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WHC-2001/CONF.205/INF.3

Paris, 24 June 2001

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-fifth session

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room X

25 - 30 June 2001

Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda : Report on the activities undertaken by the Secretariat since the twenty-fourth session of the Committee

Summary

This document presents an overview of activities carried out by the World Heritage Centre, between December 2000 and June 2001.

Further details may be found in the following documents presented to the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee:

- Working documents (WHC-2001/CONF.205/1 to WHC-2001/CONF.205/9)
- Information documents (WHC-2001/CONF.205/INF.1 to WHC-2001/CONF.205/INF.8)
- Web documents (WHC-2001/CONF.205/WEB.1 to WHC-2001/CONF.205/WEB.3)

The World Heritage Centre is working to improve the format of documents. Please provide any comments and suggestions for further improvements to the Centre in writing.

I. FOLLOW-UP TO KEY DECISIONS OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE (CAIRNS, 2000)

Revision of the *Operational Guidelines*

On the basis of recommendations from an International Expert Meeting on the Revision to the *Operational Guidelines*, Canterbury, United Kingdom (10 - 14 April 2000) the Committee at its twenty-fourth session (Cairns, 2000) decided that the *Guidelines* be restructured and presented in a user-friendly form.

The revised *Guidelines* will introduce for the first time a consolidated section on the protection and conservation of World Heritage properties. A meeting of a Drafting Group will be convened at UNESCO Headquarters on 10-14 September 2001. The revised *Operational Guidelines* will be submitted to the twenty-fifth session of the World Heritage Committee in 2001 for discussion and adoption.

Proposal for the establishment of a World Heritage Indigenous Peoples Council of Experts (WHIPCOE)

A World Heritage Indigenous Peoples Forum was held in conjunction with the twenty-fourth session of the World Heritage Committee (Cairns, 2000). The Forum was attended by more than 70 participants and observers from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the Solomon Islands. The Committee warmly received the Forum recommendations and asked the World Heritage Centre to provide a review of the feasibility of the proposals for the meeting of the World Heritage Bureau in Paris in June 2001.

At the initiation of the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, Mr Peter King (Australia), a small working group of indigenous representatives from Canada, Australia and New Zealand, all of whom had attended the Forum and taken part in the presentation of its recommendations to the World Heritage Committee in Cairns, was established to assist the World Heritage Centre in its review of the feasibility of the proposal¹. The working group held a series of telephone conferences during April-May 2001. The working group have prepared a paper which is presented to the Bureau as WHC-2001/CONF.205/WEB3.

Follow-up to the Pacific World Heritage Youth Forum

As requested by the twenty-fourth session of the Committee (Cairns, 2000), the World Heritage Centre, in co-operation with the Education Sector (ED/UCQ), UNESCO Office in Apia (Samoa) and a working group from ASP schools in Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Samoa and the Solomon Islands have developed a Plan of Action for follow-up to the first World Heritage Youth Forum for the Pacific held in Cairns in 2000. The Plan of Action for 2001-2004 is attached to this report as Annex I.

¹ Original members of the working group were Josie Weninger (Canada), Jo Willmot (Uluru, Australia), Gary Pappin (Willandra Lakes, Australia), and Hemi Kingi (Tongariro, New Zealand). After Hemi Kingi passed away, Eru Manuera (New Zealand) took his place.

Global Training Strategy

In accordance with the recommendations made by the Committee at its twenty-fourth session (Cairns, 2000) a meeting was held on 26 April between the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies with an aim to produce a comprehensive and more synthetic global training strategy document. IUCN was requested to participate in the process in order to harmonize the resulting effort with the Strategic Action Plan for Training Specialists in Natural Heritage, already approved by the Committee in Berlin, 1995.

Following the meeting, the Advisory Bodies and the Centre engaged in the preparation of a revised and shortened draft document stating the overall goals and philosophy of a World Heritage Global Training Strategy, and indicating priority actions to achieve the stated objectives. This draft document is much shorter than the previous and, for the first time, integrates concern for both cultural and natural heritage.

The Centre will continue working closely with the Advisory Bodies in the coming months to further develop this Global Training Strategy, with a view to finalizing it for the twenty-fifth session of the Committee, where the Global Training Strategy will be submitted for final adoption together with a set of related documents including:

- Clear criteria for review of training assistance requests.
- A preliminary network of international/regional/national training institutions concerned with World Heritage.
- A preliminary list of selected off-the-shelf training modules, which will have to be prepared in response to specific needs identified through the periodic reports at regional and sub-regional levels, including required timetables and financial resources, as well as potential partners for implementation.

Adoption of this Global Training document, by the Committee at its twenty-fifth session should bring to a close the evaluation and revision process started in 1994, aimed to improve the effectiveness of cultural heritage training activities organized in the framework of the *Convention*, paving the way for the implementation of concrete and coherent actions.

II. OVERALL FUNCTIONING OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

Co-operation with the Advisory Bodies

ICCROM hosted a meeting between the Centre and all three Advisory Bodies (ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN) in early March 2001.

With **ICCROM**, in addition to the development of a Global Training Strategy and regular consultations concerning training requests submitted by States Parties, collaboration is now under discussions for the preparation of a UNESCO-ICCROM training workshop on urban conservation for the World Bank task managers. ICCROM is also supporting the Centre by preparing a briefing session at ICCROM for the participants of a Study Tour to Europe for Site Managers and Urban Planners of Historic Cities in China being organized from 16 to 30 July 2001 which will include visits to World Heritage Cities in Italy and Spain. Upon request from the Government of India, the Centre and ICCROM have commenced discussions to elaborate a capacity-building programme for stone conservation.

The Secretariat has implemented the decisions of the Committee for the provision by **ICOMOS** of Advisory Services as well as the undertaking of reactive monitoring activities.

The Centre and **IUCN** continue to maintain regular dialogue and close collaboration in identifying and exploring opportunities for joint actions to promote World Natural Heritage. Co-operation with IUCN and the Centre to design and launch specific United Nations Foundation (UNF) and other donor-financed projects continue to grow. A broad range of experts and taskforces of the IUCN's network and personnel from IUCN Regional and country offices are co-operating with the Centre and its partners to assist States Parties in World Heritage conservation.

Effective co-operation with the Convention's international NGOs continue to be achieved for Africa. Two joint monitoring missions were organized during the first half of this year with IUCN to Manovo-Gounda St. Floris, in Central African Republic and to Djoudj Bird Sanctuary in Senegal to establish the state of conservation of these sites inscribed in the List of World Heritage in Danger and to prepare a rehabilitation programmes.

Close collaboration is also taking place with the Advisory Bodies in the preparation of guidelines for the management of cultural landscape sites.

