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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL
AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-third session
Marrakesh, Morocco
29 November – 4 December 1999

Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda: Information on Tentative Lists and Examination of nominations of cultural and natural properties to the List of World Heritage in Danger and the World Heritage List

SUMMARY

This document contains recommendations made by the Bureau at its twenty-third (July 1999) and twenty-third extraordinary (November 1999) sessions regarding the nominations of properties for inscription on the World Heritage List.

Decision required : In accordance with paragraphs 92 and 93 of the Operational Guidelines, the Committee is requested to examine the inscription of properties in and the deletion of properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

In accordance with paragraph 65 of the Operational Guidelines, the Committee is requested to examine the nominations for inscription on the World Heritage List on the basis of the Bureau's recommendations and take its decisions in the following three categories:

- (a) properties which it inscribes on the World Heritage List;
- (b) properties which it decides not to inscribe on the List;
- (c) properties whose consideration is deferred.

(1) Information on Tentative Lists

In accordance with paragraphs 7 and 8 of the *Operational Guidelines*, which require that States Parties submit a tentative nomination list of cultural properties, the Secretariat has verified that all the nominations submitted for examination in 1999 are listed on the tentative lists of the States concerned.

The tentative lists of all States Parties can be found in Working Document WHC-99/CNF.209/10.

(2) Examination of nominations of cultural and natural properties to the List of World Heritage in Danger

During its twenty-third session, the Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe the following natural properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
- Rwenzori Mountains National Park (Uganda)

(3) Examination of nominations of cultural and natural properties to the World Heritage List

A. NATURAL PROPERTIES

A.1 Properties which the Bureau recommended for inscription on the World Heritage List

Name of Property	Identi- fication number	State Party having submitted the nomination in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention	Criteria
Península Valdés	937	Argentina	N (iv)

The Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe Peninsula Valdés on the World Heritage List under *criterion (iv)*.

Peninsula Valdés contains very important and significant natural habitats for the in-situ conservation of several threatened species of outstanding universal value, and specifically its globally important concentration of breeding southern right whales, which is an endangered species. It is also important because of the breeding populations of southern elephant seals and southern sea lions. The area exhibits an exceptional example of adaptation of hunting techniques by the orca to the local coastal conditions.

The Bureau commended the government of the Province of Chubut for promoting the preparation of an Integrated Collaborative Management Plan for this site. The Bureau

recommended that the State Party, along with responsible regional and local bodies should: (a) ensure that effective controls are in place over any possible pollution threat from the town of Puerto Madryn to the waters of Golfo Nuevo, (b) support the efforts of the relevant authorities to secure the equipment needed to respond quickly to any oil hazard from passing shipping so as to protect the marine conservation values of the area; (c) produce a tourism management plan as an integral element of the overall management plan; (d) encourage implementation of the Integrated Collaborative Management Plan, and in particular to ensure that farmers and other private owners of land can play a full part in the development of environmentally responsible tourism; and (e) work at the international level to ensure that the marine mammals concerned are protected throughout their range.

Area de Conservacion 828 Costa Rica N (ii) (iv)
Guanacaste

The Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe the Guanacaste Conservation Area on the World Heritage List under *criteria (ii) and (iv)*.

The site demonstrates significant, major biological and ecological processes in both its terrestrial and marine-coastal environments, as exemplified by: a) evolution, succession and restoration of Pacific Tropical Dry Forest; b) altitudinal migration and other interactive biogeographic and ecological processes along its dry forest - montane humid forest - cloud forest - lowland Caribbean rain forest transect; and, c) the major upwelling and development of coral colonies and reefs in regions long considered to not have either (marine area near the coast of the Murcielago sector of Santa Rosa National Park).

It contains important natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity (2.4% of global diversity), including both the best dry forest habitats and communities in Central America and key habitat for threatened animal species such as the Saltwater Crocodile, False Vampire Bat, Leatherback Sea Turtle, Jaguar, Jabiru Stork, Mangrove Hummingbird and threatened plant species such as Mahogany, Guyacan Real (*Lignum Vitae*), five species each of rare cacti and rare bromeliads.

