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Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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la science et la culture

Organización
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la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

The Culture Sector

To : **World Heritage Committee members**
Cc : **Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee
(ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN)**

ADG/CLT ; ADG/SC

7 January 2009

Ref: CL/WHC-09/03

Subject: **Analytical summary of the state of conservation of World Heritage properties**

Dear Sir/Madam,

At its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008), the World Heritage Committee discussed at length the issues related to the state of conservation of World Heritage properties. With Decision **32 COM 7B.129** (see Annex 1), it requested the World Heritage Centre to prepare an analytical summary of the state of conservation of the World Heritage properties discussed at the 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008) identifying trends, for distribution to the Committee members and discussion at the 33rd session in 2009.

Following discussions between the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies during their bi-annual meeting (Rome, September 2008), and consultation with the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, an analytical summary has been developed, based on a statistical analysis. The purpose of this preliminary analysis is to give the World Heritage Committee the possibility to see the different conservation processes together and also to encourage partners in World Heritage conservation to join forces in this analysis and in addressing the threats.

I am pleased to send you this document here attached.

Should you have any queries in this regard, kindly contact Ms Mechtild Rosler (m.rossler@unesco.org) or Mr. Richard Veillon (r.veillon@unesco.org).

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your cooperation and for your support in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Francesco Bandarin
Director
World Heritage Centre

Trends in the State of Conservation of World Heritage Sites

Decision: 32 COM 7B.129

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined documents *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*, *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add2*,
2. Recognizing that the state of conservation reports are an important tool for sustaining the World Heritage properties; and
3. Noting the discussion that took place at the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee;
4. Requests the World Heritage Centre to:
 - a. prepare, after consultation with the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, an analytical summary of the state of conservation of the World Heritage discussed at the 32nd session (Québec City, 2008) identifying trends, by 1st November 2008, for distribution to the Committee members and discussion at the 33rd session in 2009;
 - b. identify issues emanating from the analytical summary, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, to be discussed on relevant agenda items of the Committee, including the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism;
 - c. prepare a lexicon of terms and recommendations for their consistent application in state of conservation reports;
 - d. provide, where available, a printed Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, for properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger and those discussed for in-Danger listing;
 - e. add a link to illustrative material and relevant statements of Outstanding Universal Value, and attribute information to source and date;
5. Also requests the World Heritage Centre to identify a mechanism for consultation with States Parties during the development of the State of Conservation reports to ensure their accuracy.



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World Heritage

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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**Analytical summary of the state of conservation
of World Heritage properties:**

Main threats affecting the properties

I. INTRODUCTION

The World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session examined many documents on the state of conservation of properties (WHC-08/32.COM/7A, WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add, WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add.2, WHC-08/32.COM/7B, WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Corr, WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add and WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add2) and noted that the state of conservation reports are an important tool for sustaining the World Heritage properties.

With Decision **32 COM 7B.129** (see *Annex 1*) the Committee requested the World Heritage Centre to:

- a) Prepare, after consultation with the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, an analytical summary of the state of conservation of the World Heritage discussed at the 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008) identifying trends, by 1st November 2008, for distribution to the Committee members and discussion at the 33rd session in 2009;
- b) Identify issues emanating from the analytical summary, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, to be discussed on relevant agenda items of the Committee, including the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism.

This document provides the analytical summary requested by the Committee based on a statistical analysis.

Following discussions between the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies during their bi-annual meeting (Rome, September 2008), the current outline was developed and texts from the Advisory Bodies ICOMOS and IUCN are included as *Annexes 4* and *5* respectively.

It should be noted that the World Heritage Committee over time had a number of thematic debates on recurrent as well as new and emerging issues considered as threats to World Heritage properties, including fires, extractive industries (mining, oil and gas), windfarms or introduced species. Some of these debates led to strategic orientations and policy development, including on climate change (29th session in 2005, 30th session in 2006 and 31st session in 2007), risk preparedness (Strategy on Risk Reduction at World Heritage properties, 30th session in 2006) or extractive industries (World Heritage sites as no go areas for mining, oil and gas exploration / exploitation, 27th session in 2003).

It should also be noted that, at previous Committee sessions, the Advisory Bodies had also commissioned studies and presented, at the 30th session of the World Heritage Committee (Vilnius, 2006), analyses and reports assessing the state of conservation of World Heritage properties and identifying key issues and trends over time (1993-2003 for the IUCN study and 1994-2004 for the ICOMOS study).

I.1. Properties considered in the analysis

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies report annually to the World Heritage Committee on the state of conservation of a number of World Heritage properties facing various threats.

At its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008), the World Heritage Committee reviewed **158** state of conservation reports of properties, including the **30** properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. All the state of conservation reports ("SOC") can be consulted on-line in Documents WHC-08/32.COM/7A, WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add, WHC-

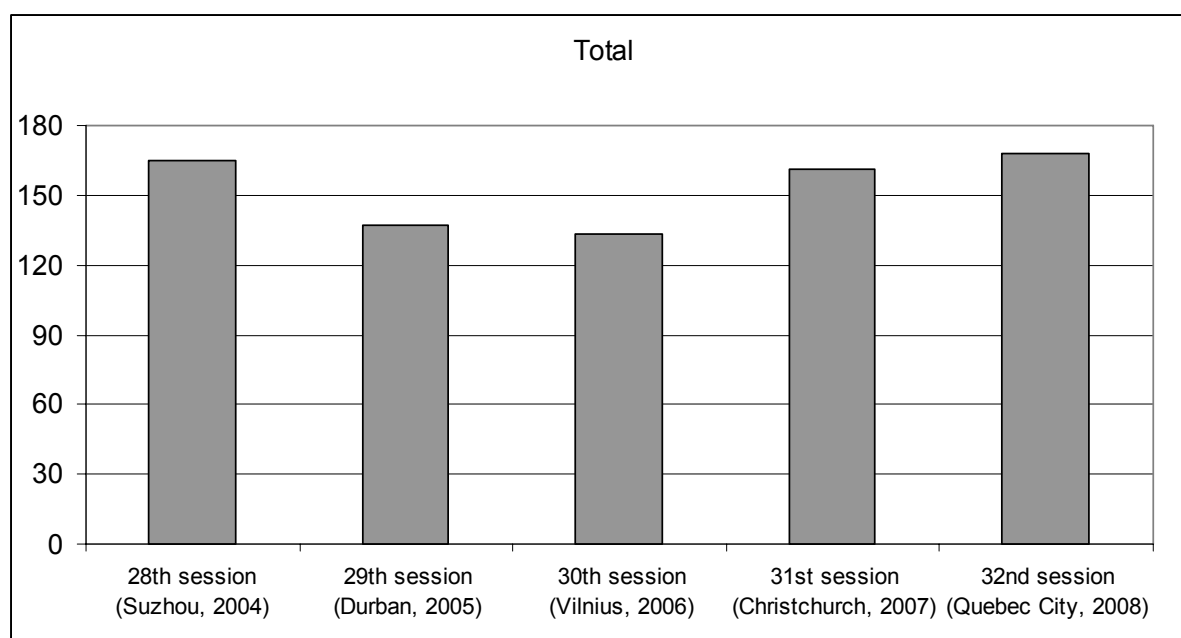
08/32.COM/7A.Add.2, WHC-08/32.COM/7B, WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Corr, WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add and WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add.2, available on the World Heritage Centre website (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/32COM>).

