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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 10 of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger and on the World Heritage List:

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

SUMMARY

In accordance with paragraphs 92-93 of the Operational Guidelines, the Secretariat and advisory bodies submit herewith reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Where appropriate, the Secretariat or the advisory bodies will provide additional information during the session of the Committee.

Decision required: The Committee is requested to examine the attached state of conservation reports and take the appropriate decisions and recommend actions to be taken by the States Parties, advisory bodies and/or the Centre.

INTRODUCTION

1. Reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger are submitted to the Committee to facilitate the 'review at regular intervals [of] the state of property on the List of World Heritage in Danger' which is foreseen in paragraph 92 of the Operational Guidelines.

2. At its twenty-third ordinary session held from 5 to 10 July 1999 at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, the Bureau examined the state of conservation of twelve natural and two cultural properties included in the List of World Heritage in Danger and made recommendations for the consideration of the Committee. These recommendations were transmitted to the concerned States Parties in early August 1999. Responses from States Parties to the observations and recommendations of the Bureau and new information that has become available on the state of conservation of those fourteen sites are presented for review by the Committee. Furthermore, state of conservation reports on three more natural properties (Srebarna Nature Reserve of Bulgaria; Everglades and Yellowstone National Parks of the United States of America) and two more cultural properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger are submitted for examination by the Committee.

3. The Committee is requested to examine these reports and to take the appropriate decisions and recommend actions in accordance with paragraph 93 of the Operational Guidelines which reads as follows:

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

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

4. To facilitate the work of the Committee, all state of conservation reports presented herein follow a standard format that includes the following items:

- Name of property (State Party)
- Year of inscription on the World Heritage List and on the List of World Heritage in Danger
- International assistance

- Summary of previous deliberations. Reference is made to relevant paragraph numbers from the Report of the twenty-second session of the Committee (30 November – 5 December 1998, Kyoto, Japan) and the Rapporteur's Report of the twenty-third session of the Bureau (5 – 10 July 1999, Paris, France; see document WHC-99/CONF.209/4). In order to restrict the length of this document to a minimum number of pages, texts from those two reports have not been repeated herein.
- New information
- Action required.

A. Natural Heritage

Srebarna Nature Reserve (Bulgaria)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1983; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992.

International assistance: The site has benefited from assistance for training (US\$ 22,000) and technical co-operation activities.

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – paragraph number VII.2.

New information: The State Party, via a letter dated 28 September 1999, has submitted a detailed report on the project for monitoring the state of conservation of Srebarna. The report, and the covering letter, have been transmitted to IUCN for review and comments. IUCN will analyse the report in order to know the extent to which the State Party has addressed the observations and recommendations of the twenty-second session of the Committee (Kyoto, Japan, 1998) on the state of conservation of this property.

Action required: The Committee, based on IUCN's review of the detailed report of the State Party that will be submitted at the time of its twenty-third session, may wish to take decisions and make recommendations as appropriate.

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

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1988; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1997.

International assistance: This site has not received any international assistance from the World Heritage Fund to date.

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – paragraph number VII.3

Twenty-third session of the Bureau – paragraph number IV.2

New information: The President of the State Party has yet to respond to letters from the Director-General and the Chairperson, transmitting the recommendations of the

twenty-second session of the Committee (Kyoto, Japan, 1998), inviting the President's urgent intervention for the preparation of a detailed state of conservation report and a rehabilitation plan for the conservation of the site.

Action required: The Committee may wish to retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee may invite the President of the State Party to urgently respond to the letters of the Director-General of UNESCO and the Chairman of the World Heritage Committee sent in early 1999. The Committee may request UNESCO and IUCN to collaborate their Offices in the region to encourage the relevant national authorities to invite a Centre/IUCN mission to the site to prepare a state of conservation report and an emergency rehabilitation plan.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Virunga National Park – Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1979; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1994.

Garamba National Park - Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1980; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1996.

Kahuzi Biega National Park - Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1980; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1997.

Okapi Wildlife Reserve - Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1996; and in the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1997.

International assistance: **Virunga National Park:** US\$ 20,000 for equipment under emergency assistance and US\$ 9,500 for staff training. **Garamba National Park:** US\$ 77,845 for equipment under emergency assistance and US\$ 50,000 for equipment under technical co-operation. **Kahuzi Biega National Park:** US\$ 44, 848 for equipment under technical co-operation. **Okapi Wildlife Reserve** – US\$ 3,000 for the preparation of the nomination dossier of the site. At its twenty-first session (Naples, 1997), the Committee, in response to a request for emergency assistance of US\$ 88,400 for the purchase of one four-wheel drive vehicle for each of the four sites, approved US\$ 45,000 intended to benefit any two of the four sites. The two vehicles purchased by the Centre using the US\$ 45,000 in early 1998 could not be delivered to the sites due to lack of security and have, since then, been in storage in Nairobi, Kenya. The Bureau, at its twenty-third ordinary session (5 –10 July 1999), requested the Centre to negotiate with the UN Resident Representative, and the WWF and UNESCO Regional Office in Nairobi, Kenya, to transfer the two vehicles to Serengeti and Kilimanjaro National Parks of Tanzania. Following negotiations between the Centre, WWF, UNDP and the Kenyan authorities, it has been estimated that the costs of storage of the two vehicles in Kenya, for more than a year, and clearance and transport costs would total approximately US\$ 20,000. As authorised by the twenty-third session of the Bureau, the Chairperson approved US\$ 20,000 to pay for the storage, clearance and transport charges. The Centre, in co-operation with WWF is in the process of arranging for the transfer of the two vehicles to Tanzania.

