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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Thirty first Session

Christchurch, New Zealand
23 June – 2 July 2007

Item 18 of the Provisional Agenda: International Assistance

18A. Examination of International Assistance requests

SUMMARY

The World Heritage Centre received two requests for International Assistance as of 1 February 2007 for decision by the World Heritage Committee.

The Committee is requested to take decision concerning the approval of the requests presented in this document.

Draft Decision: 31 COM 18A, see Point II

I. INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTS

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE

TRAINING AND RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

- Cultural Properties

N°	Region	State Party - Name of activity	Amount requested (USD)	Amount recommended for approval (USD)
1	Asia	India (supported by Afghanistan, Iran, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Pakistan) Regional training Workshop for conservation and management of Central Asian and Mogul architecture	59,600	59,600

Funds available as of 21 March 2007 for approval under Training and research assistance/Cultural properties: USD 226,111

TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION

- Natural Properties

N°	Region	State Party - Name of activity	Amount requested (USD)	Amount recommended for approval (USD)
2	Asia	Viet Nam – Ha Long Bay Management Department Institutional Strengthening Project	65,780	65,780

Funds available as of 21 March 2007 for approval under Technical co-operation/Natural properties: USD 117,167

Total amount of requests submitted for approval by the Committee: USD 125,380

REQUEST N° 1
Training and research assistance
Cultural Heritage
Asia

A. Description

State Party: INDIA (Low-income economy as per UNECOSOC and World Bank)

Status of dues to the World Heritage Fund as at 31 December 2006: all dues paid

Name of Activity: Regional Training Workshop for Conservation and Management of Central Asian and Mogul architecture

Amount requested: USD 59,600

Previous contributions from the World Heritage Fund for this property/activity:

Not applicable, but training was provided to Bukhara (USD 34,000 in 1995 and USD 21,960 in 2003) and to Samarkand (USD 30,000 in 2000).

B. Background

India has a number of exceptional World Heritage properties representing Mogul architecture. Three of them are located in and around the city of Agra: the Taj Mahal, the Agra Fort, and Fatehpur Sikri. The architectural style and ornamental designs characterizing these Indian World Heritage properties can also be found at World Heritage properties in Central Asia, including Persia, due to an intense exchange of building and conservation techniques that took place between India and Central Asia between the 14th and 18th century.

In contrast to the connection between Central Asian and Mogul architecture in the past, there is presently no cooperation between the heritage professionals or craftsmen working at the World Heritage properties in the region. A regional training programme is proposed to establish contacts and subsequently a network for continuous exchange in the region.

In this context, an itinerant regional training workshop of ten days shall take place in late 2007 at the World Heritage properties of Samarkand and Bukhara in Uzbekistan and at the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri in India. It shall include cultural-heritage professionals from Afghanistan, India, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

C. Objective(s)

- 1) To raise awareness on the intimate relationship between Central Asian and Mogul architecture and to foster cross-cultural exchange on traditional conservation practices and management systems, notably by ensuring exchange of knowledge and skills of local communities/craftsmen;
- 2) To build capacity for cultural-heritage professionals in charge of these World Heritage properties of Central Asian and Mogul architecture in the conservation and management of these sites;
- 3) To initiate regional exchange in the Central and South Asian region on the management and conservation of Central Asian and Mogul architecture;

- 4) To enhance the quality of visitors' centres and site museums at these properties through reflecting the connection of these World Heritage properties and the results of the cross-cultural exchange in its exhibitions.

D. Project plan

Itinerant workshop of a total of ten days in late 2007: five days in Samarkand and Bukhara and five days in Agra (sites of Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri). The evaluation of the activity will be undertaken in early 2008 following the closure of the workshop.

E. Work plan

A total of 22 experts from Afghanistan, India, Iran, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Pakistan shall discuss conservation and traditional practices, as well as management challenges, and undertake a joint case study. Main issues to be discussed will be: the conservation of ceramic tiles and traditional tile-making today; techniques of stone and brick conservation; management systems, as well as visitors' centres. The workshop will result in an outcome document summarizing the discussions on conservation practices and management systems. It will also include an action plan for further cooperation between the State Parties in this context, priorities and timeframe of action.

