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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL
AND NATURAL HERITAGE

BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-sixth session

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room IV
8 – 13 April 2002

Item 12 of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

SUMMARY

In accordance with paragraphs 48-56 and 86-93 of the Operational Guidelines, the Secretariat and advisory bodies submit herewith reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.

These reports concern sites included in the preliminary list provided in Document **WHC-02/CONF.201/11**, for which new information was received by the deadline of 1 February 2002, either from States Parties upon the request of the Committee, or from other sources.

Additional state of conservation reports requested by the 25th session of the Committee (Helsinki, December 2001) will be presented to the 26th session of the World Heritage Committee (Budapest, June 2002).

A report on the state of conservation of sites inscribed on the World Heritage List in Danger for which new information has been received will be presented to the 26th session of the Committee (Budapest, June 2002).

Decision required:

The Bureau is requested to examine the state of conservation reports and, either

A : take the appropriate decision for **noting** by the 26th session of the Committee, or

B : Prepare a recommendation for **action** by the 26th session of the Committee

INTRODUCTION

(i) This document deals with **reactive monitoring** as it is defined in the Operational Guidelines: "The reporting by the Centre, other sectors of UNESCO and the advisory bodies to the Bureau and the Committee on the state of conservation of specific World Heritage sites that are under threat". Reactive monitoring is foreseen in the procedures for the eventual deletion of properties from the World Heritage List (paragraphs 48-56 of the Operational Guidelines) and for the inclusion of properties in the List of World Heritage in Danger (paragraphs 86-93 of the Operational Guidelines).

(ii) To facilitate the work of the Bureau, state of conservation reports are presented in a standard format that includes the following information:

- Name of property (State Party)
- Year of inscription on the World Heritage List
- International assistance
- Previous deliberations (Reference is made to relevant paragraph numbers of reports of the most recent sessions of the Committee and its Bureau)
- Main issues
- New information
- Action required.

(iii) The 24th session of the World Heritage Committee (Cairns, 2000) introduced a number of reforms to the working methods of the World Heritage Committee and Bureau. This included the introduction of an "A" (items which are the subject of consensus for adoption) and "B" (items requiring discussion by the Committee) decision-making system. Therefore this document requests the Bureau to examine state of conservation reports and, either

A: adopt the appropriate decision for **noting** by the 26th session of the Committee, or

B: adopt a recommendation for **action** by the 26th session of the Committee.

(iv) For those sites for which new information was received after 1 February 2002, additional state of conservation reports will be presented to the 26th session of the Committee (Budapest, 24-29 June 2002).

(v) The present Document does not include reports on the state of conservation of sites from the Africa Region. Information on these sites will be provided to the 26th session of the Committee as part of the document on Periodic Reporting for Africa.

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CULTURAL PROPERTIES

ARAB STATES

Byblos (Lebanon)

Inscribed in 1984 on the World Heritage List under criteria C (iii), (iv) and (vi)

International assistance:

Up to 2001, US \$ 10,000 under preparatory assistance for a Planning Seminar in cooperation with the University of Delft

Previous deliberations:

25th ordinary Session of the Bureau, Paris, June 2001 – WHC-2001/CONF.205/5, pages 22 and 23.

Main issues:

Deterioration of the archaeological remains; World Bank Project; Impact of uncontrolled urban development; Lack of staff.

New information:

Byblos is one of five Lebanese sites considered by a large Cultural Heritage and Urban Development Project financed by the World Bank. In June 2001, the Bureau had requested the State Party to ensure that the findings and recommendations of two Seminars, organized by the World Heritage Centre in 1998 and 1999 in collaboration with the Delft University, be taken into account in defining the scope of the World Bank project's activities.

The main recommendations pointed to the need for 1) a Master Plan for Byblos at city and regional scale, with specific legal and administrative provisions for its implementation; and 2) the re-definition of the boundaries of the World Heritage site and buffer zone, taking into account the results of the on-going investigations of the marine and coastal areas.

An Urban Study was commissioned in 2001 by the World Bank to a Lebanese Consultancy Firm, in preparation for the Project. A preliminary draft report on this Study was presented in November 2001 to the Bank during its pre-appraisal mission, in the presence of a WHC staff member, and discussed later with an ICOMOS expert in the framework of a reactive monitoring mission to the site. The ICOMOS expert examined as well several other proposed developments at the site, and assessed its general state of conservation.

The archaeological area

The ICOMOS mission found that, despite the remarkable efforts of the few staff working at the site, and some cleaning and site presentation carried out in view of the Summit on the *Francophonie*, most of its monuments and remains are in a very precarious and dangerous state of conservation. The main problems concern exposed and very fragile structures at risk of collapse, unprotected excavations, and the lifted or *in situ* mosaics, which are being deteriorated by the combined effect of weathering, neglect and cement. The ICOMOS report stressed the

urgent need for retaining walls to prevent erosion, the refilling of most open excavations, the conservation and protection of mosaics, and their proper presentation in an exhibition area to be identified.

Urban Study by the World Bank Consultant

The proposals prepared by the World Bank Consultant for the rehabilitation of the old city focused on three main areas: access and parking; the historic city centre; and the harbour. The relationship with the archaeological site was not taken into account, and an archaeological study was not commissioned by the Bank, contrary to what was done for Tyre and Baalbeck. The World Bank mission, while commending the overall approach of the Study, requested the Consultant to disregard certain options and concentrate on some selected priorities, with a view to completing the Study and enable the finalization of the Project.

A copy of the Study, however, has so far not been submitted to the World Heritage Centre, which therefore could not examine the proposals in detail. From the discussions had with the Consultant, however, the Study did not seem based on a detailed analysis of the ancient topography of the site, including the present day archaeological area, and appeared conceived on a questionable concept of tourism development. As a result, a number of proposals have raised the concern of the ICOMOS expert. Among these are, for example, the installation of a wooden deck on the coast around the archaeological area with extensions onto the sea; the covering of the pebbly beach below the site with sand and the construction of “adequate services and facilities for a tourist beach”; the re-design of the public square in front of the entrance to the excavations including a new fountain with no relations to the underlying archaeological remains; the construction of a new restaurant and elevated promenade on top of the present souk; the conversion of the Municipality and Old Seray, two of the most significant buildings of the Old City and in direct contact with the archaeological area, into a “Relais et Chateau” type of hotel; the execution of a *passerelle* around the entire medieval walled enclosure; etc.

The Study included as well proposals for the area outside the medieval walls, and especially for the conservation and presentation of the Decumanus Maximus, and its link with a parking area along the present highway on the eastern border of the town. These interventions, which would relieve the old city from excessive traffic and restore the original access to Byblos, were highly recommended by the ICOMOS expert. At any rate, a comprehensive assessment of these proposals will not be possible until the Secretariat and ICOMOS receive a final and complete copy of the Urban Study.

Finally, as for the areas immediately to the South and North of the property, these were not considered by the World Bank Consultant. However, the ICOMOS Mission learnt of plans to develop them for tourism purposes, and strongly warned against this idea, lest the encroachment of

modern constructions should impact even more on the site and its buffer zone.

The Harbour

A separate issue is the proposal, by the Ministry of Public Works and Transports, for an extension of the new jetty facing the old harbour of Byblos, to protect this and house a small tourist marina. As already pointed out by the participants in the two seminars organized by the Centre, and confirmed by the ICOMOS expert, this extension would have a major negative impact on the old harbour without providing a guarantee against the strong winter currents. The proposed realization of a road across the archaeological area to construct the extension to the jetty, moreover, would be a disaster for the site. ICOMOS strongly recommends that, instead of engaging in these new projects, a detailed survey of the under-water areas around the site and within the harbour be completed as a matter of urgency.

Staff

One of the main problems concerning the archaeological site of Byblos, much as for all the other archaeological sites of the country, is the chronic lack of staff, which severely affects the capacity of the DGA to adequately conserve and manage this large and very important property. Recognizing this problem at the national level, the World Bank decided to include an Institutional Assessment of the DGA as a precondition for the negotiation of its Project with the Lebanese Government. The WHC, which strongly supports this initiative, was involved in the preparation of the Terms of Reference for this Assessment and in the selection of the experts.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following recommendation for action by the 26th session of the Committee:

“The Committee commends the State Party for its efforts, in conjunction with the World Bank, for the rehabilitation of the Old City of Byblos and its social and economic revitalization. The Committee, however, expresses concern for some of the proposed interventions, which would be incompatible with the respect for the outstanding universal values, which justified the inscription of the site on the World Heritage List. The Committee, furthermore, invites the State Party to ensure that adequate resources, possibly within this Project, be made available to support the necessary conservation and presentation works within the archaeological area, and especially the strengthening of the capacity and number of the local DGA staff.

The Committee, therefore, requests the State Party to provide urgently to the Secretariat a complete set of the preparatory Studies on Byblos carried out in the framework of the World Bank Project, for examination by the Committee, before a final agreement is reached between the Government of Lebanon and the World Bank on the scope of the activities within this Project.

The Committee invites as well the State Party to discard plans for an extension of the jetty, and to engage in a

thorough investigation of the under-water areas surrounding the site and the harbour. Finally, the Committee encourages the Lebanese authorities to develop a comprehensive Urban Conservation Plan, including provisions for the areas adjacent to the archaeological site, the medieval enclosure, the areas of archaeological potential on the two sides of the *Decumanus Maximus*, and the zones to the North and South of Byblos, to protect the site and its buffer zones from further encroachments.

The Committee strongly encourages the State Party to submit requests of International Assistance under the World Heritage Fund, as an integration to the World Bank funding, to accomplish the above-mentioned recommendations, and request that a report be submitted by the Lebanese authorities on the progress of the situation to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2003.”

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor (China)

Inscribed in 1987 on the World Heritage List under criteria C(i), (iii), (iv) and (vi).

International assistance:

Total amount up to 2000: N/A

In 2001: N/A

Previous deliberations: N/A

Main issues:

Insufficient co-ordination of site management authorities and uncontrolled tourism development. Lack of a comprehensive management plan to ensure the conservation and sustainable development of the site.

New information:

A WHC staff member undertook an official visit to the property in November 2001. The mission noted that this World Heritage property consists of two parts, which are not contiguous.

The Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor is a mound separated into two parts by a main road. The southern part of the Mausoleum mound has now been encroached upon by illegal construction of outdoor souvenir stands. The northern part contains a factory complex, private housing and plantations, all of which are within the protective buffer zone of the site.

New excavations in and immediately surrounding the Mausoleum have proven the existence of rich archaeological assets in both the protective core and buffer zones. The mission recommended that steps be taken to expand the boundaries of the World Heritage site and consider the relocation of the intrusive and illegal encroachment.

Enhancement of the site interpretation was also noted. The Terra Cotta Warriors Museum Complex does not have clearly defined protective core and buffer zones. Recently, permission was granted for the construction of a new souvenir supermarket immediately outside the museum

complex. The mission commended the high standard of conservation measures and efforts made to enhance site interpretation of the property.

