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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-seventh session

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room XII
30 June – 5 July 2003

Item 7B of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

CORRIGENDUM

This document contains: (I) Revised Draft Decisions (the background concerning the revised Draft Decisions can be found in document WHC-03/27.COM/7B) and (II) New State of conservation reports of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.

I. The Draft Decisions for the World Heritage properties mentioned below have been revised since the preparation of document WHC-03/27.COM/7B and can be found in this document:

- Draft Decision **27 COM 7 (b) 2** (Taï National Park, Côte d'Ivoire)
- Draft Decision **27 COM 7 (b) 3** (Comoé National Park, Cote d'Ivoire)
- Draft Decision **27 COM 7 (b) 5** (W National Park of Niger, Niger)
- Draft Decision **27 COM 7 (b) 15** (Pirin National Park, Bulgaria)
- Draft Decision **27 COM 7 (b) 29** (Mount Emei Scenic Area, including Leshan Giant Buddha Scenic Area (China)
- Draft Decision **27 COM 7 (b) 31** (Lamu Old Town, Kenya)
- Draft Decision **27 COM 7 (b) 45** (Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa, China)
- Draft Decision **27 COM 7 (b) 46** (Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya, India)
- Draft Decision **27 COM 7 (b) 53** (Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha, Nepal)
- Draft Decision **27 COM 7 (b) 54** (Seokguram Grotto and Bulguska Temple, Republic of Korea)
- Draft Decision **27 COM 7 (b) 82** (Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites, United Kingdom)
- Draft Decision **27 COM 7 (b) 89** (Port, Fortresses and Group of Monuments, Cartagena, Colombia)

II. 3 State of conservation reports of the following properties have been added to the document:

- Draft Decision **27 COM 7 (b) 103** (Ouadi Qadisha, Lebanon)
- Draft Decision **27 COM 7 (b) 104** (Medina of Fes, Morocco)
- Draft Decision **27 COM 7 (b) 105** (Taj Mahal,Agra Fort and Fatepur Sikhri, India)

I. Revised Draft Decisions

A. NATURAL HERITAGE

AFRICA

2. Taï National Park (Côte d'Ivoire)

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Recalling the decision made at its 26th session requesting the State Party in particular to provide a detailed report of the wildlife poaching situation at the site and urging the State Party to invite a mission to Taï National Park to assess the state of conservation of the site with the aim of informing the Committee whether the site should be placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
2. *Noting the recent report of the State Party to the World Heritage Centre, received 5 May 2003, which highlights that the situation at this site has deteriorated and is now in real danger due to civil unrest;*
3. *Expresses its serious concern over the potential impacts of the current civil unrest and the increasing level of poaching on the integrity of the site;*
4. *Decides to inscribe the Taï National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*
5. *Requests the State Party to submit a detailed report on the state of conservation of the site by 1 February 2004, particularly addressing the impact of poaching on the site, the re-opening of hunting throughout the country and the effect of civil unrest on the integrity of the site;*
6. *Welcomes the State Party's invitation for a mission, as requested by its 26th session, and requests IUCN and the World Heritage Centre to carry out a mission as soon as the security situation permits with the aim of reviewing the state of conservation of the site and developing a plan of rehabilitation measures, which would include benchmarks for removing the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
7. *Encourages the donor agencies such as the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and the European Union, already assisting the State Party in management and development of Taï, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to continue their support, and further encourages other donors to mobilize their resources in support of Côte d'Ivoire sites.*

3. Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire)

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Recalling the decision made at its 23rd session requesting the State Party to consider inviting a mission to Comoé National Park during 2000 to review threats to the integrity of the site and plan appropriate emergency rehabilitation measures and to submit a detailed state of conservation report to enable the Committee to consider including this property in the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
2. *Noting the recent report of the State Party to the World Heritage Centre, received 5 May 2003, which highlights that the situation at this site has deteriorated and is now in real danger due to civil unrest;*
3. *Expresses its serious concern over (a) the potential impacts of the current civil unrest on the integrity of the site, (b) the decrease of large mammal populations due to increased and uncontrolled poaching and (c) the lack of effective management mechanisms;*
4. *Decides to inscribe the Comoé National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*
5. *Welcomes the State Party's invitation for a mission, as requested by its 23rd session, and requests IUCN and the World Heritage Centre to carry out a mission as soon as the security situation permits with the aim of reviewing the state of conservation of the site and developing a plan of urgent rehabilitation measures, which would include benchmarks for removing the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger.*
6. *Encourages the donor agencies such as the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and the European Union, already assisting the State Party in management and development of Comoé, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to continue their support, and further encourages other donors to mobilize their resources in support of Côte d'Ivoire sites.*

