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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL  
ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL  
AND NATURAL HERITAGE

BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-fifth ordinary session  
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters  
25 - 30 June 2001

**Item 5.2. of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger and on the World Heritage List:**

**Reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.**

**SUMMARY**

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

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

**Decision required:**

PART I        The Bureau is requested to take note of the reports on thematic issues.

PART II        The Bureau is requested to examine the state of conservation reports and take the appropriate decisions thereupon.

PART III       The Bureau is requested to take note of the information provided.

*The World Heritage Centre is working to improve the format of documents. Please provide any comments and suggestions for further improvements to the Centre in writing.*

## INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

(iii) The document is divided in three parts:

### **PART I Thematic issues for noting**

This part of the document includes reports on thematic issues related to the state of conservation of World Heritage properties.

### **PART II Reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List for examination**

This part of the document includes state of conservation reports on which the Bureau is requested to take action, i.e. adopt a proposed decision.

### **PART III Reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List for noting.**

This part includes information on the state of conservation of specific properties that is transmitted to the Bureau for noting.

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## PART I THEMATIC ISSUES FOR NOTING

### **Mining and World Heritage**

#### International assistance:

Technical assistance for the organization of the technical workshop in September 2000 (US\$ 15,920);

#### Previous deliberations:

Twenty- third session of the Committee (paragraphs X.48 to X.61)

Information Document WHC-2000/CONF.203/INF.7 at the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau (Report of the technical workshop on "World Heritage and Mining", IUCN Headquarters, Gland, Switzerland, 21 - 23 September) 2000

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee (paragraphs VIII.44 to VIII.49; Annex X, page 109; Annex XV)

#### Main issues:

Potential and actual mining threats and impacts to numerous World Heritage sites; mining disasters (e.g. spills) etc.;

#### New information:

Following the review of the results of the technical workshop on World Heritage and Mining by the last session of the Committee, the proceedings of the workshop, including the case studies presented, were prepared. A more comprehensive publication of the workshop case studies is being investigated. In addition, a number of follow-up actions to the recommendation by the Committee were carried out:

- IUCN and the Centre participated at a Workshop on "No go areas" with one gold mining company (Placer Dome), (Washington DC, USA, 25 to 26 January 2001). The workshop was organized by the World Resources Institute as a follow-up to on-going discussions on Protected Areas and mining and in particular to the recommendations of the twenty-fourth session of the World Heritage Committee. The workshop focussed on the principles that 1. Protected area categories I to IV and all World Heritage sites should be no-go areas for mining; 2. Other no-go areas, such as biodiversity hotspots, socially sensitive areas etc., should be recognized through a screening process which identifies sensitive sites and that 3. Best practice and minimal mining impacts at all other Placer Dome operations have to be binding.
- A representative of the Centre was invited to participate in a workshop on "Dams, Mining and Indigenous Culture" at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London (UCL) on 19 March 2001. Workshop participants were informed of the Recommendations of the Technical Workshop on World Heritage and Mining held at IUCN Headquarters in September 2000 and the Placer Dome workshop on "No go areas" mentioned above. Several participants at the UCL workshop stressed the importance of maintaining strict principles of conservation and therefore questioned the dialogue

with the mining industry. Furthermore they suggested that discussions relating to case studies of mining and World Heritage sites with indigenous values should involve relevant indigenous peoples.

- A meeting between the International Council on Metals and the Environment (ICME) representatives and the Director of the Centre took place on 25 April 2001 informing the Centre of the change in the organization of the mining industry. In a letter dated 11 April 2001 the Vice Presidents of ICME for Environmental Stewardship and for Public Policy stated that the Global Mining Initiative (GMI) has decided to put in place a new organization, based on ICME with an expanded mandate. The new organization, the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) will be located in London, UK, and will be operating by October 2001. These changes would not impact the short term work (e.g. publication of technical workshop proceedings), however the preparation of a guidance document on World Heritage and Mining as well as the establishment of the Working Group needs to be reviewed, once the transition comes to an end.

The Secretariat will continue to follow-up on the issue "World Heritage and Mining". Furthermore, the Secretariat will prepare a report concerning the Global Mining Initiative's (GMI) decision to put in place a new organization, based on ICME, but with an expanded mandate, to be presented to the twenty-fifth extraordinary session of the Bureau in December 2001.

### **Natural disasters and World Heritage in the Caribbean, Central America and South America**

#### International assistance:

Emergency Assistance to Dominican Republic (Santo Domingo), El Salvador (Joya de Ceren), Guatemala (Antigua Guatemala and Quirigua), Honduras (Copan) and Nicaragua (Leon Viejo) in response to hurricane Mitch of October 1998 (US\$ 213,439 in 1998-2000);

Emergency Assistance for protection of monuments in response to volcano activity in Quito, Ecuador (US\$ 50,000 in 1999);

Emergency Assistance to Mexico in response to earthquake damages (US\$ 100,000 in 2000);

Training Assistance for a regional risk preparedness course organised by ICCROM (Dominican Republic) (US\$ 31,800 in 2000);

Training Assistance for a regional risk preparedness course in Mexico (US\$ 20,000 in 2001).

#### Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee (paragraph number VII.42 and 43)

Twenty-third session of the Bureau (paragraph number IV.15)

Twenty-third session of the Committee (paragraph number X.46)

#### Main issues:

Over the past years flooding, hurricanes, earthquakes and volcanic activities have affected or threatened World Heritage sites in Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua.

#### New information:

Considerable emergency assistance has been delivered to States Parties concerned for emergency consolidation and restoration works. Only in one case, Quito, Ecuador, the emergency assistance was requested for the preparation of the site for an expected risk (volcano eruption).

Two training activities were planned to address the issue of disaster preparedness: ICCROM organised a regional course for the Caribbean in the Dominican Republic in January 2001 and the Mexican Institute for Anthropology and History (INAH) will organise a similar activity for Central America in 2001.

There is a need to further integrate disaster preparedness planning in the management of World Heritage and other cultural and natural sites. The Secretariat, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, will present proposals to this effect to the next session of the World Heritage Committee.

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## **PART II REPORTS ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST FOR EXAMINATION**

### **NATURAL HERITAGE**

#### Africa

#### **Mount Kenya National Park/Natural Forest (Kenya)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1997

Brief description: At 5,199 m, Mount Kenya is the second highest peak in Africa. It is an ancient extinct volcano, during whose period of activity (3.1–2.6 million years ago) it is thought to have risen to 6,500 m. There are 12 remnant glaciers on the mountain, all receding rapidly, and four secondary peaks that sit at the head of the U-shaped glacial valleys. With its rugged glacier-clad summits and forested middle slopes, Mount Kenya is one of the most impressive landscapes in East Africa. The evolution and ecology of its afro-alpine flora also provide an outstanding example of ecological processes.

Justification for inscription: N(ii)(iii)

International assistance: US\$ 25,000 under Technical Co-operation

#### Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee - page 90 of Annex VII

Twenty-fourth session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.31

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.25 / Annex X page 114.

***Main Issues:*** Transition of management, deforestation and rehabilitation;

***New information:***

The Centre received an e-mail letter dated 12 April 2001 from the Director of the Kenya National Parks in which he informed the Centre that the State Party has had some delay in preparing a management plan from the international assistance (US\$25,000) approved by the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau. IUCN is concerned about the ongoing illegal activities in the Mt. Kenya Forest, despite the Kenya Wildlife Service taking over responsibility last year for a larger part of the Mt. Kenya Forest. Forest land excisions still take place on the ground, in particular in the Mt. Hombe and Ragati blocks of Mt Kenya Forest, outside the World Heritage site. In February 2001, the Environment Minister gave 28-days notice of intent to allocate 68,000 hectares of forest land, including locations around Mt. Kenya, for settlement, and there are reports that surveyors are working in the Hombe and Ragati blocks in an attempt to start land demarcation before the implementation of the Forest Bill. However, on 16 March, 2001 it was reported that the Kenyan High Court granted an injunction to prevent authorities allowing forests to be cleared. These forests will now remain state property until a case filed against the Minister for the Environment is heard. Cannabis plantations continue to pose a threat to conservation of the Mt. Kenya. Plantations range in size from 2 to 3 acres and are located on the Embu and Meru South slopes of Mt. Kenya. When plantations are destroyed by anti-narcotics police growers simply move deeper into the forest. Despite the arrest of some plantations guards, the authorities have not been able to identify plantation owners. The police and Kenya Wildlife Service do not currently have adequate resources to eliminate the plantations.

IUCN recommends that the Bureau invite the State Party to provide further information by 15 September 2001 on its actions to combat deforestation in the vicinity of Mount Kenya. IUCN urges the State Party to invite a monitoring mission to this site as suggested by the World Heritage Bureau in November 2000.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

“The Bureau welcomes the recommendations of IUCN, and requests the Centre and IUCN to co-operate with the State Party with a view to undertake a monitoring mission to the site to ascertain its state of conservation. The Bureau further requests the State Party to co-operate with the Centre and IUCN in order to complete the management plan and a programme for the rehabilitation of the site and to provide information on its actions to combat deforestation to be submitted to the Centre by 15 September 2001 for consideration by the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau.”

**Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1981

***Brief description:*** Located in a well-watered area along the banks of the Gambia river, the gallery forests and savannahs of Niokolo-Koba National Park have a very rich fauna, among them Derby elands (largest of the antelopes), chimpanzees, lions, leopards and a large population of elephants, as well as many birds, reptiles and amphibians.

***Justification for inscription:*** N(iv)

***International assistance:*** US\$ 34,013 for Technical Co-operation (No International Assistance since 1990)

***Previous deliberations:***

Seventeenth session of the World Heritage Committee - paragraph X.2

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.27 / Annex X page 116.

***Main issues:*** poaching, transfer of animals (threatened Derby Eland population);

***New information:***

The State Party has not yet responded to the Centre’s letter dated 8 December 2000 informing the State Party of the concern expressed by the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau over the reported proposals to transfer animals, including the Derby Eland from the World Heritage site, and has so far not invited a monitoring mission to the site as requested by the Bureau. IUCN reports the concern about the capture and removal of wildlife from Niokolo-Koba National Park. For example, from April to July 1999, a South African team captured 74 roan antelope, 10 buffalo and 23 Buffon’s kob and moved these animals to the small, privately owned Bandia reserve and ultimately translocated to the 6,000 hectare Fathala Forest where SPEFS is planning to establish a wildlife park for tourists. A further capture operation was conducted in Niokolo-Koba in May 2000, when 9 western giant eland and 10 waterbuck were captured and translocated to Bandia. IUCN reports that these game captures were conducted under an agreement signed by Senegal’s former Minister of Environment with the “Société pour la Protection de l’Environnement et de la Faune au Senegal” (SPEFS) in June 1999, and a second agreement signed by Senegal’s current Minister of Environment with SPEFS in April 2000. The latter agreement specified that the Government of Senegal will donate 70 roan, 50 kob, 10 buffalo, 20 bushbuck, 10 grey duiker, 10 waterbuck, 10 western giant eland and 30 western hartebeest to SPEFS. IUCN further reports that an Article of agreement states that 45 roan will be transferred to South Africa, as “payment in kind” for the logistics and expertise provided by the South Africans. 35 of the captured roan antelope were transported from Senegal to Sable Ranch in South Africa in July 2000.

IUCN and the Centre express great concern about several aspects of these recent captures and translocations. The site where the animals are to be relocated is known to be completely unsuitable for some species such as the giant

eland. IUCN's position is that translocation should not occur unless it is clearly demonstrated that it will: 1. benefit the conservation of the endangered species; 2. cause no significant harm to conservation in Niokolo-Koba National Park; and 3. result from a clear decision taken by the Senegalese authorities and publicised as such. IUCN reports that the President of IUCN has met with the Minister of the Environment of Senegal, Mr. Mamadou Lamine Ba, in March 2001 in Dakar. During this meeting the Minister agreed that the IUCN Antelopes Specialist Group visit Senegal and assist the Ministry in finding a suitable solution to the present situation as proposed by IUCN.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

“The Bureau notes with concern the reports concerning Niokolo-Koba National Park, and requests the State Party to provide by 15 September 2001, a report on the state of conservation of this site, including a detailed update on the current situation of the animals removed from the Park. The Bureau welcomes the recommendations of the Centre and IUCN and urges the State Party to invite a monitoring mission to the site in 2001, as suggested by the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the World Heritage Bureau.”

#### **Bwindi Impenetrable Forest (Uganda)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994

**Brief description:** Located in south-western Uganda, at the junction of the plain and mountain forests, Bwindi Park covers 32,000 ha and is known for its exceptional biodiversity, with more than 160 species of trees and over 100 species of ferns. Many types of birds and butterflies can also be found there, as well as many endangered species, including the mountain gorilla.

**Justification for inscription:** N(iii)(iv)

**International assistance:** US\$ 2,600 as Preparatory Assistance.

**Previous deliberations:**

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.41

Twenty-third session of the Committee – page 92 of Annex VIII

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.27 / Annex X page 116.

**Main issues:** Security problems and civil unrest; implementation of security plan.

**New information:**

No new information received by the Centre at the time of preparation of this report.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

“The Bureau recalls its earlier request and requests that the Centre and IUCN continue efforts to verify with the Ugandan authorities, the needs for support for purchase of vehicles and staff training, and to continue assisting the Ugandan authorities to obtain financial support from suitable sources including the World Heritage Fund.”

