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WHC-99/CONF.208/5
Paris, 27 October 1999
Original : English/French

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-third extraordinary session
Marrakesh, Morocco
26 - 27 November 1999

Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

SUMMARY

In accordance with paragraphs 46-56 and 86-90 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 86-93 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-99/CONF.209/13).

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-second* session of the Committee and/or the *twenty-third* 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-99/CONF.209/14. The observations/recommendations of the Bureau will be reflected in the report of the Bureau session that will be transmitted to the Committee as Working Document WHC-99/CONF.209/6.

NATURAL HERITAGE

7. At its twenty-third ordinary session (5-10 July 1999), the Bureau examined reports on the state of conservation of twenty-eight natural World Heritage properties and made observations and recommendations that were transmitted by the Centre to the States Parties concerned in late July/early August 1999. Since then, no new information has been received with regard to the organisation of a meeting to promote trans-border co-operation between The Sundarbans (Bangladesh) and the Sundarbans National Park (India). In the Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks of Canada, the Bureau was pleased to note positive developments that had led to the delaying, at least by a year, of the Cheviot Mine Project. Hence, no further consideration of the state of conservation of the Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks is considered necessary at this session of the Bureau.

8. Updates on the state of conservation of two properties discussed at the twenty-second session of the Committee, but not considered by the July 1999 Bureau session, i.e. Dja Faunal Reserve (Cameroon) and the Sagarmatha National Park (Nepal) are submitted to the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau. In addition, new information on the state of conservation of the following properties, not considered by either the twenty-second session of the Committee (Kyoto, Japan, 1998) or the July 1999 session of the Bureau are also submitted : Como  National Park (C te d’Ivoire), Sagarmatha National Park(Nepal), Te Wahipounamu (New Zealand), Gough Island (United Kingdom) and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and the Serengeti National Park (United Republic of Tanzania).

9. As requested by the twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau in July 1999, IUCN/WCPA’s Position Statement on Mining and Associated Activities in Relation to Protected Areas is included as a separate working document WHC-99/CONF.209/7.

World Natural Heritage Properties of Australia

Great Barrier Reef (Australia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1981

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – Chapter VII.27 and page 93 of Annex IV.

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – Chapter IV.21.

Information document WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.5

New information: The twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau, in July 1999, requested the Australian Committee for IUCN (ACIUCN) and the State Party to review the 29 recommendations listed in the March 1999 ACIUCN report “Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area: Condition, Management and Threats”. The Bureau also requested the ACIUCN and the State Party to elaborate a more focused set of recommendations and a detailed plan for their implementation and monitoring. The Commonwealth Government of Australia in a letter dated 7 October 1999 transmitted a focused set of recommendations, and a detailed plan for their implementation and monitoring to the Centre and IUCN. These "Focused Recommendations" and the “Framework for management” of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA) are included in WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.5.

IUCN has reviewed both the "Focused Recommendations" and the "Framework for management" of the GBRWHA. The "Focused Recommendations" have been grouped under five priority action areas as outlined below:

1. The Management of Land and Coastal Catchments (*Recommendations 10 - 15 in the ACIUCN Report*)

IUCN recommends that governments report on the development and implementation of strategic plans, and on environmental impact assessment and management initiatives undertaken, with particular attention to cumulative and interacting impacts, to ensure that activities including vegetation clearance, drainage and irrigation, urban, agricultural and pastoral land use, island developments and the disturbance of acid sulphate soils are only permitted if they do not have ecologically unsustainable impacts on the GBRWHA.

2. The Management of Fisheries (*Recommendations 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 in the ACIUCN Report*)

IUCN recommends that governments give high priority to the development and implementation of management plans with sustainability indicators for all fisheries in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. These should address not only the target species and stock but also bycatch and the condition of the ecosystem upon which the fishery depends.

3. The Management of Shipping and Ship Sourced Pollution (*Recommendations 20 and 21 in the ACIUCN Report*)

IUCN recommends that further international efforts should be taken to address the risks posed to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area by shipping with inadequately trained ships crews and inadequately maintained vessels.

4. Representative Marine Protected Areas (*Recommendation 27 in the ACIUCN Report*)

IUCN recommends as a matter of high priority that the percentage of no-take (IUCN category 1 and 2) areas within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area should be increased to achieve a comprehensive adequate and representative system of protected areas.

5. Resources for Research and Management (*Recommendations 28 and 29 in the ACIUCN Report*)

IUCN recommends that the State Party provide adequate funding to managing authorities and other relevant agencies for research and vital management essential for maintenance of the values of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. This should include the provision to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority of a core budget from general revenue sufficient to allow it to meet its World Heritage obligations.

For each of the above five action areas, the "Framework for management" elaborates the following:

- a brief background to the recommendation;

- key issues;
- the actions proposed;
- an indication of the lead agency (and other agencies involved);
- the date when the action is due;
- any additional comments; and
- main references for further information relating to the recommendation.

IUCN considers the "Framework for management" as proposed by the State Party to be comprehensive and that it establishes a basis for monitoring the implementation of the "Focused recommendations". IUCN commends the work undertaken by the State Party in full consultation with the State Government of Queensland and ACIUCN and other concerned stakeholders and welcomes this consultative approach. IUCN reiterates its view that catchment issues pose the most serious threat to the GBRWHA and notes the urgency of the need for effective integrated catchment management to reduce environmental impact on the World Heritage site. IUCN however, notes and agrees with the State Party that many of these issues will require social and economic changes of a scale which will take years to achieve, such as in relation to modification of land use related impacts and the management of fisheries. This underlines the importance of developing strategic objectives and actions to ensure the long term protection of the GBRWHA and establish a plan to monitor their implementation as has been established in the "Framework for management".

Action required: The Bureau may wish to transmit the above report and the "Focused recommendations" and "Framework for management" contained in WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.5 to the Committee for examination and recommend the following for adoption:

“The Committee accepts the "Focused recommendations", and the "Framework for management" of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA) as a basis for monitoring the implementation of those recommendations. The Committee commends the process and the product arising from the consultative approach used in developing a basis for monitoring the state of conservation of the GBRWHA and recommends its adoption for the management of other World Heritage natural properties in Australia. The Committee invites the State Party to submit progress reports on the implementation of the "Focused recommendations" to the annual sessions of the Committee for review.”

Shark Bay, Western Australia (Australia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1991

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – page 93 of Annex IV

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – Chapter IV. 22

New information: The Australian Government informed the Centre in a letter dated 14 September 1999 that the consultative process involving the ACIUCN, the State Government of Western Australia and other stakeholders to prepare an up-to-date state of conservation report for this property is yet to be finalised.

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

“The Bureau urges the State Party and IUCN to finalise the consultation process as soon as possible with a view to providing a detailed and up-to-date state of conservation report for Shark Bay, including a focused set of recommendations and a plan for their implementation as have been developed for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, and submit them to the consideration of the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau in the year 2000.”

Wet Tropics of Queensland (Australia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1988

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – page 94 of Annex IV

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – Chapter IV.23

New information: The Australian Government informed the Centre in a letter dated 14 September 1999 that the consultative process involving the ACIUCN, the State Government of Queensland and other stakeholders to prepare an up-to-date state of conservation report for the Wet Tropics of Queensland is yet to be finalised

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

"The Bureau urges the State Party and IUCN to finalise the consultation process as soon as possible with a view to providing a detailed and up-to-date state of conservation report on the Wet Tropics of Queensland, including a focused set of recommendations and a plan for their implementation as has been developed for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, and submit them to the consideration of the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau in the year 2000."

Heard and McDonald Islands (Australia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1997

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – page 93 of Annex IV.

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – Chapter IV.24

New information: The Australian Government informed the Centre in a letter of 15 September 1999 that the major component of the desktop study concerning the establishment of a marine protected area has been completed and that the report is in the process of being finalised. The State Party has indicated that the report of the desktop study will be completed before the end of 1999 and at that time will be submitted to the Centre.

Action 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 review the desktop study report concerning the establishment of a marine protected area surrounding the Heard and McDonald Islands, due to be completed and submitted to the Centre before the end of 1999, and report their findings to the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau in the year 2000."

Belovezhskaya Pushcha/Bialowieza Forest (Belarus/Poland)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979 (Poland) and 1992 (Belarus)

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – page 94 of Annex IV.

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – Chapter IV. 26

New information: IUCN has informed the Centre that the IUCN evaluation of the extension of the Bialowieza Forest of Poland will be submitted to the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau under the agenda item “Nominations of cultural and natural properties to the List of World Heritage in Danger and the World Heritage List”. IUCN also notes that the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources, and Forestry has launched “The Contract for Bialowieza Forest” with its major goal of enlarging national park boundaries to the whole forest complex in 2000. However, a final decision has not been taken yet and discussions have reached a crucial point at present with a range of opinions in relation to the desirability of extending the National Park boundaries. IUCN also notes that a management plan for Bialowieza National Park is now under preparation.

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

“The Bureau commends the authorities for their efforts to expand the Bialowieza National Park and to complete the management plan.”

Iguacu National Park (Brazil)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1986

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – page 94 of Annex IV

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – Chapter IV. 27

New information: IUCN sent a mission to this site in March 1999 and this was reported at the July 1999 Bureau session. During this mission discussions were held with representatives of IBAMA (Brazilian National Parks Service), local residents, local Government representatives, State Government representatives (including the Governor of the State of Paraná), and Federal representatives (including the Minister for Environment). The mission report deals with four issues relevant to the integrity of this World Heritage site:

(1) *The Colon Road*: Local people illegally reopened this road in May 1997. The Federal Public Prosecutor is presently prosecuting both the local communities of the area for reopening the road and the Federal and State agencies for not enforcing closure of the road. The majority of the local people support the continued use of the road as it shortens the distance between communities on the northern and southern sides of the park by some 130 km. The road traverses the park from north to south dividing it in two. The road also breaks the forest canopy for the majority of the road's length (17.5 km). It is important to keep in mind that this site was inscribed in the World Heritage List, not only for the Iguacu Falls, but also for the significant biodiversity values of the large expanse of rainforest that it contains. IUCN notes that the road has destroyed part of the forest and damaged other parts of the site, has interrupted wildlife movement between the eastern and western sections of the Park and most importantly, has severely impacted on the site's World Heritage values. In particular, concern has been expressed by research and academic authorities that the preservation of the jaguar is threatened with extinction in the region, as its habitat has been dissected by this road. The road is also leading to an increase in siltation of the creeks and rivers and alters drainage patterns, further exacerbating the impact on World Heritage values. In addition, the road has opened up the Park for the illegal extraction of timber and poaching. IUCN has received information on the process to close the Colon road, as recommended by the IUCN mission to this site. A process of negotiation on this, led by IBAMA, is underway with representatives of the State of Paraná. Due to the political and social pressures related to this road, it is not easy to find a short-term solution for its closure because it could create negative reactions from the local people against this World Heritage site, thus potentially leading to new threats to its integrity.

(2) *Helicopter Flights*: Commercial helicopter flights began in 1972, originating from both Brazil and Argentina. Following recommendations from the World Heritage Committee, flights from the Argentinean side ceased in 1994, but have continued on the Brazilian side. In 1996, the level of concern was such that the Presidents of Brazil and Argentina met to discuss the issue. In 1997 Brazil decided to recommence helicopter flights subject to specific flight conditions. A recent study by the Environment Institute of Paraná concentrated largely on the impact of the helicopters on the tourists' experience, noting that, for most visitors, the flights are interfering with their enjoyment of the Falls. However, this study only superficially investigated the impacts on fauna.

(3) *Dams on Iguacu River*: The Salto Caixas Dam was recently built on the Iguacu River. It is well upstream of the National Park and at present there is no evidence of any impact on the World Heritage values of the Park. The proposal for another dam, Capanema, has been abandoned, as it would involve a direct impact on Iguacu National Park.

(4) *Management Plan*: A new Management Plan for Iguacu National Park is due to be completed in 1999. This management plan will aim to address the above-mentioned problems. To ensure the integrity of this site it is clear that management of both the Iguacu National Park (Brazil) and the Iguazu National Park (Argentina), both of which are on the World Heritage List, would benefit considerably from closer liaison and co-ordination between their respective management authorities. During the mission this was discussed with senior Brazilian and Argentinean officials and initial responses were positive.

The twenty-third session of the Bureau requested the State Party to immediately close the Colon Road and initiate a recovery plan to increase canopy closure and re-vegetation of ground cover and stabilise soils and control erosion. Furthermore, the Bureau requested the State Party to: (i) immediately halt helicopter flights pending a thorough evaluation of their impact on the fauna, particularly the avifauna; and (ii) provide a copy of the new management plan to IUCN

for review to enable an assessment of the effectiveness of the plan to address prevailing threats to the integrity of the site. As at 1 October, no information has been received from the State Party.

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

“The Committee recognises the efforts from the State Party to implement recommendations of the mission. However, in the absence of satisfactory progress with regard to the permanent closure of the road and the implementation of the recovery plan by the time of its twenty-third session, the Committee may wish to include Iguacu National Park in the List of World Heritage in Danger.”

Dja Faunal Reserve (Cameroon)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1987

International assistance: US\$ 47,000 under Technical Assistance and US\$ 34,700 for Training.

Previous deliberations :

Twenty-second session of the Committee – page 94 of Annex IV

New information: The twenty-second extraordinary session of the Bureau, held during 28-29 November 1998, requested the State Party to submit a report on the implementation of the Sangmelima workshop recommendations before 15 September 1999. Such a report has not yet been received. A proposal prepared by the Centre to undertake a rapid biodiversity assessment to evaluate the impacts of on-going forestry activities on the contiguity of habitats and gene-pools in and around Dja was under consideration at the time the state of conservation of this site was reported to the twenty-second extraordinary session of the Bureau in November 1998. Since then however, the prospective donor, i.e. the Government of Netherlands, has changed its priorities for providing bilateral assistance to Cameroon and the project proposal elaborated by the Centre is no longer under consideration for financing. The Centre is currently in consultation with the NASA's (USA) Earth Studies unit to explore possibilities for using satellite and remote-sensing images, dating from the present back to the 1970s, as a way of understanding and interpreting the land-cover changes that have occurred in and around Dja and using the insights gained from such an analysis, in combination with field studies and ground-truthing, to assess the extent of the threat of biological isolation facing this site. The outcome of those consultations will be reported at the time of the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau.

Action required: The Bureau, based on additional information that may be available at the time of its twenty-third extraordinary session, may wish to take decisions and make recommendations as appropriate.

Los Katios National Park (Colombia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994

International Assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – page 96 of Annex IV.

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – Chapter IV. 29

New information: IUCN notes that the Ministry of the Environment is in the process of preparing a Management Plan for the area. This new Management Plan will include participatory management arrangements for involving local communities as well as a programme to promote transboundary co-operation with the Darien National Park World Heritage site in Panama. A number of workshops involving local communities and the Special Unit for National Parks of the Ministry of the Environment have been held to discuss how to implement community management arrangements that would enhance the protection of this site. Despite the on-going armed conflict, park authorities continue to provide some level of management and control in several sectors of the park. In those areas controlled by park authorities there has been a reduction in the illegal extraction of natural resources by local communities. However, there is little information provided in the report on what is happening on those sectors of the park controlled by armed groups. IUCN also notes the statement to the twenty-third session of the Bureau by the Observer of Colombia which noted actions taken by his Government, in particular concerning: (1) community participation; (2) inter-institutional cooperation among local authorities, NGOs and communities; (3) progress made with the second phase of the management plan; and (4) with transfrontier cooperation with Darien National Park in Panama. He emphasised the commitment of his Government to the protection of the site but did not support the recommendation to include it on the List of World Heritage in Danger. IUCN acknowledges the progress made towards the preparation of the management plan for this site and commends the State Party for these efforts despite the difficult situation facing this site. However, IUCN notes uncertainty in relation to impacts of a number of threats, including that:

- (a) the Park is not fully under the control of the management agency;
- (b) the impacts of the proposal to grant collective land ownership over 100,000ha of the Park are unclear and should be assessed; and
- (c) the impacts on wetlands from forest fires need to be reviewed.

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

“The Bureau recommends that a monitoring mission to this site be carried out in 2000, which could address the issues noted by IUCN and encourages the State Party to invite such a mission. The Bureau commends the State Party for its efforts to strengthen transfrontier co-operation and urges it to accelerate efforts towards the establishment of a single transfrontier World Heritage site linking Darien (Panama) and Los Katios (Colombia) as recommended at the time of inscription in 1994.”

Comoé National Park (Côte d’Ivoire)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1983

International assistance: US\$ 47,000 under Technical Co-operation.

Previous deliberations: The state of conservation of this property has not been reported to the Bureau or the Committee.

New information: IUCN received a copy of the report provided to the World Heritage Centre, prepared by a scientist, from the Centre de Recherche en Ecologie from Côte d'Ivoire entitled "Evaluation de l'état actuel du parc national de la Comoé". The report outlines the serious threat of poaching to the wildlife of this site and sets out a series of recommendations for improved management. IUCN has received several other reports from NGOs and individuals highlighting illegal logging activities that are threatening the integrity of the site. IUCN notes and supports the recommendations of the study that this site is in urgent need of technical and financial support. A request for financial assistance from the State Party is due to be submitted to the twenty-third session of the Committee. In view of the high level of poaching reported at this site, IUCN recommends that the site be considered for inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger and that an expert mission be fielded to the site in order to verify the information reported by the study quoted above and have discussions with the State Party regarding the possible inclusion of this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

"The Committee requests the State Party to consider inviting a Centre/IUCN mission to the site during the year 2000 in order to review threats to the integrity of the site and plan emergency rehabilitation measures as appropriate. The Committee may invite the State Party to co-operate with the Centre and IUCN in order to submit to the twenty-fourth session of the Committee, in accordance with paragraphs 86 – 90 of the Operational Guidelines, a detailed state of conservation report and corrective measures for mitigating threats to the site, so as to enable the Committee to consider including this property in the List of World Heritage in Danger."

Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC))

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1984

International assistance: US\$ 6,000 as preparatory assistance, US\$ 72,000 as technical co-operation and US\$ 7,500 for staff training.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – Chapter IV.30

New information: The Chairperson approved in September 1999 a technical co-operation grant of US\$ 20,000 to : (a) launch special anti-poaching programmes including providing living and motivational allowances to personnel ; (b) expand Park units from two to six in order to enhance patrolling and surveillance efficiency ; (c) organise a programme of awareness building among all stakeholders and design and implement small-scale projects benefiting local populations ; and (d) purchase of uniforms, tents and communications equipment essential for basic patrolling and surveillance operations. The heightened levels of threats due to poaching and illegal encroachments continue to prevail and the conditions which led the Bureau to recommend that the Committee inscribe this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger remain unchanged.

