report also presents numerous recommendations concerning issues of management, planning, legal protection, conservation practice, training, tourism development, documentation, monitoring and presentation, as well as site-specific recommendations.

Amongst the comprehensive information and various recommendations presented in the report, ICOMOS experts noted that the area surrounding the rock of the outer moat at the Ancient City of Sigiriya site, which clearly was intended to be included in the original 1984 nomination dossier, is not indicated on the map of the nomination file. ICOMOS recommended that this be officially included in the protected area and that the World Heritage Committee be officially notified of the boundaries of the Ancient City of Sigiriya site. ICOMOS also reported that the complex water-management system, one of the most significant elements of the ancient landscape of Polonnaruwa, is not specifically listed in the original 1984 nomination form. Particularly alarming at the Ancient City of Polonnaruwa site, for which no buffer zones are fixed, was the construction of new buildings without specific design guidelines taking place in half of the city. Furthermore, ICOMOS noted that the boundaries delineated on the official map of the Sacred City of Anuradhapura exclude important areas of the World Heritage site.

Therefore, ICOMOS recommends that the Government of Sri Lanka submit to the World Heritage Committee, maps for all three properties clearly indicating the core and buffer zones of each site. These maps should be accompanied by explanatory material concerning each monument within each zone, also indicating the protection afforded to the monuments and areas protected. ICOMOS also recommends that copies of relevant management plans for individual projects and the corresponding development plans be transmitted to the World Heritage Committee through the World Heritage Centre.

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

“The Bureau, takes note of the comprehensive ICOMOS report of the three sites in Sri Lanka. The Bureau requests the Government of Sri Lanka to submit maps of the three sites, clearly indicating the core and buffer zones of each, accompanied by an inventory of all the religious and secular monuments, historically significant buildings and landscape elements within the core and buffer zones of the sites with explanatory information. Furthermore, the Bureau requests the Government of Sri Lanka to provide copies of legislation and relevant management plans which ensure the protection of these zones. The Bureau requests that this material be submitted to the World Heritage Committee by 15 September 1999. Finally, the Bureau requests the Government of Sri Lanka to submit a report to the World Heritage Committee concerning the actions taken to address the concerns and recommendations of ICOMOS following the monitoring mission, before 15 September 1999, especially concerning the building control within and surrounding the sites.”

Complex of Hué Monuments (Vietnam)

WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.54

The World Heritage Committee, at its the twenty-first session noted the concerns raised by the Bureau over the increasing cases of inappropriate reconstruction and new

construction activities taking place in some parts of Zone 1 and more noticeably in Zone 2 of the World Heritage protected area of the Complex of Hué Monuments. The deformation to the historic urban pattern, renowned for its “garden houses” built respecting the traditional spatial organization of “feng shui”, is caused primarily by the densification of land-use to accommodate the increase in family size after the end of the Vietnam War. The deformation of the historic townscape of Hué is also caused by inappropriate designs of houses being renovated or newly constructed which do not use traditional construction material nor are built in a style harmonious to the historic environment of the site.

With the international technical co-operation grant provided from the World Heritage Fund in 1998, a legal audit was conducted as part of the Hué-Lille-UNESCO joint project which has confirmed the weakness or the non-existence of some essential regulations. A proposal of provisional land-use regulations and general building guidelines are currently being drafted for consideration by the competent local and national authorities. The Heritage House (*Maison du patrimoine*), an advisory service for local inhabitants aimed to involve them in heritage conservation in the process of housing improvement, is expected to begin operations in March 1999 upon completion of the rehabilitation of a historic house to be used as the office. This rehabilitation and the architectural survey being conducted in five pilot project sites, have involved the mobilization of some 50 students of the Department of Architecture of Hué University over a period of six months under the technical supervision of Vietnamese professors and French architect-urbanists from the School of Architecture of Lille. These activities are financed by Lille Metropole and the French Foreign Ministry with catalytic financial input from the World Heritage Fund and being carried out within the framework of the decentralized co-operation agreement signed in November 1997 between between Lille Metropole (France) and Hué Provincial and Municipal Authorities under the aegis of UNESCO. Complementary activities in urban landscape protection and training of two Vietnamese professors of architecture in Lille are being financed and conducted by the Region Nord Pas de Calais in close consultations with the Hué-Lille-UNESCO team. Close collaboration is also being maintained with the French DATAR team working on the regional development scheme to ensure that the upgrading of National Route No. 1 which cuts across the World Heritage Site between the Citadel and the Imperial Tomb area, will not undermine the integrity of the site. With funds made available in 1998 by the Committee, the Provincial Authority of Hué with support from the Vietnamese National Commission for UNESCO and the World Heritage Centre will be organizing a donors information meeting in Hanoi in March 1999 to co-ordinate international co-operation and development activities in Hué.