Co-operation with other UNESCO sectors

Preparation of the UNESCO Draft Medium-term Strategy for 2002-2007 (C4) and the Draft Programme and Budget for 2002-2003 (C5) of UNESCO, has provided the Centre with opportunities to confer with other sectors of UNESCO in the development of inter-sectoral joint activities. Close collaboration with the Education Sector is foreseen to continue in the next biennium for the Special Project on *World Heritage in Young Hands*. New focus on World Heritage under *Forum UNESCO: University and Heritage*, as well as under the *UNESCO Chair* programmes are planned. With the Sector for Social and Human Sciences (SHS), enhanced collaboration is envisaged for the implementation of the Habitat II Action Plan, as re-oriented at the Habitat II + 5 Special Session of the UN General Assembly held in New York in June 2001. Under the two new cross-cutting themes of the C5 - New Information Communication Technology (NICT) and Poverty Eradication, the Centre will be working closely with the Communication Sector in the application of NICTs to enhance World Heritage site monitoring and management, and with the SHS Sector on a Pilot Project on Sustainable World Heritage Management for Poverty Reduction. With the Science Sector, collaboration in biodiversity protection and water resource management have been emphasised in the next biennium programme to be approved by the UNESCO General Conference at its session in October-November 2001.

The Centre is collaborating with UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme in assisting States Parties identify sites for possible nomination such as the Okavango Wetlands in Botswana and Namibia, and in the development and execution of World Heritage projects such as for the Natural Heritage sites in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and in Niger/Benin/Burkina Faso transborder site of "W".

Co-operation with secretariats of other conventions

The Centre participated in a workshop organised by the UNEP Biodiversity Planning Support Programme on "Legislative Complementarity and Harmonisation of Biodiversity-related

Multilateral Environmental Agreements” held in London 21-23 May 2001. The Centre and IUCN are discussing possible collaboration, as part of further expansion of the UNESCO-UNF Partnership for World Heritage biodiversity conservation, to develop an MOU between the World Heritage and Biodiversity Conventions. Although a MOU between UNESCO and the Biodiversity Convention already exists, both IUCN and the Centre see advantages for a Convention-to-Convention MOU that enables the development of common working agendas similar to that developed by the Ramsar Convention as part of an MOU with the Convention for Biological Diversity.

A Convention-to-Convention MOU between World Heritage and Biodiversity is also seen as an appropriate way forward by the GEF Secretariats of the World Bank and UNDP who are placing a growing emphasis on supporting World Heritage conservation. Such an MOU will open-up opportunities for direct collaboration between the Centre and the GEF Secretariats. The Director of the Centre, after visiting World Bank and UNDP Secretariats of GEF has written to both units inviting greater collaboration with regard to World Heritage conservation. The UN Foundation is also encouraging the World Bank and UNDP Secretariats of the GEF to place more emphasis on providing support to World Heritage biodiversity sites.

IUCN/WCPA is executing a GEF financed project to develop “Protected Areas Learning Network” (PALN) to enable policy makers, managers and related stakeholders share experience on the management of protected areas in the light of rapid ecological, sociological, economic and institutional change. PALN will develop proposals, to be reviewed and endorsed by the 5th World Protected Areas Congress in South Africa in 2003, for inclusion in the work programme for consideration by the CBD Parties in their debates on Article 8 (Protected Areas) in 2004. The feasibility of incorporating a special component focussing on World Heritage sites as part of PALN proposals, and within the framework of a possible World Heritage/Biodiversity Conventions MOU that would call for close collaboration between IUCN/WCPA, the Centre, UNF and GEF is currently under review.

Considerable improvement of the Convention’s visibility and standing at the international and regional levels was achieved in Africa through the working relations with other key environment and development Conventions. For example, a mission jointly organized with the Ramsar Bureau and IUCN was undertaken to Djoudj Bird Sanctuary in Senegal from 31 March – 10 April 2001, a World Heritage site inscribed in the List of World Heritage in Danger by the twenty-fourth session of the World Heritage Committee. The purpose of the mission was to establish the state of the conservation of the site and to prepare a biological control programme to combat *Salvania molesta*, an invasive species, which has invaded the site. Ramsar will continue to assist the Centre in executing the Emergency Assistance approved by the twenty-fourth session of the World Heritage Committee.

Co-operation with other organizations

The UNESCO-UNF partnership for conserving globally significant biodiversity sites reached a new stage as UNF approved a proposal for US\$ 646,800 in March 2001 to strengthen the capacity of the Natural Heritage and Administrative sections of the Centre. One programme assistant for each of the two units and a secretarial assistant for the natural heritage section will be hired for the biennium 2002-2003. UNF will also support the Centre’s efforts for raising extra-budgetary support for World Natural Heritage during the same biennium.

Between May 1999 and March 2001, UNF projects exceeding US\$ 10 million has been approved in favour of conservation actions benefiting more than 30 sites included in the World Heritage List. In March 2001, the UNF Board also approved a project to build infrastructure and capacity for a cluster of protected areas in Southeastern Madagascar to prepare them for nomination as World Heritage. Two planning grants, one for elaborating a World Heritage Biodiversity Programme for India and the other to develop an African World Heritage Forest Initiative in Central Africa, respectively, were also approved. UNF has also supported UNDP-GEF projects for potential and designated World Heritage sites in Bangladesh, Cuba, Cambodia, India, Nepal and Panama.

Collaboration with the **World Bank** continued in support of the historic towns in Zhejiang (Nanxun, Wuzhen and Xitang) under the Bank's Zhejiang Urban Upgrading Project. These towns are part of the Six Canal Towns of the Lower Yangtze River, subject of a cluster nomination under preparation by the Chinese Government with support from the Centre and France. The local authorities of *Zhouzhuang*, *Xitang*, *Tongli*, *Wuzhen*, *Nanxun* and *Luzhi* of Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces are being assisted in promoting inter-communal collaboration in developing a conservation and tourism development strategy, as well as in the use of management tools such as GIS which have so far been developed for Tongli and Xitang.

The Centre is also working in close collaboration with the **World Bank** and the Indonesian authorities for the preparation of a cluster nomination in Bali, Indonesia by optimizing the dynamics launched by the Cultural Heritage Component of the Bank-financed Bali Urban Infrastructure Programme.

Moreover, the World Bank and the Centre have been collaborating in defining the World Bank Policy Guidelines and Operational Guidelines on Physical Cultural Resources included in the Environmental Assessment obligations. In this connection, the Bank has commissioned the Centre to develop a manual on the management of cultural and natural heritage site. The Bank has expressed its interest in supporting the Centre's on-going activities in improving the country profiles of the States Parties.

On 16 January 2001 the **European Parliament** adopted a wide-ranging resolution aimed at promoting the *World Heritage Convention* generally, and assisting less-developed countries identify and protect their heritage. The resolution 2000/2063 (INI) is entitled "European Parliament resolution on the application of the *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* in the Member States of the European Union", recognizes the responsibility of the **European Union**, whose member states contain 30% of all World Heritage sites, to correct the imbalances in the World Heritage List, identifying new types of heritage, and assisting non-European states in the identification and protection process. It specifically calls on Member States of the European Union to encourage non-European countries to complete their inventories of natural and cultural heritage assets and to reconsider their Tentative Lists in the light of successful recent examples. The resolution requests the **European Commission** to implement "all possible forms of co-operation and consultation with UNESCO and the Council of Europe" and "to assist, within existing programmes, developing countries which are facing problems with the recognition, description and conservation of cultural assets". The resolution strengthens the provisions of the *Convention* by requesting that the impact of projects using Community Structural Funds be examined prior to the approval of projects in the Member States of the Union. The Resolution can be found on the European Parliament's Plenary session search page at

http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm and searching (document A5-0382/2000) or on the WHC web page <http://www.unesco.org/whc/archive/eu-pv2.html>.