However, the mission was informed that major site development and management decisions are taken without full consultation with the Shaanxi Provincial Cultural Relics Bureau, resulting with tourism development given priority to conservation needs. At the time of inscription on the World Heritage List in 1987, ICOMOS expressed serious concerns regarding the plans for constructing museums on site. ICOMOS, concluding that measures taken to protect the site were insufficient, recommended that a larger buffer zone be established.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision for noting by the 26th session of the Committee:

“The Bureau encourages the Chinese authorities to:

- Establish a comprehensive site management authority supported by both conservation and site development authorities. In particular, the Chinese authorities may wish to explore further the mobilization of the rich experience and human resources of the Shaanxi Provincial Cultural Relics Bureau to ensure that conservation needs are appropriately addressed while developing the site;
- Elaborate a comprehensive management plan for this property, taking into due consideration existing management plans, regulations, heritage protection and preservation needs;
- Expand the protective buffer zones of the Mausoleum taking into account the most recent archaeological discoveries; consider the relocation of intrusive elements outside the extended World Heritage protective zones;
- Define the World Heritage protective core zone of the Terra Cotta Museum complex to include the three pits. Identify the rest of the museum complex and its surrounding area as the protective buffer zone with restrictions on new constructions.

The Bureau requests the World Heritage Centre to assist the Chinese authorities in the elaboration of a long-term comprehensive management plan for the property. The Bureau further requests that a progress report on measures taken to enhance the conservation and development of the property be submitted for examination by the Committee at its 27th session within the framework of the Periodic Reporting Exercise for the Asia-Pacific Region.”

Ajanta Caves / Ellora Caves (India)

Ajanta Caves was inscribed in 1983 on the World Heritage List under criteria C (i,ii,iii,vi)

Ellora Caves was inscribed in 1983 on the World Heritage List under criteria C(i, iii,vi)

International assistance:

Total amount (up to 2000): US\$ 13,331

In 2001: US\$ 3,733.60 For a reactive monitoring mission to Ajanta and Ellora Caves

Previous deliberations:

25th extraordinary session of the Bureau (Chapter number III.249).

Main issues:

- Lack of microclimate control
- Progressive structural deterioration
- Absence of restoration and conservation codes adopted and implemented on a regular basis following international conservation norms

New information:

Upon the request of the national authorities, the World Heritage Centre organized a reactive monitoring mission by an international mural painting expert nominated by ICCROM between 1-9 December 2001. The mission examined the state of conservation of the mural paintings within the Ajanta and Ellora Caves and noted the following main threats facing the wall paintings:

- infiltration of rainwater into the caves;
- minor cracks on carved surfaces
- flaking of the paint layer
- infestation of bats and insects within the caves

The UNESCO expert recommended that the authorities consider:

- revising present methods for stabilizing and cleaning the wall painting surfaces;
- testing of new and alternative methods on small wall painting surfaces;
- continuous monitoring of the microclimate conditions in Ajanta Caves;
- enhancing documentation and archival material to evaluate changing conditions of the wall painting material;
- conserving further, the unique natural setting of the Ajanta and Ellora Caves by following the concept of minimal intervention with the historically established environment and giving preference to conservation solutions which involve minimal changes.

Finally, noting certain weaknesses within the institutional framework of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) which occasionally prevent maximum utilization of the rich capacity and experience within its various branches, the UNESCO mission recommended that co-operation be enhanced between the complementary ASI branches to enhance the long-term protection and conservation of the two sites.

At the time of the preparation of this working document, the World Heritage Centre was continuing consultations with the Indian authorities to mobilize international technical co-operation for following up on the recommendations of the UNESCO mural painting expert. Further information will be presented to the Bureau at the

time of its session together with updated information on the progress made by the authorities in enhancing the co-operation between numerous national and international conservation and development activities.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to consider further information at the time of its session and take a decision as appropriate.

Sun Temple of Konarak (India)

Inscribed in 1984 on the World Heritage List under criteria C (i,iii,vi)

International assistance:

Total amount up to 2000: US\$ 39,000

Previous deliberations: N/A

Main issues:

Need for comprehensive management plan to avoid illegal encroachment and ad-hoc construction.

New information:

Following an ICOMOS monitoring mission to the site undertaken in February 2000, the Bureau, at its 24th extraordinary session, reiterated its request made previously to the State Party to urgently prepare a Comprehensive Management Plan to mitigate potential threats caused by illegal encroachment and *ad-hoc* construction in the areas surrounding the site, and requested the Secretariat to assist the State Party in mobilising international technical expertise and co-operation as required and appropriate. The report from the State Party on the progress made in developing the Plan and on the measures taken in favour of the conservation and development of this site has not been submitted to date.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision for noting by the 26th session of the Committee:

“The Bureau reiterates its previous requests to the State Party to report on the progress made in developing the Plan and on the measures taken in favour of the conservation and development of Konarak. The Bureau encourages the authorities responsible for the conservation and management of the property to submit an international assistance request for elaborating a Comprehensive Management Plan to mitigate potential threats caused by illegal encroachment and ad-hoc construction in the areas surrounding the site.

Meidan Emam, Esfahan (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Inscribed in 1979 on the World Heritage List for criteria C (i,v,vi)

International assistance:

Total amount up to 2001: US\$ 39,000

Previous deliberations:

24th session of the Bureau (Chapter IV.66)

Main issues:

- Absence of a process of systematic monitoring
- Development pressure

New information:

Following an invitation by the Government of Iran, a World Heritage Centre staff member undertook a mission to Esfahan in mid-January 2002. The mission was informed that in line with the recommendation of the 1995 UNESCO Mission, the authorities were redefining and extending the World Heritage protected area to include key monuments and historic architectural ensembles representing the Safavid period urban planning scheme. Soon after the WHC mission, the authorities submitted a preliminary draft nomination dossier for consultation with UNESCO.

The WHC mission noted with deep appreciation, the high level of conservation of the monuments composing the Historic Centre of Esfahan including the Meidan Emam World Heritage area. As the property is a complex site, the WHC mission recommended that site-interpretation and signage of the World Heritage values of the property be enhanced.

The WHC mission witnessed the illegal construction of a new commercial complex within the "Conservation Protective Zone of Esfahan Historic City". According to the authorities, the legal status of this zone had been adopted by the Government of Iran. The construction, planned by the Municipality of Esfahan, was not authorized by the Central Government. Regretfully, the high-rise complex impacts upon the skyline of the historic city, as it has been constructed beyond the maximum height limitations for new constructions. In February 2002, the World Heritage Centre requested clarification on the status of the discussions continuing between the Municipality and the Central Government authorities to correct the situation. Additional information will be presented to the Bureau at the time of its session.

The monitoring mission to be jointly undertaken by ICOMOS and an international urban planner funded under the UNESCO-France Convention was postponed after the events of 11 September 2001. Since January 2002, the organization of this mission, combined with a stakeholders' meeting also financed under the UNESCO-France Convention, has been reactivated. The dates of the mission and the meeting will be reported to the Bureau at the time of its session.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine information that will be made available at the time of its session and take the appropriate decision thereupon.

Town of Luang Prabang (Lao People's Democratic Republic)

Inscribed in 1995 on the World Heritage List, under criteria C (ii) (iv) (v)

International assistance:

Total amount from 1994-2000: US\$ 125,000

Previous deliberations:

24th session of the WH Committee (Chapter IV.para.69).

Main Issues:

- Weakness of legal framework and administrative capacity to manage urban development;
- Illegal demolition of listed and non-listed buildings and illegal construction of buildings not in conformity with the conservation plan (PSMV) in the World Heritage protected area;
- Consolidation of the riverbank along the NamKhan River with negative visual impact and possible structural risks;
- inadequate flow of information between the local and national authorities concerning conservation and development activities, lack of control in general;

New information:

Legal issues

In September 2000 a mission of a legal expert financed within the framework of the France-UNESCO Cooperation Agreement was carried out to provide legal assistance to the national and local authorities to revise the Decree of the Council of Ministers on the Protection of Monumental, Urban and Natural Heritage of Laos, and to draft the status of the Heritage House (Maison du patrimoine), the heritage advisory service attached to the provincial authorities of Luang Prabang.

This mission led to the elaboration of a draft "Decree on the nomination of a Committee to control construction and restoration activities in the City of Luang Prabang" (Décret sur la nomination du Comité d'attribution des permis de construire dans la ville de Luang Prabang) and the draft "Decree concerning the structure and activities of the Luang Prabang Heritage House" (Décret portant sur l'organisation et les activités de la Maison du Patrimoine). The Luang Prabang Heritage House subsequently transmitted to UNESCO the composition of the working group to finalize these decrees and for their integration in the national law to be enacted officially by the National Assembly of Laos. Despite repeated requests by the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau, as well as by the Secretariat for information on the progress, the State Party has not to date responded officially.

Moreover, the final version of the conservation plan of Luang Prabang (Plan de Sauvegarde et de Mise en Valeur - PSMV) transmitted to UNESCO/WHC in August 2001 by the Heritage House has not yet been officially approved by the competent national authorities.

The Secretariat, having received alarming information on illegal demolitions and constructions over the past year,

sent an expert mission (Inspection-General of the Government of France) in February 2002 for an assessment of the situation. The mission noted that information on illegal demolition and construction had been regularly transmitted to the Ministry of Culture of Laos by the Luang Prabang Heritage House but no action had been taken by the competent national authorities. The mission was informed that in 2001, of the 74 building permits issued upon approval by the Heritage House, 20 had been constructed in non-respect of the authorized design. In addition, some 140 constructions have taken place without permit. In view of the small area of the historic centre, this represents some 10% of the buildings and included the demolition of three listed buildings.

Bank of the Nam Khan River

Following the recommendation of the 24th session of the Bureau, an ICOMOS mission was dispatched to evaluate the construction design and engineering mechanics of the riverbank consolidation proposed by the contractor of the Asian Development Bank's Secondary Cities (ADB) project. The ICOMOS expert's report which judged the design to be satisfactory was transmitted by UNESCO to the national authorities and ADB. The consolidation work has since been completed. The hydro-engineering experts and the urban planning experts of the decentralized cooperation programme (joint Chinon-Luang Prabang-UNESCO programme supported by the French Development Agency-AFD)) has judged the work to seriously impair the value of the site, not only in terms of negative visual impact but particularly for the unnecessary widening of the quay along the riverbank which transforms the delicate urban morphology of the town. The open ditch created to capture rainwater run-off along the riverbank has also aggravated the problem of solid waste with the ditch being used as a waste disposal. The experts also expressed reserve over the technical feasibility of the consolidation work, both for the original design and the actual realization.

Decentralized Cooperation Programme (Luang Prabang-Chinon under the aegis of UNESCO/WHC and supported by the AFD, EU, French bilateral cooperation)

Given the serious deterioration of the situation caused by the non-respect of the conservation plan implemented in part through the building permit system, and in view of the continued weakness of the legal framework and the administration capacity of the local authorities, the decentralized cooperation programme was prolonged in September 2001 for another three years by mutual agreement between Luang Prabang and Chinon at the request of UNESCO with financial support from the Region Centre, EU and the French Government.

