

Distribution limited

WHC-2000/CONF.202/INF.3

Paris, 22 June 2000

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-fourth session
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room IV
26 June - 1 July 2000**

**Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda: Report of the Secretariat on the activities
undertaken since the twenty-second session of the World Heritage Committee**

Summary

This document presents an overview of activities carried out by the World Heritage Centre, between December 1999 and June 2000.

Further details may be found in the relevant working documents (WHC-2000/CONF.202/4 to WHC-2000/CONF.202/10) and information documents (WHC-2000/CONF.202/INF.10 to WHC-2000/CONF.202/INF.12), presented to the twenty-third session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
1. Introduction	2
2. Summary of the work and results of the Task Force, Working Groups and the Canterbury Expert Meeting	3
3. Evaluations et analyses d'Assistance internationale et de formation.....	5
4. Establishment of the World Heritage List	5
5. Action for the Protection of World Heritage sites.....	10
6. Cooperation with States Parties, International and Regional Bodies, Other Convention Secretariats and organizations and Advisory Bodies	15
7. World Heritage Documentation, Information, Education Activities.....	19
8. International Assistance	25
9. Management issues.....	27
10. Conclusion – projections for the future	30

1. Introduction

A l'aube de son trentième anniversaire, la Convention du patrimoine mondial entre dans une nouvelle phase faite de maturité et en même temps de questions. L'intérêt et la renommée croissants de sa Liste et de la protection qu'elle apporte aux biens classés n'écartent pas les questions légitimes sur son rôle et sur la qualité de sa mise en œuvre. Ces questions n'ont pas échappé aux Etats parties qui ont entamé depuis la 20^e session du Comité du patrimoine mondial (décembre 1996, Mérida – Mexique) un exercice d'évaluation de la mise en œuvre de la Convention et, depuis la 23^e session du Comité (décembre 1999, Marrakech – Maroc), une réflexion approfondie sur l'universalité de la Convention.

Le groupe d'étude et les deux groupes de travail constitués par le Comité à Marrakech (voir chapitre 2) ont développé une série de propositions visant à améliorer l'efficacité de la mise en œuvre de la Convention, la représentativité du Comité du patrimoine mondial et enfin la représentativité de la Liste.

Lors de sa vingt-troisième session, le Comité du patrimoine mondial a demandé une réunion internationale d'experts sur la révision des Orientations devant guider la mise en œuvre de la Convention. Cette réunion s'est tenue à Canterbury, Royaume-Uni en avril 2000 (voir chapitre 2).

Les documents de références du groupe d'étude, des deux groupes de travail et de la réunion d'experts sont:

Documents de travail WHC-2000/CONF.202/8, WHC-2000/CONF.202/9, WHC-2000/CONF.202/10, WHC-2000/CONF.202/11 and WHC-2000/CONF.202/12.

Le vif intérêt démontré par les Etats parties à la session de l'Assemblée générale d'octobre 1999 et concrétisé par la constitution et le travail du groupe d'étude et des deux groupes de travail est la résultante du succès grandissant que connaît la Convention tant comme instrument de protection que comme instrument de promotion des biens placés sous sa protection. Cet intérêt est prouvé encore par les demandes croissantes de coopération émanant d'institutions académiques ou de développement. L'Université Technique de Delft (TUDelft), l'Université Autonome de Barcelone, la Alcala de Hénarès, Williams College (Ma.) et l'Université de Harvard ne sont que quelques unes des institutions universitaires qui coopèrent ou désirent coopérer avec l'UNESCO dans le cadre de la Convention.

En même temps et d'une manière croissante après une première coopération sur la Ville de Fez au Maroc et depuis la réunion de Florence sur la culture et le développement (octobre 1999), la Banque Mondiale fait montre d'un intérêt particulier envers les sites du patrimoine mondial et la Convention. La référence à la Convention et au fait que les sites bénéficiaires des projets financés par la Banque Mondiale sont inscrits sur la liste du patrimoine mondial se retrouve dans tous les documents de prêts. Les réunions de spécialistes de la Banque Mondiale avec ceux de WHC sont plus fréquentes et plus techniques tandis que WHC participe à l'élaboration de certains projets ainsi qu'au groupe de conseil de l'évaluation des projets culturels de la Banque.

Par ailleurs, les discussions menées avec la Fondation des Nations Unies ont abouti et des projets de grande envergure sont maintenant financés par la Fondation.

2. Summary of the work and results of the Task Force, Working Groups and the Canterbury Expert Meeting

Task Force on the Implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*

A Task Force on the Implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* was established by the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-third session. The members of the Task Force are Canada (Chair: Dr Christina Cameron), Australia (Rapporteur: Mr Kevin Keefe), Belgium, Hungary, Morocco, Mexico, South Africa, Thailand, the advisory bodies (ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN) and a representative of the World Heritage Centre. The Task Force which met on 17 April 2000 at UNESCO Headquarters otherwise worked via electronic communication.

The Task Force has identified and proposed for consideration by the Bureau priority practical measures for ensuring the more effective operation of the *Convention*. These measures include suggested reform of the statutory meetings of the Bureau, Committee and General Assembly, of decision-making (including strategic planning and all aspects of the implementation of the *Convention*), information and documentation management and other matters including the roles of the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre. The report of the Task Force is made available to the Bureau as WHC-2000/CONF.202/8.

Working Group on the Representativity of the World Heritage List

In responding to the Resolution concerning “Ways and means to ensure a Representative World Heritage List” adopted by the twelfth session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention (October 1999), as well as the discussion that followed during the twenty-third session of the World Heritage Committee, a elected Working Group on the Representativity of the World Heritage List was established during a meeting of States Parties held at UNESCO Headquarters on 21 January 2000. The Working Group which met four times between January to April 2000 was composed of Benin (Chair: H.E. Mr Olabiyi B.J. Yai, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Benin to UNESCO), Australia (Rapporteur: H.E. Mr Matthew Peek, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Australia to UNESCO), Cuba, Egypt, Greece, India, Lithuania, Mexico, the Netherlands, Romania, South Africa and Tunisia. Representatives of ICOMOS, IUCN, the World Heritage Centre and a number of observers also participated in the meetings of the Working Group.

The Working Group examined possible changes to the decision-making processes of the Committee in order to contribute to addressing the issue of under-representativity of certain types of heritage and the heritage of certain regions. The Working Group has prepared a number of recommendations on the role and use of tentative lists, priorities for considering the large number of nominations to the World Heritage List, the possibility of introducing a voluntary scorecard that includes a proposal for performance indicator system and suggestions for enhanced capacity building for under-represented regions. The report of the Working Group is presented to the Bureau as WHC-2000/CONF.202/10. As a further contribution on the issue of representativity, ICOMOS has recently prepared an analysis of the World Heritage

List by category of monument and period. The ICOMOS document is presented to the Bureau as WHC-2000/CONF.202/10Add.

Working Group on Equitable Representation within the World Heritage Committee

In responding to the resolution of the twelfth General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention (October 1999) requesting the Committee to set up a working group to study the questions of “*an equitable representation of the World Heritage Committee and of the need to increase the number of its members*” , as well as the discussion that followed during the twenty-third session of the World Heritage Committee, a Working Group on Equitable Representation within the World Heritage Committee was established during a meeting of States Parties at UNESCO Headquarters on 21 January 2000.

The elected members of the Working Group are France (Chair: H.E. Mr. Jean Musitelli, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of France), Czech Republic (Rapporteur: Mr. David Mašek, Deputy Permanent Delegate of the Czech Republic), Albania, Argentina, Bangladesh, Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Lebanon, Madagascar, Philippines and Zimbabwe. Observers and representatives of the World Heritage Centre and Cultural Heritage Division, International Standards Section also attended the four meetings held between February and April 2000.

The Working Group adopted three recommendations to ensure an equitable representation in the World Heritage Committee:

“to reduce to four years the current term of office of the Members of the World Heritage Committee,
and at the same time to increase to twenty-eight the current number of Members of the World Heritage Committee,
to distribute a fixed number of seats to groups of States Parties, while leaving a number of seats open for elections on a free basis.”

The report of the Working Group is made available to the Bureau as WHC-2000/CONF.202/11.

Expert Meeting on the Revision of the *Operational Guidelines*, Canterbury, United Kingdom

At the request of the twenty-third session of the World Heritage Committee, an International Expert Meeting was held from 10 to 14 April in Canterbury, United Kingdom to consider the revision of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*. Cultural and natural heritage experts from all regions, representatives of the Advisory Bodies (IUCN, ICOMOS and ICCROM), the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and of the World Heritage Centre attended the meeting, which was organized by English Heritage and the World Heritage Centre, and funded by the Government of the United Kingdom and the World Heritage Fund. The meeting was attended by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee and by the Director of the World Heritage Centre and was chaired by Dr Christopher Young (United Kingdom) with Mrs Karen Kovacs (United States of America) as Rapporteur.