Under the **France-UNESCO Cooperation Agreement for the Protection of Monumental, Urban and Natural Heritage**, 27 activities for the amount of US\$ 300,000 in addition to the contribution in-kind of technical services to be provided by French experts have been adopted for funding in the year 2001. These activities in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Central Europe are focused on capacity building in legal protection and management of cultural and mixed sites on the World Heritage List or on the Tentative Lists, including development of fiscal measures and micro-credit schemes to support conservation. The Interministerial Delegation for Cities (DIV) joined the France-UNESCO Agreement in March 2001, adding further technical competence to this cooperation Agreement. Discussions have now reached the final stages for the French Development Agency (AFD) and the Caisse des Depots et Consignation (CDC), a national bank, to also join the Agreement.

A Declaration for **Italy-UNESCO Cooperation** was signed in March 2001 to support the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* through provision of Italian experts to promote the Global Strategy, pilot projects and to enhance the capacity of the World Heritage Centre. US\$ 693,542 has been allocated for 2001. Activities under this cooperation in 2001 will focus on global strategy and capacity building for World Heritage site management in the Arab States and Africa

An Agreement for **Netherlands - UNESCO Cooperation** for the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* has been successfully negotiated. For the year 2001, an amount of US\$ 400,000 will be made available to the Centre to support various activities to enhance site management and conservation actions.

A **Spain-UNESCO Cooperation Agreement** is scheduled to be signed shortly. Under this Agreement, expertise from the central as well as the local governments of Spain are expected to be mobilized, primarily, but not exclusively, for the benefit of the hispanophone States Parties.

To address the increasing challenges for capacity building, conservation and urban heritage development, the Centre continued its cooperation with the **Cultural Heritage Office in Nara** of the Asian Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU, Japan) which was established in 1999. A multi-year regional training programme is being developed together with UNESCO, ICCROM and other partners.

The cooperation with the **Nordic World Heritage Office** has been intensified, particularly in view of the external evaluation that was undertaken in March 2001 and the discussions on the establishment of the Office on a permanent basis. A half-time consultant has been appointed on a cost-sharing basis to support this process. Cooperation with the Centre over the past six months have focused on the development of a database to support the periodic reporting exercise for which a meeting was held in Oslo in June 2001 and for the preparation of an international meeting in Lijiang, China on cultural heritage management and sustainable tourism scheduled for October 2001.

With the **Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC)**, cooperation continued notably in relation to the meeting for the mayors of World Heritage Cities in the Americas held in Quebec in April 2001 on the occasion of the Summit of the Americas. The terms of a new

cooperation agreement were defined which will include joint research and operational activities to be carried out over the coming years for the management of World Heritage cities including the economics of heritage protection.

The Centre and **CRATerre-EAG** (International Centre for Earth Construction- School of Architecture of Grenoble) organized, together with other units and field offices of UNESCO, a number of fact-finding missions to Central Asia identify technical assistance needs. The Centre and CRATerre continued consultations to elaborate a regional programme for earthen architecture conservation in Central Asia.

The Centre also continued its co-operation with **English Heritage** (UK), the **University of Bradford** (UK), **Musée Guimet** (France), **Asuka Historical Museum** (Japan), **Tongji University**, **Beijing University**, **Tsinghua University** and **Southeast University** (China) in mobilizing technical expertise to address specific requests from States Parties in implementing the *World Heritage Convention*. Cooperation in research and training is also being continued with **Delft University** (Netherlands), **Cottbus University** (Germany), **Francois Rabelais University of Tours**, **University of Bordeaux**, **University of Aix-Marseille**, **University of Paris** (France), **University of California at Berkeley**, **University of Kansas**, **MIT** (USA), **University College London**, **Cambridge University** and **University of North London** (UK), **Science and Engineering University of Cairo** (Egypt). New partnerships have been developed with the **University of Fine Arts (ALBA)** and the **Centre for Conservation of University of Lebanon -Tripoli** (Lebanon) and discussions are underway for cooperation with **Harvard University** (USA).

With **International Fauna and Flora**, co-operation was established for the management of Mount Nimba transborder site between Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea, a site inscribed in World Heritage List in Danger. A tripartite meeting which will include Liberia will be held in September 2001. The purpose of the meeting will be to sensitize the planners and decision makers on the need for concerted efforts on the effective management of the site and to establish a Scientific monitoring Committee for Mount Nimba ecosystem.

III. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

New States Parties to the World Heritage Convention

The total number of States Parties to the *Convention* has reached 164, an increase of three since the twenty-fourth session of the World Heritage Committee. Rwanda, Niue, and the United Arab Emirates deposited their instruments of acceptance on 28 December 2000, 23 January 2001, and 11 May 2001 respectively.

World Heritage List

Following the inscription of **61** new sites by the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-fourth session in December 2000, the World Heritage List now includes a total of **690** properties (**529** cultural properties, **138** natural properties and **23** mixed properties) located in **122** States Parties.

Nominations to the World Heritage List: Year 2001

The Bureau at its twenty-fifth session will examine 50 nominations, in addition to proposals for 7 site extensions. Of this group, thirty-two are for cultural properties, four are mixed sites, and 14 are nominated for natural criteria. Detailed information can be found in the working document WHC-2001/CONF.205/6. The majority of new nominations received for the year 2001 continue to be received from Western European countries. In 2001, the Committee will be examining for the first time nominations from three States Parties (Botswana, Guyana, and Israel).

Tentative Lists

Of the 164 States Parties to the *Convention* at 31 May 2001, 119 had submitted tentative lists that comply with the format specified in the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the Convention* (see working document **WHC-2001/CONF.205/6**). The total number of sites inscribed on the Tentative Lists is 1212. Of these, 930 are cultural (76,7%), 191 are natural (15,7%), and 91 are mixed (7,6%). 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 World Heritage List itself (76,6%, 20%, 3,4% respectively).

Following the results of the Periodic Report on the State of Conservation of the World Heritage Sites in the **Arab States**, the Centre has focused since the beginning of 2001 on working with the States Parties in the establishment or revision of their national tentative lists. Eight of the States Parties of the region have not yet submitted their tentative list. Analyses of the existing tentative lists indicate the need for thematic studies on cultural landscapes, modern heritage and Arab and Islamic heritage.