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

“The Bureau encourages the continued efforts of the Provincial and Municipal Authorities of Hué and the Hué Conservation Centre with technical support of Lille and UNESCO in mitigating the threat to Hué caused by inappropriate building design and densification of landuse. The Bureau requests the State Party to submit a written report to the Committee through the World Heritage Centre by 15 September 1999 on progress made in the elaboration and

application of provisional regulations concerning the urban design and land-use in Zones 1 and 2 of the Hué World Heritage site.”

Latin America and the Caribbean

Rapa Nui National Park (Chile)

Early 1998, the Secretariat received information about the possible construction of a new harbour within the World Heritage site, the extraction of stone and problems in the management of the Park. In response, the Chilean authorities informed that the harbour project was indeed considered some years ago but that this project at present was not being pursued; and that the extraction of stone is strictly controlled by the Council of National Monuments in accordance with what is foreseen in the Management Programme for the Natural Heritage and the Master Plan for the Rapa Nui National Park. A close collaboration has been established between the Council for National Monuments and the National Forestry Agency (CONAF) and consultations with the local authorities are taking place. No new authorisations have been given for archaeological excavations, awaiting a specific ordinance for excavations and research.

As to the management of the Park, the authorities informed that a Management Plan for the Rapa Nui National Park was adopted in February 1998, copy of which was made available to the Secretariat and ICOMOS.

A comprehensive programme for the preservation of Rapa Nui has been prepared by the National Conservation Centre, the University of Chile and the National Forestry Agency (CONAF) and submitted for consideration under the Japanese Fund in Trust. The programme would include items such as: the preservation of stone, cultural anthropology, the environment and equipment.

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

“The Bureau thanks the Chilean authorities for the information provided on the management of the Park and the adoption of the management plan. It requests the Chilean authorities to keep the Committee informed of future planning, infrastructural works and excavations that might be planned for the Park.”

Colonial City of Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic)

At the request of the authorities of the Dominican Republic, an expert mission was undertaken in August 1998 to assess the state of conservation of the World Heritage site of Santo Domingo. The report states that, compared to the previous monitoring mission in 1993, the situation is stable and does not present major problems. It emphasises, however, the need to balance interventions in the physical-environmental recuperation of the area, tourism development and the socio-cultural development of the local population (housing, services etc. It furthermore stresses that the effective

control by the Office for the Cultural Heritage depends very much on the adoption of the Master Plan for the City which establishes an extended protection zone and norms for land use. It also points out that several buildings in the city had collapsed recently, not caused by natural disasters but by the lack of maintenance.

On 22 September 1998, Hurricane George caused severe damage to the Dominican Republic. The World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Office in the country immediately requested information on the damage and informed the authorities about the possibilities for assistance under the World Heritage Convention.

On 5 October 1998 the Secretariat received a brief report prepared by the Office for Cultural Heritage of the Dominican Republic on the damage caused to the cultural heritage of the country. With regard to the World Heritage site of Santo Domingo, the report states that:

- a great number of privately owned houses (mostly from the sixteenth century) were affected and several of them are about to collapse ;
- several churches were affected, most seriously the Church of Santa Barbara ;
- the most serious damage occurred to the Casa de Juan de Herrera which is located at the central Plaza de Colon. The gallery of the main facade collapsed ;
- urgent support is needed for at least the consolidation of the most threatened buildings.