Progress in this regard will be reported at the time of the twenty-third session of the Committee (please refer to paragraphs IV.3 and VII.9 of Working Document WHC-99/CONF.209/4 for further details).

At its last session (Kyoto, Japan, 1998), the Committee had requested the Centre and IUCN to consult with ICCN and conservation NGOs working in the DRC and estimate the cost of paying allowances to staff at Virunga National Park as an interim measure and submit a proposal for emergency assistance for consideration by the twenty-third session of the Bureau in 1999. The conservation NGOs, ICCN, concerned bilateral organisations (GTZ (Germany)), IUCN and UNESCO met in April 1999 (in Naivasha, Kenya) and again at the time of the twenty-third session of the Bureau in July 1999, to discuss the state of conservation of the World Heritage sites of DRC and the implementation of the recommendation made by the last session of the Committee. Discussions during these two meetings revealed that staff in all the four World Heritage sites in Danger urgently needed assistance. The Director-General of ICCN informed the twenty-third session of the Bureau that his office in Kinshasa no longer has direct access to the four sites and requested the Bureau and the Committee to help the staff in the four sites by providing assistance through the conservation NGOs and other partners who had field presence in the four sites. In response to requests submitted by ICCN in co-operation with the conservation NGOs and other partners, the Bureau approved a total sum of US\$ 105,000 for the four sites. These funds are being disbursed via contracts established with conservation NGOs and partners as follows:

- (i) **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)** - Virunga National Park to pay, for the period of six months between July and December 1999, salaries of 500 persons at the Rwindi and the Mutsora Field Stations and salary supplements to selected staff who are active in anti-poaching surveillance operations (US\$ 35,000);
- (ii) **International Rhino Foundation (IRF)** - Garamba National Park to pay, for the period of six months between July and December 1999, salaries of approximately 238 persons and additional salary supplements to selected staff who are active in anti-poaching surveillance operations (US\$ 30,000);
- (iii) **To the GTZ(Germany)/ICCN Project** – Kahuzi Biega National Park to purchase equipment essential for patrolling and surveillance operations of guards; i.e. 100 patrolling gear, 8 walkie-talkies, 15 large and 15 small tents and local travel, transport and miscellaneous expenses (US\$ 20,000); and
- (iv) **Gilman International Conservation (GIC)** -Okapi Faunal Reserve for staff training and guard camp construction activities (US\$ 20,000).

Progress with regard to the implementation of these projects will be reported at the time of the twenty-third session of the Committee.

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – paragraph number VII.4.

Twenty-third session of the Bureau – paragraph numbers IV.3 and VII.19.

New information: A letter dated 6 August 1999 addressed to the Director-General of UNESCO from the Chief of the Department of Rural Development of DRC, described the situation in the four sites as an ecological catastrophe due to intensive poaching of gorillas, elephants, buffaloes, antelopes, hippopotamus, okapis, rhinoceros and other

species of wildlife and uncontrolled and systematic deforestation. Reports received by IUCN also confirm that poaching threats continue in all four sites; however, IUCN has received some reports that have observed some reduction in encounters between rangers and poachers in Garamba National Park over the last year. The Centre received from the UNESCO Office in New York a copy of a letter, dated 28 June 1999, from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the President of the UN Security Council (Security Council reference S/1999/733 of 29 June 1999). This letter denounced, amongst others, the violation of international environmental law and the threats posed to the protected areas of the DRC by war, particularly in the eastern parts of the country. The Centre in co-operation with UNESCO's Office for External Relations, will attempt to obtain information on the outcome of the deliberations of the Security Council on this subject and report to the Committee at the time of its twenty-third session.

As requested by the Bureau, the Centre and IUCN have co-operated with the Task Force, established at the meeting in Naivasha, Kenya, in April 1999, and comprising conservation NGOs, ICCN and the GTZ to develop a project for supporting the World Heritage sites of DRC despite the continuing period of armed conflict. The Task Force representatives, in consultation with the Centre, the UNESCO Division of Ecological Sciences and IUCN elaborated a 4-year project expected to cost about US\$ 4 million. The project primarily focuses on: (a) specific and collaborative support to the four sites, including the payment of salaries and salary supplements linked to performance of anti-poaching and surveillance duties; (b) raising awareness and support of international and regional diplomatic and political communities dealing with conflict in DRC and in neighbouring countries to the conservation of the sites; (c) disseminating information of the critical role that the site staff is playing in the protection of the sites despite risks to their lives and property, and develop sustainable financing mechanisms to support the staff and the conservation of the sites; and (d) identify, document and disseminate lessons learnt in the conservation of the four sites in the DRC to improve preparedness of the international community to meet conservation problems of World Natural Heritage properties in regions of armed conflict. The project has been submitted by UNESCO to the consideration of the United Nations Foundation (UNF). The decision of the UNF Board of Governors on financing for the project will be known in early November 1999. If approved as requested, nearly US\$ 3 of the US\$ 4 million would derive from UNF sources with the rest being generated by Task Force members, UNESCO and IUCN via other sources. The Centre will report on the UNF Board's decision on the project at the time of the twenty-third session of the Committee.