Global Strategy for a Representative World Heritage List and Capacity Building Activities

Asia

A Global Strategy and Periodic Reporting Meeting for World Heritage Cultural Properties in Southeast Asia (Toraja, Indonesia 24-28 April 2001), attended by 30 representatives and experts from 10 States Parties, reviewed Tentative Lists of the Southeast Asian sub-region and identified new categories for potential world cultural properties to be represented on the World Heritage List. The conclusions of this meeting will assist in the preparations of policy orientations for World Cultural Heritage nomination from this sub-region and for the Regional Periodic Reporting Exercise in Asia.

The Centre continues its close co-operation with Bangladesh, China, DPR of Korea, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan to enhance the representativity of the World Heritage List. In light of the proliferation of new nominations of single historic monuments and archaeological sites from many of these States Parties, serious consideration of group nominations, some of a trans-border character is being given. In this context, the Centre is in particular, working with China, India, Pakistan and the Central Asian Republics to promote

“group nominations”. An analysis to identify potential sites for the Silk Road group nomination in China and Central Asia is underway, and a UNESCO mission to China is planned for July 2001 to assist the State Party in developing project proposals related to the World Heritage nomination of sites along the Silk Road.

Pacific

Niue is the latest Pacific Island country to join the *World Heritage Convention* in December 2000. There are now 7 of the 16 Pacific UNESCO Member States that are signatories to the *Convention*. Currently there are two World Heritage site nominations, Kuk Agricultural Site and Varirata National Park in preparation in Papua New Guinea with funding support, respectively, from Japan and New Zealand. The New Zealand Government has continued to fund the Pacific World Heritage Officers' position. In the Solomon Islands, Rennell which is a natural site is being re-assessed as a cultural site, and in Fiji, nomination is under preparation for Levuka Township, a colonial capital, both financed by Japan.

The World Heritage Officer for the Pacific has attended three meetings in 2001: the Pacific ASP Co-ordinators Meeting in Auckland, the Pacific Cultural Advisors Meeting in Wellington and the Pacific World Heritage Education Meeting in Christchurch. Details on how the World Heritage Education Kit would be adapted for use in Pacific Islands schools were discussed at the Pacific Education Meeting. The projected completion of the "World and Local Heritage in Young Hands" Education Kits is March 2002 with trialling in selected ASP schools to begin in 2003. (see Annex I).

Europe and North America

A meeting on vineyard cultural landscapes is under preparation to be held in the Tokay region, Hungary, from 11 to 14 July 2001 to review the existing vineyard World Heritage sites, as well as properties nominated and included on tentative lists.

An international training seminar for natural site managers from Eastern Europe on "Conservation of World Heritage Sites", has been organized and financed by EUROPARC from 20 to 26 June 2001 at Bieszczady National Park, Poland. It included sessions on Global Strategy, monitoring and reporting and international assistance training about 25 (and potential) World Heritage site managers from all parts of Eastern Europe.

The Danish authorities are hosting the Nordic site managers meeting to be held in Jelling from 24 to 26 August 2001.

As a follow-up to the Regional Thematic Expert Meeting on Potential Natural World Heritage Sites in the Alps (Hallstatt, Austria, from 18 to 22 June 2000), the Italian authorities invited the States Parties concerned to a meeting held in Turin, Italy, from 4 to 7 July 2001 to review tentative lists and concrete proposals for potential natural and cultural landscape World Heritage nominations from the Alpine Region.

Latin America and the Caribbean

The proceedings of the Workshop on Cultural Heritage of the Caribbean and the *World Heritage Convention*, held in Martinique (1998) were published in May 2001.

An Expert Meeting on Plantation Systems in the Caribbean, Paramaribo, Suriname is under preparation to be organized in July 2001.

As a follow-up to the recommendations of Natural Heritage in the Caribbean (Paramaribo, Suriname, 18 - 20 February 2000), a Workshop on the Management of Sites in the Guyana Shield has been organized (Georgetown Guyana, 27 November - 1 December 2000), co-financed from the World Heritage Fund and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). Approximately 40 specialists from Guyana and nine from Suriname participated in the workshop. Different aspects of the management of natural sites in the tropics with particular emphasis on the methodology for the participation of indigenous Amerindian people and local communities.

A number of capacity building activities focussed on the Caribbean, including the Preparatory workshop for a Regional Training Course on the Application of the World Heritage Convention and its Role in Sustainable Development and Tourism, Roseau, Dominica (January 2001) and the Regional Training Course on the Application of the World Heritage Convention and its Role in Sustainable Development and Tourism, Roseau, Dominica (September 2001).

Cultural Landscapes

The “Preparation of management guidelines for cultural landscapes” progressed with meetings of a working group including representatives from IUCN, ICOMOS, ICCROM, IFLA and the World Heritage Centre. A working session took place at Cinque Terre, Italy, March 2001 to finalize the draft Management Guidelines for Cultural Landscapes and prepare its publication in 2002.

A number of States Parties organized cultural landscape meetings to review the application of the landscape concept, including France, with a seminar at St. Emilion on “Patrimoine & Paysage Culturel” from 30 May to 1 June 2001.

IV. MONITORING AND REPORTING ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST AND THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

Periodic Reporting

Africa

As reported to the twenty-fourth session of the World Heritage Committee (see paragraph VII.8 of the report), a regional Periodic Reporting Workshop for Anglophone African countries was held from 12 – 16 March 2001, in Nakuru, Kenya, attended by 22 participants from 8 countries.

The Nakuru Workshop concluded series of national and regional Periodic Reporting workshops and the Phase Three of the Strategic approach to the periodic reporting exercise for Africa approved by the twenty-third session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC-99/CONF.209/12) in Marrakech, Morocco in November/December 1999. Forty African sites are concerned by this exercise: 23 natural sites, 16 cultural sites and 1 mixed site. The Nakuru

Workshop evaluated sixteen natural and cultural sites, additional seven sites in Ethiopia were evaluated by an earlier national workshop held in Addis Ababa from 6 – 12 February 2001.

The Regional Workshops were organized in Africa to enable both natural and cultural site managers, in addressing issues in terms of bio-geographical and regional to: provide information and obtain a harmonized monitoring presentations of the sites; encourage the managers to participate in the monitoring activities; highlight strong points, shortcomings and management needs of the World Heritage sites; create awareness of the regional complementarities at the site level and at the State Party level; and by involving directly the local and national authorities, encourage their participation and responsibility for the management, conservation and development activities.

The Secretariat is currently consolidating and analysing all the data that has been accumulated since 1999, and a detailed report on the State of the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, and the State of Conservation of World Heritage sites in Africa will be presented at the twenty-fifth session of the World Heritage Committee.

To report on the implementation of the *Convention* in Africa, a meeting entitled “World Heritage Convention: Preserving African Heritage for Humanity” was organized for the Permanent Delegations from the African States Parties at UNESCO on 20 June 2001. The meeting was attended by 16 Ambassadors and Permanent Delegations or their representatives (Angola, Benin, Ethiopia, Congo, Cote d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Togo and Zimbabwe) and three Permanent Delegations from the Arab States (Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia). The meeting also provided an opportunity to inform the Permanent Delegates of the on-going Periodic Reporting exercise in Africa.