5. W National Park of Niger (Niger)

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Notes with concern the proposed construction of the Dyondyonga electricity dam on the Mekrou River, on the border between the Republics of Niger and Benin, within the W National Park World Heritage site in Niger and the proposed World Heritage site in Benin, currently deferred by the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee (April 2002);*
2. *Recognises the importance of finding solutions to the urgent need for electricity in Niger and Benin but*

urges the States Parties and funding agencies concerned to seek alternative solutions to that currently proposed;

3. Encourages the States Parties of Niger, Benin and Burkina Faso to cooperate with IUCN, UEMOA (Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine), Ramsar, the regional programme ECOPAS (Ecosystème protégés en Afrique Sahélienne) and the Centre in order to seek the most appropriate solution, and to seek assistance from the World Heritage Fund as necessary for the coordination of meetings and studies;

4. Requests the authorities of Benin and Niger to provide by the 1 February 2004 and before any construction takes place, a detailed report on the proposed construction of a dam on the Mekrou river and the results of a detailed independent environmental and social impact assessment according to international standards;

5. Notes that the proposed construction of the dam is a serious potential threat to the integrity of the site;

6. Defers the decision on the inscription of the W National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger until its 28th session in 2004, after an assessment of the two most concerned States Parties' response and the outcomes of any missions or meetings held with the States Parties.

EUROPE / NORTH AMERICA

15. Pirin National Park (Bulgaria)

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recalls its decision to defer the inscription of Pirin National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger until its 27th session, with decision on this to be based on an assessment of the State Party's response to the UNESCO / IUCN mission report;

2. Welcomes the State Party's report as requested by the 26th session of the Committee and notes progress made in preparing the management plan for Pirin National Park, with support provided by the Swiss Government;

3. Urges the State Party to adopt the final management plan by the end of 2003, as noted in the report, so that it constitutes a legal document, and to provide a copy in English to the WH Centre and IUCN along with a plan for implementation, including the allocation of sufficient resources, by 1 February 2004. Any development within the World Heritage site should comply with this Management Plan.

4. Requests the Centre and IUCN to schedule a meeting in Bulgaria to review the situation with the authorities concerned.

5. Requests the State Party to provide by 1 February 2004, a precise map of the boundary of the World Heritage site as inscribed in 1983, including exact details of the existing and proposed Ski Development Zone, as well as a detailed report on (a) ongoing efforts to develop effective management mechanisms, (b) the restoration of the forest ecosystem of disturbed areas, (c) the creation of a Scientific Advisory Body, and (d) any developments of the proposed Ski Development Zone.

B. MIXED HERITAGE

ASIA-PACIFIC

29. Mount Emei Scenic Area, including Leshan Giant Buddha Scenic Area (China)

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the findings and recommendations of the ICOMOS monitoring mission to the World Heritage property of Mount Emei and the Leshan Giant Buddha;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the Chinese authorities for facilitating the ICOMOS mission and for providing further information regarding the tourism development projects in the buffer zone of the property;

3. Requests the State Party to:

- strengthen the management mechanisms and the effective implementation of existing legal provisions for the protection of the property, including the enhancement of co-operation with local stakeholders in its management and conservation.
- provide the WH Centre with a progress report by 1 February 2004.

4. Requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS and IUCN) to review the information provided by the State Party and co-operate with the authorities to find ways and means to enhance the state of conservation of the property.