The analysis of threats in the present document is based on the reports of 158 properties (53 natural, 4 mixed and 101 cultural), which are geographically distributed as follows:

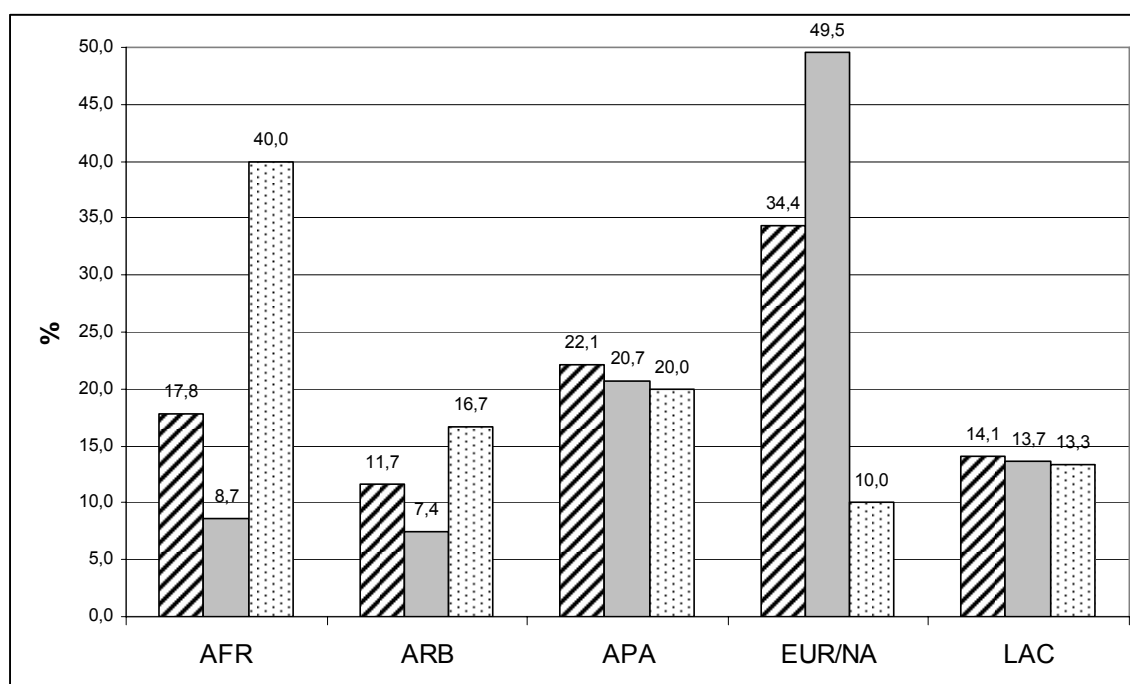
Africa	26 properties (16%)
Arab States	17 properties (11%)
Asia-Pacific	33 properties (21%)
Europe and North America	57 properties (36%)
Latin America and the Caribbean	25 properties (16%)

The percentage of properties being reported on in 2008 for each region was more or less matching the percentage of properties of each region inscribed on the World Heritage List, with a higher rate of reporting however for the African and Arab States regions.

It should also be noted that even though 50% of the World Heritage properties are located in Europe and North America, they contribute to 10% of the List of World Heritage in Danger. To the contrary, even though the African region has only 9% of the total number of World Heritage properties, the African properties represent 40% (12 properties) of the List of World Heritage in Danger. We notice the same kind of trend for the Arab States region. The figures are rather balanced for the Asia-Pacific region and the Latin America and the Caribbean region.



Total number of SOC reports presented at each World Heritage Committee session since 2004

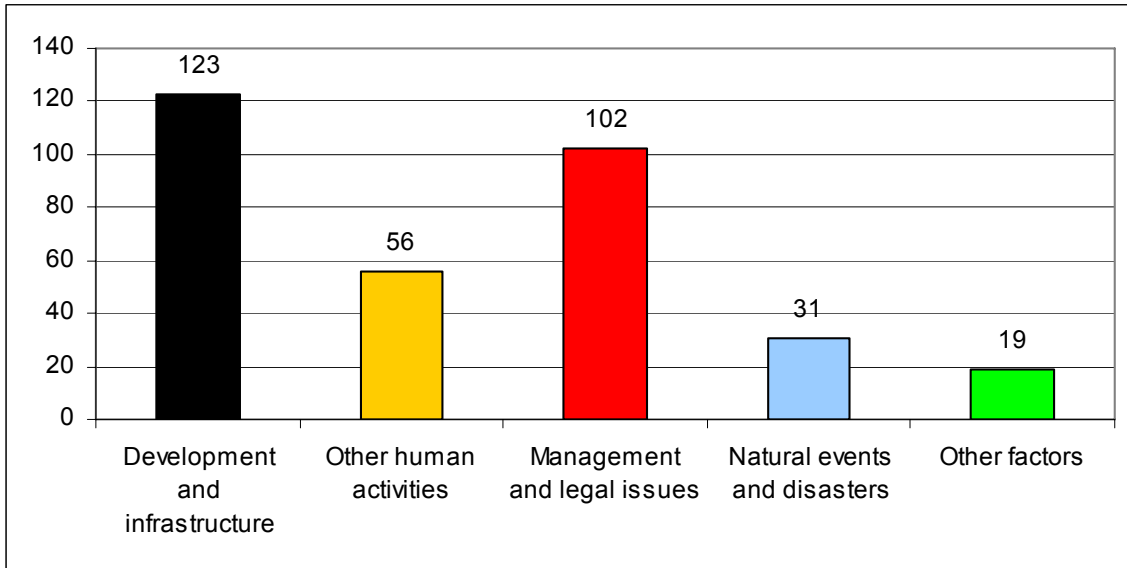


% of the total number of SOC reports presented per region in 2008 (stripes)
 % of the total number of World Heritage properties per region (solid)
 % of the total number of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger per region (dots)

I.2. Factors affecting the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage properties considered in the analysis

The current format of the state of conservation reports presented to the World Heritage Committee includes a section where threats (or factors) affecting the Outstanding Universal Value of the property identified either at the time of inscription or in previous reports are listed. These factors have been reviewed and analyzed according to the standardized list of factors affecting the World Heritage properties designed during the revision of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire (see *Annex 2*), and have been grouped into five primary groups of “threats”. The full list of factors can be found in Document WHC-08/32.COM/INF.11E (Section II).

- *Development and infrastructure* (such as buildings and development, transportation, utilities or service infrastructure, pollution, physical resources extraction, tourism, modern construction...)
- *Other human activities* (such as biological resources use/modification, social/cultural use of heritage, illegal human activities, translocated species, war, civil unrest, loss of interest in traditional practices, illegal demolitions, etc.)
- *Management and legal issues* (such as inadequate legal framework, governance, financial and human resources, research and monitoring, management activities, etc.)
- *Natural events and disasters* (such as local conditions affecting physical fabric, climate and severe weather events, sudden ecological and geological events, invasive/alien or hyper-abundant species, etc.)
- *Other factors* (such as collapse or deterioration due to age of building, etc.)



Number of properties affected by each primary group of threats (out of 158 properties in 2008)

It should also be noted that in many cases, more than one threat affects the Outstanding Universal Value of a property. In the 158 properties considered in the study, 585 different threats have been identified; an average of 3 to 4 threats per property.

For example, the following threats are affecting one and the same property: construction of an airport near the property, natural decay of the structures, risk of structural failure of buildings resulting from tunnels excavated for archaeological purposes, deterioration due to uncontrolled visitation. Another property is affected by: Illegal fishing, forest fires, gold mining, development of a power station, construction of roads and changes of its boundaries.

This clearly demonstrates:

- a) Detailed analysis has been carried out for site specific threats for each state of conservation report based on reactive monitoring missions, State Party reports and information from different sources. As this information is not provided in a standard format, it is difficult to compare one site to another. However, general trends relating to generic threats can be derived from reviewing state of conservation report, such as, for example, in relation to mining.
- b) By grouping the threats into the five primary groups of threats as indicated above, one can note that the Committee over time has tackled many issues in a strategic way, including:
 - *Development and infrastructure* – with the Vienna Memorandum (2005) and the subsequent “Declaration on the conservation of Historic Urban Landscapes” (HUL)” in October 2005.
 - 1999-2000 Committee discussions and decisions on *mining*, plus expert workshop on mining in 2000, and the subsequent “no-go” commitments by Shell and ICMM.
 - *Management and legal issues*: by providing increased guidance through the revision of the *Operational Guidelines* (2005/2008), the preparation of Resource Manuals and the integration of “management” into the Statements of Outstanding Universal Value in 2005.