The Expert Meeting achieved consensus in preparing a new logical framework for the World Heritage conservation cycle. The meeting considered that at the heart of the cycle is a statement of each site's outstanding universal significance, which should be the governing factor in all decisions affecting the site. The new framework would include, for the first time, a section on the protection and conservation of World Heritage sites. The meeting recommended that the *Operational Guidelines* be rationalized, subject to the World Heritage Committee's agreement, to provide a logical framework for all those implementing the *World Heritage Convention*. The Expert Meeting recommended that the new *Operational Guidelines* should be reduced in length and presented in a new, user-friendly format, with illustrations, tables, and graphics. The new *Guidelines* would be supported by more detailed annexes. The report of the International Expert Meeting is presented to the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau as WHC-2000/CONF.202/9.

The Chairpersons and Rapporteurs of the Task Force and Working Groups are scheduled to meet at UNESCO Headquarters on 23 June to discuss the conclusions of the Task Force, Working Groups and Expert Meeting to facilitate the discussions of the Bureau.

3. Evaluations et analyses d'Assistance internationale et de formation

Suite à la décision du Comité à sa vingt-deuxième session (décembre 1998, Kyoto) de faire entreprendre une évaluation de l'assistance internationale, la société C3E (France) a été sélectionnée par l'Unité centrale d'évaluation de l'UNESCO pour ce travail. Cette évaluation a passé en revue les différentes formes d'assistance internationale: assistance préparatoire, assistance d'urgence, coopération technique, formation et information-promotion. Après un travail de recherche et d'analyse sur documents, des entretiens et une série de réunions ont eu lieu avec les différents intéressés: Etats parties, Organes consultatifs, Secrétariat. Le résultat de l'évaluation est soumis au Bureau dans le document WHC-2000/CONF.202/13 qui sera présenté par le consultant qui a entrepris l'étude.

Parallèlement, à sa vingt-troisième session, le Comité du patrimoine mondial avait approuvé un montant de US\$ 5,000 en faveur de l'ICCROM pour entreprendre l'évaluation des requêtes reçues pour le financement d'activités de formation dans le domaine de la culture. Cette évaluation devrait servir à définir les tendances générales et régionales des demandes en formation et renforcer le développement de la stratégie de formation que l'ICCROM présentera à cette session du Bureau.

4. Establishment of the World Heritage List

(i) New States Parties to the World Heritage Convention

The total number of States Parties to the *Convention* has reached 160, an increase of two since the twenty-third session of the World Heritage Committee. Namibia and Kiribati deposited their instruments of acceptance on 6 April 2000 and 12 May 2000 respectively.

(ii) The World Heritage List

Following the inscription of 48 new sites by the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-third session in December 1999, the World Heritage List now includes a total of **630** properties (**480** cultural properties, **128** natural properties and **22** mixed properties) located in **118** States Parties.

Nominations to the World Heritage List: Year 2000

The Bureau at its twenty-third session will examine a record number of **87** nominations, including proposals for 5 site extensions, and one renomination of an existing site under an additional criterion. Of this group, sixteen are for natural sites, six are mixed properties, and sixty-five are nominated for cultural criteria. (In 1999, the Bureau examined 70 nominations). Detailed information can be found in the working document **WHC-2000/CONF.202/7**. The majority of new nominations received for the year 2000 continue to be received from Western European countries. In 2000, the Committee will be examining for the first time nominations from three States Parties (Azerbaijan, Malaysia, and Suriname).

Regional breakdown of nominations (excluding proposals for site extensions)

	Europe / N. America			Latin America			Arab States			Asia / Pacific			Africa		
Sites	C	N	M	C	N	M	C	N	M	C	N	M	C	N	M
	41	4	2	11	6	0	1	0	0	7	2	3	2	1	1
Total 81	47			17			1			12			4		
100 %	58%			21%			1%			15%			5%		

Nearly one quarter of the nominations being examined have been presented to previous sessions of the Bureau or Committee.

The record number of nominations received in the last two years from States Parties has taxed the capacities of the Secretariat, the Advisory Bodies, and the Committee and Bureau sessions. This has been reflected in recent discussions of the Task Force on the Implementation of the Convention, in the Working Group on the Representativity of the World Heritage List, as well as at the International Expert Meeting on the Revision of the *Operational Guidelines*. (See working documents **WHC-2000/CONF.202/8**, **WHC-2000/CONF.202/10**, and **WHC-2000/CONF.202/9** respectively.) The larger number of nominations has also indicated the need for revised procedures for the review of the nominations by the Secretariat. These procedures should complement proposals by the three groups should they be adopted by the World Heritage Committee.

Nominations Review Meeting with Advisory Bodies

Until this year, nominations have usually been processed by the Secretariat individually, in the order in which they were submitted. Thus, a nomination received in February 2000 might be examined by Secretariat staff members concerned and "accepted" for the nomination process, before even the receipt of additional nominations from the same State Party three months later. In the revised process, to be put in place this year, all nominations, following the staff review, will be examined in a proposed two-day meeting with ICOMOS and IUCN prior to the sending of letters of acceptance to the State Party. This will not only allow a uniform review of all nominations with the Advisory Bodies, but in future years allow the Secretariat to restrict the number of nominations to be reviewed, should the Committee decide to do

so. This two-day meeting is currently scheduled for 5-6 September 2000, following the previously scheduled meeting of the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre on 4 September 2000.

(iii) Tentative lists

Of the 160 States Parties to the *Convention* at 15 May 2000, 112 had submitted tentative lists that comply with the format specified in the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the Convention (see working document **WHC-2000/CONF.202/6**). The total number of sites inscribed on the Tentative Lists is 1242. Of these, 960 are cultural (77%), 195 are natural (16%), and 87 are mixed (7%). Even without a mandatory requirement that natural sites be included in the Tentative List before a nomination can be accepted, the cultural/natural/mixed/ proportion is approximately the same as on the list itself (76%, 20%, 3% respectively).

The following is the **Regional breakdown of tentative lists**

	Europe / N. America			Latin America			Arab States			Asia / Pacific			Africa		
TL Sites	C	N	M	C	N	M	C	N	M	C	N	M	C	N	M
	495	113	42	92	35	15	70	6	0	230	24	19	73	17	11
Total 1242	650			142			76			273			101		
100 %	53%			11%			6%			22%			8%		

States Parties	48			29			16			33			34		
% with valid Tentative Lists	87.5%			65.5%			50%			70%			62%		

The Tentative Lists from the 112 States Parties range in date from 1991 to 2000. Out of the total number of 1242 sites, 190 have already been inscribed on the World Heritage List. Many State Parties have not reviewed their lists.

(iv) Global Strategy for a Representative and Balanced World Heritage List

A *World Heritage Global Strategy Action Plan for the Caribbean 200-2002* was developed to enhance participation of the States Parties from this under-represented region. Within the framework of the Action Plan, a seminar on "Natural Heritage in the Caribbean", was held in Paramaribo, Suriname, from 18 to 20 February 2000. It was organized by the Ministry of Education and Community Development, in close co-operation with the UNESCO National Commission, the UNESCO Regional Office (Kingston, Jamaica) and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre with financial support from the World Heritage Fund. 31 experts from the region and representatives from UNESCO, IUCN, Conservation International (CI) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), as well as 21 observers participated in the meeting. A synthesis report with recommendations will be presented to the next session of the World Heritage Committee (December 2000).

Following the invitation of the Italian Government a meeting on "**Cultural Landscapes: Concept and Implementation**" was held in Catania, Italy, from 8 to 11 March 2000. The meeting was attended by 30 experts and Government representatives from 17 States Parties to the World Heritage Convention,

representatives from the advisory bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM), and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. The report and the recommendations of the meeting is presented in *Information Document WHC-2000/CONF.202/INF.10.*

A “Regional Thematic Expert Meeting on Potential Natural World Heritage Sites in the Alps” took place from 18 to 22 June 2000 in the World Heritage site of Hallstatt, Austria with the participation of experts from the six States Parties in the European Alps as well as representatives from IUCN , the Centre and international NGOs. The meeting aims at reviewing the Alpine region, which so far has not a single natural World Heritage site on the List. A synthesis report with recommendations will be presented to the next session of the World Heritage Committee (December 2000).

Two events, both of which were hosted by Japan and of significance to the implementation of the Global Strategy in Asia and the Pacific with regard to Natural Heritage are worth noting:

Workshop for Protected Area Management decision-makers from Southeast and East Asia held from 21 to 26 February 2000 in Tokyo and the Yakushima Island. Proceedings of the meeting, including a statement of strategic commitment expressed by participants to the preparation of new nominations, including trans-border and cluster nominations, and strengthening management of designated sites are currently being finalised.

Kagoshima International Conference on World Natural Heritage on the Role of Local Government on Conservation of World Natural Heritage, 18-21 May 2000, in Kagoshima and Yakushima Island. 20 Local Governments from the Asia Pacific Region signed the Yakushima Summit Declaration committing themselves to the identification, nomination, conservation and presentation of World Natural Heritage. The Government of Queensland, Australia, will host the next Conference of Local Government leaders in 2003.