Arab States

A meeting with Permanent Delegates from the Arab States was organized on 25 April 2001 at Headquarters to present the results of the Periodical Reports, raise awareness among the representatives from the Arab countries of the concerns about the state of conservation of World Heritage sites in their region, and to outline the main lines of a proposed action strategy.

A series of national and sub-regional workshops will be organized to review and discuss the main issues raised in the periodical reports submitted by the Arab States and propose possible measures to be taken.

A comprehensive Action Plan should be developed, if specific funds are made available, based on the recommendations made by Mr. Daoulatli in his report at the Committee meeting in Cairns (2000).

Asia and the Pacific

During the *Periodic Reporting Meeting for World Heritage Cultural Properties in Southeast Asia* (Toraja, Indonesia 24-28 April 2001), representatives from 10 States Parties requested that the deadline for submission of the national Periodic Reports be extended in view of the change of the work schedule of the World Heritage Committee. Consultations have also been held with Australia, China, India, Japan and Republic of Korea, and it is proposed that the

deadline for the Periodic Reporting Exercise in Asia be postponed to June 2003 instead of June 2002.

The Centre, the Korean National Commission for UNESCO and the Korean Cultural Properties Administration are organizing a “*UNESCO Regional Workshop for the Preparation of the State of Conservation Reports on the World Cultural Heritage Sites in Asia*” between 11-13 July 2001 in Kyongju City, the Republic of Korea. The 35 participants, international experts, national co-ordinators for World Cultural Heritage and site managers from 15 Asian States Parties, will discuss various conservation challenges and monitoring systems for World Cultural Heritage sites in Asia. The participants will also be requested to prepare their periodic reports on the state of conservation of World Cultural Heritage Sites in Asia inscribed before or in 1994.

In the process of synthesizing and analyzing data, the Centre has found that information concerning the boundaries, co-ordinates and maps of the World Heritage sites are inadequate for many nomination files submitted before 1996. A project proposal prepared by the Centre has been allocated US\$334,800 by the Government of Japan to gather baseline data, promote the use of GIS and enhance national and local capacities in the elaboration and implementation of a sustainable monitoring and management system for cultural sites in Asia. This project should also enable the Centre to update its country profiles and site profiles of the World Heritage cultural sites in Asia.

Reactive Monitoring

Arab States

Two missions have been recently carried out to monitor progress and assess the situation for the two sites of the Arab Region inscribed on the World Heritage List in Danger: Fort Bahla (Oman) and Zabid (Yemen). A verbal report will be presented during this session of the Bureau.

Asia and the Pacific

Between December 2000 and June 2001, ICOMOS and/or UNESCO reactive monitoring mission were organized to the World Heritage sites of the Potala Palace and the Jokang Temple Monastery in Lhasa (China), Khajuraho Group of Monuments (India), Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan), Ancient Cities of Sigiriya and Galle (Sri Lanka). Meanwhile, following the recommendations of the Bureau and the reactive monitoring mission, the Government of Nepal, the Centre and the UNESCO Kathmandu Office organized an International Technical Meeting for the Conservation, Presentation and Development of the Maya Devi Temple of Lumbini World Heritage site (Nepal, 5 - 9 April 2001) which concluded with specific recommendations for conserving the fragile archaeological remains of the Maya Devi Temple, and for developing this important pilgrimage site as a sacred garden.

In July/August 2001, a reactive monitoring mission will be undertaken to Hampi (India), a site inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, to assist the Indian authorities in assessing the needs for the elaboration of a comprehensive management plan.

Other ICOMOS/UNESCO/IUCN reactive monitoring missions foreseen between July and November 2001 include those to the World Heritage sites of Meidan Emam, Isafhan (Iran) and the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines).

V. INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

With its relationship with the UNF and with donor States Parties such as France, Italy, Spain and Netherlands bringing in a growing volume of financial resources for World Heritage conservation, the Centre has developed a concept paper on “Partnerships for World Heritage Conservation”. The concept paper has been discussed among Centre staff and some other UNESCO units. An information document on the concept will be submitted to the twenty-fifth session of the Committee in December 2001 to facilitate the Committee’s discussions on the World Heritage Fund and budgets for the biennium 2002-2003.

In the case of Natural Heritage, UNF support to sites, and the growing interest of GEF, conservation NGOs such as WWF, CI (Conservation International) etc. and other partners to support World Heritage conservation are creating opportunities to use the World Heritage Fund as a truly catalytic resource. The information document on “Partnerships for World Heritage Conservation” to be submitted to the Committee, will contain proposals on alternative ways to structure and manage the Fund in order to enhance its catalytic potential for World Natural Heritage conservation.

VI. MANAGEMENT ISSUES

To ensure follow-up to the key reform decisions of the twenty-fourth session of the Committee (Cairns, 2000), a new Policy and Statutory Implementation Section was established in the World Heritage Centre (WHC/POL) in May 2001. The new Section will handle work relating to policy issues and ensure implementation of decisions and resolutions of World Heritage statutory meetings. The Section will also be responsible for World Heritage statutory documentation and registration of nominations, the development of the World Heritage Information Management System and will also provide support for expert reflections being planned for the 30th Anniversary of the *World Heritage Convention* in 2002.

VII. WORLD HERITAGE INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION

World Heritage Information Package

The *World Heritage Information Package* was updated with the 2001 version of the **World Heritage Map** printed in 25,500 copies for distribution to States Parties, media and other partners. Reflection is currently undertaken on the future development of this information tool, in view of the large number of sites inscribed each year in the List, as well as with regard to the 30th anniversary of the *World Heritage Convention* in 2002. The 2001 version of the **Brief Descriptions** of World Heritage sites is now in print, after a complete revision of both style and contents (following check and approval of texts by States Parties).

Visual aids

The **World Heritage Slide Kit** in English, French and Spanish is in the process of being updated. The **travelling exhibit** on the World Heritage Conservation Process is also currently undergoing a change in its presentation form, in prevision of a busy 30th anniversary year.

The exhibition, “**From Adu Simbel to Angkor**” was shown at the United Nations Office in Geneva in February 2001 and successfully received. The exhibit was later displayed at Bellinzona by the Swiss National Commission for UNESCO. The exhibition “**Ethiopia – a rich cultural heritage**” was displayed at UNESCO and later at the Musee de l’Homme (Paris) from 23 January – 6 March 2001, is now being presented at Charleville, Mézières (France), and will then travel to Royan, Clermont-Ferrand, and in Marseille (France), combined each time with a conference. This exhibition prepared at the request of the Ethiopian Embassy will reach its final destination, the National Museum of Addis where it will be kept. « **Hué, Ha Long, Hoi An and My Son – World Heritage Sites in Viet Nam** », another exhibition was displayed from, 22 May to 14 June 2001 at UNESCO HQs. « **World Troglodite Heritage** » was also organized at UNESCO HQs from 23 May to 14 June 2001.