Action required: The Committee may wish to retain Virunga, Garamba, and Kahuzi Biega National Parks and the Okapi Wildlife Reserve in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee may also wish to examine additional information to be provided at the time of its session and take decisions and make recommendations as appropriate.

Sangay National Park (Ecuador)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1983; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992

International assistance: Since its inscription on the World Heritage List, Sangay received international assistance from the World Heritage Fund under technical co-operation for equipment and environmental awareness-raising activities among local communities (US\$ 48,500) and for training of Park staff (US\$ 10,000).

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – paragraph number VII.5.

Twenty-third session of the Bureau – paragraph number IV.4

New information: In response to the invitation of the twenty-third session of the Bureau (5-10 July 1999), the State Party, via its letter of 15 September 1999, has submitted a detailed report on the findings and recommendations of a mission to the site, from 10 to 14 June 1999. The report of the mission is presented in Document WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.13. The mission team comprised IUCN experts and representatives of WWF, Fundacion Natura and the Ministry for the Environment of Ecuador. In response to the recommendation of the twenty-second session of the Committee (Kyoto, Japan, 1998), the State Party had invited the mission. However, it did not have adequate time to review the findings and recommendations of the mission and was thus unable to respond at the time of the twenty-third session of the Bureau. The report of the mission noted several positive developments with regard to the state of conservation of this site and had made a number of recommendations. However, the mission team suggested that the Committee retain the site in the List of World Heritage in Danger until the outcome of efforts to implement the management plan and restore damage caused by the Guamote-Macas road is assessed. The State Party's response to the mission's findings and recommendations was transmitted to IUCN for review and comments. IUCN has made the following observations and suggestions:

- IUCN welcomes the completion of the management plan and activities underway to define strategies for its implementation. It acknowledges the contribution of the Project "Biodiversity Conservation and Participatory Management of Sangay National Park" in establishing base line information necessary for restoring areas damaged by the Guamote-Macas road and commends the Dutch Government for the support and guidance provided for the project.
- IUCN agrees with the State Party's suggestion that the site be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger and to continue monitor on-going activities to implement the management plan, including the restoration activities along the Guamote-Macas road.
- IUCN assigns high importance to the State Party's proposal to evaluate the effects of the inclusion of the site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. IUCN recommends that the scope of such an evaluation and its application be extended beyond this site and include other sites inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. IUCN is of the view that a series of such evaluations could contribute to changing the negative perceptions associated with the inclusion of sites in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Action required: The Committee may retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee may commend the State Party's positive and constructive approach to the inclusion of this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger and using the Committee's decision to increase international support for the conservation of the site. The

Committee may commend the support of the Government of the Netherlands to the conservation of this site and invite donors to assign high priority to support projects to strengthen conservation of World Heritage sites in Danger. The Committee may also, in accordance with the suggestion of the State Party that has been endorsed by IUCN, call for evaluations of the impacts of the inclusion of Sangay and other natural properties in the List of World Heritage in Danger. Such an evaluation could provide lessons for the future and highlight the instrumental role of the Danger Listing in enhancing the conservation of sites.

Simen National Park (Ethiopia)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1978; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996.

International assistance: Since its inscription on the World Heritage List, Simen National Park has been awarded a sum of US\$ 110,307 under technical co-operation and US\$ 9,000 for staff training.

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – paragraph number VII.6

Twenty-third session of the Bureau – paragraph number IV.5.

New information: The Centre has yet to receive a response from the State Party to the letter transmitting the observations and recommendations of the twenty-third session of the Bureau (5 – 10 July 1999). However, IUCN requested to consult with relevant Ethiopian authorities in order to improve communications between UNESCO and the Regional authorities in Bahir Dar, who disagreed with the decision of the twentieth session of the Committee (Merida, Mexico, 1996) to include Simen in the List of World Heritage in Danger. IUCN has not yet received any response to its requests. The complete lack of any written response from the State Party to repeated communications from the Bureau and the Committee is a continuing constraint to updating information on the state of conservation of this property and for planning measures for its rehabilitation.

Action required: The Committee may wish to retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee may recommend that the Chairperson of the Committee undertake a mission to Ethiopia in order to meet with relevant national and regional authorities and to re-establish a basis for regular exchange of formal communications between the State Party and the Committee, Centre and IUCN for monitoring the state of conservation of the property and mitigating threats to its integrity.

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

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1981.and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992

International assistance: This site has so far received: US\$ 29,082 as preparatory assistance; US\$ 30,000 as emergency assistance; US\$ 179,927 for technical co-operation; and US\$ 22,000 for training.

