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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL
AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-fifth session

Helsinki, Finland
11-16 December 2001

Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger and on the World Heritage List:

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

SUMMARY

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

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

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

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

2. At its twenty-fifth session held from 25 to 30 June 2001 at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, the Bureau examined the state of conservation of the nineteen natural and five cultural properties reported herein. The Bureau's decisions and recommendations with regard to each site were transmitted by the Centre to the concerned States Parties. In addition to the five sites reported to the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau, reports on two more cultural sites, namely Angkor (Cambodia) and Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) are included in this report.

3. Responses from States Parties and new information that have become available on the state of conservation of the properties since the conclusion of the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau on 30 June 2001 are submitted for review by the Committee. The Committee is requested to examine the reports provided herein and take appropriate decisions and recommend actions in accordance with paragraph 93 of the Operational Guidelines, which reads as follows:

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

(i) additional measures are required to conserve the property;

(ii) to delete the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger if the property is no longer under threat;

(iii) to consider the deletion of the property from both the List of World Heritage in Danger and the World Heritage List if the property has deteriorated to the extent that it has lost those characteristics which determined its inclusion in the World Heritage List, in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraphs 46 to 56 above."

4. To facilitate the work of the Bureau, a standard format has been used for all state of conservation reports as follows:

- Name of property (State Party);
- Years of inscription on the World Heritage List and on the List of World Heritage in Danger, respectively;
- Inscription criteria
- International assistance provided to the property to date;
- Previous deliberations. Reference is made to relevant paragraph numbers from the reports of the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau (25 – 30 June 2001, UNESCO, Paris; included in working document WHC-01/CONF.208/3) and the twenty-fourth session of the Committee (27 November - 2 December 2000; Cairns, Australia), respectively. In order to minimise the number of pages of this document, texts from those two earlier reports have not been repeated herein;
- Principal issues/threats addressed in the report;
- New information; and
- Action required.

A. Natural Heritage

Iguaçu National Park (Brazil)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1986; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1999.

Inscription criteria: N (iii) and (iv)

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fifth session of the Bureau – paras. V.2 – V.5

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee - para. VIII.3

Principal issues: Illegal construction and use of a road and rehabilitation of impacted areas.

New information: In September 2001, the Ministry of Environment of Brazil informed the Centre of actions that its Government has taken in order to minimize the social impacts caused by the closure of the Colon road despite protests from local communities. FUNPAR (Fundação da Universidade do Paraná) has been hired to carry out appraisal studies on how seven municipalities around the Park could benefit from projects and activities that will be launched soon. The Government of the State of Paraná has developed a joint project with the surrounding populations focusing on organic agriculture and sustainable use activities, including development of craftsmanship and ecotourism. Private enterprises and public agencies have set up infrastructure projects with the aim of fostering ecotourism and organic agriculture. These projects will employ approximately 450 persons. Another project aiming at the development of sustainable activities in co-operation with the surrounding communities is under elaboration and donors such as the UN Foundation will be approached for financing of that project.

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

“The Committee welcomes State Party actions to minimize the social impacts of the closure of the road and to launch projects to bring employment and social benefits to impacted communities. The Committee commends the decisive manner in which the State Party acted in June 2001 to close the illegally opened Colon road and for its commitment to successfully enforce the law to maintain that road closed. The Committee invites the State Party to submit to the Centre, before 1 March 2002, a detailed report, with photographic and other supporting documentation as appropriate, on: (a) progress in the enforcement of the legal decision to maintain the road closed; (b) description of measures to rehabilitate impacted areas and the outcome of measures implemented; and (c) progress in the design and execution of projects to benefit communities impacted by the closure of the road and the response of communities to co-operating with the Park management. On the basis of a review of that report to be submitted by IUCN to its twenty-sixth session in Hungary in June 2002, the Committee may

consider removing the Iguacu National Park from the List of World Heritage in Danger”.

Srebarna Nature Reserve (Bulgaria)

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

Inscription criterion: N (iv)

International assistance: The site has received a total sum of US\$ 22,000 for technical and training activities.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fifth session of the Bureau – paras. V.6 – V.7

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – para. VIII.4

Principal issues: Lake rehabilitation and assessment of its rehabilitation success; management plan finalization and adoption; and transborder co-operation with other States Parties sharing the Danube River.

New information: In accordance with the recommendation of the last session of the Committee, reiterated by the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau in June 2001, the State Party invited a Centre/IUCN/Ramsar mission to the site. The mission to the site was fielded from 1 to 4 October 2001. A detailed report on the mission’s findings is under preparation and will be included as document WHC-01/CONF.208/INF.5 for review by the Committee. The Centre representative in the mission team however, provided an oral summary highlighting salient findings of the mission. IUCN will provide its review of the report to the Committee.

The mission team considers the rehabilitation of the site successful. Improvements observed by a 1998-mission have all been sustained and the chances that these improvements will continue to be sustained in the future are quite favourable. Key parameters indicative of the site’s recovery, such as the population of the dalmatian pelicans, control of water flow in and out of the lake, water quality indicators and institutional aspects such as continuity in data collection and maintenance for systematic monitoring of the state of conservation of the site, show positive or stable trends. The mission team was impressed by the dedication of the site-staff to preserve the site’s World Heritage values, despite cash-flow and financial constraints. The State Party may wish to submit a request for international assistance from the World Heritage Fund for purchasing equipment and materials essential to ensure effective regulation of water flow in and out of the Lake.

The mission team noted that the preparation of the management plan for the site is progressing and that the issues highlighted by the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau in June 2001 are being addressed. The management plan, being prepared with a small grant provided by the Ramsar Secretariat Bureau, is expected to be finalized, and adopted by the appropriate authorities in the Government in due course. Discussions with other countries sharing the Danube Delta to develop an approach

for transborder co-operation for World Heritage are also underway.

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

"The Committee congratulates the State Party for its commitment to successfully rehabilitate the site and sustain all of the positive trends reported by the 1998-mission. The Committee welcomes the management's co-operation with the scientific community to ensure continuous data collection that enables systematic monitoring of key parameters reflective of the trends in the state of conservation of the site. The Committee invites the State Party to finalize the management plan soon and confirm its adoption by the Government and to submit a calendar of activities for preparing a proposal for a trans-border World Heritage area in the Danube Delta in co-operation with other concerned States Parties to the Convention. The Committee recommends that the site be removed from the List of World Heritage Danger, effective from the date at which the State Party submits, to the Centre, IUCN and the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, a copy of the approved management plan for the site supported by a statement from the State Party committing the necessary resources for the timely implementation of the plan."

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

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

Inscription criteria: N (ii) and (iv)

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fifth session of the Bureau – paras. V.8 – V.10
Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – para. VIII.5

Principal issues: Across-the-border poaching of wildlife by armed gangs. Lack of management infrastructure and resources.

New information: In accordance with the recommendations of the Committee, made since the inclusion of this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1997, a mission to this site was fielded from 5-13 May 2001 and the report of the mission submitted to the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau in June 2001 (the report was included as WHC-2001/CONF.205/INF.6 for review by the Bureau). The Bureau's deliberations are included in paragraphs V.8-V.10 of the Rapporteur's Report submitted as working document WHC-01/CONF.208/3 to the twenty-fifth session of the Committee.

The Bureau had invited the Centre and IUCN to work together with all parties concerned to prepare a fundraising plan for the implementation of urgent rehabilitation measures, a realistic workplan including institutional

responsibilities for the implementation of those measures, and a time frame for the effective rehabilitation of the site and benchmarks that could signal improvements in its state of conservation and assist the Committee's decision concerning the eventual removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Centre is in the process of developing such a detailed plan, in co-operation with the State Party, including components that may be considered by the Committee for financing under the World Heritage Fund. Details of the plan and justifications for the assistance requested from the Fund will be presented to the Committee under the Agenda item 17 on requests for international assistance.