Lorentz National Park 955 Indonesia N (i) (ii) (iv)

The Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe the Lorentz National Park on the World Heritage List under natural *criteria (i), (ii) and (iv)*. The Bureau requested the Centre to inform the Indonesian authorities of a number of aspects suggested by IUCN dealing with the management of the site, and in particular: (a) the priority need to continue the process of management planning for the park with full involvement of the local stakeholders; (b) encouragement for the proposed establishment of a Foundation which would assist in the management of the park; (c) possible twinning arrangement with the Wet Tropics World Heritage site in Australia; (d) appointment of a Park Director and support staff; (e) the concern over development projects that would affect the Park, for example the proposed Timika/Mapurajaya road and any expansion of mining activity towards the Park boundary so as not to conflict with Lorentz National Park's nomination as a World Heritage Site.

The site is the largest protected area in Southeast Asia (2.5 mil. ha.) and the only protected area in the world which incorporates a continuous, intact transect from snow cap to tropical marine environment, including extensive lowland wetlands. Located at the meeting point of two

colliding continental plates, the area has a complex geology with on-going mountain formation as well as major sculpting by glaciation and shoreline accretion which has formed much of the lowland areas. These processes have led to a high level of endemism and the area supports the highest level of biodiversity in the region. The area also contains fossil sites which record the evolution of life on New Guinea.

The Bureau requested the Centre to commend the State Party for ensuring that the formerly existing mining and petroleum exploration leases in the Park were withdrawn. The Bureau also suggested that a monitoring mission be undertaken to gauge progress three years after inscription.

The Observer of Australia noted that his country, not having been informed about the suggestion of twinning arrangements between Wet Tropics of Queensland and Lorentz National Park, would however be pleased to establish such a collaboration.

The Laurisilva of Madeira 934 Portugal N (ii) (iv)

The Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe the Laurel Forest of Madeira on the World Heritage List under natural *criteria (ii) and (iv)*.

The site contains the largest surviving relict of the virtually extinct laurisilva forest type that was once widespread in Europe. This forest type is considered to be a centre of plant diversity containing numerous rare, relict and endemic species, especially of bryophytes, ferns and flowering plants. It also has a very rich invertebrate fauna. Endemic species include the Madeiran long-toed pigeon and some 66 species of vascular plants.

The Bureau noted IUCN's suggestions to: (a) commend the State Party on the protection afforded to the forest in a protected area less than 10 years old and on the commitment shown by the Autonomous Regional Government, (b) encourage the State Party to enhance interpretation of the area and envisage compatible forestry practices outside the site, (c) encourage discussions between the Portuguese and the Spanish authorities on the possibility of jointly proposing Garajonay National Park World Heritage site and the Laurel Forest of Madeira as a single World Heritage site representing laurel forest.

Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park 914 South Africa N (ii) (iii) (iv)

The Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe the Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park on the World Heritage List under natural *criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv)*.

The site is the largest estuarine system in Africa and includes the southernmost extension of coral reefs on the continent. The site contains a combination of on-going fluvial, marine and aeolian processes which have resulted in a variety of landforms and ecosystems. Features include wide submarine canyons, sandy beaches, forested dune cordon and a mosaic of wetlands, grasslands, forests, lakes and savanna. The variety of morphology as well as major flood and storm events contribute to ongoing evolutionary processes in the area. Natural phenomena include: shifts from low to hyper-saline states in the Park's lakes; large numbers of nesting turtles on the beaches; the migration of whales, dolphins and whale-sharks off-shore; and huge numbers of waterfowl including large breeding colonies of pelicans, storks, herons

and terns. The Park's location between sub-tropical and tropical Africa as well as its coastal setting has resulted in exceptional biodiversity including some 521 bird species.

The Bureau commended the Government of South Africa on three issues: (a) for the decision to ban sand mining in the area and to subsequently nominate the area for World Heritage; (b) the long history of conservation in the area and the professional work of the Kwazulu-Natal Nature Conservation Service in maintaining the site; (c) the launch of the Lubombo Spatial Development Initiative which the neighbouring countries of Swaziland and Mozambique which provides the regional conservation and development framework for the Greater St. Lucia area and which will further strengthen community conservation work there.

The Bureau noted the possible extensions of the Greater St Lucia including a possible future transfrontier site with Mozambique. It urged the completion of the land claim negotiations and confirmed that World Heritage site designation should not prejudice this process.

The Chairperson informed the Bureau that this is the first nomination from South Africa and that the Bureau's recommendation to inscribe it is fully in line with the Global Strategy.