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – paragraph number VII.7

Twenty-third session of the Bureau – paragraph number IV.6.

New information: The Director General of the Centre for Environmental Management of Mount Nimba (CEGEN), via his letter of 21 September 1999, has responded to the observations and recommendations of the twenty-second session of the Committee (Kyoto, Japan, 1998). He has noted that the Government of Guinea created the CEGEN in 1995 and through CEGEN continues to explore the feasibility for exploiting the mine in Mt. Nimba in a manner that would respect the integrity of the World Heritage site. The Government of Guinea, through the CEGEN, has over the last few months entered into negotiations with UNDP and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The subject of the negotiations is the financing of a project for the protection of Mount Nimba and for the integrated development of its surrounding areas. The project is being conceived within the framework of a sustainable development programme that would integrate the mining project as the motor for enhancing the economic growth of the whole region. The study phase of the project is due to commence in October and the project is financially supported by the French part of the GEF and USAID. The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research has also, via its letter of 20 September 1999, pointed out to the Centre that the dissolution of the Mining Company of Mt. Nimba (i.e. NIMCO), mentioned in the report of the last session of the Committee (Kyoto, Japan, 1998) is incorrect. According to the letter of the Ministry, NIMCO was never dissolved.

The CEGEN confirms that over the last fifteen months the Ministry of Mines, Geology and the Environment has been trying to re-launch the project to exploit the mineral resources of Mt. Nimba. The Ministry is continuing negotiations with industry partners with a view to concluding an agreement before the end of this year (1999). Furthermore, the Director General of CEGEN notes that CEGEN has been associated with the elaboration of an environmental agreement with potential investors of the mining project. The attachment to the letter from the CEGEN includes several articles of the agreement that is being elaborated. The agreement calls upon the two parties (i.e. the Guinean Government and the investors) to recognise that the mining area is adjacent to the core zone of the Mt. Nimba Biosphere Reserve which is inscribed on the World Heritage List. The two parties shall take all measures to protect the environment and, in particular, the World Heritage area, and re-affirm their commitment to follow the eighteen recommendations made by the World Heritage Committee in 1993. Furthermore, the two parties will invite the involvement of all international (i.e. World Heritage Centre, UNDP, UNEP and IUCN) and non-governmental organisations that participated in discussions that led to the revision of the boundaries of the World Heritage site to take part in the elaboration of the agreement. CEGEN has pointed out that it is obligatory that the agreement be signed before the feasibility study for the mining project is finalised. The Director General of the CEGEN believes that the implementation of the mining project would help set up an International Foundation for Mt. Nimba. A copy of the letter from CEGEN,

including the three-page attachment has been transmitted to IUCN for review and comment.

Action required: The Committee may wish to retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee may, based on IUCN comments on the letter and attachment from the CEGEN to be submitted at the time of its twenty-third session, make additional observations and recommendations for the consideration of the States Parties.

Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1982; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996.

International assistance: Since its inscription on the World Heritage List in 1982, Rio Platano has received US\$ 167,025 for technical co-operation and US\$ 11,000 for training.

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – paragraph number VII.8

Twenty-third session of the Bureau – paragraph number IV.7

New information: The State Party has provided the Centre with a 9-minutes video on the state of conservation of the site. The video has been transmitted to IUCN for review. However, the State Party has not yet responded to the recommendation of the last session of the Committee (Kyoto, Japan, 1998), reiterated by the twenty-third session of the Bureau held from 5 to 10 July 1999, to invite an IUCN/Centre mission to the site. IUCN has informed the Centre that some reports it has received question as to whether the Patuca II hydro power project will get approval for its implementation. The damage caused by Hurricane Mitch in 1998 appears to have revived concerns over the ecological vulnerability of the area where the hydro power project has been proposed and raised doubts regarding the feasibility of the project's implementation. An EIA of the Patuca II project has been carried out but it has been criticised by a number of national NGOs and local people's organisations. Nevertheless, the National Enterprise on Electric Energy continues to stress the need for Patuca II and has even begun to speculate on the possibility of a Patuca III project.

Action required: The Committee may wish to retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee may request the Centre to contact the State Party and obtain detailed information on the Patuca II project, including a copy of the EIA that has been prepared. The Committee may request, once again, that the State Party invite a Centre/IUCN mission to the site.

Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1985; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992.

International assistance Manas has been granted US\$ 165,000 as emergency assistance since June 1997, in two instalments of US\$ 75,000 and US\$ 90,000,

respectively, for the implementation of a 3-year rehabilitation plan approved by the Bureau in June 1997. The total cost of plan-implementation was estimated at US\$ 2,335,000, of which US\$ 2,100,000 is provided by the Government of India and the State Government of Assam; the balance of US\$ 235,000 was requested from the World Heritage Fund.