In accordance with the recommendation of the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau, letters are being prepared under the signature of the Director-General, to the Permanent Delegations of all countries neighbouring the Republic of Central Africa inviting their cooperation in combatting poaching in the site by armed groups traversing their territories. The Centre, in co-operation with IUCN, the State Party and other partners will follow up with the State Party and its neighbours to organize forums and specific actions to raise awareness of across-the-border poaching issues and ways and means of combatting them.

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

"The Committee notes with satisfaction that a site visit has been undertaken and that the state of conservation of the site has been assessed and a rehabilitation plan prepared. The Committee invites the State Party to actively seek the co-operation of all its neighbours to combat across-the-border poaching. The Committee requests the Centre and IUCN to co-operate with the State Party to identify potential financial sources, over and above that which the Committee may consider approving from the World Heritage Fund, to implement the urgent rehabilitation measures for the conservation of this site. The Committee decides that the site be retained in the List of World Heritage in Danger".

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

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

Inscription criteria: N (ii), (iii) and (iv)

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

Inscription criteria: N (iii) and (iv)

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

Inscription criterion: N (iv).

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

Inscription criterion: N (iv)

Salonga National Park: Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1984; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1999.

Inscription criteria: N (ii) and (iii).

International assistance: Total amount of international assistance provided from the World Heritage Fund to each of the five sites are: **Virunga National Park:** US\$ 64,000 for equipment, staff allowances and training; **Garamba National Park** US\$ 157,845 for equipment and staff allowances; **Kahuzi-Biega National Park:** US\$ 64,848 for equipment purchase; **Okapi Wildlife Reserve:** US\$ 23,000 for the preparation of the nomination dossier of the site, guard training and camp construction; and **Salonga National Park:** US\$ 85,500 for project planning, infrastructure and staff training.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fifth session of the Bureau – paras. V.12- V.27
Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – para. VIII.6

Principal issues: Armed conflict and rise in supply of arms and ammunition leading to illegal occupation and hunting and threats to staff security and operations. Lack of basic financial and material support to staff to carry out day-to-day operations.

New information: In response to the Committee's recommendations made at several of its previous sessions since 1997, the Director General of UNESCO, following wide-ranging consultations with partner organizations, has decided to lead a mission to Kinshasa (DRC), Kigali (Rwanda) and Kampala (Uganda). The mission is tentatively scheduled for the last week of March 2002. During that mission the Director-General will inform the heads of the three countries of UNESCO's efforts, being undertaken in co-operation with the UN Foundation and several international NGO partners, to conserve the five World Heritage sites of DRC. He will discuss ways and means for co-operation between the three countries for World Heritage conservation. The Director General's Office is soon expected to write to the Secretary General of UN seeking his co-operation in informing the countries implicated in the war in eastern DRC of the efforts of UNESCO and its partners to assess damage caused to the World Heritage sites in the DRC and to plan measures to rehabilitate the sites.

The Director of the Centre is expected to lead a mission between 23 November to 3 December 2001 to the DRC, partly in order to prepare the Director-General's mission referred to above, and to obtain up-to-date knowledge of the evolving political and security climate in the DRC. The mission team expects to visit some parts of

eastern DRC, and depending on security conditions may attempt brief excursions into one or more of the World Heritage sites. A meeting with representatives of the staff from the five sites will be organized as part of the mission. The results and outcome of the mission will be reported to the Committee at the time of its session in Finland.

Since the conclusion of the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau in June 2001, the state of conservation of the five sites (see paragraphs V.12 – 15 and V.18 of the Rapporteur's Report included as working document WHC-01/CONF.208/3) has not significantly changed. IUCN has reported that personnel of Virunga are now being paid monthly support payments and performance related bonuses under the UNESCO/DRC/UNF Project with the help of WWF. Staff morale has improved considerably. WWF has identified staff needs such as equipment and assistance for the families of more than 100 guards killed during anti-poaching campaigns and established facilities for the production of more than 500,000 seedlings in 58 nurseries to help revegetate impacted areas and provide livelihood opportunities for local communities.

Military activities in Virunga continue; the southern sectors are high risk areas, but poaching and other illegal activities there are minimal and threats to conservation moderate-to-low. On the contrary, severe threats to the integrity of the Park prevail in the central and northern sectors. The corridor between the latter two sectors has also been impacted.

IUCN has suggested that consideration be given to assist Virunga staff and WWF to hold a meeting of stakeholders with a view to improving relations between the Park staff and local residents. Such a meeting is expected to be organized as part of the activities of the 4-year, UNESCO-Belgium Co-operation Project to support community-based activities to conserve the five sites. Virunga staff will play an important role in preparatory meetings to design site specific activities to enhance staff-local community co-operation for World Heritage protection in and around all of the five DRC sites. The meetings will include staff representing all five sites.

Staff in all other four sites continue to do their best to ensure maximum protection of the sites. But presence of armed groups continue to pose major threats to staff security and site integrity, particularly in Kahuzi Biega and Okapi. While prospects for peace in the DRC over the medium-to-long term have improved and UN Peace Keeping Units have moved into the country, illegal occupation by armed groups and dispersed coltan mining activities in and around Okapi and Kahuzi Biega continue to pose significant threats to site integrity. Further, a marked increase in poaching has occurred with the influx of miners, and is posing an additional threat to the site.

The Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) of the United States of America has applauded the dedication of the World Heritage site staff of the DRC. The Director General of ICCN accepted a merit award from SCB on behalf of the staff and a cash donation from SCB members for an amount of approximately US\$ 5,000.

UNESCO/DRC/UNF Project Co-ordination Office located in Nairobi, Kenya will facilitate the use of this fund to assist families of staff who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Staff morale has improved in all sites as monthly support and allowance payments made available under the UNESCO/DRC/UNF Project are reaching the sites at periodic intervals via the services of conservation NGOs: namely WWF (Virunga); Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS; Kahuzi Biega); International Rhino Foundation (IRF; Garamba); Gilman International Conservation (GIC; Okapi); and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM; Salonga). IUCN has commended the vital role that these NGO partners are playing in delivering payments to the sites and assisting staff.

In Garamba however, one of the conservators who was transferred to Kinshasa has refused to leave and has been preventing IRF from delivering funds to other staff. He appears to have militant factions in the area and has heightened the sense of insecurity and is preventing IRF to fully meet its commitments under the UNESCO/DRC/UNF-UNFIP Project to deliver payments to Garamba staff. His transfer was decided as part of the co-ordination among DRC-wide ICCN units and as agreed upon at a meeting of the ICCN authorities facilitated by the UNESCO/DRC/UNF Project in October 2000. The Centre, IRF and other partners are investigating all possible ways of effecting the transfer decision of ICCN as quickly as possible in order to remove the negative impacts that this dissident individual is having on the execution of the project in Garamba.

In accordance with the request of the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau, a detailed report on the progress of the UNESCO/DRC/UNF-UNFIP Project is included as document WHC-01/CONF.208/INF.4.

The Centre, based on a suggestion from the Deputy Director General of UNESCO, has proposed a study of gorilla habitats as a pilot activity for the UNESCO-ESA (European Space Agency) Initiative to demonstrate the use of satellite images and other space-borne technologies in monitoring the state of conservation of sites. This initiative will generate state-of-the-art information on land-use changes in and around the two sites of significance as Gorilla habitats; i.e. Virunga for the mountain gorilla and Kahuzi Biega for the lowland gorilla. Similar studies on habitats of other apes such as the chimpanzees and the bonobos, are also foreseen as part of UNESCO contributions to the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) recently launched by UNEP. Great ape habitat surveys in and outside of protected areas, including World Heritage sites, could result in important boundary modifications in Kahuzi Biega, Virunga and Salonga. Some scientists who are advising the GRASP Project are advocating the development of a "World Heritage Species" concept that could be used to better protect the total range of apes in Africa under the World Heritage Convention and also strengthen the protection afforded to the species in habitats outside of protected areas.