- *Natural events and disasters*: by endorsing at its 30th session the “*Strategy on Risk Reduction at World Heritage properties*”, the report on “*Predicting and managing the impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage*” and the “*Strategy to assist States Parties to implement management responses*” The policy document on “*Impacts of Climate Change and World Heritage*” is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/CC-policy-document/>

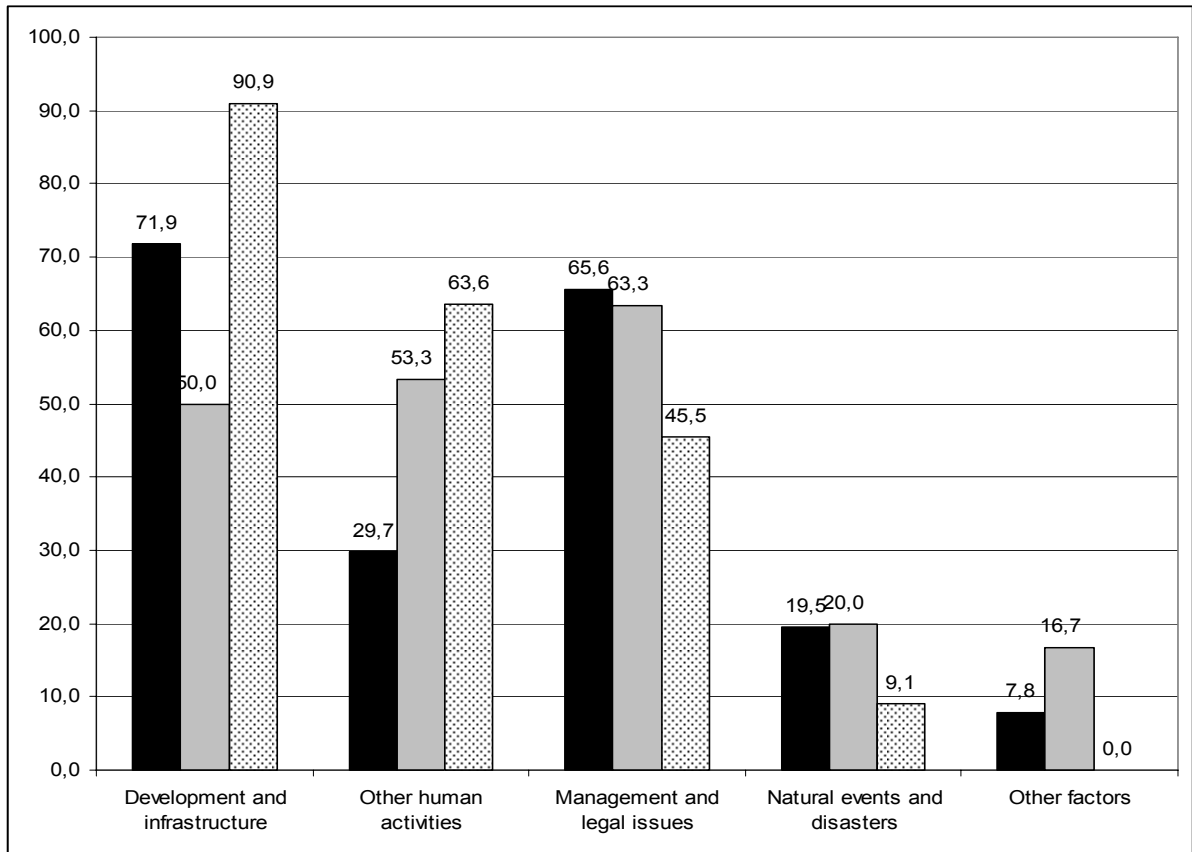
I.3. Threats and monitoring processes

Different processes are in place to monitor threats to World Heritage properties: **Reactive Monitoring** and **Periodic Reporting**. While the Reactive Monitoring is on a case by case basis (through processing information on a daily basis, missions and presentation of state of conservation reports to the Committee), the Periodic Reporting provides a systematic overview on a six-year cycle as foreseen in the *Operational Guidelines*. The Committee at its 29th session (Durban 2005), while highlighting the fundamental differences between the two processes, called for a closer links between these in the future (Decision **29 COM 7B.c**); however, it should also be noted that reactive monitoring has led to many of the success stories of the *Convention* (e.g., Lake Baikal).

In an effort to improve its monitoring capacity for properties with specific and immediate threats, and to ensure proper implementation of its decisions, the Committee has recently adopted the **Reinforced Monitoring mechanism**, which in its first year in 2007 was applied only to seven properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. However, this mechanism has been applied to a total of 11 properties at the 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008), and none of the additions were properties on the **List of World Heritage in Danger**. At the same time no property was added to the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Reinforced Monitoring mechanism will be reviewed and a report will be provided to the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

It should be noted that 91% of the properties subject to the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism face threats due to *development and infrastructure* issues; compared to 72% of the properties on the World Heritage List that were reported on in 2008 and 50% on the List of World Heritage in Danger. These figures underline the importance and urgency the World Heritage Committee attaches to this type of threat and the request to States Parties concerned to address these issues properly in accordance with procedures established (Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*) and in a timely fashion.

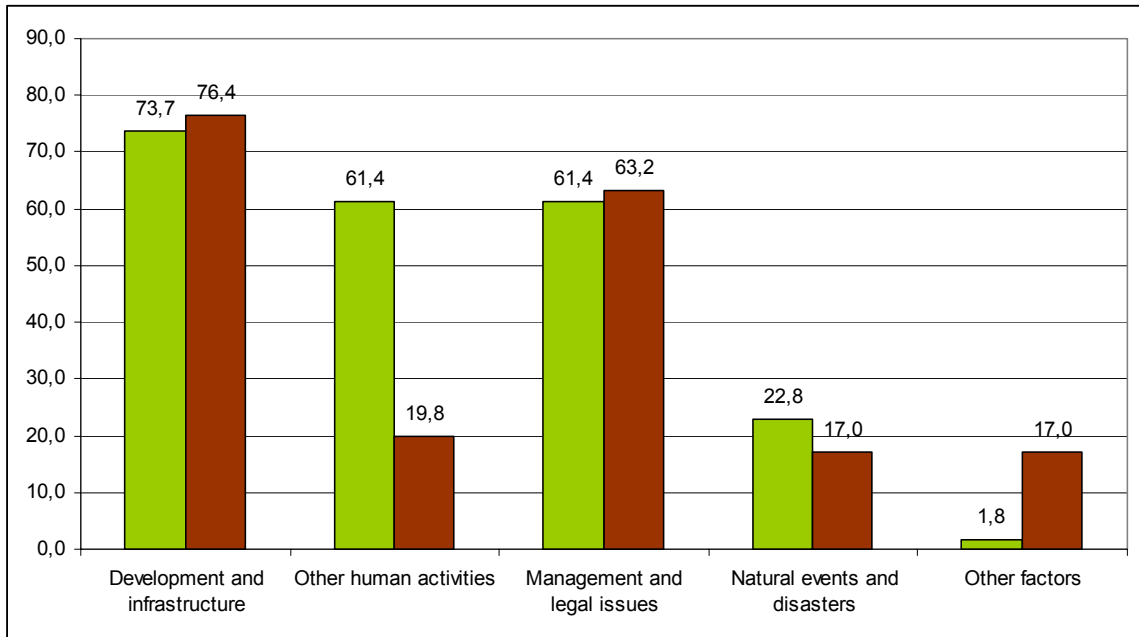
The *other human factors* affecting 63.6% of the properties subject to Reinforced Monitoring mechanism consist mainly in poaching, deforestation and armed conflicts.