As requested by the twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau (5-10 July 1999), IUCN has reviewed the justifications, provided by Indian authorities (letter dated 21 June 1999), to the budgetary revisions for the utilisation of the US\$ 70,000 of the US\$ 90,000 approved by the twenty-first session of the Committee (Naples, Italy, 1997). The US\$ 70,000 was originally intended for the reconstruction of guard camps and staff residential facilities destroyed during the Bodo militancy from 1989 to 1992. The revisions proposed suggested that the construction of guard camps be restricted to parts of the Sanctuary where security conditions had sufficiently improved. The site management had proposed to use the savings made from reducing the number of construction activities foreseen for outreach activities, such as the organisation of veterinary and health camps, repair of existing irrigation facilities etc., that directly benefit villagers. These activities are considered critical by the site management for continuously improving the relationship between staff and local villagers. Hence, the budgetary revisions have been accepted and implementation of activities is currently underway.

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – paragraph number VII.9

Twenty-third session of the Bureau – paragraph number IV. 8

New information: IUCN reviewed the state of conservation report on this site provided by the State Party as attachment to its letter of 21 June 1999 to the Centre. IUCN has noted several positive developments brought about by the implementation of the rehabilitation plan agreed upon by the State Party and the Bureau in 1997. For example, the Nansbari Range Headquarters as well as the Directorate Headquarters now contain members of the Assam Forest Protection Force who act as a rapid reaction force for patrols and surveillance operations in vulnerable areas. The site has been opened to the public since 1995 and visitor numbers are slowly increasing. Ecological damage to the habitats of the site during the Bodo militancy has been negligible and large mammal populations are expected to return to pre-1989 levels over the next few years. However, the restoration of site infrastructure, i.e. roads, staff accommodation etc., proceeds at a slow pace and staff training needs require attention. The main problem facing the site is the alienation of local villagers. People living in the vicinity of the site are poor and depend on natural resources for their livelihood. The site management is attempting to increase outreach activities but further efforts are needed in this regard. IUCN has reported to the Centre of a recent report that indicates the intention of the Minister for the Environment and Forests to establish an armed police force to protect endangered wildlife from poachers and save forests from timber poachers. IUCN is verifying other unconfirmed reports of the take-over of parts of the Sanctuary by tribal guerillas and the withdrawal of paramilitary forces from those parts.

Action required: The Committee may retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee may invite the State Party to co-

operate with the Centre and IUCN to prepare a progress report on the implementation of the rehabilitation plan since mid-1997 for submission to the twenty-fourth session of the Committee in 2000. Such a report may include an assessment of further measures needed and provide an indication of the time period required for the removal of this site from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1991; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996.

International assistance: Since its inscription on the World Heritage List in 1991, Air and Ténéré Nature Reserve has benefited from a preparatory assistance grant of US\$ 10,000 and training grants amounting to US\$ 40,000.

The twenty-third session of the Bureau (5-10 July 1999) noted that the Chairperson had approved a sum of US\$ 20,000 for the organisation of a national training workshop for border guards, park and forest conservation personnel. The project is one of the five activities foreseen in the emergency rehabilitation plan prepared by the State Party and submitted to the twenty-third session of the Bureau. The organisation of this seminar is being delayed until the first quarter of the year 2000 in order to allow sufficient time for the preparation of training materials and to accommodate the availability of international experts chosen by the State Party.

The twenty-third session of the Bureau had recommended that the Centre and IUCN explore ways and means for financing the implementation of the rehabilitation plan, including submission of other projects for assistance from the Fund to the consideration of the Chairperson and to the twenty-third session of the Committee. Accordingly, the Centre has received a request for US\$ 20,000, for rehabilitating a few sites damaged during rebel activities of the past and for research studies intended to evaluate the current status of the wildlife populations inhabiting the Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves. This project is now under review by the Centre and IUCN for submission for approval by the Chairperson. Both activities proposed for implementation as part of this project are part of the emergency rehabilitation plan reviewed by the twenty-third session of the Bureau. The State Party may submit additional projects to the consideration of the twenty-third session of the Committee.

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – paragraph number VII.10.

Twenty-third session of the Bureau – paragraph number IV.9

New information: IUCN's Niger Office's is co-operating with the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife of Niger, under the terms of an MOU, to ensure co-ordination and co-operation among donors including the Swiss Development Corporation (SDC), Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) and the GEF. The MOU specifically aims to: (a) promote environmental concerns in policy and development within the region; (b) promote synergies and co-operation in donor funded activities in Air and Ténéré and surrounding areas; (c) provide information to encourage co-operation among key stakeholders; (d) support long-term strategic planning processes

for conservation and sustainable development in Aïr and Ténér and surrounding areas; and (e) disseminate information on progress on conservation and sustainable development in the Aïr and Ténéré region.. As part of this co-operation some revisions to the emergency rehabilitation plan, reviewed by the Bureau at its twenty-third session in July 1999, are under consideration. There is interest on the side of the State Party to introduce additional activities like more training workshops for staff, purchase of a four-wheel drive vehicle etc. IUCN will report on the outcome of its Niger Office's consultations with the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at the time of the twenty-third session of the Committee.