A second AFD urban conservation and development project for an amount of 5.5 million euro for a three-year project was signed in May 2001. This project foresees the provision of technical expertise under the decentralized cooperation programme which includes periodical missions by UNESCO.

The subsidy and micro-credit scheme to support the conservation of privately-owned houses in the protected historic core is at a standstill since the termination of the first phase of the decentralized cooperation programme between Luang Prabang and Chinon at the end of 2000. Consultations with the local inhabitants to enhance their participation in the conservation process which had been one of the most promising aspects of the activities carried out by the Heritage House had also ceased.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision for noting by the 26th session of the Committee:

" The Bureau expresses great concern over, (a) the rapid increase in illegal demolition of historic buildings including those listed on the inventory of traditional wooden buildings; (b) the illegal construction of buildings including those of public administrations in the World Heritage protected area of Luang Prabang demonstrating non-respect for the building permit system; (c) visual impairment and possible engineering problems of the consolidation works carried out along the banks of the Nam Khan River; (d) delay in the finalization of the national heritage protection laws and regulations, hence delay in their enactment by the National Assembly of Laos, despite the commitment made by the Government in its letter of September 1995 addressed to the Director-General of UNESCO; (e) delay in the official adoption by the national authorities of the Luang Prabang conservation plan (PSMV) also promised in the letter cited above; (f) lack of progress in the establishment of the subsidy and micro-credit scheme to support the conservation of privately owned buildings in the historic core; and (g) non-continuation of consultation process with the local inhabitants which the Bureau deems to be essential for the protection of a site largely composed of privately owned traditional houses. The Bureau, while noting with appreciation the tangible support provided by the City of Chinon through its decentralized cooperation programme, as well as by the French Development Agency (AFD), the European Union and the Region Centre amongst others, requests all external partners to ensure that their activities contribute to national capacity-building rather than to the mere completion of the public works. The Bureau reiterates the importance of maintaining the authenticity and the integrity of the town of Luang Prabang whose World Heritage values are based on the link between the natural and the built environment as well as on the harmonious fusion and co-existence between the traditional Lao and the late-19th century European urban patterns and the corresponding architectural styles.

The Bureau requests the Centre: (a) to arrange for an urgent reactive monitoring mission composed of experts representing ICOMOS and UNESCO with technical competence to evaluate the situation referred to above, including the hydro-engineering problems; (b) to organize with the national and local authorities concerned, a technical meeting during this mission with all external and national agencies involved in urban conservation and infrastructure development activities in Luang Prabang

with a view to enhancing cooperation along a set of defined conservation objectives; (c) to support the State Party in taking immediate measures to halt the process of deterioration to the World Heritage value of the site; (d) to inform the State Party of its deep concern over the non-response to its repeated requests for information on the progress in the adoption of legal and management tools in ensuring the protection of this World Heritage site; and (e) to renew its request for a full report to be submitted to the Centre by 1 February 2003, on the measures taken to redress the threats, to enable to Bureau to examine the case at its 27th session."

Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (Nepal)

Inscribed in 1997 on the World Heritage List under criteria C (iii), (vi)

International assistance:

Total amount (up to 2001): US\$ 40,000

Previous deliberations:

25th session of the Committee (Chapter VIII.151).

25th extraordinary session of the Bureau (Chapter III.265)

Main issues:

- Conservation for the Maya Devi Temple exposed to harsh natural elements since the large-scale excavation in 1996.
- Establishment of a sustainable drainage mechanism to prevent further degradation of the archaeological deposits.
- Identification of heritage assets within the core and buffer zones.
- Elaboration of a garden landscape conservation scheme.

New Information:

Although the state of conservation of this property has been regularly examined by the Bureau since 1999, the situation still calls for serious remedial measures based upon careful assessment and analysis of the heritage assets and usage of the pilgrimage property. Appropriate follow-up actions are necessary based upon the recommendations adopted by the Nepalese authorities following the International Technical Meeting (April 2001) and four international expert missions organized at the request of the Government, to ensure that conservation, management and presentation activities on-site.

Following the discussions of the 25th extraordinary session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee during which time possibilities to inscribe the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger was raised, the World Heritage Centre, the UNESCO Kathmandu Office and the authorities concerned continued consultations to mobilize international support to enhance the conservation and management of the site. The authorities submitted an international assistance request to complete the outer drainage system of the buffer zone of the Sacred Garden. At the time of the preparation of this working document, the World Heritage Centre was processing this request.

The activity financed by the World Heritage Fund, conducted by the authorities and the University of Bradford (U.K.) to compile basic information to assess pilgrimage activities, environmental factors and to identify high or low-importance archaeological areas through non-destructive geophysical survey, was completed in January 2002. The report of this activity is expected to be finalized and submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the authorities shortly. However, in February 2002, the UNESCO Kathmandu Office informed the World Heritage Centre that new plans to construct the "Golden Pavilion" shelter and a drainage system of the Maya Devi Temple had been announced by the Government, in spite of the fact that the report of the survey and base-line information analysis had not yet been completed. Following this new information, the World Heritage Centre requested clarification from the national authorities.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine further information that will be made available at the time of its session and take the appropriate decision thereupon.

My Son Sanctuary (Viet Nam)

Inscribed in 1999 on the World Heritage List under criteria C (ii) and (iii).

International assistance:

Total amount up to 2000: N/A

In 2001: N/A

Previous deliberations: N/A

Main issues:

De-mining of unexploded ordnance (UXO) at the site.

New information:

My Son is located along the Ho Chi Minh Trail and was one of the prime areas where unused ordnance was dumped during the Vietnam War.

In the years following peace in 1975, the Vietnamese authorities de-mined four main monumental area of surface unexploded ordnance (UXO). With the assistance of the German, Italian and Polish experts, restoration has been carried out on some of the principal brick towers composing a part of My Son World Heritage property. However, archaeological research of two newly-discovered areas, restoration of eight monumental areas, and site presentation for visitors can not proceed as de-mining has not been completed.

At the request of the Vietnamese authorities, UNESCO Bangkok Office, the Italian Government and the Leric Foundation carried out a 3-year research project (1999 - 2001) to use non-invasive methods to map the underground archaeological remains of the My Son World Heritage Site. Identification of buried structures as well as UXO has been completed in 2001.

UNESCO is closely co-ordinating with the Armed Forces of Viet Nam providing them with detailed GIS maps of the areas that still remain mined. The process of removing the UXO is progressing slowly, mainly due to lack of funds.

To facilitate both the UXO-removal and restoration work on site, the UNESCO Bangkok Office, together with the Leric Foundation and the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Government of Viet Nam, prepared the project "Safeguarding of My Son World Heritage Site-- Demonstration and Training in the Application of International World Heritage Standards of Conservation at My Son Group G Monuments". This project has been approved by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for an amount of US\$ 812,470, to be financed under the UNESCO-Italy Funds-In-Trust Co-operation Agreement, brokered by the World Heritage Centre. The implementation of this project will be co-ordinated by the World Heritage Centre, in co-operation with the appropriate UNESCO field offices.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision for noting by the 26th session of the Committee:

"The Bureau expresses its appreciation to the authorities of Vietnam, UNESCO Bangkok Office, the World Heritage Centre, and the Leric Foundation for having prepared a project to enhance the security, management, conservation and presentation of the unexcavated areas with UXO of My Son World Heritage Site, and thanks the Government of Italy for its generous support. The Bureau requests the World Heritage Centre to report on the progress made in implementing this activity to its 27th session (April 2003)."

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

Classical Weimar (Germany)

Inscribed in 1998 on the World Heritage List under criteria C (iii) and (vi).

International assistance: N/A

Previous deliberations:

25th session of the Bureau (Chapter V.259)

25th extraordinary session of the Bureau (Chapter III.161-162)

Main issues: Road construction proposal close to Tiefurt Castle and its Park in Weimar. The report of the ICOMOS expert mission to Weimar, in April 2001, clarified that the road proposal (Variant 1) would not have a negative impact on the fabric of the Castle and its grounds.

New information: The Ministry of Science of the State of Thuringia has submitted a progress report on the Weimar-East bypass, in which it confirms that a decision to proceed with the road proposal (Variant 1) has been reached. The Central Thuringia Highways Construction Department has drafted the application documentation for the Variant 1 and has submitted this to the Federal Ministry of Transport, Construction and Housing for decision. As soon as the route and costs have been confirmed a preliminary draft will be prepared. The Ministry of Science of the State of Thuringia will keep the

Secretariat informed of the progress of the planning procedure as soon as new information is available.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision for noting by the 26th session of the Committee:

"The Bureau thanks the German authorities for the progress report and congratulates them on the choice of the road proposal (Variant 1) which will have the least impact on the site. It requests the authorities to keep the Centre informed of the progress of this project."

The Curonian Spit (Lithuania/Russian Federation)

Inscribed in December 2000 on the World Heritage List under criterion C (v).

International assistance:

The Curonian Spit was badly damaged by a storm in 1999/2000 and benefited from emergency assistance of US\$ 50,000 (US\$30,000 Lithuania; US\$20,000 Russia) prior to the inscription of this transboundary site in December 2000. In 2002, technical co-operation for the on site information centre for the Curonian Spit for an amount of US \$ 20,000 has been approved.

Previous deliberations:

25th extraordinary session of the Bureau (Chapter III.179-181)

25th session of the Committee (Chapter VIII. 165-167)

Main issues: The impact on the site of a proposed oil extraction operation by a Russian enterprise in the Baltic Sea, from a platform at a point 22km distant from the coast of the Spit.

New information: A report on the status of the project was received from the Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation on 1 February 2002. The report states that the Russian Federation Natural Resource Ministry has not yet received the project documentation related to the development and exploitation of the oil field. As soon as these are received, the Ministry will carry out the Environmental Impact Assessment. Furthermore, the report clarifies that:

- exploration and development of the oil field was started long before the Federal Law was approved and the Curonian Spit was inscribed on the World Heritage List;
- at present no oil is produced and the oil field does not have a negative impact on the natural heritage of the site;
- the buffer zone of the Russian part of the Curonian Spit includes waterways of the Baltic Sea and Curonian bay with a width of 1km from the coast line, while the oil rig is situated at a distance of 22km from the coast. Due to this fact the Russian Federation can develop industrial production in the vicinity of the site provided that the national environmental protections laws are observed;
- in the framework of the Russian-Lithuanian Joint Committee acting under the Agreement about

cooperation in the field of environmental protection, signed by the two Governments in June 1999, the Lithuanian party may wish to participate in the development of appropriate environmental protection measures to avert the possible impact of the oil production on the natural environment (should the decision to start oil extraction be taken).

The official position of the Russian Federation on this issue was communicated to the Lithuanian authorities by diplomatic channels in August 2001.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision for noting by the 26th session of the Committee:

“The Bureau takes note of the report provided by the Russian authorities and requests the State Party of Russia to urgently carry out the EIA in co-operation with the Lithuanian authorities. Furthermore, it suggests that the Russian and Lithuanian authorities should co-operate closely to develop environmental protection measures as a matter of urgency, should oil extraction commence. It requests the State Party of Russia to provide a detailed report on the results of the EIA as well as on progress made in the development of the environmental protection measures.”