The Centre contacted the Tantalum-Niobium International Study Centre (T.I.C) and transmitted the recommendations of the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau on the need to halt illegal coltan mining in Kahuzi Biega and Okapi. The Secretary General of the T.I.C. committed to transmitting the Bureau's recommendations to its 66 members at an annual meeting due to be convened in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 7 to 12 October 2001. The outcome of T.I.C's discussions with its membership on the Bureau's recommendations will be reported at the time of the Committee session in Finland. The intensity of coltan mining in Okapi and Kahuzi Biega has somewhat declined as market prices for coltan have dropped sharply as the high-technology sector took a downturn due to recent adverse trends in the global economy. However, there are still concerns related to impacts associated with the influx of miners to the site.

Action required: The Committee, based on new information available at the time of its session, may take appropriate decisions and make recommendations for the consideration of the State Party, the Centre, IUCN and other partners.

Sangay National Park (Ecuador)

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

Inscription criteria: N (ii), (iii) and (iv).

International assistance: A total sum of US\$ 58,500 for equipment, community awareness-building and staff training.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fifth session of the Bureau – para. V.28

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – para. VIII.7

Principal issues: Impacts of road construction and rehabilitation of impacted areas; elaborating a monitoring regime with indicators and benchmarks.

New information: At its twenty-fifth session, the Bureau noted that this site has been included as one of the Latin American pilot sites in the UN Foundation financed pilot project entitled: "Enhancing our heritage: monitoring and managing for success in World Natural Heritage sites". Formal communications with national authorities to obtain their consent for the choice of Sangay as a pilot site have been completed. The project management in co-operation with IUCN, both in Gland and in Latin America, is discussing the details for the organization of a national workshop to discuss project execution. A more detailed report on project execution, particularly with regard to the elaboration of a monitoring regime as recommended by the Committee, will be submitted to the twenty-sixth session of the Committee in Hungary in June 2002.

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

"The Committee notes with interest the inclusion of Sangay as a pilot site in a project to test out monitoring

and management effectiveness evaluation tools developed by IUCN and invites the Centre and IUCN to report progress in the execution of project activities to the annual sessions of the Committee. The Committee decides to retain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger".

Simen National Park (Ethiopia)

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

Inscription criteria: N (iii) and (iv)

International assistance: Simen National Park has been awarded a total sum of US\$ 119,307 for management planning support, equipment, consultant missions and training.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fifth session of the Bureau – paras. V.29 – V.33
Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – para. VIII.8

Principal issues: Controlling illegal settlements, agriculture, poaching and road construction and mitigating their impacts; co-ordination between conservation and development and boundary re-alignments to improve better conservation of the World Heritage values of the site.

New information: At its twenty-fifth session held in June 2001, the Bureau reviewed a report of a two-person team that visited the site from 8 to 13 April 2001. The Bureau recommended that the "Committee adopt the rehabilitation measures proposed by the expert mission" organized by the Centre and IUCN. The full text of the Bureau's recommendations to the Committee is included in paragraph 33 of the document WHC-01/CONF.208/3; of particular importance are the specific benchmarks adopted by the Bureau for the removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger: (a) the re-alignment of the boundary of the Park to exclude the villages along the boundary of the Park; (b) the extension of the Park to include at least Mesarerya and Lemalino Wildlife Reserves; (c) significant and sustainable reduction in the human population density within the Park, especially within the core area; and (d) effective conservation within the extended National Park of a larger population of Walia Ibex and Simien Fox. As of 15 October 2001, there has been no formal response from the Ethiopian National or the Amhara Regional authorities to the recommendations of the Bureau transmitted to them by the Centre.

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

"The Committee reiterates the recommendations of the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau and invites the State Party to formally respond to the letter from the Centre of 11 July 2001 transmitting these recommendations. In particular, the Committee requests that the State Party respond to the benchmarks established for the possible removal of Simen from the List of World Heritage in Danger and prepare a work plan indicating

the time frame needed for the State Party to achieve those benchmarks. The Committee urges the State Party and its site-level partners in project execution to be cognizant of the need to implement the project in close consultation with individuals and communities concerned. The Committee recommends that the Centre and IUCN collaborate with the State Party to raise international awareness for the conservation of this site and mobilize necessary financial resources to implement rehabilitation measures necessary to achieve the removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee decides to retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger".

Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Guinea/Côte d'Ivoire)

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

Inscription criteria: N (ii) and (iv)

International assistance: This site has so far received a total amount of US\$ 261,009 from the Fund for project preparation, consultants, equipment and training.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fifth session of the Bureau – paras. V.34 – V.35
Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – para. VIII.9

Principal issues: Mining activities in areas immediately outside the site and potential impacts; refugee influx from neighbouring countries; planning of conservation projects with donors and partners.

New information: Two tri-national (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Liberia) meetings were held in Abidjan and Man, Côte d'Ivoire, on 11 September, and from 12 – 14 September 2001, respectively. The World Heritage site is shared by two of them; i.e. Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire. The third country, Liberia, has yet to ratify the World Heritage Convention. The meetings were jointly financed by the World Heritage Fund, the Rio Tinto Plc. and the Governments of Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, in cooperation with several conservation NGOs, particularly Fauna and Flora International (FFI), Conservation International (CI), Bird Life International (BLI), and the Netherlands Committee for IUCN. As reported to the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau in June 2001, these meetings are intended to contribute to the long-term conservation of the Mount Nimba Massif by: (i) establishing and encouraging contacts between technical staff, site managers, local decision makers and local community representatives to share information and experience; and (ii) increasing harmonization of management planning and practice among the three countries sharing the Mount Nimba ecosystem.

The one-day seminar on the 11 September 2001 was designed to sensitise Government authorities on the importance of regional co-operation for the protection of Mount Nimba. The second, technical meeting from 12 to 14 September discussed in detail basic issues of cross-

border co-operation, national and regional problems facing Mount Nimba, the value of a regional approach and the biodiversity conservation at the regional level. The meeting put in place a strategy for continued dialogue for future cooperation for the conservation of the Mount Nimba ecosystem for the benefit of the three countries. The meeting in Man decided to hold a second meeting before the end of 2001 in Conakry, in the Republic of Guinea. The goal of the second meeting is to “initiate a trilateral dialogue for the conservation of Mount Nimba”, and the objectives are to: validate the problems realized by the Man meeting; identify the strategy and tools for the conservation of Mount Nimba; propose a protocol for long-term collaboration between the three countries for joint planning and conservation of Mount Nimba; and prioritise national and regional actions. The two meetings were the first trilateral event on Mount Nimba. Participants at the Man meeting included representatives from local Governments, local development interest groups, village leaders, protected area managers, UNESCO and the MAB Programme, mining industry, water and forest management authorities and groups concerned with refugees and settlements. The meetings also brought for the first time, Rio Tinto, a mining company, to dialogue with conservation stakeholders interested in the long-term protection of Mount Nimba.