F. Expected outcomes

Enhanced conservation and management of World Heritage properties in Central and South Asian regions, notably:

- 1) Awareness amongst site managers on the regional connection of Central Asian and Mogul architecture enhanced and cross-cultural exchange on this subject initiated;
- 2) Capacity of site managers in the conservation and management of Central Asian and Mogul architecture built through enhanced knowledge of conservation practices and management systems in the region for this specific type of World Heritage;
- 3) Regional cooperation on the conservation and management of Central Asian and Mogul architecture initiated and the creation of a network of site managers and cultural-heritage professionals dealing with this heritage installed;
- 4) Quality of visitors' centres and site museums enhanced.

G. Budget

Total activity budget (in USD):				59,600
National or other contributions (in USD):				in kind
Amount requested from the World Heritage Fund (in USD):				59,600
	unit price	days	number (persons)	Total (USD)
1. International Travel				
India-Uzbekistan-India	800		4	3,200
Uzbekistan-India-Uzbekistan	800		4	3,200
Afghanistan-Uzbekistan-India-Afg.	1500		3	4,500
Iran-Uzbek.-India-Iran	1500		3	4,500

Pakistan-Uzbek.-India-Pakistan	1500		3	4,500
Tajikistan-Uzbek.-India-Tajikistan	1500		3	4,500
Aga Khan Trust (from the region)	800		2	1,600
World Heritage Centre	1500		1	1,500
Subtotal 1			23	27,500
2. DSA				
India	70	5	18	6,300
Uzbekistan	70	5	18	6,300
Sub-total 2				12,600
3. Organization cost				
Transport (between airport-hotel)				1,000
Site visits Uzbekistan				1,000
Site visits India				1,000
Communication and other cost				1,500
Sub-total 3				4,500
4. Enhancement of site museums				15,000
Grand Total				59,600

H. Comments of the Advisory Bodies

ICOMOS

The request is for “itinerant” training sessions for heritage professionals in World Heritage properties in both India and Uzbekistan to allow the sharing of expertise on traditional cultural heritage processes related to architectural styles diffused through Central Asia and India between the 14th and 18th centuries.

ICOMOS considers that this is an initiative to be strongly commended: it will allow an exchange of knowledge amongst those best placed to diffuse it further in their own regions.

The request mentions visitor centres and one outcome is stated to be improved visitor centres. Further an amount of USD 15,000 is included in the budget for enhancement of site museums. Although ICOMOS considers that it is important that visitor centres and site museums reflect information on traditional skills and practices, ICOMOS considers that it would be preferable to have this aspect put into a separate request for dissemination of knowledge and information on cultural exchange and traditional building skills through a variety of different media and means to visitors and others. We would prefer to see the current request limited to training per se, in order to optimize funds for this extremely important initiative. The extra funds now suggested for site museums would in our view be better utilized to allow a few more participants to take part in the Seminars and as a second phase attention given to dissemination of information.

This initiative needs to grow and be nurtured rather than being seen as a one off project; we consider that further sessions should be envisaged on specific local training as well as better

understanding of cultural exchange and exploration of ways to encourage more today in the field of conservation craftsmen.

In summary, ICOMOS strongly supports this request but would like to see the funds currently requested for site museums used to allow more participants to take part in the proposed workshops, and for this initiative to be seen as phase one of an on-going project which might bring in support from other agencies for more specific training and dissemination of cultural exchange and knowledge.

ICCROM

In principle, ICCROM supports this request by India to develop a cooperative training with Uzbekistan and other central Asian countries to look at the cross-fertilization of architectural ideas (and conservation ideas) within this important region. In ICCROM's view, this illustrates the best that the World Heritage Convention has to offer as a vehicle for promotion of international cooperation in the field of heritage conservation.

ICCROM does, however, have some specific comments in regard to the training aspects of the request.

ICCROM notes that the request lists five specific topics which would be covered during the 10 day period: conservation of ceramics, conservation of stone, conservation of brick, management planning, and interpretation and presentation (what is called visitor centers in the proposal). In regard to the technical topics, each would need at least a week-long period to familiarize participants with the main deterioration mechanisms and conservation responses. A more in-depth understanding of each of these topics would require much more time. The same would be true of the management and interpretation units, which could be touched on in one to two weeks, but would need more time for in-depth training. In regard to work on the visitors' centers, themselves, ICCROM feels that this most likely could not be implemented in the framework of such a short training.