Spíšký Hrad and its Associated Cultural Monuments (Slovakia)

Inscribed in 1993 on the World Heritage List under criterion C (iv).

International assistance:

In 1996, technical co-operation US\$ 23,333 for Spissky Hrad

Previous deliberations:

25th extraordinary session of the Bureau (Chapter III.203–204)

Main issues: Threats from mining project. The permit is of limited duration and is scheduled to end in 2002.

New information: By letter of 30 January 2002, the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic informed the Secretariat that the management and conservation of the National Nature Reserve Dreveník, with its travertine complex, is under the authority of the Ministry of the Environment. Furthermore, the report states that the effects of quarrying on the conservation of Spissky Hrad and its Associated Cultural Monuments are negligible. In addition, a report from the Secretary-General of the Slovak National Commission for UNESCO, dated 1 February 2002, informs the Centre that the quarrying company is presently elaborating a new extraction and re-cultivation plan, in cooperation with the National Administration for Nature Preservation, in order to meet the criteria for nature and landscape preservation.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision for **noting** by the 26th session of the Committee:

“The Bureau takes note of the information provided by the State Party and requests the Slovakian authorities to provide a more detailed report on the situation, including a copy of the new extraction and re-cultivation plan and an impact assessment, by 1 September 2002, for examination by the 27th session of the Bureau.”

Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated sites (United Kingdom)

Inscribed in 1986 on the World Heritage List under criteria C (i), (ii) (iii)

International assistance: N/A

Previous deliberations :

25th extraordinary session of the Bureau – Chapter III.207 to 210

Main issues:

Planning of the site, particularly the solution proposed for the A303 road (cut-and-cover tunnel, two kilometres long).

New information:

The 25th extraordinary session of the Bureau requested the State Party to present a progress report to the 26th session of the Bureau regarding the planning and protection of the site and notably: the improvement of the setting of Stonehenge by removing one road in the immediate vicinity of the monument and the redesign of another; the building of a new visitor centre outside the World Heritage Site; and the measures in hand to deal with the unexpected opening up of a vertical shaft from the summit of Silbury Hill in the Avebury part of the Site. A report from the State Party was received by the Secretariat on 1 February 2002 and transmitted to ICOMOS.

In this report, the Department for Culture, Media and Sports of the United Kingdom reported that management plans are in place for both parts of the site. Concerning Stonehenge, the State Party informed the Centre that the planning consent procedures are currently in progress. An application for planning consent for the visitor centre will be submitted during the summer of 2002, while the highways consent procedure will be initiated in December 2002. Both applications will contain full environmental impact assessments of the proposed works, which will allow full assessment of the projects to be made before decisions are taken on whether or not consent should be granted. Concerning Silbury Hill, the State Party informed the Centre that English Heritage is continuing to make progress in securing its goal of ensuring the long-term conservation of this large prehistoric man-made mound. A programme of on-site works was completed by early October 2001 and involved both the temporary capping of the hole and the execution of a seismic survey of the Hill, with the aim of identifying zones of structural weakness. It was also intended that the survey should provide additional information as to the original construction of the Hill and subsequent archaeological interventions. The survey is being complemented by geo-technical logging of the cores and sample laboratory testing. The seismic survey company has produced a draft report of its findings,

which is currently being analysed and checked by expert geo-technical advisers employed by English Heritage. In addition to the survey work, English Heritage has been carrying out further studies of topographical and written sources. The cores themselves are being archaeologically described and photographed, so as to provide further information on the history of the Hill. When the current survey results have been analysed, English Heritage will be in a position to assess whether any further investigations are required and what, if any, further physical works are required to ensure the long-term conservation of the Hill.

ICOMOS informed the Secretariat that it was very satisfactory to learn that the two management plans were in place; it suggested that the State Party should be congratulated for the work done on these plans, which can serve as a model for management plans on all World Heritage sites and monuments. Concerning Stonehenge, ICOMOS was encouraged to learn that the consent procedures would be in place by the end of the present year, following the completion of full environmental impact assessments. The chasm that opened up last year at the summit of Silbury Hill was the result of many unrecorded attempts to discover what lay at its base over the last three centuries. ICOMOS is of the opinion that the State Party has carried out exemplary temporary protective works, which will lead to a more lasting solution.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision for noting by the 26th session of the Committee:

"The Bureau notes the information transmitted by the State Party concerning the planning and the protection of the site of Stonehenge as well as the protective works carried out at Silbury Hill. The Bureau congratulates the State Party for the work done on the two management plans of Stonehenge and Avebury respectively. The Bureau expresses its satisfaction regarding the temporary protective works undertaken by the State Party in view of the long-term conservation of Silbury Hill. The Bureau encourages the State Party to continue the works undertaken in close consultation with ICOMOS and the Centre and requests the authorities to present a progress report in time for its next session in April 2003."

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Colonial City of Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic)

Inscribed in 1990 on the World Heritage List under criteria C (ii) and (vi)

International assistance:

US\$ 82,207 of which US\$ 24,207 was approved in 2001 for a cultural tourism study of the Historic Centre of Santo Domingo.

Previous deliberations:

25th session of the Committee (Chapter III.285)

25th extraordinary session of the Bureau (WHC-01/CONF.207/3, p.53)

Main issues:

Construction work for a hotel chain and improvement of legislation for heritage protection.

New information:

The State Party's national Bureau for Monumental Heritage provided the World Heritage Centre, on 31 January 2002, with a preliminary report in Spanish; an English translation was subsequently provided on 11 February 2002. The report concerned the state of conservation of six colonial houses built by Nicolas de Ovando, situated in the Historic Centre of the colonial town, and the measures which have been undertaken.

1) The national Direction for Heritage met to define the strategy to be followed and to initiate the required actions to be undertaken vis-à-vis the occupants renting the buildings, with a view to changing the use of the houses.

2) The work has been temporarily halted. This halt will provide a time for reflection for a new concept of the hotel project that will enhance the use of inner spaces (patios) as links between the buildings.

3) The national Bureau for Monumental Heritage has requested the Secretariat of the Environment of the State Party for a report on the impact of the destruction of the sewage system on the urban tissue.

4) New legislation (rules, standards and/or laws) is being formulated, a draft law for monumental heritage should be ready by 8 March 2002.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision for noting by the 26th session of the Committee:

"The Bureau requests the State Party to provide a report before 1 February 2003 for submission to the 27th session of the Bureau, with additional information on the progress of the work, the Secretariat of the Environment's report and on the decisions taken concerning the draft law for monumental heritage."

Historic Centre of Lima (Peru)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1988, under criterion C (iv), with an extension in 1991 to include the ensemble of the Convent of San Francisco de Lima.

International assistance:

US\$ 19,500 was approved as at 2000 for a conservation project for the Historic Centre of Lima. In 2002, US\$ 48,000 was requested for emergency assistance following a fire on 29 December 2001.

Previous deliberations: N.A.

Main issues:

Fire of 29 December 2001 in the "Mesa redonda" Quarter, located in the buffer zone of the Historic Centre of Lima.

New information:

On 29 December 2001, the densely populated "Mesa redonda" Quarter, located in the buffer zone of the Historic Centre of Lima, was badly damaged by fire caused by fireworks. This fire claimed 275 victims, 162 lost and 1,000 injured, as well as material damage of US\$10,000,000, affecting more than 5,000 small enterprises and leaving more than 10,000 jobless.

Four blocks of houses were severely damaged and three others were indirectly affected by the flames, smoke and water, in particular the Chinese Quarter situated in the Historic Centre itself. Two buildings of heritage value were destroyed by fire, and four others were severely damaged. The latter, presently supported by temporary structures, risk damaging twelve others.

The efforts of the fire-fighters were hampered by defective equipment and almost non-existent preventive measures (absence of emergency exits and local fire fighting equipment). Prior to the fire, the ensemble of the Historic Centre was identified as being located in a high-risk zone. In fact, there is no preventive plan for natural or man-made catastrophes, whereas almost all the heritage buildings are of wooden construction or in "quincha" (mixture of mud and branches).

Since the fire, the President of the Republic of the State Party has decreed a "state of emergency of the high-risk zone situated in the Historic Centre of Lima". The President has also issued another decree authorising the Ministry of Works and Promotion to approve reconstruction projects of public property in the area of the Mesa redonda. Furthermore, a certain number of emergency measures have been taken by the Municipality, the National Institute for Culture (INC) and the Government, such as:

- clean up of the debris, inventory of damage and loss, reestablishment of 60% of the services to the affected sector, care of the victims;
- setting up of an Emergency Operations Committee grouping assistance and obtaining 4,766 signatures of the trades people of Mesa redonda who accept to conform to standard regulations, control and security of their shops. In this regard, it should be emphasized that of the 28 commercial galleries, only 6 had permits in order, and that as of July 2001, fireworks had been forbidden in the Historic Centre.

Moreover, during the rehabilitation work, the INC had upgraded the Prehispanic water system, in use until the Colonial period.

With the Emergency Assistance of US\$ 48,000 requested from the World Heritage Fund, the Municipality, in co-operation with INC and other national institutions, should develop a safeguarding plan for the disaster area and its

surroundings, seek solutions for the rehabilitation of homes, ensure the systematic updating of safety standards of the trades people, and the implementation of preventive measures for the ensemble of the Historic Centre.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision for noting by the 26th session of the Committee:

"The Bureau commends the rapid actions undertaken by the State Party following the tragic fire of 29 December and strongly encourages it to reinforce its efforts in the implementation of preventive measures against potential natural and man-made risks in the so-called high risk area of the Historic Centre of Lima. The Bureau also requests the State Party to provide before 1 February 2003, for submission to the 27th session of the Bureau, a progress report on the measures undertaken for the rehabilitation and safeguarding of the site."

Historic Centre of the City of Goiás (Brazil)

Inscribed in December 2001 on the World Heritage List under criteria C (ii) and (iv)

International Assistance:

US\$ 57,288 requested in 2002 following the 31 December 2001 flood.

Previous deliberations:

25th session of the Committee (Chapter VI.6): inscription of the site on the World Heritage List (A2, n° of order : 993 rev).

Main issues: Damage caused by flood

New information:

In the morning of 31 December 2001, Goiás faced one of its major floods. Starting at dawn, strong intermittent rainfalls brought about an enormous increase in the volume of water drained into the channel of the Rio Vermelho. The site was severely endangered by these heavy rains and floods.

The inspection carried out by IPHAN following the rains and flood, pointed out that:

- the wooden bridge of Ponte do Carmo was completely destroyed, those of Ponte de Lapa and da Cambaúba were seriously damaged;
- several holes/potholes/craters of considerable dimensions were identified, particularly one next to the Cora Coralina's house, close to the Carioca bridge and another near the Municipality Market Place;
- support walls sections were destroyed along the riverbank;
- over 80 houses were damaged and a significant number of them presented near total destruction;
- among the buildings in the Historical Centre, the Hospital Sao Pedro, Cora Coralina's House, the Carmel Church, the Sao Joaquim Theatre, the City Hall, the Municipality Market Place and the Bus Station were severely damaged;

- ancient residential and commercial buildings, characterised as vernacular architecture have been recorded as cases of total destruction as well as documents, belongings, equipment, etc;
- the Cross of Anhanguera, a representative landmark of the City, was partially destroyed.