Action required: The Committee may retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee may invite the State Party to co-operate with IUCN-Niger and donors to provide a progress report to the twenty-fourth session of the Committee in 2000, on the implementation of the rehabilitation plan, including its views on when this site could be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger,

Ichkeul National Park (Tunisia)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1980; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996.

International assistance: Ichkeul has so far been awarded US\$ 50,000 under technical co-operation and US\$ 15,000 under training.

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – paragraph number VII.11.

Twenty-third session of the Bureau – paragraph number IV.10

New information: At its twenty-third session in July 1999, the Bureau agreed with the recommendations of a joint IUCN/Ramsar/Centre mission to the site, undertaken in February 1999, in accordance with the wish of Bureau and the Committee expressed at their respective sessions in 1998. The Bureau welcomed the suggestion of the mission team that the State Party include, in its threat mitigation status report to the twenty-third session of the Committee, definitions of current and expected values for a set of indicators, e.g. water salinity levels, counts of selected numbers of endangered species of birds, the availability of preferred food plants etc., that could provide the basis for a 5-year monitoring programme for the implementation of the rehabilitation plan from 2000 to 2004. The State Party has submitted its threat mitigation status report via its letter dated 14 September 1999. The report has been transmitted to IUCN for review and comment. The threat mitigation status report will be presented to the Committee as document WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.9.

Action required: The Committee may wish to retain this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee may examine the threat mitigation status report submitted by the State Party in the light of IUCN comments at the time of its twenty-third session and make additional recommendations for setting up a 5-year (2000 to 2004) monitoring programme for Ichkeul as appropriate.

Everglades National Park (United States of America)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1979; and on the World Heritage List in Danger: 1993

International assistance: None

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – paragraph number VII.12

New information: A member of the Centre visited the site in May 1999 and discussed the state of conservation of the site with the staff and the Director of the Park. Discussions included the contents of two reports: namely, the “Integrated Plan for South Florida Ecosystem Restoration and Sustainability” (November 1998) and the “South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force Biennial Report to the US Congress” (March 1999). An update on the state of conservation of this site, including proposed measures being taken by the State Party to determine impacts of rehabilitation schemes being implemented on the integrity of the site and the eventual removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger, is due before the twenty-third session of the Committee.

Action required: The Committee, based on new information expected to be available at the time of its twenty-third session, may wish to make decisions and recommendations as appropriate.

Yellowstone National Park (United States of America)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1978; and on the World Heritage List in Danger: 1995.

International assistance: None

Summary of previous deliberations

Twenty-second session of the Committee – paragraph number VII.13

New information: IUCN has informed the Centre that the US National Park Service (USNPS) has released a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) on 15 August 1999 relating to winter recreation in this site. The EIS has presented seven alternatives for managing winter recreation in the Park. USNPS has indicated a preference for “the road from West Yellowstone to Old Faithful to be ploughed for a shuttle bus and closed to snowmobile traffic...”. USNPS seems to also call for “...strict emissions and noise standards for snowmobiles to go into effect in 2008-2009” and for “bigger and more warming huts to be built (for visitors) and for more trails for both motorised and non-motorised traffic to be groomed”.

An update on the state of conservation of this site, including measures proposed by the State Party to determine impacts of rehabilitation on the integrity of the site and the timing of eventual removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger, is expected before the twenty-third session of the Committee

Action required: The Committee, based on new information expected to be available at the time of its twenty-third session, may wish to make decisions and recommendations as appropriate.

B. Cultural Heritage

Butrinti (Albania)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1992; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1997.

International assistance: US\$ 100,000 emergency assistance approved by the World Heritage Committee in December 1997.

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-first session of the Committee (paragraph number VII.44)

Twenty-second session of the Bureau (paragraph number V.13)

Twenty-second session of the Committee (paragraph number VII.14)

New information: The UNESCO-ICOMOS-Butrint Foundation assessment mission (October 1997) proposed a programme of corrective measures that would contribute to securing and adequately planning and managing of the site.

In response, the Government of Albania has undertaken the following:

- 1) In August 1998, it created the Office for the World Heritage site of Butrinti for the coordination and implementation of actions at Butrinti;
- 2) On 19 June 1999, it declared the surroundings of Butrinti as a "*National Park*" in order to prevent illegal and inadequate developments; it is foreseen that the extended area will be incorporated in an even bigger Butrint Park;
- 3) The Government, in collaboration with the Butrint Foundation, is developing a Master Plan for the extended site and specific research has been undertaken on the preservation of the baptistery;
- 4) On 1 July 1999, the Government submitted a request for the extension of the World Heritage site. This proposal is inscribed on the agenda of the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau.