#### **Ngorongoro Conservation Area (United Republic of Tanzania)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979

**Brief description:** A large permanent concentration of wild animals can be found in the huge and perfect crater of Ngorongoro. Nearby, the crater of Empakaai, filled by a deep lake, and the active volcano of Oldonyo Lengua can be seen. Excavations carried out in the Olduvai gorge, not far from there, have resulted in the discovery of one of our more distant ancestors, *Homo habilis*. Laitoli Site, which also lies within the area, is one of the main localities of early hominid footprints, dating back 3.6 million years.

**Justification for inscription:** N(ii)(iii)(iv)

**International assistance:** US\$ 79,500 Technical Cooperation; US\$ 20,000 Emergency Assistance.

**Previous deliberations:**

Twenty-third session of the Committee –page 93 of Annex VIII

Twenty-fourth session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.41

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.27 / Annex X page 117.

**Main issues:** Environmental Impact Assessment of proposed routes of access road.

**New information:**

The Centre received a letter dated 12 April 2001 from the UNESCO Dar es Salaam Office transmitting the Ngorongoro Management Plan (1996), a letter from the Conservator of Ngorongoro dated 5 April 2001, and a “Draft Plan to Control Vehicle Congestion in the Ngorongoro Crater”. Through the letter from UNESCO Office the State Party requested assistance to undertake a study to evaluate the environmental impact of vehicle pressure in the Ngorongoro Crater and to examine ways of managing vehicle numbers with a view to keeping a balance between protecting the ecosystem and maintaining tourism. There has been 7% annual increase in tourists to Ngorongoro Crater since 1991, and that the Crater attracts over 75% of the visitors with vehicles to Ngorongoro. The State Party is concerned that the number of vehicles on the crater floor has reached excessive levels with recordings of 140 vehicles at one time, and that continuous and excessive vehicle traffic is taking a perceptible toll on the environment. The report shows that in 1999 there were 122,791 tourists compared to 213,529 in 2000 and that even during the times when the number of visitors is low

the number of vehicles is high (vehicles are carrying less visitors). Two meetings have been held between the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA), on follow-up actions of the plan and the local tourist industry (including tour operator's associations and representatives of leading tour operators and hoteliers operating in Ngorongoro). Measures have been proposed in the Draft Plan including: encouraging medium sized vehicles; cutting down the number of stay hours by introducing the shift system; reviewing the pricing system; diversification of attractions outside the crater; and training of tour drivers and guides.

IUCN has received reports of the extensive spread of an invasive alien species, the "Mexican poppy" (*Argemone mexicana*, Family Papaveraceae) in the wheat fields around Karatu, inside the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA). This plant is also growing on the roadsides within the Ngorongoro Crater floor, as well as along the roads towards Ndutu, Naabi Gate and Loliondo. The invasive species is a potential threat to the Serengeti ecosystem of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, especially inside the crater floor. In the worst case scenario, it could spread through the grass plains, competing with local species and therefore taking away an important food source of the ungulates. This species is highly toxic to humans and animals. It is important to avoid the spread of this aggressive alien by carefully monitoring all areas, especially the roadsides and by collecting and burning the plants before they set seeds. There have also been reports of other invasive species *Gutierrezia* (*Erlangea cordifolia* and *Bidens* spp., which have infested up to one-quarter of the Crater floor.

The State Party has noted that it is aware of the situation with these invasive species and has been carrying out some initiatives to eradicate the weeds. The State Party has also noted its willingness to accept assistance in identifying invasive species and setting up an eradication programme. IUCN has been involved in discussions with various parties on the eradication of this species, including the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group and is willing to provide technical assistance as required.

IUCN also remains concerned about the ecological impact of the canal and road works. The 1998 road works deepened and added new branches to the canal that diverts water away from the Gorigor Swamp, the Crater's largest wetland, fed by Tokitok Spring and the Oljoro Nyuki stream, to the lake, which caused the southern third of the swamp to dry up. The canal is maintaining the water level in the lake at an artificially high level and reducing the lake's natural salinity. It has been reported to IUCN that water flow studies in 1999 and 2000 show that the northernmost culvert seems to have captured the discharge of Ngoitokitok spring water, and as a result the amount of water being removed from Gorigor in 2000 tripled the amount removed in 1999. This means that what was left of the Gorigor Swamp is kept dry in the dry-season, thus severely impacting on the wetland habitats.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

“The Bureau requests the State Party to undertake a study on the impact of vehicles in Ngorongoro Conservation Area with view to examining ways for vehicle management in the Area. Furthermore the Bureau welcomes the recommendations made by IUCN and requests a detailed state of conservation report from the State Party on the extent and impact of the invasive species, as well as methods for their control and eradication by 15 September 2001 to be reported to the twenty-fifth extraordinary session of the Bureau.”

### **Mosi-oe-Tunya/Victoria Falls (Zambia/Zimbabwe)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1989

**Brief description:** These are among the most spectacular waterfalls in the world. The Zambezi river, which is more than 2 km wide at this point, plunges noisily down a series of basalt gorges and raises an iridescent mist that can be seen more than 20 km away.

**Justification for inscription:** N(ii)(iii)

**International assistance:** US\$ 7,000 as Preparatory Assistance, US\$ 20,000 as Technical Co-operation and US\$ 16,546 for Training.

**Previous deliberations:**

Twenty-second session of the Committee – paragraph VII.27

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.46

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.27 / Annex X page 117.

**Main issues:** Transboundary co-operation and organization of bilateral meeting.

**New information:**

The Centre received International Assistance requests amounting to less than US\$20,000 each from both Zambia and Zimbabwe for the organization of national meetings leading to a bilateral meeting. The contracts for the organization of the meetings are under preparation at the time of writing this report. It is expected that the national meetings will take place during 2001.

**Action requested:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Bureau requests the Centre and IUCN to continue their collaboration with the two States Parties to ensure the organization of both national and bilateral meetings to report to the twenty-sixth session of the Bureau in April 2002”.

## **Asia and the Pacific**

### **Great Barrier Reef (Australia)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1981

**Brief description:** The Great Barrier Reef is a site of remarkable variety and beauty on the north-east coast of Australia. It contains the world's largest collection of coral reefs, with 400 types of coral, 1,500 species of fish and 4,000 types of mollusc. It also holds great scientific interest as the habitat of species such as the dugong ('sea cow') and the large green turtle, which are threatened with extinction.

**Justification for inscription:** N(i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

**International assistance:** None

**Previous deliberations:**

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.24 / Annex X page 111.

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.22

**Main issues:** pollution and grounding of a vessel, integrated land and catchment management.

**New information:** At the twenty-fourth session of the World Heritage Bureau, the State Party was requested to submit a report on the grounding of a vessel in the Great Barrier Reef World in November 2000. The State Party transmitted a report to the Centre as attachment to a letter of 19 April 2001 from the Australian Permanent Delegate to the Director of the Centre. The report was sent to IUCN for review and comments.

On 2 November 2000 the 21,000 tonne Malaysian container vessel *MV Bunga Teratai Satu* went aground on the north-western side of Sudbury Reef, southeast of Cairns and within the World Heritage site. The 184-metre vessel was en route from Singapore to Sydney. It was carrying fuel oil, diesel oil and some hazardous chemical goods. The vessel was outside the compulsory pilotage area, and hence, no pilot was on board at the time of grounding (the pilot had disembarked at Cairns approximately 2 hours earlier). On 14 November 2000 the vessel was refloated after 13 days aground. In February 2001 the Malaysian International Shipping Company (MISC), which owned the vessel, was fined AU\$400,000 under the Environmental Protection Act for the environmental damage caused.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) noted that the vessel caused severe but localised damage to the Sudbury Reef. The ship ploughed a path through the reef, destroying an area of approximately 1500m<sup>2</sup>. Rubble and blocks of reef rock pushed up on either side of the hull scar have created a ridge of 5-10m wide and 1m high. Subsequently, an area of 30,000m<sup>2</sup> was affected by relatively low levels of contamination as a result of the dispersal of flakes of paint by the propeller work of the ship during an attempt to refloat it.

GBRMPA staff and independent representatives of the MISC implemented a clean-up programme based on a mutually agreed upon methodology, whose primary goals were to:

- remove the antifoulant from the marine environment to a level where it will not have long-term effects on the benthic communities (especially corals); and
- partially stabilise the reef substrate at the primary impact site to facilitate the natural recovery of the area.

The clean-up effort began on 9 January 2001 and was completed on 27 March 2001. It was carried out in two phases; phase 1 involved the clean-up of the impact area of 1,500 m<sup>2</sup>, followed by phase 2, when a larger area of 30,000 m<sup>2</sup> that had low levels of contamination as a result of the dispersal of antifoulant flakes from the plume of sediments raised by the propeller work of the ship during an attempt to refloat, was cleaned up. The operation took longer than expected to complete due to the large amount of TBT-containing anti-fouling paint buried deep in the sediment and delays due to bad weather. It included a team of divers and scientists using heavy equipment such as pumps, barges, and underwater vacuums to remove paint from the reef that had scraped off the ship's hull. It proved impossible to remove every trace of TBT from the area and scientists say that, although it is unlikely that the remaining paint will have a significant impact on fish and adult coral, it may be toxic to larval coral for several years. Large pieces of coral have also been replaced into the trench area formed by the hull of the ship in order to facilitate natural recovery. A long-term site-monitoring programme is under review by GBRMPA and interested parties.

The State Party informed IUCN that a review of actions to improve ship safety and pollution prevention in the Great Barrier Reef is being conducted by a steering committee comprising the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services, GBRMPA and the Queensland Department of Transport. Public consultation sessions started in February 2001. The steering committee is due to report to the Minister for Transport and Regional Services on 29 June 2001. GBRMPA has initiated a number of legislative changes to improve ship safety within the Great Barrier Reef as a result of this accident. These include:

- Increasing the penalties for pollution from ships within the GBRMP;
- Creating an offence for the improper operation of a vessel within the GBRMP;
- Simplifying the process for declaring compulsory pilotage areas;
- Extending the Hydrographers Passage (offshore Mackay) compulsory pilotage area; and
- Declaring the Whitsunday Islands a compulsory pilotage area.

IUCN notes a report by the Brisbane Institute on the outbreaks of Crown of Thorns starfish on the Great Barrier Reef. The tourism industry is said to be spending AU\$2

million a year in trying to keep their dive sites clear of the starfish, mainly by injecting them with wine bottle sterilising solution. Such outbreaks of the starfish are thought to be a natural occurrence on a 12–15 year cycle and the species dies back naturally. There are concerns, however, that the third major infestation to affect the Reef is not dying back naturally. Human-induced factors may be shortening the interval between the outbreaks, which may now be occurring at 3–5 year intervals. The most likely suspects triggering the outbreaks are nutrient laden coastal run-offs – thought possibly to provide more food for the larval stage of the starfish, and fishing – and most likely deplete the predators of juvenile starfish. There is also some evidence that major flood events have a correlation with the outbreaks, as well as the general increase in the sediment load of Queensland rivers flowing into the Great Barrier Reef. Nitrogen-polluted waters that flow into the Reef may be a significant factor in the growth of the phytoplankton that forms the food of the Crown of Thorns. No effective legislation is in place in Queensland to manage this agricultural pollution. In early 2001 Queensland Premier, Mr. Beattie, announced that his government would take an active role in protecting the reef, starting with a Crown of Thorns research and eradication programme. Reef researchers are keen for more work to be done on the links between river outflows, pollution levels and the Crown of Thorns.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

“The Bureau commends the rapid action taken by the State Party for cleaning up impacts of the accident on the Sudbury Reef and its efforts to revise legislation, based on lessons learned from the clean-up operations, in order to improve safety of shipping within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. In the light of this accident, the Bureau stresses the importance of compulsory pilotage of large vessels, especially those carrying hazardous materials, throughout the World Heritage area. The Bureau notes the need for effective response strategies to minimize environmental impacts in the case of marine accidents through consultations with key stakeholders, including traditional owners. The Bureau expresses concern over the possible impacts that remaining pieces of TBT could have on larval coral in the impacted area and urges the State Party to finalize the long-term site-monitoring programme that is currently under review. The Bureau invites the State Party to submit a progress report to the Centre, before 15 September 2001, on follow-up actions to improve shipping safety in the Park and launch a long-term site monitoring programme as well as on the issues related to the outbreaks of Crown of Thorns Starfish highlighted by IUCN for review by the twenty-fifth extraordinary session of the Bureau.”

## **Greater Blue Mountains Area (Australia)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2000

*Brief description:* The Greater Blue Mountains Area consists of 1.03 million ha of sandstone plateaux, escarpments and gorges dominated by temperate eucalypt forest. The site, comprised of eight protected areas, is noted for its representation of the evolutionary adaptation and diversification of the eucalypts in post-Gondwana isolation on the Australian continent. Ninety-one eucalypt taxa occur within The Greater Blue Mountains Area which is also outstanding for its exceptional expression of the structural and ecological diversity of the eucalypts associated with its wide range of habitats. The site provides significant representation of Australia's biodiversity with ten percent of the vascular flora as well as significant numbers of rare or threatened species, including endemic and evolutionary relict species, such as the Wollemi pine, which have persisted in highly-restricted microsites.