In collaboration with UNESCO Office in Maputo, and the Mozambique Ministry for Co-ordination of Environmental Affairs , the Mozambique authorities hosted a World Heritage Convention regional technical workshop on **“Assessing Natural Heritage of Coastal and Marine areas of Africa”** held from 20 - 23 March 2000 in Maputo Mozambique. The workshop was attended by Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Tanzania. The workshop, was organized as a contribution to the recommendations of the Pan African Congress on Sustainable Integrated Coastal Management (PACSICOM) organized by UNESCO in Maputo, Mozambique from 16 - 26 July 1998. The objectives of the workshop were to: review the existing literature regarding protected areas in coastal and marine ecosystems of Africa with a view to drawing the attention of States Parties to potential World Heritage areas; analyze coastal and marine biodiversity conservation problems and issues and identify opportunities for heritage protection through trans-border and sub-regional co-operation; assess the applicability of the criterion of cultural landscapes to coastal ecosystems of Africa and recommend measures for the consideration of States Parties; and review and analyze training capacity building needs of Africa for the preservation of its coastal and marine heritage and suggest ways and means by which the strategy for training specialists in natural heritage could contribute towards meeting those needs. The outcome of the workshop include a number of sites identified that will be submitted to the Centre for consideration for the Tentative List and eventual for nomination.

African Region - Meeting on "Authenticity and integrity in an African context"

Seventeen experts from ten African countries, representatives of the three advisory bodies, members of the Scientific Committee set up for this meeting, staff members from the World Heritage Centre and the Division of cultural heritage of UNESCO attended the meeting on “*Authenticity and integrity in an African context*” which was held at Great Zimbabwe National Monument, a World Heritage site **from 26 to 29 May 2000**. The meeting had been approved under the Global Strategy regional action plan for Africa. It was organised by the Centre in co-operation with the National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe and UNESCO Office in Harare and was funded by the World Heritage Fund and the Nordic World Heritage Office.

The meeting was a follow-up of the Expert meeting on African Cultural Landscapes (Kenya 1999), which requested “the Centre in co-operation with the Advisory bodies to follow up on the Nara Document on the basis of concrete examples.” The importance of language and other forms of intangible heritage were highlighted. Proposals were made to include relevant paragraphs of the Nara declaration in the Operational Guidelines, to merge the natural and cultural criteria, and to enlarge the definition of integrity.

A synthetic report will be distributed as an information document at the Bureau session. Three recommendations were adopted by acclamation. Two are addressed to the States Parties and to the Scientific Committee

- recommendation on authenticity, integrity and related concepts;
- recommendation on the importance of Local Communities in the Sustainable Heritage Management Process

The third, addressed to the World Heritage Committee, underlines that the issues discussed in an African context could be applicable to living cultures all over the world.

A meeting of the Scientific Committee will be held before 15 October 2000 in order to draft the text which should be included into the working document on the Operational Guidelines to be examined by the Committee in December 2000.

Asia / Pacific Region

To ensure enhanced implementation of the *Convention* in the Pacific sub-region, a consultant funded by the New Zealand government began work in the UNESCO office in Apia, Samoa in mid-January 2000. The Centre has recently been informed that the New Zealand government will be providing some additional funding to continue the consultant's work beyond September 2000. The consultant has a full work programme including visits to existing States Parties (Fiji, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and now also Kiribati) and to those Pacific Island countries yet to join the *Convention*.

In promoting the Global Strategy in Asia for a representative World Heritage List and in assisting the States Parties in nominating new categories of cultural properties of outstanding universal value, the World Heritage Centre organized during this reporting period several activities for the Central Asian and East Asian sub-regions.

A Global Strategy Expert Meeting on Central Asian Cultural Heritage was organized by the World Heritage Centre and hosted by the Government of Turkmenistan in

Ashgabat and Merv from 11 to 17 May 2000. The representatives of the five Central Asian Republics expressed their appreciation for the first forum ever organized by UNESCO which brought together cultural heritage experts from all five Republics, despite the lacuna of heritage sites representing this region and the overwhelming conservation challenges facing the national authorities in this region. The meeting concluded by identifying four major themes attesting to the cultural-ethnic diversity of this region of steppes, deserts and mountains at the crossroad of the civilizations of the East and West. The meeting furthermore adopted resolutions with concrete action plans for increasing regional and international co-operation for increasing the national capacities of conservation and management of Tentative List sites. The meeting was also participated by representatives from China, Pakistan, Russian Federation, ICOMOS, ICCROM, the UNESCO Regional Advisor for Central Asia for Culture, and international experts active in the field of cultural heritage conservation in Central Asia.

For the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), a new State Party having ratified the Convention only in July 1998, the World Heritage Centre organized an expert mission to support the national effort in preparing the Tentative List and to initiate preparation of the nomination of the group of Koguryo Tombs. International and national experts on Koguryo were identified and a call for papers launched resulted in the receipt of a series of background papers to support the nomination file and comparative studies. The World Heritage Centre organized a study tour for two experts from the DPRK to the United Kingdom and France from 27 April to 11 May 2000 to visit the Stonehenge and Carnac to enhance their understanding of site management plans and legal protection. This Study Tour, first of its kind for experts from the DPRK, was highly appreciated by the national authorities of the DPRK and supported by English Heritage and the French Ministry of Culture and Communication.

5. Action for the Protection of World Heritage sites

A. List of World Heritage sites in Danger

At its last session (Marakkesh, 1999), the Committee added **the Iguaçu National Park (Brazil)**, **Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)** and **Rwenzori Mountains (Uganda)** to the List of World Heritage sites in Danger bringing the total number of natural properties of that List to 18. In Iguaçu National Park, both the Supreme Court and the Federal Courts of Parana have condemned the illegal opening of the Colon road that traverses the site. The actual enforcement of these decisions on the ground is currently being monitored. The security situation in Rwenzori Mountains of Uganda continues to be of major concern and staff is co-operating with the Ugandan Government Defence Forces to minimise impacts of war and militant activity on the integrity of the site.

In Salonga National Park (DRC), poaching continues to prevail, and the Bonobo Chimpanzees are particularly threatened. However, the UNF financed (up to an amount of US\$ 2,895,912) will benefit Salonga and the other four sites of the DRC in the List of World Heritage in Danger and will hopefully stabilise situations in all five sites in the coming years. In accordance with the recommendations of the twenty-third session of the Committee, a two-person mission visited, from 8 May to 5 June 2000, Kinshasa, Kigali and Kampala as well as the eastern regions of DRC where four of the five World Heritage sites in Danger of the DRC are located. The findings of the

mission will be reported during the Bureau session (working document WHC-2000/CONF.202/4.)

At its 23rd session, the World Heritage Committee inscribed the **Group of Monuments at Hampi** (India) on the List of World Heritage in Danger due to the ascertained and potential threats facing the site, caused mainly by development activities which were planned without comprehensive needs assessments and analysis. Following a UNESCO-ICOMOS Mission organized in February 2000, the World Heritage Centre transmitted to the Indian Authorities, *UNESCO-ICOMOS Recommended Corrective Actions* to remove the threats endangering the authenticity and integrity of Hampi and to enhance the management and conservation of the site. In May 2000, the State Government of Karnataka (India) informed UNESCO on the decision of the State Government to relocate the two bridges threatening the authenticity and integrity of the Hampi World Heritage site. However, on 13 June 2000, the World Heritage Centre received information that the construction of the two bridges had resumed on 30 May 2000. The World Heritage Centre immediately requested the Indian Authorities for further information. The state of conservation of Hampi will be examined by this Bureau under Agenda Item 4.

B. New information concerning monitoring of sites:

El Vizcaino (Mexico)

Following the UNESCO mission to the Whale Sanctuary of El Vizcaino (Mexico) in August 1999 and the recommendations by the World Heritage Committee, The President of Mexico announced on 2 March 2000 that the proposed salt production project (Mitsubishi/Mexican Government) at the World Heritage site of El Vizcaino has been cancelled. Both the Director-General of UNESCO and the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee welcomed this major success for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, and congratulated the Mexican authorities for their extraordinary action taken to protect the World Heritage site.

Hortobagy National Park (Hungary)

Following a spill at a mining site in Romania, the Centre immediately contacted all States Parties concerned and reviewed the situation. Emergency assistance is being already provided to Hortobagy National Park (Hungary) and further information will be provided during the Bureau in collaboration with UNEP.

C. Periodic reporting progress:

En 1997, la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO a invité les Etats parties à la Convention du patrimoine mondial à lui présenter, en application de l'article 29 de la Convention et par l'intermédiaire du Comité du patrimoine mondial et du Centre, des rapports sur les dispositions législatives et réglementaires et les autres mesures adoptées pour l'application de la Convention ainsi que l'état de conservation des biens du patrimoine situés sur leur territoire.