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

“The Bureau reiterates its recommendation, made at its July 1999 session, that the Committee include this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. In addition the Bureau may request the Centre and IUCN to expand its co-operation with the conservation NGOs, ICCN and other partners, targeted to raise international awareness and support for four other World Heritage sites in Danger in the DRC, namely Garamba, Virunga and Kahuzi Biega National Parks and the Okapi Faunal Reserve, to address the needs of this site too, and explore ways and means to strengthen the conservation and management of Salonga National Park.”

Morne Trois Pitons National Park (Dominica)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1997

International Assistance: US\$ 13,000 as Preparatory assistance; US\$ 9,000 as Technical co-operation for the preparation of the management plan and US\$ 30,000 for a regional seminar on Caribbean World Heritage.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – page 96 of Annex IV.

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – Chapter IV. 31

New information: IUCN has noted recent correspondence of 16 September 1999 from the State Party covering various aspects associated with the proposed cable car; including: (a) information on the operation plan including details in relation to waste disposal; (b) the location of the cable car and visitor impact; (c) time frame for the project; (d) state of conservation and management planning. IUCN notes the key elements from the material submitted are: (a) the indication that the aerial tramway will terminate approximately 500 metres from the boundary of the National Park; (b) that adjoining state lands will be maintained as a buffer zone; and (c) that the State Party considers the visual impact on visitors is expected to be minimal.

IUCN commends the efforts of the State Party to construct the aerial tramway outside of the park, but notes the potential impacts to the park associated with increased visitation related to the development of the tramway. It notes specifically that the planned linking of the top/return station to the existing nature trail to the Valley of Desolation and Boiling Lake may lead to an increased level of visitation.

Action 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 actions undertaken to construct the aerial tramway outside the World Heritage area. The Bureau encourages the authorities to closely monitor visitor use impacts associated with the development of the tramway, and that a visitor management strategy for the site be developed. The Bureau invites the State Party to provide periodic reports on the state of conservation of this site.”

Galapagos Islands (Ecuador)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1978

International Assistance: Preparatory assistance (US\$ 15,000); Emergency assistance (US\$ 60,500); Technical assistance (US\$ 324,500); Training (US\$ 100,000).

Previous deliberations:

Twenty second session of the Committee – Chapter VII.23

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – Chapter IV. 32

New information: Recent information received by the Centre and IUCN from the State Party (15 September 1999) reinforces the fact that positive actions have been taken to enhance the integrity of this site. Following the approval of the Special Law for Galapagos in March 1999, the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador and the Permanent Commission for the Galapagos Islands have been preparing the general regulations by sectors (including: tourism, traditional fisheries, agriculture and environmental control). This has been done using a participatory approach to gain the support and consent from local communities. The document on the general regulations has been completed and submitted to the President of the Republic where it was recently discussed and approved. It is expected to be in force in the near future. Progress is reported on the application of migratory controls considered under the Special Law for Galapagos. As a result, resident permits have been reduced from over 6,000 in 1992 to 300 in 1999. In November 1998 a Census of Population for the Islands was taken and is providing valuable information on demographic, economic and management activities in the islands. In relation to tourism development, there are increasing national and international pressures to increase the number of visitors to the islands. However, application of the Special Law for Galapagos is helping to control these pressures. There have been no further increases in relation to the capacity of hotels, tourist boats and other services. The Ministry of Environment of Ecuador is implementing an Environmental Management Programme, guided by the International Development Bank (IDB), that is supporting infrastructure development for sanitation, water supply, water treatment and solid waste management in order to solve existing problems of pollution in the islands. The re-opening of the sea cucumber fisheries from April to July 1999 was carefully monitored by the personnel of the Galapagos National Park and the Charles Darwin Foundation. The two fundamental concerns are the status of the resource itself and the capability to effectively manage fisheries activities. A joint monitoring and patrolling programme funded by the Frankfurt Zoological Society was implemented using six patrol boats and aerial techniques. Monitoring indicated that the level of catches was extremely low in comparison with figures from 1994, thus suggesting that this activity is unsustainable and represents a threat to the marine ecosystem of the islands.

At its twenty-third session, the Bureau complimented the State Party for its efforts to improve the conservation of the Galapagos Islands World Heritage site, particularly during difficult economic times. IUCN notes the support from various donors and specifically the confirmed approval of US\$3,999,850 for the UNESCO Project on the Control and Eradication of Invasive Species. It aims to ensure that the Galapagos retains their unique biodiversity for the benefit of future generations. Its objectives include testing of the application of state-of-the-art scientific principles and techniques, as well as of participatory approaches in the development of a quarantine regime, capacity and other essential infrastructure for the control of the introduction and spread of invasive species in the Galapagos.

IUCN welcomes the report from the State Party on the state of conservation of the Galapagos Islands and fully acknowledges positive steps taken by the State Party to conserve this site. A copy of the “Plan de Manejo de conservación y uso sustentable para la reserva marina de Galapagos” has been sent to IUCN for evaluation.

Action 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 actions taken to conserve the site. The Bureau requests IUCN to review the Management Plan for the marine reserve to determine whether the plan provides a satisfactory basis for the re-nomination of the marine reserve as an extension to the existing World Heritage site.”

Kaziranga National Park (India)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1985

International assistance: US\$ 50,000 under Technical Co-operation

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – Chapter IV.33

New Information: The State Party has not yet responded to the twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau’s invitation to provide a detailed report on wildlife censuses that may have been undertaken after the 1998 floods and on long-term measures which are currently being implemented to mitigate future flood damage to Kaziranga and on whether or not the State Party intends to propose the inclusion of the recent extension (44 sq. km) of the Park into the World Heritage site. A staff of the Centre met with a senior planner from the State Government of Assam during a mission in Japan and drew his attention to the need for responding to the invitation of the Bureau so that the information that may be provided by the State Party could be submitted to the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau in November 1999.

Action required: The Bureau, based on new information that may be available at the time of its twenty-third extraordinary session, may take decisions and make recommendations as appropriate.

Komodo National Park (Indonesia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1991

International assistance: US\$ 2,500 as Preparatory Assistance; US\$ 119,500 under Technical Co-operation and US\$ 10,000 for staff training.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – Chapter IV.34

New information: The Permanent Delegate of Indonesia, via his letter of 4 October 1999, has responded to the Bureau’s observations and recommendations and has informed the Centre that his Government, i.e. the Directorate General for Natural Protection and Conservation, is also very much concerned about indications of an increase in illegal dynamite and cyanide fishing in the coastal waters of Komodo National Park. He has pointed out that a Government team is due to visit the site soon and assess the damage.

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

“The Bureau requests the State Party to submit to the Centre, before 15 April 2000, a report on the findings of the Government mission to the Komodo National Park and an assessment of the threats posed by increase in illegal fishing in coastal waters and possible mitigation measures that need to be undertaken. The Bureau requests the Centre and IUCN review that report and submit their findings and recommendations, including the need for any additional Centre/IUCN mission that may still prevail, for examination by the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau in mid-2000.”

Whale Sanctuary of El Vizcaino (Mexico)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1993

International Assistance: None.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – page 97 of Annex IV.

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – Chapter IV. 35

New information: Following the request of the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau and at the invitation of the Mexican authorities, a mission was carried out to the Whale Sanctuary of El Vizcaino from 23 to 28 August 1999. The full report and the recommendations of the mission are contained in Information Document WHC-99/CONF.208/INF.6.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to transmit the above report to the Committee for examination:

“The Bureau takes note of the report of the mission and the recommendations as indicated in WHC-99/CONF.208/INF.6. The Bureau may wish to transmit these recommendations to the World Heritage Committee for consideration. The Bureau may wish to note that if any significant change to the present situation should occur, documented by appropriate evidence, the conclusion concerning the site’s status under the World Heritage Convention should be promptly re-evaluated in co-operation and co-ordination with the State Party, and appropriate consideration should be given to all relevant Parties and the World Heritage Committee.”

Sagarmatha National Park (Nepal)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979

International assistance: US\$ 131,326 under Technical Assistance and US\$ 22,802 for Training.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – pages 97 and 98 of Annex IV.

New Information: In accordance with the recommendation made by the twenty-second extraordinary session of the Bureau in November 1998, the Centre and IUCN facilitated the conduct of a meeting of the International Centre for Protected Landscapes (ICPL), the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom and relevant authorities from His Majesty’s Government of Nepal (HMGN) Ministries of Soils and Forests, and of Tourism and Civil Aviation and the Chief Warden of Sagarmatha National Parks, in London, UK, in March 1999. This has been followed by a continuing dialogue between ICPL, the DFID Office in

Kathmandu, Nepal and the concerned Nepalese authorities. The Chief Warden underwent a two-week training course in ICPL during August 1999 where he gathered valuable information, amongst others, on tourism development planning. The participation of Nepalese authorities in the London meeting and the training of the Chief Warden of the Park were financed by the World Heritage Fund under two separate projects approved by the Chairperson of the Committee.

Continuing negotiations between the parties concerned has increased the possibility that the DFID Office in Nepal will undertake an ICPL/HMGN project entitled, "Ecotourism, Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) National Park and the Solu-Khumbu District of Nepal". Project negotiations between HMGN/ICPL and DFID, Kathmandu, are currently underway. The project is expected to commence in November 1999. The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) of Nepal has organised consultation among various stakeholders in and around the Park, under a separate GEF Funded project, to facilitate the revision of the management plan for Sagarmatha in conjunction with its 25th anniversary celebrations in 2001. These consultations are contributing to improving the chances for the ICPL/HMGN project under the DFID Nepal programme. The aim of the ICPL/HMGN project is to strengthen rural livelihoods through the promotion of tourism and conservation in the Sagarmatha National Park and the nearby Solu-Khumbu District. This is an interim project with a purpose to design and develop a larger project which would provide management assistance to the DNPWC of Nepal and the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation to improve management of the site. The proposed initiative seeks to produce:

1. A revised national park management plan;
2. An integrated ecotourism strategy for the Sagarmatha National Park, its buffer zone and the wider Solu-Khumbu District that supports the national park plan;
3. A training and resources programme for the Sagarmatha National Park administration;
4. A community-based training and awareness programme; and
5. Improved tourism infrastructure for the region.

In addition to strengthening rural livelihoods throughout the Solu-Khumbu District, the programme will help to improve the planning and management of conservation and tourism at both the local and national levels. An up-date on the outcome of the negotiations between ICPL/HMGN and the DFID Nepal Office will be provided at the time of the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau

Action required: The Bureau, in the light of up-to-date information on the ICPL/HMGN and DFID negotiations to be provided at the time of its twenty-third extraordinary session may take decisions and make recommendations as appropriate.

Te Wahipounamu – South West New Zealand

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1990

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Sixteenth session of the Committee – page 30

Seventeenth session of the Bureau – page 15

Eighteenth session of the Bureau – page 16

Eighteenth session of the Committee – page 24

New information: IUCN is waiting for a report from the State Party responding to concerns expressed by the Forest and Bird Society of New Zealand with regard to the Department of

Conservation's management of the introduced thar, a mountain goat. It has been claimed that a high level of thar are maintained for recreational hunting and as a result concerns have been expressed about the effects this is having on the indigenous flora and on the integrity of this alpine ecosystem. This claim has been contested by the Department of Conservation which has promised a detailed report. IUCN recommends that follow up action on this await the report from the Department of Conservation.

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

"The Bureau requests the New Zealand Department of Conservation to provide a detailed report on the management of the introduced thar, a mountain goat, at Te Wahipounamu,

Arabian Oryx Sanctuary (Oman)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994

International assistance: US\$ 27,000 under Preparatory Assistance and US\$ 40,000 for Training.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – page 98 of Annex IV ;

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – Chapter IV.36

New information: A letter of 11 September 1999 from the Director General of Nature Conservation Department in the Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Environment, in response to the request of the twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau, has acknowledged that the size of the wild Arabian oryx population had dropped from 450 to about 100. Of the 100 remaining, only 13 are females, hence the risks of the local extinction of the species are significant. Past re-introduction projects had succeeded, but with the increase in oryx numbers the poachers returned to once again reduce the population size sharply. An additional 45 oryx, rescued from the wild are in captivity and are awaiting release once security in the wild is guaranteed. Recommendations from a recent International Arabian Oryx Conference (March, 1999) held in Abu Dhabi, addressed the issue of illegal trade of oryx and suggested the creation of a co-ordinating body with a permanent secretariat in one of the range states to enhance co-operation and exchange of experience across the Arabian Peninsula. The tightening of regulations and improved regional co-operation to prevent illegal transboundary movement of and trade in Arabian Oryx were also recommended. The oryx breeds well in captivity and with careful management a healthy source of animals can be guaranteed for further re-introduction programmes. Oman intends to host a follow up conference next year and improve local community participation and environmental tourism to improve local support for site protection. The Oryx Project Management team has been strengthened by the appointment of new staff.

The Director-General's letter informed the Centre of the explorations undertaken by an oil company already holding a concession within a part of the Sanctuary. The letter furthermore states that a full EIA was undertaken by internationally well-known consultants and that the scope, consultations and assessment were fully in accordance with the planning policies recommended in the management planning study (Final Report) which has been incorporated within the draft management plan. However, none of the above mentioned documents, i.e. EIA, management planning study or draft management plan have been submitted to the Centre. IUCN has raised serious concerns regarding the management of this site, given the fact that the

boundary marking and management planning project financed in part by the World Heritage Fund is long overdue for completion. Other issues of concern include impacts of off-road vehicle use and overgrazing by domestic wildlife. A «Regional Capacity Building Training Workshop for the Promotion of Awareness in Natural Heritage Conservation in the Arab Region», for which the Committee approved a sum of US\$ 40,000 at its last session in Kyoto, Japan, is due to be held in Oman in February 2000. Participants of this Regional Capacity Building activity are expected to visit the site and assess the status of conservation of the site, including progress made in the implementation of the boundary marking and management planning project.

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

“The Bureau expresses its serious concerns regarding the continuing delays in the implementation of the boundary marking and management planning project, impacts of oil exploration and of off-road vehicles use and overgrazing by domestic stock. The Bureau requests the Centre and IUCN to raise these issues with the relevant State Party officials during their participation at the Regional Capacity Building workshop in February 2000. The Bureau suggests that the Centre and IUCN co-operate with the State Party to provide a report to the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau in mid-2000. The report should address all unresolved issues and problems threatening the integrity of this site and advise the Bureau on whether or not this site should be considered for inclusion in the List of World Heritage in Danger.”

Huascarán National Park (Peru)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1985

International Assistance: US\$ 70,000 under Technical Co-operation and US\$ 5,300 for staff training.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – pages 98 and 99 of Annex IV.

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – Chapter IV.37

New information: At its twenty-third session, the Bureau encouraged the State Party to give high priority to the preparation and implementation of a restoration programme and to submit a request for technical assistance. The Bureau further encouraged the State Party to give priority attention to implement key actions as proposed by IUCN and to provide regular progress reports on its implementation, including progress achieved in the implementation of key priorities identified by the working group established on the use of the Pachacoto-Yanashallay road. The Bureau requested the State Party to submit the first of these reports by 15 September 1999 and IUCN and the Centre to prepare a mission to be carried out in 2000. IUCN commends the State Party for seeking solutions to minimise the impacts on the Park from the temporary use of the central road, but considers that further review of this issue should await the provision of information from the State Party. No further information was provided by the State Party at the time of the preparation of this document.

Action required: The Bureau, in the light of up-to-date information on the situation to be provided at the time of its twenty-third extraordinary session, may take decisions and make recommendations as appropriate. It may wish to encourage the State Party to

invite a mission to the site in 2000 to prepare a report for the twenty-fourth session of the World Heritage Bureau.

Lake Baikal (Russian Federation)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1996

International Assistance: US\$ 15,000 as Preparatory Assistance and US\$ 48,259 for an *in-situ* training workshop.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – Chapter VII.24;
Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – Chapter IV.38.

New information: In April 1999, the State Duma of the Russian Federation adopted the law on the Lake Baikal. However, this is a framework law and it requires several other legal acts to be adopted. The efforts of the Russian authorities in developing this law are to be commended but it is important that the law be implemented as quickly as possible and also that adequate resources are made available to ensure its effective implementation. IUCN notes the on-going concerns associated with pollution of Lake Baikal from pulp mills operating in close proximity to the site. Recent reports from Greenpeace are also noted, in relation to the lawsuit by the State Bodies for Environmental Protection in relation to the “suspension of ecologically harmful activities of the Baikalsky Pulp and Paper Plant (BP&PP)”. The Irkutsk Court noted the impact of the BP&PP but ruled that the “lawsuit is void”. One of the reasons for the verdict was that without new jobs created in the region the pulp production in Baikalsk could not be shut down because it would result in social crisis in the region. It is understood that a new draft governmental decree on suspension of pulp production has not been supported by the regional authorities and that a “concept of social and economic development of the City of Baikalsk and conversion of the BP&PP” is now being elaborated. IUCN notes there has been a large number of World Heritage monitoring and training missions to Lake Baikal (1993, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999) and before recommending another mission there is a need to carefully assess findings and recommendations from these past missions.

The economic difficulties in this region are noted and it is considered that there is a need to identify and examine innovative options and solutions to this issue, specifically in relation to the legal, financial and other requirements associated with re-profiling of the Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill. Discussion of such options and solutions should address environmental, social and economic concerns and should involve donors and should ideally be addressed under the umbrella of the Baikal Commission. IUCN also notes that the Workshop on Lake Baikal, supported by the World Heritage Committee, was successfully implemented and that this has enhanced capacity building for managers at the Baikal World Heritage site.

No further information was received by the State Party at the time of the preparation of this document.

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

“The Bureau again commends the State Party for the adoption of the Baikal Law but urges that the State Party ensures its effective implementation as well as addressing

pollution issues associated with the Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill. The Bureau requests the State Party to present a state of conservation report by 15 April 2000.”

Doñana National Park (Spain)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – Chapter VII.25;
Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – Chapter IV.39.

New information: IUCN notes that at its last session, the World Heritage Bureau:

- (i) expressed serious concerns regarding the possible reopening of the Aznalcollar mine, and encouraged the State Party to give priority attention to implement key actions proposed by IUCN, i.e., (a) the tailings dam be fully impermeable; (b) a hydrological study should be undertaken for monitoring potential penetration of waste water into the aquifers of the area; (c) the need for consultation with all stakeholders; and (d) the need for co-ordinated and effective buffer zone management;
- (ii) encouraged the State Party to provide regular reports on implementation, including progress achieved in the implementation of these priorities; and
- (iii) requested the State Party, the Centre and IUCN to collaborate in the organisation of the conference on the future of Doñana.