The GEF Focal point at UNDP in Guinea and Mr Salamady Toure, the Director of CEGEN, have informed the Centre that the first three components of the GEF/PDF-B grants for the Mount Nimba (UNDP-GEF Project Gui/2000/31 financed by the World Heritage Fund and GEF) have been completed. The activities of this project comprise the following: (a) identification of the elements for the preparation of guidelines for integrated management of Mount Nimba and its surroundings; (b) building local and national technical and institutional capacity with a view to improving management; (c) establishing support services, such as communication, monitoring, promotion and alternative livelihood options for communities to ensure Mount Nimba conservation; and (d) preparation of a detailed long-term, Integrated Development Project for the Mount Nimba region. UNDP has requested the Centre to propose the Terms of Reference and a consultant to undertake a mission to Guinea in order to prepare component (d). The second phase of the UNDP-GEF Project is expected to last over a period of 7 to 10 years with a total budget of US\$ 8m. GEF has agreed in principle to provide US\$6m; an additional US\$2 – 4m will be sought from other donors. A donors’ Round Table organized by UNDP, will be held during the first week of November 2001 in Conakry for this purpose. The Centre is expected to play a lead role as the executing agency of the Integrated Development Project. It is hoped that in the design of that project benchmarks and success indicators that could facilitate the Committee’s efforts to track the state of conservation of the sites and its eventual considerations on the removal of Mount Nimba from the List of World Heritage in Danger may be included.

In Man discussions were also held concerning the setting up of a Mount Nimba Foundation. Guinea is still keen to establish the Foundation to enable it to put in place sustained support mechanisms for Mount Nimba. At Man the participants were informed that Côte d’Ivoire is setting up an agency for the management of protected areas (PCGAP) with financial assistance from the World Bank and the European Union. PGGAP will have responsibility for the management of Mount Nimba and other World Heritage sites in Côte d’Ivoire and the mandate to mobilize funds from international sources for Côte d’Ivoire. It would therefore be difficult to set up a common Foundation for all three countries sharing Mount Nimba. The Man meeting requested the Centre and FFI to assist Guinea with a consultant to study the feasibility of setting up a Foundation, and look into the possibility of utilising some of the funds that will become available under the GEF project as initial seed money for establishing the Foundation.

The Committee may recall that a donor’s Round Table meeting was held at the Centre for Scientific and Technical Documentation (CEDUST) in Conakry in April 1996 and that the conclusions of that Round Table were reported to the twentieth session of the Bureau in June 1996. The Guinean mining company NIMCO, reported at that time that it would donate US\$500,000 each year for the conservation of Mount Nimba as soon as the mine became operational. The company has since then left Guinea and the promised funds were never made available. The Guinean Government is currently negotiating with other mining companies mainly Billiton (from South Africa) and EURONIMBA (a concession of European Union). These two companies are currently studying various environmentally friendly options on how to control polluted waste waters and avoid sedimentation and erosion into rivers which supply drinking water to people down stream. The companies estimates that around 80 million tons of tailing will be produced each year, and hope to construct a dam where the tailings can be contained and allowed to percolate down into the soil without runoff. The companies also plan to forgo the mining of about 50 million tons of rich iron-ore in some targeted areas of the mountain for environmental and ecological reasons. The companies are studying ways to avoid bringing a large work force and their families near the mining areas by relocating living quarters away from the mining zone.

To guarantee the application of rigorous environmental management standards, an “International Memorandum of Understanding” or Accord is under preparation to be established between the mining companies and the Government of Guinea and to be overseen by UN Agencies (UNESCO –World Heritage Centre, UNEP, UNDP, FAO etc) and international non-governmental organizations (IUCN, FFI, WWF, BLI etc). The Memorandum will bind the companies to “good behaviour” in biodiversity conservation vis-à-vis their mining activities near Mount Nimba Nature Reserve of Guinea. The companies have expressed interest to put aside US\$18 per ton of iron ore produced for the conservation of the environment in Guinea and particularly

in the Mount Nimba area; annually, an estimated 800 million tons will be produced by the companies.

The mining activities in the Mount Nimba massif have to be carefully controlled for their environmental impacts. The parts of the Mount Nimba ecosystem in Liberia, the only part that is not World Heritage, has undergone significant transformation since the 1950s due to mining activities, shifting cultivation and human settlements. The area includes the East Nimba and West Nimba National Forests, gazetted in the 1960s. In the late 1970s IUCN recommended that these two forests be connected, other important adjacent areas added, and the entire area set aside as a strict nature reserve. The Liberian Mining Corporation continues to have a caretaker role in the administration of the affairs of Mount Nimba, while the Forestry Development Authority is the other major governmental authority involved in the area. There has been no organized conservation programme for Mount Nimba on the Liberian side as there has been in Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire.

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

"The Committee congratulates the two States Parties, UNDP and the conservation NGOs for starting the tripartite dialogue for the conservation of the overall Mount Nimba ecosystem and invites the Government of Liberia to consider becoming a signatory to the World Heritage Convention as soon as possible. In the meantime, the Committee invites the Government of Liberia to consider implementing the 1970 IUCN recommendation to gazette East and West Mount Nimba Forests as strict nature reserves, develop a project based on the two strict nature reserves to participate in the tri-national initiative and in due course and following ratification of the Convention, consider nominating the two strict nature reserves for inclusion in the World Heritage site currently shared by Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea. The Committee urges the Government of Liberia to co-operate with UNDP and the conservation NGOs to undertake a rapid biodiversity assessment of the two reserves to determine their potential for inclusion within the World Heritage site shared by Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire.

The Committee requests that the Centre and IUCN assist the three countries in organizing the second tri-national meeting in order to continue the dialogue and to identify a consultant who could prepare with UNDP/GEF and Guinea a detailed long-term, Integrated Development Project for Mount Nimba. The Committee asks the Centre to collaborate with all conservation NGOs to study the modalities for establishing the Foundation for Mount Nimba in Guinea, and the feasibility to utilize parts of the GEF funds to be made available for the Integrated Development Project for Mount Nimba for launching the Foundation. The Committee requests that the States Parties, CEGEN and others co-operate to elaborate the International Memorandum of

Understanding for thorough review by the collaborating UN agencies and conservation NGOs prior to its adoption by the Governments. The Committee decides that the site be retained in the List of World Heritage in Danger".

Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras)

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

Inscription criteria: N (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)

International assistance: Rio Platano has so far received US\$ 178,025 from the World Heritage Fund for technical support and training activities.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fifth session of the Bureau – paras. V.36 – V.37

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – para. VIII.10

Principal issues: Deforestation, buffer zone projects to benefit local communities and limiting expansion of agriculture.

New information: The State Forest Administration informed the Centre in August 2001 of the actions taken to follow up on the recommendations of the IUCN mission fielded to this site in October 2000. Principal elements of the report submitted by the Honduran authorities are:

- Compensation for people living inside the core zone of Rio Platano has started and the first 52 families out of 152 have moved away voluntarily after receiving 3.7 million lempiras from the Honduran Government. The Ministry of Finance has made available funds for the second phase of compensation;
- Demarcation of boundaries of the core zone has begun and 26 km of the most critical stretches of the boundary have been marked in co-operation with local communities. Demarcation of the boundaries in the southern and western parts of the buffer zone have been initiated;
- A field office has been set up in response to the administrative and infrastructure needs of the World Heritage site protection in the region. Two more field offices will be set up in the near future;
- A multitemporal analysis on vegetation cover and expansion of the agricultural area within the reserve has been undertaken. This analysis allows systematic monitoring of the state of the ecosystem. Initial findings of the analysis points to a decrease in the rate of loss of the vegetation compared to the findings of a similar study undertaken during 1997-1999;
- A study of the threats on Rio Platano BR is being elaborated by the Regional Biosphere Reserve Programme (RBRP), Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras and NGO's. The national workshop under the UN Foundation financed project, "Enhancing our heritage: monitoring and managing for success in World Natural Heritage sites" is expected to be convened soon and will look at threats and state of conservation related issues. These initiatives will

contribute towards improved monitoring of the site's conservation status;

- The first forest management plan was elaborated by the RBRP staff following the Transforma approach developed by CATIE (A regional Research and Training Institute in Costa Rica). Another plan for organisational and productive aspects for eight agroforestry cooperatives in specific locations in the southern part of the Reserve and nine community development plans coordinated locally are under preparation. These plans will identify priority actions for social and community infrastructure and for facilitating co-management and protection of the reserve. Establishment of a technical commission to prepare a legal instrument for defining the recognition of land use rights within the Reserve has been proposed;
- Action has been taken to reinforce the staff in charge of the management of the site. A forest technician and three guards have been hired. Coordination with other partners like TNC (The Nature Conservancy) and WWF, Mesoamerican Biological Corridor Project, German Technical Co-operation and local NGOs has been strengthened;
- A three-year workplan of specific actions linking biodiversity conservation to sustainable tourism development in and around Rio Platano is to be finalized before the end of 2001; this work plan has been elaborated as part of the execution of another UN Foundation-financed global initiative attempting to link biodiversity conservation and sustainable tourism development at World Heritage sites.