*Justification for inscription:* N (ii)(iv)

*International assistance:* None

*Previous deliberations:*

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph X.A.1

*Main issues:* integrity questions.

*New information:* It has been reported to IUCN that a mining company, Centennial Coal, has lodged a development application with an environment impact statement for a major mining lease extension for the Clarence Colliery. The Clarence Colliery is located on Newnes Plateau that adjoins the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area to the east. The report received by IUCN notes three environmental concerns related to this proposal which are likely to directly affect the World Heritage values of the Greater Blue Mountains Area. These are:  
Water pollution  
Water conservation (loss of water to the mine pit)  
Protection of the World Heritage area by an adequate buffer zone.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

“The Bureau requests the State Party to provide information on the reported lease extension for the Clarence Colliery and its potential impacts on the World Heritage values, before 15 September 2001, so as to enable the twenty-fifth extraordinary session of the Bureau to assess the potential threats to the integrity of the site”.



## **Wet Tropics of Queensland (Australia)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1988

*Brief description:* This area, which stretches along the north-east coast of Australia for some 450 km, is made up largely of tropical rainforests. This biotope offers a particularly extensive and varied array of plants, as well as marsupials and singing birds, along with other rare and endangered animals and plant species.

*Justification for inscription:* N (i), (ii), (iii) (iv)

*International assistance:* None

### *Previous deliberations:*

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee: page 111 in Annex X

Twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau: paragraph I.5

*Main issues:* implementation of management and strategic plan, monitoring of introduced species, management of land use and human impacts.

*New Information:* The State Party, via a letter dated 18 April 2001, has transmitted to the Centre its response to the priority action areas described in ACIUCN report that was reviewed by the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau. The State Party response has been transmitted to IUCN for review.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to review IUCN comments and observations on the Australian Government response to the priority action areas identified in the ACIUCN report at the time of its session and take appropriate decisions.

## **The Sundarbans (Bangladesh)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1997

*Brief description:* The Sundarbans mangrove forest, one of the largest such forests in the world (140,000 ha), lies on the delta of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna Rivers on the Bay of Bengal. It is adjacent to the border of India's Sundarbans World Heritage site inscribed in 1987. The site is intersected by a complex network of tidal waterways, mudflats and small islands of salt-tolerant mangrove forests, and presents an excellent example of ongoing ecological processes. The area is known for its wide range of fauna, including 260 bird species, the Bengal tiger and other threatened species such as the estuarine crocodile and the Indian python.

*Justification for inscription:* N(ii)(iv)

*International assistance:* None

*Previous deliberations:* None

*Main issues:* oil and gas exploration.

*New information:* IUCN has informed the Centre that the Government of Bangladesh has approved a plan for Shell to explore blocks of the Sunderbans for oil and gas. The block known as 'Block 5' contains the Sundarbans Reserved Forest, which includes the World Heritage site. 40% of this Block constitutes the Sundarbans Reserved Forest. IUCN Office in Bangladesh is maintaining contact with Shell who have advised that they intend to conduct aero-magnetic and seismic surveys in Block-5. Aero-magnetic surveys will involve low flights by specialized air-crafts. Activities related to seismic surveys will be conducted in areas outside of the Sundarbans World Heritage site. Shell has assured IUCN Bangladesh in letters of August and December 2000, that they do not plan to survey the Sundarbans World Heritage site and that all their activities will be conducted outside the Reserved Forest.

Following the declaration of the Sundarbans as a World Heritage site in 1999, the Bangladesh Government launched a six-year Sunderbans Biodiversity Conservation Project (SBPCP) at a cost of US\$ 77 million. The project, which began on April 1, 2000, will develop a system for the conservation of biodiversity in the Sunderbans Reserved Forest, including a marine zone of 20km off the coast. The project will also attempt to reduce pressures on the forests arising from local people, and will promote environmental awareness and support for the conservation of the Sunderbans Reserved Forest.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"The Bureau requests the State Party to provide a report to the Centre, before 15 September 2001, on the activities of Shell in relation to oil and gas exploration and the potential impacts on the World Heritage site to enable the twenty-fifth extraordinary session of the Bureau to undertake a review of the state of conservation of the site. The Bureau commends the State Party for its ongoing work, in particular through the Sunderbans Biodiversity Action Project, to protect this site".

## **Kaziranga National Park (India)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1985

*Brief description:* In the heart of Assam, this park is one of the last areas in eastern India undisturbed by a human presence. It is inhabited by the world's largest population of one-horned rhinoceroses, as well as many mammals, including tigers, elephants, panthers and bears, and thousands of birds.

*Justification for inscription:* N(ii) (iv)

*International Assistance:* A sum of US\$ 50,000 was granted for purchase of equipment in 1997

*Previous deliberations:* None

*Main issues:* poaching.

New information: IUCN has informed the Centre that a severe shortage of funds is impeding the anti-poaching operations and affecting the management of Kaziranga National Park. It is estimated that more than 200 rhinos have been poached and 60 poachers have been killed in the park in the last decade. More resources are needed to improve the protection of the Park. However, it has been reported that there have been problems with designated funding provided to the Regional Government actually reaching the Park. Consequently, few of the patrol vehicles are in running condition and boats have not been repaired for a long time.

It has also been reported to IUCN that during the winter, the surrounding people enter the park for community fishing, which is sometimes associated with illegal activities, such as stealing rifles from forest guards and damaging river boats. Fishing inside the Kaziranga National Park has now been banned. The State Party has issued a prohibitory order to ban fishing from the wetlands of the National Park and has stated that stern action will be initiated against any violation of the order. The Park presently has more than 1500 endangered one-horn rhinoceros, which are subject to poaching.

IUCN has also received reports of large herds of elephants going on the rampage in areas in and around Kaziranga National Park. In June 2000, more than 15 people were killed by elephants in the Golaghat district of Assam. Numaligarh is the location of a new oil refinery and according to experts this has been one of the major reasons for the increased intensity of animal/people conflicts. Local villagers say that elephants here are no longer scared of traditional methods - like torch flames and drum beating - used to scare away the animals from human habitations. It has been estimated that at least 300 people have been killed by rampaging elephants in Assam, in the last three years. Assam wildlife authorities have urged the Central Government to allow them to capture the wild elephants to minimise damage. IUCN is concerned that the wildlife/people conflict may result in resentment towards the National Park.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

“The Bureau requests that the State Party submit to the Centre, before 15 September 2001, a report on the major management issues of the site, particularly those related to financing of anti-poaching operations and minimising conflicts between elephant herds and human habitations, in order to enable the twenty-fifth extraordinary session of the Bureau to review the information and suggest appropriate measures”.

### **Royal Chitwan National Park (Nepal)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1984

Brief description: At the foot of the Himalayas, Chitwan is one of the few remaining undisturbed vestiges of the ‘Terai’ region, which formerly extended over the foothills of India and Nepal. It has a particularly rich flora and

fauna. One of the last populations of single-horned Asiatic rhinoceros lives in the park, which is also one of the last refuges of the Bengal tiger.

Justification for inscription: N(ii), (iii)(iv)

International assistance: A sum of US\$ 80,000 for management planning, equipment purchase and training activities have been provided in the past.

Previous deliberations: None

Main issues: road construction project.

New information: IUCN has been alerted to the planned construction of a road through the centre of Royal Chitwan National Park. A bridge is apparently already under construction at Kasara, over the Rapti River, and is high enough to provide access across the river during the monsoon season. The road is being constructed to provide access to the area south of the Park, especially the Madi village area. Given the large scale of the bridge, it is expected that the road will also be a substantial one. The road will effectively cut the Park in half and may eventually link with India. This would lead to a high level of traffic on the road and lead to better access to the Park, thus leading to illegal use of its resources and the disruption of the ecological integrity of this site. It has also been reported that there is a proposal to put a power-line through the park to Madi Village along the line of the road. IUCN understands that an EIA was prepared for the electricity line but not for the road and bridge. There is clearly the potential for these developments to threaten the integrity of the World Heritage site.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

“The Bureau request the State Party to provide a report to the Centre, before 15 September 2001, on the status of the development of road and the power-line construction projects, including information on all environmental impact assessments undertaken, to enable the twenty-fifth extraordinary session of the Bureau to undertake a review of the potential threats to the integrity of the Park”.

### **Latin America and the Caribbean**

#### **Los Katios National Park (Colombia)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994

Brief description: Extending over 72,000 ha in north-western Colombia, Los Katios National Park comprises low hills, forests and humid plains. An exceptional biological diversity is found in the park, which is home to many threatened animal species, as well as many endemic plants.

Justification for inscription: N (ii) and (iv)

International Assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.29

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.28 and Annex VIII

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.28

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.25 / Annex X page 113.

Main issues: transboundary management, instability in the area.

New information: No information concerning the proposed IUCN/UNESCO monitoring mission was received from the State Party at the time of the preparation of the document.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Bureau requests the Centre and IUCN to collaborate with the State Party to schedule the mission to the site. The programme of the a field visit should review the state of conservation of the site, co-operation possibilities for a World Heritage nomination of the meso-american biological corridor project and transboundary collaboration with the adjacent Darien National Park (Panama).”

**Galapagos Islands (Ecuador)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1978

Brief description: Situated in the Pacific Ocean some 1,000 km from the South American continent, these 19 volcanic islands have been called a unique ‘living museum and showcase of evolution’. The presence of unusual animal life – such as the land iguana, the giant tortoise and the many types of finches – inspired Charles Darwin in his theory of evolution, following his visit in 1835.

Justification for inscription: N (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

International assistance: Preparatory Assistance (US\$ 15,000); Emergency Assistance (US\$ 110,500); Technical Assistance (US\$ 324,500); and Training (US\$ 100,000).

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.32

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.28 and Annex VIII

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.29

Twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph III.1 iii)

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.25 / Annex X page 113.

Main issues: control and eradication of introduced species, awareness building among local people and participatory

planning processes, immigration control, legal protection and implementation of Galapagos law, oil spill in January 2001.

New information: On 16 January 2001, the Ecuadorian oil tanker Jessica ran aground at the entry to the port of Baquerizo Moreno on San Cristobal island. It was carrying 160,000 gallons of diesel oil and 80,000 gallons of bunker fuel. Most of the oil leaked into the sea covering an area of 3,000km<sup>2</sup> reaching the shores of the islands of Santa Fe, Santa Cruz, Floreana and Isabela. Species affected by the oil include sea lions, marine birds, sea turtles and iguanas. Given the quantity of fuel spilled, the immediate impacts could have been far worse, but the currents and winds carried most of the oil into deeper offshore waters where it was dispersed and evaporated. Nevertheless, continuous monitoring is needed in order to determine the possible medium- and long-term impacts to the ecosystem. The Government of Ecuador requested emergency assistance from the World Heritage Fund for mitigation activities, which was approved by the Chair for an amount of US\$ 50,000. Additional assistance of US\$ 25,000 was received from UNESCO Participation Programme.

IUCN notes that initial reports of damage were alarming but through a combination of manpower, technology, ocean currents and favourable weather conditions, the spill appears only to have caused minor short-term damage. Wildlife mortality was low when wind and current took the fuel out to sea where it dispersed. Full effects on the marine resources of the area will not be known until longer term monitoring studies are completed but damage to date appear to be minimal. The accident, that has proved to be caused by negligence, triggered the preparation of work on a contingency plan for future emergencies and has led to efforts to improve the regulatory framework to minimise future hazards. Handling of the spill cost the Ecuador Government several million dollars, part of which was covered by external assistance. The Jessica remains stranded, the Captain has been charged, and insurance compensation is being sought. Suggestions have been made by WWF and others that the Ecuadorian Government should designate the Galapagos Marine Reserve as a “particularly sensitive sea area” (PSSA) under the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). The benefits of such an initiative are being studied by INGALA and Ecuador Maritime authorities.

IUCN notes similarities between this situation and that on the Great Barrier Reef. IUCN emphasises the importance of compulsory pilotage in environmentally sensitive areas such as World Heritage sites and also the importance of having effective emergency response strategies in place to enable prompt and effective response to issues such as the oil spill in Galapagos.

IUCN notes that the specific regulations under the Special Law, including fisheries, tourism, environmental control, and introduced species/agriculture, are still awaited and views this as a very high priority matter. Drafts of the regulations are in an advanced stage and are expected to be approved before July 2001. Without the regulations in place, progress has been limited in controlling

immigration, limiting fishery seasons and catches, and preventing illegal commercial fishing. Both the Navy and the marine unit of the GNP have intercepted a number of vessels and discouraged others but prosecutions have been few and illegal fishing continues. Even worse, the Navy has allowed the release of several seized vessels which has implicated them in the illegal fishing business and reduced the Government's credibility in enforcing the law. This was further weakened during the fishermen's strike of November 2000 where intimidation of Park staff and violent action led to the Government backing down on quota limits.