An informative note was transmitted (dated June 1999) during the last session of the Bureau from the State Party to the Centre and IUCN on the situation and measures taken following the breaching of the Aznalcollar mine reservoir. It included a discussion of the recent hydrology of the area, steps taken as a result of the mine accident, the initiation of the Green Corridor project and the Doñana 2005 project and a reference to the possible reopening of the mine.

During 1998 and 1999 a number of actions were undertaken. According to representatives of the Aznalcollar mine at the Doñana 2005 Conference, permission to resume operations was given by the concerned Spanish authorities in March 1999. The first operation at the mine commenced in June 1999 and consisted of transferring the remaining toxic wastes from the holding pond, which had breached in April 1998 (causing the spill into the Guadiamar River), to an old, unused mining pit. The clean up of the affected areas of the Guadiamar basin has continued. The Government of Andalucía initiated the Green Corridor project which is designed to acquire the affected farming areas adjacent to the Guadiamar River and to reforest and rehabilitate the area.

An *International Expert Meeting on the Regeneration of the Doñana watershed* (Doñana 2005 Conference) took place from 4 to 8 October 1999 with the participation of the World Heritage Centre, IUCN, the Secretary-General of the Ramsar Convention, WWF and other organizations. The meeting produced a number of recommendations concerning steps that could be taken for improving the situation of the decrease in the water table, diversion of surface water flows from entering Doñana and ensuring that water entering the area is free of pollutants. In addition, discussions took place concerning the necessity for strong co-operation between various activities being initiated in the region such as the Doñana 2005 project and the Green Corridor project. Some suggestions included the construction of large artificial lagoons for the control of water flows and reducing pollution and sediment loads. These would be placed in areas outside the World Heritage site in land to be purchased or acquired from agricultural companies or farmers.

This recommendation could be of concern because the lagoon construction and operation afterwards could have serious impacts on the hydrology of the region.

While IUCN welcomes the continued clean up effort of the Guadiamar basin and affected areas, the Expert Meeting on the Regeneration of Doñana and the initiation of the Green Corridor project, there are still some concerns.

- It is not clear to what extent an impact study was undertaken to ensure that the toxic wastes which will now be dumped into the old mine pit will remain there and not percolate into the surrounding aquifer.
- It is not clear how the various authorities at the state and regional level intend to co-ordinate the various activities undertaken to ensure that the integrity of Doñana is maintained.
- It is not clear how resolution of conflicts between users of the watershed will be undertaken on a regular basis, nor how regular monitoring of progress of the implementation of various activities will be carried out.
- In addition it is not clear how a number of the concerns raised by the 1998 and 1999 meetings of the Committee and the Bureau (referred to above) have been or are being addressed.

In order to provide the basis for a thorough discussion of the present status of the Doñana National Park, IUCN recommends that the State Party provide information on the following:

- hydrological studies that indicate there will be no infiltration of toxic waste into the aquifer feeding the World Heritage site;
- plans for stakeholder consultations to identify conflicts and options to resolve them;
- plans for regular independent monitoring of the hydrological parameters of the site;
- arrangements for co-ordination and collaboration between the various activities in the area which affect the hydrology of the region;
- environmental impact studies on various proposals to restore the hydrology of the region, in particular the construction of artificial lagoons in some of the areas presently used for agriculture; and
- plans for keeping under review the progress in the implementation of the Green Corridor and Doñana 2005 projects, as well as other related activities.

Following the Doñana 2005 Conference, the Centre contacted the authorities to obtain information concerning the exact dates of authorization and production of the Azlacollar mine and clarification with regard to the points raised by the World Heritage Bureau. No response has been received at the time of the preparation of this document.

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

“The Committee commends the Spanish authorities for the continued clean up effort of the Guadiamar basin and affected areas. However, the Committee expresses its concerns for the re-opening of the mine without taking into account the points raised by the twenty-second session of the Committee and the twenty-third session of the Bureau. The Committee suggests that a review meeting be held during the year 2000 to review progress of the implementation of the Doñana 2005 project, taking into account the points raised by IUCN and which should involve all concerned parties and institutions including the international collaborators involved in the meeting on Doñana 2005 held in October

1999. The State Party should also be encouraged to take into account the WCPA Position Statement on mining activities and protected areas to be reviewed by the twenty-third session of the Committee.”

Thung Yai-Huay Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries (Thailand)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1991

International assistance: US\$ 1,666 as Preparatory Assistance; and US\$ 20,000 under Technical Co-operation.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – Chapter VII. 27

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – Chapter IV. 40

New information: At its twenty-third ordinary session in July 1999, the Delegate of Thailand indicated that he would report on the project to review the fire-management policy of the site at the time of the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau in November 1999. IUCN has also informed the Centre that it will report on its implementation of an initiative on forestfire management at the time of the extraordinary session of the Bureau with a view to highlighting potential applications of the initiative to this World Heritage property.

Action by the Bureau: The Bureau, based on new information due to be reported at the time of its twenty-third extraordinary session may take decisions and make recommendations as appropriate.

Bwindi Impenetrable Forest (Uganda)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994

International assistance: US\$ 2,600 as Preparatory Assistance.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau –Chapter IV. 41

New information: At its twenty-third session, the Bureau recommended that the State Party submit to the Centre, before 15 September 1999, a report on measures taken to enhance security conditions in this site and to ensure the recovery of visitor numbers to pre-March 1999 levels. So far, although no formal written response from the State Party has been received, an email report submitted by the Chief Executive Officer of the Uganda Wildlife Authority, who is also an IUCN Member, which notes the following:

A number of measures have been taken by the site-management to improve security, including: (a) the deployment of additional security personnel in and around the site; (b) joint guarding of tourist facilities by the rangers and the defence force (UPDF); (c) establishment of a mobile strike force that cordons off and searches any place suspected to be insecure ; (d) regular contact with security officers on the Uganda/DRC border to share security information and co-ordinate patrol operations; (e) opening an additional trail to improve accessibility of the joint forces near the border with the DRC; (f) improving radio communication links between security units and Bwindi site management; (g) regular briefing between the Uganda Park Authority Headquarters and the site; (h) training of relevant rangers for one month in anti-

terrorism in Egypt; (i) increased publicity, nationally and internationally, of security conditions in the site by the Government; and (j) enlisting of local community support who share tourism benefits. The report also mentions that some limited donations were received to purchase walkie-talkies, sleeping bags and a 4 wheel-drive vehicle. Already, as a result of the measures taken, the number of visitors has increased from 83 in April to 256 in August 1999.

There is an urgent need to train park staff to appropriately handle any security threats that may arise, given that the site borders an area of instability. Training is needed in terms of anti-terrorism preparedness, monitoring intelligence information and community relations. Support is required to implement this training as well as to assist with the purchase of four wheel drive vehicles.

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

“The Bureau requests IUCN and the Centre to verify, with the Ugandan authorities, their needs for support for purchase of vehicles and staff training and if confirmed as reported above, facilitate efforts of the Ugandan authorities to obtain financial support from suitable sources including the World Heritage Fund. The Bureau requests that the Centre and IUCN report on measures taken to support site management at the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau in mid-2000.”

Rwenzori Mountains (Uganda)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994

International assistance: US\$ 32,249 as Technical Co-operation.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – Chapter IV. 42

New information: The same report that provided information on Bwindi Impenetrable Forest mentioned above points out that the rebels have occupied the site since 1997 and no meaningful conservation activities are being implemented in the site. Rebels continue to use the site as a hiding place from where they occasionally launch attacks on communities and institutions in the districts of Kaesese, Kabarole and Bundibugyo. Some local people living adjacent to the Park have been displaced. The World Wide Fund (WWF/USAID) Project to implement the Medium Term Operational Plan has been suspended. The following points are also noted:

- due to lack of resources, ranger numbers have been trimmed to such a level that they are thin on the ground and ill-equipped. As a result conservation activities have almost come to a halt. A few outposts are functional manned by a few people mainly to guard property. In the absence of patrols, the levels of illegal activities such as pitting and encroachment cannot be properly ascertained.
- Activities related to communities are difficult to implement because people are unsettled as they are constantly under threat resulting from the insurgency of the rebels.
- Part of the Park Headquarters has temporarily moved to the Kasese town for security reasons. A contingent of 30 rangers is at Ibanda, the Park Headquarters, where they train and maintain park security with other security or personnel.

Training of rangers and wardens in combat tactics is essential in order to survive in the hostile environment. This is being arranged in collaboration with other security operations by the defence forces. The main constraint to this training is supply of equipment which cannot

adequately be covered by the Uganda Wildlife Authority budget. Although there is a heavy deployment of Ugandan Security Forces and training of large numbers of community members to fight the insurgency, it is not clear when the conflict will end. The long term negative impact of the conflict on the fauna and flora cannot be predicted since most of the Park is not being monitored by Park staff.

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

“The Committee expresses its serious concerns regarding the security situation at this site and recalls the Bureau’s recommendation (July 1999), that the Committee include this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee requests the Centre and IUCN to communicate with conservation NGOs and other international organizations who have field presence in the region to discuss ways and means to publicize the need for all parties involved in the conflict in the region to respect the site’s World Heritage status and to develop projects to support site management.”

Gough Island (United Kingdom)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List in 1995

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Nineteenth session of the Committee – Chapter VIII. 4

New information: IUCN notes that an article in the New Scientist of 31 July 1999 stated that the United Kingdom Government was neglecting the Gough Island World Heritage site, mainly through the lack of policing of industrial fishing vessels illegally fishing for tuna and swordfish. It notes: “The waters around the island are frequently invaded by industrial fishing vessels” and that “ the vessels illegally hunt tuna and sword fish using drift nets and long-lines.” Concerns are also noted about the absence of policing and monitoring and in relation to birds being accidentally killed by fishing lines and nets while foraging. The New Scientist notes that the British Government bought a fisheries patrol vessel after the island was designated a World Heritage site but that it does not have the range to patrol Gough Island from its base on Tristan de Cunha.

IUCN has received several reports, including from its Antarctic Advisory Committee (AAC), noting that the island is well managed. There appears to be ongoing concern over long-line fishing in the waters around Gough Island, but that it is occurring outside the boundaries of the World Heritage site. The reports suggest that, even if the UK Government could enforce strict controls on all fishing within the 200 nautical mile EEZ around the islands, it would not totally prevent the problem, as the affected birds forage much further than even the 200 nautical miles, even while breeding. On the terrestrial front, Gough Island is managed according to the management plan and there are relatively few problems. In August 1999 a comprehensive report from the environmental observer to Gough Island was submitted to IUCN. The report details: preventative measures to be taken against the introduction of alien species; outlines actions to be taken to maintain the area; and lists the status and recommendations relating to the operations in the logistic zone (i.e., waste control, response to fuel spillage, management regulations on entry to the reserve and fishing, and conservation awareness).

One issue that emerged last year was the insurgence of the *weed sagina cf. procumbens* which was believed to have been transported from Marion Island where there was a problem with this plant. A specialist will be visiting the site this year to assess the extent of the invasion and attempt to eradicate it. Also a two-year inventory of invertebrate communities, begun in September 1999, will give better insight into this fauna, and the impact mice have had on the island. IUCN notes that the boundaries of the Gough Island Wildlife Reserve area lie three nautical miles out to sea, since this was the extent of territorial waters when the Tristan Conservation Ordinance of 1976 and the Wildlife Reserve were promulgated. Subsequently, territorial waters in the Gough-Tristan group were extended to 12nm.

Action 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 encourages the St. Helena Government (of which Tristan and Gough are dependencies) to expand the boundaries of the Gough Island Wildlife Reserve to 12nm. Following that, the Bureau recommends that the UK Government should consider extension of the World Heritage boundary and to report on what it can do to protect the wider marine environment.”

St. Kilda (United Kingdom)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1986

International Assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – Chapter VII. 27

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – Chapter IV. 43

New information: The twenty-second Bureau session noted conflicting information in relation to the state of conservation of St. Kilda. Accordingly it suggested that the State Party, in co-operation with the Centre and IUCN, initiate a round table process involving interested parties. This round table meeting was held in Edinburgh on 24 September 1999 with the participation of a representative from IUCN/WCPA and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

The IUCN focus at the roundtable was whether risks to the existing World Heritage property were such that it should be included on the List of the World Heritage in Danger. The boundary of the property is at the high tide mark and, therefore, any matters of marine pollution were considered in the context of impact on the nesting sea birds of St. Kilda while at sea, feeding or roosting, or the food upon which they depended.

The strategy for exploration and possible exploitation of the Atlantic Frontier was explained in detail at the roundtable meeting, together with the procedures for the input of scientific advice by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) on environmental impacts. Information was also provided about the data on which this scientific advice was based.

The evidence provided at the round table meeting covered:

- Existing proposals to drill exploration wells;
- General environmental measures within licensing;
- Preparedness and response to oil spills;
- Environmental impact assessments for each exploration well and for development;
- Assessment of risk of oil spills;

- Details about the likely scale of tanker traffic;
- Data on the probability of spills during the transfer of oil;
- An analysis of the procedures followed in Oil Spill Risk Assessment;
- A breakdown of the factors influencing potential oil spill impact — taking into account the nature of the oil, wind and current direction, rate of dispersion and weathering of spilled oil, the distribution and populations of birds (species by species), shore life and sub-tidal life;
- For birds at sea, the analysis of the database of birds at sea (at present 2 million records) is used to calculate an ‘offshore vulnerability index’ for each species and, derived from that an ‘area vulnerability index’. Both of these are available for each month of the year. They are constantly being reviewed and updated in the light of new evidence. (They are, of course, not only concerned with St. Kilda); and
- An analysis of the effects of exploration and drilling techniques.

The present suggested limit of 25 miles from St. Kilda for potential oil development is not cast in stone. It is the best estimate based on existing scientific knowledge. It is not possible to make exact predictions about the future of exploration and development. This will depend upon future oil prices and the interest of companies in exploration. There has been little interest in the last year, but it is now increasing. The latest blocks opened for licensing are in an arc from the west to east about 200 miles north of St. Kilda. If there should be extensive strikes to the north of St. Kilda, it would probably become economic to move away from Shuttle Tankers to pipe line. Any strikes to the south are more likely to be of gas than of oil.

The Round Table also discussed the possibility of damage to the intertidal and underwater communities round the coast of St. Kilda, even though these are not included in the present property. The Round Table considered the intertidal communities are not considered to be at major risk from any pollutants that might reach them for a number of reasons:

- the dispersed nature of any pollutants by the time they reached the coast;
- the fact that species which are adapted to the extreme conditions of the inter-tidal zone in St. Kilda also tend to seal themselves effectively against foreign bodies;
- the very rapid turn over of individuals and the large reservoir of free-swimming larval and juvenile stages.

In view of the information arising from the Round Table Process, IUCN does not recommend that this site be placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger at this time.

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

“The Committee notes the results of the St. Kilda Round Table of September 1999. The Committee recommends (1) that the boundaries of the World Heritage area should be expanded to include the surrounding marine area and consideration be given to a buffer zone as was recommended in the IUCN’s original evaluation in 1986; (2) that a revised management plan should be prepared. The Committee also recommends that until the management plan and the risk assessment of any proposed development that might affect the integrity of the site had been prepared, consideration be given to placing a moratorium on oil licensing nearer to St Kilda than that already licensed. The Committee decides not to include the site in the List of World Heritage in Danger.”

Ngorongoro Conservation Area and the Serengeti National Park (United Republic of Tanzania)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979 and 1981, respectively.

International assistance: US\$ 79,500 Technical Co-operation (Ngorongoro); US\$ 20,000 Training and US\$ 30,000 Technical Co-operation (Serengeti); US\$ 20,000 Emergency Assistance (Ngorongoro).

Previous deliberations: Ngorongoro Conservation Area was included in the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1984 due to poaching and threats posed by illegal agricultural encroachments. Continuous monitoring and technical assistance projects contributed towards improving the state of conservation leading to the removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1989.

New information: IUCN's East African Regional Office has been approached by a consultancy firm working with the Tanzanian Ministry of Works to provide input to a feasibility study on a gravel access road to Loliondo (the administrative centre of the Ngorongoro District). Four routes are being considered for upgrading. Two of the routes proposed would pass through the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. The other route would cut across the eastern end of Olduvai Gorge. However, there are two other possible alignments that start from Monduli and Mto-wa-Mbu. The two roads would come together near Engaruka, from where the road would pass between Lake Natron and Oldonyo Lengai volcano before ascending the Rift Valley escarpment towards Loliondo. IUCN has welcomed the consultative approach taken by the Government of Tanzania in the planning phase of this road. IUCN considers that options should be carefully considered and should take fully into account potential impacts on the values of these two sites.

Action 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 fully extend its co-operation to involve UNESCO and IUCN in the consultation process and in considering the various options available, and searching for new alternatives if necessary, with a view to minimising impacts of the road construction project on the two World Heritage sites. The Bureau requests the Centre and IUCN submit a status report on the proposed road construction project, impacts of the various options available on the two sites and recommendations which the Bureau could submit to the consideration of the State Party at the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau in mid-2000.”

Canaima National Park (Venezuela)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994

International Assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – Chapter VII. 26

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – Chapter IV. 44

New information: The full report of the UNESCO/IUCN mission to the site was presented to the last session of the Bureau which noted and endorsed the following recommendations made by the mission team:

1. to encourage the State Party to submit a request for technical assistance to organise and implement a national workshop on Canaima National Park;
2. to request the Government to provide increased support to the National Park Institute (INPARQUES) and the Ministry for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (MARNR) and to explore ways to enhance the institutional capacity of these institutions;
3. that MARNR and INPARQUES should give maximum priority to establishing a buffer zone around Canaima National Park, including Sierra de Lema;
4. to recommend that an adequate follow-up to the implementation of the missions Short Term Action Plan, including the possible revision of the boundaries of the site, be implemented;
5. to invite the State Party to submit annual progress reports on the state of conservation of this site; and
6. to recommend that the State Party creates mechanisms to promote dialogue between all relevant stakeholders interested in the conservation and management of this area.