C. CULTURAL HERITAGE

AFRICA

31. Lamu Old Town (Kenya)

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Commends the government of Kenya for its commitment to address the concerns over the physical developments on the Lamu Island and welcomes the Kenya's availability to cooperate with UNESCO and ICOMOS for a mission to Lamu;*
2. *Invites the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to cooperate with the State Party with a view to undertaking a monitoring mission to ascertain the state of conservation of Lamu;*
3. *Further invites the Centre and ICOMOS to identify needs for assistance from the World Heritage Fund and from other sources for the rehabilitation activities of the site;*
4. *Requests a report on the state of conservation of Lamu and a programme for the rehabilitation of Lamu to be submitted to the 28th session of the Committee in 2004.*

ASIA-PACIFIC

45. Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa (China)

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 45

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined the findings and recommendations of the UNESCO-ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions which were undertaken to the Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace in close consultation with the Chinese authorities in October 2002 and April 2003;*
2. *Expresses its appreciation to the Government of China for facilitating the UNESCO-ICOMOS missions;*
3. *Requests the State Party to continue making efforts to mitigate the negative impact on the World Heritage value of this property caused by development pressures, and in particular recommends the following to this end:*

***Institutional requirements:** The conservation challenges and potentials in Lhasa would benefit from a management and development agency to co-ordinate activities in Old Lhasa, which could*

be responsible for the management of Old Lhasa and the WH properties. It is recommended that such an agency be established to raise and administer funds from national and international donors.

***Conservation, planning and urban development:** Taking into consideration the on-going processes of change and urban development, it is recommended that a review of the urban development plan is undertaken to address integrated territorial urban conservation challenges of Lhasa. The current conservation plan of 1995-2015 should be made available to the public to increase their appreciation of the plan. A mechanism to periodically review the relevance of the conservation plan should be built in the planning process itself.*

***Protection:** In view of the rapid change in the character of Old Lhasa, all remaining historic traditional buildings in Lhasa should be protected at the level of the Autonomous Region or at the national level.*

***Demolition of historic traditional buildings:** All on-going demolition should be stopped including that to replace traditional construction in the Shöl area. Demolition of the traditional buildings and replacement with all-concrete construction should not be permitted to continue, and the State Party is requested to inform the World Heritage Committee of its policy on the conservation of the historic urban fabric of Lhasa.*

***Conservation awareness:** It is recommended that the management authorities set up a programme to encourage community participation and increase awareness of heritage conservation needs amongst the local residents.*

***Protective areas and buffer zones:** It is recommended that the management authorities evaluate and redefine the current World Heritage protective boundaries and management guidelines pertaining to the Potala Palace, Jokhang Temple (including the Barkor Historic Area) and Nobulingka, taking into consideration the heritage values of the surrounding landscape and environment.*

***Tourism:** In view of the potential income generation opportunities from the tourism industry for financing conservation work in Lhasa, the heritage management authorities are encouraged to develop training activities and provide guidance on sustainable tourism planning at the WH properties in Lhasa.*

***International outreach:** An exchange programme between the WH site managers in Lhasa and the*

managers of WH properties in other countries is encouraged to develop on-site and international co-operation activities. The Chinese authorities may consider the organization of a study tour to successfully managed WH properties focusing on the selected issues identified above.

4. Underlines the importance of introducing better design that is compatible and harmonious to the historic environment of the Lhasa City;

5. Encourages the State Party to elaborate design guidelines for the built heritage environment, including urban design elements, so as to increase the capacity of local urban planners, architects, and designers to follow World Heritage conservation guidelines.

6. Further encourages the Chinese authorities to develop an articulated strategic programme for the restoration and renovation of the historic fabric of Old Lhasa based upon an analysis of the heritage values of the historic structures. This analysis should assist the authorities in ranking the buildings according to their importance. Therefore, the information should be made public. The Lhasa Municipality of the Tibetan Autonomous Region is therefore invited to provide information about all the conservation and renovation work in Lhasa to the World Heritage Committee.

7. Requests UNESCO and ICOMOS to assist the Chinese authorities in the assessment and updating of the comprehensive conservation plan to make the most appropriate use of the Shöl Area, which forms part of the administrative section of the Potala Palace so as to maintain the traditional urban fabric of the area while changing the use of the traditional buildings.

8. Expresses its readiness to consider an international assistance request to support national and local efforts to address the above recommendations. .