A separate report was submitted by the national ICOMOS Committee through the Vice-President of ICOMOS for Latin America and the Caribbean on 7 October, particularly on the situation of the Casa de Juan de Herrera. It recommends a series of immediate actions to consolidate what remains of the structure, and detailed studies on the origin of the collapse and the most appropriate interventions. ICOMOS will collaborate in the restoration process of the building.

Decision required: The Bureau may wish to transmit the above report to the Committee for examination and recommend the following for adoption:

« The Committee expresses its concern about the damage caused by Hurricane George to the World Heritage site of Santo Domingo and encourages the national authorities to take the necessary measures for the consolidation and safeguarding of the damaged buildings. It expresses its readiness to assist in undertaking emergency measures for the consolidation and recuperation of damaged buildings.

At the same time, however, the Committee notes that part of the damage could only occur due to the lack of maintenance and preventive measures. It stresses the need for risk preparedness and preventive planning and conservation measures, particularly in hurricane prone areas such as the Caribbean. It strongly recommends the authorities to develop a risk preparedness plan for the City of Santo Domingo and to give priority to maintenance and preventive measures.

The Committee requests the authorities to submit, by 15 April 1999, a progress report on the actions taken in response to the report of the monitoring mission of August 1998 and to the damage caused by Hurricane George.

The Committee requests the Secretariat to look into the possibilities to develop specific activities for the Caribbean to promote and implement risk preparedness schemes. »

City of Quito (Ecuador)

The UNESCO Representative in Quito, informed the Secretariat on 7 October 1998 that the Volcano Pichincha, in the vicinity of the western part of the City of Quito, had become active after three hundred years. An eruption (most probably stones and acid ashes) could seriously imperil the lives of the inhabitants of villages and the city of Quito and could affect its historic centre and its monuments. The National Geophysical Institute has established a scientific committee with experts from the United States of America to monitor the situation. The Mayor of Quito, who has been assigned by the Government with the responsibility for the crisis management, has approached UNESCO for immediate support for :

- preventive measures at the historic monuments of Quito ;
- expert advice on planning and management of this type of crisis in urban areas.

At the time of preparation of this document, the Secretariat is in contact with the national authorities, the UNESCO Office in Quito and the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee about the appropriate response to this situation .

Decision required : The Bureau, based on information that will be available during its session, is requested to take the appropriate decisions.

City of Cusco (Peru)

WH Bureau twenty-first session para. IV.52

The Bureau, at its twenty-first session, reiterated the need for appropriate planning mechanisms for the Historic City of Cusco. At that occasion, the Bureau welcomed the initiative to establish a Master Plan for the City but emphasized that in the process of its preparation and application arrangements should be made for the adequate coordination and collaboration between all institutions and authorities involved, particularly the National Institute for Culture and the municipality of the City.

In November 1997, the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee approved an amount of US\$ 20,000 under Technical Co-operation for the preparation of the Master Plan. A contract to this effect was established with the National Institute for Culture. To date, however, this assistance could not be implemented due to the lack of appropriate co-ordination between the Institute and the municipality. Concerns about this situation were brought to the attention of the Permanent Delegation of Peru on 2 October 1998. In the meantime, the Secretariat has received expressions of concern about the lack of planning, the lack of application of the urban ordinances for preservation and new constructions that are considered inappropriate.

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

“The Bureau expresses its concern about the state of conservation of the City of Cusco and urges the national and local authorities to make adequate arrangements for the preparation and application of a Master Plan for the city. It also urges to consider interventions in public spaces as well as new construction and rehabilitation works in full respect of the urban, architectural and historic values that are represented in the city as well as international standards of intervention in historic urban areas.

The Bureau requests the Peruvian authorities to inform the Secretariat of the actions taken in response to the above by 15 April 1999 for examination by the Bureau at its twenty-third session.”