B. MIXED PROPERTY

B.1 Property which the Bureau recommended for inscription on the World Heritage List

Name of Property	Identification number	State Party having submitted the nomination in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention	Criteria
Mount Wuyi	911	China	N (iii) (iv)

The Bureau recommended that the World Heritage Committee inscribe this site under natural *criteria (iii) and (iv)*. Mount Wuyi is heavily forested with steep slopes and deep gorges and contains the highest peak in south-east China. It is considered the most outstanding area for biodiversity conservation in south-east China and one of the most outstanding subtropical forests in the world. The area is the largest, most representative example of a largely-intact forest encompassing the diversity of the Chinese Subtropical Forest and the South Chinese Rainforest. The area is a refuge for a large number of ancient, relict species, many of them endemic to China. The faunal diversity of the area is higher than in other sites in the region, especially for reptile, amphibian and insect species. The site also contains spectacular riverine landscape, including 200-400m sheer-sided monoliths of red sandstone, with an exceptional juxtaposition of smooth rock cliffs with clear, deep water.

ICOMOS informed the Bureau that this property, as defined in the nomination dossier, should not be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of cultural criteria.

The Bureau recommended inscription of the property under natural criteria and referred the cultural part of the nomination back to the State Party for re-examination.

The Observer of China agreed to this procedure and informed the Bureau that additional material had already been provided to ICOMOS on 5 July 1999.

C. CULTURAL HERITAGE

Subsequent to the decision of the twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau concerning the nomination of **The Cathedral of St-Maurice and St-Catherine, Magdebourg (Germany)**, the State Party requested a suspension of the World Heritage application until further notice.

C.1 Properties which the Bureau recommended for inscription on the World Heritage List

Name of Property	Identification Number	State Party having submitted the nomination in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention	Criteria
The Cueva de los Manos, Río Pinturas	936	Argentina	C (iii)

ICOMOS informed the Bureau that the Argentine authorities had responded positively to its recommendations and that it now could recommend inscription of the Cueva de los Manos, Río Pinturas on the World Heritage List. The World Heritage property will, therefore, be limited to the Cueva de los Manos with the surrounding protected area serving as a buffer zone.

The Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe this site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criterion (iii)*:

Criterion (iii): The Cueva de los Manos contains an outstanding collection of prehistoric rock art which bears witness to the culture of the earliest human societies in South America.

The State Party agreed to the recommendation that the site be named “The Cueva de los Manos, Río Pinturas”.

City of Graz – Historic Centre	931	Austria	C (ii) (iv)
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The Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe this site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (ii) and (iv)*:

Criterion (ii): The Historic Centre of the City of Graz reflects artistic and architectural movements originating from the Germanic region, the Balkans, and the Mediterranean, for

which it served as a crossroads for centuries. The greatest architects and artists of these different regions expressed themselves forcefully here and thus created brilliant syntheses.

Criterion (iv): The urban complex forming the Historic Centre of the City of Graz is an exceptional example of a harmonious integration of architectural styles from successive periods. Each age is represented by typical buildings, which are often masterpieces. The urban physiognomy faithfully tells the story of its historic development.

Historic Centre of the 18th Century Town of Diamantina **Brazil** **C (ii) (iii)**

The Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe this site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (ii) and (iv)*:

Criterion (ii): Diamantina shows how explorers of the Brazilian territory, diamond prospectors, and representatives of the Crown were able to adapt European models to an American context in the 18th century, thus creating a culture that was faithful to its roots yet completely original.

Criterion (iv): The urban and architectural group of Diamantina, perfectly integrated into a wild landscape, is a fine example of an adventurous spirit combined with a quest for refinement so typical of human nature.

The Dazu Rock Carvings **912** **China** **C (i) (ii) (iii)**

The Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe this site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (i), (ii) and (iii)*:

Criterion (i): The Dazu Carvings represent the pinnacle of Chinese rock art for their high aesthetic quality and their diversity of style and subject matter.

Criterion (ii): Tantric Buddhism from India and the Chinese Taoist and Confucian beliefs came together at Dazu to create a highly original and influential manifestation of spiritual harmony .

Criterion (iii): The eclectic nature of religious belief in later Imperial China is given material expression in the exceptional artistic heritage of the Dazu rock art.

The State Party agreed to the recommendation that the site be named “The Dazu Rock Carvings”.

Litomyšl Castle **901** **Czech Republic** **C (ii) (iv)**

The Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe this site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (ii) and (iv)*:

Criterion (ii): Litomyšl Castle is an outstanding and immaculately preserved example of the arcade castle, a type of building first developed in Italy and modified in the Czech lands to create an evolved form of special architectural quality.