Percentage of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List (item 7B) (black), inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger (item 7A) (grey), or subject to the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism (dots), affected by each of the five primary groups of threats

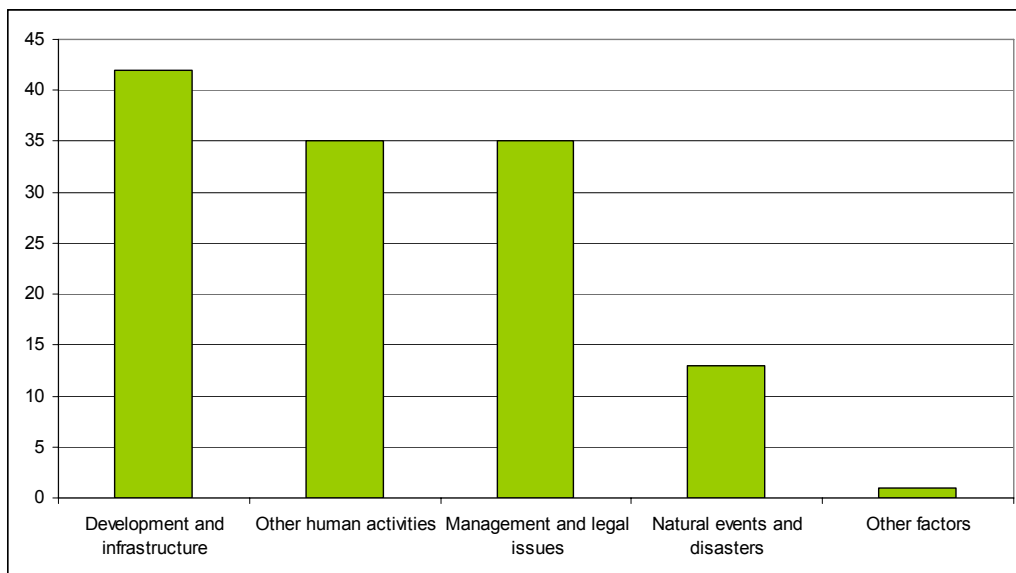
II. IDENTIFYING TRENDS IN THE CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES

II.1. Analysis per type of properties (natural or cultural properties)

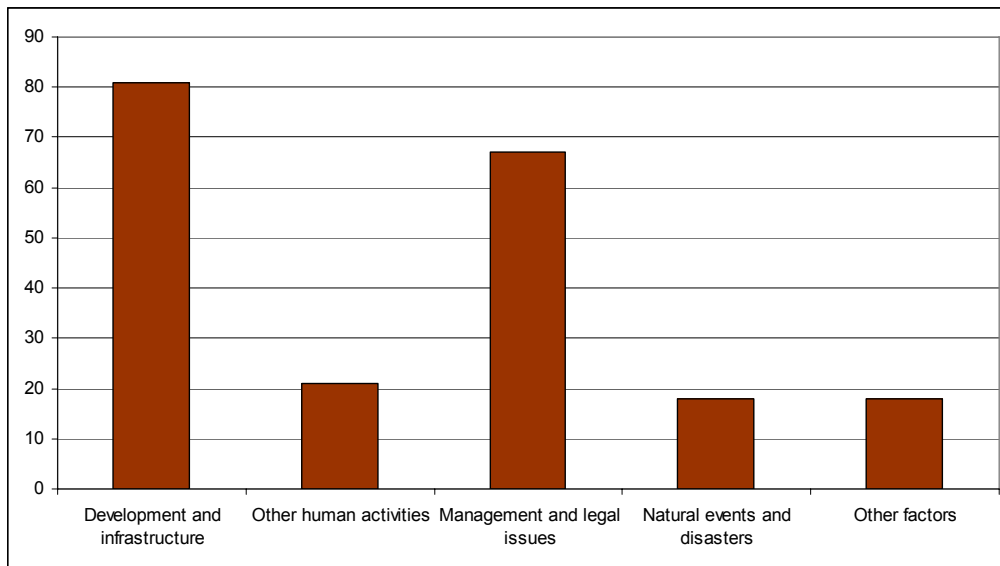


Percentage of natural (left) and cultural (right) properties affected by each of the five primary groups of threats

One can notice that development and infrastructure threats, management and legal issues, and natural events and disasters affect about the same proportion of natural and cultural World Heritage properties. However, when it comes to “other human activities”, such as poaching, illegal timber exploitation, civil unrest, etc, mostly natural properties are affected.



Number of natural properties affected by each of the five primary groups of threats



Number of cultural properties affected by each of the five primary groups of threats

Tourism and its accompanying developments represent one of the emerging threats on World Heritage properties, be they natural or cultural. It should be noted that out of the 28 properties affected, 15 are cultural and 13 natural.

Armed conflicts, political instability, civil unrest are also an increasing threat on World Heritage properties, in particular in Africa. Indeed, 16 properties reviewed by the Committee in 2008 were affected; 80% of which are on the List of World Heritage in Danger. However, they seem to affect more natural properties (11) than cultural properties (5).

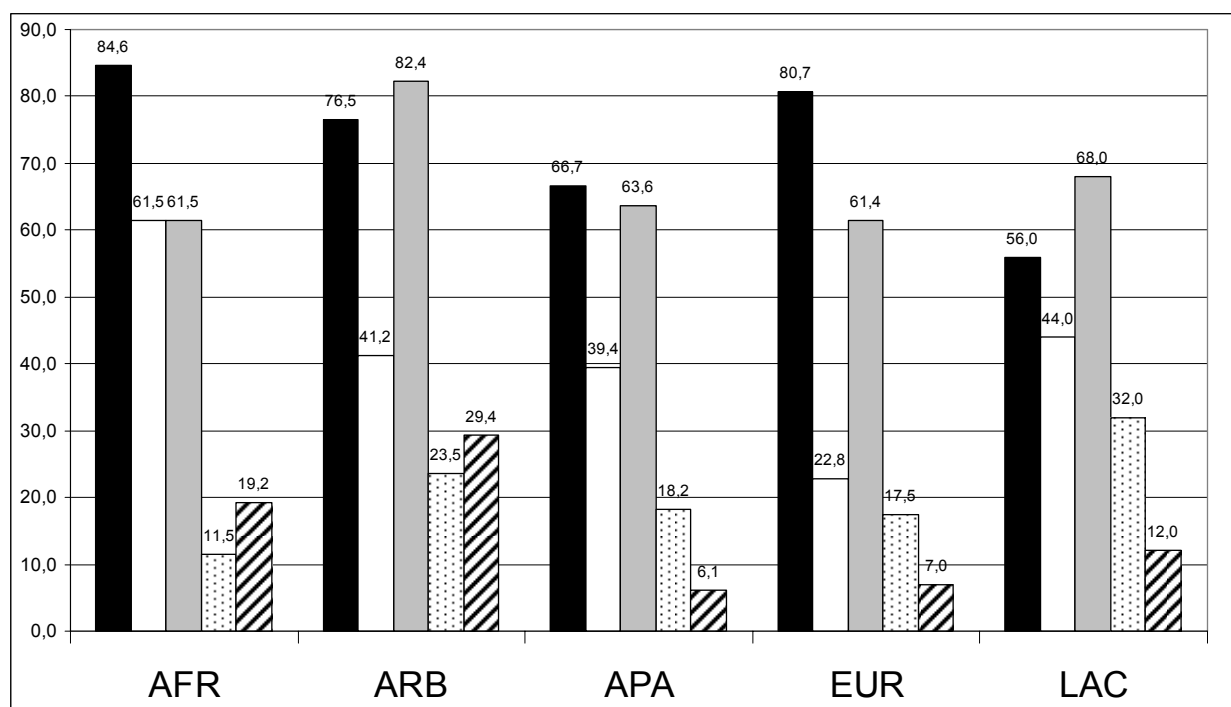
Public works such as road construction, development of railway lines and bridges are also affecting an important number of properties (26 properties); 66% of which are cultural properties - many of them are living cities.