IUCN has recently received information on new conflicts between the Pemons communities and the National Guard in the Gran Sabana area related to the construction of the power transmission line that will cross the indigenous peoples' territories. The Pemons are protesting against an article released in the national press media on a supposed accord between the Venezuelan corporation implementing the power line transmission project (CVG) and the Pemons on an agreement to continue implementing this project. The Pemons have thrown down a number of poles erected on their lands and are requesting further discussion on this with the President of Venezuela. Tension is rising between the National Guard and the Pemons on this issue. IUCN is concerned about the impact that this conflict could generate to the integrity of this site. At the time of the preparation of this document, a technical co-operation request had been received from the Venezuelan authorities.

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

“The Bureau recalls the recommendation from the mission report (presented to its twenty-third session) on the need to create mechanisms to promote dialogue between all relevant stakeholders, including the Pemon communities, and on the conservation and management of this area. The Bureau recommends that an Action Plan be developed by the State Party as soon as possible to follow up on the recommendations of the mission.”

Ha Long Bay (Vietnam)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994

International assistance: US\$ 28,857 under Technical Co-operation and US\$ 24,250 under Training.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – Chapter VII. 27

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – Chapter IV. 45

New information: Since the conclusion of the twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau in July 1999, the Vietnam authorities, via their letter of 18 August 1999, have transmitted the following to the Centre:

- Two volumes of the EIA of the Bai Chay Bridge Construction Project which has been approved by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (MOSTE) of Vietnam ;
- A draft report on the study on «The Environmental Management for Ha Long Bay Project » jointly prepared by the Japanese International Co-operation Agency (JICA), MOSTE and the Quang Ninh Province Government.

These voluminous reports have been transmitted to IUCN for review. In addition, the Government of Vietnam has re-nominated the Ha Long Bay under natural heritage criterion (i). The re-nomination will be evaluated by IUCN in the year 2000 and a report submitted to the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau in mid-2000.

The World Bank Office in Vietnam has responded to the observations and recommendations of the twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau, via a letter dated 19 August 1999, and has indicated that it intends to implement an augmented lending programme for Hai Phong – Ha Long improvement over the next few years in accordance with the Bank’s Country Assistance Strategy.

The letter from the Bank, as well as the IUCN report on the site highlights the Bank/IUCN co-operation to prepare a proposal for a GEF Block B grant to develop a marine management programme for the North Tonkin Archipelago, which includes Ha Long Bay. IUCN Vietnam has recruited a marine officer from one of the local institutions to assist with the development of this proposal. The project will implement an integrated management programme for the Archipelago which will lay the foundation for a model Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) programme for the region. The project, according to the letter from the Bank Office in Vietnam will provide for pilot scale development of methods of reducing pollutants carried into the Archipelago from agriculture, forestry, industrial and urban development activities in the Hai Phong and the Quang Ninh Provinces. IUCN has informed the Centre that Environment Australia and the Embassy of the Government of the Netherlands in Hanoi have also been approached in relation to support for this project. The latter has also been approached to support other projects, such as the implementation of a project to strengthen the capacity of the Ha Long Bay Management Department. They have expressed an interest in principle to offer support for both projects should the request come directly from the Vietnam Government. The World Bank Office in Vietnam has committed itself to « support and co-ordinate development and conservation activities made by UNESCO as well as by other donors in the World Heritage area » (quoted from the letter dated 19 August 1999 from the World Bank Office in Hanoi, Vietnam, to the Centre). The opening of a new UNESCO Office in Hanoi, Vietnam, in September 1999, will further facilitate co-ordination of activities in the Ha Long Bay World Heritage area and regular information gathering with a view to reporting to the Committee and Bureau sessions.

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

“The Bureau expresses its satisfaction with the commitment of the World Bank Office in Hanoi, Vietnam, to co-ordinate conservation and development activities in the Ha Long Bay World Heritage area. The Bureau invites the State Party to use the rising donor interest to support the conservation of the Ha Long Bay World Heritage area and implement measures, in particular, to upgrade the profile, authority and the capacity of

the Ha Long Bay Management Department which has the principal responsibility to manage the World Heritage area as a coastal and marine protected area located in an area of intensive economic development. The Bureau invites the State Party to submit annual reports to the extraordinary sessions of the Bureau, highlighting in particular, measures that are being taken to build capacity for the management of the site and monitor the environment of Ha Long Bay in accordance with internationally acceptable standards and norms applicable to a coastal and marine protected area.”

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1989

International assistance: US\$ 7,000 as Preparatory Assistance and US\$ 20,000 as Technical Co-operation.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – Chapter VII.27

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – Chapter IV. 46

New information: IUCN’s Regional Office for Southern Africa was intending to organise a bilateral meeting for 28 July 1999 but it was not held because of lack of funding. IUCN recommends that a formal request be submitted by the State Parties to fund this meeting in 2000.

The Zimbabwean Department of Physical Planning informed IUCN’s Regional Office for Southern Africa, i.e. IUCN/ROSA on the status of the Victoria Falls Environmental Capacity Enhancement and Master Plan. CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) has pledged to provide financial and technical support for the implementation of this Master Plan Project. A Memorandum of Understanding between CIDA and the Government of Zimbabwe is to be signed in mid-October. The Canadian Executing Agency has been contracted and the inception phase of the project has begun. IUCN/ROSA and other agencies have been invited to a preliminary meeting, scheduled for October, to discuss project implementation arrangements and progress to date. IUCN/ROSA has been co-opted on to the Project Steering Committee for the Master Plan Project, specifically to represent interests of the Zambia/Zimbabwe Joint Commission, formed at the time of the Victoria Falls Strategic Environmental Study.

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

“The Bureau invites the States Parties to expedite the organisation of the bilateral meeting as soon as possible in 2000 in order to report the outcome of the meeting to the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau in mid-2000. The Bureau urges the two States Parties to submit a joint request for financial support for the organisation of the meeting to the consideration of the Chairperson for approval.”

MIXED (CULTURAL AND NATURAL) HERITAGE

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

Kakadu National Park (Australia)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1981, 1987 and 1992

International assistance: None

Summary of previous deliberations:

Third extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee, 12 July 1999 (WHC-99/CONF.209/5)

Decision of the third extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee concerning Kakadu National Park, Australia

1. The Committee,
 - (a) **Emphasizes** the importance of Articles 4, 5, 6, 7 and 11 of the 1972 UNESCO *World Heritage Convention*. In particular the Committee emphasizes Article 6 (1) which states that:

Whilst fully respecting the sovereignty of the States on whose territory the cultural and natural heritage (...) is situated, and without prejudice to property right provided by national legislation, the States Parties to this Convention recognize that such heritage constitutes a world heritage for whose protection it is the duty of the international community as a whole to co-operate.
 - (b) **Recalls** that the twenty-second session of the World Heritage Committee in Kyoto (1998) expressed “grave concern” over the ascertained and potential dangers to the World Heritage cultural and natural values of Kakadu National Park posed by the proposal for uranium mining and milling at Jabiluka;
 - (c) **Notes** that the deliberations of the twenty-third session of the Bureau and of the third extraordinary session of the Committee demand the continuous serious consideration of the conditions at Kakadu National Park by the Committee with reference to Section III, in particular Paragraph 86 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage;
 - (d) **Expresses its deep regret** that the voluntary suspension of construction of the mine decline at Jabiluka until the twenty-third session of the Committee (requested by the twenty-second session of the Committee) has not taken place;
 - (e) **Is gravely concerned** about the serious impacts to the living cultural values of Kakadu National Park posed by the proposal to mine and mill uranium at Jabiluka. The Committee is of the opinion that confidence and trust building through dialogue are crucial for there to be any resolution of issues relating to the proposal to mine and mill uranium at Jabiluka. In particular, a more substantial and continuous dialogue needs to be established between the Australian Government and the traditional owners of the Jabiluka Mineral Lease, the Mirrar Aboriginal people;
 - (f) **Is concerned** about the lack of progress with the preparation of a cultural heritage management plan for Jabiluka;

- (g) **Continues to have significant reservations** concerning the scientific uncertainties relating to mining and milling at Jabiluka.
2. The Committee,
- (a) **Recognizes**, with appreciation, that the Australian Government, Australian Supervising Scientist, advisory bodies (IUCN, ICOMOS and ICCROM) and independent scientific panel (ISP) established by the International Council of Science (ICSU) have provided the reports requested by the twenty-second session of the Committee (Kyoto, 1998);
- (b) **Acknowledges** that there are indications that a new dialogue between the Mirrar Aboriginal people and the Australian Government has begun in relation to issues concerning the Jabiluka uranium mine and mill. The Committee considers this to be an essential step in finding a constructive solution to the issues raised by the UNESCO mission to Kakadu National Park and encourages the Australian Government to intensify their efforts in this regard and pursue with vigor the deepening of its dialogue with the Mirrar Aboriginal people;
- (c) **Notes** that the Australian Government has stated (in document WHC-99/CONF.205/INF.3G entitled “Protecting Kakadu National Park” submitted by the Australian Government) that “full scale commercial mining at Jabiluka would only be reached about 2009 following the scaling down of production at the Ranger mine so that two mines would not be in full production simultaneously”. The Committee further notes that the Minister for Environment and Heritage has stated that there shall be no parallel commercial scale operation of the Ranger and Jabiluka uranium mines located in enclaves surrounded by, but not included, in Kakadu National Park. The Committee considers that it is the clear responsibility of the Australian Government to regulate the activities of a private company, such as Energy Resources of Australia, Inc, in relation to the proposed mining and milling activities at Jabiluka to ensure the protection of the World Heritage values of Kakadu National Park;
- (d) **Notes** that the Australian Supervising Scientist (ASS) has assessed the report of the independent scientific panel (ISP) established by the International Council of Science (ICSU) and seeks a dialogue with the ISP to resolve outstanding questions relating to scientific issues concerning mining and milling at Jabiluka.
3. With consideration of 1 and 2 above, the Committee will remain vigilant in reviewing and assessing the progress made by the Australian Government. To this end the Committee requests that the Australian Government submit a progress report on the following issues by **15 April 2000** for examination by the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee:
- (a) progress made with cultural mapping of the Jabiluka Mineral Lease and the Boyweg-Almudj site and its boundaries and the completion of the cultural heritage management plan with the necessary co-operation of the Mirrar, and appropriate involvement of other stakeholders and ICOMOS and ICCROM;
- (b) progress in the implementation, in response to the Kakadu Region Social Impact Study (KRSIS), of a comprehensive package of social and welfare benefits, together

with the Northern Territory Government, for the benefit of the Aboriginal communities of Kakadu (including the Mirrar);

- (c) more precise details of the output and scale of any parallel activities at the Ranger and Jabiluka uranium mines as well as on any legal provisions taken in that respect.

4. To resolve the remaining scientific issues, such as those raised in the ISP report, the Committee asks ICSU to continue the work of the ISP (with the addition of any additional members) to assess, in co-operation with the Supervising Scientist and IUCN, the Supervising Scientist's response to the ISP report. The report of the ISP's assessment should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre by **15 April 2000** for examination by the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee in 2000.

New information: The decision of the third extraordinary session of the Committee on 12 July 1999 (see above) concerning the state of conservation of Kakadu National Park was transmitted to all members of the Committee and the advisory bodies on 9 August 1999.

The Centre received a fax dated 13 August 1999 from the Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation forwarding a copy of a letter from Ms Yvonne Margarula (Chairperson of the Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation and Senior Traditional Owner of the Mirrar Aboriginal clan) to the Minister for Environment and Heritage in Australia. Ms Margarula's letter referred to further drilling by Energy Resources of Australia Ltd. (ERA) within an area described as the "Boyweg-Almudj Sacred Site Complex". She called for the immediate halt to the drilling programme until the completion of an inquiry under the 1984 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act and the Cultural Heritage Management Plan. The Director of the Centre transmitted a copy of Ms Margarula's letter to the Permanent Delegation of Australia to UNESCO seeking clarification and comment concerning the information contained in the letter.

Under cover of a fax of 16 September 1999 a copy of the Minister's reply to Ms Margarula of 9 September 1999 was sent to the Chairperson of the Committee. The Minister's letter noted Ms Margarula's concerns in relation to the drilling programme and stated that ERA was operating consistently with the commitments the Minister had made to the third extraordinary session of the Committee. The Minister stated that he had been informed that when the core sampling was complete, ERA would be placing the mine at Jabiluka on a stand-by and environmental monitoring management basis.

In a letter dated 7 October 1999 the Minister informed the Centre that underground drill sampling at the proposed Jabiluka mine site was completed on 14 September 1999. The Minister also reported that he had nominated a prominent lawyer to conduct the inquiry concerning the area described as the "Boyweg-Almudj Sacred Site Complex" under Section 10 of the 1984 *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act*. The Minister also informed the Centre of on-going discussions with the Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation and with the Chairman of the Kakadu Region Social Impact Study (KRSIS).

On 15 October 1999, the Centre received a report from the Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation indicating that the Mirrar had withdrawn their application for emergency and permanent protection of the "Boyweg-Almudj Sacred Site Complex" on 13 October 1999, quoting the "absolute failure of the Australian Government to address Mirrar concerns about lack of meaningful participation in the assessment process."

The Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation concluded their report by claiming that there has been a failure of process under Australian legislation, and requested that ICOMOS and ICCROM representatives visit in the near future to assist in the development of a “World’s Best Practice” sacred site assessment process. They believe that Australian legislative processes have been exhausted, and request assistance from ICOMOS and ICCROM in the completion of baseline anthropological studies to be used in the preparation of the Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

On receipt of the report referred to above, the Director of the Centre invited the State Party to provide comments on the information received from the Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation.

With reference to paragraph 4 of the decision of the third extraordinary session of the Committee, the Centre received a letter from the Australian Supervising Scientist on 21 October 1999 outlining suggestions as to how to proceed with the assessment of the remaining scientific issues. The Supervising Scientist also expressed his concern that there may be insufficient time prior to 15 April 2000 for completion of the necessary work program given the delay in the continuation of the work of the Independent Scientific Panel of ICSU. The Supervising Scientist’s letter was forwarded to the Chairperson, ICSU and IUCN for their information.

On 25 October 1999 the Centre received a letter from the Secretary of Environment Australia providing a report on progress made since the third extraordinary session of the Committee. The concise report recalls that a formal report will be submitted in April 2000 in accordance with the request of the third extraordinary session of the Committee. In addition, the Secretary’s report responds to claims made in the report of the Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation (referred to above) concerning the application made under Section 10 of the 1984 *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act* for a declaration of protection for an area described as the “Boyweg-Almudj Sacred Site Complex”. The Secretary’s report provides a timeline detailing the steps taken by the Australian Government in considering the Section 10 application and states that every step in the process has been consistent with the requirements of Australian law and the commitments made by the Government to the third extraordinary session of the Committee. In summary the Secretary’s report highlighted the following results:

- Drilling at Jabiluka has ceased
- Discussions have taken place on the future implementation of the Kakadu Regional Social Impact Study (KRSIS)
- Processes under Australian law have not failed nor have they been exhausted. Work on resolving the cultural issues has been delayed due to the termination by the Mirrar of a process (the application for a declaration of protection under Section 10 of the 1984 *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act* for an area described as the “Boyweg-Almudj Sacred Site Complex”) which would have provided valuable preparatory work for the Cultural Heritage Management Plan. The Secretary of Environment Australia notes that it is unfortunate that recent claims on the boundaries, depth and significance of Boyweg-Almudj will now not be examined through the Section 10 reporting process.
- Key stakeholders have been invited to participate in the development of projects to contribute to the Cultural Heritage Management Plan. ICOMOS has been invited to participate and the Australian Government equally supports the involvement of ICCROM.

The Secretary's letter also referred to ERA as having indicated that it will implement the commitments agreed by Australia at the third extraordinary session of the Committee. He noted that this would be supported by legally binding arrangements between the Commonwealth and Northern Territory governments.

Furthermore, the Secretary expressed his disappointment that the delay in the commencement of the assessment of the remaining scientific issues may make it impossible for the ISP of ICSU and the Supervising Scientist to provide the Committee with further advice by the 15 April 2000.

Finally, the Secretary of Environment Australia informed the Centre that the Aboriginal traditional owners of the Koongarra mine site (located within an enclave in the southern portion of Kakadu National Park) had recently instructed the Northern [Aboriginal] Land Council (NLC) to continue negotiating an agreement with the mining company (Koongarra Ltd). The Secretary informed the Centre that an agreement between Koongarra Ltd and the NLC is a necessary pre-requisite to the grant of an exploration license and is required under Northern Territory law. He noted that negotiations in relation to Koongarra have been taking place for about 22 years and that the NLC has the agreement of the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs for an extension of the statutory negotiating period until 28 January 2000.

The letter of the Secretary of Environment Australia was forwarded to the Chairperson, the Advisory Bodies and ICSU for their information.

Action required:

The Bureau may wish to transmit the above report, and further information made available at the time of the Bureau, to the Committee for noting.

Tasmanian Wilderness (Australia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1982 and 1989

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee: Chapter VII.30 and page 101 of Annex IV

Twenty-third session of the Bureau– Chapter IV.48

New information: The twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau, in July 1999, requested the Australian Government to inform the Centre of (i) any potential boundary extensions that may be foreseen together with a timetable for the implementation of the Regional Forestry Agreement (RFA); (ii) its assessment of the implications of the RFA on other areas identified as having World Heritage value and (iii) the potential impacts on forest catchments in the World Heritage site of other areas which may be logged under the RFA.

The Minister for Environment and Heritage in Australia in a letter dated 14 September 1999 transmitted the response of the Australian Government to the Bureau's request to the Centre. The Centre has provided a copy of the Minister's letter to IUCN and the Australian Committee for IUCN (ACIUCN) as had been requested by the twenty-third session of the Bureau. The letter indicates that the Australian Government's priority is in enhancing the management regime for the existing World Heritage property and ensuring that all World Heritage values are protected.

Boundary extensions are not being actively considered at this stage. In his letter the Minister notes the concerns expressed by IUCN relating to logging activities and provides assurances that he will take the necessary steps to protect World Heritage values if he was to consider they were being damaged. The Australian Government considers that the issues associated with World Heritage were adequately addressed by the RFA and that it provides for the ecologically sustainable management of forests in Tasmania.

The Minister's letter provides information on the recently completed 1999 Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan developed by the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service. The Management Plan has been ratified by both the Tasmanian and Commonwealth Governments and presents a framework that includes the fostering of management practices in lands adjacent to the World Heritage Area to adequately protect the values of the property. The Minister has also informed the Centre that a new Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, which will come into effect no later than July 2000.