9. Requests the State Party to take appropriate action to follow up the findings and recommendations of the UNESCO-ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions in a concerted manner and to submit a progress report by 1 February 2004, on the measures taken and long-term development strategy proposed for the property, for examination by the Committee at its 28th session in 2004.

46. Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya (India)

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 46

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the state of conservation of the property for the first time since its inscription on the World Heritage List in 2002,

2. Recalling the concern at the time of inscription concerning the tourism and pilgrimage pressures facing the property,

3. Noting that the absence of a functioning comprehensive management plan has persisted,

4. Expresses concern over the continuing tensions and occasional conflicts between local stakeholders, in particular the religious groups who wish to use this important religious World Heritage property;

5. Recognizing the associated heritage values of the surrounding areas of the Mahabodhi Temple which are intrinsically linked to the enlightenment of Buddha which are not within the core nor the buffer zone of the existing WH property;

6. Requests the State Party to enlarge the World Heritage protected area to ensure that the protective core and buffer zones are meaningful and effective for the conservation of the values of the property;

7. Requests the State Party to urgently commence the elaboration of a comprehensive management plan which adequately integrates:

a. Local community and stakeholders' dialogue and co-operation;

b. Protection, conservation and preservation of the heritage values and assets of this sacred property;

c. Control of development activities within and surrounding the property related to tourism and pilgrimage activities;

8. Decides to examine the state of conservation of the property at its 28th session.

53. Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (Nepal)

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 53

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the report on the state of conservation of the property and the new information provided by the WH Centre and the State Party;

2. Notes that the construction of the new Maya Devi Temple was completed;

3. Reiterates its request to the State Party to provide information concerning the management mechanisms which ensure the protection of the WH values of the property;

4. Requests that a report on the state of conservation of the property be submitted by 1 February 2004 for examination at its 28th session in June 2004.

54. Seokguram Grotto and Bulguksa Temple (Republic of Korea)

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 54

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Takes note* of the updated information provided by the State Party and the World Heritage Centre on the state of conservation of the Seokguram Grotto and Bulguksa Temple;
2. *Congratulates* the State Party on the decision to withdraw the proposal to build a new structure within the vicinity of the World Heritage property of Seokguram Grotto to ensure the conservation of the authenticity and integrity of the heritage area and in particular, the pristine natural setting of the property.

EUROPE / NORTH AMERICA

82. Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites (United Kingdom)

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 82

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Taking note* of the changes made to the construction technique for the tunnel;
2. *Welcomes* the State Party's decision to construct a bored tunnel, which is less damaging for the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated sites World Heritage property than a cut-and-cover tunnel;
3. *Requests* the State Party to provide a progress report by 1st February 2004 for review by the 28th session of the Committee.

LATIN AMERICA / CARIBBEAN

89. Port, Fortresses and Group of Monuments, Cartagena (Colombia)

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 89

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Takes note* of the report provided by the State Party concerning the State of Conservation of Port, Fortresses and Group of Monuments,
2. *Recognizes* the need to provide for proper on-site visitor facilities, such as public bathrooms,

3. *Recalls*, however, paragraph 56 of the Operational Guidelines, which states that "the World Heritage Committee invites the State Parties to the Convention [...] to inform the Committee, through the UNESCO Secretariat, of their intention to undertake or to authorize in an area protected under the Convention major restorations or new constructions which may affect the World Heritage value of the property."

4. *Commends* the State Party for inviting a joint UNESCO-ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, which took place from 30 May to 3 June 2003, to assess the necessity and impact of the finalized and foreseen interventions on the authenticity and integrity of the site;

5. *Requests* the State Party to submit a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, by 1 February 2004, for review by the Committee at its 28th session.

(II) New State of Conservation reports

C. CULTURAL HERITAGE

ABAB STATES

103. Ouadi Qadisha (Lebanon)
Inscribed 1998 criteria C (iii) (iv)

Previous debates: N/A

Previous International Assistance: N/A

New information

In June 2003, the Centre organized and carried out a mission to the site, in close collaboration with the responsible Lebanese authorities, in order to assess its state of conservation. The findings of the mission can be resumed as follows:

- Legal framework

The site is not protected by any legal instrument at the national level. No building regulations exist within the perimeter of the WH property. As a consequence, according to the current legislation, any building can be constructed within the site if a permit is granted. In addition, four new constructions have been illegally erected within the site, without any building permit.