Mining and energy exploitation/exploration also threatens a significant number of World Heritage properties (20 properties out of 158 in the state of conservation reports examined by the Committee in 2008) despite the “no-go” calls from the Committee and “no-go” commitments from some companies (e.g. Shell) and industry groups (ICMM). They affect mainly natural properties (17 out of the 20). This represents a very high percentage of the 53 natural properties considered in 2008 (around 30%).

About the same proportion of natural (23%) or cultural (17%) properties is affected by *natural events and disasters*. However, the nature of the threat differs between the two categories of properties. Indeed, cultural properties are mostly affected by earthquakes, fires and natural decay, while natural properties are mostly affected by invasive species, cyclones, hurricanes and forest fires. It is also evident that natural properties may recover easily from earthquakes in comparison to the built environment and that natural fires may be also considered, in some types of forests, as part of forest management processes for example.

Finally, *large-scale urban developments, new and high-rise buildings* impacting on the visual integrity of the properties affect 21 of the 158 World Heritage properties considered, all cultural; which represents 20% of the cultural properties reported on in 2008.

II.2. Analysis per region



Percentage of properties affected by each of the five primary groups of threats for each region
 [from left to right: Development and infrastructures (black); Other human activities (white);
 Management and legal issues (grey); Natural events and disasters (dots); Other factors (stripes)]

Through this analysis, one can notice that throughout the regions, the two main groups of threats affecting World Heritage properties are development and infrastructure as well as management and legal issues, always affecting more than 55%, and up to 85%, of the properties in any given region.

In Africa, the major threats affecting the concerned properties are related to *development and infrastructure* (85%), *management and legal issues* (62%) and *other human activities* (62%); yet in some regions such as Latin America and the Caribbean and the Arab States, a smaller number of properties is affected by *development and infrastructure* related issues, than by *management and legal issues*.

Natural events and disasters affect around 11.5 to 23 % of the properties in any given region, with the exception of the Latin America and the Caribbean region which has a peak of 32%, mainly linked to earthquakes and material decay due to environmental factors.

As indicated above, *large-scale urban developments, new and high-rise buildings* impacting on the visual integrity of the properties affect 21 of the 158 World Heritage properties considered, all cultural; 72% of which are located in the Europe and North America region and 24% in the Asia-Pacific region.

The *other human factors* affect between 23 and 44% of the properties in all regions, except for Africa where they affect more than 60% of the properties. The factors concerned are mainly poaching of mammals, deforestation and armed conflicts.

II.3. Analysis by the Advisory Bodies

The presentations made by the Advisory Bodies at the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee (Quebec City, 2008) and their analysis of trends in conservation issues can be found in *Annex 4* for ICOMOS and *Annex 5* for IUCN.

ICOMOS highlighted specifically the need for sustainable development to sustain Outstanding Universal Value and deliver much needed social and economic benefits in preventing further threats to some properties. Concerning the issue of *infrastructure development*, the impact of high-rise buildings on important views and visual integrity was pointed out. In this regard the threat of wind farms was for the first time brought to the attention of the Committee as a major theme which would need joint analysis for both cultural and natural heritage and for which some sort of presumption against development might need to be considered. Overall, the need for much sharper tools for assessment and early identification of threats was stressed.

IUCN, in her presentation, the Director General emphasised the range of threats in the global picture of overexploitation of resources and the importance of healthy ecosystems essential to life itself. IUCN in particular pointed out the urgency in addressing threats to the key sites for biodiversity and increasing impact of mining, oil and gas exploration and exploitation. It called for a no-go principle for private and state owned extractive companies for World Heritage properties.

III. CONCLUSION

This brief analysis of threats to World Heritage properties presented in 2008 illustrates:

- the wide range of threats to World Heritage properties;
- the two key groups of threats affecting both cultural and natural properties are: Development/infrastructure and Management/legal issues;
- the slight differences of groups of threats among regions of the world may be also related to the types of properties listed (e.g. development/infrastructure to cities, with a much higher number in Europe and North America).

The current analysis based on one year of state of conservation reports does not show trends as such, which could only be demonstrated over several years. It rather gives an overview of the threats and issues identified in the reports presented to the World Heritage Committee at one particular session. It has to take into account the process of selection of these reports in accordance with Reactive Monitoring processes outlined in Chapter IV.A of the *Operational Guidelines*. Furthermore, it should be noted that the selection of these reports by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies is only the “tip of the iceberg”, as such reports are being prepared under the Agenda item 7B only in cases where actions are to be taken at the Committee level. At the same time, a number of properties are reported on every year as issues such as legal enforcement, preparation of management plan involving all stakeholders or halting development projects may require to be addressed over a considerable time. Therefore, only an analysis over a 5 to 10 year period may bring the trends of World Heritage conservation into evidence.

The World Heritage Committee has already analyzed global trends through the World Heritage Periodic Reports 2000-2006, and through reports brought forward by the Advisory Bodies, which provided not only a useful overview of conservation trends by the different

regions of the world, it also gave attention to coordinate emerging needs, including on capacity building or providing necessary tools for World Heritage management now being provided with the Resource manuals. Therefore, both World Heritage Periodic Reporting and the analysis of trends on specific state of conservation reports have to be seen together.

Another issue which may need to be analyzed in the future are the sources of the information which lead to reporting to the Committee. While Periodic Reporting provides State Party information in accordance with article 29 of the *Convention*, Reactive Monitoring is based on information from different sources. It should be noted that in many cases the information does not only come from the State Party or the Advisory Bodies, but also from the general public, NGOs or the media providing information on threats to properties and their integrity/authenticity. This provides an important avenue for civil society to provide in relation to issues at World Heritage properties. The enforcement of Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, by which States Parties are encouraged to inform the World Heritage Centre at an early stage of their intention to develop major projects, could prevent threats, reporting and debates at the Committee.

The issue of the grouping and categorization of threats has also been the object of lengthy discussion as there is a multitude of threats covered under “development and infrastructure” for example as indicated in Annex 2. Issues are often not easily identifiable under one category of threat and they are often interconnected: a development project might create a threat if the governance, management and legal framework is inadequate or poorly enforced. There is also the question of approximate and ultimate causes.

Categorizing threats and threat assessment are not the same. These two exercises could and should be linked and therefore the question of the use of this analysis comes up. A general trend analysis over 5 to 10 years could be used to come up with key issues which might be addressed through capacity building programmes, special seminars (e.g. on public works and World Heritage) and policy development (e.g. on climate change). This analysis would need to be closely reviewed in connection with the Periodic Reporting exercise.

For linking detailed threat assessment with action on the ground, site-specific analysis and sharing best practice from comparable sites and issues may be a better way to address the needs.

In conclusion, the purpose of this preliminary analysis is to give the World Heritage Committee the possibility to see the different conservation processes together and also to encourage partners in World Heritage conservation to join forces in this analysis and in addressing the threats. Universities with World Heritage programmes and research institutions could be encouraged to assist in focused analyses of the needs identified by the World Heritage Committee, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre.

IV. COMMENTS

Comments to this paper are welcome.

Please provide them in electronic form, in one of the working languages of the Convention (English or French), to Ms Mechtild Rossler (m.rossler@unesco.org) with copy to Mr Richard Veillon (r.veillon@unesco.org).

Thank you in advance.