As to the implementation of the immediate actions identified by the mission, the status is as follows:

Immediate action	Status	Amount allocated (US\$)
1. Inventory of archaeological objects	Contract <i>No. 700 569.8</i> with National Commission (Nat.Com.) on 22/06/1998. In implementation.	5,000
2. Reinstall water pumps	Contract <i>No. 700 540.9</i> with Nat.Com. on 29/09/1998. In implementation.	13,500
3. Protective fence	Contract <i>No. 700 639.9</i> with Nat.Com. on 29/09/1998. In implementation.	7,100
4. Ticket office at entrance	At request of Government changed for sanitary facilities. Contract <i>No. 700 728.9</i> with Nat.Com. on 24/02/1999. In implementation.	15,600
5. Surveillance by police		--
6. Prevent illegal construction in surroundings.	Extended area protected under national law and proposed for World Heritage listing (extension).	--
7. Information and awareness building	No proposals received from national authorities.	10,000
8. Expert advice	Missions were undertaken by ICOMOS expert and WHC staff to advice on management and extension.	5,000
Total amount committed		56,200

For the allocation of the remaining amount of US\$ 43,800, several possible actions have been discussed with the authorities (National Commission, Institute for Monuments and Institute for Archaeology), e.g. the consolidation of the museum building, publication of a list of stolen archaeological objects. However, no proposals have been received to date.

Action required: The Committee may wish to adopt the following:

“The Committee takes note of the progress made in the implementation of the programme of corrective measures for the World Heritage site of Butrinti. It commends the Government of Albania for its important decisions to expand the protected area and to introduce institutional, management and planning arrangements for the site. It particularly welcomes the proposal for the extension of the World Heritage site.

The Committee encourages the State Party to pursue the implementation of the programme of corrective measures and to make further proposals for the implementation of actions that respond to the recommendations made by the UNESCO-ICOMOS-Butrint Foundation mission under the World Heritage Emergency Assistance allocated by the Committee at its twenty-first session.

The Committee decides to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.”

Angkor (Cambodia)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1992; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992

International Assistance : Preparatory assistance : 1992 US\$ 15,000 : Preparation of the Tentative List and nomination file for Angkor. Emergency assistance : 1993 US\$ 20,000 : Installation of an alarm system at Angkor. 1994 US\$ 50,000 : Consolidation of the Pre Rup Temple. 1998 US\$ 28,595 : Hydrogeological studies on the trenches of Angkor financed in the framework of emergency assistance financed by the World heritage Bureau in June 1998, were delayed due to a change of direction of APSARA (Authority for the Protection of the Site and Development of the Region of Angkor). These studies are now the responsibility of the APSARA Authority. Training assistance : 1992 US\$ 10,000 : Training seminar.

Summary of previous deliberations :

Twenty-second session of the Committee (paragraph number VII.16)

Twenty-third session of the Bureau (paragraph number IV.12)

See also: Information Document WHC-99/CONF.204/INF.13

New information: The plenary session of the International Co-ordination Committee for the Safeguarding and Development of the Historic Area of Angkor (ICC), for which UNESCO provides the Secretariat, met on 22 June 1999. The main outcome and decisions of the CIC are set out hereunder :

1. Administrative reorganization of the APSARA

- By royal edicts of 22 January 1999, the APSARA Authority now has the status of a public administration headed by a President Director-General in the person of H.E. Vann Molyvann and two deputy directors-general. In accordance with its role as responsible for the development and management of Siem Reap/Angkor, ASPARA will decide upon the specifications for a large number of projects.
- The Royal Government of Cambodia informed the CIC of its decision to grant to a private company the collection of entry fees to Angkor Park for a five-year period, and to allocate in 1999 a budget of US\$ 800,000 to the Authority for the Protection of the Site and Developemnt of the Region of Angkor (ASPARA). This budget will be increased by 15% each year.
- ASPARA now comprises five departments : central administration, accounts agency and three technical departments : the Directorate for Culture and Monuments, the Directorate for Tourist Development of Angkor and the Directorate for Urban Development. This administrative restructuration involves the recruitment of about ten qualified persons, including archaeologists and architects (three for Phnom Penh and seven for Siem Reap).

2. Action plan and the implementation of activities of ASPARA

- In the framework of the programme of the Directorate for Culture and Monuments, a specific management project for Angkor Wat is being implemented as a pilot project since 1 July 1999 with the goal of establishing the conservation of Angkor Wat. This project comprises an increased protection of the Temple, in a first stage, through the recruitment of eighteen guards, information and the involvement of local populations and a pedagogical action in the form of posters and publications for Khmers and foreign visitors. The ASPARA participates technically and financially in the project for the restoration of the access road west of Angkor Wat and for the entrance portal of the central part that is on the verge of collapse.

In partnership with the University of Sophia and the Nara Institute (Japan), the APSARA continues the archaeological excavations of the ancient ovens at the village of Tani, the methodology and scientific results of which are innovative at Angkor. Furthermore, the ASPARA is working on a project for the enhancement of the little Temple of Prasat Top and is associated with a prehistory research project at the University of Otago (New Zealand) on the so-called “round” villages of the North-west region of Angkor Park. The ASPARA is funding project activities for the maintenance of the roads and the areas surrounding the monuments of Angkor Park, launched by the ILO in 1991;

- For urban and tourist development, the ASPARA has presented its activities for the promotion of the site of Angkor and its action plan for the development of the first part (60 ha) of the hotel city, aimed at attracting several high class hotels, to the CIC.