- Management

The Management Plan presented at the time of the inscription of the site on the World Heritage List is not operational. The villages developing on the edge of the Valley have a negative visual impact on the site, do not have a proper waste water treatment system, and in some cases are built on unstable soil, constituting a serious threat for the inhabitants and the site itself.

At the request of the General Directorate for the Antiquities (DGA), the site should be included in the scope of a study carried out by the General Directorate for

Urban Planning, with a view to determine the appropriate land use of the area (building coefficients should not exceed 0,01-0,05). Moreover, the Mission was also informed of a proposed project, funded by the Government of Japan, for the tourist development of the Valley of Qadisha, for an amount of one million dollars.

The Mission met with the Minister of Culture, the Minister of Environment and the Maronite Patriarch. During these meetings, the national authorities have all recognized the urgent need to designate the World Heritage site of Oadi Qadisha as a National Reserve, thus ensuring its legal protection, and to develop an appropriate Management Plan. They also stressed the need to integrate into the objectives of the Management Plan concerns for the socio-economic context around the site, with particular reference to the importance of ensuring that the site constitutes a sustainable resource for the well-being of the local population.

Draft Decision : 27 COM 7 (b) 103

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Takes note of the report on the state of conservation of Oadi Qadisha World Heritage site presented by the Secretariat;*

2. *Invites the State Party, in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre, to establish an adequate legal framework for the protection of the site, designating the World Heritage site of Oadi Qadisha as a National Reserve, and to develop a comprehensive Management Plan;*

3. *Invites the State Party to consider the possibility to establishing an Inter-ministerial Committee to coordinate and oversee the implementation of the future Management Plan;*

4. *Requests the State Party, with respect to the illegal constructions within the perimeter of the World Heritage property, to re-establish the integrity of the site and take all measures to ensure its protection.*

104. Medina of Fes (Morocco)

Inscribed 1981 criteria C (ii) (v)

Previous debates: N/A

Previous International Assistance: N/A

New information

In April 2003, the Centre received information concerning the partial covering of the Oued Boukhareb, within the Medina of Fes, by a concrete slab of around 250 Meters. This intervention, apparently carried out without the approval of the responsible authorities, appears to be the first step towards the erection of a series of shops and

would have a number of negative consequences. These include:

- Hydrological risk, owing to the possibility of exceptional rains which could cause floods upstream or destroy the new structure;

- Environmental risk, since the main waste-water collectors of the Medina are now buried under the structure and cannot be inspected or maintained;

- Cultural risk, as a result of the impact of this new construction on the Medina and particularly on the two historic bridges of Terrafine and Binlamdoun.

On 29 May 2003 and 10 June 2003, the World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Division of Cultural heritage have written to the Moroccan authorities, requesting further information on this project.

Draft Decision : 27 COM 7 (b) 104

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Takes note of the report presented by the Secretariat, concerning the execution of a concrete slab, which would cover the Oued Boukhareb, within the Medina of Fes, and negatively impact on the World Heritage property;*

2. *Invites the State Party to provide information to the Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, on the above-mention work, and subsequently to submit a report on the progress of the matter by 1 February 2004 for the consideration of the Committee at its 28th session.*

ASIA-PACIFIC

105. Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Fatepur Sikhri (India)

Year of Inscription on the World Heritage List: 1983 under criteria C (i) and (iii) respectively.

Previous international assistance:

Emergency Assistance in 1995 (US\$ 17,865)

Technical Cooperation in 1986 (US\$ 20,788)

Previous deliberations:

21st extraordinary session of the Bureau – Chapter III (c)

21st session of the WH Com – Chapter VII.55

New Information:

In September 1996, the “Taj Protection Mission Management Board” (TPMMB) was set up as per suggestions of the Supreme Court of India for the environmental protection of the Taj Mahal. Consequently the TPMMB was formed under the Chairpersonship of the Chief Secretary of the State Government of Uttar Pradesh. The TPMMB was to approve various schemes for the protection of the Taj Mahal and request the release of funds from the Central Government Ministry of Environment & Forests.