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

"The Committee welcomes the range of initiatives undertaken by the State Party, and other partners including those undertaken as part of two UN Foundation financed projects that are contributing towards the implementation of the recommendations of the IUCN mission to the site undertaken in October 2000. These were endorsed by the Committee at its last session in Cairns, Australia. The Committee urges the Centre and IUCN to continue to collaborate with the State Party and partners concerned to sustain the momentum. The Committee recommends that a detailed assessment of the state of conservation of the site, including considerations of the possible removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger, be prepared for submission to the twenty-seventh session of the Committee in June 2003. The Committee decides to retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger".

Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India)

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

Inscription criteria: N (ii), (iii) and (iv).

International assistance: US\$ 165,000 for equipment, infrastructure rehabilitation and community support

activities as part of the implementation of a 3-year rehabilitation plan begun in mid-1997.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fifth session of the Bureau – paras. V.38 – V.41

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – para. VIII.11

Principal issues: Rehabilitation following damage to infrastructure in 1992 due to rebel activities. Poaching on selected wildlife species.

New information: At its twenty-fifth session in June 2001, the Bureau had noted that mission to this site had been postponed from May to October 2001 due to climatic reasons. Despite regular contacts with the State Party and agreements of all parties concerned the proposed mission has been delayed again and is now scheduled for February 2002. Security risks in the area continue to prevail. Due to uncertainties associated with the organization of field visits to this site, the management of the UNESCO/IUCN/UNF-UNFIP Project "Enhancing our heritage: monitoring and managing for success in World Natural Heritage Sites" decided to substitute Manas with the Keoladeo National Park as one of the three pilot sites for the project in South Asia (the other two sites being Kaziranga National Park of India and the Royal Chitwan National Park of Nepal). Negotiations with the State Party for the organization of the February 2002 mission are underway.

The Embassy of Bhutan in Geneva, Switzerland, has contacted the World Heritage Centre to enquire of the process of ratification of the World Heritage Convention. These enquiries follow from the Centre's co-operation with its contacts in Bhutan, particularly WWF-Bhutan and WWF-USA, to encourage the Government of Bhutan to ratify the Convention to enable trans-border collaboration in the management of the World Heritage site of Manas Wildlife Sanctuary of India and the possible nomination of the Royal Manas National Park of Bhutan as World Heritage.

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

"The Committee expresses its concerns over continuing postponement of the planned mission to this site and urges that the State Party, the Centre and IUCN attempt to field the mission in February 2002 as foreseen. The Committee recommends that a detailed report on the state of conservation of the site and the implementation of rehabilitation measures accepted by the Bureau in 1997 be submitted to its twenty-sixth session in June 2002. The Committee urges the Centre to co-operate with Bhutan to ensure its early ratification of the Convention and solicit its co-operation for the protection of the Manas Wildlife Sanctuary of India. The Committee decides to retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger".

Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger)

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

Inscription criteria: N (ii), (iii) and (iv)

International assistance: Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves has benefited from a total sum of US\$ 177,000 from the World Heritage Fund including the US\$ 127,000 for projects that are being currently executed as part of the rehabilitation plan for the site.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fifth session of the Bureau – paras. V.42 – V.44
Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – para. VIII.12

Principal issues: Rehabilitation of rebel impacted areas; wildlife and other surveys to assess achievements of rehabilitation plan being implemented; staff training and infrastructure development. Development of conservation projects in co-operation with donors and partners.

New information: As reported to the last Bureau, an amount of US\$ 20,000 approved by the Chairperson was used to organize a workshop for members of the local Committee for the development and the management of the site in Iferouan, Niger from 19-24 September 2001 in which the Centre was represented. A “Feasibility and modality study on the project for the reintroduction of Red necked Ostriches for Air and Ténéré”, prepared with the assistance of National Wildlife Research Centre in Saudi Arabia, has been completed.

A mission for rapid evaluation of fauna in Air and Ténéré, financed by the World Heritage Fund contributions for the implementation of the emergency rehabilitation plan approved by the Committee at its twenty-third session in 1999, was undertaken from 5 – 27 March 2001. IUCN reviewed a copy of the *Rapid Wildlife Assessment Report* for Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves and made the following observations on the findings of the report:

The principle species of large mammals had recovered to viable levels similar to those seen before the war, except for the ostrich, which had totally disappeared, and the gazelle which was rarely seen during the assessment mission in March 2001. IUCN notes that despite the recovery of many species, the overall state of conservation of the site remains threatened and has highlighted the following recommendations of the Report: (a) restart and strengthen surveillance activities; (b) establish regulations on tourist activities; (c) create a breeding centre for large Sahel-Saharan mammals and ostrich, with a view to reintroduce individuals and strengthen conservation of wild populations; (d) develop a wildlife census system to include the participation of stakeholders; and (e) develop reliable survey techniques for estimating the addax population.

IUCN notes that the ostrich in Air and Ténéré is a North African sub species and is now found as a viable population only in Chad. IUCN believes that it is important to re-introduce the ostrich selecting individuals

from the population in Chad as other sub-species of ostrich may not adapt to the specific conditions in Niger. Re-introduction is vital for generating benefits for the local community in the long-term as they will be able to undertake breeding programmes and make a living from the utilisation of the ostrich population and its products.

IUCN strongly supports the report’s recommendations and has suggested that the Committee invite the State Party to implement the recommendations of the *Rapid Wildlife Assessment Report*. Furthermore, IUCN believes that the State Party could obtain valuable advice on ostrich re-introduction programmes from the ostrich specialist group of IUCN’s Species Survival Commission (SSC). IUCN considers that the establishment of the ostrich and addax (gazelle) populations of Air and Ténéré is likely to take several years and the site may have to be retained in the List of World Heritage in Danger until then.

The IUCN Office in Niger has informed the Centre that the Fonds Francais de l’Environnement Mondiale (FFEM) has initiated a 5-year programme of support for equipment and the reintroduction of species. This programme is being implemented in co-operation with the “Direction Nationale de la Faune” and the IUCN Office in Niamey. Within the framework of a GEF programme concerned with the “Biodiversity of Sahara”, UNDP and IUCN, Niamey, are also assisting with the implementation of selected aspects of rehabilitation and species reintroduction as well as the establishment of a data base for monitoring. IUCN Niamey is playing a wide-ranging support role in the development of a range of co-operative initiatives with other donors and assisting the Government of Niger to effectively conserve this important site.

The Centre, in accordance with the recommendation of the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau in June 2001, has transmitted letters of appreciation to FFEM, Swiss Department of Technical Co-operation and DANIDA for their support to develop several conservation projects for this site.

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

“The Committee notes IUCN observations concerning the long duration required for the recovery of the ostrich and the gazelle populations in this site and the possibility that the site may have to be retained in the List of World Heritage in Danger until such time when the recovery of these species are sustained. Nevertheless, the Committee expresses its satisfaction with the efforts of the State Party to implement the rehabilitation plan and generate wide-ranging donor support for the conservation of the site. The Committee invites the State Party to consider adopting and implementing the recommendations of the *Rapid Wildlife Assessment Report* and reiterates the recommendation of the Bureau that the evaluation of the outcome of the rehabilitation plan be delayed until 2002 in order to give the State Party sufficient time to implement specific projects and programmes. The

Committee decides to retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger".

Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary (Senegal)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1981; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2000

Inscription criteria: N (iii) and (iv)

International assistance: A total sum of US\$ 210,607 has been provided as assistance, including US\$ 130,475 approved by the last session of the Committee (November – December 2000) as emergency aid and other earlier amounts for equipment purchase and training.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fifth session of the Bureau – paras. V.45 – V.50
Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – para. VIII.22

Principal issues: Control and eradication of the invasive species, *Salvinia molesta*.

New information: In June 2001, the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau noted detailed findings of the results of the two-person mission undertaken to the site from 31 March to 10 April 2001 and mechanical and biological control measures being initiated to prevent the spread of the invasive species *Salvinia molesta*. The Bureau noted the awareness, donor co-ordination and other co-operative activities needed for the effective eradication of the invasive species.

UNESCO's Division of Equipment Procurement is in the process of purchasing and delivering essential equipment foreseen as part of the project, for which the Committee approved a sum of US\$ 130,000 at its last session in Cairns, Australia. A regional workshop on invasive species was organized from 15 – 17 October 2001, in Djoudj, Senegal, with joint financial support from Ramsar, IUCN and the World Heritage Fund. The Chairperson approved an amount of US\$20,000 to enable the participation of World Heritage site managers at this workshop. The aim of the workshop was to work out modalities for a co-operative project on "Wetlands and Harmful Invasive Species in Africa – Awareness and Information" involving IUCN, the Ramsar Convention Bureau, the MacArthur Foundation, Wetlands International, WWF International and others. Focusing on fresh water ecosystems, the programme aimed to define the best strategic tools and the most appropriate operational instruments that can help to achieve the prevention, the control or the eradication of invasive species wherever they can have adverse impacts on ecological, economic and social functions and values of wetlands. The project includes the establishment of a network of expertise (a team that could provide "rapid response services") that can be accessed quickly by wetland managers in need of further information, and provide assistance in prevention and control of invasive species.

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

"The Committee reiterates the recommendations of the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau held in June 2001 and requests that the Centre and IUCN collaborate with the State Party, the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, FAO and other partners to further efforts to control and eradicate *Salvinia molesta* from the Djoudj wetlands. The Committee decides to retain this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger".

Ichkeul National Park (Tunisia)

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

Inscription criteria: N (iv)

International assistance: Ichkeul National Park has so far been provided with US\$ 65,000 for technical support and training activities.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fifth session of the Bureau – paras. V.51 – V.56
Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – para. VIII.13

Principal issues: Deterioration of Lake ecosystem integrity due to upstream development and agricultural encroachments; Lake rehabilitation efforts through steps to ensure annual minimum supplies of freshwater to the Lake. Infrastructure and managerial co-ordination to ensure effective implementation of conservation actions.

New information: In June 2001, the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau noted with concern the deterioration in the ecology of the Lake during 1999-2000 as lower than average amounts of rain fell in the area. The Bureau, while acknowledging that the Sidi Barak Dam construction and its link to the Tunisian Water Grid have been completed, learnt that water releases from the Dam to the Lake had not yet commenced. The Observer of Tunisia informed the Bureau that the Lake needs 280 million of cubic meters of water annually and that the Sidi Barak Dam will serve as the stabilizer compensating for any annual shortfalls caused by low rainfall and/or high rates of evapotranspiration. He expressed the wish that the Bureau and the Committee provide adequate time for determining the efforts of the State Party to rehabilitate Ichkeul and support the extension and strengthening of the scientific monitoring programme that has been set up by the State Party.

In response to the recommendation of the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau inviting the State Party, Centre and IUCN to work together to prepare a progress report on benchmarks and related timetable for the monitoring for Ichkeul to the consideration of the twenty-fifth session of the Committee in December 2001, the Delegation of Tunisia to UNESCO transmitted a report, dated September 2001, entitled: "Ecosystem status and safeguarding measures for Ichkeul National Park". The report has been transmitted to IUCN for review. The report contains detailed information on actions taken to implement the several earlier recommendations of the Bureau and the Committee made over several years, and quantitative and time-series data on a number of parameters that may be

useful in tracking changes in Lake ecology. The Centre is awaiting IUCN comments and observations on the report submitted by the State Party

Action required: The Committee, based on findings of the IUCN review of the report submitted by the State Party and due to be available at the time of its session, may take appropriate decisions and make recommendations for the consideration of the State Party and for implementation in co-operation with the Centre and IUCN and other stakeholders.

Rwenzori Mountains National Park (Uganda)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in: 1994; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1999

Inscription criteria: N (iii) and (iv)

International assistance: US\$ 32,249 for technical support activities.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fifth session of the Bureau – paras. V.57 – V.59
Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – para. VIII.14

Principal issues: Insecurity due to war and armed conflict in regions bordering neighbouring DRC; illegal pitting, poaching and wildlife trafficking. Need for community support activities.

New information: At its twenty-fifth session in June 2001, the Bureau was pleased to learn that security conditions in the Park have improved and that the Park would be re-opened to visitors in July 2001. Based on an identification of the Park's needs with regard to purchase of equipment and materials (see paragraph V.57 in document WHC-01/CONF.208/3), the Bureau approved a sum of US\$ 64,000 as emergency assistance to the site. The UNESCO Division for Equipment Procurement is in the process of purchasing communication and other equipment requested urgently by the site management. The Centre expects to undertake a mission to Uganda in November 2001 and obtain up-to-date information on the security conditions and the revival of tourist visitation to the Park. Information on other support measures needed to further strengthen conservation of the Park with a view to enable its early removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger will also be obtained.

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

The Committee, based on new information to be provided at the time of its session, may take appropriate decisions and make recommendations for the consideration of the State Party, IUCN, Centre and other stakeholders as required.

World Heritage sites of the United States of America:

Everglades National Park

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

Inscription criteria: N (i), (ii) and (iv)

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fifth session of the Bureau – paras. V. 60 - V.61
Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – para. VIII.15

Principal issues: Land acquisition and other rehabilitation measures maintain wetland ecosystem integrity and World Heritage values. Elaboration of monitoring plan with benchmarks and indicators that can guide Committee decisions on removal of site from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Yellowstone National Park

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

Inscription criteria: N (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fifth session of the Bureau – paras. V.62 – V.63
Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – para. VIII.15

Principal issues: Tourism regulation; control of wildlife infection and transmission to domestic stock; and invasive species eradication and control. Elaboration of monitoring plan with benchmarks and indicators that can guide Committee decisions on removal of site from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

New information: IUCN welcomes the variety of initiatives the State Party has undertaken to strengthen conservation of the site. The efforts of the State Party, IUCN and the Centre to plan meetings and communications to discuss and develop plans of action for the two sites that could include benchmarks and conditions for the possible removal of the sites from the List of World Heritage in Danger have unfortunately been affected by events that took place in the United States in September 2001 and the consequent global impacts. The Centre and IUCN will continue to pursue their efforts in this regard in consultation with the State Party and provide progress achieved at the time of the Committee session.

Action required: The Committee, based on new information to be provided at the time of its session, may take appropriate decisions and make recommendations for the consideration of the State Party, IUCN, Centre and other stakeholders

B. Cultural Heritage

Butrint (Albania)

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

Inscription criteria: C (iii)

International Assistance: Following the decision of the Committee in 1997 to allocate US\$ 100,000 as Emergency Assistance, four contracts have been established for a total amount of US\$ 33,000. In 1999, a proposal for implementation of further activities was received and has been approved for a total amount of US\$ 40,800 by the Chairperson of the Committee. However, there are serious delays in the implementation and reporting on some of the contracts.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fifth session of the Bureau – paras. V.64 – V.69
Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – para. VIII.16

New information: The twenty-fifth session of the Bureau requested the State Party to submit a report by 15 September 2001 on its proposal for the implementation of recommendations contained in the report of the joint mission UNESCO-ICOMOS-Butrint Foundation (19-24 April 2001). At the time of the preparation of this document, no information has been received from the State Party.