Conformément aux dispositions ci-dessus mentionnées, le Comité du patrimoine mondial, à sa vingt-deuxième session tenue en 1998, a décidé:

"d'inviter Etats parties à la Convention du patrimoine mondial à présenter, des rapports périodiques sur les dispositions législatives et règlements administratifs et les autres mesures qu'ils auront adoptées pour l'application de la Convention du patrimoine mondial, incluant l'état de conservation des biens du patrimoine mondial situés sur leur territoire et;"

"de les enjoindre à présenter des rapports périodiques tous les six ans en utilisant le format pour les rapports périodiques tel qu'il a été adopté par le Comité du patrimoine mondial à sa vingt-deuxième session."

Le Comité du patrimoine mondial a également exprimé le souhait "d'étudier région par région les rapports périodiques des Etats parties" ce qui signifie, l'examen des rapports sur l'état de conservation des biens inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial ainsi que l'adoption d'un calendrier pour l'étude des dits rapports régionaux.

Etats arabes:

La première phase de la production des rapports périodiques sur la mise en oeuvre de la Convention dans les Etats arabes a commencé en janvier 2000. Du 6 au 8 mars, s'est tenu au Bureau de l'UNESCO Beyrouth le séminaire de formation régionale. A cette réunion ont participé 14 Etats arabes, dont 13 sont signataires de la Convention du Patrimoine mondial et un (le Koweït) qui était présent en qualité d'observateur. N'ont pu être présents : Algérie, Soudan, Yémen et Emirats Arabes Unis.

Les objectifs de cette réunion étaient :

1. Expliquer le Plan d'action régional adopté par le Comité du patrimoine mondial en sa vingt-troisième session de décembre 1999 ;
2. Faire adhérer les participants au programme de travail et obtenir leur participation active à son exécution ;
3. Promouvoir la coopération régionale notamment par l'échange d'informations et d'expériences dans le cadre de l'application de la Convention et plus particulièrement en matière de rapports périodiques et de suivi ;
4. Présenter, expliquer et discuter le format pour la soumission des rapports périodiques ;
5. Définir les besoins particuliers de la région Arabe dans le domaine de l'assistance en vue de la création d'organes de suivi systématique aux niveaux local et national, en vue de l'élaboration des rapports périodiques ;

Bien que cette expérience pilote soit la première de son genre, elle a été un succès. Des résultats positifs ont été enregistrés, contribuant à la diffusion du programme des rapports périodiques dans la région et assurant une meilleure application du contenu de la Convention, garantissant de meilleures conditions de conservation des sites inscrits sur la liste du patrimoine mondial. Une série de recommandations ont été produites et seront présentées par le consultant qui coordonne ce travail lors de la présentation de l'état de conservation des biens.

A la suite de cette réunion régionale, des réunions nationales ont commencé avec l'envoi d'experts dans les pays qui en ont fait la demande. A ce jour, les pays ayant officiellement sollicité cette aide sont : le Maroc, l'Algérie, la Syrie, la Mauritanie, la Libye et le Sultanat d'Oman. Soit 6 pays sur 12, ayant des sites inscrits sur la liste du Patrimoine mondial. La Tunisie et l'Egypte, seront suivis par des experts locaux qui

prendront en charge la rédaction des rapports et qui feront un compte rendu sur le déroulement des opérations.

La Jordanie et l'Irak ont reçu un appui du bureau de l'UNESCO à Amman tandis que le Liban et le Yémen ont demandé de profiter de la présence d'un spécialiste pour les aider.

En plus de cet exercice, plusieurs missions ont eu lieu dans la région, notamment dans les pays du Golfe:

En Arabie Séoudite où s'est rendu le Directeur, il est à prévoir qu'une demande d'inscription d'un site soit formulée prochainement. Elle concernerait les sites nabatéens de Madain Al Saleh et de Al'Ula qui avaient été identifiés par l'Institut français d'archéologie au Proche-Orient (IFAPO) sur financement du Fonds du patrimoine mondial.

En Jordanie et en Oman où s'est rendu le Directeur adjoint, des programmes de coopération à moyen-terme ont été discutés. Ils se concentrent sur une meilleure mise en œuvre de la Convention et une amélioration des conditions de gestion des sites. Quant à la mission au Qatar, elle a servi à expliquer la Convention et son application, notamment la préparation d'une demande de classement.

Afrique:

Pour la région Afrique, les rapports périodiques seront examinés par le Comité du patrimoine mondial en 2001.

Par ailleurs, à sa 23^{ème} session, le Comité du patrimoine mondial a approuvé le document WHC-99/CONF.209/12 sur les stratégies régionales pour la soumission des rapports périodiques. A cet effet, le Centre du patrimoine mondial a élaboré un questionnaire de "suivi périodique" destiné à faciliter le travail des Etats parties. Avec pour objectifs:

Obtenir des Etats parties des informations à jour sur:

- La mise en oeuvre de la Convention du patrimoine mondial
- L'état de conservation des biens du patrimoine mondial situés sur leur territoire.

Cibler l'expertise fournie par le Centre en matière de conservation des biens inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial. Ce qui sous-entend:

1. *Une meilleure identification* des difficultés que les Etats parties peuvent rencontrer dans la mise en oeuvre des dispositions de la Convention du patrimoine mondial.
2. *Une évaluation régulière* des besoins des gestionnaires de sites en matière de formation.
3. *Une participation effective* des gestionnaires de sites.

Mise en œuvre de l'exercice de suivi périodique des sites Africains inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial:

Janvier-février 2000:

- A. Le questionnaire a été envoyé aux 18 Etats parties –concernés par la préparation des rapports périodiques, c'est à dire ceux dont les sites ont été inscrits avant 1991. Pour augmenter nos chances de recueillir les informations, un exemplaire du questionnaire a été adressé:
1. Aux gestionnaires des sites concernés et Directions du patrimoine
 2. Aux responsables des parcs nationaux.
- B. Mise en place d'un site web (<http://www.unesco.org/whc/reporting/africa>) qui permet l'accès au questionnaire ainsi qu'aux divers documents y afférents.
- C. Mise en place d'une adresse électronique qui offre aux gestionnaires de sites qui le désirent la possibilité de nous faire parvenir par e-mail (wh-africa@unesco.org) leur questionnaire –dûment rempli -.

30 avril 2000

- La date limite fixée pour la réception des questionnaires.
- Taux de retour des questionnaires ✓ *par courrier* : assez satisfaisant
✓ *par e-mail* : encore faible

Mai-juin 2000

- Dépouillement des questionnaires, analyse et traitement des informations obtenues et élaboration d'une base de données.
- Identification des informations spécifiques à fournir à chaque gestionnaire de site et mise au point des programmes des ateliers régionaux de formation.

Juillet 2000

Du 5 au 8 se déroulera à Dakar Sénégal un atelier de formation destiné aux gestionnaires de sites culturels et naturels des pays de l'Afrique francophone. Cet atelier concernera 10 Etats parties. Le Fonds du patrimoine mondial assurera la totalité de son financement. La contribution française attendue pour couvrir les frais de voyage des gestionnaires de sites naturels n'ayant pas été reçue.

Octobre/novembre 2000

Atelier de formation consacré aux gestionnaires de sites de l'Afrique anglophone.

1^{er} semestre 2001

Des missions sont prévues afin de faciliter la mise au point des rapports dans un certain nombre de pays ayant rencontré des difficultés.

Le rapport final, résultat de l'analyse des données recueillies et des recommandations des missions sera disponible pour la session du Comité 2001.

Latin America and the Caribbean

The Regional State of the World Heritage Report will be submitted to the World Heritage Committee in 2003. Planning activities have been initiated with the compilation of data on sites inscribed on the World Heritage List (nomination and inscription process, examination of state of conservation, international assistance) and a first consultation meeting with the Permanent Delegates of the region took place on 14 May 2000. At this meeting it was agreed that the process will be organised in three sub-regions with information meetings, exchange of information and the preparation of national reports during 2001-2002. A regional encounter for the preparation of the regional report will be planned for early 2003.

6. Cooperation with States Parties, International and Regional Bodies, Other Convention Secretariats and organizations and Advisory Bodies

The Centre's Co-operation with the United Nations Foundation for the identification, conservation and presentation of natural heritage sites of global biodiversity significance, i.e. sites meeting or having the potential to meet natural heritage criterion (iv) continues to progress satisfactorily. Following projects approved for the Galapagos and the Democratic Republic of the Congo as reported in the Bureau and the Committee sessions in 1999 a new project entitled "World Heritage Biodiversity Sites - Filling Critical Gaps and Promoting Multi-sites Approaches to New Nominations" was approved by the UNF Board in March 2000 for a sum of US\$ 599,550. This project, developed jointly by the Centre and IUCN will (a) undertake a global review of protected areas in coastal, marine and small island ecosystems with a view to identifying potential sites for nomination as World Heritage; (b) investigate biodiversity significance of karst sites in Southeast and East Asia for World Heritage designation; and (c) assist ASEAN countries to launch pilot projects to design at least one cluster and one trans-border tropical forest nomination based on the recommendations of the report on "World Heritage Forests - the World Heritage Convention as a mechanism for conserving tropical forest biodiversity". The report was an outcome of a World Heritage Fund financed global policy dialogue on tropical forest biodiversity conservation held in Brastagi, Indonesia, in December 1998.