V. USEFUL REFERENCES

- UNESCO World Heritage Centre - <http://whc.unesco.org>
- ICOMOS : <http://www.icomos.org>
- IUCN : <http://www.iucn.org>
- ICCROM : <http://www.iccrom.org>
- World Heritage Reports n°22 - Climate Change and World Heritage
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/series/22/>
- World Heritage Series n°10 - Monitoring World Heritage -
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/series/10/>
- Case Studies on Climate Change and World Heritage -
http://whc.unesco.org/documents/publi_climatechange.pdf
- World Heritage: Challenges for the Millennium -
http://whc.unesco.org/documents/publi_millennium_en.pdf

129. Trends in the State of Conservation of World Heritage Sites

Decision: 32 COM 7B.129

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined documents *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*, *WHC-08/32.COM7B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM7B.Add2*,
2. Recognizing that the state of conservation reports are an important tool for sustaining the World Heritage properties; and
3. Noting the discussion that took place at the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee;
4. Requests the World Heritage Centre to:
 - a. prepare, after consultation with the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, an analytical summary of the state of conservation of the World Heritage discussed at the 32nd session (Québec City, 2008) identifying trends, by 1st November 2008, for distribution to the Committee members and discussion at the 33rd session in 2009;
 - b. identify issues emanating from the analytical summary, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, to be discussed on relevant agenda items of the Committee, including the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism;
 - c. prepare a lexicon of terms and recommendations for their consistent application in state of conservation reports;
 - d. provide, where available, a printed Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, for properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger and those discussed for in-Danger listing;
 - e. add a link to illustrative material and relevant statements of Outstanding Universal Value, and attribute information to source and date;
5. Also requests the World Heritage Centre to identify a mechanism for consultation with States Parties during the development of the State of Conservation reports to ensure their accuracy.

**List of factors (threats) affecting World Heritage properties as designed for the
Periodic Reporting (revised questionnaire, Section II)**

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURES
3.1. BUILDINGS AND DEVELOPMENT
3.1.1. Housing
3.1.2. Commercial development
3.1.3. Industrial areas
3.1.4. Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
3.1.5. Interpretative and visitation facilities
3.2. TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE
3.2.1. Ground transport infrastructure
3.2.2. Air transport infrastructure
3.2.3. Marine transport infrastructure
3.2.4. Underground transport infrastructure
3.2.5. Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure
3.3. UTILITIES OR SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE
3.3.1. Water infrastructure
3.3.2. Renewable energy facilities
3.3.3. Non-renewable energy facilities
3.3.4. Localised utilities
3.3.5. Major linear utilities
3.4. POLLUTION
3.4.1. Pollution of marine waters
3.4.2. Ground water pollution
3.4.3. Surface water pollution
3.4.4. Air pollution
3.4.5. Solid waste
3.4.6. Input of excess energy
3.6. PHYSICAL RESOURCE EXTRACTION
3.6.1. Mining
3.6.2. Quarrying
3.6.3. Oil and gas
3.6.4. Water

OTHER HUMAN ACTIVITIES
3.5. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE USE/ MODIFICATION
3.5.1. Fishing/collecting aquatic resources
3.5.2. Aquaculture
3.5.3. Land conversion
3.5.4. Livestock farming/grazing of domesticated animals
3.5.5. Crop production
3.5.6. Commercial wild plant collection
3.5.7. Subsistence wild plant collection
3.5.8. Commercial hunting
3.5.9. Subsistence hunting
3.5.10. Forestry /wood production
3.8. SOCIAL/ CULTURAL USES OF HERITAGE
3.8.1. Ritual/spiritual/religious and associative uses
3.8.2. Society's valuing of heritage
3.8.3. Indigenous hunting, gathering and collecting
3.8.4. Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system
3.8.5. Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community
3.8.6. Positive impacts of tourism/visitor/ recreation
3.8.7. Negative impacts of tourism/visitor/ recreation
3.9. OTHER HUMAN ACTIVITIES
3.9.1. Illegal activities
3.9.2. Deliberate destruction of heritage
3.9.3. Military training
3.9.4. War
3.9.5. Terrorism
3.9.6. Civil unrest
3.12. INVASIVE/ ALIEN SPECIES OR HYPER-ABUNDANT SPECIES
3.12.1. Translocated species
3.12.6. Modified genetic material
NATURAL EVENTS AND DISTASTERS
3.7. LOCAL CONDITIONS AFFECTING PHYSICAL FABRIC
3.7.1. Wind
3.7.2. Relative humidity
3.7.3. Temperature
3.7.4. Radiation/light
3.7.5. Dust
3.7.6. Water
3.7.7. Pests
3.7.8. Micro-organisms

3.10. CLIMATE AND SEVERE WEATHER EVENTS
3.10.1. Storms
3.10.2. Flooding
3.10.3. Drought
3.10.4. Desertification
3.10.5. Changes to oceanic waters
3.10.6. Temperature extremes
3.11. SUDDEN ECOLOGICAL OR GEOLOGICAL EVENTS
3.11.1. Volcanic eruption
3.11.2. Earthquake
3.11.3. Tsunami/tidal wave
3.11.4. Avalanche/ landslide
3.11.5. Erosion and siltation/ deposition
3.11.6. Fire
3.12. INVASIVE/ ALIEN SPECIES OR HYPER-ABUNDANT SPECIES
3.12.2. Invasive/alien terrestrial species
3.12.3. Invasive / alien freshwater species
3.12.4. Invasive / alien marine species
3.12.5. Hyper-abundant species
MANAGEMENT AND LEGAL ISSUES
3.13. MANAGEMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL FACTORS
3.13.1. Legal framework
3.13.2. Governance
3.13.3. Management systems/ management plan
3.13.4. Financial resources
3.13.5. Human resources
3.13.6. Low impact research/monitoring activities
3.13.7. High impact research/monitoring activities
3.13.8. Management activities
OTHER FACTORS
3.14. OTHER FACTOR(S)

List of properties examined by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008) under the “state of conservation” Agenda items 7A and 7B

Properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger (Item 7A)

NATURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

1. Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park (Central African Republic) (N 475)
2. Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) (N 227)
3. Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea) (N 155 bis)
4. Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 63)
5. Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 137)
6. Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 136)
7. Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 280)
8. Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 718)
9. Simien National Park (Ethiopia) (N 9)
10. Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) (N 573)
11. Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal) (N 253)

ASIA AND PACIFIC

12. Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India) (N 338)

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

13. Galapagos Islands (Ecuador) (N 1bis)

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

14. Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (United Republic of Tanzania) (C 144)

ARAB STATES

15. Abu Mena (Egypt) (C 90)
16. Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) (C 1130)
17. Samarra Archaeological City (Iraq) (C 276 rev)
18. Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan) (C 148 rev)
19. Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) (C 611)

ASIA AND PACIFIC

20. Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) (C 211 rev)

21. Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) (C 208 rev)
22. Bam and its Cultural Landscape (Islamic Republic of Iran) (C 1208)
23. Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan) (C 171–172)
24. Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines) (C 722)

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

25. The Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and the Meidan Tower (Azerbaijan) (C 958)
26. Dresden Elbe Valley (Germany) (C 1156)
27. Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Serbia) (C 724 bis)

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

28. Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile) (C 1178)
29. Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) (C 366)
30. Coro and its Port (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (C 658)

Properties inscribed on the World Heritage List (Item 7B)

NATURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

1. Mount Kenya (Kenya) (N 800)
2. Vredefort Dome (South Africa) (N 1162)
3. Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania) (N 199)
4. Mosi-oa-Tunya / Victoria Falls (Zambia / Zimbabwe) (N 509)

ARAB STATES

5. Wadi Al-Hitan (Whale Valley) (Egypt) (N 1186)
6. Banc d'Arguin National Park (Mauritania) (N 506)
7. Ichkeul National Park (Tunisia) (N 8)