IUCN has informed the Centre that the Australian Committee of IUCN (ACIUCN) proposes to complete an assessment of the conservation status for the Tasmanian Wilderness within the next year. IUCN notes and commends the recently completed 1999 Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan, and recommends that its effectiveness be regularly monitored over time.

IUCN notes and supports, in principle, the 1997 Tasmanian Regional Forestry Agreement (RFA) process as it represents a significant step towards a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system, as well as potentially providing the basis for the ecologically sustainable management of forests in Tasmania. IUCN also notes that the RFA consolidates relationships between state and federal governments on matters affecting the World Heritage site relating to policy, management and funding.

IUCN considers it is important that options for any future extension of the World Heritage property should not be foreclosed. IUCN thus considers that areas of the dedicated RFA reserve system which have been previously identified as having World Heritage value should be managed in a manner consistent with potential World Heritage status.

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

“The Committee requests the Australian Committee for IUCN (ACIUCN) to complete its review process on the state of conservation of the Tasmanian Wilderness and submit an up-to-date report to the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau in 2000. ACIUCN's review should include reference to any continuing concerns, such as those noted at the twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau, and suggestions relating to any future extension of the World Heritage property and the management of areas of the dedicated RFA reserve system which have been previously identified as having World Heritage value.

The Committee commends the State Party for the recent completion of the 1999 Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan, and recommends that its effectiveness be regularly monitored over time.”

Mount Emei and Leshan Giant Buddha (China)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1996

International assistance: US\$20,000 under Technical Co-operation (1999)

Previous deliberations: None

New information: At the time of its inscription at the twentieth session, the Committee recommended that the Chinese authorities carefully control tourism development at the site and encourage involvement of the Buddhist monasteries in conservation activities on the mountain. Recently, IUCN has been informed that the construction of the tourist light railway between Golden Summit and the main summit of Emei Shan (*Wanfoding*) has resumed and is well advanced. On 22 September 1999, the World Heritage Centre requested the Chinese authorities to provide further information on the latest progress with this incompatible development. No written correspondence has however been received by the Secretariat.

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

“The Bureau requests the State Party submit to the World Heritage Centre, before 15 April 2000, a state of conservation report on developments at this site.”

Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1983

International assistance: Between 1987 and 1992 an amount of approximately US\$ 50,000 was allocated to assist the Peruvian authorities in the preparation of a Master Plan for Machu Picchu.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee - Chapter VII.29

Twenty-third session of the Bureau - Chapter IV.50

New information: The Bureau at its twenty-third session requested the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and ICOMOS to undertake a mission to Machu Picchu.

The mission will take place from 17 to 25 October 1999. The results of the mission will be presented to the Bureau during its session.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine information that will be provided at the time of its session and take the appropriate decision thereupon.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

11. At its twenty-third session, the Bureau examined the state of conservation of thirty-six cultural properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. This state of conservation Working Document reports on thirty-four cultural properties.

Africa

Ashanti Traditional Buildings (Ghana)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1980

International assistance:

In 1997, US\$ 47 000 was approved to implement an *in situ* Training programme, which allowed to:

- make an overall condition survey of the 10 shrines that the property comprises,
- gather documentation on the state of conservation of each shrine,
- carry out “first aid” works that would prevent further destruction, mainly at Adarko Jachi, but also at Abirim and Asenemanso,
- establish recommendations for measures to be taken and activities to be carried out to ensure the good state of conservation of the sites,
- acquire a motorcycle that would allow regular inspections.

Previous deliberation:

Twenty-first extraordinary session of the Bureau - Chapter III.C.c.

Satisfied with the results of the in-situ pilot training activity and recognising the need to reformulate the conservation plan to involve the local populations, the Bureau congratulated the Ghana authorities and encouraged them to prepare a conservation plan for entire site.

New information: This WHC programme was continued in 1998, reinforced by a technical assistance provided by the French Embassy in Ghana which allowed to:

- continue the implementation of preventive conservation measures on all sites,
- restore Besease shrine and open it to the public
- launch an awareness and promotional campaign
- also involve local communities, and the university

In 1999, the French Embassy funded activities, which aimed at:

- the reinforcement of the awareness and promotional activities,
- the establishment of the management committee for the Besease Shrine, which includes representatives of local communities,
- the evaluation of the needs in terms of regular maintenance for all the buildings,
- a preliminary research programme for the restoration of the bas-reliefs.

Three French companies have provided funds for the publication of a booklet, based on the exhibition presented in Besease. The booklet has officially been launched by the “Asantehene” (the King of Asante) and the French Ambassador. A first set of 1500 copies will be provided to GMMB regional office, as a way of reinforcing the revolving fund already established with the edition of postcards and T.Shirts. Benefits of these sales, together with the fees collected at Besease are a first step towards sustainability, but the current revenues remain too low and a serious increase of visitors is still required to attain full sustainability.

Much has been achieved over the last three years. However, the situation of the property remains quite fragile as it suffers regularly from heavy rains, calling for continual maintenance in a systematic way. This should be carried out within the framework of an overall management plan which would particularly focus on finding sources of revenues for its implementation, based on the evaluation of a full year of activity of the Besease Shrine as a financial resource, new possible (and desired locally) development/investments.

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

“The Bureau notes with satisfaction the progress achieved for the improvement of the state of conservation of the property, and the efforts undertaken for the development of promotional activities, and its attempts to generate revenues to achieve sustainability. However, it requests the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board to proceed with the preparation of an overall management plan as soon as possible and report to the Committee at its twenty-fifth session.”

Island of Mozambique (Mozambique)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1991

International assistance: Contribution of US\$ 20,000 from the World Heritage Fund in 1995. Thanks to a contribution from the Fund, a "Programme for Sustainable Human Development and Integral Conservation" was prepared and funded since 1996, as follows:.

UNDP –US\$ 300,000 (over the period 1997-1999),
UNESCO Regular Programme – US\$ 100,000,
European Union –US\$ 100,000

A post of an Associate Expert in Maputo for 30 months (September 1997 to February 2000) is funded by the Finnish Government.

Moreover, in August 1999 the Chairperson approved a request for Emergency Assistance for US\$ 50,000, in order to halt deterioration and restore the social function of the central Market in the Stone Town. UNESCO's associate expert in Mozambique has prepared, in co-operation with the Municipality, a local architect and a construction company, under UNDP funds earmarked for the Island, a complete architectural study for its restoration. The newly elected Municipality has halted the human made deteriorations by cleaning the area, and started the restoration of the supporting columns, and has purchased roofing sheets. However, local funds earmarked for the project proved insufficient to complete the project.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the World Heritage Committee - Chapter VII.36:

The Committee requested the authorities to report at its twenty-third session on the results of the donor's meeting and on the progress made in the implementation of the "Programme for Sustainable Human Development and Integral Conservation".

New information: As a result of the Programme for Sustainable Human Development and Integral Conservation, 50 micro-projects in such areas as: water and sanitation, tourism development and heritage restoration, were developed with the co-operation of local experts. These projects were presented at the Donors' meeting organised in Maputo by the Ministry of Culture, as well as UNESCO and UNDP offices on 30 June 1999.

The results of the Donors' meeting in Maputo can be commendable in terms of:

- A positive and committed attitude by the Government of Mozambique in the persons of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Culture and the Regional Governor of Napula to consider the Island a priority project, and to issue a special decree on the Special Status for

the Island and the establishment of an inter-ministerial group under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture.

- A positive, interested and enthusiastic attitude by the private sector of Mozambique to participate in the funding of some components and the execution of the proposed programme and its projects, and also an interest and alliance by national business groups other than the tourism private sector to actively be involved in specific issues of the built, cultural and socio-religious aspect of the Island.
- Positive reactions from bilateral donors e.g. Portugal, France, Norway, Finland, Netherlands, Switzerland, Egypt, among others, who are presently studying ways and means to contribute to the Programme.
- Interest by the World Bank to include Ilha Mozambique in existing projects of coastal management, transport, if the requests are established according to the modus operandi of the World Bank i.e. Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Interest and commitment by a number of international foundations e.g. Aga Khan-Lisbon, to participate in social/health projects. And interest and project identification missions to finance micro projects from a number of NGO's and foundations (e.g. Prince Claus Fund – The Hague, World Monument Fund, Gulbenkian Foundation and foundations in Brazil).
- Interest and wish of various World Heritage cities e.g. Bergen, Evora, Bern, among others, to collaborate at the local level.
- During 1999, several micro projects have been completed with the European Union and UNESCO contributions, and a number of public spaces in the Stone Town have been cleared and renovated. For the first time the population living in the Macuti (African city) is using the public spaces of the Portuguese city.

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

“The Bureau 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 the successful donor’s meeting, and calls upon the donor’s community to provide a wide support to this endeavour, by making contributions to the UNDP-UNESCO Trust Fund, or by implementing projects on a bilateral basis, or by taking into account the Programme for Sustainable Human Development and Integral Conservation in order to achieve better synergy with the projects that have already been funded.”

Arab States

Islamic Cairo (Egypt)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979

International Assistance

1979: US\$ 30,000 for technical services and equipment;

1981: US\$ 30,000 for technical services and equipment;

1992: US\$ 50,000 Emergency Assistance following the earthquake;

1995: US\$ 30,000 Restoration of a monument;
1997: US\$14,900 Preparatory assistance for the conception of a global revitalization programme;
1999: US\$ 120,000 for the first phase of the revitalization programme

Previous deliberations:

1. Rehabilitation of Islamic Cairo

At its twenty-third session, the Bureau took note of the support of the international community for this project and encouraged its continuation. It requested the Secretariat to provide the Committee with a detailed report on the actions undertaken in 1999.

2. Al-Azhar Mosque

At its twenty-third session, the Bureau requested the State Party to invite an ICOMOS mission to evaluate the state of conservation of the monument.

New information

1. Rehabilitation of Islamic Cairo (documentation available at the twenty-third session).

In 1999, the co-operation programme for the revitalization of Islamic Cairo was initiated. It was carried out throughout the year along three principal themes:

1.1 Co-ordination of interventions:

This co-ordination must operate through the intermediary of structures already set up by the State:

- a Ministerial Committee chaired by the Prime Minister, responsible for planning and decision-making,
- an Executive Committee chaired by the Governor of Cairo, responsible for the supervision of all the interventions at the site.

Provision has been made for an advisor to be attached to the Ministerial Committee and a technical co-ordinator to the Executive Committee. The latter, Mr T. Abdallah, Director of the Engineering Centre for Archaeology and Environment (University of Cairo), was chosen in agreement with the national authorities. Since May 1999, he participates on a regular basis in the meetings of the Executive Committee, where he ensures a coherence of ongoing actions and their complementarity.

An Adviser – a post for which several Egyptian candidates have been identified - will soon be nominated to the Interministerial Committee. His role will be to pilot the planification unit of the Committee and to ensure smooth co-ordination, at the highest level, between the international and national partners. He will also contribute his expertise to the evaluation of the revitalization policy and the harmonious planning of the projects.

1.2 Identification of pilot projects

Beforehand, an identification of the different kinds and origins of interventions was successfully carried out. This provided a better knowledge of the site and an understanding of the needs and possibilities.

Taking into account the ongoing infrastructural projects and the different ongoing and future activities for rehabilitation, three priority areas have been identified, the north, the centre and the south of the site, all three being urban zones (excluding the City of the Dead and the Citadelle). Infrastructural work and the rehabilitation of monuments has already occurred or is ongoing in each of these areas to the optimal benefit of the chosen areas.

Therefore, the first pilot project to begin is the south part of the site, where France, co-financing with the World Heritage Fund, has undertaken the restoration of the Beit Sinnari. Preliminary studies to extend of the rehabilitation process to the public spaces of the area (roads, cables, tertiary waters) facades and its other monuments, began in August. Beit Sinnari will be rehabilitated during 2000 and the work will begin in the area with the participation of the inhabitants.

A second pilot project could be rapidly initiated in the northern part of the site, very close to the wall, between the first one and the rehabilitation project of Beit Suhaymi, undertaken with funding from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. This second pilot project will be more difficult to implement due to the complexity of the area: high density of monuments in an area inhabited by migrants whose artisanal activities have greatly degraded the buildings.

1.3 Legal aspects and regulations for protection - Information

In spite of the existence of a law on antiquities and the presence of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, no firm legal and regulatory framework exists for the protection of historic areas. This lacune renders the protection of the site of Islamic Cairo particularly difficult. The situation is all the more complex because of an obsolescent rent law with its consequent effects upon the maintenance of the houses. The ownership of a certain number of buildings used for housing or commercial purposes by the religious authorities limits the possibility of intervention. All these aspects were the subject of working sessions in which the UNESCO mission and the Technical Coordinator have participated. Improved protection measures around the monuments and stricter regulations concerning the foundations, infrastructure, electricity and facades have been approved by the Governor of Cairo.

Furthermore, this work will continue and be strengthened by the development of restoration and renovation modalities for religious property and the re-use of monuments. An information campaign on the site will also be initiated.

2. Al-Azhar Mosque

ICOMOS has foreseen a monitoring mission on the state of conservation of the monument which should be carried out in November and December 1999. The State Party has been informed but, at the date of the preparation of this report, no response has been received. Additional information will be provided orally.

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

«The Committee thanks the national authorities and the international community for its commitment in supporting this important and complex site. The Committee wishes to remind the State Party of the need to ensure the continuity of the long-term action for the success of the safeguarding and revitalization of Islamic Cairo. It encourages the State Party to continue its direct and indirect financial contributions to the project.»

Byblos (Lebanon)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1984

International assistance:

1998 : US\$ 10,000 in cost-sharing with Delft University of Technology (The Netherlands) for the preparation of a management plan.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Bureau - Chapter IV.66

New information: Additional information will be provided orally on the basis of the results of the Second International Seminar (10-14 November 1999, Byblos).

Action required: The Committee may wish to examine information that will be provided at the time of its session and take the appropriate decision thereupon.

Tyre (Lebanon)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1984

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee - Chapter VII.43

Twenty-third session of the Bureau - Chapter IV.67

New information: The International Scientific Committee (ISC) for the Campaign for Tyre met in Lebanon from 14 to 17 June 1999. Following an examination of the situation at the site and the development plans of the City of Tyre, prepared by the Lebanese authorities, the Committee expressed concerns about:

- a) the risk of densification and engorgement of the city, including its archaeological zone, if the development plans are implemented as foreseen;
- b) the total absence of buffer zones around the area inscribed as World Heritage and the development of rapid and uncontrolled construction adjacent to the site.

The International Scientific Committee recently recommended that the urgent appropriate measures be taken to safeguard the site:

- the adoption of an urban city planning to ensure the safeguard of archaeological zones and legal measures regulating the coherent integration and development of urban areas;
- in the absence of buffer zones, the protection of archaeological buildings be ensured through the creation of a green belt to separate them in a visible manner from the built-up area.

Action 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 Lebanese Government for their co-operation in the preservation of the City of Tyre. In view of the serious and persistent threats to the

safeguarding of the site, the Committee requests that the recommendations of the International Scientific Committee be urgently implemented, particularly the adoption of a city management plan to ensure the safeguarding of the archaeological zones as well as their protection through the creation of an appropriate landscape design. The Committee also requests the authorities to appoint a national co-ordinator and open a national account for the International Safeguarding Campaign as it was agreed with UNESCO, and recalled in the letter dated 7 July 1999, from the Director-General to the Minister of Culture.”

Asia and the Pacific

Peking Man Site at Zhoukoudian (China)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1987

International assistance:

- Emergency Assistance: World Heritage Bureau, seventeenth extraordinary session approved US\$ 26,000 to prevent the collapse of some of the Caves damaged by heavy rains in 1992-1993
- Technical Co-operation: In March 1998, a request (US\$ 20,000) to purchase computer equipment to implement a sub-project within the Assistance-Ethno/UNESCO/Chinese Academy of Sciences (*Project for Rehabilitation, Protection and Conservation of the Peking Man Site*) was received and transmitted to ICCROM and ICOMOS for evaluation. But the State Party agreed to delay approval pending the results of an ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to ensure overall coherence with other on-going work.

Previous deliberations:

World Heritage Bureau, eighteenth session - Chapter VII.21

World Heritage Committee, twentieth session - Chapter VII.47

World Heritage Bureau, twenty-third ordinary session - Chapter IV.52

New information: In January 1999, the Chinese authorities welcomed this suggestion for a Joint ICCROM-ICOMOS mission. The World Heritage Centre transmitted the EDF (Electricite de France) Report on the “Results of geological and geophysical research of Peking Man Site” to the ICOMOS and ICCROM experts prior to their mission, which took place between 13-17 September 1999, as requested by the Bureau at its twenty-third session. The findings of the ICOMOS-ICCROM joint mission will be presented at the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to formulate a decision upon examining the findings and recommendations of the ICOMOS-ICCROM joint mission.

The Potala Palace, Lhasa (China)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

World Heritage Bureau, twentieth session - Chapter III.19

World Heritage Committee, twentieth session - Chapter VII.48

World Heritage Bureau, twenty-second extraordinary session - Chapter III.C

World Heritage Committee, twenty-second session - Chapter VII.43

World Heritage Bureau, twenty-third session - Chapter IV.53

New information: In anticipation of the extension of the boundaries of the World Heritage site of the Potala Palace to include the Jokhang Temple and the Barkhor historic area, as requested by the State Party in July 1999 in response to the 1994 recommendation of the Committee, the national and local authorities have enhanced their efforts in the documentation and conservation of the monumental and urban heritage of the proposed extension area. Collaboration with international non-governmental organizations, international universities and local authorities linkage activities have been strengthened in these areas. The active participation of the Lhasa Municipality in the Suzhou International Conference for the Mayors of Historic Cities of China and the European Union (April 1998) organized by the Centre and the Ministry of Construction of China, and other activities within the framework of the Centre's Special Programme for the Cities of Asia are noteworthy. A delegation from the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) visited Norway in October 1999 under the framework of the Tibet-Norway University Network Co-operation scheme to determine the next series of co-operation activities, some of which are proposed to be in association with the World Heritage Centre. The organization of a technical workshop with support from UNESCO and NIKU (Norwegian Conservation Institute), has been proposed to (1) review the Old Lhasa Historical Map, a Norwegian supported project carried out since 1996, and (2) to impart with recent mural painting conservation skills through an on-the-job training workshop to restore the paintings of Lukhang Temple of the Potala Palace.

In view of continued incidents of illegal demolition and inappropriate reconstructions in the Barkhor historic area, mainly by private and business concerns, the Centre and the State Party are currently discussing measures to raise awareness and respect for conservation among the local population.