The UNF process for soliciting requests during the year 2000 expanded to include other UN agencies, i.e. UNEP, UNDP and FAO, in addition to UNESCO. The four agencies submitted more than 15 project concepts to the consideration of UNF in March 2000 and the UNF gave the green light for about 8 of them to proceed to the next step for consideration for financing as planning grants or full project proposals. UNESCO World Heritage Centre has co-operated with the UNEP Office for Technology, Industry and Economics in Paris and the RARE Centre for Tropical Conservation in Washington, D.C. USA and have submitted a full proposal on "Linking Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism Development" focussing on the following 6 sites: El Viscaíno and Sian Ka'an (Mexico), Rio Platano (Honduras), Tikal National Park (Guatemala) and Komodo and Ujung Kulon National Parks (Indonesia); in addition the Centre and IUCN have co-operated to develop a full proposal for testing IUCN's Framework for Evaluating Management Protected Areas in a selected number of World Heritage sites in Southern and Eastern Africa, South Asia and Latin America. These two full proposals and a planning grant proposal for launching a World Heritage Biodiversity Conservation Programme for Brazil will be considered by the UNF Board in July 2000. At that meeting the UNF Board will also consider full proposals or planning grant submissions from UNDP and

FAO, which the two UN agencies have developed in consultation with their relevant national or regional Offices, projects benefiting a variety of sites including The Sundarbans (Bangladesh), Sunerbans National Park (India), Royal Chitwan National Park (Nepal), Mt. E'mei (China) and Bwindi Impenetrable Forest (Uganda).

The UNESCO and IUCN Offices in Vietnam in consultation with the Centre and IUCN Headquarters are developing several project initiatives that are intended to strengthen the conservation and management of Ha Long Bay World Heritage area. The UNESCO Office in Hanoi in co-operation with UNDP Vietnam has elaborated a project for undertaking a feasibility study for establishing an eco-museum in the Ha Long Bay area. UNESCO, IUCN and the Vietnam Government authorities, including the Provincial Government of Quang Ninh, are collaborating to organise a donor roundtable in July 2000 for a project to strengthen the capacity of the Ha Long Bay Management Department. The Government of Netherlands has expressed an interest to support this project.

The Centre and IUCN are also collaborating closely with regard to coordinating their contributions to a selected international events seen as preparations towards the Fifth World Congress on Protected Areas, scheduled to be held in Durban, South Africa, in September 2002. Two activities, for which the Committee approved a total of US\$ 60,000 under the rubrique "Africa 2002" as part of the technical co-operation allocations for natural heritage at its last session in Marakkesh, that are currently under preparation are: (a) support to World Heritage site managers to attend the Third International Ranger Federation Congress in Kruger National Park, South Africa, from 10 to 16 September 2000; and (b) organising a workshop on the "Role of the List of World Heritage in Danger in promoting international co-operation for the conservation of World Natural Heritage" during IUCN's World Conservation Congress in Amman, Jordan from 4 to 10 October 2000.

Representatives of the Centre and IUCN also attended a meeting organised by the International Council on Mining and the Environment (ICME) on "Mining and Biodiversity", at Kew Gardens, London, from 13 to 15 March 2000. Following discussions at that meeting and in accordance with the recommendation of the twenty-third session of the Committee (Marakkesh, 1999), the Centre and IUCN are convening an expert meeting on World Heritage and Mining in IUCN Headquarters, in Gland, Switzerland, in September 2000. The meeting will invite case studies on specific World Heritage sites that had to address mining issues and their impacts on the integrity of World Heritage sites.

The Centre, IUCN and ICOMOS contributed to a review of revised drafts of the European Landscape Convention during an expert meeting on "The Cultural Landscape: planning for a sustainable partnership between people and place" in Oxford, UK, from 3 to 5 May 2000, hosted by ICOMOS, UK. The meeting and its outcome strengthened collaboration with different organisations including the Council of Europe and called for the active protection of cultural landscapes in Europe.

The Centre, IUCN and ICOMOS participated at an international expert meeting on **"The Cultural Landscape: planning for a sustainable partnership between people and place"**, held in Oxford, United Kingdom, from 3 to 5 May 2000 organized by ICOMOS UK, which reviewed the revised drafts of the *European Landscape Convention*. It strengthened collaboration with different organizations including the Council of Europe and called for active landscape protection.

Following the Committee's discussion on mining and World Heritage, representatives of the Centre and IUCN attended a meeting organized by the International Council on Metals and the Environment (ICME) on "**Mining and Biodiversity**", at Kew Gardens/London, UK, from 13 to 15 March 2000.

The catalytic use of the World Heritage Fund has enabled the World Heritage Centre to continue supporting States Parties to organize on-site training and large-scale operational projects for the benefit of World Heritage cities in Asia.

As another follow-up to the International Conference for Mayors of Historic Cities in China and the European Union, the World Heritage Centre, in co-operation with Chinese National Commission for UNESCO and the Ministry of Construction of China, organized a Training Workshop for Site Managers of World Heritage & Historic Cities in China from 23 to 31 March 2000 in Beijing and the World Heritage City of Pingyao, Shanxi Province of China. Some 60 participants of the workshop included Chinese national experts, professionals and site managers from the designated World Heritage sites and specialists from other institutions with international resource persons from ICCROM and France. The workshop focused on the World Heritage conservation process and the importance of establishing a monitoring system. The meeting also selected participants for a study tour to Europe (Italy and Spain) for site managers of the World Heritage cities in China to be organized in September 2000 in co-operation with ICCROM.

Between 8-16 April 2000, a workshop on "Culture, Heritage Management and Tourism" was organized by UNESCO and hosted by the Bhaktapur Municipality, Kathmandu, Nepal, with the support of the World Heritage Fund and the Directorate for Cultural Heritage of Norway. Over 100 participants from the Asia-Pacific region responsible for World Heritage cultural site management or potential World Heritage sites, representatives the World Bank, tourism industries, and international experts active in the field of cultural heritage protection and tourism development gathered to discuss enhancement of co-operation between stakeholders.

The World Heritage Centre is undertaking the editing and layout of the "Training Manual for World Heritage site-managers in Asia for Tourism Management", in close co-operation with UNEP and international experts in the field of heritage management and tourism development. This activity has continued thanks to the generous contributions from TEMA (Sweden), UNEP and the World Heritage Fund.

The World Bank is intensifying its contacts with the Centre with a view to improving the Bank's loans impact on World Heritage cultural sites. The Bank has also asked the Centre to co-operate in the preparation of operation guidelines for such loans and has requested the Deputy Director of the Centre to become a member of its advisory panel for the evaluation of cultural projects.

The Government of China, the World Bank and UNESCO are jointly organizing an "International Conference on Cultural Heritage Management and Urban Development" in Beijing from 5 to 7 July 2000. The objective of this conference is to strengthen co-operation in cultural heritage management and conservation in urban areas of China and to explore response strategies.

Upon instructions from the Director-General, the World Heritage Centre has initiated discussions with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and the French Agency for Development (AFD) aimed to strengthen cooperation in the effective application of paragraph 56 of the Operational Guidelines which invites States Parties to inform the Committee through the UNESCO Secretariat of their intention to undertake or authorize major restorations or new construction in the World Heritage protected area. Discussions also aim to develop modalities of cooperation with these two development agencies in project identification, feasibility studies and in environmental and cultural impact assessment studies.

A new partnership with the Caisse de Dépôt et Consignation of France (CDC) and the World Heritage Centre was established in order to provide technical advice to the Vietnamese authorities in instituting a housing improvement fund for the provision of subsidies and loans for the restoration of privately-owned houses in the World Heritage site of Hue. Technical co-operation with CDC will also be developed for Luang Prabang (Laos) and Vigan (Philippines) where the protection of privately-owned historic houses is the greatest conservation challenge.

Relations with the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) of the ASEM (Asia-Europe Summit Forum) has also continued for the ASEF meeting in September in Hanoi on urban conservation regulations. The World Heritage Centre is currently gathering related legal documents available at the World Heritage Documentation Unit as its input to this meeting.

Project proposals for the conservation and development of the World Heritage sites of Luang Prabang (Laos), Vigan (Philippines) and Hue (Vietnam) prepared with support from the World Heritage Centre by local authorities in France, UK, Spain and Italy have been approved for funding under the European Union Asia Urbs Programme for the total amount of Euro 1 million. The Centre will also be providing technical support for the amendment of other project proposals prepared for the strengthening of heritage management by the local authorities of Kathmandu Valley (Nepal) and Intramuros Manila (Philippines), referred back by the EU for adjustment and resubmission.

Under the France-UNESCO Cooperation Agreement for the Protection of Monumental, Urban and Natural Heritage, 27 activities for the amount of FF 1.5 million (some US\$ 210,000) have been adopted for funding in the year 2000 by the four concerned ministries of the French Government (Foreign Affairs, Culture and Communications, Infrastructure, Transport, Housing and Tourism, and the Environment). These activities are all related to capacity building in legal protection, management and conservation skills for sites on the World Heritage List or on the national Tentative List of States Parties to the Convention, thus contributing to the Global Strategy or periodic state of conservation objectives established by the Committee.