Annual monitoring reports on the illegal commercial fisheries in the Marine Reserve show that many thousands of sharks have been taken out of Galapagos waters and that long-lining for other finfish has had severe effects on many other species. Moreover, the loosely regulated controls on sea cucumber harvesting have led to a precipitous decline in the population, which may never recover to sustainable levels. Despite areas of progress, the lack of sufficient enforcement has led to a continued over-fishing which is a major threat to the Galapagos marine environment.

On the positive side, two key actions are expected soon that will set a much firmer basis for addressing the issues. First is the passage of the regulations that will clearly specify what limits are on fisheries, immigration, etc., and will allow more effective application of the Special Law. Second is the IDB loan for implementing the Galapagos Marine Reserve plan that devotes US\$4 million to strengthening the control and security system. There is also a growing public feeling within Ecuador to address illegal fishing activities more firmly, which, with the added resources and resolve of the State Party, could lead to a reduction in further damage. Commitment at the central political level, however, is a fundamental prerequisite. Any revisions to the Special Law that would weaken it would be very detrimental to the participatory process that agreed to it.

The Centre received a letter from the Minister of Environment to the Director-General of UNESCO dated 12 April 2001 with a report on the follow-up actions taken on the oil spill. The letter also includes details of the international assistance received from private organizations, bilateral co-operation and in kind donations from Governments to assist the Ecuadorian authorities. The donations amounted to a total of US\$ 666,187 without the contributions from UNESCO and the World Heritage Fund. The report was transmitted to IUCN for review.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Bureau notes with concern the impacts of the oil spill of the tanker Jessica and acknowledges with appreciation the efforts of the State Party and the International Community in relation to the clean-up and rescue activities following the oil spill caused by the tanker. The Bureau encourages the State Party to expedite regulations to implement the Special Law for

Galapagos and to enforce their implementation as soon as possible.”

### **Canaima National Park (Venezuela)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994

*Brief description:* Canaima National Park is spread over 3 million ha in south-eastern Venezuela along the border between Guyana and Brazil. Roughly 65% of the park is covered by table mountain (*tepuis*) formations. The *tepuis* constitute a unique biogeological entity and are of great geological interest. The sheer cliffs and waterfalls, including the world's highest (1,000 m), form a spectacular landscape.

*Justification for inscription:* N (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

*International assistance:* US\$ 30,000 for an on-site training and awareness building workshop.

*Previous deliberations:*

Twenty-second session of the Committee – paragraph VII. 26

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV. 44

Twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau paragraph III. ii)

*Main issues:* construction of power lines, involvement of indigenous people and local communities.

*New information:* The Centre received a progress report for the development of the Action Plan for Canaima National Park from the Venezuelan authorities in December 2000. The aim of the Action Plan is to promote dialogue between all the stakeholders of the National Park in order to create favourable collaboration for the protection of the Park. For this end, three workshops were held in 2000 for the Pemon communities living within or near the National Park. The themes discussed included community participation, environmental education, ecotourism and protection of flora and fauna. More meetings with the local communities in different parts of the park will be needed in order to get the full participation of the communities for guaranteeing the viability of the Action Plan. One meeting was held for governmental organisations where they agreed that closer co-operation is necessary between them in order to co-ordinate the activities better.

IUCN has received a number of reports on the situation in the Canaima National Park. As reported by IUCN previously, there is ongoing and increasing concern and opposition to the construction of a power-line, which cuts through a limited proportion of the Park. Indigenous people from the Pemon communities continue to be in opposition to the power-line due to the long-term consequences that the project will have on both the territories they occupy and their cultural integrity. They have been responsible for toppling over thirty towers. The National Guard now has a permanent presence in the park in order to guarantee the continuation of the project.

Although the main objective of the power-line is to sell electricity to the Brazilian city of Boa Vista, electricity is also required to exploit the mineral resources in the Venezuelan Guyana Shield area. Apart from existing traditional mining operations, it is expected that the power line will fuel new mining developments in six important buffer zones adjacent to the World Heritage site. Several international mining corporations have started a programme of land acquisition and identification, including Crystallex International and Placer Dome. There are concerns about potential impacts associated with mining around the Canaima National Park. On several occasions, indigenous people have reported an influx of small-scale miners heading towards the headwaters of the Caroni River inside the National Park. Although illegal, these violations have not been persecuted.

Without due ecological consideration, the potential industrial development of the region adjacent to Canaima National Park and the advance of mining threaten to isolate the Park within a few years, thus putting in jeopardy its long-term integrity. IUCN reiterated the recommendations made by the 1999 IUCN mission report, in particular the urgent need to create mechanisms to promote dialogue between all relevant stakeholders on the conservation and management of the area. This should include the indigenous Pemon communities, mining interests, and relevant government agencies. The mission also recommended that an Action Plan be developed by the State Party as soon as possible to follow up recommendations of the mission. IUCN suggested that the Bureau urge the State Party to report on the implementation of these recommendations from the mission report. IUCN recommends that the Bureau request the State Party for a report on this situation and possible impacts on the site for the next Bureau session.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Bureau recalls the recommendations made by the 1999 IUCN mission report, in particular the urgent need to create mechanisms to promote dialogue between all relevant stakeholders on the conservation and management of the area. This should include the indigenous Pemon communities, mining interests, and relevant government agencies. This mission also recommended that an Action Plan be developed by the State Party as soon as possible to follow up recommendations of the mission. The Bureau urges the State Party to report on the implementation of these recommendations from the mission report and requests the State Party for a report on this situation and possible impacts on the site by 15 September 2001.”

## **Europe and North America**

### **Belovezhskaya Pushcha/Bialowieza Forest (Belarus/Poland)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979-1982

*Brief description:* Situated on the watershed of the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea, this immense forest range, consisting of evergreens and broad-leaved trees, is home to some remarkable animal life, including rare mammals such as the wolf, the lynx and the otter, as well as some 300 European Bison, a species which has been reintroduced into the park.

*Justification for inscription:* The site was inscribed under criterion (iii) in two phases 1979 and 1982 (extension of the Bialowieza National Park of Poland).

*International assistance:* None

#### *Previous deliberations:*

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.26

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph III.24 / Annex X page 112.

*Main issues:* transboundary management, logging;

*New information:* IUCN has received reports in relation to the Bialowieza Forest, Poland, which state that the Government has abandoned its plans to enlarge the park due to the lack of funds, and that funding for the existing park remains at minimal levels. There are also disturbing reports about a doubling of cutting rates in the commercially-managed part of the Forest outside the World Heritage site, and lobbying to cut areas of old growth forest. While this information does not pertain to the part of the Forest designated as the World Heritage site it can be expected that the integrity of the site may be affected should much of the surrounding forest be cut.

While there are no plans to change the current status of Bialowieza Forest World Heritage site as a strictly protected area, IUCN and the World Heritage Bureau have urged the State Party to expedite the enlargement of the National Park to include the entire Polish side of the Bialowieza National Park. This option will be lost if the logging goes ahead.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Bureau notes with concern the information concerning the cutting rates in the forest outside the World Heritage area and requests the authorities to provide a report on these issues by 15 September 2001.”

## **Pirin National Park (Bulgaria)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1983

*Brief description:* Extending over an area of 27,400 ha and lying at an altitude of 1,008–2,914 m in the Pirin mountains, in south-west Bulgaria, Pirin National Park has a limestone Balkan landscape, with lakes, waterfalls, caves and pine forests. The rugged mountains, with some 70 glacial lakes scattered throughout them, are home to hundreds of endemic and rare species, many of which are representative of the Balkan Pleistocene flora. The mountains also have diverse and unique landscapes of great aesthetic value.

*Justification for inscription:* N (i)(ii)(iii)

*International assistance:* None

### *Previous deliberations:*

Ninth session of the Committee (XIII.)

Tenth session of the Bureau (VI.j)

Fifteenth session of the Bureau (VI.29)

Fifteenth session of the Committee (VIII.)

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.24 / Annex X page 112.

*Main issues:* ski development.

*New information:* IUCN reviewed the information from the Minister of Environment and Water (MOEW) of Bulgaria dated 20 October 2000. No further information was provided by the State Party since. IUCN notes that the ski developments of 1985/86 were in compliance with the then existing Nature Protection Act and occupy an area of 48 ha. On 18ha of this area, however, 2 ski runs and 1 chair lift do not function properly and there are consequent problems of overcrowding and traffic congestion on narrow roads. The Territorial Development Plan (TDP) submitted to the MOEW in 1999 proposes 5 new ski runs totalling 30ha plus their facilities, car parks and a cable car joining the zone with the town of Bansko. The proposed new ski runs are all within the World Heritage site. The State Party reports that the local population supported the project while NGO's rejected it completely. Following a positive EIA, a public hearing and an assessment by the Senior Environment Council to the MOEW, part of the TDP has been given approval. This includes:

- 2 new ski runs and a ski lift covering 13.5 ha.
- A study is to be carried out for another ski run and ski lift covering 7ha.
- Closing down and re-cultivation of 2 old ski runs with surface area of 18 ha and the dismantling of the ski lift.
- Construction of a cable car to the town of Bansko, terminating car access into the park and eliminating the need for parking lots.
- No approval for the other ski runs and lifts proposed.
- Regulation and limitation of accommodation facilities in Bansko in accordance with the capacity of the ski zone. No construction of accommodation within the Park.

- Technical plans are required to show the exact location of each ski run and facility approved and an EIA for each project, including public hearings in order to mitigate further any negative impacts.
- Expansion of the biosphere reserve within the Park in compensation.

IUCN has also received for review a letter from Bulgarian NGO's dated 14 February 2001 in response to the State Party letter. This letter notes that:

- The Bulgarian National Parks Act emphasises nature conservation before the provisions of developments for tourism and recreation;
- A national conference was held in January 2001 attended by 180 environmental NGO's. Participants supported an appeal to the Ministry of Environment and Water, Bulgarian Prime Minister and the President to repeal the decision of allowing construction of new ski runs in the Park.;
- No alternative solutions to the proposal have been considered;
- the EIA report notes that the forest that is to be clear-cut in the area of the planned ski zone is between 50 and 200 years old;
- The territorial management plan of the ski zone is in violation of a number of laws and Conventions, as well as the Park Management Plan;
- The plan to bring a further 1400 people to this area of the Park is contradicting the principle of the management plan for the decentralisation of tourism; and
- Conflict between the number of beds in the town and the capacity of the ski area is only an issue on weekends and holidays.

The BALKANI Wildlife Society recommends the promotion of soft tourism and the improvement of the capacity of existing ski facilities.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Bureau commends the State Party for the efforts to protect the natural values of this site particularly through rehabilitation efforts and measures to alleviate current problems of overcrowding and traffic congestion. However, the Bureau expressed concerns about a number of aspect of the proposals, and stresses the importance of a full EIA and public hearings. Particular attention should be given in the EIA to the location of any new ski runs and facilities as well as possible alternative solutions. The Bureau request the State Party to submit a detailed update on the proposal to develop 5 new ski runs by 15 September 2001 and to invite an IUCN/UNESCO mission to the site.”

### **Gros Morne National Park (Canada)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1987

*Brief description:* Situated on the west coast of the island of Newfoundland, the park provides a rare example of the process of continental drift, where deep ocean crust and the rocks of the earth's mantle lie exposed. More recent glacial action has resulted in some spectacular scenery, with coastal lowland, alpine plateau, fjords, glacial valleys, sheer cliffs, waterfalls and many pristine lakes.

*Justification for inscription:* N(i)(iii)

*International Assistance:* None

*Previous deliberations:*

Eleventh session of the Bureau (III.A)

Eleventh session of the Committee (VII.)

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.24 / Annex X page 112.

*Main issues:* logging.

*New information:* On 9 May 2001 a fax was received from Parks Canada providing new information on a number of developments since November 2000, which was transmitted to IUCN for review.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to review any new information which may be available at the Bureau session.

### **Nahanni National Park (Canada)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1978

*Brief description:* Located along the South Nahanni River, one of the most spectacular wild rivers in North America, this park contains deep canyons and huge waterfalls, as well as a unique limestone cave system. The park is also home to animals of the boreal forest, such as wolves, grizzly bears and caribou. Dall's sheep and mountain goats are found in the park's alpine environment.

*Justification for inscription:* N(ii)(iii)

*International Assistance:* None

*Previous deliberations:* None

*Main issues:* mining project.

*New information:* IUCN received reports by the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Northwest Territories Chapter (CPAWS-NWT), and confirmed by the State Party, that the Canadian Zinc Corporation has submitted land use applications to the MacKenzie Valley Land and Water Board, in order to support future production at the Prairie Creek mine site. The mine is located immediately upstream from Nahanni National Park, in the South Nahanni watershed, about 15km north of the World Heritage site boundary. Although the mine infrastructure has been in place since the early 1980s, the mine has never

operated. The Canadian Zinc Corporation have applied for a land use permit to conduct a six or seven hole mineral exploration drilling programme, and re-establish an access road to remove a cache of diesel fuel stored 40 km from the mine site.