ASIA-PACIFIC

8. Purnululu National Park (Australia) (N 1094)
9. Macquarie Island (Australia) (N 629 rev)
10. The Sundarbans (Bangladesh) (N 798)
11. Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas (China) (N 1083)
12. Kaziranga National Park (India) (N 337)
13. Keoladeo National Park (India) (N 340)
14. Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia) (N 1167)
15. Lorentz National Park (Indonesia) (N 955)
16. Shiretoko (Japan) (N 1193)
17. Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex (Thailand) (N 590)

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

18. Isole Eolie (Aeolian Islands) (Italy) (N 908)
19. Durmitor National Park (Montenegro) (N 100)
20. Belovezhskaya Pushcha / Białowieża Forest (Belarus / Poland) (N 33-627)
21. Danube Delta (Romania) (N 588)
22. Golden Mountains of Altai (Russian Federation) (N 768 rev)
23. Volcanoes of Kamchatka (Russian Federation) (N 765 bis)
24. Lake Baikal (Russian Federation) (N 754)
25. Western Caucasus (Russian Federation) (N 900)
26. Natural System of "Wrangel Island" Reserve (Russian Federation) (N 1023)
27. Henderson Island (United Kingdom) (N 487)
28. Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast (United Kingdom) (N 369)
29. Yellowstone National Park (United States of America) (N 28)
30. Everglades National Park (United States of America) (N 76)

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

31. Iguazu National Park (Argentina) (N 303)
32. Iguaçu National Park (Brazil) (N 355)
33. Belize Barrier Reef System (Belize) (N 764)
34. Los Katios National Park (Colombia) (N 1083)
35. Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves / La Amistad National Park (Costa Rica / Panama) (N 205 bis)
36. Alexander von Humboldt National Park (Cuba) (N 839 rev)
37. Sangay National Park (Ecuador) (N 250)
38. Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras) (N 196)
39. Manú National Park (Peru) (N 402)
40. Pitons Management Area (Saint Lucia) (N 1161)

MIXED PROPERTIES

ASIA-PACIFIC

41. Tasmanian Wilderness (Australia) (C/N 181 bis)

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

42. Pyrénées – Mont Perdu (France / Spain) (C/N 773 bis)
43. Mount Athos (Greece) (C/N 454)

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

44. Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru) (C/N 274)

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

45. Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin) (C 323)
46. Aksum (Ethiopia) (C 15)
47. Rock-Hewn Churches, Lalibela (Ethiopia) (C 18)
48. Lamu Old Town (Kenya) (C 1055)
49. Timbuktu (Mali) (C 119 rev)
50. Old Towns of Djenné (Mali) (C 116 rev)
51. Island of Mozambique (Mozambique) (C 599)
52. Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape (South Africa) (C 1265)
53. Island of Saint-Louis (Senegal) (C 956 bis)
54. Stone Town of Zanzibar (United Republic of Tanzania) (C 173 rev)

ARAB STATES

55. M'Zab Valley (Algeria) (C 188)
56. Tipasa (Algeria) (C 193)
57. Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis (Egypt) (C 87)
58. Historic Cairo (Egypt) (C 89)
59. Um er-Rasas (Kastrom Mefa'a) (Jordan) (C 1093)
60. Tyr (Lebanon) (C 299)
61. Medina of Essaouira (Ancient Mogador) (Morocco) (C 753 rev)
62. Bahla Fort (Oman) (C 433)
63. Ancient City of Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 20)

ASIA-PACIFIC

64. The Ruins of the Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur (Bangladesh) (C 322)
65. Angkor (Cambodia) (C 668)
66. Classical Gardens of Suzhou (China) (C 813 bis)
67. Old Town of Lijiang (China) (C 811)
68. Historic Centre of Macao (China) (C 1110)
69. Red Fort Complex (India) (C 231 rev)
70. Group of Monuments at Hampi (India) (C 241)
71. Sangiran Early Man Site (Indonesia) (C 593)
72. Meidan Emam, Esfahan (Islamic Republic of Iran) (C 115)
73. Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara (Japan) (C 870)
74. Town of Luang Prabang (Lao People's Democratic Republic) (C 479 rev)
75. Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (Nepal) (C 666)
76. Kathmandu Valley (Nepal) (C 121)
77. Old Town of Galle and its Fortifications (Sri Lanka) (C 451)
78. Parthian Fortresses of Nisa (Turkmenistan) (C 1242)
79. Samarkand – Crossroads of Cultures (Uzbekistan) (C 603 rev)

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

80. Madriu-Perafita-Claror Valley (Andorra) (C 1160 bis)
81. Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg (Austria) (C 784)
82. Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria) (C 1033)
83. Palace and Gardens of Schönbrunn (Austria) (C 786)
84. Belfries of Belgium and France (Belgium and France) (C 943 and 943 bis)
85. Old Bridge Area of the Old City of Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina) (C 946 rev)
86. Historic Centre of Prague (Czech Republic) (C 616)
87. Historic Centre (Old Town) of Tallinn (Estonia) (C 822)
88. Prehistoric Sites and Decorated Caves of the Vézère Valley (France) (C 85)
89. Bordeaux, Port of the Moon (France) (C 1256)
90. Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) (C 708)
91. Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery (Georgia) (C 710)
92. Cologne Cathedral (Germany) (C 292 rev)
93. Upper Middle Rhine Valley (Germany) (C 1066)
94. Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrassy Avenue (Hungary) (C 400 and 400 bis)
95. Tokaj Wine Region Historic Cultural Landscape (Hungary) (C 1063)
96. Skellig Michael (Ireland) (C 757)
97. Historic Centre of Riga (Latvia) (C 852)
98. Curonian Spit (Lithuania / Russian Federation) (C 994)
99. Vilnius Historic Centre (Lithuania) (C 541)
100. Megalithic Temples of Malta (Malta) (C 132 bis)
101. Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor (Montenegro) (C 125)
102. Auschwitz Birkenau
German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp (1940-1945) (Poland) (C 31)
103. Historic Centre of Sighisoara (Romania) (C 902)
104. Kizhi Pogost (Russian Federation) (C 544)
105. Historic Centre of Saint Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments (Russian Federation) (C 540)
106. Kremlin and Red Square, Moscow (Russian Federation) (C 545)
107. Historical Centre of the City of Yaroslavl (Russian Federation) (C 1170)
108. Works of Antoni Gaudí (Spain) (C 320 bis)
109. Old City of Salamanca (Spain) (C 381 rev)
110. Historic Areas of Istanbul (Turkey) (C 356)
111. Kiev: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kiev-Pechersk Lavra (Ukraine) (C 527 bis)
112. Tower of London (United Kingdom) (C 488)

- 113. Westminster Palace, Westminster Abbey and Saint Margaret's Church (United Kingdom) (C 426)
- 114. Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites (United Kingdom) (C 373)
- 115. Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City (United Kingdom) (C 1150)
- 116. City of Bath (United Kingdom) (C 428)
- 117. Old and New Towns of Edinburgh (United Kingdom) (C 728)
- 118. Heart of Neolithic Orkney (United Kingdom) (C 514)

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

- 119. Tiwanaku: Spiritual and Political Centre of the Tiwanaku Culture (Bolivia) (C 567 rev)
- 120. Port, Fortresses and Group of Monuments, Cartagena (Colombia) (C 285)
- 121. City of Quito (Ecuador) (C 2)
- 122. Maya Site of Copan (Honduras) (C 129)
- 123. Pre-Hispanic City of Teotihuacan (Mexico) (C 414)
- 124. Historic Centre of Mexico City and Xochimilco (Mexico) (C 412)
- 125. Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo (Panama) (C 135)
- 126. Archaeological site of Panamá Viejo and Historic District of Panamá (Panama) (C 790 bis)
- 127. Historical Centre of the City of Arequipa (Peru) (C 1016)
- 128. Historic Quarter of the City of Colonia del Sacramento (Uruguay) (C747)

ICOMOS OVERVIEW

of STATE OF CONSERVATION of CULTURAL PROPERTIES,

presented to the 32ND SESSION

At the start of the Committee's consideration of State of Conservation Reports for cultural properties, ICOMOS would like to present a short comment on a few key aspects of this year's reports.