Criterion (iv): Litomyšl Castle illustrates in an exceptional way the aristocratic residences of central Europe in the Renaissance and their subsequent development under the influence of new artistic movements.

Historic Centre of Santa Ana de los Rios de Cuenca **863** **Ecuador** **C (ii) (iv) (v)**

The Bureau decided to recommend the Committee to inscribe the site on the World Heritage List under cultural *criteria (ii), (iv) and (v)*.

Criterion (ii): Cuenca illustrates the successful implantation of the principles of Renaissance urban planning in the Americas.

Criterion (iv): The successful fusion of different societies and cultures in Latin America is vividly symbolized by the layout and townscape of Cuenca.

Criterion (v): Cuenca is an outstanding example of a planned inland Spanish colonial city.

It requested ICOMOS to undertake the evaluation of this nomination based on additional information submitted by the State Party and to submit a written evaluation to the Committee at its twenty-third session.

The Bureau decided, with the agreement of the State Party, to recommend the inscription of the property under the following name : Historic Centre of Santa Ana de los Rios de Cuenca.

The Bronze Age Burial Site of Sammallahdenmäki **579 Rev** **Finland** **C (iii) (iv)**

The Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe the Bronze Age Burial Site of Sammallahdenmäki on the World Heritage List under *criteria (iii) and (iv)* :

Criterion (iii) : The Sammallahdenmäki cairn cemetery bears exceptional witness to the society of the Bronze Age of Scandinavia.

Criterion (iv) : The Sammallahdenmäki cemetery is an outstanding example of Bronze Age funerary practices in Scandinavia.

The Observer of Finland informed that the management plan had been prepared and had been sent to the World Heritage Centre. The plan was transmitted to ICOMOS 6 October 1999.

The Jurisdiction of Saint-Emilion **932** **France** **C (iii) (iv)**

The Bureau accepted the proposal of ICOMOS and the Observer of France that the title of site be shortened to « The Jurisdiction of Saint-Emilion », and recommended that the Committee inscribe the site on the World Heritage List under *criteria (iii) and (iv)* :

Criterion (iii) : The Ancient Jurisdiction of Saint-Emilion is an outstanding example of an historic vineyard landscape that has survived intact and in activity to the present day ;

Criterion (iv) : The intensive cultivation of grapes for wine production in a precisely defined region and the resulting landscape is illustrated in an exceptional way by the historic Jurisdiction of Saint-Emilion.

Museumsinsel (Museum Island) **896** **Germany** **C (ii) (iv)**

The Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe the site on the World Heritage List under *criteria (ii) and (iv)* :

Criterion (ii) : The Berlin Museumsinsel is a unique ensemble of museum buildings which illustrated the evolution of modern museum design over more than a century.

Criterion (iv) : The art museum is a social phenomenon that owes its origins to the Age of Enlightenment and its extension to all people to the French Revolution. The Museumsinsel is the most outstanding example of this concept given material form and a symbolic central urban setting.

Wartburg Castle **897** **Germany** **C (iii) (vi)**

The Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe Wartburg Castle on the World Heritage List under *criteria (iii) and (vi)* :

Criterion (iii) : The Castle of Wartburg is an outstanding monument of the feudal period in central Europe.

Criterion (vi) : The Castle of Wartburg is rich in cultural associations, most notably its role as the place of exile of Martin Luther, who composed his German translation of the New Testament there. It is also a powerful symbol of German integration and unity.

The Archaeological Sites of Mycenae and Tiryns **941** **Greece** **C (i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (vi)**

The Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribed these sites as one single property on the World Heritage List, under *criteria (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) and (vi)* :

Criterion (i) : The architecture and design Mycenae and Tiryns, such as the Lion Gate and the Treasury of Atreus and the walls of Tiryns, are outstanding examples of human creative genius.

Criterion (ii) : The Mycenaean civilisation, as exemplified by Mycenae and Tiryns, had a profound effect on the development of classical Greek architecture and urban design, and consequently also on contemporary cultural forms.

Criterion (iii) and (iv) : Mycenae and Tiryns represent the apogee of the Mycenaean civilization, which laid the foundations for the evolution of later European cultures.

Criterion (vi) : Mycenae and Tiryns are indissolubly linked with the Homeric epics, the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, the influence of which upon European literature and the arts for more than three millennia.