A meeting between the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies took place on 21 February 2000 in order to co-ordinate work plans, missions and activities for the first half of the year 2000.

Contractual arrangements for the advisory services of IUCN and ICOMOS for the evaluation of nominations and global strategy activities were made as per the

decisions of the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-third session. The same was done for the undertaking by IUCN and ICOMOS of reactive monitoring activities.

7. World Heritage Documentation, Information, Education Activities

The work plan for Information, Documentation and Education, adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 23rd session, is being carried out according to the objectives outlined under the three-year Strategic Plan.

I. Documentation

In the preparation for the meeting of the Bureau, approximately 100 Word and PDF ("Portable Document Format") files (English and French) were prepared for distribution on the **World Heritage Centre's secure web site**. Files on the site are updated as revisions are made to the paper documents and access is limited through a password.

This year, for the first time, the use of electronic pre-registration, to a special e-mail address, **wh-register@unesco.org**, allowed the Centre to send announcements of the availability of these documents to all those Bureau participants submitting their electronic mail address.

A set of the seven CDs that make up the nominations dossiers inscribed between 1978 and 1998 will be distributed to the Bureau members and Advisory Bodies. An additional set of CDs containing sites inscribed in 1999 is in course of preparation.

II. Information

The **World Heritage Information Package** was updated with the 2000 version of the World Heritage Map, printed in 28 000 copies. Along with individual distribution to the press and the public, the Map has been widely circulated upon request by States Parties or by organizers of large-scale events concerning heritage preservation, such as the ITB in Berlin, at the EXPO 2000 in Hannover, where it is displayed as part of a multimedia production, at exhibits in the Netherlands, in France, Norway and Sweden. The new, eleven-page version of the World Heritage Information Kit, came out of print in May. A multi-purpose folder has been produced to present the World Heritage Information package and other documents to partners and the press and for use in World Heritage meetings and conferences. **Basic information documents**, such as the World Heritage List and the List of States Parties, have been updated. The Brief Descriptions of World Heritage sites, after having undergone a check by the respective national authorities, are now being stylistically revised in order to have a high-quality document that can be used for publications, exhibits and various other occasions. A Spanish version of the **World Heritage Slide Pack** has been prepared and is ready for print.

The exhibit on the World Heritage Conservation Process had been displayed at several occasions this year: at the Regional meeting of Arab States which took place this Spring in Beyrouth, at the Translators Academy in Maastricht in the Netherlands, at the Technical University in Cottbus, Germany, and at the World Heritage site of Saint Emilion in France. The CD Rom version of the exhibit is increasingly in

demand, as, besides saving shipping costs, it leaves the liberty of personalizing the support material for the exhibit.

As of next September, starting with issue nr. 16, the quarterly **World Heritage Review** will become a bimonthly publication, one annual issue out of six being specially devoted to the heritage of a single country or to a specific World Heritage theme. This increase in frequency will open the doors for concluding negotiations with major distributors to handle the *Review*, a condition for a much larger diffusion and a further step towards self-financing. The texts for the **World Heritage Desk Diary 2001** have been prepared and are print-ready. Since the 23rd session of the Committee in Marrakesh in December, three issues of the **World Heritage Newsletter** have been published in English and French (5,000 and 8,000 copies respectively for each language) and a total of twelve issues of WHNEWS, the electronic mail version, have been circulated. A new Index to back issues of WHNEWS was established at www.unesco.org/whc/news/whnews.htm.

A brochure on *Periodic Reporting under the World Heritage Convention* has been published in English, French and Spanish and has already proven to be highly useful at national and regional seminars and conferences. Arabic, Chinese and Russian versions are in preparation.

A bilingual publication on the Regional Thematic Expert Meeting on Cultural Landscapes in Africa, held in Tiwi, Kenya, in March 2000, has been printed in 1000 copies.

III. Internet and WHIN

Much of the work of the first six months was devoted to responding to the needs of the Working Groups on the Representativity of the World Heritage List (web page at <http://www.unesco.org/whc/wg-replist/>), on Equitable Representation in the WH Committee (<http://www.unesco.org/whc/wg-repcom/>), and of the Task Force on the Implementation of the Convention (<http://www.unesco.org/whc/taskforce/>). Each report and submission was posted to the web site, of each group, usually in two languages. For all parties concerned, this was a new method of working, and in the future it may be possible that greater interactivity can be introduced into discussions of these and similar groups. A mailing list, such as set up for the Task Force, or interactive "forum" may be alternatives.

This spring, as was done in 1999, **links** were established from the State of Conservation reports presented to the Committee from the specific site web pages concerned. This is adding a growing body of substantive material to this public site specific resource. In addition, for the first time since 1997, the current record of International Assistance decisions was added to the web pages, currently updated every six weeks. (see <http://www.unesco.org/whc/2000-ia.htm>). In addition to being a requirement of the Convention (Article 13.5), this responds to a desire of the Committee's taskforce on the Implementation on the Convention, now made possible by direct conversion from the Centre's own database on International Assistance, one of the first benefits of information management.

In May, the new and revised pages of the **Information Kit** were added to the Centre's pages in both English and French (see <http://www.unesco.org/whc/infokit.htm>). The Spanish version is expected to be added this summer, as time permits. In connection

with the support given to the Working Group on Representativity of the World Heritage List, the **web pages on the Global Strategy** were also expanded (see <http://www.unesco.org/whc/toc/mainf7.htm>), also including links to various thematic and comparative studies conducted by the Advisory Bodies on the WCMC and ICOMOS web sites.

The recent acquisition of a slide-scanner with an automatic feeder will allow the rapid digitization of a much larger variety of slide images from nominations submitted over the last two years, as well as those now being submitted for 2001. Much of the new information, submitted by States Parties for site promotional purposes, will be made available on the web.

The **Map Assessment project**, announced to the Committee last December, is now bearing results. Assessments for the first two regions in the cycle of periodic reporting, Arab States and Africa, show that mapping is inadequate for 92 % of the sites inscribed in these regions. based on the recommendations of the expert group which met in London last fall (see WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.19). This work has also produced an inventory of each nomination dossier identifying lacunae; the information is being passed on to States Parties for their action.

A valuable by-product of the map assessment has been the verification of point-locations for all 630 sites, allowing geographic distribution maps to be produced at a variety of scales and themes. This should prove to be a valuable new tool toward assessing geographic distribution.

Working both from the Centre and from the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, the **World Heritage Information Network (WHIN)** a total of 250 new links were established. A new page was also established for partner networks, highlighting the work done regionally by networks of site managers in the field. Of these new networks, the most recent is that of the Asia-Pacific Focal Point, to bring together site managers in that region. (See <http://www.unesco.org/whc/whin/>.)

IV. Self Financing Programme on Partnerships with the Media and Publishers

The Centre's two principle mass media co-operation agreements with production and broadcasting enterprises Südwestrundfunk (Germany) and TBS (Japan) have generated another 45 films during the first half of the year 2000. A total of 384 films have been produced to date and are being aired weekly by these two television broadcasters. An updated list of films is being prepared and will be available for the twenty-fourth session of the World Heritage Committee in Cairns.

During a mission to Tokyo in April, undertaken together with UNESCO's Publication Office, new contacts were made with publishers, mass media companies such as Universal Music, to study possibilities of developing new information products for the general public. A meeting with the National Federation of UNESCO was also held during this mission to discuss ways in which to further promote the Convention in Japan as well as others countries. As a result of this mission, Kodansha, one of Japan's largest publishing houses, will publish a weekly magazine on World Heritage over a period of two years, two new video series in co-production with UNESCO were proposed and the production of a new CD-Rom for worldwide distribution is under evaluation.

In addition to these film activities, in February 2000, China Beijing Television (BTV) launched the broadcast of the television series entitled “*The Common Heritage of Mankind*”, to celebrate the new Chinese lunar year. More than 80 30-minute episodes were produced for this series in co-operation with the Centre between 1996 and 2000. The first episode featured an interview of the Director-General of UNESCO and the Director of the Centre.

Other partnerships for the promotion of the Convention, with Arts and Entertainment Television Networks (USA) for The History Channel, Boucheron (France), Art’Kan (France), and Editions Arziates (Lebanon), for example, are now well underway. Since the History Channel programme “Save our History” was launched in October 1999, three television public service announcements on the sites of Jerusalem, Timbuktu and Angkor were produced and broadcast in over 50 countries and three more service announcements are to be produced during the year 2000. A web site (www.historychannel.com/angered/) was also developed as a part of this programme to provide the public with more specific information on a selection of sites inscribed on the List of sites in Danger and to raise funds for these sites through contributions from the public. Links to the World Heritage web site were created to complement the information provided through the History Channel web pages.

The first contribution (167,000 FF) from the French jewellers Boucheron was received in May in favour of two restoration projects, one in Spain and the other in Turkey. This initial amount is ten percent of the total fee expected for these two projects.