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

“The Bureau expresses appreciation for enhanced international co-operation for the conservation of the monumental and urban heritage of the historic area of Barkhor, notably the long-term support offered by the Norwegian authorities and universities. The Bureau takes note of the proposed training activities in urban conservation planning and mural painting restoration with the involvement of UNESCO and the Norwegian Conservation Institute (NIKU) among others. The Bureau recalls the interest expressed by ICCROM and ICOMOS in these activities and requests the State Party to consider their involvement, especially in training activities. The Bureau expresses its readiness to consider international assistance from the World Heritage Fund to support the national and local efforts in these areas and requests the World Heritage Centre to work in close collaboration with the State Party. »

Groups of Monuments at Hampi (India)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1986

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

World Heritage Bureau, twenty-third session - Chapter IV.60

New information: Following the decision of the Bureau at its twenty-third session, a reactive monitoring mission was undertaken by a World Heritage Centre staff to Hampi in October 1999, in close co-operation with the State Party. The mission discovered that two cable-suspended modern bridges, instead of one, had been partially constructed within the protected archaeological area of Hampi. Moreover, the mission was informed that a historic *mandapa* (pillared stone rest-house) on the bank of the Tungabhadra River within the Anegundi village, located in the World Heritage protected site, and administered by the State Government of Karnataka (as per the Mysore Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act & Rules, 1961 & 1962), had been dismantled and reconstructed to make way for the road leading off the vehicle bridge being construction.

The mission noted that both bridges impact negatively on the World Heritage site in the following manner:

- (i) The large-scale two-way bridge for vehicular traffic connects the archaeological and historic areas of the ancient capitals of Anegundi and Hampi. The second foot-bridge connects the ancient monuments and sites of Virapapura Gada Island and Hampi, leading directly adjacent to the important Virupaksha Temple in Hampi. Both bridges dominate the extraordinary natural environment and rural setting, threatening the integrity of the World Heritage site.
- (ii) The dislocation and reconstruction of an important historical monument within the protected area signifies serious problems in the implementation of existing cultural heritage legislation and policies which points to the need for corrective measures to ensure the authenticity of the site.
- (iii) Vehicular traffic, especially of large trucks transporting both agricultural produce and industrial material between eleven villages and major cities surrounding the site, including large iron ore industries, will increase dramatically as the new bridge will enable a short-cut for all traffic traversing the Tungabhadra River. The road leading from the large bridge construction site already passes through the important Harishankara Gateway in Hampi, but further increase in traffic, especially those of heavy-duty trucks will augment the risk of collision into 15th and 16th century historic monuments and ancient archaeological remains located along the roadside. Moreover, increased traffic will hamper, if not render impossible, archaeological research and excavation in significant areas within the World Heritage site, as well as causing negative impact on the local inhabitants, tourists and visitors to the site.
- (iv) The second cable-stayed foot-bridge will connect the historic monuments and archaeological remains of Hampi and Virapapura Gada Island, the latter declared as a protected area under the State Government of Karnataka's protective legislation. The mission was informed that the construction of this second bridge was part of a tourism development plan of a private developer. In view of the remains of a 16th century aqueduct and ancient canal system leading from the Virapapura Gada Island, both national and international archaeologists fear that the implementation of the current tourism development plan will irreversibly damage the archaeological remains for future scientific research or documentation of the sites on Virapapura Gada Island.

The mission held consultations with the Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary and representatives of the relevant authorities of the State Government of Karnataka. The mission also discussed the state of conservation of the Hampi site with the Additional Director-General and Hampi site-managers of the Archaeological Survey of India. It was evident that a comprehensive needs-assessment of the local communities, heritage protection, and sustainable tourism development supported by sound data analysis had not been undertaken before the decision was taken to construct the bridges. The mission noted that feasibility studies to identify alternative locations and designs of the bridges, including the possible rehabilitation of the 16th century stone bridges connecting Hampi, Anegundi and Virapapura Gada Island, were not undertaken prior to the implementation of the works underway.

The mission was informed that the construction of the bridges had temporarily been halted in July 1999 following the decision of the Bureau and was assured that immediate action would be taken to protect the World Heritage value of the site. The mission provided assistance in the preparation of an emergency assistance request to enable urgent action and to initiate the preparation of a comprehensive conservation, management and development plan. It is to be noted that the elaboration of a management plan had been recommended by UNESCO and ICOMOS experts since the inscription of the site on the World Heritage List in 1986. Discussions were also held with State Party representatives on the nomination of this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger, for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-third session.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine further information provided by the Secretariat at the time of its twenty-third extraordinary session and take a decision thereupon.

Churches and Convents of Goa (India)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1986

International Assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

World Heritage Bureau, twenty-third session - Chapter IV.60

New information: To follow-up on the decision of the Bureau at its twenty-third session, a World Heritage Centre staff carried out a mission to the World Heritage site of Goa in October 1999 as part of the reactive monitoring mission to the region. The mission was informed by the concerned authorities of the State Government of Goa that the planned project for upgrading and extending the National Road No. 4 had been modified following the Bureau's decision, and the current plan is to divert the National Road No. 4 to ensure that the urban development plan would not impact upon the World Heritage values and morphology of the site. The concerned authority requested the World Heritage Committee to examine the new proposal to ensure that the World Heritage value of the site is fully preserved. This new plan with relevant documentation will be transmitted to ICOMOS and ICCROM for comments at the time of the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau.

With regard to the project proposal prepared by the Centre in January 1999 for funding consideration under the European Commission's Asia-Urbs programme based on co-operation between the local authorities of Old Goa (India), Guimareas (Portugal) and Brighton & Hove (UK) and technical expertise from the Portuguese Direction-General for National Monuments and Edifices (DGEMN), the Municipality of Panaji and the Panchayat of Old Goa are currently

examining the project in detail with the Archaeological Survey of India and all the relevant authorities of the State Government of Goa. If approved, the project should enable the provision of much needed technical support to elaborate an urban conservation plan based on spatial organization and landscaping of the site which will respect the historic urban form of this former port town.

During the mission, the Archaeological Survey of India was encouraged to prepare and submit an international assistance request for making a thorough evaluation of the conservation needs of each monument, including conservation-training requirements, following the decision of the Bureau at its twenty-third session.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine additional information provided by ICOMOS and ICCROM at the time of its twenty-third extraordinary session and transmit the following with appropriate modifications to the Committee for noting;

“The Bureau takes note of the report of the Secretariat and the advisory bodies and expresses its appreciation for the new plan proposed by the State Government of Goa for diverting the National Road No. 4 to ensure that the much needed public works do not undermine the integrity of the World Heritage site of the Churches and Convents of Goa. The Bureau requests the World Heritage Centre to continue assisting the relevant authorities in addressing the conservation needs of the monuments and historic urban fabric composing the World Heritage site. The Bureau encourages the local, regional and national authorities concerned to continue to follow-up on the decision of the Bureau at its twenty-third session, and to submit a report on the actions taken by 15 April 2000 for examination by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth session.”

Sun Temple of Konarak (India)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1984

International assistance: Emergency Assistance 1997: US\$ 39,000: Thorough structural study to determine the most appropriate emergency measures to be undertaken, following the serious land subsidence due to unusually heavy monsoon rain. At the time of submission of the Emergency Assistance Request, the Government of India indicated that it intended to nominate this site for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Archaeological Survey of India commenced this activity in February 1998 but no report has been received to date.

Previous deliberations:

World Heritage Committee, twenty-first session - Chapter VII.5

World Heritage Bureau, twenty-third session - Chapter IV.62

New information: The World Heritage Centre has requested ICOMOS to arrange for a reactive monitoring mission to the site. The mission, as requested by the Bureau at its twenty-third session is expected to review the work carried out with the 1997 emergency assistance fund, to report on the national actions undertaken to halt the deterioration of the stone structure and structural engineering problems which are reportedly serious and to discuss with the Government of India on whether or not it intends to nominate this site for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to formulate a decision upon examining further information to be presented by the Secretariat at the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau.

Luang Prabang (Laos)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1995

International Assistance:

- Preparatory Assistance:
 - 1994 : US\$ 15,000 for preparation of nomination file
 - 1996 : US\$ 7,342 for project proposal to develop a conservation plan
- Technical Co-operation:
 - 1996: US\$ 39,900 for inventory of vernacular buildings/timber building protection and conservation and development plan
 - 1997: US\$ 25,000 for elaboration of conservation guidelines/ pedagogical tools
- Promotional Assistance:
 - 1998 : US\$ 5,000 for awareness-raising of local population (posters/slide show, neighbourhood workshops)

Previous deliberations:

World Heritage Bureau, twentieth extraordinary session – Chapter III.C

World Heritage Committee, twentieth session - Chapter VII.51

World Heritage Bureau, twenty-first extraordinary session – Chapter III.C

World Heritage Bureau, twenty-second extraordinary session - Chapter III.C

World Heritage Committee, twenty-second session - Chapter VII.43

New information: The draft conservation and development plan for the core historic centre within the World Heritage Site of the Historic Town of Luang Prabang is expected to be completed by the end of October 1999. This draft plan, when examined by the inter-ministerial National Commission for the Protection of Cultural, Natural and Historic Properties of Laos in December 1999, is expected to be enforced provisionally for a period of one year during which time necessary adjustments will be made. The conservation and development plan will be finalized only after this trial period, at the end of the year 2000. This draft plan prepared under the decentralized co-operation scheme between the local authorities of Luang Prabang and Chinon (France) under the aegis of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, with support from the Government of France, European Union and other donors and organizations will be presented by the Luang Prabang Provincial Government at an international donors' meeting to be held in January 2000 under the auspices of the National Commission to ensure that multilateral, bilateral and national infrastructural development projects do not undermine the World Heritage value of the site.

During the World Heritage Centre's mission to Luang Prabang in July 1999, concern over the following on-going and planned public works was expressed:

- the riverbank consolidation works along the Mekong and Nam Tha rivers being carried out by the Asian Development Bank which foresees the use of concrete gabion. The Centre has advised the national and local authorities to request the Asian Development Bank to carry out a geological survey of the riverbank to assess whether or not the use of gabion is necessary ;

- electricity transmission poles along the Mekong River installed by the Electricite de Laos (EDL) being too close to the riverbank undermining the landscape ; future installation should be more environmentally sensitive ;
- proposed bridge across the Mekong River only 1.5 km from Mount Phousi currently under funding consideration by Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) may be too close to the core historic area of the World Heritage Site. A study of the impact on the World Heritage site of the bridge, the vehicular traffic it will entail among other considerations is deemed necessary.
- Part of the drainage and sewage up-grading works financed by KWF (German co-operation project) has resulted in drying up a section of the urban wetland of Luang Prabang which is an essential part of the World Heritage value of the site as well as of ecological, social and economic importance. In spite of the importance of continuing these public works for public sanitation, UNESCO has requested that more environmentally sensitive measures be adopted in the future.

Furthermore, UNESCO remains concerned by the rapid development of tourism in Luang Prabang and the conversion of heritage buildings into guest houses and other tourism facilities which risks the expulsion of the local inhabitants and irreversibly changing the identity of the town which is characterized by the town's multi-ethnic occupants. The Centre was therefore involved in defining the terms of reference of a study to elaborate a sustainable tourism development strategy to be carried out by Chinon and the French Development Agency (AFD).

Finally, the Secretariat notes with concern that the law for the protection of national cultural, natural and historic properties issued as a decree of the Council of Ministers in 1997 has not yet been officially enacted by the National Assembly. Moreover, the elimination from this decree of any reference to tourism tax (taxe de sejours) which is meant to finance the cost of conservation and maintenance of the World Heritage site causes concern over the long-term sustainability of the important conservation cost hitherto met from international aid.

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

“The Bureau congratulated the national and local authorities for the progress made in strengthening the legal and administrative structure for the protection of the Luang Prabang World Heritage Site, as well as in the elaboration of the conservation and development plan of the site. However, the Bureau expressed its concern over the delay in the official enactment by the National Assembly of the law for the protection of national cultural, natural and historic properties. Noting the important financial and technical assistance mobilized by UNESCO from bilateral and multilateral sources over the past four years, the Bureau requests the State Party to consider the ways and means to ensure the long-term sustainability of activities to ensure the conservation and maintenance of this World Heritage site.

Moreover, the Bureau expressed concern over the rapid tourism development and numerous infrastructural works at the site and requests the State Party with the support of the Secretariat to ensure that these activities do not undermine the World Heritage value of the site. The Bureau requests the State Party to submit a written report to the Secretariat by 15 September 2000 for review by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth extraordinary session addressing the concerns raised over the Asian Development Bank-

funded riverbank consolidation works, KWF (German Co-operation) –funded drainage and sewage works, Electricite de Laos’ electricity transmission poles and the proposed bridge construction under funding consideration by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the results of the tourism study to be funded by the French Development Agency. In the preparation of this report, the Bureau requests the international development co-operation agencies concerned and the World Heritage Centre to support the national and local authorities of Laos.”

Kathmandu Valley (Nepal)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979

International assistance: A total of US\$ 240,374 has been provided as assistance from the World Heritage Fund for safeguarding this site since its inscription in 1979.

- Preparatory Assistance:
1997 US\$ 7,510: Formulation of the nomination form of Khokana Village as an additional Monument Zone to Kathmandu Valley site.
- Training Assistance:
1997 US\$ 14,000: Training of Development Control Unit staff of the Department of Archaeology for enhanced management of Kathmandu Valley site.
- Technical Co-operation:
1995 US\$ 52,000: UNESCO International Technical Advisor for a 6-month period in view of the serious and urgent need to strengthen measures to redress the present state of conservation of Kathmandu Valley site.
1998 US\$ 35,000: UNESCO-ICOMOS-HMG of Nepal Joint Mission for reporting on the state of conservation of Kathmandu Valley site and to elaborate a plan of corrective measures.
1998 US\$ 28,000: Studies on traditional architecture, construction, and conservation techniques, and documentation of Bhaktapur Monument Zone buildings.
1998 US\$ 19,800: Thorough structural survey of the 55 Windows Palace in Bhaktapur Monument Zone and studies on traditional building material.
1999 US\$ 20,000: Documentation of 120 historical buildings composing the Baudhanath Monument Zone.
- Emergency Assistance:
1995 US\$ 24,310: Restoration of the tower roof of Taleju Mandir, Patan Palace, Patan Monument Zone, Kathmandu Valley site.
1997 US\$ 19,969: Restoration of the roof and upper floors of the Ritual Kitchen of Taleju Mandir, Patan Palace, Patan Monument Zone, Kathmandu Valley site.
- Promotional Assistance:
1998 US\$ 5,000: Promotion of the World Heritage Convention at the Monument Zones composing the Kathmandu Valley site.
- Monitoring:
1994 US\$ 3,356: Monitoring mission and attendance to a Strategy Meeting on Kathmandu Valley site.
1996 US\$ 3,000: Preparation of Kathmandu Valley Donors’ Meeting.
1996 US\$ 6,129: Mission to assist the preparation of a state of conservation report for submission to the World Heritage Committee.

1996 US\$ 2,300: Expert participation at the International Technical Meeting on the Conservation of the 55 Windows Palace, Bhaktapur Monument Zone, Kathmandu Valley site.

In addition to these contributions, there have been UNESCO Funds-in-Trust projects funded by the Government of Japan and activities supported by the UNESCO Division of Cultural Heritage within the framework of the International Safeguarding Campaign (see Information Document WHC-99/CONF.204/INF.13). Other earmarked voluntary contributions to the UNESCO World Heritage Fund from NGOs (US\$ 90,000) and private sector donors (US\$ 20,000) for pilot project implementation have been mobilized by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre for enhanced management of the Kathmandu Valley site.

Previous deliberations:

World Heritage Committee, sixteenth session - Chapter VIII.9
World Heritage Committee, seventeenth session - Chapter X.8
World Heritage Bureau, eighteenth session - Chapter VI.21
World Heritage Committee, eighteenth session - Chapter IX.22
World Heritage Committee, nineteenth session - Chapter VII.46
World Heritage Committee, twentieth session - Chapter VII.52
World Heritage Bureau, twenty-first session – Chapter IV.50
World Heritage Bureau, twenty-first extraordinary session –Chapter III.C
World Heritage Committee, twenty-first session - Chapter VII.53
World Heritage Bureau, twenty-second session - Chapter V.55
World Heritage Bureau, twenty-second extraordinary session - Chapter III.C
World Heritage Committee, twenty-second session - Chapter VII.37
World Heritage Bureau, twenty-third session – Chapter IV.69

Information Documents:

WHC-99/Conf.208/INF.8.A

Report submitted by HMG of Nepal on the progress made in implementing the 55 Recommendations of the 1998 Joint Mission and Time-Bound Action Plan adopted by HMG of Nepal for enhanced management and conservation of Kathmandu Valley World Heritage site

WHC-99/Conf.208/INF.8.B

Report of the World Heritage Centre mission in October 1999 on the state of conservation of the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage site, responding to questions raised by the World Heritage Committee in previous sessions

WHC-99/Conf.208/INF.8.C

Report of an independent international expert on the state of conservation of Kathmandu Valley World Heritage site.

New information: During a mission undertaken by a World Heritage Centre staff to Kathmandu Valley in October 1999, it noted with deep concern that in Patan Darbar Square Monument Zone alone, six historic buildings had been completely demolished since the 1998 Joint Mission and new constructions were either completed or in progress, using reinforced concrete and without authentic design nor building material. The World Heritage Centre staff, with the assistance of UNESCO Kathmandu office experts, found that in most cases, demolition and reconstruction permits had been issued to each homeowner by the Department of Archaeology, despite the conditions of the historic buildings which would have permitted *in-situ* repair. These buildings included historic buildings with inherent characteristics which ICOMOS

experts had recommended retention and repair during the 1998 Joint Mission. Furthermore, five cases of floor additions on historic buildings ; construction of illegal cantilevers within the Monument Zone ; or refacing of store-fronts destroying the authentic architectural characteristics were witnessed. The mission noted that a public rest-house within the Patan Darbar Square Monument Zone, which had been recognized by ICOMOS and international experts as having been in good condition in 1998, had also just been completely demolished, including the removal of the original foundation stones, and replaced by new and inappropriate brick and cement walls.

The mission also reported that a particularly important historic building facing the Hanuman Dhoka Darbar Square Monument Zone, which had been specifically noted by ICOMOS experts for its architectural significance and recommended for *in-situ* restoration had also been entirely demolished. This historic building, the Joshi Agmacche, was being replaced by a new construction with reinforced concrete and newly carved wooden pillars, while the mission witnessed discarded authentic pillars, which could have been reused.