ICCROM also notes the very high cost of the workshop, especially given its short time period (ten days total). It is recognized that costs are higher because of the need for "double" travel to take participants both to Uzbekistan and then to India. In our opinion, however, these higher costs are offset by the benefit that this sort of collaborative effort will achieve. Nevertheless, ICCROM does feel that the benefits could be maximized given the high costs, by spending a longer period in each of the two countries.

With these two comments in mind, ICCROM would have the following recommendations for the activity:

- 1) The length of the workshop should be doubled so that 10 days each could be spent on the two sites in Uzbekistan and India. This would allow a higher impact for the funds spent, and allow for enough time to cover some of the topics indicated in the proposal.
- 2) The first ten day period should be devoted to an introduction to site management planning (which could include a section on visitor management and interpretation). This ten day period would be sufficient to give participants a basic framework for management and allow them to carry out some hands-on site planning activities at the site(s) in question. This first unit would also provide a management framework for the second section on more technical conservation issues.
- 3) The second ten day period could then be used to look at the issue of conservation of the three materials in question (ceramics, stone, and brick). A common approach could be taken for all three materials with examples given for each one. As with the

management section, the 10 day period should also allow for a certain amount of hands-on learning in diagnosis of deterioration mechanisms and treatments.

In regard to the enhancement of the visitors' centers, ICCROM would recommend (as has ICOMOS) that this come at a possible later stage in the development of this interesting international cooperation. This could, in fact, be the topic of an entire future workshop.

In conclusion, ICCROM would in principle support the request with the changes outlined above. The final budget would have to be adjusted to take into account the removal of the funding for the visitors' centers but the inclusion of more DSA for the additional recommended period of the workshop.

I. Comments of the Secretariat

This regional activity is highly relevant to the enhancement of conservation and management of World Heritage properties in six countries in the South and Central Asian region, of which one is amongst the Least Developed Countries and four are low income countries. This activity is an excellent step towards enhancing regional cooperation and setting up a network of site managers in the region. The relevance and urgency of this activity was emphasized in the recommendations of the UNESCO Reactive Mission in 2002.

The State Party has accepted the proposals for modification of the activity made by the Advisory Bodies as follows:

- 1) Augmentation of the number of participants from 23 to 27;
- 2) Extension of the duration of the workshop from 10 to 16 days;
- 3) Omission of enhancement of visitors centers in this request and possible organization of a future follow-up workshop exclusively on this issue.

The amount of USD 15,000 originally foreseen in the request for the enhancement of visitors centers, which has now been omitted, will be used as follows:

- 1) Participation of 4 more participants (one additional person from India, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan) – total additional travel cost: USD 4,600
- 2) Extension of the total duration of the workshop from 10 to 16 days – total additional DSA cost for all participants: USD 10,400

The World Heritage Centre recommends the approval of the request for the amount of USD 59,600.

J. Panel recommendation

This request had been received by the World Heritage Centre on 1 February 2007, therefore it could not be submitted to the Panel meeting on 25 January 2007. The request will be evaluated by the next panel scheduled on 30 May 2007 and the recommendation recorded in the minutes will be presented orally to the World Heritage Committee and reflected in the final decision.

REQUEST N° 2
Technical Co-operation
Natural Heritage
Asia

A. Description

State Party: VIET NAM (Low-income economy as per UNECOSOC and World Bank)

Status of dues to the World Heritage Fund as at 31 December 2006: all dues paid

Name of Activity: Ha Long Bay Management Department Institutional Strengthening Project

Amount requested: USD 65,780

Previous contributions from the World Heritage Fund for this property/activity:

Training Assistance

- Ha Long Bay, training of personnel (1997) for USD 24, 250

Technical Assistance

- Workshop for strengthening the capacity of Ha Long Bay Management Authority (2000) for USD 14,508

B. Background

The original version of this request was transmitted for comments to the Advisory Bodies. Based on the observations of the latter and of the World Heritage Centre, the State Party submitted a revised request, which is presented in this document.

Ha Long Bay, inscribed on the World Natural Heritage List in 1994 according to the criterion (viii) for which the criterion (vii) was added in 2000, has significant values in biodiversity, history and culture. There is diverse flora throughout Ha Long Bay, and primary tropical forest is found mostly on the islands of Ba Mun and Cat Ba. A recent study of the flora of the limestone islands in the bay discovered seven new plant species, and it is expected that a more detailed survey will throw up many more new discoveries. Preliminary surveys also indicate the presence of many different fish species, and mammals, reptiles and birds are found on the islands, especially the earth islands north of Ha Long Bay. The historical and cultural values have been identified in the numerous archaeological sites in Giap Khau (Hon Gai) and there is evidence to suggest occupation by the Hoa Binh Culture, some 10,000 years ago.