Art’kan and UNESCO co-published the first two guide-books of the series “World and Wonders” on the River Banks of the Seine in Paris and the Roman city of Arles. This interactive series of guide-books, available only in French for the time being, takes the reader on a discovery tour of world heritage sites using enigmas and suspense. Another volume is in preparation on Versailles and will be published this summer. UNESCO and Art’Kan are studying possibilities of publishing the series in English on sites in other regions of the world to target a larger audience.

“Heritage”, an art book of photographs on World Heritage sites from the French agency Magnum Photos, was also published this year in March. It is currently available in francophone countries and Lebanon and may soon be available in Italy and Japan.

The film entitled “World Heritage: Ours to Cherish, Ours to protect” produced in 1999 in French and English is now being prepared in Spanish and Arabic. Once the two new versions have been recorded, a video tape of the film will be sent to each world heritage site manager for promotional purposes locally.

Many new projects are being studied for 2000 and 2001, including the production of a widely distributed world map indicating the geographic location of all world heritage sites, thanks to the work achieved on mapping in 2000, the involvement of the Centre in exhibits organised during EXPO 2000 in Hanover, and a new large-scale information campaign with important fund raising potential.

An International Task Force meeting to elaborate a 5-year strategic action plan for “Capacity Building to serve Outreach, Natural Heritage Networking, Education, Co-operation and Training” for World Heritage natural site management approved by the

twenty-third session of the World Heritage Committee, and financed with income generated by the Self-Financing Programme, was convened at UNESCO headquarters from 17-20 April 2000. Over thirty-five individuals representing a wide diversity of perspectives, expertise, interests and organizations participated.

The Task Force came to common agreement on the need for actions to promote communication, education and public awareness in Natural World Heritage conservation to support implementation of the World Heritage Convention. Recommendations made by the Task Force include the need to:

- Expand partnerships and increase joint activities with organizations and programmes with shared objectives for conserving natural heritage and further develop substantive working relationships with NGOs and other Conventions;
- Place greater emphasis on strengthening international self-help networks of natural protected area practitioners and faculty resources of regional training centres to increase natural heritage management effectiveness;
- Develop effective and systematic delivery systems to assure World Heritage materials actually reach strategic focal points, and in particular, all natural World Heritage sites, training centres and partners;
- Increase efforts to directly involve natural World Heritage site personnel in World Heritage activities and decision making;
- Develop systematic project performance evaluation mechanisms and incentive programmes (such as a Global Natural World Heritage Conservation Award) to recognize and promote excellence in natural World Heritage achievements.

The major outcomes of the Task Force meeting include the preparation of a Strategic Plan for CONNECT and elaboration of a proposal for a collaborative project with the United Nations Foundation and GLOBE (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment) to provide conservation/environmental education in schools and other such institutions near World Heritage natural sites. The findings of the CONNECT Task Force meeting, the Strategic Plan and the Programme of Work (2001 - 2005) will be presented to the 24th session the World Heritage Committee for consideration and approval.

V. The UNESCO Special Project: Young People's Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion

The UNESCO Special Project "*Young People's Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion*" continues to be jointly implemented by the World Heritage Centre with the Associated Schools Project Co-ordination Unit (ASPnet) of the Education Sector. The Special Project aims to develop new educational approaches to provide young people with the necessary knowledge, skills and commitment to become involved in the protection and promotion of the world's outstanding natural and cultural heritage. The Special Project is supported by the UNESCO Regular Programme, the World Heritage Fund, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) and the Rhône-Poulenc Foundation of France. At the annual review meeting with NORAD in March 2000, all project activities for 1999 as well as the workplan for 2000 were reviewed and approved. NORAD agreed to continue to provide substantial financial support for the Special Project in 2000.

The Educational Resource Kit for Teachers “World Heritage in young hands” (published by UNESCO in English, French, Spanish and Arabic) is currently being evaluated and adapted in ASP-schools in more than 130 UNESCO Member States.

To facilitate the introduction of the Educational Resource Kit into the classroom and develop regional and national strategies for the implementation of the Special Project, a series of sub-regional workshops for curriculum developers, teachers and heritage experts were organized in Ecuador, Fiji, India, Belize, Jordan, Malawi, Mexico, Oman, the Russian Federation, Thailand, Uzbekistan and Yemen in late 1999 and early 2000. More than 75 countries have expressed their interest in organizing national workshops for teachers on the use of the Kit.

As a follow-up to the sub-regional workshops, a series of National Teacher Training Workshops introducing the Kit and developing National Plans of Actions have been organized.

Meanwhile, UNESCO has received 58 requests for translation of the Kit into national language versions. To date, national language versions of the Kit are being produced in Armenia, Austria, Cambodia, China, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, the Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam. UNESCO has received an overwhelming number of requests from teachers and new partners (e.g. the U.S. based GLOBE Program) who would like to become involved in the development of World Heritage Educational and participation activities for young people. Unfortunately, due to the immense interest in the Kit and the Special Project, no more English and French copies of the Kit are available and UNESCO is currently looking into ways of reproducing it and making it available in print as well as in electronic format. In general, UNESCO is currently not able to meet the expectations of Member States participating in the Special Project and it will be necessary to seek additional funding to support the increasing number of proposals to develop Special Project activities for young people at the national and regional level.

As a part of the increasing decentralization of the Special Project, two new educational activities are being prepared for launching “Discover our World Heritage”: a worldwide twinning activity where young people present the World Heritage sites in their country electronically and by mail. Furthermore, an “on-site skills development course” in sustainable tourism is being developed for young people in collaboration with the UNESCO Amman Office. This activity will create a model for skills development courses in other regions.

A mid-term evaluation of the Special Project will be carried out in June-September 2000. The terms of reference for the evaluation have been finalized in collaboration with UNESCO’s Central Evaluation Unit. The recommendations will determine future modification of project design, overall strategy and activities. An International Seminar on World Heritage Education is being organized in collaboration with the Austrian National Commission for UNESCO and the City of Graz, Austria, to focus on the preliminary results of the evaluation.

As part of the overall strategy for the Special Project in Latin America, a World Heritage Youth Forum on “Sustainable Tourism” will take place in Peru from 2-6 October 2000. The Youth Forum is being prepared in collaboration with the UNESCO Lima Office and the National Institute for Culture in Peru. A World Heritage Youth Forum for the Pacific sub-region to focus on environmental issues is

planned to take place in Cairns, Australia just prior to the next session of the World Heritage Committee.

In order to strengthen networking and exchange of know-how between Project participants, a biannual newsletter entitled “Teachers’ Forum on World Heritage Education” was produced and distributed in English, French, Spanish and Arabic to all Project participants in May 2000. Furthermore, a web-site for the Special Project is currently under preparation. This initiative will serve as a clearinghouse for Special Project activities worldwide and will provide links to national and regional initiatives (e.g. such as the Baltic Sea World Heritage Education Web-site prepared by the Finnish National Commission).

With extra-budgetary support from NORAD, consultant services and equipment support were secured to ensure the implementation of Project activities.

8. International Assistance

The dramatic increase in the number of international assistance requests and the amounts requested has continued since 1998, reflecting the growing number of sites and expanding threats. In view of the limited funds of the World Heritage Fund International Assistance, the World Heritage Centre continues to encourage Least Developed Countries (LDCs) or Low-Income Countries (LICs) States Parties, especially those with sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger, to utilize limited World Heritage funds in catalytic ways, following paragraphs 113 of the *Operational Guidelines*. Moreover, non LDC / LIC States Parties are encouraged to actively seek funds for large-scale projects from other sources. However, non LDC / LIC States Parties continued to request international assistance, and to meet their urgent needs, the Committee, Bureau or Chairperson have approved most of their requests, as synthesize in the tables below. However, to meet the ever-increasing needs of States Parties in the coming years, the World Heritage Committee, at its 24th session, may wish to consider activating Article 22 (e) of the Convention by developing mechanisms for “low-interest” or “interest-free” loans, to be made available to non LDC / LIC States Parties.

Implementation of International Assistance requests approved by the World Heritage Committee, the Bureau or the Chairperson have been undertaken by the World Heritage Centre, in close co-operation with the States Parties concerned, the Advisory Bodies, relevant NGOs, UNESCO field offices and relevant units within UNESCO.