Historic Centre of Lima (Peru)

On 2 August 1998, a serious fire destroyed the municipal theatre of Lima located within the World Heritage site of the Historic Centre of Lima. The theatre was inaugurated in 1920.

In response, the Secretariat fielded an expert mission in order to assess the situation and to advise the municipal authorities on setting up a programme and action plan for the recuperation of the theatre.

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

« The Bureau expresses its concern about the serious damages caused by fire to the municipal theatre of Lima. It recommends the national and local authorities to develop a rehabilitation scheme that respects the architectural and historical values of the building and that can serve as a catalyst for the recuperation of the urban surroundings of the theatre. It request the authorities to keep the Secretariat informed about the progress made in this respect. »

Europe and North America

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

WH Bureau twenty-second session para. V.43

At its twenty-second session in June 1998, the Bureau requested the French authorities to undertake the elaboration of a management plan and to present a progress report on the media library project at the square of the Reims Cathedral, by 15 September 1998. It also requested ICOMOS to present the findings of its mission to the extraordinary session of the Bureau.

Letters informing the French authorities of the Bureau's decision were sent on 15 July and 28 September 1998. At the time of the preparation of this document no reply has been received.

On 9 September 1998 the World Heritage Centre received information by S.O.S Reims that the demolition permit for the building at the location of the media library had been signed by the Mayor of Reims on 20 August 1998. On 2 October 1998, it was informed that the Minister of Culture of France would have given the authorisation for the construction of the media library.

Decision required: The Bureau may wish to examine information that may be available at the time of its session and take appropriate action thereupon.

Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin (Germany)

WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.47

The Minister of Science, Research and Culture of the Land of Brandenburg has submitted the fourth state of conservation report as per the request of the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-first session (see WHC-98/CONF.202/INF.7). A summary of the report is provided herewith. Very detailed maps regarding the planning guidelines for the Potsdam cultural landscape have also been submitted.

Extension of the World Heritage site:

The application for the extension of the World Heritage site of Potsdam has been received by the World Heritage Centre and has been transmitted to the advisory body, ICOMOS, for evaluation. It will be presented to the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee in June/July 1999.

Planning Guidelines:

The drawing up of planning guidelines for the Potsdam cultural landscape is in progress. The working group drawing up the guidelines has also taken into account the current development plans. No irreversible construction work was undertaken. The planning guidelines contribute to the effectiveness of the requirements for the protection of the World Heritage site. It also provides the conditions for determining, at an early stage, the effects any plan may have on the World Heritage site. The

planning guidelines will be transmitted to the World Heritage Committee at the end of 1998. The Committee will be informed of progress made and results of the implementation of the guidelines.

Green centre – Alter Markt/Lustgarten:

The town planning competition for the “green centre” (Alter Markt/Lustgarten), in preparation of the Federal Garden Exhibition in 2001, has been completed. The overall guidelines for town planning in this area will be presented to the town council at the end of 1998.

Quartier am Bahnhof:

The results of the “Quartier am Bahnhof “ town planning competition, which were considered by the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-first session, ensure the integration of the project into the Potsdam cultural landscape. The building areas 9-12 were reconsidered in the light of the results of the town planning competition in March 1998. Since the proportions and location of the structures are felt acceptable, the construction can be executed as planned.

Other building projects:

In response to the recommendation formulated by the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-first session with regard to other building projects, the town administration and the Prussian Castles and Parks of Berlin Brandenburg have discussed the layout and colouring of the Gewoba-Bau (Alt Nowawes) and have agreed on an acceptable solution. Furthermore, the “Potsdam Windows” project, which aims at improving the housing quality, is not felt to have an impact on the World Heritage site.

With regard to the Ribbechstrasse in Bornstedt, no planning application has been received. The town of Potsdam will be controlling any planning in this area.

In conclusion, the Minister of Science, Research and Culture of the Land Brandenburg feels that the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee have been well taken into account in the drawing up of planning guidelines, and the corrections in town development and other development projects. So far, 150 million DM have been invested in the preservation and restoration of the World Heritage site.