In view of the serious threats, both ascertained and potential, facing the site, a report by an independent international expert, who participated at the 1998 Joint Mission as an ICOMOS expert, is currently under preparation. The report of this mission, which will summarize the degree of serious deterioration of materials, structure, ornamental features, architectural coherence, and the essential settings of the Monument Zones under the protection of the World Heritage Convention, as well as an evaluation of the degree of historical authenticity still remaining within the World Heritage Site, will be presented to the Bureau at its 23rd extraordinary session for examination.

The attention of the Bureau is drawn to the fact that the cases referred to above and those of numerous other demolitions and inappropriate reconstructions reported to the Bureau and Committee at almost each session since 1993, whether carried out with or without the permission of the Department of Archaeology, are indications of the very serious degree of uncontrolled change and deterioration caused to the Monument Zones placed under the protection of the World Heritage Convention in 1979.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine the reports presented by HMG of Nepal, the World Heritage Centre and the independent expert who participated as an ICOMOS representative during the 1998 Joint Mission, and any further information available at the time of the twenty-third extraordinary session, and take a decision thereupon.

Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (Nepal)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1997

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

World Heritage Bureau, twenty-third session - Chapter IV.70

New information: Following the request of the Bureau at its twenty-third session, a World Heritage Centre staff undertook a mission in October 1999 for consultations with the relevant Nepalese authorities concerning the conservation and presentation of the Maya Devi Temple archaeological remains within the Lumbini World Heritage site. The Secretary and Joint

Secretary of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, the Member Secretary of the Lumbini Development Trust, and the Director-General of the Department of Archaeology were reminded by the UNESCO Representative to Nepal and the Centre staff of paragraph 56 of the Operational Guidelines which requests the States Parties to submit plans for any major conservation or construction work which could effect the World Heritage values. In view of the extremely harsh natural environment of the Lumbini site and the potential impact any construction on or in the proximity of the fragile archaeological remains could have, the mission underlined that the organization of technical expert consultations to discuss the most appropriate conservation and presentation methodology was recommended by the Bureau and ICOMOS. The authorities were moreover invited to submit the Maya Devi Temple conservation and presentation plan prepared by national architects and archaeologists to the World Heritage Committee, together with the report on the findings of the excavations carried out by the Lumbini Development Trust and the Japan Buddhist Federation since the early 1990's.

The mission requested further information from the State Party concerning reports it had obtained in October 1999 of the construction of concrete foundations at the Maya Devi Temple site in December 1998. Finally, referring to the draft co-operation agreement between the Lumbini Development Trust (LDT) and the Japan Buddhist Federation (JBF), UNESCO expressed its regret that neither the World Heritage status of the site nor of adherence to international conservation standards were referred to within the agreement.

The mission was assured by the representatives of His Majesty's Government of Nepal that information concerning the concrete foundations would be transmitted to the World Heritage Committee and that international conservation norms would be followed for any intervention plans for the conservation and presentation of the Maya Devi Temple site and the Lumbini World Heritage site as a whole. Regarding the site conservation plan being discussed between the LDT and the JBF, the Secretariat was assured that the concept paper with the designs and drawings would be transmitted to the World Heritage Committee together with the report of the findings of the excavations conducted by the Lumbini Development Trust and the Japan Buddhist Federation when reports were completed. The authorities however informed the Centre of their intention to submit a technical co-operation request, prepared with the Centre's support to finance the international technical meeting, only after an agreement is reached between the LDT and the JBF, since the latter is to finance the Maya Devi Temple conservation and presentation plan.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to recommend the following text for adoption by the Committee:

“The Committee expresses appreciation for the consultation process involving the World Heritage Centre, the UNESCO Representative for Nepal, the relevant national authorities and the Lumbini Development Trust concerning the conservation and presentation plan for the Maya Devi Temple archaeological remains, in response to the request of the Bureau at its twenty-third session. The Committee welcomes the assurances provided by His Majesty's Government of Nepal to report on the proposed activities under consideration and of the concrete foundation laid on-site, as well as of the results of the excavations carried out by Lumbini Development Trust and the Japan Buddhist Federation. The Committee requests that this information be provided to the Secretariat before 15 April 2000 for consideration by the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau in June/July 2000.

In view of the fragility of the exposed archaeological remains of the Maya Devi Temple and threats to the World Heritage values of the site caused by the harsh environment and important scale of visitors, the Committee recommends that the State Party organize an international technical meeting as soon as possible to finalize the conservation and presentation plan of the site and its early implementation. In this regard, the Committee reiterates its readiness to consider technical assistance from the World Heritage Fund to support national and local efforts. Moreover, the Committee recommends the State Party to invite UNESCO and ICOMOS to participate in an advisory capacity in a steering committee for the Maya Devi Temple project foreseen to be implemented under the Lumbini Development Trust – Japan Buddhist Federation agreement. Finally, the Committee requests the World Heritage Centre to maintain close co-operation with the State Party in ensuring the protection of this site.”

Taxila (Pakistan)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1980

International Assistance:

- Technical co-operation :
1995 US\$ 28,000: Vegetation control of the “*daub*” weed throughout the archaeological remains of Taxila carried out in 1999.
- Promotional assistance:
1999 US\$ 5,000: On-site promotion of the World Heritage Convention to increase awareness of the Convention at 10 of the 55 archaeological remains composing the Taxila World Heritage site. The national authorities are simultaneously disseminating information on the national legislation, and the World Heritage values of Taxila.

Previous deliberations:

World Heritage Bureau, nineteenth session - Chapter VI.20

World Heritage Committee, nineteenth session – Chapter VII.47

World Heritage Bureau, twenty-third session - Chapter IV.71

Fort and Shalamar Gardens of Lahore (Pakistan)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1981

International assistance:

Emergency Assistance: 1981

Previous deliberations:

World Heritage Bureau, twenty-second extraordinary session - Chapter

World Heritage Bureau, twenty-third session – Chapter IV.72

New information: (For Fort and Shalamar Gardens of Lahore and Taxila Archaeological Remains)

Following the decisions of the Bureau at its twenty-third session, a mission was undertaken by a World Heritage Centre staff to Lahore and Karachi between 12 – 15 October 1999. At the time of the preparation of this document, consultations were being held with representatives of the Department of Archaeology and Museums and members of the National Technical

Committee for the Preservation of the Shish Mahal, Lahore Fort. Political disturbance and change in Government during the midst of the mission may render necessary, another reactive monitoring mission when the new authorities responsible for decisions concerning the newly constructed football stadium at Bhir Mound in Taxila and those for the demobilised hydraulic works of the Shalamar Gardens are in place.

A full report on the findings of the mission will be presented at the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine the report of the Secretariat at the time of its twenty-third extraordinary session and take decisions thereupon.

Rice Terraces of the Philippines Cordilleras (Philippines)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1995

International Assistance:

- Preparatory Assistance:
1994 US\$ 13,200: for preparation of nomination form.
1997 US\$ 15,000: for project proposal of a Technical Co-operation Request for mapping the Rice Terraces
- Technical Co-operation:
1999 US\$ 50,000: GIS for mapping the Rice Terraces and for strengthening management.

Previous deliberations:

World Heritage Bureau, twenty-third session - Chapter IV.74

New information: In response to the request of the Bureau at its twenty-third session, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines transmitted a brief report prepared by the Banaue Rice Terraces Task Force (BRTTF) dated 30 August 1999, stating that the contract for the GIS mapping of the site was finally signed on 24 August 1999. The Secretariat was requested to note that the following were among the projects being undertaken to protect the site :

- Reforestation of Batad's critical watershed which serves as the buffer zone for the terraces ;
- Repair of the damaged rice terraces ;
- Rehabilitation of the ancient irrigation systems ;
- Repair and restoration of the traditional native Ifugao houses in the Batad villages (BRTTF reported that 48 native houses have already been restored by changing decayed cogon or thatched roof with fresh cogon) ;
- Protection of the traditional Ifugao clan-owned forest called the « Muyongs » which serves as buffer zones for the terraces, notably by strengthening co-operation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for strict enforcement of the Forestry Laws to prevent timber-poaching and deforestation ; co-operation with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to prevent damages to the ricefields and forest buffer zones when implementing public works within the terrace areas ; and by undertaking joint reforestation projects with the local woodcarvers and stakeholders of the terraces with technical support of the DENR.

The Secretariat has been informed by independent experts of the negative impact on the site and its inhabitants due to increasing tourism while the site's carrying capacity remains inadequate.

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

“The Bureau expresses its appreciation of the informative report of the Banaue Rice Terraces Task Force (BRTTF) dated 30 August 1999 informing the Bureau of the on-going activities for the protection of the Rice Terraces of the Philippines Cordilleras. The Bureau stresses the importance of these activities, notably the watershed management of the site and its buffer zone as well as those to mitigate the negative impact of infrastructural development works on the site. The Bureau recommends the State Party to elaborate a long-term integrated development plan to ensure that the socio-economic development needs of the local inhabitants are met while maintaining the authenticity and sustainable conservation of this fragile site. In this connection, the Bureau expresses concern over the impact of increasing tourism to the site and requests the State Party to inform the Bureau through the Secretariat by 15 September 2000 on whether or not the integrated development strategy including a tourism development plan for this site which were reportedly under preparation at the time of the site's inscription had been completed. Should the State Party require international expertise in completing this, the Bureau expresses its readiness to support the national effort through technical co-operation under the World Heritage Fund.”

The Sokkuram Grotto and Pulguksa Temple (Republic of Korea)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1995

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

World Heritage Bureau, twenty-third session - Chapter IV.64

New information: In August 1999, the Secretariat took advantage of an invitation to a conference held in the Republic of Korea to visit the World Heritage site of the Sokkuram Grotto and the Pulguksa Temple and to discuss with the national and local authorities on the Bureau's concern over the planned construction of an incinerator which may have a negative impact on the site and the local inhabitants. The State Party submitted a brief report in October 1999 stating that the construction in 2002 of the trash incinerator in the region of Kyongju is still pending the City Council approval due to strong opposition from citizens and environmental protection groups. The State Party requested the Secretariat to inform the Committee that if the construction, to be located 6.6 km away from the World Heritage site is approved, the central government will monitor the process to ensure that the municipal authorities comply with the international dioxin emission standards (0.1ng/m³) and the National Waste Management Law, as well as to exam the surrounding natural environment.

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

“The Bureau, upon examining the report presented by the Secretariat thanks the State Party for its commitment to monitor the planning and eventual construction process of

the incinerator to ensure that international standards are respected and that it will not have negative impacts on the inhabitants nor on the environment of the Sokkuron Grotto and the Pulguksa Temple. The Bureau requests the State Party to keep the Bureau informed through the Secretariat of future developments regarding the incinerator construction and of any other works which may impact upon this World Heritage site.”

Historic Areas of Istanbul (Turkey)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1985

International assistance:

- Emergency Assistance:
1999: US\$8,000: Evaluation of fire-damaged timber buildings
- Technical Co-operation:
1983: US\$ 30,000 : Conservation of mosaics of Hagia Sophia
1987: US\$ 31,247: Photogrammetry equipment
1988: US\$ 29,902: Equipment for conservation of mosaics of Hagia Sophia
1991: US\$ 20,000: Conservation of mosaics of Hagia Sophia
1994: US\$ 20,000: Hagia Sophia
1994: US\$ 80,000: Conservation of mosaics of Hagia Sophia
1999: US\$ 50,000: Conservation of mosaics of Hagia Sophia
1999: US\$ 30,000: Establishment of the Istanbul Heritage House – municipal advisory service on conservation of urban heritage
- Training:
1987: US\$ 12,000: Training in stone conservation
- Promotion
1999: US\$ 5,000: Map of the World Heritage protected areas

Previous deliberations:

World Heritage Bureau, sixteenth session - Chapter VI 44
World Heritage Committee, sixteenth session - Chapter VIII 2
World Heritage Bureau, seventeenth session - Chapter VIII.3
World Heritage Bureau, eighteenth extraordinary session - Chapter IV.1
World Heritage Committee, eighteenth session - Chapter IX. 22
World Heritage Bureau, twenty-first extraordinary session – Chapter III.C
World Heritage Committee, twenty-first session -Chapter VII 55
World Heritage Bureau, twenty-second session - Chapter V 67
World Heritage Bureau, twenty-second extraordinary session - Chapter III C
World Heritage Committee, twenty-second session - Chapter VII.43
World Heritage Bureau, twenty-third session - Chapter IV.85.2

New information: Following the request of the Bureau at its twenty-third extraordinary session, the State Party submitted a brief report on the state of conservation focused on the World Heritage area of Zeyrek, Fatih District. The report indicated that in accordance with the “Protection and Conservation of Fatih Historical Environment Protocol” signed by the Municipality of Fatih and the Ministry of Culture, the Municipal authorities signed with the Istanbul Governate the “ Fatih, Zeyrek Urban Planning and Street Rehabilitation Protocol”. These protocols govern the provision of technical support and financial assistance under “investment programmes allocation” for urban heritage conservation in the Zeyrek area. An amount of one billion Turkish Lira (approximately US\$ 250,000) has been allocated for 1999

for works to be carried out under the technical control of the Ministry of Culture. The Municipality has reported that the conservation plan is under elaboration in co-operation with universities, NGOs and private sector sponsors. Furthermore, the Municipality has indicated that following the earthquake of 17 August 1999, the Ministry of Public Works and Housing has halted all construction plans and licenses for the Istanbul region pending the completion of on-going planning studies. With regard to the earthquake damage, the Secretariat was informed by independent sources that the areas under World Heritage protection in Istanbul have not been affected by this tragedy, although some cracks have been noted in some parts of the restored section of the Byzantine Rampart.

Following the mission undertaken by a World Heritage Centre staff and an independent structural engineer in April 1999, two co-operation projects have been developed in close co-operation with ICOMOS Turkey experts. Mimar University will be updating the cadastral plan and carrying out a survey on the rehabilitation needs of Zeyrek, partially supported from the World Heritage Fund's 1999 budget under state of conservation (US\$5,500). Istanbul Technical University has developed a 2-year project to update the architectural and urban heritage inventory of the entire historic peninsula of Istanbul. Request for financial support from the Fund for an amount of US\$58,276 has been submitted through the State Party for this activity. The Secretariat's recommendation to revise this project to focus more on the inventory work necessary for the elaboration of the 1/5000 scale conservation plan to be adopted by Greater Istanbul, as required under law, has been supported by ICOMOS, and is presented for Committee approval under international assistance. To support the efforts of Greater Istanbul and the Ministry of Culture, the Centre has obtained the expert services of a French urbanist under the France-UNESCO Agreement for the Protection and Development of Monumental and Urban Heritage, who is scheduled to undertake a mission to Istanbul in November 1999. At the time of reporting, the project for the Rehabilitation of the Historic Quarters of Fatih, prepared by the Centre in 1997-98 and approved by the European Union for a US\$ 7.7 million contribution had not yet started, reportedly due to delays in the issuance of public tenders to identify the implementing agency.

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

“The Bureau expresses its sympathies to the families of the victims of the tragic earthquake of 17 August 1999 and assures the Government of Turkey of its readiness to support the national efforts in the rehabilitation process. The Bureau notes its appreciation for the significant allocation of funds to the Fatih Municipality by the Government to prepare the conservation plan and to undertake rehabilitation activities in Zeyrek. The Bureau encourages the continued efforts of the Centre in mobilizing international technical support, particularly to expedite the elaboration of the 1/5000 scale urban development and conservation plan by Greater Istanbul and the 1/1000 scale detailed conservation plan by the Municipal authorities of Fatih and Eminonu. Finally, it request the State Party to submit a report to the Bureau through the Secretariat by 15 September 2000 of progress in corrective measures being carried out in Zeyrek and other historic areas of Istanbul to maintain the World Heritage values of this urban complex.”

Complex of Hué Monuments (Vietnam)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1993

International Assistance:

- Preparatory Assistance:
1998 US\$5,000 on-site exhibition
- Technical Co-operation:
1994 US\$ 20,000 for seminar on Hanoi/Hue
1995 US\$ 108,000 for wood conservation laboratory and training for their use
1996 US\$ 12,500 evaluation of the World Heritage boundary
1997 US\$ 35,000 for legal diagnosis of urban heritage protection regulations
1998 US\$ 16,811 for Hue-Hoi An workshop on timber buildings conservation

Previous deliberations:

World Heritage Committee, eighteenth session - Chapter IX.22
World Heritage Bureau, eighteenth extraordinary session – Chapter VI.2.B
World Heritage Bureau, eighteenth extraordinary session – Chapter V.C.2
World Heritage Bureau, eighteenth extraordinary session – Chapter III.C
World Heritage Bureau, eighteenth extraordinary session – Chapter III.C
World Heritage Committee, nineteenth session – Chapter VII.49
World Heritage Committee, twentieth session – Chapter VII.70
World Heritage Committee, twenty-first session – Chapter VII.54
World Heritage Committee, twenty-second session - Chapter VII.43

New information: Hue, Lille Metropole and the World Heritage Centre's collaboration on the legal diagnosis and urban deformation analyses of Zones I and II of Hue World Heritage area carried out in 1998 with funding support from the World Heritage Fund, Government of France and Lille Metropole was continued in 1999 through an expert meeting held in April 1999 . The draft urban conservation and development plan of Hue which includes the World Heritage site of the Complex of Hue Monuments was presented at this expert workshop by the Hue Provincial and Municipal authorities and is currently being evaluated in detail by the World Heritage Centre and Lille Metropole with the support of a high-level French architect-urbanist seconded to the Centre under the France-UNESCO Co-operation Agreement for the Protection and Development of Monumental and Urban Heritage. The donors' meeting initially planned for March 1999 had to be postponed to enable the full evaluation of the draft plan. This donors meeting, aimed to present the draft conservation and development plan to bilateral and multilateral development co-operation agencies and representatives of donor states to be organized by the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and hosted by the Provincial Government of Hue with technical support by the Centre and Lille Metropole, is now being planned for April 2000 on the occasion of the Hue 2000 cultural event organized by the governments of France and Vietnam.

Deformation of the Hue urban heritage being caused by the lack of awareness and respect for the conservation needs of the local population, the community advisory function of the « Heritage House » established jointly by the provincial and municipal authorities and the Hue Conservation Centre with support from the Centre and Lille Metropole, will be vital to the conservation effort. To raise public awareness of the local population, the State Party has submitted an international assistance request under promotion to produce the Vietnamese version of the World Heritage education kit and to hold a series of national youth fora, including in Hue. This request could not be supported due to lack of funds in 1999 but will be considered under the 2000 budget.