In mid June 2003, the WH Centre received numerous press releases concerning a large-scale commercial development plan in the immediate vicinity of the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort World Heritage properties along the Yamuna River. The proposed plan, according to the press, included large-scale landfill of the Yamuna River bank to construct shopping complexes and tourism facilities. Accordingly, since November 2002, the TPMMB had begun the implementation of a US\$ 35 million 'Taj Heritage Corridor Project', without consulting other agencies responsible for the conservation, management and development of the properties.

Reportedly, this "Taj Heritage Corridor Project" proposes an alternate access to the Agra Fort and Taj Mahal WH properties, envisaging commercial development along 2km of the riverfront between the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort. 1.6 km of 1.5 metre-high landfill along the Yamuna River bank has reportedly already been completed at the cost of US\$ 6.9 million.

The adverse impact of this new development to the two WH properties so far appears to have been caused by the alteration in water table and change in the flow of the Yamuna River, and in particular, may have affected the structural stability foundations of the Taj Mahal. The Taj Mahal's superstructure base was designed and constructed on the Yamuna River's sand taking into full consideration the natural hydraulic pressure and river flows. While the monument has very slowly and gradually been sinking with the passage of time, this process may have been accelerated, according to some reports, due to the recent changes of the river flow and hydraulic pressure caused by the mass landfill in the immediate vicinity of the monument's base.

In addition, altering the Yamuna River course may cause irreversible damage to cultural heritage properties located along the river between the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort, which are intrinsically linked with the heritage values and history of these two properties. These include, the Etmad-ud-Daulah Tomb (1622-25 A.D.), Chini-ka-Rauza Tomb (1639 A.D.), Sarai Nur Jahan Mughal Inn (early 17th century A.D.), Battis Khamba monument (1615-20 A.D.) and Mughal Gardens such as Mahtab bagh, Ram bagh, Buland bagh, Zuhra and Sayyid-ka-bagh.

This TPMMB project appears to be in direct contradiction of the Agra Master Plan drafted by the Town and Country Planning Department of the Uttar Pradesh State Government with the Agra Development Authority (ADA) in 2001, which designated the WH properties and their surroundings as a 'National Park', distinct from residential or commercial use. No environmental or heritage impact assessment studies appear to have been undertaken before the design and execution of the project. Moreover it appears that none of the concerned authorities, such as the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the Central Water Commission (CWC), the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the Agra Development Authority (ADA) and the

Agra City Municipal Corporation (ACMC), were consulted during the design and execution of the project.

On 18 June 2003, the WH Centre requested the authorities via the Permanent Delegation of India to UNESCO for clarification and detailed information on the proposed plan and its execution.

Issues:

Urban and tourism development pressure
Absence of communication and co-ordination between concerned authorities responsible for the conservation, management and development of the properties.

Draft Decision : 27 COM 7 (b) 105

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Expresses grave concern concerning the report on the large-scale tourism development plan in the immediate vicinity of the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort WH properties, which may irreversibly negatively impact upon the World Heritage value of the two properties, as well as the heritage values of the related properties in the Agra and Yamuna River areas.*
2. *Requests the WH Centre and ICOMOS to undertake a Joint Reactive Monitoring Mission to hold consultations with the State Party concerning this development project with a view to elaborate corrective measures for enhanced conservation, management and development of the WH properties of Taj Mahal and Agra Fort.*
3. *Requests the State Party to reconsider the on-going implementation of the project based upon a full analysis and assessment of the impact such major development plan would cause upon the WH properties of Taj Mahal and Agra Fort, while simultaneously assessing the damage already caused by the landfill in the Yamuna River between the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort.*
4. *Requests the State Party to consider establishing a co-ordinated and effective management authority for the WH properties in the Agra area, which would include the three properties of Agra Fort, Taj Mahal, and Fatepur Sikhri.*
5. *Requests the State Party to submit a report before 1 February 2004 on the state of conservation of the World Heritage properties Taj Mahal and Agra Fort for the Committee's examination at its 28th session in June 2004.*