The state of conservation report was transmitted to ICOMOS for advice. ICOMOS suggests that the ICOMOS expert mission that will visit Potsdam early in 1999 to evaluate the proposed extension to the World Heritage site, should also be requested to examine the planning guidelines with the competent authorities and to submit a report to the Bureau at its session in June/July 1999.

Decision required: The Bureau may wish to examine the above information and take appropriate action thereupon.

Collegiate Church, Castle and Old Town in Quedlinburg (Germany)

WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.49

A comprehensive state of conservation report has been submitted by the German Federal State of Saxony-Anhalt which focuses on the recommendations made by the

World Heritage Committee in Naples 1997. In order to guide and assist with conservation, preservation and development of Quedlinburg a number of activities have been carried out. A summary of the state of conservation report is included herewith.

Development Programme:

The town of Quedlinburg has adopted a revised Development Programme in July 1998 that is now before the regional government for approval. The Development Programme will familiarise citizens and other parties involved with rehabilitation of buildings.

Zoning Plan:

A zoning plan has been revised to emphasise the significance of sight lines towards the castle hill and the collegiate church that will limit any further building in the area.

Conservation Programme:

A fundamental change to the conservation programme is being discussed to improve the protection of the world heritage. These changes include height limits for new buildings and restrictive principles for new buildings in the area.

Urban Master Plan:

Additional master plans for particular areas are being discussed and identified to better adapt the overall master plan to particular situations and areas.

Modernisation/conservation:

Modernisation of historic buildings has been carried out in order to save them from dilapidation. Conservation work on the earth-retaining wall of the Münzenberg is in progress.

Denkmalverzeichnis (Register of Historic Monuments):

A register of historic monuments is being prepared and will be published. It will provide the city authorities, owners of historic buildings and other interested parties with a reference book containing a record of all historically valuable buildings.

Architectural Competition:

The architectural competition for new constructions on five open lots was concluded in 1995. Controversies about the results delayed implementation. Two lots are now to be filled in; the three others remaining vacant for the time being.

Urban outline plan:

Discussions are being held on the adoption of an urban outline plan that is expected to be completed in three years. It will be based on the "Plan for the Preservation of Historic Monuments" and can be considered as a management plan on which all decisions regarding development will be based.

ICOMOS advised the Secretariat that it feels that this report is very encouraging. The City authorities have taken energetic and positive steps to take account of the points made by the recent expert mission.

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

“The Bureau commends the German authorities on this extensive and very encouraging report and requests the State Party to submit a progress report by 15 September 1999 for examination by the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau.”

Auschwitz Concentration Camp (Poland)

WH Committee twenty-first session para VII.54

WH Bureau twenty-first session para IV.52

The Bureau at its twenty-first session fully supported the ‘Declaration Concerning Principles for Implementation of Program Oswiecimski’ that had been signed by the Government of Poland, the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, the International Council of the State Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau and the City of Oswiecim, that foresaw the preparation and implementation of the ‘Urban Master Plan for the State Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau’.

As a follow-up, Polish authorities requested the President of the Polish National ICOMOS Committee to chair and convene a meeting of experts. This meeting, organized with the support of the World Heritage Fund, took place on 2 and 3 June 1998 with, as the principal goal the presentation and analysis of studies and plans for the management of the area surrounding the Camps of Auschwitz and Birkenau.

A preliminary report of the meeting was received from the President of ICOMOS, Poland, on 7 October 1998, with the announcement that the final report is forthcoming.

Decision required: The Bureau may wish to examine information that may be made available during its session and take the appropriate decision thereupon.

Central Zone of Angra do Heroismo in the Azores (Portugal)

WH Bureau twenty-second session para. V.57

The Bureau of the World Heritage Committee, at its twenty-second ordinary session, was informed about a marina project that seriously threatens the characteristic features of the waterfront of the World Heritage site. Upon the letter sent by the Chairperson asking the Portuguese authorities for information on the project, extensive information consisting of an environmental impact study, a legislation decree and information on the project was received by the World Heritage Centre and transmitted to ICOMOS.