Challenges for state of conservation

Development trends: Quang Ninh Province holds the largest coal reserves in Viet Nam and boasts a large open-cast coal mine. Quang Ninh is also the site for a planned large new container port in Cai Lan, and related industrial developments. The city of Ha Long is a major, rapidly expanding urban centre. Tourism is increasing and tourism infrastructure is developing at a fast pace. The local population makes its living in and around Ha Long, which is also a major centre for fishing, agriculture and maritime transport. Steps have been

taken to open new ports, factories and housing on the shore in line with a long-term economic development programme for the province.

Tourism patterns: Ha Long Bay as the World Heritage property is a popular tourist destination. According to the statistics collected during the period from 2000 to 2005, the numbers of visitors to Ha Long Bay have increased steadily every year, from as low as 852,142 people in 2000, the number increased to 1,418,136 in 2005 (source: Ha Long Bay Management Department). It is expected that this growth will continue. There are well-developed plans for visits by international cruise liners, and this will drastically increase the numbers of tourists visiting Ha Long.

These challenges were presented in the previous reports submitted to the World Heritage Committee. Following are the major threats identified:

- Population growth;
- Increased tourism pressure and development;
- Urban and industrial development;
- Lack of financial and technical resources;
- Absence of integrated planning approach.

Ha Long Bay Management Department

The Quang Ninh People's Committee established the Ha Long Bay Management Department (HLBMD) on 9 December 1995. The HLBMD started off as a small unit but has grown to an institution with 275 members of staff in mid 2006. The Department is responsible for the protection of the values of the World Heritage property and for overall management of the area, including the exploitation and use of the resources.

Despite the remarkable achievements that the Department has made during the few years of its existence, it is generally accepted that HLBMD has not had the resources or the status to develop strategically. The Department has already identified the overall management weaknesses that must be addressed in fulfilling its role effectively. Indeed, during the 30th session of the World Heritage Committee (Vilnius, 2006), the Committee raised the concern that "the limited management capacity of the staff of the Ha Long Bay Management Authority is reported to impede further improvements in the conservation and management of the property."

The World Heritage Committee therefore urged the State Party and Ha Long Bay Management Authority to continue their efforts to resolve the economic development pressures on the property and the buffer zone. The Committee also encouraged the State Party to submit a request for international assistance from the World Heritage Fund for capacity building of the staff of the Ha Long Bay Management Authority to strengthen their management capacity. The following issues have been identified by the Ha Long Bay Management Department:

- Keeping a balance between economic development pressures and the preservation of Ha Long Bay's values;
- The confusion created by the large number of plans, master plans and strategies either in place or proposed and the potential for conflict with heritage values;
- The urgent need for a Conservation and Development Strategy for Ha Long Bay to integrate existing strategies with heritage management objectives;
- The lack of legal document on heritage management;
- The need to develop the necessary skills and expertise to implement management strategies;
- The low capacity to control environmental damage and the lack of enforcement ability;

- The need for education and communication to improve awareness and vision for protection of Ha Long Bay's environment.

C. Objective

Reinforce capacity of the Ha Long Bay Management Department in order to carry out appropriate planning, management for the sustainable development of the Ha Long Bay World Heritage property.

D. Project plan

The objective of the project will be achieved within a two year period. The methods of delivery of the different elements of the project include direct technical assistance, consultation and training, and training on the job through "mentoring" by trained and qualified local and international experts. Workshops and seminars for training and information dissemination, exchange programmes and visits will also be used. Throughout this process, a stakeholder approach will be taken, including other relevant departments of the Quang Ninh People's Committee, main tour operators when appropriate, and representatives of the community living in and close to Ha Long.

The following strategic activities will be undertaken to meet the objective, and training will be identified and included in all these steps.

1. Review and study existing plans, master plans and strategies, and review existing information related to state of conservation

To solve the confusion created by a large number of existing and proposed plans, master plans and strategies, the Department will assign relevant staff to collect, study and review all the necessary documents. A matrix summarizing all the existing and proposed plans and strategies will be developed. Consultation with the technical experts will be needed for final evaluation.

In this, some concrete additional data will be sought to inform the development of a Strategy. For example, HLBMD will research and define tourism carrying capacity.