The Director-General of UNESCO visited the site a few days after the flood. An emergency assistance request amounting to US\$ 57,288 was submitted to carry out exemplary interventions in a dozen vernacular buildings around Cora Coralina's house, the Lapa Bridge and the Cross of Anhanguera. US\$ 50,000 were already approved by the World Heritage Committee Chairperson.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision for **noting** by the 26th session of the Committee:

“The Bureau requests a report from the State party, by 1 February 2003, for submission to the 27th session of the Bureau, on the state of advancement of the restoration works carried out on the property.”

Archaeological site of Chavín (Peru)

Inscribed in 1985 on the World Heritage List under criterion C (iii)

International Assistance:

Total amount up to 2000: US\$ 48,750 of which US\$ 37,250 in 1998 for emergency assistance to underpin some of the Galleries.

Previous deliberations:

25th session of the Committee (Chapter III.294)
25th extraordinary session of the Bureau (Chapter V.249)

Main issues: Lack of a management plan; deterioration of the condition of the site.

New information:

At the end of 1999, a sub-commission set up for the site pointed out the need to:

- carry out a complete study of the stability of the monumental zone's architectural structures,
- strengthen some sectors especially some external walls and some interior walls of the Galleries,
- re-examine the visiting circuit,
- identify water filtration and ventilation conducts and
- strengthen the damming walls to avoid the overflow of the Mosna River.

Part of the work carried out since then was presented at the 25th extraordinary session of the Bureau. Information was given on the conservation work started in some critical zones of the Galleries, the Labyrinths, Doble Mensula and Lanzón as well as the renewal of the tourist circuit and the continuation of research with the co-operation of the University of Stanford. Additional detailed information on the actions, which remain to be carried out were sent by the National Culture Institute (INC) on 11 February 2002.

They are spelt out in an emergency plan which includes: making wooden flooring for the tourist circulation, underpinning certain walls and galleries, withdrawing alluvial layers, “emboquillar” walls, restituting lithic elements, cleaning ducts, sealing surfaces and damming walls of the Mosna River and continuing conservation studies.

However, Chavín is still lacking the requested general management plan.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision for noting by the 26th session of the Committee:

“The Bureau acknowledges the efforts made by the State Party to preserve the site, in particular through the implementation of priority actions within an emergency plan. However the Bureau encourages the State Party to finalise and implement the Management Plan for the site and requests a detailed progress report to be submitted by 1 February 2003, for its twenty seventh session.”

MIXED PROPERTIES

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Tongariro National Park (New Zealand)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1990 and 1993 under criteria C (vi); N (ii) (iii)

International assistance:

US\$20,000 Training Assistance for World Heritage Site Manager's Workshop, October 2000

Previous deliberations:

25th extraordinary session of the Bureau, December 2001 (Paragraphs, III.152 - III.154)
25th session of the Committee (Paragraphs VIII.105 - 109)

Main issues:

The eruption of Mt. Ruapehu in 1995 and 1996 caused a large build-up of ash that blocked the outlet of Crater Lake. There is concern that when the Lake refills (estimated to be sometime between late 2002 and 2005), a rapid collapse of the ash dam could occur followed by a major *lahar* (ash flow). Options to manage this risk and address issues of public safety need to take account of the protection of both the natural and the cultural values, as interference with the summit area and Crater Lake has implications for the protection of spiritual, traditional and cultural values to the Maori people.

New information:

Following the request of the Committee at its 25th session (Helsinki, 2001) the State Party has provided a report following completion of a review of the management decisions taken to date to minimise the risks to safety associated with the impending Ruapehu Crater Lake lahar.

The Minister of Conservation announced that the installation of a state of the art alarm and warning system,

and the construction of a bank alongside the Whangaehu River are sufficient to address risks to public safety from an expected *lahar*.

In addition to these measures, the Department of Conservation is working closely with the Police and the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management to develop an appropriate emergency response plan. Furthermore, the Ministry is helping organisations with assets in the predicted *lahar* path to review their individual civil defence response plans.

The Minister has decided against undertaking engineering work at the Ruapehu Crater Lake to reduce the impact of a *lahar*. Such works had been opposed by environmental and recreational groups, the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board, the New Zealand Conservation Authority and by local *iwi* (Maori tribes). The decision was based on assessment of potential risks to staff working on the engineering works versus the risk to the public and infrastructure without engineering, and the public concerns about the impact on national park values that would occur by bulldozing into the summit of the mountain.

The decision followed a lengthy period of consultation with technical experts, the community and other stakeholders as well as input from other Government Ministers with portfolios that would be affected by a *lahar*. In making the announcement the Minister stated that an engineering intervention at the Crater Lake would be inconsistent with the provisions of the National Parks Act, the Tongariro National Park Management Plan and the World Heritage Convention. "This area is of outstanding international significance for its natural values. Given the high natural values of the crater and the intense interest in the area," she said, "intervention would have been highly controversial and there would have been considerable uncertainty as to whether the required consents could have been obtained."

Both ICOMOS and IUCN have expressed their support for this decision.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision for noting by the 26th session of the Committee:

"The Bureau commends the State Party on its decision concerning the management of the ash build-up that has blocked the outlet of Crater Lake following the eruptions of Mount Ruapehu in 1995 and 1996.

The Bureau considers that the decision to install a state of the art alarm and warning system and to construct a bank alongside the Wangaehu River rather than undertake engineering work at the Ruapehu Crater lake will maintain the outstanding natural and cultural values of the site whilst giving due regard to public safety issues. The Bureau expresses its hope that all parties will accept the decision."

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

Hierapolis-Pamukkale (Turkey)

Inscribed in 1988 on the World Heritage List under criteria N (iii), C (iii), (iv)

International assistance :

Technical co-operation for the International Workshop on Pamukkale – Preservation and Development Plan. (1991)

Previous deliberations:

25th extraordinary session of the Bureau (Chapter III.155-156)

Main issues:

Discolouring of the limestone cliffs.

New information:

A report on the state of conservation of the site was provided by the State Party dated 30 January 2002 and was sent to IUCN and ICOMOS for review. IUCN indicates that the report notes that since 1992 when the Pamukkale Development Plan was issued, developments have occurred in five key areas:

1. *Construction of transportation to the site:* The road linking Pamukkale town and the plateau, which climbed through the travertine terraces, has been closed and alternative options are being considered.
2. *New development:* New access to the terraces is related to the alternative transportation options. This has yet to be resolved. The north and south entrance points, which were completed in 1996, are not working effectively.
3. *Expropriations:* Tourism establishments, dating back to 1964, have been removed from the site. The last two hotels were demolished in 2001. This is considered one of the major successes of management of the site.
4. *Construction of a thermal water distribution network:* The development of a thermal water distribution network is almost complete. This network has two purposes: to ensure a continuing supply of the water throughout the site and maintain the whiteness of the travertine; and to allow for the creation of new travertine areas (i.e. for tourists). The new water distribution channels are visually intrusive and options to address this problem are being considered, including changing the position and level of some channels, or camouflaging the channels with vegetation. It is also proposed to construct a channel to bring thermal water to the site and reduce current use of water by establishments in Pamukkale town and farmers for irrigation purposes. It is recognised that the current siphoning of water has had negative impacts on the terraces as well as on the other uses.

5. *Forming new travertine terraces:* It is recognised that the major attraction of Pamukkale for tourists is bathing in the terraces. Hence plans are being developed to form new travertine areas to cater to this demand. The report also notes that Pamukkale is part of the World Bank financed “Turkey: Community Development and Heritage Project”, which commenced in 2000. The first activity under this project was an assessment of the 1992 Master Plan. The assessment concluded that there was an urgent need for the establishment of a proper site management system together with site interpretation and presentation plan. A Pamukkale Site Management and Presentation Plan is currently being prepared by a joint Ministry of Culture and World Bank team.

This project is also undertaking a socio-economic assessment; environmental assessment and preparation of an environmental management plan; a re-settlement baseline survey and re-settlement action plan for illegal settlements within the boundaries of the Archaeological site. Pamukkale University has been commissioned to ensure coordination, collaboration and follow up of these activities by the different authorities and parties involved.

With respect to management of the site, the report notes that the Conservation Plan for the site proposed establishment of a local organisation, “Union for the Protection and Development of Pamukkale”, to comprise of representatives of all institutions related to the conservation and development of Pamukkale.

Although there is still some progress to be made, IUCN understands that the major problems have been resolved and dealt with and there has been a significant improvement in care of the site. ICOMOS has reviewed the report and believes that the recent problems relating to the state of conservation of the pools and visitor management have been successfully resolved.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision for noting by the 26th session of the Committee:

“The Bureau thanks the Turkish authorities for the detailed report and congratulates them on the measures they have taken to ensure the protection and management of the site. It requests that a report on the progress of the World Bank financed project be made available and acknowledges the attempts to protect the site from tourist damage through the creation of alternative terraces for bathing. Furthermore, the Bureau urges the State Party to undertake full impact assessments before engaging in any new works, including further access/road construction. It suggests that the State Party seek international technical, scientific and other support to improve the state of conservation of the travertine terraces.”

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru)

Inscribed in 1983 on the World Heritage List under criteria C (i and iii) and N (ii and iii)

International Assistance:

US\$ 5,000 in 2001 for the services of a stone conservation expert for the assessment of necessary restoration work on the Intihuatana sundial stone.

Up to 2000: US\$ 98,825 for training, technical, emergency and preparatory assistance.

Previous deliberations:

25th session of the Bureau (Chapter V.195):

The Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu has been discussed at several sessions of the Committee and the Bureau, particularly with reference to the management and planning for the Sanctuary as well as a proposed project for the construction of a cable car.

Main issues:

- Implementation of the recommendations of the 1999 mission;
- Policies on the commercial use of the site;
- Restoration carried out after the Intihuatana sundial accident;
- Research efforts carried out on the landslide risks.

New information:

The State Party submitted, on 6 December 2001, a detailed report stating that almost all the recommendations of the 1999 mission had been followed, including a plan for the village of Aguas Calientes, detailed studies on the carrying capacity of, and the means of access to the Sanctuary and its components, the limitation of visitor facilities in the area surrounding the Ciudadela, and the desirability of extending the site. However, from other reports received through the UNESCO Lima Office, gradual deterioration seems to continue.

In addition, a “Landslide risk mitigation Symposium” took place from 21 to 26 January 2002, at the Disaster Prevention Research Institute of the Kyoto University, (Japan) whereby an agreement was reached between the Institute and the Peruvian experts on the process to be followed to continue the research on the Machu Picchu landslides risks.

Additional information should be made available to the Bureau, on all the above-mentioned issues, following the 24 February to 1 March 2002 joint UNESCO-IUCN-ICOMOS mission.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine information that may be made available at the time of its session and take the appropriate decision thereupon.