Discussions are currently underway with the concerned national and local authorities on the funding of the national experts of the Heritage House to evaluate building permit requests and

technical assistance to local inhabitants. Lille Metropole is preparing the modalities of a Housing Improvement Fund for the local population with support from the Caisse des Depots et Consignations of France. A project proposal for funding support under the European Commission's AsiaUrbs Programme has also been submitted to enable the initiation of this grant and soft loan scheme to conserve the urban heritage of the World Heritage protected areas and to improve the housing conditions of the poor.

To halt the continuing deterioration of the urban heritage components of the World Heritage value of the site, and to properly manage the on-going and future change in Hue, housing and employment needs of the residents need to be incorporated in the conservation planning process. Moreover, the preliminary sustainable tourism study conducted in 1995 by the Centre and the UNESCO Bangkok Office needs to be continued to evaluate the infrastructural development needs and their impact on the World Heritage area to meet the tourism and related growth targeted by the national tourism authorities.

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

“The Bureau appreciates the continued efforts of the Provincial and Municipal Authorities of Hué and the Hué Conservation Centre with technical support of Lille Metropole, UNESCO and the French Government in halting the deterioration of the urban heritage of the World Heritage protected areas of Hué. The Bureau expresses the importance of preserving the authenticity and integrity of the Citadel of Hué marked by its urban morphology, spatial organization and vegetation which were all part of the « feng shui » philosophy in the original construction and subsequent transformations. The Bureau therefore encourages the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and Lille Metropole in the successful organization of the donors' meeting scheduled in April 2000 and requests that invitations be extended to members of the Committee and advisory bodies, as well as to the international development co-operation agencies and Vietnam-based diplomatic missions. The Bureau notes that the written report it requested the State Party to submit by 15 September 1999 had not been received to date and reiterates its request for a comprehensive report together with the conservation and development plan of Hué to be provided to the Secretariat by 15 September 2000 for review by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth extraordinary session in November 2000.”

Latin America and the Caribbean

Jesuit Missions of the Guaranis (Argentina and Brazil):

The Jesuit Mission of Santa Ana (Argentina)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1983, 1984

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Bureau, Chapter IV.51

New information: The Secretariat received a report from the authorities of Argentina dated 20 September 1999 on the construction of an industrial plant in the village of Santa Ana. It is reported that the plant is at a distance of 700 meters from the ruins of the Jesuit Mission and that it is not visible from there. A new access road to the mission is being planned that will improve security

for visitors, will re-introduce the historical access to the site and will avoid visitors being directly confronted with the industrial plant. World Heritage Centre staff, during a mission to Argentina in September 1999, could observe the situation ‘in situ’ and confirmed the information provided by the authorities.

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

“The Bureau takes note of the information provided by the authorities of Argentina on the construction of an industrial plant in the village of Santa Ana. It concludes that the plant has no visual impact on the World Heritage site and that the proposed new access road to the missions will improve the presentation of the site.”

City of Quito (Ecuador)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1978

International assistance: Emergency assistance approved for 1999 for an amount of US\$ 50,000 to respond to emergency situation caused by re-activation of volcano La Pichincha.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee, Chapter VII.43 and Annex IV

New information:

The Ecuadorian authorities have provided detailed information on the disaster preparation scheme introduced to respond to the possible impact of the re-activation of the volcano La Pichincha that is at a close distance to the World Heritage site. In October 1999, ash erupted from the volcano. The World Heritage Centre is in contact with the authorities and the UNESCO Office in Quito for up-to-date information.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine information that will be provided at the time of its session and take the appropriate decision thereupon.

Historic Centre of Puebla (Mexico)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1987

Earliest 16th-Century Monasteries on the slopes of Popocatepetl (Mexico)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994

International assistance: A request for emergency assistance for an amount of US\$ 100,000 has been received and will be considered by the Committee at its twenty-third session. The request refers particularly to the Monastery of Tochimilco, one of the monasteries on the slopes of the Popocatepetl.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Bureau, Chapter IV.68

New information: In response to a request from the Bureau at its twenty-third session, the Mexican authorities submitted a detailed inventory of damages caused to the *Historic Centre of Puebla* and the *Earliest 16th-Century Monasteries on the slopes of Popocatepetl* by the earthquake of 15 June 1999. The inventory refers to 102 buildings in the State of Puebla, a great number of which are

located within the two World Heritage sites. The report includes immediate actions that have been taken already by the Mexican authorities, as well as an estimate of the funds needed for consolidation, restoration and repair.

Action 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 Mexican authorities for the detailed report on the damages caused by the earthquake of 15 June 1999 to the World Heritage sites of the Historic Centre of Puebla and the Earliest 16th-Century Monasteries on the slopes of Popocatepetl. It commends the authorities for the immediate response given to the earthquake and the emergency measures that have been taken to prevent further damage and collapse.”

Archaeological Site of Chavin (Peru)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1985

International assistance: 1998: Emergency Assistance for an amount of US\$ 37,250.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee , Chapter VII.43 and Annex IV

New information: An ICOMOS expert undertook a mission to Chavin in September/October 1999 to update the 1993 state of conservation report and advise on future actions for the management and preservation of the site. In case the report of the mission be available before the Bureau session, ICOMOS will report the findings during the session of the Bureau.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine information that may be provided at the time of its session and take the appropriate decision thereupon.

City of Cuzco (Peru)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1983

International assistance: Technical Co-operation 1997: US\$ 20,000 for the preparation of a Master Plan.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Bureau, Chapter IV.73

New information: At the time of the preparation of this working document no information had been received on the arrangements for the implementation of the assistance for the Master Plan. World Heritage Centre staff, during a mission to Peru in October 1999, will look into this matter and report to the Bureau during its session.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine information that will be provided at the time of its session and take the appropriate decision thereupon.

Europe and North America

Historic Centre of Tallin (Estonia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1997

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty second session of the Committee , Chapter VII.43 and Annex IV

New information: The Estonian authorities informed the Secretariat that, in response to the ICOMOS expert monitoring mission (1998) and the Bureau's recommendations, the national and local governments are now looking for an alternative location for the construction of a new theatre. The historic buildings at the originally foreseen location of the theatre have been consolidated and new functions are being sought for them.

The authorities point out, however, that as long no development plan for the Protected Area of Tallin exists, similar cases might occur in the future.

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

“The Bureau congratulates the authorities of Estonia for their efforts to find a more suitable location for a theatre that was planned within the Historic Centre of Tallin and to preserve the historic structures on its planned location. It urges the authorities to proceed with the preparation of a development plan for the Historic Centre of Tallin in order to provide the adequate framework for interventions and preservation in the Historic Centre. It offers its support to such effort, if requested by the State Party.”

Mont-Saint-Michel and its Bay (France)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979

International Assistance: None

Past deliberations

World Heritage Bureau, twenty-first session, Chapter (page 31)

New information: On the occasion of the Assembly of the Friends of Mont-Saint-Michel, on 24 September 1999, to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the inscription of the site on the World Heritage List, the project «Re-establishment of the Maritime character of the Mont-Saint-Michel», prepared by the Ministry for Equipment was presented to the public. This project, which foresees major infrastructural works (replacement of the causeway road by a bridge, creation of a parking area on the mainland and the use of shuttles, strengthening of the flow of the Couesnon River) will greatly contribute towards the rehabilitation of the spiritual nature of Mont-Saint-Michel. It will help regulate the tourist influx (more than three million per year) and in general encourage a better distribution around the Bay.

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

«The Bureau took note of the development of the project for the re-establishment of the maritime character of the Mont-Saint-Michel prepared by the French authorities and congratulates them for their continuing commitment for the protection of the World Heritage. The Bureau appreciates the quality of the work and the aims of the project. It hopes that its implementation, which has also to respect the needs of the residents of the Mont-Saint-Michel, is carried out as soon as possible. Finally, the Bureau requests the Secretariat to study, together with the French authorities, the possibility of organizing an exhibition on the Mont and on the project.»

City-Museum Reserve of Mtskheta (Georgia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994

International assistance: From 1996 to 1999 an amount of US\$ 36,800 was made available under technical cooperation for expert services on management and tourism policy. A request for US\$ 35,000 has been submitted for the year 2000 for the preparation by a team of international experts of a Heritage and Tourism Master Plan.

Previous deliberations: None

New information: Upon request from the Government of Georgia, a consultant prepared in 1997 a preliminary study for a Master Plan for the heritage and tourist policy for the World Heritage site City Museum Reserve of Mtskheta. In 1999, the major elements of this study were presented in the form of "Terms of References for 9 Actions" that were the basis for a World Heritage Centre mission to Georgia in order to identify potential donors, needs and opportunities for the actual preparation of a Heritage and Tourism Master Plan. As a result a project is being prepared with UNDP (to be financed by UNDP and the World Heritage Fund) for an international team of experts to develop together with national experts the actual Heritage and Tourism Master Plan. The Master Plan will provide the appropriate framework for a coherent set of actions to be financed by different sources and donor institutions and will include issues such as archaeological excavations and protection; interpretation, presentation and museum facilities; tourist facilities, hotel development, parking etc.; institutional development. The start of the project is scheduled for spring 2000.

The mission team noted the critical conditions of particularly two archaeological sites. At the Armaztsikhe site, excavated remains from the Roman period are openly exposed to the climate and to visitors; protective structures of the Roman baths have partly been destroyed. Over the last decades buildings have been constructed on the Samtavros Veli site (necropolis). Furthermore, the mission took note of a plan to build a new bell-tower within the enclosure of the cathedral.

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

“The Committee welcomes the initiative of the Government of Georgia to develop a Heritage and Tourism Master Plan for the City-Museum Reserve of Mtskheta and expresses its full support for this initiative that will provide the appropriate framework for a coherent set of actions to be financed by different sources and donor institutions. The Committee recognises that on the middle and long term major investments will be required for the actual implementation of the master plan and calls upon States Parties, international institutions and organizations to collaborate in this effort.

The Committee urges the Government of Georgia to take immediate measures for the protection of the Armaztsikhe archaeological site and for the recuperation of the total area of the Samtavros Veli necropolis site. It requests the Georgian authorities to provide the plans for the bell tower at the cathedral for further study by ICOMOS.”

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1986

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Bureau, Chapter IV.59

New information: The German authorities submitted a report and plans on the protection and development of the surroundings of the Roman amphitheatre including the following information:

- By municipal ordinance of 8 September 1999 an extended area around the Roman amphitheatre was declared a protected area. The area includes the areas along the Bergstrasse, the area north of the amphitheatre (the former Lowenbrauerei) and the hill and convent of Petrisberg;
- The building project for the Lowenbrauerei-area has been reduced from five to four blocks, providing a greater distance from the theatre; the height of the block closest to the theatre has been reduced;
- The draft plan on the proposed integration of the Roman water pipes and town ramparts in the Lowenbrauerei-area is not available yet.

The report and plans were transmitted to ICOMOS for review.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine the views that will be presented by ICOMOS at the time of its session and take the appropriate decision thereupon.

Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin (Germany)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1990/1992

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee , Chapter VII.34)

New information: The German authorities informed the Secretariat that the fifth state of conservation report, requested by the Committee at its twenty-second session will be submitted by 15 October 1999. The contents of this report as well as the views of ICOMOS will be submitted during the session of the Bureau.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine the fifth state of conservation report as well as ICOMOS’ views that will be presented at the time of its session and take the appropriate decision thereupon.

Auschwitz Concentration Camp (Poland)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979

International assistance: In 1998 an amount of US\$ 20,000 was provided under technical cooperation for the organization of an international expert meeting on the planning and protection of the surroundings of the site.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee, Chapter VII.38

Twenty-third session of the Bureau, Chapter IV.75

Major progress had been made in the implementation of the Strategic Governmental Programme for Auschwitz and of the Act for the Protection of Former Nazi Extermination Camps. The Bureau of the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-third session (5-10 July 1999) requested the Government of Poland to submit a further progress report by 15 April 2000 for examination by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth session.

New information: The Polish National Commission for UNESCO by letter dated 18 August 1999, requested the views of the World Heritage Committee on the following matter:

In 1944, a Jewish prisoner of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp, the 21-year old Ms Dinah Gottlieb from Brno, Czech Republic, painted portraits of Gypsies in the camp. Thanks to her artistic skills she managed together with her mother to survive the camp. During the liberation of the camp in January 1945 several water colour paintings were given from a prisoner to habitants nearby the camp. Seven paintings were sold in 1963 and 1977 to the State Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau at Oswiecim. In 1969 the Museum identified Ms Dinah Gottlieb-Babbitt, now living in the United States, as author of the paintings. In 1973 on the occasion of a visit to the museum, Ms Gottlieb asked for photos of the portraits that were sent to her.

In 1997 Ms Gottlieb asked the State Museum to return the seven portraits. In its resolution H. CON. RES. 162 dated 22 July 1999 the House of the Representatives of the United States urged inter alia "the officials of the Auschwitz-Birkenau state museum to transfer the seven original paintings to Dina Babbitt as expeditiously as possible."

The State Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau – while fully recognising Ms Gottliebs personal attitude to the works she made in the past under horrendous conditions – is convinced the paintings should remain in the museum's collection. The museum believes that the loss of every object that certifies about the crimes committed by the Nazis will be an irreparable loss for the memory of human kind. Furthermore, as this site forms part of the World Heritage the museum is convinced that objects and documents found in the area of the liberated camp should be protected for further generations.

Similar views were expressed by the International Council of Remembrance of Extermination of the Romes, Poland.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine this matter at its session.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1983

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee, Chapter VII.39

Twenty-third session of the Bureau, Chapter IV.76

New information: The Portuguese authorities submitted in July and September 1999 substantive documentation on the project for the marina and the rehabilitation of the waterfront of Angra do Heroísmo:

- On the marina it is stated that historical, cultural, functional and urban planning considerations led to the choice to build the marina, including a dam to protect it from the sea, in the Bay of Angra. The authorities informed that, following the advice of an ICOMOS expert, laboratory tests were done on various alternative solutions for the connection of the dam to the city's waterfront. The result of these tests is that the level of the dam at the connection can be lowered if at the same time the existing beach would be expanded.
- The rehabilitation of the waterfront is presented in two sections. The first one refers to the areas east and west of the town; the second one deals with the central part of the waterfront, including the area where the town and the Bay meet (square and historic quay).

The documentation was reviewed by the ICOMOS expert who submitted the following observations:

- The justification for the location of the marina has been provided. He specifically notes that one of the justifications is that the marina gives the opportunity for the protection and restoration of the old quay and historic entrance to the city. He is in agreement with the solution proposed for the connection of the dam to the waterfront of the city.
- The expert agrees with the proposals for the western and eastern parts of the bay area with the exception that the area around the S. Sebastiao Fort should be further developed (e.g. free area in front of the fort, re-establish connection between the Fort and the harbour) and that no demolition of structures within the fort should take place before a rehabilitation plan for the fort be approved.
- For the central part of the waterfront the expert considers that: new construction at the actual garden (Jardines de Corte-Reais and Antigo Mercad do Peixe) should be reconsidered; that the square/quay area (Patio da Alfandega) should be re-designed in order to fully take advantage of and respect the historical remains (staircase, archaeological remains of city entrance, historical quay); new construction in the Encosta do Cantalgo area (a natural cliff) would seriously affect the values of the waterfront.
- It is furthermore noted that a general urban development plan is still missing and that an integration of the marina/waterfront project in the city plan is not shown.

To conclude, the ICOMOS expert observes that the construction of the marina will have a visual impact on the Bay and the waterfront of the city and that this should be accompanied by a rehabilitation that should fully respect, and with minimal change, the structure and characteristics of the waterfront. Particular attention should be given to the area between the city and the proposed marina (Patio da Alfandega).

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

“The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State Party on the marina project in the Bay of Angra do Heroísmo and the opinions expressed by ICOMOS. The Committee endorses the views of ICOMOS regarding the proposed rehabilitation of the waterfront and urges the Portuguese authorities to take these into account in reconsidering the plans for this area, more particularly for the area of the Patio da Alfandega, Jardines de

Corte-Reais and Antigo Mercad do Peixe, the Encosta do Cantalgo and the S. Sebastiao Fort.

The Committee requests the authorities to continue its collaboration with ICOMOS on the further development of the plans for the marina and the waterfront and their integration into the overall urban plan for Angra do Heroismo.

It requests the authorities to submit a report on the above matters by 15 April 1999 for consideration by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth session.”

Alhambra, Generalife and Albayzin, Grenada (Spain)

Year of inscription on the World HeritageList: 1984 and 1994

International assistance

1998: US\$ 15,000 for the revitalization of the Albayzin

1999: US\$ 10,000 for the restoration of the altar piece of the Santa Isabel la Réal Monastery

Previous deliberations

At its twenty-third session, the Bureau took note that the revision of the Special Plan had begun and recommended that the extension of the cemetery respect the protection of the site.

New information

In September 1999, the University of Grenada organized an international seminar on site management and invited the World Heritage Centre to participate. This seminar provided the opportunity for the Patronate of the Alhambra to present to the public the preliminary work on the revision of the Special Plan for the monumental part of the site (Alhambra and Generalife). This revision integrates the necessary liaison of the plan with the management plan of the city-centre of Grenada and the Special Plan for the Albayzin. The three teams responsible for these plans are working together, and it is expected that the co-ordination of these three plans will finally become operational.

However, the monumental site is still at risk from the extension of the cemetery situated at the edge of the olive grove of Los Alijares and this, in spite of the recommendation made by the Bureau at its twenty-third session.

In the Albayzin, the Albayzin Foundation has begun implementation of an urban pilot project financed by the FEDER. The major works originally foreseen have been abandoned in favour of activities better adapted to the area. Only the construction of the Mosque adjacent to the Mirador de San Nicolas and the state of dilapidation of the Puerta Elvira area remain a cause for concern. The restoration work on the altar piece of the Santa Isabel la Réal Monastery and the final work for the rehabilitation of the Monastery continue, and it will soon be authorized to open to the public.

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

«The Bureau congratulates the Spanish authorities for the progress made in the revision of the Special Plan for the monumental site and for the co-ordination of the different protection and management plans. It also congratulates the authorities for the ongoing

work in the Albayzin and expresses its wish that the remaining problems be treated taking due consideration of the Convention and the nature of the area.

However, the Bureau remains concerned about the continuing threat to the monumental site due to the extension of the cemetery, and hopes that this threat will be rapidly resolved. It requests the State Party to report to the Bureau on this matter before 15 April 2000.