Technical Co-operation

LDC States Parties have not benefited greatly from the Technical Co-operation Assistance, often due to the fact that dues to the World Heritage Fund have not been paid. As a consequence, more Non LDC/LIC States Parties have received support from Technical Co-operation. Some States Parties, which have received International Assistance in previous years, continue to request support from the World Heritage Fund on a regular basis and often for the same World Heritage sites. The distribution of Technical Co-operation requests approved and being implemented are as follows:

Technical Co-operation					
States Parties / Others		Number of requests	Natural Heritage	Cultural Heritage	Mixed Heritage
2 Least Developed Countries		2	1	1	0
8 Low-Income Countries		8	3	3	2
15 Non LDC/LIC Countries		16	3	13	0
2 Advisory Bodies for Regional/Global Activities		3	2	0	1
Subtotal	27	29	9	17	3

Emergency Assistance

As at 22 June 2000, only a small amount of Emergency Assistance was remaining. Increasing threats caused by natural or human disasters have resulted in extensive damage to numerous World Heritage sites, leading to large amounts of funds being requested from the Emergency Reserve of the World Heritage Fund. The following table indicates the distribution of Emergency Assistance requests approved and being implemented:

Emergency Assistance					
States Parties		Number of requests	Natural Heritage	Cultural Heritage	Mixed Heritage
2 Least Developed Countries		2	1	1	0
2 Low-Income Countries		2	0	2	0
6 Non LDC/LIC Countries		7	1	4	2
Subtotal	10	11	2	7	2

Training Assistance

During the 23rd session of the World Heritage Committee, the training budget for cultural heritage was already completely exhausted. From the US\$ 490,000 allocated for training funds for cultural heritage, US\$ 276,365 amounting to approximately 56% earmarked for cultural heritage training, was provided to ICCROM for 6 global or regional activities and an additional US\$ 85,000 for servicing costs. The table below synthesizes the distribution of Training Assistance approved to date and being implemented:

Training Assistance					
States Parties / Others		Number of requests	Natural Heritage	Cultural Heritage	Mixed Heritage
4 Least Developed Countries		4	2	2	0
2 Low-Income Countries		3	0	3	0
9 Non LDC/LIC Countries		10	4	5	1
2 Advisory Bodies for Regional/Global Activities		9	1	8	0
3 Regional/Global Activities		3	1	1	1
Subtotal	20	29	8	19	2

Preparatory Assistance

Despite the exceptional grant from the Government of Japan of US\$ 300,000 in 1999 to address Preparatory Assistance requests for under-represented and LDC or LIC States Parties, the year 2000 budget for Preparatory Assistance allocated by the World Heritage Committee (US\$ 325,000) had also been completely exhausted. The table

below synthesizes the distribution of Preparatory Assistance requests approved and being implemented:

Preparatory Assistance					
States Parties		Number of requests	Natural Heritage	Cultural Heritage	Mixed Heritage
5 Least Developed Countries		5	0	5	0
3 Low-Income Countries		4	1	3	0
7 Non LDC/LIC Countries		7	2	2	3
Subtotal	15	16	3	10	3

Assistance for Educational, Information and Promotional Activities

Since the 22nd session of the World Heritage Committee when the *Operational Guidelines* was revised, there has been some increase in utilizing the Assistance for Educational, Information and Promotional Activities for educational activities with long-term effects and for promoting the World Heritage Education Programme. Of the nine requests approved as at 22 June 2000, two World Heritage educational activities, two heritage exhibitions, three publications and two information dissemination activities had been supported.

The findings of the evaluation of International Assistance undertaken by C3E, requested by the World Heritage Committee, will be presented to the Bureau during Agenda Item 7. The Bureau may wish to consider the Recommendations of C3E under this Agenda Item.

9. Management issues

WH staff, Budget and Fund

Changes in the staffing of the World Heritage Centre during November/December 1999 and the first part of 2000 were as follows:

The post of Director WHC was opened to recruitment and interviews of candidates were conducted 16 June by the Director General.

In the proposed Programme and Budget for 2000/2001 (30 C/5), five additional posts were requested: for Relations with the media, Information networks, Arab States desk, a secretary for the Africa culture desk and a clerk for Administration. None of these posts were approved by the General Conference. This limitation in human resources greatly affects the ability of the World Heritage Centre to exercise its function as Secretariat of the Convention. To comply imperatively with the implementation of the approved programme activities, the Centre is regularly recruiting consultants, fee contractors and supernumeraries which limits its operations. Furthermore, the efforts which have been made through 1999 to regularize two members of the Centre currently on secondment from China and Austria did not succeed.

Two new Associate Experts joined WHC: a German Associate Expert on 1 October 1999 for cultural heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean and an Italian Associate Expert on 8 November 1999 for cultural heritage in the African region. Finland has expressed its wish to finance an Associate Expert post for Natural Heritage, starting September/October.

The Administrative Assistant post was filled late November 1999 and, at the beginning of 2000, a P1/P2 post was redeployed to WHC with its incumbent to reinforce the Cultural Heritage Unit for Europe. A P-5 post is detached with its incumbent from CLT/CH to WHC as Chief of Unit for promotion and media relations.

As at 31 May 2000, 46% of the contributions due to the World Heritage Fund for 2000 had been received, amounting to US\$ 1,558,875. The amount of arrears contribution US\$1,950,339 remains unchanged, mainly due to the non-payment of their arrears for 5 main countries. With the cash balance in the Reserve amounting to some US\$ 5.6 million, the Fund is however relatively healthy. But efforts will be continued to encourage States Parties to settle their arrears payment to the Fund so that the growing need for the protection of World Heritage sites can be met through the catalytic use of the international assistance.

Requests for financial contributions from the World Heritage Fund have increased steadily. As of 31 May 2000, the financial situation of the World Heritage Fund was the following:

Chapter	Budget	Approved requests	Implementation at 23 June 2000
Chapter I. Implementation of the World Heritage Fund	264,000	N/A.	36.9%
Chapter II. Establishment of the World Heritage List	1,148,000	N/A.	87.9%
Chapter III. Technical Implementation of the World Heritage Convention			
- Preparatory Assistance	325,000	325,000	66%
- Technical Cooperation	1,245,000	789,691	29.7%
- Training	980,000	841,405	47.6%
-On-site promotional activities	80,000	50,000	37.5%
	2,630,000	2,006,096	41.1%
Chapter IV. Monitoring the State of Conservation of the sites	622,000	N/A.	49.8%
Chapter V. Documentation, Information and Education	336,000	N/A.	49.3%
Total budget 2000	5,000,000	2,006,096	53.3%
Emergency Assistance Reserve	600,000	515,532	6.9%

These figures clearly indicate that, on the one hand the Fund's limits are being reached, while on the other, the capacity of the Centre to implement the increasing numbers of requests for cooperation is stretched to the limit. One should also bear in mind that more extra-budgetary resources are becoming available for joint activities through co-operation with international development banks and institutions, global funds and national agencies (e.g. the United Nations Foundation with projects in the

Galapagos and in Congo, Italy for the improvement of the universality and representativity of the List, the United States of America for the Information Management System). These opportunities however require additional human and financial resources to ensure proper execution of activities and project management.

The approved Regular Budget of the World Heritage Centre (US\$1,068,900 for 2000/2001) has not increased at the same rhythm as the World Heritage Fund. This reduces the ability of the Centre to exercise its function as Secretariat of the World Heritage Convention. To enable the Centre fulfill its role - organization of the statutory meetings, daily functioning of the Secretariat - an additional budgetary allocation should be granted to the Center for support costs and new posts should be created to regularize the long standing consultants and supernumeraries.

Status of Implementation of Information Management

In 1998, the World Heritage Centre convened a meeting of an Expert Group of professionals in the field of data and information management to evaluate the data and information infrastructure of the Secretariat. The Expert Group produced a number of recommendations relating to the implementation of an integrated information management system for the Secretariat and laid out a phased implementation plan, beginning with (1) Definition of Requirements, through (2) High Level Design to (3) Implementation.

To implement certain of the recommendations of the 1998 meeting, in July 1999, the Secretariat reached an agreement with the European Space Agency (ESA) to undertake development of one or more prototypes to address some selected parts of the Secretariat's overall needs. The Expert Group met again in February 2000 to review the results of the first segment of ESA's work and the progress on the implementation of their recommendations as a whole.

Although the Expert Group agreed that ESA had done a thoroughly competent job in identifying needs and had met their contractual requirements in developing a prototype, they felt that the investment in hardware now suggested by ESA was premature given that there was not yet a detailed plan of implementation in place. They reiterated the need for the development of a "Master Plan" through a clear definition of total requirements.

In May 2000 WHC recruited a consultant to act as Senior Information Advisor (SIA) with the objective of producing, at the end of a three-month consultancy, a "Master Plan" for the implementation of an integrated information system. A contract for a Junior Information Officer was also established to provide support to the SIA and to the information technology needs of WHC.

Developments in information management that provide operational benefit to WHC in the short-term as well as contributing to elements of the overall "Master Plan" have begun. Analysis of technology use, with a view to establishment of consistent and improved practices, has been well received by WHC staff.

It is expected that the Expert Group will meet in August 2000 to review a draft "Master Plan" and contribute to a complete report on which future actions will be based. (see Information Document WHC-2000/CONF.202/INF.12).

10. Conclusion – projections for the future

This Bureau session is especially important because the substance of discussions will begin to guide a process of change that is likely to impact the Convention's operations as well as the working methods and procedures of the Committee and the Bureau. Of particular importance in this regard will be the Bureau's discussions pertaining to the reports of the Task Force, Working Groups, Expert Meetings and the Evaluation of International Assistance. It is hoped that the outcome of these discussions will have tangible impacts on the representativity of sites on the World Heritage List and other aspects of the Convention's operations that all are striving to improve.