NATURAL PROPERTIES

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Komodo National Park (Indonesia)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1991 under criteria N (ii) and (iv)

International assistance:

US\$ 136,000 as preparatory assistance and for technical co-operation and training of staff.

Previous deliberations:

25th session of the Committee – Annex IX, paragraphs 54 - 56

Main issues:

Management plan implementation; controlling illegal fishing and reef mining; sustainable tourism development.

New information:

As indicated by the Observer of Indonesia at the time of the 25th session of the Committee in Helsinki, Finland in December 2001, a report from the State Party is expected by March 2002. A joint UNESCO-UNEP-RARE Center for Tropical Conservation mission to the site was fielded, from 23 January to 5 February 2002, as part of the implementation of the UNF financed project: "Linking Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Tourism at World Heritage sites". The Consultant of the Centre who participated in the mission, after discussions with the Director of the Park and his staff provided the following information on two of the three issues that were raised by the 25th extraordinary session of the Bureau in its recommendation to the State Party in December 2001:

- Co-operation between Park staff, the navy and the police has been strengthened considerably and joint patrols are being undertaken. These patrols are likely to help curtail the illegal entry of fishermen from other provinces and nearby islands to exploit the marine areas of the Park; and
- Discussions regarding the nomination of extensions to the Park for inclusion in the World Heritage site are underway.

Action by the Bureau: The Bureau, based on new information that is expected to be available at the time of its session, may take decisions and make recommendations as appropriate.

Royal Chitwan National Park (Nepal)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1984 under criteria N (ii), (iii) and (iv)

International assistance:

A sum of US\$ 80,000 has been provided for management, equipment support and training.

Previous deliberation:

25th session of the Bureau- Chapter – V.126 – 127
25th session of the Committee – Annex IX, paragraph 66 - 70

Main issues:

Road construction and transmission line construction through the Park and associated impacts.

New information:

The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) of Nepal, via a letter dated 22 January 2002, acknowledged receipt of the recommendations of the 25th extraordinary session of the Bureau and informed the Centre that the Bureau's concerns with the construction of the 33kv transmission lines between Jagatpur and Madi had been brought to the attention of the Ministry of Population and Environment which was responsible for review and approval of the EIA of the project. IUCN has informed the Centre that this EIA is awaiting approval and notes that there is considerable public pressure in favour of the project going ahead.

In another letter dated 28 January 2002, the DNPWC has informed the Centre that a public hearing on the EIA report of the 33kv transmission line was held on 24 January 2002. The Park staff presented the Bureau's concerns to the public and proposed underground wiring for the distance of 6 km where the transmission line is expected to traverse through the Park. The representative of the Nepal Electricity Authority had responded that it would be very expensive and suggested insulated wiring for the same 6 km. DNPWC has learnt that the alignment for transmission line will pass along the Dhruva-Bankatta public right of way. Erection of transmission poles has already begun in Madi and in other parts outside of the northern sector of the Park. People at Madi regard electrification of the area as a step to their economic prosperity.

IUCN has gathered additional information and notes that the public right of way serves the communities of Madi valley (involving four Village Development Committees consisting of approximately 50 to 60 thousand people). The trees to be felled along the route chosen for the transmission line in the Park are neither listed in the national regulations nor in the appendices of the CITES Convention. It would be possible for fewer trees to be felled than is currently proposed by the Nepal Electricity Authority. To date no poles have been erected inside the Park. IUCN has been informed that the Park authorities, as a final compromise solution, are seeking from the Nepal Electricity Authority the insulation of the wire along its entire length within the park and its buffer zone, primarily as a step to minimize mortality of avifauna, as well as support for conservation activities in the Royal Chitwan National Park.

IUCN has received information that the foundation for the Kasara Bridge on the Rapti River, which forms the northern boundary of the World Heritage site, was laid by an earlier Prime Minister in response to requests from the local government and people. It has been reported that alternative sites were assessed as neither suitable nor cost effective for the construction of the bridge. If the bridge is completed and the road is permitted along the bank of Rapti river, the vehicles using the route will be required to travel at least 4 to 5 kilometres within the Park in order to

meet the existing public right of way. IUCN has been informed that the bridge will be ready in a couple of months, and notes that the Park authorities believe that it will inevitably cause tremendous pressure on the World Heritage site due to the easy access it will provide.

Action by the Bureau: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision for noting by the 26th session of the Committee:

“The Bureau expresses its support for measures that would reduce the impact of the transmission line on the World Heritage values of this site and notes that the installation of an underground transmission line, while more expensive, may have the least potential impacts on the site. The Bureau urges the Nepal Electricity Authority to consider undertaking all measures to mitigate any significant environmental impacts on the Park, and to contribute to conservation activities in addition to the insulation of the wire along its entire length within the Park and the buffer zone. The Bureau invites the State Party to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment of the Kasara Bridge and the associated road in order to identify possible alternatives and/or mitigation measures to minimize the significant negative impacts that are foreseen due to these constructions. Pending the completion of an EIA for the Kasara Bridge construction project, the Bureau recommends that the State Party consider imposing a moratorium on construction and use of the bridge and road. The Bureau requests the State Party to consider inviting a monitoring mission to the site in order to fully assess the impacts of the various development proposals that are being planned in the vicinity of the Park and consider alternatives that do not compromise the World Heritage values of the site”.

Ha Long Bay (Vietnam)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1994 under criterion N (iii) and in 2000 under criterion N (i).

International assistance:

A total of US\$ 67,207 has been provided for management planning support, equipment and training activities.

Previous deliberations:

25th session of the Committee – Annex IX, paragraphs 73 – 78.

Main issues:

Rapid economic development, particularly in the tourism, transportation - including marine transport - sectors. Donor co-ordination. Monitoring and setting environmental standards befitting an internationally significant marine protected area.

New information:

An international expert meeting on the application of the World Heritage Convention in tropical coastal, marine and small-island ecosystems, jointly organized by the Centre and IUCN, is to be convened in Hanoi and Ha Long Bay from 23 February to 1 March 2002. A Centre staff as well as several IUCN experts are attending the workshop and are expected to report back on issues raised by the 25th extraordinary session of the Bureau in December 2001. The report

requested by the 25th extraordinary session of the Bureau from the State Party for 1 February 2002, is yet to be received. The Centre staff attending the workshop is expected to verify with the State Party authorities as to when this report could be available.

Action by the Bureau: The Bureau based on new information that is expected to be available at the time of its session may take decisions and make recommendations as appropriate.

Europe and North America

Pirin National Park (Bulgaria)

Inscribed in 1983 on the World Heritage List under criteria N (i) (ii) (iii)

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

25th session of the Bureau – Chapter V.146-149.

25th session of the Committee – Chapter VIII.25 / Annex IX page 118.

Main issues:

Ski development.

New information:

As requested by the 25th session of the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau, a joint UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission was undertaken to the site from 11 to 16 February 2002. The findings of the mission and its recommendations will be presented to the Bureau.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine the recommendations of the mission and additional information from the State Party that may be available at the time of its session and take decisions as appropriate.

Caves of the Aggtelek Karst and Slovak Karst (Hungary/Slovakia)

Inscribed in 1995-2000 on the World Heritage List under criterion N (i)

International assistance: N/A

Previous deliberations:

25th session of the Committee – Chapter VIII.97 / Annex IX, page 119.

Main issues:

Mining proposals; surface protection of cave system; upgrade to national park status; amendments to mining act; NGO and local community involvement.

New information:

The Minister for the Environment of Slovakia provided a report, dated 30 January 2002, to the Centre which was transmitted to IUCN for review. IUCN states that the report notes that on 11 January 2002 the Minister of Environment, after consultations with the concerned ministries, submitted the proposal to the Slovak

Government for designating the Slovak Karst Caves as Slovak Karst National Park, noting that with such a designation the level of protection would increase. On 29 January 2002, the proposal was discussed by the Legislative Council of the Slovak Government. It is anticipated that the national park designation will officially come into force on the 1st March 2002. The report notes that up to the present, the site has been a Protected Landscape Area where geologic activities and mining have only been allowed with the permission of the nature and landscape protection body. Caves are also protected as “national nature monuments” and afforded the highest level of protection. Further, in 2001 the National Council of the Slovak Republic took all caves into state ownership. To date no permission has been granted for any geologic or mining activity near the Skalisty potok – Kunia preipast cave system.

The report mentions that the Slovakian NGO “the Sosna Association”, raised concerns about the preparation of an amendment of the Act No.44/1988 Coll. on Protection and Utilisation of Mineral Resources (Mining Act). The Ministry of Environment submitted comments on the proposed amendments and was successful in achieving its desired changes, in particular that regional offices of the competent nature protection body and local government must give approval for any new mining activities. The report mentions that the territorial plan of the Large Territorial Unit Kosice Region, approved in 1998 by the Slovak Government, does not propose any limestone mining in the Slovak Karst and emphasises its protection.

IUCN received a report on Sosna’s campaign “Save the Slovakian Karst”, which it has been implementing since December 2000 in partnership with the administration of Hrhov village in the Slovakian Karst, several other Slovak NGOs and PROACT, an international group of birdwatchers dedicated to protesting against the destruction of important bird habitats through email campaigns targeting governments, state authorities and companies in Europe. Sosna, which expressed concern that farmers affected by the designation of national park be adequately compensated, is developing, together with the Hrhov local government, proposals for development of sustainable tourism and ecological agriculture.

The IUCN WCPA Task Force on Caves and Karst commends the excellent standard of administration of cave management, research and monitoring in Slovakia. This is resulting in steady improvements in on-ground management of karst sites.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision for noting by the 26th session of the Committee:

“The Bureau commends the State Party on rejecting the mining application which threatened the site, and on the general improvement in legislative control over protected areas and cave systems, as well as for its decision to designate the site as a national park. The Bureau urges the State Party to apply mechanisms that provide for

compensation as well as continued community involvement in the management of the national park. The Bureau acknowledges the role of Sosna and its partners in achieving positive outcomes for the protection of the site and encourages the State Party to carefully consider proposals for sustainable tourism and ecological agriculture in and around the site”.

Lake Baikal (Russian Federation)

Inscribed in 1996 on the World Heritage List under criteria N (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

International assistance:

US\$ 30,000 for a training seminar in 1999;

Previous deliberations:

25th session of the Bureau – Chapter V.281

25th session of the Committee – Chapter VIII.89-95 / Annex IX, pages 120-121.

Main issues:

Establishment of a Baikal Commission; Federal Law; pulp and paper mill; oil and gas exploration; pollution; management plan; decline in seal population; oil and gas pipeline; forest exploitation.

New information:

Following the request by the 25th session of the Committee, the Permanent Delegate of Russia transmitted a report on the situation of Lake Baikal dated 1 February 2002, following the report of the joint UNESCO/IUCN Monitoring Mission to the site in 2001, which was presented to the 25th extraordinary session of the Bureau. IUCN notes that it is unclear which document has been used by the State Party to prepare its official response as some of the issues considered in its report, and written in italics, do not correspond to the official wording used in documents on this topic tabled at the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau (WHC-01/CONF.208/10 and WHC-01/CONF.207/INF.8).