ICOMOS undertook a mission to the site in October and will present its findings to the Bureau.

Decision required: The Bureau may wish to examine the mission report that will be presented by ICOMOS during its session and take the appropriate decision thereupon.

Historic Centre of Porto (Portugal)

WH Bureau twenty-second session para. V.58

The Bureau at its twenty-second session took note of a report on the impact of infrastructural works in the River Douro on the World Heritage values of the site of Porto. It requested the State Party to submit by 15 September 1998 detailed information and an assessment report on the impact of the works on the World Heritage site.

The State Party was informed of the decision of the Bureau by letter on 7 July 1998. At the time of the preparation of this document no information has been received.

Decision required: The Bureau may wish to examine information that may be available at the time of its session and take appropriate action thereupon.

Burgos Cathedral (Spain)

WH Bureau twenty-second session para. V.59

The Bureau at its twenty-second session requested the Spanish authorities to submit by 15 September 1998 a report on the plans for the hill and fortress of Burgos, which it considered as one of the main elements of the cultural landscape of Burgos. This request was transmitted to the Permanent Delegation of Spain on 16 July 1998.

Decision required: The Bureau may wish to examine information that may be available at the time of its session and take appropriate action thereupon.

The Rock Carvings in Tanum (Sweden)

Upon the invitation of the Director of Monuments and Sites of the County Administration of Västra Götaland, the World Heritage Centre together with ICOMOS, undertook a mission to Tanum in September 1998 to discuss the E6 road upgrading project, funded by the European Union.

The current E6 passes through the central-eastern part of the World Heritage site. The Swedish Road Administration presented various options for the location of the E6. Three of the possible road corridors would to a large extent pass through the World Heritage site. These suggestions were considered unacceptable by the mission team. However, it was felt that one alternative solution, developed during the mission, although passing into the World Heritage site, would have a minimum impact on the continuity of the landscape of the World Heritage site and would not affect the rock carving sites as such.

As to options that would not touch the World Heritage site, it was recognized that the impact of the so-called Green Route on the natural and scenic values of the area to the east of the World Heritage site would be such as to render it unacceptable. However, ICOMOS/WHC requested that further in-depth studies be carried out on the so-called Blue Route (to the west of the World Heritage site, near the coast), which would be the optimum solution since it would avoid any incursion into the World Heritage site.

Decision required: The Bureau may wish to transmit the above report to the Committee for examination and recommend the following for adoption:

“The Committee expresses its appreciation of the fact that it was consulted on this project at such an early stage of its implementation. It recommends this consultation as a desirable precedent to other States Parties. Furthermore, it requests the State Party to study further the possibility of utilizing the Blue Route, passing to the west of the World Heritage site. In the event that this had to be precluded for engineering, social, and/or financial reasons, the Committee requests the State Party to carry out further study on the alternative route through the World Heritage site as developed during the mission.

The Committee requests the State Party to present a progress report on the E6 project, by 15 April 1999, to be examined by the Bureau at its twenty-third session.”

Historic Areas of Istanbul (Turkey)

WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.55

WH Bureau twenty-second session para. V.67

The monument of Hagia Sophia of the Archaeological Park

In 1993, an expert mission visited Hagia Sophia, one of the main monuments of the Archaeological Park which is one of the four complexes inscribed as the core of the World Heritage Historic Areas of Istanbul. A series of recommendations for the rehabilitation of this important monument elaborated by this UNESCO mission in 1993 was approved by the Government of Turkey, that subsequently increased its budgetary allocation for their implementation. The Government requested the Secretariat in March 1998 to establish a team of international and national experts which can meet regularly to advise the national team composed of the Hagia Sophia Museum and the Central Conservation and Restoration Laboratory, in charge of the restoration of this monument. The restoration of the mosaics of Hagia Sophia for which the World Heritage Fund has contributed US\$ 80,000 between 1983 and 1994 is continuing and to increase the rhythm of the work, the Central Laboratory has requested additional human and financial resources (request to be considered under International Assistance).