To mark the tragic destruction of Bamiyan in Afghanistan, an exhibition entitled « Heritage of Humanity- Beyond Destruction » was inaugurated at UNESCO HQs on 5 June 2001.

Publications

The *World Heritage Review* has, since it became a bi-monthly issue last September, made further efforts to produce an informative and lively magazine, dedicating more space to current events and news from World Heritage sites. Three issues (18, 19 and 20) have been printed since January 2001. The recently initiated distribution in Canada and the United States (7000 English and 1000 French copies for sale at newsstands) is starting to show significant results. However, ways to augment its reach and solutions for the viability of the magazine are still sought for. The *World Heritage Newsletter* has been redesigned, starting from nr. 30 (May-June issue), in a larger, more “reader-friendly” format, with an improved quantity and quality of information, presented in a professionally prepared layout. In order to improve the circulation of the Newsletter and World Heritage publications in general, a major attempt to expand and update the Centre’s mailing list is currently being undertaken. As of 5 June, 8 issues of *WHNEWS*, the electronic mail version of the *Newsletter*, had been circulated. The *World Heritage Diary 2002* has been prepared and is ready for print. A special thirtieth-anniversary preface has been included. A new initiative has been launched for the publishing of a series of *World Heritage Papers*, which will present reports from seminars, workshops and meetings concerning different World Heritage subjects. The public targeted for this series are mainly World Heritage experts, national and local authorities and site managers. Pending the publication of number 1 of the series, the cover page has been designed and is presented to this Bureau. A new co-production is being developed by the UNESCO Publishing Office with the Spanish publisher San Marcos/ Planeta for a series of World Heritage sites’ *Guidebooks*, in English, French and Spanish, with a first edition to be launched end August on Cuzco, Peru.

Communication and partnerships

In addition to following up on the Centre's partnerships with the Media and Publishers, initiated in 1995, a number of new ideas for communication activities were explored in 2001.

One of these projects, provisionally entitled 'The World Heritage Emblem Users Manual', was elaborated after having identified the need to develop a tool for international, national and local authorities and partners to present and promote World Heritage sites with greater consistency. This graphic chart, developed within the general framework of UNESCO's new communication strategy, examined by the 161st session of the Executive Board in June, will set high standards of quality for all materials published using the World Heritage Emblem. Moreover, it will increase the impact of the World Heritage message by reinforcing the Emblem's identity.

Another project related to the possible launch of a UNESCO Membership initiative for World Heritage was presented to representatives of more than 15 Divisions in UNESCO in March 2001. The potential of such an initiative is to identify a vast and solid World Heritage constituency through which the values of the *World Heritage Convention* could be transmitted. Discussions took place on international and national information campaigns and measures to improve the quality of existing information materials as part of the future Membership initiative. The Centre will be carrying out a feasibility study which will be presented to the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-fifth session.

Preparation of an inventory of all media and press specialised in heritage issues has been initiated to facilitate the Centre's relations with the press and increase opportunities to communicate and raise awareness of the general public.

Finally, in an effort to consolidate and streamline activities by the various divisions of UNESCO to promote the *World Heritage Convention*, the Office of the Director-General of UNESCO recently approved a set of new guidelines and procedures for the validation by the Centre of promotional projects on World Heritage. These guidelines aim to give the World Heritage Centre greater control over the quantity and quality of information materials, other products and exhibits produced on the subject of World Heritage, regardless of whether the World Heritage Emblem is used.

Partnership with the Tourism Industry

A special session at the ITB (Berlin) «Investing in a living cultural and natural World Heritage to promote quality tourism » was organized in March 2001. The participation in World Heritage conservation by a number of leading members of the hotel and travel industry have led to the funding of tangible activities in Puebla (Mexico), Pétra (Jordan), Médina of Tunis, Los Glaciares (Argentine) and Tikal (Guatemala). To date, 37 sites in 22 countries have benefitted from financial contributions collected by these groups. By the end of 2001, the total amount is expected to amount to some US\$ 500 000. A plan for the mobilization of the tourism industry for public awareness and support for the *Convention* on the occasion of the 30th anniversary in 2002 is under preparation for submission to the Committee at its twenty-fifth session.

Forum UNESCO – University and Heritage

Following the international seminar organized by UNESCO and the Lebanese American University in Byblos in December 2000 which gathered representatives of ICOMOS, l'Agence universitaire de la Francophonie (which networks 450 universities) and universities from 39 countries from five continents, twenty-one activities to be carried out in 2001 by various universities were adopted. Some of these activities have been realized (eg. First meeting of lusophone and hispanophone universities at the University of Alcalá de Henares, Spain, Seminar on conservation and presentation of the built heritage at the Université Abou Bekr El Kaid, Tlemcen, Algérie).

Other events

On the occasion of the International Day for Women on 8 March 2001, a seminar on the Role of Women in World Heritage Protection took place at UNESCO HQs which gathered representatives from governments, NGOs and the media. This event contributed to the sensitization of women and youth groups on the challenges of heritage protection.

A roundtable on the protection of World Heritage Sites in Vietnam held on 26 June 2001 at UNESCO HQs gathered representatives from Vietnam, including the local authorities of the World Heritage sites, from the Urban Community of Lille Metropole (France), a partner of Hue in a decentralized cooperation project carried out with the Centre, members of NGOs l'Association des Amis de Hué, l'association Les Arts du Vietnam renouvelés, Hué 2002 and the media.

The Chinese National Commission for UNESCO, the Ministry of Construction and the State Administration of Cultural Heritage jointly organized a “*World Heritage Festival and Forum on World Heritage Preservation*” at the World Heritage site of Mount Wuyi, China from 12 to 14 April 2001. This event was to promote public awareness but also to discuss the establishment of a monitoring system for the World Heritage sites in China and of a Chinese World Heritage Center aimed to enhance management of heritage sites and to serve as an advisory service to national and local authorities on heritage preservation and city planning and development.

30th anniversary events

A summary of events planned for the 30th anniversary of the *Convention* in 2002 is presented in Annex II.

Education

Launched in 1994 at the grassroots level by the Associated Schools Network and the World Heritage Centre, the “*Young People’s Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion*” Special Project has led to the development of a new educational concept and many events for young people. The Special Project, one of the most successful flagship projects launched by UNESCO for young people, presently involving more than 130 UNESCO Member States has largely benefited from the support of the Norwegian Organisation for Development Co-operation (NORAD). Due to exceptionally high demand from Member States, much more funding is needed to meet the increasing number of

proposals to develop World Heritage Education activities for young people at the regional and national levels.

The Educational Resource Kit for Teachers “World Heritage in young hands” (currently published in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian and Japanese) is being prepared in 20 additional language versions by National Commissions for UNESCO and an Internet version will become available in June 2001. A second edition of the Kit in English and French is currently under preparation with the UNESCO Publishing Office (UPO) and will be available for sale through UN Bookstores in late 2001.