Action Required: The Committee may wish to examine information from the State Party that may be available at the time of its session and take appropriate decisions and make recommendations for implementation by the State Party, ICOMOS, the Centre and the Butrint Foundation.

Angkor (Cambodia)

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

Inscription criteria: C (i) (ii) (iii) and (iv)

International assistance:

Total amount (up to 2000): US\$ 123,595 from the World Heritage Fund

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – para. VIII.17

Issues:

Illicit traffic at the site. Inadequate monitoring of the work undertaken on the entrance porch of the central monument and the collapsed tiers of the western moat of the Angkor Vat Temple. Furthermore, a plan for tourism development at the site and the development of infrastructure should be put in place, with particular reference to the question of the transfer of the Siem Reap/Angkor airport.

New information:

The plenary session of the International Coordination Committee for the Safeguarding and Development of the

Historic site of Angkor (CIC), for which UNESCO ensures the Secretariat, met on 6 July 2001. The CIC examined all the dossiers prepared by the permanent Secretariat in consultation with the two co-presidents and the new President Director General of the “APSARA” authority.

I – Main information and decisions of the CIC

1. Administrative reorganization of the APSARA

The new President Director General, H.E. Mr Bun Narith, introduced the new management team. It comprises 5 Deputy Directors General, responsible, respectively, for the following domains:

1. Archaeology and monuments
2. Urbanism and construction
3. Tourism
4. Economic development of the Angkor region
5. General administration.

H.E. Mr Vann Molyvann was appointed Counsellor to His Majesty the King of Cambodia for Angkor.

2. Appeal to the International Community for the Development of the Angkor region

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the appeal of His Majesty the King of Cambodia for the safeguarding of Angkor (May 1991), H.E. Mr Sok An, Minister of State, launched an appeal to the international community for the decade 2002-2012 to be devoted to the development of Angkor. To this end, it was decided:

- to organise a round table of experts in Angkor, in 2002, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the inscription of Angkor on the World Heritage List;
- to organise a second intergovernmental conference, in 2003, which could be convened in Paris, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Intergovernmental Conference of Tokyo, October 1993.

3. Presentation of the conclusions of the cultural tourism seminar

Based on the report “Culture, Tourism and Development” submitted by UNESCO, and contributions from experts meeting during the “National Seminar on Cultural Tourism at Angkor and in Cambodia”, which was organized by UNESCO in cooperation with the Cambodian authorities on 2 and 3 July 2001 at Siem Reap and Phnom Penh, it is proposed to elaborate and implement a Master Plan for the development of cultural tourism at Angkor in order to combat poverty and ensure strong economic growth, whilst preserving the quality of life.

II – Development of tourism infrastructures

The ad hoc Expert Commission, created by UNESCO at the request of the Cambodian authorities to monitor the project for the creation of a new airport at Siem Reap/Angkor, submitted its technical opinion regarding

the selection of the site of the new airport in August 2001. While awaiting the construction of this equipment, the Royal Government decided, in September 2001, to strengthen the infrastructures of the present airport, and it entrusted this activity to a private operator.

III – Monitoring of emergency assistance for the moats of Angkor Vat

The I.Ge.S. Company has been chosen as the constructor for the restoration works of the collapsed tiers of the west moat of the Angkor Vat Temple, for which an emergency assistance request had been submitted to the World Heritage Fund. The APSARA Authority has decided to provide additional funding for an amount of US\$ 10,000 for this operation.

The next session of the CIC (technical session) will be held on 19 and 20 December 2001 at Siem Reap. It will be preceded by the sixth international symposium on the Bayon organized by the Governmental Team of Japan for the Safeguarding of Angkor, in close cooperation with APSARA and UNESCO (17 and 18 December 2001 at Siem Reap). During these meetings, the ad hoc group of UNESCO experts will meet.

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

“The Committee, after having examined the report on the state of conservation of the site, commends the Royal Government of Cambodia for the significant efforts undertaken in the reorganization of the APSARA Authority. In the perspective of implementation in the near future of the Master Plan for Development of Cultural Tourism at Angkor, it invites APSARA to strengthen its capacities in the field of management of private investment requests, notably with regard to the archaeological park, and to call upon all national and international expertise necessary. The Committee decides to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.”

Group of Monuments at Hampi (India)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1986 and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: in 1999

Inscription criteria C (i), (iii) and (iv)

International assistance: None.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fifth session of the Bureau – paras. V.70 – V.74
Twenty-fourth session of the Committee - para. VIII.18

Principal issues: Lack of a comprehensive management approach and plan. Lack of co-ordinating authority. Rural development pressure and ad-hoc public works.

New information:

- Following the recommendation of the UNESCO-Archaeological Survey of India National Workshop for Management of Indian World Cultural Heritage (22-24 October 2000) for the establishment of a special administrative body empowered to ensure integrated development and conservation of the whole World Heritage protected areas, the Karnataka State Government informed the World Heritage Centre that the necessary legal steps were being taken for a Hampi Planning Authority to be established. The primary objective of this authority would be to co-ordinate various development and cultural and natural heritage conservation activities within the World Heritage protected areas;
- Karnataka State Government Authorities, and in particular, the Deputy Commissioner of Bellary began the preparation of a comprehensive management plan in November 2000. In October 2001, a UNESCO International Planning Expert undertook a mission to assist the authorities in elaborating this plan. Findings and recommendations of this mission will be presented to the Committee at its twenty-fifth session;
- In September 2001, the World Heritage Centre mobilized extrabudgetary funds from a Swedish Tourism conglomerate, TEMA, amounting to US\$ 80,000 for the rehabilitation of one historic building within Hampi into a Heritage House for Enhanced Management of the World Heritage protected areas. This Heritage House will serve as an Interpretation Centre providing free information on the World Heritage values of the site to visitors, legal/administration advice and information to the local community members. This TEMA contribution will also be utilized for the organization of a Stakeholders' Workshop as well as the production and dissemination of information brochures concerning the site and the Project;
- The State Government of Karnataka informed the Centre that resettlement of approximately 300 illegal encroachers within Hampi site had been organized between January and July 2001. In particular, violations within historic monuments or their immediate vicinity had been corrected. The Centre was informed that the remaining illegal encroachment within the World Heritage protected areas are being addressed with State funding;
- In July 2001, the Indian Authorities submitted a training assistance request for co-funding a Study Tour to the United Kingdom for the regional and national site-managers of Hampi to share site-management experiences with English Heritage; and
- Following the request of the Bureau at its twenty-fifth session, the World Heritage Centre expects to receive further updated information concerning the (a) relocation of the two intrusive bridges, (b) implementation of the 4-point recommendations for corrective measures, and (c) preparation of the comprehensive management plan, for the examination by the Committee at its twenty-fifth session.

Action required: The Committee may wish to examine any additional information at the time of its twenty-fifth session, and adopt the following:

“The Committee welcomes the positive actions taken and being planned by the State Party and the World Heritage Centre to elaborate a comprehensive management plan for the site. The Committee congratulates the State Government of Karnataka and the Deputy Commissioner of Bellary for taking the necessary actions in removing a large number of illegal encroachments from within the World Heritage protected areas. The Committee requests the State Party and the Centre to continue its close co-operation in order to complete the needs assessment and feasibility studies as a matter of urgency, in order to ensure that an integrated conservation and development management plan be elaborated, adopted and implemented as soon as possible. The Committee requests the State Party and the Centre to report on the progress made in removing the threats to the site for examination by the Committee at its twenty-sixth session.”