The Zeyrek Conservation Site

With regard to the Zeyrek Conservation Site in Fatih District of Istanbul which is protected as part of the World Heritage area for the value of the Ottoman epoch timber buildings, the State Party submitted in May 1998, a Technical Co-operation request. This request concerned a detailed technical evaluation and the preparation of the repair schedules of these historic timber buildings, following the alarming report presented by ICOMOS to the twenty-second session of the Committee. This request also included activities to support the Municipality of Fatih to establish a Fatih Heritage House, a service to advise the inhabitants of Fatih (including Zeyrek) of the housing improvement and conservation methods of the historic buildings, the majority of which are under private ownership. The Secretariat reported to the Bureau at its

twenty-second ordinary session held in June 1998 that the urgency of these activities was due to the need to convince the European Union not to exclude Zeyrek from its rehabilitation project aimed at housing improvement, despite the fact that the majority of the Ottoman epoch buildings in Zeyrek had been abandoned by the inhabitants due to their dangerous condition. The Bureau decided to postpone its decision concerning the grant of this request to its extraordinary session in November 1998. The UNESCO/EC project office and the ICOMOS expert who undertook another reactive monitoring mission in October 1998, reconfirmed the need for urgent measures to (a) prevent the further loss of these Ottoman epoch buildings by at least providing emergency shoring to avoid their collapse; (b) carry out training in conservation skills to stop the use of cement and inappropriate material in the restoration/reconstruction work being carried out on some of these buildings by the private sector; and (c) mobilize the Fatih Heritage House to undertake actions to organize the inhabitants to invest the required self-financing component in the co-funding scheme for housing improvement under the EU/Turkish Government programme, expected to become operational by September 1999.

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

“The Bureau having noted the State Party’s request for UNESCO to establish a team of national and international experts to strengthen the on-going effort for the restoration of the mosaics of Hagia Sophia, recommends the Government to organize, in close collaboration with the Secretariat, an international expert meeting to take stock of the actions accomplished and to draw up a medium-term plan of action for the continuation of the work and to prepare the terms of reference for the international experts required by the Central Laboratory.

The Bureau expresses concern over the state of conservation of the Ottoman epoch timber buildings in Zeyrek as reported by ICOMOS and the Secretariat and requests the State Party to inform the Bureau at its twenty-third ordinary session in June 1999 on measures it intends to take for the preservation of this important site which forms an integral part of the World Heritage Historic Areas of Istanbul. The Bureau furthermore, requests the Secretariat to maintain close collaboration with the European Commission and Fatih Municipality to maximize the benefits of the EU-funded project in Fatih for the rehabilitation of historic buildings in the World Heritage protected areas.”

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

WH Bureau twenty-second session para. V.69

At its twenty-second ordinary session, the Bureau requested the Government of Ukraine to reconsider its hotel-building policy and specific hotel projects in respect of their historical context. It requested the authorities to submit a report on this matter by 15 September 1998 at the latest.

The State Party informed the Secretariat on 14 September 1998 that the above-mentioned projects were repeatedly considered by the experts of Ukraine and were discussed by the local and central authorities as well as by ICOMOS of Ukraine. As a

result, the project of the hotel "Kiev-International" was decreased in height to the level of the existing surrounding buildings. Furthermore, the construction of the nearby "Laboratory House" project, which did not correspond to the surrounding architectural environment of the Cathedral, was suspended pending the preparation of a new proposal.

On 31 August 1998, the State Party also informed the Secretariat on the proposed reconstruction of the *Dormision Cathedral* in *Pechersk-Lavra* that, according to other sources, could cause problems to the surrounding buildings due to the unstable and geologically difficult terrain. It was stated that the reconstruction project would be carried out on the basis of a complex geological and engineering research, which offers the opportunity to select the optimal engineering and constructive solution. The State Party asked the Secretariat for advice in this matter.

All information has been transmitted to ICOMOS for evaluation.

Decision required: The Bureau may wish to examine the views of ICOMOS that will be transmitted during its session and take appropriate action thereupon.