The organisation of regional World Heritage Youth Fora in the Pacific (Cairns, Australia, November 2001) and in Latin America (Lima, Peru, March 2001) has led to a strengthening of regional and national strategies for World Heritage Education. An Action Plan for World Heritage Education in the Pacific Region has been developed for the period 2001 – 2003. A regional strategy for the Latin American region has been developed in collaboration with the UNESCO Quito Office and the establishment of national committees for World Heritage Education is currently underway. An international World Heritage Youth Forum will be organised in Karlskrona, Sweden, in September 2001 by the Swedish National Commission for UNESCO and the Karlskrona authorities.

An “on-site skills development course for young people” is being organised at the World Heritage site of Petra, Jordan, in November 2001 in collaboration with the UNESCO Amman Office and ICCROM. This activity will create a model for skills development courses in other regions.

An International Conference on "World Heritage in young hands – a Dialogue among Civilizations" is currently scheduled for January 2002 and will be organized in collaboration with the Egyptian National Commission for UNESCO.

In order to strengthen networking and exchange of know-how between Project participants, the second issue of the newsletter “Teachers’ Forum on World Heritage Education” was produced and distributed in English, French, Spanish and Arabic to all Project participants in May 2001. Furthermore, a web-site for the Special Project has been finalised and can be consulted on: www.unesco.org/whc/education. This initiative will serve as a clearinghouse for Special Project activities worldwide and will provide links to national and regional initiatives.

An external evaluation of the Project in 2001 will establish guidelines for future policy making in the field of World Heritage Education. Some focus areas can already be mentioned, such as:

- development of regional and national teaching material;
- testing of models for teacher-training and on-site training for young people;
- strengthening of networking and exchange of best practices through further development of IT strategy for World Heritage Education;
- increased regionalisation of Project activities with UNESCO Field Offices as focal points, in close co-operation with National Commissions for UNESCO, schools, heritage experts and other partners.

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

World Heritage Information Management Strategy

Documentation

As noted in the last report to the Committee, a data capture initiative is now moving into large-scale scanning. All working documents on State of Conservation issues (since 1986) have now been scanned. These, and all other working documents since 1978 are expected to be available on a new Internet web server by the time of the Committee meeting in December 2001.

To put in place all the necessary developments for an integrated information system, a senior information expert was recruited. The hardware facilities of the Centre are being improved through the acquisition of among other important pieces of equipment, a significantly large server.

The data capture exercise should enable the World Heritage Centre to have available a large amount of information. In order to share this information among all units of the World Heritage Centre as well as with the Advisory Bodies and State Parties, an overall information strategy has been developed. This World Heritage information management programme will be presented at the next meeting of the Committee.

The Centre aims to become more efficient in servicing the State Parties through the use of information technology tools. For the first time, participants to the 25th session of the Bureau were able to register automatically through Internet at wh-register@unesco.org. The Centre developed for the Bureau meeting, a special web page to allow participants to complete an online registration form. Names and contact information of participants using the form will be included automatically in the WHC contact information database, and facilitate preparation of the meeting's participant list. The web address of the form is www.unesco.org/whc/whc_bureaureg.htm.

The objective to obtain all geo-referenced data that is required to complete the nominations files continues. An on-going dialogue with State Parties have been established. Through this dialogue the Centre requests State Parties to provide the associated geo-referenced site information. The corresponding web pages are being updated accordingly. An Internet map-server is under construction.

Follow-up to the Pacific World Heritage Youth Forum, Cairns, Australia Action Plan 2001 – 2004

1. With reference to the Action Plan from the First Pacific World Heritage Youth Forum presented by a student delegation to the World Heritage Committee at its 24th Session in Cairns, November- December 2000, the following proposal has been prepared by a working group of teachers and curriculum development officers from Samoa, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Australia and New Zealand and is presented to the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee for consideration.

I. MAIN OBJECTIVES

- *To mobilise young people to save the World Heritage sites, important local sites and the environment in the Pacific*
- *To encourage all Pacific Member States to sign the World Heritage Convention and participate actively in its promotion*

i. Main lines of action

1. Publication and experimentation of Pacific version of the Educational Resource Kit for Teachers "World Heritage in young hands"

A Pacific version of the Educational Resource Kit for Teachers "World Heritage in young hands" (published by the Associated Schools Network and the World Heritage Centre in 1999) is currently being prepared by teachers and curriculum development officers from Samoa, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Australia and New Zealand as part of a project funded by the UNESCO Participation Programme. The Pacific Kit will be ready for distribution in April 2002.

As a part of the follow-up to the Pacific World Heritage Youth Forum, it is proposed that the Pacific Kit will be distributed to Associated Schools in all Pacific Member States for experimentation in 2002 - 2003.

BUDGET

Production and distribution of Pacific Kit (600 copies):	US\$ 16,000
Publication and sale of Pacific Kit for Australia and New Zealand	US\$ 10,000

2. Teacher Training Workshops

In order to strengthen the experimentation of the Pacific Kit, it is suggested that national teacher training workshops be organised in 2002/2003 in all Pacific Member States. A Pacific teacher trainer has been identified and could be appointed to assist in the organisation and conduct of teacher training workshops.

National teacher training workshops (16 x US\$ 3,000):	US\$ 48,000
Pacific teacher trainer/coordinator (2002 – 2003):	US\$ 30,000

3. Organisation of local preservation activities for young people

In order to involve young people in on-site training, it is proposed to organise a series of skills development courses at potential and existing World Heritage sites in the Pacific. The aim is to develop a model for formalising partnerships between schools, Governments and community groups to involve young people in cultural and natural heritage preservation activities. The activities will be organised in collaboration with the local people and appropriate scientific institutions and organisations. The educational material prepared for the courses will be made available on the UNESCO web-site.

New Zealand (December 2002)	US\$ 40,000
40 participants from New Zealand and Pacific Member States	
Australia (December 2003)	US\$ 40,000
40 participants from Australia and Pacific Member States	
Micronesia (December 2004)	US\$ 25,000
30 participants from Micronesia	

4. Evaluation of Action Plan for the Pacific

Evaluation of World Heritage Education in the Pacific 2002 – 2004 will be build into all activities and a final evaluation report with guidelines for future implementation will be prepared by an external evaluator.

Preparation of Terms of Reference for the evaluation and final report	US\$ 10,000
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II. TOTAL BUDGET REQUESTED FOR PACIFIC ACTION PLAN 2001 – 2004	US\$ 219,000
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30 YEARS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

Preliminary Program of Events for 2002

The General Conference of UNESCO adopted the *Convention concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage* at its seventeenth session in Paris on the 16th of November 1972.

The 30th anniversary of the Convention is an ideal opportunity for the world community involved in cultural and natural heritage conservation to reflect on achievements to date, to review the main issues, constraints and opportunities in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*.

At the same time, the 30th anniversary provides an opportunity to further promote World Heritage conservation partnerships between governmental, non-governmental and private institutions, and to foster mobilisation of the public on world heritage conservation.

UNESCO has decided to organise and support events and initiatives aimed to assess the results of its action in the area of international legal protection of cultural and natural heritage, look at the future developments and challenges, promote new international partnerships for conservation, extend public information on issues related to conservation.