Both the mine site and the Nahanni National Park are situated in the South Nahanni watershed, traditional territory of the Dene people of the Deh Cho First Nations (DCFN), and a proposed protected area. The Nahanni Butte Dene Band and the Deh Cho First Nations have expressed their wish to protect the entire South Nahanni watershed. The DCFN will be negotiating with the Government to withdraw the land in the watershed from further industrial development. In the autumn of 2000, supporters of Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Northwest Territories Chapter (CPAWS-NWT) submitted over 60 letters. As a result, the Canadian Zinc application was referred for an environmental assessment. There will be two separate assessments, one for the drilling programme, and one for the access road and fuel removal. CPAWS-NWT believes that the establishment of a major industrial development within the watershed and adjacent to the Park is not consistent with the conservation values of the area. They agree that the fuel cache, which has leaked an undetermined amount of fuel, should be removed from its present location. However, they argue that rather than re-establishing a 40-kilometre road as proposed by Canadian Zinc, alternative, environmentally responsible methods should be investigated for removing the fuel.

The State Party has also informed IUCN that the company North American Tungsten Ltd. is assessing plans for re-opening the Cantung mine (a tungsten mine) in response to changes in the global tungsten market. This mine was closed in 1986 and is located on the Flat River, a tributary of the South Nahanni River, about 45 km upstream from the boundary of the World Heritage site. An additional 139 claims have recently been staked by the company. An all weather road has been reopened to the mine site. A major seismic exploration programme is also being developed and may be proposed for the South Nahanni watershed in the very near future.

The State Party notes that these mining proposals are of concern to them and their mandate to protect ecological integrity. It will continue to monitor developments and make interventions to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board. It also intends to seek a final boundary for the Park which has a better ability to maintain ecological integrity. This will be sought through the Deh Cho land claims process.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Bureau requests the State Party to submit a detailed report on the potential impacts these proposals may have on the World Heritage site by 15 September 2001.”

## **Volcanoes of Kamchatka (Russian Federation)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1996

*Brief description:* This is one of the most outstanding volcanic regions in the world, with a high density of active volcanoes, a variety of types, and a wide range of related volcanic features. The five sites included in the serial designation group together the majority of volcanic features of the Kamchatka peninsula. They form an area of exceptional beauty with major concentrations of wildlife.

*Justification for inscription:* N(i)(ii)(iii)

*International assistance:* None

### *Previous deliberations:*

Twenty-first session of the Committee - paragraph VII.39  
Twenty-second ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph V. 28  
Twenty-second session of the Committee - page 99 (Annex IV)  
Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.27 / Annex X page 115.

*Main issues:* gold mining project, road construction, collaboration with local people.

*New information:* IUCN has received a recent report, which again highlights the threats to the site, including lack of management, hunting and gold mining. Bystrinsky Nature Park, one of the five components of this site, continues to be the area most significantly threatened. The park has no staff. Forest fires are reported to consume significant parts of the park each year. The park has been divided into 24 hunting leases, authorised by local authorities but not by the park's administration or by local indigenous peoples, half of which are owned by large businesses from outside the region. Major changes to the boundaries of the site to allow gold mining are also under discussion.

This recent report also highlighted a new and significant threat to the natural values of the site. A year ago work began on a road to connect Esso, a village inside the Bystrinsky Nature Park, with Palana in the northern half of the Kamchatka region. This road will bisect the Park and will open up large areas to poaching and hunting. It is doubtful that the Parks Service and Forest Service have the capacity to control activities along this road.

IUCN notes that Bystrinsky Nature Park is one of the four parks in the UNDP/GEF project entitled "Demonstrating sustainable conservation of biological diversity in four protected areas in Russia's Kamchatka Oblast". UNDP/GEF has undertaken a one and a half year project development phase, involving many stakeholders, and the project itself, worth US\$13 million, is expected to be operational by September 2001. One of the objectives of the project is to assist with the establishment of Bystrinsky Nature Park as a sustainable natural park. IUCN is also working on a project entitled "World Natural Heritage Territories in Russia and Ecological Tourism".

A staff member of the UNESCO Office Moscow participated in an intersectorial mission to the Kamchatka Peninsula concerning the UNDP/GEF project, which took place from 9 to 19 February 2001. The report points out the urgent need for awareness building among the local government and local populations about World Heritage obligations. It furthermore notes that the newly elected Governor of Kamchatka promotes mining activities as a motor for the Kamchatka economy.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

"The Bureau requests the State Party to provide a state of conservation report with particular reference to the problems in the Bystrinsky Nature Park by 15 September 2001. The Bureau notes that any change to the boundaries of this site requires a full analysis of biodiversity issues, ecosystems, migration routes and indigenous people issues. The Bureau requests the Centre to contact the States Party to obtain such an analysis and to make it available for review by IUCN as it may have important implications for the integrity of this site."

## **Golden Mountains of Altai (Russian Federation)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1998

*Brief description:* The Altai mountains in southern Siberia form the major mountain range in the western Siberia biogeographic region and provide the source of its greatest rivers – the Ob and the Irtysh. Three separate areas are inscribed: Altaisky Zapovednik and a buffer zone around Lake Teletskoye; Katunsky Zapovednik and a buffer zone around Mount Belukha; and the Ukok Quiet Zone on the Ukok plateau. The total area covers 1,611,457 ha. The region represents the most complete sequence of altitudinal vegetation zones in central Siberia, from steppe, forest-steppe, mixed forest, subalpine vegetation to alpine vegetation. The site is also an important habitat for endangered animal species such as the snow leopard.

*Justification for inscription:* N(iv)

*International assistance:* None

### *Previous deliberations:*

Twenty-second session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.3  
Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.36  
Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.26 / Annex X page 115.

*Main issues:* road construction project.

*New information:* No new information on the road proposal was received from the State Party. The Director of the UNESCO Office Moscow attended the meeting "The socio-economic development of the Altai Republic and the perspectives of the development of the transport system in the South of Siberia", which was held from 15 to



16 December 2000 in Gorno Altaisk. He noted that the awareness building must be raised among the decision makers in the Altai Government about the obligations under the World Heritage Convention. He furthermore pointed out that the road proposals are linked with a gas-pipeline project and that all proposals need careful review by IUCN.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Bureau reiterates its request that the State Party provide a state of conservation report with particular reference to the road proposal and any other projects that may be under consideration by 15 September 2001.”

### **Doñana National Park (Spain)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994

Brief description: Doñana National Park in Andalusia occupies the right bank of the Guadalquivir river at its estuary on the Atlantic Ocean. It is notable for the great diversity of its biotopes, especially lagoons, marshlands, fixed and mobile dunes, scrub woodland and *maquis*. It is home to five threatened bird species. It is one of the largest heronries in the Mediterranean region and is the wintering site for more than 500,000 water fowl each year.

Justification for inscription: N(ii)(iii)(iv)

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.39

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.26

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.39

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.27 / Annex X page 116.

Main issues: mining spill in 1998.

New information: The Permanent Delegation of Spain informed the Centre that a meeting was foreseen on 20 April 2001 by the authorities concerning the follow-up to the "Donana 2005" Conference.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Bureau reiterates its request that the State Party provide the dates and the programme of the review meeting as soon as possible and to invite IUCN and the Centre to participate in this activity.”

### **St Kilda (United Kingdom)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1986

Brief description: This volcanic archipelago, with its spectacular landscapes, is situated off the coast of the Hebrides and comprises the islands of Hirta, Dun, Soay and Boreray. It has some of the highest cliffs in Europe, which have large colonies of rare and endangered species of birds, especially puffins and gannets.

Justification for inscription: N(iii)(iv)

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV. 43

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.27

Main issues: oil exploration in the Atlantic frontier, protection of marine area, management plan.

New information: At its twenty-third session held in Marrakesh, the World Heritage Committee made recommendations to expand the boundaries of the World Heritage site to include the surrounding marine area and to revise the management plan. IUCN reviewed a letter from the State Party dated 26 October 2000, updating progress on these recommendations as follows:

Boundaries extension: A marine survey has been carried out to obtain the necessary data to inform the case of the extension of the site. The UK Government seeks to bring forward proposals for an extension to the site by June 2002.

Management Plan: It has not been possible to start work on a new management plan before the determination of new boundaries. This work was expected to begin in early 2001 and is not likely to be completed in time to report to the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau. If the new boundaries stretch beyond the six-mile limit this will raise issues related to the law of the sea administered by the International Maritime Organisation and the State Party may require the assistance of the World Heritage Centre. The UK Government has also placed a moratorium on all oil licences nearer St Kilda than those already licensed.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Bureau commends the State Party on progress made in addressing the Committee’s recommendations and requests the State Party to provide a further progress report on the implementation of recommendations from the twenty-third session of the Committee by 15 September 2001”.

## MIXED (NATURAL AND CULTURAL) HERITAGE

### **Kakadu National Park (Australia)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1981;  
extended 1987, 1992

*Brief description:* This unique archaeological and ethnological reserve, located in the Northern Territory, has been inhabited continuously for more than 40,000 years. The cave paintings, rock carvings and archaeological sites record the skills and way of life of the region's inhabitants, from the hunter-gatherers of prehistoric times to the Aboriginal people still living there. It is a unique example of a complex of ecosystems, including tidal flats, floodplains, lowlands and plateaux, and provides a habitat for a wide range of rare or endemic species of plants and animals.

*Justification for inscription:* C (i) (vi); N (ii) (iii) (iv)

*International assistance:* None

#### Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.47  
Third extraordinary session of the Committee, 12 July 1999

Twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph III.iii

Twenty-third session of the Committee - paragraph X.32 and Annex VIII

Australia's Commitments: Protecting Kakadu National Park (Progress Report to the World Heritage Centre, 15 April 2000)

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.46

Twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.46

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee - paragraph VIII.29

*Main issues:* Proposed Jabiluka uranium mine and mill within an enclave of the World Heritage property; first sightings of cane toads (*Bufo marinus*), an invasive species, in Kakadu National Park.

#### New information:

#### Current status of the mine and mill site at Jabiluka

In letters dated 5 March and 15 April 2001, the State Party confirmed that the Jabiluka mine site remains on a stand-by and environmental management phase while stakeholder discussions (including discussions with Aboriginal people) take place regarding the delivery of better commercial, social and environmental outcomes for the region.

IUCN notes that no mining is taking place at Jabiluka at present and that current activity relating to the Jabiluka development is focused on responding to the concerns of Aboriginal people. IUCN also notes that, in line with the environmental impact assessment process, features common to both the Ranger Mill Alternative (RMA) and

the Jabiluka Mill Alternative (JMA) have been constructed at Jabiluka. This includes the decline and portal to the mine.

IUCN also notes from reports, however, that there is some doubt over the future development of the Jabiluka uranium project. In March 2001, the Chief Executive Officer of Rio Tinto (the majority shareholder of ERA) noted that due to opposition and current market circumstances with low uranium prices, it would be hard for the company to support the development of the mine in the short term.

Irrespective of the final decision, IUCN notes that the mine is still an environmental and heritage issue because of the level of development already undertaken and the opposition to the mine from the Mirrar Traditional Owners.

#### Potential impact on human health

In the GAC letter of 1 May, it is stated that the Mirrar do not agree with the Committee decision "that the currently approved proposal for the mine and mill at Jabiluka does not threaten the health of people or the biological and ecological systems of Kakadu National Park that the 1998 Mission believed to be at risk". The Mirrar believe that there has been little investigation or analysis of the potential impact on human health of the Jabiluka project.

The State Party responded to the comments made by the GAC in a letter dated 16 May saying that risk assessments for the potential impact on human health arising from the Jabiluka proposal were included in the original report of the Supervising Scientist to the Committee. The State Party noted that the findings of the report received the agreement of the Independent Scientific Panel (ISP) of the International Council for Science (ICSU).

#### Water management and other scientific issues

The State Party reported in their letter of 5 March on the performance of the Interim Water Management Pond (IWMP) given that the rainfall to the end of January 2001 at Jabiluka was 27% above average and (in March 2001) continued to be higher than average. The State Party reported that the mining company has instigated a number of measures to enhance the IWMP and to ensure that no contaminated water from the Jabiluka site enters Kakadu National Park. These measures include reducing the catchment of the IWMP to as small an area as practical, storing water in the underground workings (as of 13 February 2001), and implementing the reverse osmosis process to purify water in the IWMP to allow irrigation of revegetation areas on site.

Further information on water management issues was provided by the State Party in a letter of 15 April. The letter responds to a letter received by the Centre from the Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) dated 9 April in which the GAC expressed concerns relating to water management at Jabiluka. The GAC again referred to ongoing water management problems in a submission dated 1 May as did Australian Environmental NGOs in a

letter dated 12 April. The State Party stated that there are no water management problems at Jabiluka and the system continues to operate as designed and approved.

The Committee at its twenty-fourth session in Cairns (2000) requested "the Australian Government allocate resources as soon as possible to enable the implementation of the landscape and ecosystem analysis and monitoring program recommended by the ISP and IUCN and the appointment of a water resource specialist to the Office of the Supervising Scientist". In a letter dated 15 April the State Party reported that the resource review process for this were being undertaken.

IUCN is concerned that progress on these points has not kept pace with the immediacy of the issues associated with this mine (see for example the matter raised in the next paragraph). The GAC (1 May) have also reported their concern that a water specialist is yet to be appointed.