IUCN notes that progress has been achieved in the implementation of a number of measures towards the conservation of Lake Baikal. This was acknowledged in the UNESCO/IUCN report presented to the World Heritage Committee and once more IUCN recognises the efforts of the State Party in trying to solve the complex conservation issues facing this site.

In relation to the report submitted by the State Party IUCN would also like to note the following:

1. *Baikal Commission:* IUCN welcomes the news, conveyed in the State Party report, of the decision of the Russian Federal Ministry of Natural Resources to establish a Russian Federal Commission for Lake Baikal. However, no information was provided on: the time frame to implement this decision; when approval could be forthcoming from the Government of the Russian Federation; by what process the Commission would be formed; the mandate of the Commission; who would comprise the Commission

- and what would be their competencies, and when the Commission is expected to be fully operational. IUCN notes that the State Party decision to also create an inter-regional department of the Ministry in the Baikal Region to coordinate activities related to nature management and environmental protection in Lake Baikal and adjoining areas, may have the potential to duplicate the role of the Baikal Commission and create confusion.
2. *Federal Law "On the Protection of Lake Baikal"*: This is a key issue raised in the UNESCO/IUCN Monitoring Mission report. IUCN believes that the further specification and follow up of the Law is key to the successful resolution of other problems affecting the site. The State Party report notes that authorities are preparing their suggestions for the delineation of the zones, however that no time frame for final application is given. Though the State Party report notes adoption of several resolutions and legal acts, IUCN believes a clear and logical definition of the borders of the environmental zones is essential.
 3. *Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill*: This issue has been brought to the attention of the Committee a number of times and the information received from the State Party confirms its complexity and the need for the Convention to assist the State Party in obtaining additional financial and technical support to solve this problem. The State Party reports that the Expert Commission for the State Environmental Impact Assessment recommended, in mid 2001, that the first stage of the "Complex Program for the Conversion of the Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill and Development of the town of Baikalsk" be launched, so as to be completed by 2005. It remains unclear who will be responsible for implementation of each component of the first stage, and what is the time-table in the short term (1-2 years).
 4. *Prospects of gas production in the Selenga Delta*: The report from the State Party confirms that there are some geophysical indications of gas deposits in the Delta. IUCN welcomes the information provided by the State Party that the planned drilling of two parametrical wells in the site, to confirm the possibility of gas deposits, is presently subject to a State EIA. IUCN considers that exploration or exploitation of mineral, oil and gas resources is not acceptable within a World Heritage site. IUCN remains concerned that, if the existence of gas deposits is confirmed, exploitation of gas in this area will take place, with associated environmental impacts on the World Heritage site, as outlined in the UNESCO/IUCN Monitoring Mission. IUCN notes that, while the existence of gas deposits in the Selenga Delta is yet to be confirmed, the State Party report does not provide any re-assurance that this resource will not be exploited in the event that its existence and economic viability is confirmed by research.
 5. *Level of pollution to Lake Baikal through the Selenga River*: The report from UNESCO/IUCN Monitoring Mission to this site noted that "the pollution load of the Selenga river is apparently still considerable". While IUCN acknowledges, based on the State Party report, that this load has been steadily reduced (by 27% between 1997 and 2000), the discharge of wastewater to the river in 2000 was still over 60 million cubic metres per annum and this provides a significant impact on the site and remains a major concern. This level of pollution is indeed of concern. IUCN also welcomes the information on the different measures planned to further reduce this level of pollution, however it is not clear from the State Party report at what stage of implementation these measures are, and if the funding received for them is sufficient for full implementation.
 6. *Single Management Plan for the site*: The information received from the State Party noted proposals to develop such a plan under the framework of article 22 of the Federal Law "On the Protection of Lake Baikal". However information is required on the resources available to prepare such a plan, and the time frame for this exercise to be completed. IUCN emphasises that the management plan must outline concrete strategies and actions for dealing with threats, in the long, medium and short term.
 7. *Decline of the Baikal Seal population*: The UNESCO/IUCN Monitoring Mission noted a continuous decline in the Baikal seal population. The information provided by the State Party is contradictory to this and to other assessments made available to the team that undertook the UNESCO/IUCN Monitoring Mission in 2001. There is no clear agreement, due to a lack of regular monitoring assessments, on the factors that affect the seal population. IUCN acknowledges that the hunting permits have remained unchanged for the last 8 years (at a level of 3-4 thousands seals per year). However the UNESCO/IUCN Monitoring Mission noted that the skills of the legal hunters are poor, often causing collateral deaths due to wounding of animals. In the event of a true decline of the seal population due to factors other than hunting, the current level of the legal quota may be inappropriate and create unfavourable pressure on the species. IUCN reiterates the recommendation from the UNESCO/IUCN Monitoring Mission on the need for improved and coordinated monitoring of the seal population as well as better training and surveillance of the hunters.
 8. *Planned oil and gas pipeline to China*: IUCN welcomes the commitment from the State Party to require that the EIA prepared by the pipeline contractor should effectively address the protection of the integrity of the site. However, IUCN believes that this issue requires careful attention in the event that important gas reservoirs are found in the Selenga delta and in the event that the State Party decides to exploit such reservoirs.

9. *Pollution from the town of Severobaikalsk*: The report of the State Party reinforces the results of the UNESCO/IUCN Monitoring Mission, which notes that the insufficient treatment of sewage remains an issue of serious concern to the integrity of the site.
10. *Forest Cutting*: The State Party report notes that: wood-logging volumes in the catchment area of Lake Baikal are much lower than they were in the 80's; no clear-cutting operations are taking place in the coastal water-protection zone of Lake Baikal in the Irkutsk Region and the Republic of Buryatia; and all timber is logged under improved environmental felling operations. The UNESCO/IUCN Monitoring Mission also noted official reports that there had been a significant decrease in logging in the Buryat Forest, however the Monitoring Mission report also mentions that satellite imaging shows that considerable clear-cuttings went on in this area after the inscription of Lake Baikal in 1996. This issue remains unclear.
11. *Situation in Pribaikalsky National Park*: IUCN welcomes the information provided by the State Party on the increasing level of protection of this national park that has resulted in a decreasing number of violations related to illegal fishing and hunting.

IUCN notes that a few issues mentioned in the UNESCO/IUCN Monitoring Mission report were not mentioned in the State Party report: atmospheric pollution; fishing; state of reserves and artificial changes of the water table. With respect to the atmospheric pollution, the UNESCO/IUCN Monitoring Mission report noted the need for improved interpretation of data in order to link monitoring results with sources of pollution. IUCN notes that the conservation and development issues at Lake Baikal are complex. IUCN commends the positive efforts of the State Party in dealing with these issues. IUCN notes there remain some areas of disagreement between the UNESCO/IUCN report and the State Party report.

IUCN considers that there remain serious concerns in relation to the State of Conservation of this site, particularly in relation to pollution impacts, including from the Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill; progress with the Federal Law: "On the Protection of Lake Baikal"; establishment of the Baikal Commission, and uncertainties about gas exploration and exploitation in the Selenga Delta. IUCN thus reiterates the recommendation of the UNESCO/IUCN report, that the Bureau recommend the Committee inscribe this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

IUCN wishes to restate that it believes that inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger would be a positive measure to attract international support to enhance the capacity of the State Party to deal with the complex issues related to the conservation of this site. IUCN also reiterates the need to consider the 5 points proposed to the 25th session of the World Heritage Committee for

assessing future progress towards the conservation of this site.

If the Bureau does not recommend inscription of the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger, IUCN recommends the State Party be requested to provide yearly state of conservation reports on progress with the 5 key milestones noted by the Committee in its 25th session, and that a decision on whether or not this site should be inscribed in the List of World Heritage in Danger be considered after a UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission to the site, in 2004.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following recommendation for action by the 26th session of the Committee:

"The Committee notes that there remain serious concerns in relation to the state of conservation of this site, particularly in relation to pollution impacts, including from the Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill, lack of progress with the Federal Law "On the Protection of Lake Baikal", the establishment of the Baikal Commission, and uncertainties about gas exploration and exploitation in the Selenga Delta. Having considered the report provided by the State Party and the comments by IUCN, the Committee decides to include Lake Baikal on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The Bureau furthermore requests the State Party to provide the following: Precise time-schedules for implementation of the first stage of the BPPM Programme in the next 1-2 years; concerning the Baikal Law: a map of the zones, indicating clear and logical borders; for the Baikal Commission: documentation detailing the establishment of the coordination body, including means of establishment, mandate, composition, date of commencement of duties, competence; concerning the Baikal Seals: information on the training of legal hunters and establishment of a sound monitoring regime; and finally for the Gas Exploration in the Selenga Delta: clear statement of intentions if and when gas is found through "scientific research. Furthermore, the Committee recommends that regular meetings between the State Party, the UNESCO Moscow office and IUCN-CIS be encouraged to improve cooperation and communication".

Volcanoes of Kamchatka (Russian Federation)

Inscribed in 1996 on the World Heritage List under criteria N (i) (ii) (iii)

International assistance: N/A

Previous deliberations:

25th session of the Bureau – Chapter V.158-162.

25th session of the Committee – Chapter VIII.95 / Annex IX, page 121.

Main issues:

Fishing pressures; hunting management and monitoring; protected area management and staffing levels; forest fires;

road upgrade; potential gold mining; gas and geothermal projects in vicinity of site; collaboration with local people.

New information:

Following the request by the 25th session of the Committee, the Permanent Delegate of Russia transmitted a report on the situation of the Volcanoes of Kamchatka, dated 1 February 2002. IUCN notes that the report from the State Party is consistent with IUCN information related to gold mining and the fact that no gas pipeline crosses the territory of the World Heritage site.

The State Party reports that salmon poaching in the Kamchatka Peninsula is increasing, however such activity is being held in check in the protected natural areas included in the World Heritage site due to the operation of special services protecting and controlling the use of water resources, as well as certain environmental protection measures and education. IUCN notes however reports of a lack of managerial and staffing levels and capacity in the protected areas, and expresses concern that this affects the ability to control poaching.

IUCN acknowledges that hunting is allowed in Bystrinsky Nature Park under National Park regulations, but notes the critical need to develop systems to manage and monitor hunting to avoid reductions in the population of game species. Further, IUCN notes that the Bystrinsky Nature Park management does not participate in decisions on the delineation of game areas. There is also concern that current staffing levels inhibit the Park management from effectively monitoring hunting.

With respect to the incidence of forest fires, IUCN notes that it continues to receive reports that fires are a problem, and in light of previous comments on staffing levels, is concerned that there is no effective fire management/response system or team.

IUCN welcomes the information that the project for the improvement of the Eso-Palana road is to be the subject of a State EIA, however concerns remain on the secondary impacts that this road may have, through the opening up of opportunities for increased poaching and hunting.

With respect to the construction of the gas pipeline and geothermal power plant, though both outside the site, it is not clear how far from the boundaries both developments lie. Further details should be requested from the State Party on the construction of the pipeline and geothermal power plant and their Environmental Impact Statements.