Public and private institutions are invited to cooperate in this effort, by taking a role in the organisation of the planned events, and by proposing and organising new ones in their own countries.

In addition to events directly related to the *World Heritage Convention*, a number of international events related to cultural and natural heritage conservation will take place in 2002 in different parts of the world. The World Heritage Centre plans to participate in these events and to use these opportunities to further enhance the support for its action.

TWENTY-SIXTH WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE SESSION, JUNE 2002

The twenty-sixth session of the World Heritage Committee in Budapest in June 2002 constitutes an unique opportunity to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the *Convention*. As this session of the Committee corresponds with a change of the cycle of nominations and inscriptions of new sites, a limited number of nominations will be considered.

This will allow a considerable amount of time to discuss the strategic directions of the *Convention*. In particular, sessions could be dedicated to the following topics:

- the new categories of World Heritage sites;
- training and education for World Heritage;
- World Heritage and the information society;
- effective technical assistance to sites;
- monitoring technologies for World Heritage sites;

A number of special events could be organised by the hosting country to attract the international media and to consolidate partnerships.

THE VIRTUAL CONGRESS ON WORLD HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

Venue: internet-based

Supported by regional seminars in: Cairo, Beijing, Strasbourg, Dakar, Harare and Mexico City (*pending confirmation*)

Summary:

In co-operation with the ISRSP (International Society for Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry – network of companies, research institutions, professionals), and the VSMM (Virtual System Multimedia – network of universities and research institutes for new technologies, with a focal point in Gifu, Japan), this project will organize an internet-based global conference on World Heritage conservation, supported by 5-6 regional seminars (tentatively planned for Cairo, Beijing, Strasbourg, Dakar, Harare, and Mexico City) on the same day in October 2002, in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the *World Heritage Convention*.

Through the “call for projects” to be launched via the VSMM and ISRSP networks, over 50 projects on new technology application for archaeological, architectural & urban conservation, natural properties conservation in World Heritage sites will be gathered. New information technology (NIT) which can facilitate the visualization of the values of natural and cultural properties and of conservation skills and methods, has proven to be an excellent tool in the didactic presentation of conservation objectives.

Objective:

1. NIT application for environmental protection and management
2. New information technology for sustainable development ;
3. Broader access to information technology ;
4. Promote more scientific rigour in the application of new technologies in the presentation of cultural and natural sites

Expected Outputs:

Outputs would include some 50 websites/CD-roms of virtual reality, Geographical Information System (GIS) and remote-sensing applications on World Heritage sites.

Participants:

Minimum of 120 persons will participate in the regional seminars and an estimated 2 million persons will visit the website of the Virtual Congress.

Partners: (not yet confirmed)

VSMM (Virtual System Multimedia);

ISRSP (International Society for Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry);

ICOMOS (International Council for Monuments and Sites, Paris);
ICCROM (Rome);
IUCN (World Conservation Union, Gland, Switzerland);
City of Strasbourg & Communaute Urbain de Strasbourg (*awaiting confirmation by the new Mayor*);
French Ministry of Culture & Communications;
Egyptian Ministry of Communications & Information Technology,
Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities,
Ministry of Culture of Zimbabwe (*awaiting confirmation*);
AUF (Agence Universitaire Francophone) (*awaiting confirmation*) ;
China Administration for Cultural Properties and China Ministry of Construction;
Ministry of Culture of Senegal (*to be requested*) ;
INAH Mexico
European Space Agency; IGN (France);
Council of Europe;
ASEF (Asia-Europe Foundation),
Getty Conservation Institute (USA) (*to be requested*),
US Park Service (*to be requested*),
and Private Sector sponsors

CONFERENCE ON 30 YEARS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION (7 - 9 November 2002)

UNESCO and the Italian Government are promoting an international Expert Conference on the World Heritage Convention in Italy (Venice is the proposed venue, pending confirmation by the Italian Government). The Conference will bring together government officials, experts, site managers, foundations and donors in providing an even greater strength to the conservation of natural and cultural heritage worldwide in the decades to come.

The Conference is being organized by UNESCO's World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with UNESCO's Venice ROSTE, the City of Venice and the Veneto Region. The Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM) and many public and private heritage institutions from different regions of the world are associated with the organisation of the Conference (World Monuments Fund, United Nations Foundation, Getty Conservation Institute etc.).

The aims of the Conference are:

- 1) to assess the successes and the limitations of the *World Heritage Convention* with respect to:
 - protecting outstanding cultural and natural heritage worldwide;
 - developing appropriate heritage protection legislation and practices in the different regions of the world;
 - strengthening of capacity building in the management of world heritage sites;
 - mobilising resources for World Heritage protection;
 - fostering international co-operation within the framework of the international legal tools;
 - promoting World Heritage as a tool for mutual understanding between cultures;

- 2) to examine the future prospects of the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* with respect to:
- increasing worldwide conservation of cultural and natural heritage of outstanding value;
 - fostering partnership strategies between public and private institutions;
 - co-ordinating with other international Conventions for the protection of cultural and natural heritage;
 - promoting effective management of World Heritage sites;
 - linking World Heritage conservation and human, social, economic and environmentally sustainable development;
 - promoting innovative finance initiatives for long-term conservation of World Heritage sites;
- 3) to launch specific action programmes related to heritage conservation, finance, public information and education.

Preliminary Programme of the Conference: sessions and themes

- Session 1 : Heritage Identification and Management Policies: the Impact of the *Convention*.
- Session 2: The *World Heritage Convention* between Conservation and Development
- Session 3: The *World Heritage Convention* in the third Millennium: New Challenges and Objectives.
- Session 4 : A Strategy for Action: Establishing new Partnerships and Involving the Public
- Session 5 : Presentation of new programmes and initiatives

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS (5-6 November 2002)

A number of thematic seminars will be conducted immediately prior to the Conference. Subject to agreements and confirmation, the following seminars are foreseen:

- The *World Heritage Convention* as an international legal tool
- World cultural and natural heritage criteria: issues and evolution
- Modern Heritage and the *World Heritage Convention*
- Cultural Landscapes: ten year on
- Conservation Finance initiatives for World Heritage
- World Heritage Cities and development
- Monitoring World Heritage
- World Heritage and Indigenous Values
- The *World Heritage Convention* as an instrument for the conservation of ecosystems

OTHER 2002 EVENTS

- ICOMOS General Assembly, October 2002, Harare, Zimbabwe
- The politics of World Heritage: 30 years on from the World Heritage Convention, University of North London, September 3-5, 2002
- Meeting of the UNESCO German National Commission on the 30th Anniversary of the *World Heritage Convention*, June 2002

- International Ecotourism Year
- Rio + 10, South Africa
- World Mountain Year (The World Ecotourism Summit will take place in Quebec, Canada, 19-22 May 2002).
- World Archaeological Congress Inter-Congress on Indigenous Heritage, December 2002, New Zealand