2. Confirm the mission statement and tasks of HLBMD

Based on consultation with relevant authorities and their subsequent decision, and/or clarification of previous decisions, the mission statement, tasks and requirements of the HLBMD related to its responsibility for the protection of the values of the World Heritage property will be updated.

3. Review the organizational structure and staffing needs

To better perform the tasks delegated to it, HLBMD will review its organizational structure to evaluate the strengths and areas for improvement. This could also involve succession planning and career development plans for staff. The organizational structure will also be assessed vis-à-vis the mission statement and tasks set for the HLBMD in protection of the property. This process will also involve consultation with stakeholders such as the local communities and the tourist sector when needed.

4. Develop a Conservation and Development Strategy for Ha Long Bay

The Conservation and Development Strategy will integrate as appropriate the existing strategies with heritage management objectives. The Strategy should also take into account the issue of stimulating and supporting broader programmes for environmental management for the region adjacent to the World Heritage property and the importance of addressing broader regional development issues and trends which can impact on the World Heritage values of the property. Hence, the Department will need technical support through training and workshop from various institutions, for example IUCN on natural resource assessment,

basic environmental monitoring and environmental planning, and Cua Van Floating Cultural Centre and the Eco Boat (FFI) and UNESCO can assist in developing a comprehensive strategy for community communication and mobilization. HLBMD wish to build on the lessons from the components of the Eco-museum implemented with support from UNESCO and FFI.

5. HLBMD staff to attend international workshops in the region

It will be valuable opportunities for the staff of HLBMD to attend international workshops in the region to learn from the best practices as well as to draw the experience from the unsuccessful ones. The benefits of this also include the ability to discuss local issues in heritage management of World Heritage Area with others.

E. Work plan

Designing a capacity building activity needs time and effort. The detail work plan will be discussed and developed in the first two months of the project once the key international and national resource persons and facilitators have been identified. The below is a tentative outline.

Activity: Strengthening the capacity through training, developing strategy, learning and mentoring for staffs of HLBMD	First Year				Second Year			
	8/07-10/07	11/07-1/08	2/08-4/08	5/08-7/08	8/08-10/08	11/08-1/09	2/09-4/09	5/09-7/09
1. Review and study existing plans, master plans and strategies, and review existing information related to state of conservation								
2. Confirm the mission statement and tasks of HLBMD								
3. Review the organizational structure and staffing needs								
4. Develop a Conservation and Development Strategy for Ha Long Bay								
5. HLBMD staff to attend international workshops in the region	(Depending on the availability of the workshops)							

F. Expected outcomes

- Developed strategy for HLBMD approved;
- Well – trained and motivated staff capable of undertaking tasks required for HLBMD;
- Better management and use of resources within the HLBMD;
- Effective day – to – day management of Ha Long Bay;
- Increased capacity of staff to assess biological and cultural resources and to monitor trends and respond to changes;
- Raising awareness on the values of Ha Long Bay and why need to preserve these values through training, education and campaigns;

The results of the capacity building initiative will be reported back to the Committee, and appropriate follow-up action will be proposed, in close consultation with UNESCO.

G. Budget

Total activity budget (in USD): 89,480

National contributions (in USD):15,000

IUCN in-kind contribution (in USD): 8,700

Amount requested from the World Heritage Fund (in USD):65,780

Item	World Heritage Fund (USD)	HLBMD (USD)	IUCN (USD)	Subtotal (USD)
Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part-time coordination support (UNESCO Hanoi Office) for the duration of 24 months Part-time technical support (IUCN) – for the duration of 24 months Part-time Project-coordinator to assist the National Project Director (HLBMD) translation of documents high level interpreter for meetings/workshops 	USD 100/month x 24 = USD2,400 USD 100/month x 24 = USD2,400 USD 100/month x 24 = USD2,400 USD 6 per page x 350 pages = USD2,100	USD 100/day x 42 days = USD 4,200	USD100 /month x 24 = USD 2,400	
Personnel / consultancy service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 international experts – (IUCN, UNESCO and FFI), 2 locally based national experts for training and mentoring (10 people working for 5 days each) 	USD250/day x 3 x 14 days = USD 10,500 USD150/day x 10 x 5 days = USD 7,500		USD500 x 7 days = USD 3,500 USD400 x 7 days = USD 2,800	
Travel of international, national experts and HLBMD staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> international round trip (RT) airfares (for 1 expert) and local travel for 2 experts (two visits each) travel of national experts (10 people) 	USD1400/RTx2+ USD500x4 = USD 4,800 USD250x10= USD 2,500	USD 1,200 (arranging cars for transportation and travel to Hanoi as needed)		
Accommodation, Daily subsistence allowance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> food and board for international experts food and board for national experts 	USD60x3x7 = USD 1,260 USD60x6x5=USD 1,800	USD 2,500		