IUCN welcomes the information that there is no intention to redefine the boundaries of Bystrinski Nature Park beyond the changes undertaken in 1996, and that no gold mining is occurring in the site or adjoining areas.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision for noting by the 26th session of the Committee:

“The Bureau notes that there are two GEF funded projects underway in Kamchatka to address salmon management and to strengthen management of the World Heritage site and welcomes such initiatives. The Bureau requests that the States Party report on any future proposed mining adjacent to the site and the environmental impact assessment process and environmental management measures associated with any such activity. The Bureau notes that there remain some conflicting reports and concerns with the conservation of this site. Therefore it requests further information on: the management and staffing levels and arrangements in the protected areas comprising the site; the system of delineation or distribution of game areas, and the management of hunting, including the extent of involvement of the protected area management/authorities; and the location of the gas pipeline and power plant in relation to the World Heritage site boundary and any impacts on the World Heritage site. The Bureau decides that a mission to the site, as recommended by the World Heritage Committee at its 25th session, be deferred until information on the above aspects is received.”

Doñana National Park (Spain)

Inscribed in 1994 on the World Heritage List under criteria N (ii) (iii) (iv)

International assistance: N/A

Previous deliberations:

25th session of the Bureau – Chapter V.166-167.

25th session of the Committee – Chapter VIII.97 / Annex IX, page 122.

Main issues:

Mining spill in 1998; species decline; pilgrimage impacts; grazing impacts, illegal water extraction; plans for up-stream port expansion.

New information:

The State Party informed the Centre via letter that its report would only be available after 15 February 2002. The letter notified the Centre of a meeting on 14 February 2002 of the Joint Committee for Management of Doñana National Park, and the State Party's intention to provide a report on the state of conservation of the site following this meeting. The full report has been made available to IUCN. IUCN will provide a verbal response at the Bureau meeting in April 2002.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine the information from IUCN at the time of its session and may wish to take decisions as appropriate.

St Kilda (United Kingdom)

Inscribed in 1986 on the World Heritage List under criteria N (iii) (iv)

International assistance: N/A

Previous deliberations:

25th session of the Bureau – Chapter V.168-169.

25th session of the Committee – Chapter VIII.97 / Annex IX, page 122.

Main issues:

Oil exploration in the Atlantic frontier, protection of marine area, management plan.

New information:

A detailed report on the site has been provided via letter and electronic mail from the Department for Culture, Media and Sports dated 4 February 2002. IUCN notes that the report states that the results from the seabed survey are being analysed and a report will be produced as soon as possible. These results will inform the development of the proposal for an extension to the St Kilda World Heritage Site as well as providing information for the site to be designated, and therefore protected under European legislation, as a Special Area of Conservation.

It is still proposed to complete a consultation draft of the management plan, incorporating both natural and cultural elements of the Site, by June 2002. The maritime aspects of the plan will reflect the obligations of the Natural sites that will be able to call on the full backing of legislation to enable enforcement. If the new boundaries extend beyond the six-mile territorial limit this will raise issues relating to the Law of the Sea administered by the International Maritime Organisation.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision for noting by the 26th session of the Committee:

“The Bureau notes that no substantial new information is forthcoming, that the process of producing the management plan is ongoing, and looks forward to the proposals being provided in June 2002.”

Giant’s Causeway and Causeway Coast (United Kingdom)

Inscribed in 1986 on the World Heritage List under criteria N (i) (iii)

International assistance: N/A

Previous deliberations:

25th session of the Committee – Chapter VIII.97 / Annex IX, page 123.

Main issues:

Piecemeal development adjacent to site; lack of buffer zone; visitor centre re-development; management plan preparation.

New information:

A detailed report on the site has been provided via letter and electronic mail from the Department for Culture, Media and Sports dated 11 February 2002. IUCN states that the report notes that the management plan for the Area

of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) which has the World Heritage site as its core, is now under preparation. An issues paper is being prepared for public consultation by March 2002, which will be followed by a draft plan in June 2002. A final version of the plan is then to be lodged with the Department of Environment of Northern Ireland (DOENI) in November 2002. DOENI intends to publish the agreed AONB management plan in January 2003. Through the United Kingdom Observer, DOENI undertakes to keep the Bureau informed on progress on the plan.

An advisory group has been established to oversee the preparation of the AONB management plan and representation on this group has been sought from IUCN and agreed from the State Party. The first working meeting of the advisory group is scheduled for 15 February 2002.

The report notes the decision of Moyle District Council, taken 21 January 2002, to again consider selling its property within the World Heritage Site (the United Kingdom Observer in Helsinki had informed the Bureau that the Council had taken a decision on the 4th December 2001 not to sell those lands). Two parties who had previously submitted bids for the property (the National Trust and a private developer) have been asked to re-affirm their respective bids, and the Council was to make a decision on the matter on the 6 February 2002.

The property in question is 3.6 ha of land within the site that is owned by the Council and houses the current visitors centre and car park. The visitor centre was partly destroyed by fire in 2000. The National Trust, the owner of the rest of the World Heritage Site, leases part of the visitors centre from the Council. In early 2001 the Council had offered the site for development. The State Party report notes that a number of planning applications have recently been lodged relating to the area immediately adjacent to the World Heritage site. These applications will be determined under the Northern Ireland planning process.

DOENI reiterates its determination to protect the setting of this World Heritage site from inappropriate development. It notes that the main body of the WHS is a designated National Nature Reserve, which is not, itself, under threat. This National Nature Reserve is directly protected by separate Northern Ireland legislation (the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands Order (Northern Ireland) 1985).

IUCN received some reports expressing concern with threats to the integrity of the site, and more specifically on the following issues:

- Ongoing piecemeal development/applications and poor controls on development;
- Absence of an integrated management plan;
- Lack of a statutory development plan which recognises the unique nature of the World Heritage site;

- Concern that the current planning system only considers each application on its own merit, but does not consider cumulative impacts.

One of these reports notes that the tenderer for the visitor centre is the same developer who is already undertaking development in the land adjacent to the site (conversion of a listed building to a public house), and has three other applications in train (Arts, Crafts and Cultural Centre; 60 room hotel and separate tea room).

IUCN has received reports, including the State Party letter of 11 February, that the decision to sell the land was again reversed by the Moyle District Council on 6 February 2002, and the Council intends to take the lead in redeveloping the visitor facilities.

The “Planning” issue of 15 February 2002 includes an article and editorial on the Giant’s Causeway site, which cover the concerns raised by the National Trust and the financial difficulties faced by the Moyle District Council in building a visitor’s centre. The Trust is lobbying the government to ensure all councils adopt management plans as supplementary planning guidance, that World Heritage status be recognised in planning policy, and for sites to be protected by buffer zones. The editorial questions the worth, authority and influence of World Heritage status and suggests it acts as a magnet for development.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision for noting by the 26th session of the Committee:

“The Bureau reiterates its concerns with piecemeal development and the absence of a clear buffer zone with special planning provisions which would prevent such development taking place. There is potential for cumulative impacts which could cause irreversible damage to the setting and environmental context of the site. The Bureau notes that the State Party report in December mentioned that the DOENI “has commenced preparation of the Northern Area Plan which will provide the statutory planning framework for development in the area up to 2016. The plan will formulate local planning policies accordingly. As an interim measure, and in advance of the planned adoption of this plan in 2003, the current policy provides for a 4 kilometre radius around the World Heritage site within which all development proposals will be subject to particular scrutiny.” The Bureau expresses its concern that knowledge of the two planning processes underway may be intensifying development proposals around the site, and requests information from the State Party as to whether the AONB and normal planning processes provide sufficient protection of the area adjacent to the site. The Bureau encourages the State Party to delineate a buffer zone as part of the Northern Area Plan and AONB management plan processes. Finally, the Bureau urges the State Party to implement the 4 km special zone during the drafting period of the Northern Area Plan, and to consider a moratorium on commercial development until such time as both the AONB

management plan and the Northern Area Plan are further progressed. “

Latin America and the Caribbean

Cocos Island (Costa Rica)

Inscribed in 1997 on the World Heritage List under criteria N (ii) (iv)

International Assistance:

Technical assistance (US\$ 39,965)

Previous deliberations:N/A

Main issues:

Illegal fishing

New information:

The Secretariat received information about significantly increased illegal fishing within the Cocos Island Marine Reserve that took place in October 2001. In answer to the Secretariat’s inquiry, the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica informed that the situation was a result of a number of unpredictable factors:

1. A cold marine current came unusually close to the Island, bringing with it a huge number of tuna fish. This attracted a large number of fishing vessels to move close to the island to capture the tuna;
2. Abnormally severe weather conditions forced many of the fishing vessels to look for a refuge at the island;
3. The same severe marine conditions made it impossible for the patrol boat of the Island to operate in the Marine Reserve to control this situation. This was aggravated by the fact that a number of technical problems were also detected on this patrol boat.

The report from the State Party notes that in order to control this situation the Ministry of the Environment and Energy established a close liaison with the National Coast Guard Service (NCGS), obtaining its support to launch three patrolling trips around the Island during November 2001. This was essential to finally control the situation created by too many boats moving into the Marine Reserve.

The report mentions that as a positive outcome of this unexpected situation, the Ministry of the Environment, through the Executive Decree NO. 29834, extended the boundaries of the Marine Reserve from 8.2 nautical miles to 12 nautical miles around the Island. Also, cooperation with the National Coast Guard Service has been enhanced and the number of patrolling activities around the Island by NCGS boats has increased substantially.

Further, the report notes that the Ministry of the Environment is working with the national legal authorities to submit to the National Court 14 of the 46 cases of illegal fishing reported in the last 4 years, and the Ministry and the NCGS are discussing the possibility of 6 new NCGS officers working permanently at Cocos Island.

A letter received from the State Party on 13 February 2002 informed that the Court in Puntarenas imposed a US\$300,000 fine against the owners of the pirate vessel *San José I*, arrested 22 August 2001 by the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society ship *Ocean Warrior* while illegally fishing in the site. The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society is currently preparing a ship for a return to Cocos Island. The society is seeking donations of two small fast boats, a radar system and electrical generators to give to the Cocos Island National Park Ranger station.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision for noting by the 26th session of the Committee:

“The Bureau commends the State Party on its efforts to achieve protection of the site with limited resources, and the forming of a strategic partnership with the National Coast Guard Service and Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. It notes that the recent prosecution of the Ecuadorian vessel underlines the commitment of the State Party and sets a precedent for further prosecutions. The Bureau recognises the continuing financial constraints preventing the full enforcement of the existing laws and regulations and the courage and dedication of those rangers who have been tackling the poaching threat for years. The Bureau congratulates the State Party on the extension of the Marine Park boundaries to 12 nautical miles, and, in light of the desire of the State Party to extend the boundaries of the World Heritage site to be commensurate with these new boundaries, requests that a proposal be submitted in due course, including a map of the extension. The Bureau fully supports the efforts by The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, particularly in seeking donations of fast boats, a radar system and other equipment to give to the Cocos Island National Park Ranger station. If necessary, the State Party may wish to consider requesting additional assistance from the World Heritage Fund.”