Bahla Fort (Oman)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1987; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1988

Inscription criteria: C (iv)

International Assistance:

Total amount (up to 2000) US\$ 66,772; missions on an annual basis 1996- 2000 (on a cost sharing basis) to monitor restoration works and provide advice to the conservation team.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fifth session of the Bureau – paras. V.75 – V.78

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – para. VIII.19

Principal issues: Management Plan

New information: In compliance with the recommendations made at the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau, preparations have started for the Management Plan of Bahla Fort and Oasis. A workshop is foreseen in late November 2001, together with WHC experts and the British company conducting the study, to review the work accomplished so far. On the issue of the Regional Seminar on the Conservation of Earthen Structures, the Omani authorities have submitted a request for international assistance, for the consideration of the Committee. The Seminar, which should be held in late 2002, will encourage a wide participation from the entire Arab Region.

Action required: The Committee may wish to consider information that may be available at the time of its session and take appropriate decisions and make recommendations for the consideration of the State Party, Centre, ICOMOS and other stakeholders.

Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1981 and on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2000

Inscription criteria: C (i), (ii) and (iii)

International assistance: Technical Co-operation in 2000, US\$ 10,000: Archaeological, soil and design research and the preparation of a planting plan for the Shalamar Gardens, for preparing a restoration plan. Emergency Assistance, in 2001, US\$ 50,000: Elaboration of a comprehensive management plan.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fifth session of the Bureau – paras. V.79 – V.81

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee - para. VIII.30

Principal issues: Lack of a comprehensive management strategy and plan, urban encroachment and ad-hoc public works; Need for enhancing the capacity of the site management authorities in conservation techniques, project elaboration, and site presentation.

New information:

- The Department of Archaeology informed the Centre that it was elaborating the updated work plan for the use of the US\$ 10,000 Technical Co-operation funds approved by the Bureau in July 2000. This activity will co-finance the archaeological, soil and design research and subsequently, the preparation of a planting plan for the Shalamar Gardens;
- The Centre and the Government of Pakistan formulated a plan of action to develop a comprehensive management plan for the Shalamar Gardens with the US\$ 50,000 Emergency Assistance approved under the 2001 budget. This plan of action was being processed for submission to the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee for final approval at the time of the preparation of this working document;
- Following the mission undertaken by experts of the City of Strasbourg (France) and the Deputy Director of the World Heritage Centre in April 2001, a proposal for submission to the European Union Asia-Urbs Programme and to the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs was drafted for enhancing the management and development of the immediate vicinity of the Shalamar Gardens within Lahore Metropolitan City. This draft proposal was being completed at the time of the preparation of this working document.
- In October 2001, the national authorities submitted information concerning the costs for the 15 project proposals drafted in close co-operation with a UNESCO conservation expert. These proposals for the rehabilitation of the Shalamar Gardens, once finalized, will be proposed to potential private sector or bilateral donors.

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

“The Committee welcomes the positive actions taken and being planned by the State Party and the World Heritage Centre for the rehabilitation of the Shalamar Gardens and for elaborating a comprehensive management plan for the site. The Committee requests the State Party and the Centre to continue its close co-operation in order to ensure that an integrated conservation, management and development plan will be elaborated, adopted and implemented as soon as possible. The Committee requests the State Party and the Centre to report on the progress made in removing the threats facing the site for examination by the Committee at its twenty-sixth session.”

Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List and on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1986.

Inscription criteria: C (i) and (iii)

International assistance:

Conservation / presentation of the site and preparation of the Master Plan: US\$ 78,650

Course on conservation of earthen architecture: US\$ 20,000

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fifth session of the Bureau – not reported

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – para. - VIII.20.

Principal Issues: Conservation of earthen architecture and site encroachment.

New information: By the time of the preparation of these working documents the World Heritage Centre had not received the official report from the State Party requested by the Committee at its twenty-fourth session.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine information that may be available at the time of its session and take the appropriate decision and make recommendations for the consideration of the State Party, Centre, ICOMOS and other stakeholders.

Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1993 and on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2000

Inscription criteria: C (ii) (iv) and (vi)

International Assistance:

Total amount (up to 2000) US\$ 64,000

In the year 2001: US\$ 50,000 for the preparation of an outline for an Urban Conservation and Revitalization Plan

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fifth session of the Bureau – paras. V.82 – V.86, page 21

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – para. VIII.31

Principal issues:

- Progressive loss of traditional urban fabric
- Lack of conservation and management mechanisms

New information:

Since the joint WHC/ICOMOS mission of May 2001, and following recognition by the Yemeni authorities of the state of conservation of the Town, the authorities have published a decree forbidding all construction in the Historic Town of Zabid (19 June 2001). In parallel, the Minister of Culture created a “High Committee for the supervision of the Safeguarding of the Town of Zabid”, comprising 12 members representing the ministries and bodies concerned, The World Bank, GTZ, KFW and UCHP (Dutch project).

The High Committee met at end-June 2001, and approved an action plan comprising 9 main actions:

1. Sewage network
2. Paving of streets and evacuation of rain waters
3. Street lighting
4. Collection and treatment of rubbish
5. Restoration and rehabilitation of the historic Souk
6. Restoration of Bab El-Qurtub (South Port)
7. Restoration of the facades of the monuments and improvements to the ring walls and facades of the residential constructions
8. Establishment of the plan of the historic town and the safeguarding plan for the monuments
9. Restoration of the monuments and public buildings.

To date, the amounts approved and allocated to these projects represent a total of approximately US\$ 8 million (of which about US\$ 7 million for the sewage network and rubbish removal). The GOPHCY budget (preservation body for historic towns), was recently voted for 2002 for an amount of approximately US\$ 250,000 (no budget in 2001).

Finally, the Ministry of Public Works has promised to finance the paving and lighting of the streets of the town for an unspecified amount.

A Centre mission (September/October 2001) noted that all construction activity had effectively been halted in Zabid. The aim of this mission was to evaluate the situation and to define an initial approach for a safeguarding and urbanism plan. So that the projects approved by the High Committee could achieve the expected results, the mission requested the Yemeni Government to implement without delay, seven urgent intervention measures in the town:

- Urgent launching of a campaign for awareness raising and systematic information targeted at the local population.
- Creation of a 1 km wide buffer zone from Madrassa Al-Baysha, situated east of the town,

including a perimeter of 225° in a clockwise direction up to the North entrance of the town.

- Creation of protection zones of a minimum width of 50m around the mosques and medersas (numbering 83) in the town.
- Strengthen and physically protect the historic residential ensembles of the town which are in danger of falling into ruin or collapsing (about 200 houses).
- Revitalisation of the Souk by undertaking effective measures to stimulate the economy.
- Include in the urban extension of the town, the area situated north/north-east of the historic town, in the framework of the new urban plan under preparation.
- Start immediate production by the brick oven and build others to be able to respond to the new demands.

The Ministers of Culture, Planning and Public Works have undertaken to communicate these recommendations to the Counsel of Ministers for their approval and their immediate implementation.

Finally, in agreement with the authorities, it was decided to send during October/November 2001, a team of consultants specialised in urbanism, restoration and socio-economic development, to define the major principles upon which the safeguarding and urbanism plan should be based, the specifications for the restoration of the constructions and the modalities for the socio-economic revitalisation of the Souk of Zabid.

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

“The Committee thanks the Yemeni authorities for their efforts and continued cooperation with the World Heritage Centre. The Committee also thanks the GTZ, KFW and the Dutch authorities for their precious contributions and their interest in the Historic Town of Zabid.

The Committee encourages the Yemeni authorities to continue their efforts and immediately implement the seven urgent measures recommended by the World Heritage Centre mission of September/October 2001.”