In relation to water management issues, IUCN notes conflicting advice from the State Party, and from the Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation. The State Party advice, confirmed by the Australian Supervising Scientist, is that the: "Jabiluka Water Management System will continue to contain water on site during the 2000-2001 wet season, ensuring that no contaminated water from the Jabiluka site enters Kakadu National Park." The GAC, on the other hand, notes continuing water problems and suggests the ASS is inadequate in dealing with water resources. IUCN considers that this conflicting advice underlines the importance of independent scientific advice as well as the recruitment of a water resource specialist.

In relation to the independent scientific advice, IUCN notes that, in its agreement to the 2001 World Heritage Committee decision, the Australian Government undertook to establish an Independent Science Advisory Committee (ISAC), which would: "... be able to report openly, independently and without restriction". IUCN strongly supports the establishment of such a body and views such a body as playing a vital role in ensuring that issues, such as these conflicting claims noted above, are addressed in a scientifically objective and credible way. IUCN understands that this Committee (ISAC) has yet to be constituted.

IUCN notes that progress in relation to a number of matters raised at the last session of the World Heritage Committee in relation to Kakadu remains slow, particularly in relation to the landscape and ecosystem analysis; the recruitment of the water resource specialist; and the establishment of an Independent Science Advisory Committee. IUCN recommends that the Bureau request a report, as a matter of priority, from the State Party in relation to when these matters will be addressed.

#### Cane toads (*Bufo marinus*)

In a letter dated 20 March 2001, the State Party reported on the first sighting of cane toads (*Bufo marinus*) in Kakadu National Park on 12 March. The letter referred to the development of cane toad mitigation strategies based

on a risk assessment into the likely to effect of cane toads on the Park conducted in 2000. This assessment indicated an initial decline in local populations of a range of species (some quolls, goannas, monitors, snakes and adders etc) none of which are threatened or endangered at the local or national levels. Evidence from other areas of Australia suggests that animals initially susceptible to cane toads recover in terms of population numbers and distribution within approximately five years. The State Party notes the concern of Kakadu Traditional Owners who recognize that important food sources could be affected. The State Party has also reported on the involvement of Traditional Owners in a risk assessment field trip and follow-up community education projects in the Park. The State Party concludes that the risk assessment suggests that Kakadu's World Heritage values are unlikely to be effected by the arrival and establishment of cane toads in the Park. The impacts will continue to be studied and any impacts minimised.

In relation to the issue of cane toads, IUCN is satisfied that the State Party is taking all necessary measures possible in relation to the arrival of cane toads in the Park and commends it for its approach. IUCN recommends the Bureau request the State Party to report regularly to the Bureau on results of monitoring programmes and research activities on this issue.

#### Dialogue between the Australian Government and the Mirrar Traditional Owners

The Committee at its twenty-fourth session in Cairns (2000) "encouraged the State Party and the Mirrar Traditional Owners to resume and continue their efforts in a constructive dialogue, in order to develop together a process leading towards the protection of Kakadu's cultural heritage". In a letter dated 15 April the State Party provided details concerning the re-commencement and continuation of the dialogue with the Mirrar Traditional Owners and other stakeholders. The letter also reported that the Kakadu National Park Board of Management intends to commence consultation at the local level on the monitoring of Kakadu's World Heritage values and on a possible cultural landscape re-nomination of Kakadu.

The State Party also reported details of continuing progress, under the Kakadu Regional Social Impact Study (KRSIS), to ongoing improvement in the social and economic circumstances (housing, essential services, indigenous education and health care) of Aboriginal people living in the Kakadu region.

The State Party has also responded to GAC reports of communication problems with the Office of the Supervising Scientist (OSS) saying that the OSS is working actively and consistently to open dialogue with the GAC.

In their letter of 1 May, the GAC say that dialogue between the Mirrar and the Australian Government regarding a process to protect Kakadu's cultural heritage is ongoing but continues to be strained. The GAC recommends that UNESCO sponsored international

participation in the current discussions between the Mirrar and the Australian Government is required and that framework discussions should have regard to international best practice.

In the letter dated 16 May the State Party reported that the Minister for the Environment and Heritage has renewed his offer to the GAC that Mr Gatjil Djerrkura act as a facilitator to assist in the resolution of cultural issues. The State Party stressed that this renewed domestic dialogue and co-operation by all parties is the best means to facilitate agreement for the ongoing protection of Kakadu's cultural values.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"The Bureau notes the report of the State Party concerning the first sightings of cane toads (*Bufo marinus*) in Kakadu National Park and commends it for its approach. The Bureau requests the State Party to report regularly to the World Heritage Centre on results of monitoring programmes and research activities concerning this issue.

The Bureau requests the State Party to provide a report to the Centre, as a matter of priority (and no later than 15 September 2001 for consideration by the twenty-fifth extraordinary session of the Bureau), outlining when the landscape and ecosystem analysis; the recruitment of the water resource specialist; and the establishment of an Independent Science Advisory Committee will be addressed."

With reference to the decision of the twenty-fourth session of the Committee encouraging the State Party and the Mirrar Traditional Owners to resume and continue their efforts in a constructive dialogue, the Bureau may wish to take a decision after having reviewed the new information provided by the State Party".

### **Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1983

**Brief description:** Machu Picchu stands 2,430 m above sea-level, in the middle of a tropical mountain forest, in an extraordinarily beautiful setting. It was probably the most amazing urban creation of the Inca Empire at its height; its giant walls, terraces and ramps seem as if they have been cut naturally in the continuous rock escarpments. The natural setting, on the eastern slopes of the Andes, encompasses the upper Amazon basin with its rich diversity of flora and fauna.

**Justification for inscription:** C (i) (iii); N (ii) (iii).

**International assistance:** 1987 to 1992: approximately US\$ 50,000 for preparation of a Master Plan. 2001: US\$ 5,000 for technical advice for the restoration of the Intihuantana sundial stone.

### **Previous deliberations:**

Twenty-fourth session of the Bureau - paragraph number IV.49

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee - paragraph number VIII.29; Annex X page 120

**Main Issues:** Need to strengthen management structures in order to implement the Management Plan and to protect this fragile site from environmental and development pressures.

**New information:** The State Party informed the Secretariat that a new director had been named for the Management Unit of Machu Picchu and that arrangements had been made on the distribution of the income through the use of the Inca Trail. No information was provided on the implementation of the recommendations of the 1999 UNESCO-IUCN-ICOMOS mission or on the review of the policy of the use for commercial purposes of the site, as requested by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth extraordinary session.

In January 2001, a seminar took place at the Disaster Prevention Research Institute of the Kyoto University, Japan, on a research programme on slope instability and landslide risks at Machu Picchu. While press reports incorrectly suggested that the ruins at Machu Picchu are about to disappear, it has become clear from preliminary investigations that further and more in-depth study is required.

IUCN has noted reports that the new regulations for the Inca Trail under the Master Plan were due to come into effect on December 31, 2000. These rules included an increase in entry charges to the trail, a ban on independent walking without a guide, and a limit of 500 walkers per day. Reports note that the exploitation of porters continues. However, the new rules should limit the loads that porters can carry to 44lb. Litter and piles of toilet paper also continue to be a problem on the trail although some is collected. IUCN notes from one report, however, that rubbish collected from the trail is dumped beside the Urubamba river outside the site and left untreated. There is concern that the new rules will not be enforced, as previous bans on cutting wood in ecologically sensitive areas are still ignored. Porters are often not provided with means to cook their own food and, therefore, search firewood in these areas.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

"The Bureau stresses, again, the need to implement the recommendations made by the UNESCO-IUCN-ICOMOS mission of 1999 that were fully endorsed by the Committee at its twenty-third session. It recognises that progress has been made on the implementation of some of them. The Bureau requests UNESCO-IUCN-ICOMOS to field a mission to the site in order to obtain a clear view of the level of implementation of all of the recommendations. The mission should also look into (a) the policy for the use of the site for commercial purposes, (b) the restoration of the Intihuantana sundial

and (c) the research that is being or to be undertaken on the landslide risks. The report of the mission should be submitted to the twenty-fifth extraordinary session of the Bureau.”

## CULTURAL HERITAGE

### Arab States

#### **Islamic Cairo (Egypt)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979

*Brief description:* Tucked away amid the modern urban area of Cairo lies one of the world’s oldest Islamic cities, with its famous mosques, *madrassas*, *hammams* and fountains. Founded in the 10th century, it became the new centre of the Islamic world, reaching its golden age in the 14th century.

*Justification for inscription:* C (i)(v)(vi)

#### International assistance:

Preparatory assistance (US\$ 14,900), 1998, Brainstorming session to define strategic guidelines for the rehabilitation of Islamic Cairo.

Technical co-operation (US\$ 19,000), 1998, Expert mission to follow up the strategic guidelines, and complete a three-year rehabilitation programme, submitted to the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-second session.

Technical co-operation (US\$ 120,000), 1999, implementation of the first-year programme, including the establishment of a co-ordination mechanism and technical offices within the site of Islamic Cairo and possibly execute pilot projects at Gamalia area.

Technical co-operation (US\$ 80,000), 2000, placing of a Policy Advisor, a Technical Coordinator and an Architect-restorer and continuing the Pilot Projects at Beit Sinnari and the vicinity of the Al-Azhar Mosque.

#### Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee (paragraph number X.35)

Twenty-fourth session of the Bureau (paragraph number IV.59)

*Main issues:* Lack of coordination; major restoration programmes

#### New information:

The restoration of Al Sennari House has been completed successfully with funding through the Convention. The Egyptian authorities are presently discussing on the best function for this House, which would be compatible with its character and conservation requirements. Among other options, the possibility of using the House as an Information Centre on the Islamic Cairo was raised.

Two reports have been submitted since the Committee Meeting in Cairns from the Policy Advisor and Technical Coordinator contracted by the WHC over the past year to follow the development of activities for the rehabilitation of Islamic Cairo.

The report submitted by the Policy Advisor highlighted the great number of restoration/conservation projects currently being carried out in Islamic Cairo (19 large projects, for a total estimated amount of over 41 Million US dollars). The WHC does not have enough information to assist the Egyptian authorities in implementing and monitoring such a major programme, whose impact on the state of conservation of the historic city is bound to be considerable. A foreseen technical mission by an ICOMOS expert, requested by the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau of June 2000 to evaluate the state of conservation of Islamic monuments in Cairo, has not yet been dispatched.

Both reports shed light on the great complexity of this World Heritage site (the largest historic city on the List), reflected by the very large number of actors involved and the considerable number of on-going initiatives, ranging from restoration campaigns to major urban infrastructure projects. According to the report submitted by the Technical Coordinator, with a view to set a framework for a coherent implementation strategy, the General Organization for Physical Planning (GOPP, Ministry of Housing) is working on a comprehensive project for the rehabilitation of historic Cairo, while the newly established Center of Studies and Development for Historic Cairo (CSDHC, Ministry of Culture) is engaged in the preparation of a rehabilitation plan for its monuments.

As agreed between the General Secretary of the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) and the Deputy Director of the WHC, (on mission to Cairo accompanied by a consultant on February 2001), a Seminar could be organized as soon as the two above-mentioned studies are finalized involving all the concerned parties, as well as national and international experts, to review the projects and proposals, with particular regard to the priority area of Al-Muaiz Street, and agree on specific guidelines for the implementation of an integrated rehabilitation plan. A number of actions were also discussed and agreed upon, that could be implemented immediately to improve the presentation of the site and raise the awareness of its inhabitants of the need to protect it.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Bureau recommends that, as soon as the two studies, to be prepared by GOPP and CSDHC, are available, the Egyptian authorities organize, in close coordination with the WHC, a Seminar to review all existing proposals and establish clear and concrete guidelines for a rehabilitation plan of the Al Muaiz Street area. The Bureau recommends as well that the foreseen mission by an ICOMOS expert be dispatched as soon as possible to monitor the implementation of the conservation works going on within the historic city.”

## **Memphis and its Necropolis – the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur (Egypt)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979

*Brief description:* The capital of the Old Kingdom of Egypt has some extraordinary funerary monuments, including rock tombs, ornate mastabas, temples and pyramids. In ancient times, the site was considered one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

*Justification for inscription:* C (i)(iii)(vi)

### *International assistance:*

Technical Cooperation (US\$ 30,000), 1991, Management plan of Giza

Technical Cooperation (US\$ 20,000), 1993, Plate of Pyramids

Preparatory Assistance (US\$ 13,450), 1995, Expert Mission

### *Previous deliberations:*

Eighteenth session of the Committee (page 29).

Nineteenth session of the Committee (paragraph number VII.34)

*Main issues:* Urban encroachment.

### *New information:*

During the mission to Cairo carried out in February 2001, the Deputy Director of the World Heritage Centre, accompanied by a consultant, was made aware of the fact that the re-routing of the Cairo Great Ring Road to the North East of the Pyramids, agreed upon in 1998 between UNESCO and the Egyptian Government, had not yet been implemented. While the traffic pressure mounts, certain local authorities are reportedly re-considering the possibility of having the Ring Road cross the World Heritage site of the Memphis Necropolis with a tunnel, or alternatively in an open trench.