The Historic Centre (Chorá) with the Monastery of Saint-John the Theologian and the Cave of the Apocalypse on the Island of Pátmos **942** **Greece** **C (iv) (vi)**

The Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe the site on the World Heritage List under *criteria (iv) and (vi) :*

Criterion (iv) : The Monastery of Hagios Ioannis Theologos (Saint John the Theologian) and the Cave of the Apocalypse on the island of Pátmos, together with the associated ancient settlement of Chorá, constitute an exceptional example of a traditional Greek Orthodox pilgrimage centre of outstanding architectural interest.

Criterion (vi) : The Monastery of Hagios Ioannis Theologos and the Cave of the Apocalypse commemorate the site where St John the Theologian (Divine), the “Beloved Disciple”, composed two of the most sacred Christian works, his Gospel and the Apocalypse.

Hortobágy National Park **474** **Hungary** **C (iv) (v)**
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The Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe the site on the World Heritage List under *criteria (iv) and (v) :*

Criterion (iv) : The Hungarian *Puszta* is an exceptional surviving example of a cultural landscape constituted by a pastoral society.

Criterion (v) : The landscape of the Hortobágy National Park maintains intact and visible traces of its traditional land-use forms over several thousand years, and illustrates the harmonious interaction between people and nature.

The Hungarian Delegate stated, in agreement with the suggestion of ICOMOS, that his country could contact IUCN in order to envisage the preparation of a proposal for nomination for inscription on the World Heritage List under natural criteria.

Darjeeling Himalayan Railway **944** **India** **C (ii) (iv)**

The Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe the site on the World Heritage List under *criteria (ii) and (iv) :*

Criterion (ii) : The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway is an outstanding example of the influence of an innovative transportation system on the social and economic development

The Bureau took note of the comment of ICOMOS that the development pressure near the south-west border of the site would require the State Party to be vigilant in monitoring potential threats in the future.

Zone of Historic Monuments of the town of Campeche and its System of Fortifications **895** **Mexico** **C (ii) (iv)**

The Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe this cultural property on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (ii) and (iv)*:

Criterion (ii): The harbour town of Campeche is an urbanization model of a Baroque colonial town, with its checkerboard street plan; the defensive walls surrounding its historic centre reflect the influence of the military architecture in the Caribbean.

Criterion (iv): The fortifications system of Campeche, an eminent example of the military architecture of the 17th and 18th centuries, is part of an overall defensive system set up by the Spanish to protect the ports on the Caribbean Sea from pirate attacks.

The Archaeological Monuments Zone of Xochicalco **939** **Mexico** **C (iii) (iv)**

The Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe this property on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (iii) and (iv)*:

Criterion (iii): Xochicalco is an exceptionally well preserved and complete example of a fortified settlement from the Epiclassic Period of Mesoamerica.

Criterion (iv): The architecture and art of Xochicalco represent the fusion of cultural elements from different parts of Mesoamerica, at a period when the breakdown of earlier political structures resulted in intensive cultural regrouping.

The Bureau recommended that the State Party take note of the recommendation to upgrade visitor facilities, security and management planning.

Droogmakerij de Beemster (Beemster Polder) **899** **Netherlands** **C (i) (ii) (iv)**

The Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe this property on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (i), (ii), and (iv)*:

Criterion (i): The Beemster Polder is a masterpiece of creative planning, in which the ideals of antiquity and the Renaissance were applied to the design of a reclaimed landscape.

Criterion (ii): The innovative and intellectually imaginative landscape of the Beemster Polder had a profound and lasting impact on reclamation projects in Europe and beyond.

Criterion (iv): The creation of the Beemster Polder marks a major step forward in the interrelationship between humankind and water at a crucial period of social and economic expansion.

Sukur Cultural Landscape 938 Nigeria C (iii) (v) (vi)

The Bureau recommended that this property be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (iii), (v) and (vi)*:

Criterion (iii): Sukur is an exceptional landscape which graphically illustrates a form of land-use that marks a critical stage in human settlement and its relationship with its environment.

Criterion (v): The cultural landscape of Sukur has survived unchanged for many centuries, and continues to do so at a period when this form of traditional human settlement is under threat in many parts of the world.

Criterion (vi): The cultural landscape of Sukur is eloquent testimony to a strong and continuing spiritual and cultural tradition that has endured for many centuries.

The Bureau discussed the importance of spirituality in the African context and decided to apply *criterion (vi)*. The Bureau also noted the protection of the site through customary law.

The Bureau requested the Centre to forward to the State Party for immediate action, the two ICOMOS proposals.