Item	World Heritage Fund (USD)	HLBMD (USD)	IUCN (USD)	Subtotal (USD)
• allowance for HLBMD staff for training attendance and contributions (15 people for 92 days)	USD10x15x92 = USD 13,800			
Equipment - Use of computers, telephones, fax machines - Purchase of a projector	USD 1,500	USD 4,200		
Reporting, evaluation and publication (evaluation workshop with national experts, international facilitators and HLBMD)	USD 3,000			
Field visits to WHS for HLBMD staff (8 people) - Attendance fees - Travel: round trip airfares - Food and accommodation (7 days) - Daily subsistence allowance	USD500 x 8 = USD 4,000 USD80x8x7= USD 4,480 USD15x8x7= USD 840	USD300x 8= USD 2,400		
Miscellaneous	USD 500	USD 500		
TOTAL	65,780	15,000	8,700	89,480

H. Comments of the Advisory Bodies

IUCN

IUCN initially recommended this proposal be revised prior to the World Heritage Committee Meeting in Christchurch and had the following comments:

- 1) Activities under this proposal need to focus on key issues identified at this property in a number of IUCN State of Conservation reports;
- 2) Realistic expectations need to be established in relation to what can be accomplished by this proposal – the current scope of the proposal is broad and needs to be revised in terms of what can be achieved through the proposal itself and what can future actions can be stimulated by the proposal. In particular the expected project outcomes are not an ending point in themselves but are the beginning of a new wave of management;
- 3) The proposal should primarily focus on capacity building of the Ha Long Bay Management Department and also local staff. Local communities and the tourist sector should also be involved in the process of capacity building. However it is also important that the proposal also address the issue of stimulating and supporting broader programs for environmental management for the region adjacent to the World Heritage property. This reflects the emphasis on many IUCN State of conservation reports which emphasize the importance of addressing broader regional development issues and trends which can impact on the World Heritage values of the property;
- 4) The proposal should also include consideration of implementation mechanisms to ensure that there is a higher potential for follow up to recommendations which arise

from the proposal. Specifically the identification of projects which may be attractive to donors may have merit;

- 5) The IUCN Viet Nam office has offered to provide support with the further development and implementation of this proposal.

IUCN notes that the proposal has been revised, with support from the IUCN Viet Nam office and considering IUCN's previous comments, and therefore recommends the approval of this request. IUCN has the following additional comments on the revised proposal:

- 1) It would be good to have external expert input in the HLBMD's review of its organizational structure and the Project should also develop an internal capacity development strategy (point 3 of Project plan).
- 2) Developing a Conservation and Development Strategy for Ha Long Bay is a major task (point 4 of Project plan). It is important to have realistic expectations as to what can be achieved, within the timeframe and budget.

I. Comments of the Secretariat

The World Heritage Centre fully concurred with the comments made by the IUCN to the original version of the request, and negotiated therefore with the Ha Long Bay Management Department in order to obtain a revised proposal including also a more realistic budget estimate. The revised request, presented herewith, appears to meet the initial concerns of IUCN. As for point 1 in IUCN comments to the revised request, the World Heritage Centre considers that this issue could be addressed in the Terms of Reference of the contract to be established for the implementation of the activity, should the request be approved by the Committee. The World Heritage Centre, therefore, recommends the approval of the request for the amount of USD 65,780.

J. Panel recommendation

The Panel held in Paris on 25 January 2007 examined the original request and made the following comments: capacity-building should be the priority in this request which covers too many fields. The State Party has to revise its proposal, taking into account IUCN's comments. The Panel recommended the submission of a revised request to the Committee, which the State Party did.

II. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 31 COM 18A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/18A,
2. Decides to approve / not to approve the following requests:
 - *India: Regional training Workshop for conservation and management of Central Asian and Mogul architecture for an amount of USD 59,600*
 - *Viet Nam: Ha Long Bay Management Department Institutional Strengthening Project for an amount of USD 65,780*