In the mean time, a new motorway bypass has been realized to the North of the Giza Plateau by the Egyptian authorities. This bypass, linking the existing Ring Road, the 6<sup>th</sup> of October City and the road to Alexandria, provides the solution to the problem which had prompted the initial proposal for the Ring Road extension across the World Heritage site of Memphis of 1994-5.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Bureau, recalling the Agreement between UNESCO and the Egyptian authorities in 1998, reaffirms the vital importance of preventing any encroachment upon the site, such as highways, roads, water supply pipes and buildings within the World Heritage protected area. The Bureau invites the Egyptian authorities to develop and adopt, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, a comprehensive Management Plan with appropriate measures to protect the World Heritage site of the Memphis necropolis from unwanted urban developments.”

## **Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis (Egypt)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979

*Brief description:* Thebes, the city of the god Amon, was the capital of Egypt during the period of the Middle and New Kingdoms. With the temples and palaces at Karnak and Luxor, and the necropolises of the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens, Thebes is a striking testimony to Egyptian civilization at its height.

*Justification for inscription:* C (i)(iii)(vi)

*International assistance:* None

*Previous deliberations:* None

*Main issues:* Possible conflict between conservation requirements and safeguarding of socio-cultural character of the local community

### *New information:*

According to the decision made at the twenty-third Session of the W.H. Committee, a mission by an ICOMOS expert is due to take place in the second half of May 2001, in close coordination with the Egyptian authorities, to evaluate the issue of the relocation of the indigenous community of Qurna and its consequences for the conservation of the site's archaeological and anthropological values.

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

## **Petra (Jordan)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1985

*Brief description:* Inhabited since prehistoric times, this Nabataean caravan-city, situated between the Red Sea and the Dead Sea, was an important crossroads between Arabia, Egypt and Syria-Phoenicia. Petra is half-built, half-carved in the rock, and is surrounded by mountains riddled with passages and gorges. It is one of the world's most famous archaeological sites, where ancient Eastern traditions blend with Hellenistic architecture.

*Justification for inscription:* C (i) (iii) (iv)

### *International assistance:*

Technical Cooperation (US\$ 50,000), 1988, Petra. Preparation of Management Plan

Technical Cooperation (US\$ 29,500), 1996, Petra

### *Previous deliberations:*

Twenty-fourth session of the Bureau (paragraph number IV.68).

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee (paragraph number VIII.38; Annex X page 129)

*Main issues:* Adoption of Operational Plan

New information:

The ICOMOS report of September 2000 mentioned that an Operational Plan for the Archaeological Park of Petra, developed by the US National Park Service with funding from a World Bank Tourism Development Project, was being discussed by the Jordanian authorities in consultation with various stakeholders.

A draft version of this Operational Plan was reviewed during a workshop organized by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities of Jordan in Amman, on 17 January 2001. The document provides a framework for the implementation of an appropriate site management plan, whose specific contents would remain to be defined (but a substantial part of the work was accomplished by UNESCO in 1995). This framework includes an organizational chart, job descriptions, the required qualifications of the staff to be recruited, detailed management policy, park regulations and a timetable for implementation.

A detailed assessment of the draft Operational Plan was presented in writing to the Jordanian Minister of Tourism and Antiquities by a group of stakeholders invited to the Amman Workshop, including a representative of the UNESCO Regional Office for Culture in Amman, in February 2001. The stakeholders especially appreciated the effort to adopt an integrated approach to the problem of Petra and its surrounding, the conservation of the cultural and natural resources, the presentation and educational aspects, and the relationship between the site and the local communities as components of a comprehensive policy to be implemented by a single authority.

On the other hand, the stakeholders observed that the document did not completely address the need to resolve co-ordination conflicts at the institutional and legislative levels, did not contain an estimate of the costs and a financial plan for its implementation and, finally, did not sufficiently address the difficulty of identifying or training the highly qualified human resources necessary for the execution of such a complex task.

In conclusion, the stakeholders recommended that further study be carried out, to strengthen the draft Operational Plan and to address the above-mentioned issues, referring in particular to the following three main areas: institutional/legislative, financial, and human resources.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Bureau thanks and commends Jordan for elaborating an Operational Plan for the archaeological park of Petra, whose implementation will constitute an essential step towards a sound management and conservation policy at the site. The Bureau recommends that the Jordanian authorities work closely with the World Heritage Centre and other concerned stakeholders to ensure that the final version of the Petra Operational Plan take into account the above observations, prior to its adoption by the State Party.”

**Byblos (Lebanon)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1984

Brief description: The ruins of many successive civilizations are found at Byblos, one of the oldest Phoenician cities. Inhabited since Neolithic times, it has been closely linked to the legends and history of the Mediterranean region for thousands of years. Byblos is also directly associated with the history and diffusion of the Phoenician alphabet.

Justification for inscription: C (iii)(iv)(vi)

International assistance:

Preparatory Assistance (US\$ 10,000), 1999, Seminar on Byblos at Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau (paragraph number I.40)

Main issues: Need for coordination; boundaries need reconsideration

New information:

The proceedings of the November 1999 Seminar held in Byblos (Delft University of Technology, Lebanese American University, WHC), organized further to the first Seminar held at the Delft University in April 1999, have been made public in April 2001.

The document contains specific and detailed recommendations for actions in favour of the conservation and management of Byblos. More in general, the 1999 Seminars recommend that 1) a Master Plan for Byblos at city and regional scale be urgently prepared, with specific legal and administrative provisions for its implementation, and that 2) the boundaries of the World heritage site and buffer zone be reconsidered, taking into account the results of the on-going investigations of the marine and coastal areas.

At the same time, the large on-going World Bank Cultural Heritage Project, involving Byblos, has started its operations, and terms of reference for the first contracts have been already elaborated. The project foresees site conservation, urban infrastructure improvements, and capacity building components in favour of the Directorate General of Antiquities (DGA), Ministry of Tourism (MOT) and the Municipalities.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Bureau recommends that the results of both Seminars organized in 1999 by the WHC and the Delft University be disseminated and discussed among the concerned parties (DGA, MOT, Municipality of Byblos, World Bank Project). The Bureau stresses the need to take into account the findings of the above-mentioned seminars in defining the scope of the World Bank project’s activities, which should be considered as

an extraordinary opportunity to implement a coherent and sustainable management policy at the site.”

### **Ancient Ksour of Ouadane, Chinguetti, Tichitt and Oualata (Mauritania)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1996

*Brief description:* Founded in the 11th and 12th centuries to serve the caravans crossing the Sahara, these trading and religious centres became focal points of Islamic culture. They have managed to preserve an urban fabric that evolved between the 12th and 16th centuries. Typically, houses with patios crowd along narrow streets around a mosque with a square minaret. They illustrate a traditional way of life centred on the nomadic culture of the people of the western Sahara.

*Justification for inscription:* C (iii, iv, v)

#### *International assistance:*

Preparatory Assistance (US\$ 20,000), 1995, Nomination dossiers.

Technical cooperation (US\$ 20,000), 1999, Stabilization of the sands surrounding the site of Chinguetti,

Emergency Assistance (US\$ 46,069), 2000, Conservation of the Mosque of Ouadane.

Emergency Assistance (US\$ 6,000), 2000, Restoration of the site of Tichitt

Promotional Assistance (US\$ 5,000), 2000, Architectural models of the ancient cities in Mauritania (Chinguetti and Ouadane) in EXPO 2000 in Hannover.

*Previous deliberations:* None.

*Main issues:* Socio-economic and climatic changes; lack of conservation and management policy.

#### *New information:*

At the invitation of the Mauritanian authorities, the head of the Arab Desk of the WHC carried out a mission to Ouadane and Chinguetti in April 2001 to assess their state of conservation and discuss with the national authorities possible measures to be taken for their safeguarding.

In Ouadane, the mission visited the site of the Friday Mosque, which is being restored with funds through the Convention (38,000 US\$). The works are progressing and the project should be completed by the end of the summer.

The mission found that the problems affecting the two cities, already identified in the dossier of inscription submitted in 1996, have not been solved, despite the efforts of the Mauritanian authorities, and particularly of the Fondation Nationale pour la Sauvegarde des Villes Anciennes (FNSVA). The deep climatic and socio-economic changes occurred during the last decades, combined with lack of funds and trained human resources, are seriously affecting the state of conservation of the ancient *ksour*, whose historic cores are being abandoned.

The recent growth of the tourism in the region, triggered since two charter flights per week coming directly from

Europe reach the airport of the Northern city of Atar, together with an impulse to the economy of the two cities (and a increase of their population) has introduced a further element of risk for the conservation of their cultural and natural values. A number of tourist hotels have been established at Ouadane and Chinguetti, and new constructions are being built within the buffer zones of the World Heritage site, not always conforming to the traditional character and materials of the old cities.

As recognized by the Director of the FNSVA, an integrated action is urgently needed to address the challenge of reconciling the need for development for these disadvantaged communities and the imperatives of conservation of the World Heritage sites. However, despite a great interest, both at national and local level, for the conservation of the ancient *ksour* of Mauritania, a clear management policy has not yet been developed nor have the necessary human and financial resources been identified and put in place. The problems at Tichitt and Oualata are more or less the same as in Ouadane and Chinguetti, only worsened in the case of Tichitt by the exceptional rainfalls of two years ago.

At this crucial time in the history of these ancient cities, several projects are being developed, which may have a considerable impact on the conservation of their cultural heritage. Among these is a large National Cultural Heritage Project funded by the World Bank, including a component for tangible heritage, and an important restoration project for Ouadane with the support of the Portuguese Government. The European Union, Spain and Germany are also said to consider funding cooperation projects in or around the *ksour* of Mauritania, in the fields of infrastructure, protection from sand dunes encroachment and rehabilitation. A network of national and international NGOs is also very active with several smaller projects being carried out at local level.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Bureau recommends that urgent action be undertaken by the Mauritanian authorities, in close coordination with the World Heritage Centre, to provide the ancient *ksour* of Ouadane, Chinguetti, Tichitt and Oualata with a technical and institutional framework for the implementation of appropriate management and conservation policies, integrating the various national and international efforts into a single coherent strategy for the safeguarding of these unique sites and the strengthening of the capacity of the responsible national and local authorities.”

### **Africa**

The state of conservation of World Heritage sites in this region will be reported upon in the context of the periodic reporting for Africa.



## Asia and the Pacific

### **Peking Man Site at Zhoukoudian (China)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1987

Justification for inscription: C (iii) (vi)

#### Brief description:

Scientific work at the site, which lies 42 km south-west of Beijing, is still underway. So far, it has led to the discovery of the remains of *Sinanthropus pekinensis*, who lived in the Middle Pleistocene, along with various objects, and remains of *Homo sapiens sapiens* dating as far back as 18,000–11,000 B.C. The site is not only an exceptional reminder of the prehistorical human societies of the Asian continent, but also illustrates the process of evolution.

#### International assistance:

Emergency Assistance: 1993 US\$26,000 to prevent the collapse of some of the caves damaged by heavy rains in 1992-1993

#### Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the World Heritage Bureau - (paragraph number IV.52).

Twenty-third session of the World Heritage Committee - (paragraph number X.34)

Twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the World Heritage Bureau - (paragraph number I.44)

#### Main issues:

- ***Physical conditions with potential or ascertained effects:***

- Seismic activity / Earthquakes:* Due to the geological structure and the excavations, a number of the fossiliferous sites are potentially unstable and vulnerable to collapse. Earthquakes could trigger collapse.
- Vegetation growth on the excavated sections and ground surfaces:* If allowed to continue, can potentially break up the archaeological deposits through root action and removal. While controlled growth of smaller, shallow rooted plants could stabilize vertical sections, the presence of plant growth diminishes the visibility of the archaeological section and increase the fire risk.
- Surface water and direct precipitation of rain and occasional snow:* Growth of vegetation depends on water flow, which can contribute to physical erosion of the deposits, particularly the exposed vertical sections and cave floors at the drip line.

- ***Lack of a regular monitoring system:*** There is no systematic monitoring system, which provides information for quantitatively analyzing the rates of change in relation to key factors such as vegetation growth, erosion of exposed sections and visitor impacts. Result of monitoring is necessary to assess

the needs for conservation and planning measures such as the construction of shelters over various localities.

- ***Lack of an overall conservation and management plan:***

- Tourism development:* Uncontrolled visitor movement contributing to deterioration of archaeological deposits and small scale vandalism. In an effort to enhance visitors' experiences, protective grilles at localities are left open, increasing the vulnerability of the archaeological deposits.
- Mining and quarrying activity:* Due to the geological structure and the excavations, a number of the fossiliferous sites are potentially unstable and vulnerable to collapse. These could be triggered by mining or quarrying activities outside the protected area.
- Industrial pollution:* caused by coal mining, lime burning, and other industrial and domestic emissions is visible as deposits on the site, and contributes to diminished visible distinction between the archaeological strata in the exposed sections.

#### New information:

1. In 1999, a Joint ICOMOS-ICCROM Reactive Monitoring Mission was undertaken to the site. This mission recommended both short and long term actions to be taken to address all the issues relevant to sustainable conservation and development of the site. The State Party informed the Committee at its twenty-third session (1999) on its intentions to seriously examine the recommendations of the Joint Mission.
2. Numerous independent reports expressing alarm over the state of conservation of the site were received by the Secretariat. Locality 1 and other excavated caves continue to be exposed and suffer erosion and plant growth.
3. Information was received concerning the closure of the site-museum due to financial constraints.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

“The Bureau requests the State Party to inform the Committee on the results of action taken on the recommendations of the 1999 ICOMOS-ICCROM Joint Mission. It requests the authorities to provide information concerning the measures taken to address the conservation and management challenges facing the site, especially with regard to the establishment of a systematic low-cost monitoring system for the entire site. The Bureau encourages the State Party to elaborate an international assistance request for the development of a comprehensive conservation and management plan for the site.”