At the 30th session in Vilnius, ICOMOS presented to the Committee an analysis of threats identified for inscribed cultural properties over the past ten years. This demonstrated that lack of management and development threats were the key issues facing cultural properties. Two years on, and an analysis of threats in this year's SOC reports for cultural properties, confirms these trends, but also highlights some new concerns. There include windfarms, lack of development in some urban areas and the massive scale of some urban development proposals.

Analysing the SOCs, reveals stark contrasts between development that is seen to threaten the OUV of some properties, and lack of development that is having an equally devastating effect on others. Areas of traditional housing within the cities of Djenne, Timbuktu, Zabid and Isle de Mozambique all need development that will revive their historic structures to make them good places to live and able to meet the needs of the 21st century. They need benign or sustainable development that will sustain OUV and deliver much needed social and economic benefits. The absence of such development is potentially having irreversible consequences on the values of these sites, as traditional buildings collapse through lack of maintenance, but it is also impacting on the social structures of the areas, as well as on their sense of place, on the sense of well-being of their inhabitants, and ultimately on what they look like.

On the other hand, a trend that has become apparent in recent years is the appearance of particularly large scale development projects either within inscribed properties or in their settings. Some of these developments have a footprint the size of small towns. Economies of scale seem to have prompted developers to plan extensively. This trend is apparent in Macao, Prague, Bath and Tallinn, where large scale developments have the potential to irreversibly change the skyline of inscribed properties or their settings or to impact adversely on key views.

Such development will have a pronounced effect on the visual appearance of these properties. This raises the importance of understanding the link between OUV and the physical attributes of a property. In protecting properties we are protecting their ability to display in physical terms why they have OUV. Views of a site, or views from it, are often essential components to understanding OUV. Major developments do need to be appraised for their impact on the way OUV is manifest on the ground and thus on the visual integrity of properties.

The idea of development impacting on our ability to appreciate the values of properties is also highlighted by the emergence of a new threat: large-scale windfarms. Such structures have the potential to seriously damage the strong sense of place of properties associated with spiritual associations or for the inspirational qualities of their landscapes. One such

example highlighted in the SOCs is Orkney where the Neolithic stone circles and tombs within encircling hills are thought to reflect early man's ideas of the structure of the universe. Suddenly this landscape that has hardly changed for millennia and where ancient ideas feel very alive could be compromised.

These examples, we suggest, do highlight the need for proactive responses. It is often too late when planning permission is submitted for major windfarms or major developments to begin to consider alternatives: reaction is the only defence. Similarly to wait for urban houses to collapse also leaves us fire fighting.

Unless management becomes more proactive, the ABs and the Committee find themselves in the difficult position of addressing symptoms that may be unsatisfactory where the root cause is the lack of an agreed process for steering the property in a positive direction.

In the case of Djenne, a strong statement has made in the SOC report about the need for a pilot project to allow understanding of how beneficial development might be supported in urban areas. ICOMOS considers that many more such initiatives could be valuable that could demonstrate good practice, how this could be drawn in at an early enough stage and what might be transferable to other properties.

For large scale windfarms, whereas we all subscribe to the need to look for alternative sources of energy, we must question the sanctity of the settings of many WHSs. ICOMOS is concerned that, with this threat, precedents could easily be set. We suggest that some sort of presumption against windfarms impacting on the settings of inscribed properties needs to be considered – rather in the way a prohibition against mining in natural sites has now been accepted. This is a global threat where a global response could be appropriate.

All these three diverse threats – lack of development, large- scale development and large scale wind farms raise the need to evaluate the impacts of these threats at the earliest opportunity through proactive management. They also highlight the need to have much sharper tools for this process. Several SOCs mention the need for early and thorough impact assessments covering cultural, environmental and social factors. ICOMOS would like to suggest that this is an area where more guidance could be given on joining up SoOUV, the attributes that carry OUV – including the visual attributes that help us appreciate and perceive OUV – and the clearest methodology that can be found for evaluating the impact of threats at the earliest opportunity. We would welcome the opportunity to work with others to consider these issues.

Address by the Director General of IUCN

at 32nd session of World Heritage Committee

Quebec, 4 July 2008

Madam Chairperson

It is a pleasure for me as Director General of IUCN to be here and see how we can help support and complement the great and truly essential work of the World Heritage Committee. UNESCO was instrumental in the creation of IUCN 60 years ago and I am happy to note that we are still working closely and effectively together for the benefit of nature and people.

We all know that our planet's resources are overexploited and that the strains we put on our environment are unsustainable. We should challenge the idea that the only value we give to nature is one we can exploit without considering its regenerative capacity.

In that context, we need protected areas. They demonstrate that healthy ecosystems are essential to life itself, and they show that nature can be very generous when it is allowed to be. And that is a message that we have to keep alive. World Heritage Sites cover some 8% of the total area of protected areas around the world, and if properly managed they represent the flagships of global conservation. In order for this to happen, we need political will, we need instruments, and we need standards.

This is a standard-setting Convention and I am pleased IUCN is able to contribute to upholding those standards, especially through the advice from our World Heritage Panel. IUCN's work on World Heritage exemplifies our commitment to providing independent, objective and rigorous advice based on the best science and knowledge and the best standards of practice in the field.

IUCN sees the coming items on State of Conservation (7A and 7B) as the heart of the Convention, more so even than the inscription of new sites. I would like to note, as this item opens, three issues that I believe the Committee should focus on when considering the State of Conservation reports.

1. Firstly, the threats to biodiversity in some sites should be of real concern. 120 natural World Heritage Sites are inscribed on the WH List because of the richness of their biodiversity. Many of those sites face major threats from activities such as poaching, habitat loss from deforestation and logging. IUCN's analyses show species extinction rates are increasing. There needs to be a sense of urgency in our response to this, and this should start with our commitment to protecting the values of World Heritage Sites in terms of species conservation..

2. Secondly, it is important to find measures to protect World Heritage Sites that also support livelihoods of people living in and adjacent to these areas, for example through sustainable tourism. Nine of the 13 natural sites on the Danger List suffer from poaching, Strategies for alternative livelihoods are needed to address these threats.. In Simien, Ethiopia such a strategy has been developed but funds are insufficient to implement it. The international community needs to support concrete and feasible projects developed with local communities. When local populations see conservation and their well-being as inextricably linked the battle is almost won.

3. Finally, I am concerned that across 57 natural and mixed World Heritage Sites to be considered, we are reporting 15 sites where mining impacts are a concern. World Heritage Status should mean that some principles are beyond discussion. One of these is the so called “no-go” commitment to mining in World Heritage Sites recognized by the International Council of Metals and by Shell. ‘No go’ means that no mining and no exploration can take place within a natural World Heritage site. And that includes the implicit expectation that the values of World Heritage Sites will also not be damaged by adjacent mining. In short, World Heritage Sites should be off-limits for mining. Period.

For this reason, IUCN calls for the ‘no-go’ principle to be adopted urgently by all private and state companies, and enforced by all signatory governments. IUCN proposes that the principle of “no go” for mining or exploration, and its strict enforcement by governments, should be, in essence, a condition for any new listing. Consequently, the non-respect of this condition should be considered as representing the type of threat that should eventually lead to taking a site off the list.

IUCN agrees wholeheartedly with the comments made at the opening ceremony by the President of UNESCO’s General Conference, Mr. Georges Anastassopoulos. In order to maintain the value, respect and prestige of the World Heritage Site label, we have to pay greater attention to the state of sites already listed and be more demanding about the efforts made to maintain them properly.

Thank you Madam Chairperson

http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/julia_marton_lefevre_statement_world_heritage_sites.pdf