- the organization of a round table on the future of Sukur, in association with governmental agencies, the local community, tourism organisms and other potential partners ;
- the adoption of a cultural and tourism management plan which foresees the creation of a body responsible for its implementation, the production of authentic material for tourism purposes, the integration of a visitor centre and lodging infrastructure for tourism and the development of means of transport integrated into the landscape and environment. Part of the income deriving from these activities will be reinvested in the management of the natural and cultural resources of Sukur.

The Observer of Nigeria thanked the World Heritage Centre and its initiative of the Global Strategy, ICOMOS and the Bureau for their assistance.

The Bureau congratulated the State Party for having submitted its first nomination for inscription to the World Heritage List.

The Dacian Fortresses of 906 Romania C (ii) (iii) (iv)
the Orastie Mountains

The Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe this group of properties on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (ii), (iii), and (iv)*:

Criterion (ii): The Dacian Fortresses represent the fusion of techniques and concepts of military architecture from inside and outside the classical world to create a unique style.

Criterion (iii): The Geto-Dacian kingdoms of the late 1st millennium BC attained an exceptionally high cultural and socio-economic level, and this is symbolized by this group of fortresses.

Criterion (iv): The hill-fort and its evolved successor, the *oppidum*, were characteristic of the Late Iron Age in Europe, and the Dacian Fortresses are outstanding examples of this type of defended site.

The Fossil Hominid Sites of 915 South Africa C (iii) (vi)
Sterkfontein, Swartrans,
Kromdraai, and Environs

The Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe this site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (iii) and (vi)*:

Criteria (iii) and (vi): The Sterkfontein area contains an exceptionally large and scientifically significant group of sites which throw light on the earliest ancestors of humankind. They constitute a vast reserve of scientific information, the potential of which is enormous.

Robben Island 916 South Africa C (iii) (vi)

The Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe this site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (iii) and (vi)*:

Criterion (iii): The buildings of Robben Island bear eloquent witness to its sombre history.

Criterion (vi): Robben Island and its prison buildings symbolize the triumph of the human spirit, of freedom, and of democracy over oppression.

The Observer of South Africa thanked the World Heritage Centre and its Global Strategy Initiative, the Nordic World Heritage Office, the ICOMOS mission and the Bureau for their assistance. The Observer noted that the recommendation would be the Committee's greatest millenium present to their country and an eloquent testimony to honour the work of Mr Nelson Mandela.

The Bureau congratulated the State Party for having submitted its first nominations for inscription to the World Heritage List.

San Cristóbal de la Laguna 929 Spain C (ii) (iv)

The Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe this site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (ii) and (iv)*:

Criteria (ii) and (iv): San Cristóbal de la Laguna was the first non-fortified Spanish colonial town, and its layout provided the model for many colonial towns in the Americas.

The Heart of Neolithic Orkney **514** **United Kingdom** **C (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)**
Rev

The Bureau recommended that this property be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (i), (ii), (iii), and (iv)*:

The monuments of Orkney, dating back to 3000-2000 BC, are outstanding testimony to the cultural achievements of the Neolithic peoples of northern Europe.

Hoi An Ancient Town **948** **Viet Nam** **C (ii) (v)**

The Bureau recommended that this property be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (ii) and (v)*:

Criterion (ii): Hoi An is an outstanding material manifestation of the fusion of cultures over time in an international commercial port.

Criterion (v): Hoi An is an exceptionally well-preserved example of a traditional Asian trading port.

Extension of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin – Extension **532** **Germany** **C (i)(ii)(iv)**
Ter

The Bureau recommended that this extension to the World Heritage site of the Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin should be *approved*, subject to the provision of maps showing revised boundaries, as agreed with the ICOMOS expert mission. These maps should be submitted by 1 October 1999 for verification by ICOMOS.

Ferrara: City of the Renaissance and its Po Delta (extension of Ferrara: city of the Renaissance) **733 Bis** **Italy** **C (ii) (iii) (iv) (v) (vi)**

The Bureau recommended the Committee to extend the inscribed property of the City of Ferrara and to inscribe this site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (iii) and (v)*, in addition to the already existing criteria (ii), (iv) and (vi):

Criterion (iii): The Este ducal residences in the Po Delta illustrate the influence of Renaissance culture on the natural landscape in an exceptional manner.

Criterion (v): The Po Delta is an outstanding planned cultural landscape that retains its original form to a remarkable extent.

Furthermore the Bureau recommended that the name of the inscribed property be changed to “Ferrara: City of the Renaissance and its Po Delta” as requested by the State Party.