3. **Training:** The ASPARA and the CIC have decided to develop a national training strategy in the field of heritage conservation, and to launch, in October 1999, thanks to funding by the Japanese Government and in close co-operation with ICCROM and SPAFA, the first technical training field project for future Cambodian heritage specialists. A preparatory technical meeting was organized in Bangkom from 31 August to 2 September 1999.

4. **Illicit traffic:** The CIC was informed that the dossier requesting the restriction of the importation into the United States of America of Cambodian cultural heritage, prepared at the request of the Cambodian authorities by the Division of Cultural Heritage of UNESCO, was submitted to the American authorities in May 1999. With regard to the protection of the site of Angkor, ASPARA is providing financial support to the special Commissariat of Heritage Police. The CIC has also taken note of the creation by the Cambodian authorities of an Interministerial Committee composed of the ASPARA and the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, which is responsible for taking the necessary measures to ensure the protection of the Banteay Chmar Temple, subject of a vast looting operation in November 1998. In this framework, the restitution to the Royal Government of Cambodia of objects that were seized by the Thai authorities was evoked with those authorities. The creation of a Police Unit with the provincial authorities is also foreseen to guard the temple and to work on the documentation of the site of Banteay Chmar, which is already listed on

the Tentative List for eventual inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

5. **International Centre for Scientific and Technical Documentation on Angkor (CID):** The CIC was informed of the opening of the CID, and the intention that it becomes the reference and documentation centre and the memory of the international safeguarding and development programme for Angkor. The CIC invited all the teams to provide a copy of their documentation of the work site to this Centre.
6. **New project proposals:** The meeting of the CIC also provided an opportunity to examine several proposals for new projects, that bear witness to the vitality of the international safeguarding programme of the site of Angkor which, for example, includes the restoration project of Chau Say Tevoda by the Chinese Government, the preparation of a risk preparedness map for which funding is being sought, the strong participation of the population in Angkor Park. Amongst the projects accepted is the renewal for six years of projects carried out by the Japanese Team for Safeguarding Angkor (JSA). A rehabilitation project for the Route Nationale 6, is being constructed thanks to joint funding from The World Bank and the Asia Development Bank, and includes the safeguarding of ten historic bridges.

The next Technical Committee of the CIC will be held on 17 and 18 December 1999, at Siem Reap. The members of the ad hoc group of experts of the CIC will go on mission to Angkor from 12 to 19 December to examine the ongoing projects, and to participate in the meeting of the Technical Committee as well as the Fourth Symposium on Bayon.

The Fourth Symposium on the Safeguarding of Bayon, organized by the Japanese JSA team with UNESCO support, will be held on the 13 and 14 December 1999 in Siem Reap.

A copy in English and French of the annual activity reports prepared by the International Co-ordination Committee for the Safeguard and Development of the Historic Site of Angkor (CIC) have been transmitted to the World Heritage Committee.

Action required: The Committee may wish to retain this property on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee, after having examined the report on the state of conservation of the site, congratulated the Royal Government of Cambodia for the significant progress made in the funding and reorganization of the Authority for the Protection of the Site and Development of the Region of Angkor (APSARA). The Committee encourages the ASPARA to strengthen its action in the field of training so as to ensure control over the ongoing restoration and maintenance of the monuments and the protection of the site against looting and illicit traffic of cultural objects. It invites ASPARA and the CIC to monitor closely the rapid development of the activities and collections of the International Centre for Scientific and Technical Documentation for Angkor, which should in due course house all the

documentation produced by the safeguarding and development projects of the site.

Bahla Fort (Oman)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1987; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1987.

International Assistance: Since 1988, US\$ 67,772 has been provided under technical co-operation. Past monitoring missions were undertaken on a cost-sharing basis. In 1999, the Omani authorities increased their financial contribution to cover all costs of such missions. Therefore, at present the entire restoration programme is funded by the State Party

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee (paragraph number VII.18)

Twenty-third session of the Bureau (paragraph number IV.13)

New information: The monitoring missions are proceeding regularly and now cover the preparation of the management plan of the site and of the surrounding oasis.

Action required: The Committee may retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee may thank the State Party for its decision to finance the monitoring missions and the full cost of the restoration activities. The Committee may request the State Party and the Centre to explore ways and means to accelerate the pace of implementation of the restoration programme.

Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1986; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1986

International assistance: US\$ 28,700 during 1997-1999 under technical co-operation for the preparation of a Master Plan for the site.

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-first session of the Committee (paragraph number VII.29)

Twenty-second session of the Bureau (paragraph number V.17)

Twenty-second session of the Committee (paragraph number VII.19)

New information: The Master Plan for the site, reported upon at earlier Committee sessions, has not so far been concluded. The Second Pan-America Course on the Conservation and Management of Earthen Architectural and Archaeological Heritage (Government of Peru, ICCROM, CRATerre EAG, Getty Conservation Institute) will be held in Chan Chan in late 1999. The course will directly benefit the preservation and management planning for the site.

Action required: The Committee may retain this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee may request the State Party to submit the management plan for the Chan Chan Archaeological Zone as soon as it is finalised together with a report on the arrangements for its implementation.