## **The Potala Palace and Jokhang Temple Monastery, Lhasa (China)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994, 2000

Justification for inscription: C (i), (iv) and (vi)

### Brief description:

The Potala Palace, winter palace of the Dalai Lama since the 7th century, symbolises Tibetan Buddhism and its central role in the traditional administration in Tibet. The complex, comprising the White Palace and the Red Palace with their ancillary buildings, is built on the Red Mountain in the centre of the Lhasa valley, at an altitude of 3700 m. Also founded in the 7th century, the Jokhang Temple Monastery is an exceptional Buddhist religious complex. The beauty and originality of the architecture of these two sites, their ornate decoration and harmonious integration in a striking landscape add to their historic and religious interest.

International assistance: None

### Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the World Heritage Bureau (paragraph number IV.53)

Twenty-third extraordinary session of the World Heritage Bureau - (paragraph number III.C)

Twenty-fourth session of the World Heritage Bureau - (paragraph number IV.58)

Twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the World Heritage Bureau - (paragraph number I.45)

### Main Issues:

Uncontrolled urban development and expansion of tourism-related facilities in and immediately surrounding the World Heritage areas.

### New information

1. Following the request of the Bureau in November 2000, the President of ICOMOS carried out a Reactive Monitoring Mission to the Potala Palace and Jokhang Monastery between 26 February and 6 March 2001.

2. The ICOMOS Mission reported that:

- *The Urban Development Plan of Lhasa has considered the protection of the World Heritage areas.*
- *Weakness in co-ordination of activities in the past has resulted in inappropriate construction in the heritage areas.*
- *The authorities however stated that the problems have now been solved and that a system of clearance by the Administration of Cultural Heritage of Tibet Autonomous Region has been established.*
- *The mission noted a newly constructed television tower, which is located outside the buffer zone but interferes*

*with some of the distant visual angles of the Potala Palace.*

- *Redevelopment of the lakes and parks to the South and the West of the Potala Palace that comes within the **buffer zone** has been integrated into the Lhasa City Development Plan providing a scenic surrounding to the Potala Palace and creating place for relaxation and enjoyment to the general public.*
- *In the protected area in front of the Potala Palace (Shol Area) within the World Heritage area, composed of a large number of historic buildings that historically served the integrated functions of the Potala, many incompatible additions and alterations have taken place in the past. This area, presently occupied by private institutions and persons, has been taken over by the Administration of Cultural Heritage under a special conservation project and they have started providing alternative accommodation to the present inhabitants prior to the conservation of the buildings. Plans have been made to accommodate only those activities deemed compatible with the functioning of the Potala Palace..*
- *The Potala Palace Protection Plan and Jokhang Monastery Protection Plan were prepared, focussing attention on the conservation, maintenance and monitoring, including annual programmes to enhance religious activities, best utilization of the available staff and funding from various sources including income received from visitor fees .*
- *With regard to the general lighting and special flood lighting installed in the public piazza of Jokhang Monastery, the mission proposed improvements and modifications to the existing lighting system to the Mayor and the technical staff of the Lhasa Municipal Government.*
- *Regarding the large surface area of valuable murals painted on clay-lime plaster, the authorities have only taken preventive measures as they do not have trained personnel in Tibet for painting conservation work. The authorities requested ICOMOS Scientific Committee on Wall Paintings to propose a training activity for mural conservators in Tibet.*
- *No scientific documentation and conservation work is being planned for thousands of Thangka paintings drawn on silk some dating from the 11<sup>th</sup> century; nor the scripture books documenting Mahayana Buddhist doctrine, surviving from the 7<sup>th</sup> century, written in Sanskrit and Tibetan languages on palm leaves, bark sheets and Tibetan hand made paper. Poor management of documentation, termites, rats, humidity and fire have been identified as major threats to these valuable cultural property.*
- *With regard to international co-operation, the authorities indicated their wish to collaborate with international organizations in preserving the World*

*Heritage areas, but reiterated the need for all international projects to be cleared by them and be integrated into the overall conservation plan.*

3. The Secretariat was informed recently by various sources that some religious treasures at the Potala Palace are being exported, such as the five-metre bronze and gold statue of Maitriya - the future Buddha, from the tomb of the 7<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama and statues and artifacts from another shrine in the Potala Palace to Shanghai. On 16 May 2001, the Secretariat requested the Chinese authorities to provide further information concerning the current policy regarding movable cultural heritage of the Potala Palace and Jokhang Temple in Lhasa.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

“The Bureau expresses its appreciation to the Chinese authorities for facilitating the ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission to the Potala Palace and Jokhang Temple in Lhasa. The Bureau recalls having encouraged the Chinese authorities to submit a training request for the organization of a training Workshop on the conservation of mural paintings with support from UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies. The Bureau also requests the Chinese authorities to provide further information concerning the current policy regarding movable cultural heritage of the Potala Palace and Jokhang Temple in Lhasa. Furthermore, the Bureau expresses its readiness to consider international assistance from the World Heritage Fund to support the national and local efforts in safeguarding the World Heritage areas of Lhasa and requests the World Heritage Centre to work in close collaboration with the State Party to prepare a plan of action to address the conservation issues raised in the Reactive Monitoring Mission Report of ICOMOS.”

#### **Itsukushima Shinto Shrine (Japan)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1996

Justification for inscription: C (i), (ii), (iv), (vi)

#### Brief description:

The island of Itsukushima, in the Seto inland sea, has been a holy place of Shintoism since the earliest times. The first shrine buildings here were probably erected in the 6th century. The present shrine dates from the 13th century and the harmoniously arranged buildings reveal great artistic and technical skill. The shrine plays on the contrasts in colour and form between mountains and sea and illustrates the Japanese concept of scenic beauty, which combines nature and human creativity.

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations: None

#### Main Issues:

**Earthquake risk:** On 22 March 2001, a strong earthquake occurred in the Hiroshima Area of Japan, where this site is located but no direct damage was reported.

#### New information:

By letter of 2 April 2001, the Secretariat expressed its concerns for the victims of this natural disaster and asked the Japanese authorities for information concerning the state of conservation of the Itsukushima Shinto Shrine World Heritage site.

By letter of 20 April 2001, the Permanent Delegation of Japan to UNESCO informed the Secretariat that slight damage to Honsha, Haraidan, Hirabutai as well as Kairo had been observed. However, the damages were limited and the necessary conservation work could be easily undertaken. The authorities informed the Secretariat that the World Heritage values of the property had not been affected.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

“The Bureau expresses deep sympathy for the citizens who suffered from loss of property caused by the large scale earthquake of 22 March 2001 in the Hiroshima and Itsukushima areas. The Bureau takes note of the state of conservation of the Itsukushima Shinto Shrine submitted by the State Party and requests the authorities to inform the Bureau on the progress made in restoring the damaged monuments within the site for examination by the Bureau at its twenty-sixth session.”

#### **Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (Nepal)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1997

Justification for inscription: C (iii) (vi)

#### Brief description:

Siddhartha Gautama, the Lord Buddha, was born in 623 B.C. in the famous gardens of Lumbini, which soon became a place of pilgrimage. Among the pilgrims was the Indian emperor Ashoka, who erected one of his commemorative pillars there. The site is now being developed as a Buddhist pilgrimage centre, where the archaeological remains associated with the birth of the Lord Buddha form a central feature.

#### Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the World Heritage Bureau - (paragraph IV.70)

Twenty-third session of the World Heritage Committee - (paragraph X.46; Annex VIII page 105)

Twenty-fourth session of the World Heritage Committee - (paragraph VIII.39; Annex X page 130)

#### International Assistance:

Technical Co-operation: US\$ 20,000 2000

Organisation of an International Technical Meeting for the Conservation, Presentation and Development of the Maya Devi Temple, Lumbini.

Main Issues:

- Conservation method for the very fragile archaeological deposits and remains of the Maya Devi Temple exposed to natural elements since the large-scale excavation in 1996.
- Need for non-destructive geophysical survey of archaeological remains unexcavated within the core and the buffer zone (i.e. the Sacred Garden) of the World Heritage site.
- Need for garden landscape conservation scheme to ensure long-term conservation, presentation and development of the site.

New information:

- Following the request of the World Heritage Committee, a UNESCO Reactive Monitoring Mission took place in April 2000 composed of two international experts in the fields of South Asian archaeology and heritage site presentation and development.
- An ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission was also undertaken in June 2000.
- The Recommendations of both the UNESCO and the ICOMOS missions were adopted by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth session, and transmitted to the State Party for examination and possible adoption. The authorities informed the Centre that all recommendations were adopted and implementation begun for the necessary actions to be taken.
- Between 5-9 April 2001, an International Technical Meeting for the Conservation, Presentation and Development of the Maya Devi Temple was organised by the Centre, UNESCO Kathmandu, and the national authorities concerned. The authorities, in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, have commenced the implementation of some of the meeting's Recommendations since 7 May 2001.
- At the request of the national authorities received in May 2001, the Centre is organising an urgent mission by an international brick conservation expert to examine the structural character and stability of the remains of the alcove of the Maya Devi Temple.
- Following the recommendation of the International Technical Meeting that a simple, non-intrusive "Golden Pavilion" shelter made of precious material should be designed and constructed to protect the Marker Stone, Nativity Image and Alcove Remains of the Maya Devi Temple, the national authorities are preparing a new design for the shelter, in close collaboration with the UNESCO international experts.
- To assist the national authorities in carrying out the non-destructive geophysical survey for the core and

the buffer zone, the Centre and the University of Bradford (U.K.) are mobilising experts and funds to assist the national authorities in commencing the work from August 2001.

- The Centre has initiated the mobilisation of funds and technical expertise to elaborate and implement a sacred garden landscape plan adapted for the site's character as a centre of pilgrimage in conformity with the Kenzo Tange Master Plan adopted by the State Party and support by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in 1978.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"The Bureau commends the national authorities for taking the necessary actions to temporarily suspend the development of the fragile Maya Devi Temple remains until the elaboration of guiding principles for its conservation, presentation and development. The Bureau takes note of the concluding recommendations of the International Technical Meeting and urges the State Party to continue the implementation of these recommendations. The Bureau requests the World Heritage Centre to continue its efforts in mobilising international technical and financial support to increase the capacity of the national authorities in carrying out the recommended actions. Finally, the Bureau requests the State Party and the World Heritage Centre to report to the 25<sup>th</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee on the progress made in their efforts to ensure appropriate conservation, presentation and development of the site."

**Ancient City of Sigiriya (Sri Lanka)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1988

Justification for inscription: C (ii) (iii) (iv)

Brief description:

The ruins of Sigiriya, the capital built by the parricidal King Kassapa I (477–95), lie on the steep slopes and at the summit of a granite peak standing some 370 m high, the 'Lion's Rock', which dominates the jungle from all sides. A series of galleries and staircases emerging from the mouth of a gigantic lion constructed of bricks and plaster provide access to the site, which include exquisite wall paintings located within the Rock.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the World Heritage Committee (paragraph VII.43; Annex IV page 109)

International Assistance:

None from the World Heritage Fund.

However, the Sigiriya site is one of five cultural World Heritage sites in Sri Lanka which benefitted from the UNESCO International Safeguarding Campaign of the Cultural Triangle.

Main Issues:

1. *Proposed expansion of the military airport:* The national authorities responsible for the protection of the site through the Sri Lankan Ambassador to UNESCO informed the World Heritage Centre in February 2001, on the plans for the construction of a military airport within 2 km of Sigiriya. The authorities stated that the airport, if and when constructed, will negatively impact upon the site through:

- Sonic vibrations which would cause damage to ancient wall plasters with paintings and inscriptions, as well as to the rock surface which is already peeling.
- Aircraft generated pollution which would cause damage to the above mentioned wall plaster and rock surface.

2. *Lack of clear demarcation of the core and buffer zones of the site.*

New information:

1. Following the invitation by the national authorities, the World Heritage Centre urgently organised a Reactive Monitoring Mission to the site in March 2001. The mission undertaken by the Deputy Director of the Centre together with an international airport planning engineer from the Aeroports de Paris (France) held detailed discussions and consultations with the national and military officials concerned. ICOMOS was invited to participate but was unable to do so due to the very short notice of the mission. However, ICOMOS Sri Lanka was involved.
2. The UNESCO Reactive Monitoring Mission found that the proposed extension of the Sigiriya airport to serve as the principal base for fighter jets would undermine the character of this site, notably due to security risks of enemy attacks and air and noise pollution which will not only impact negatively on the fragile structure of the monuments and the wall paintings but also on the flora and fauna of the natural reserves located along the flight path. In the technical study prepared by the airport planner, the national authorities were recommended to consider the expansion of the Hingurakgoda airstrip which is in better condition, hence less costly to upgrade and more appropriate for eventual use as commercial airport.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

“The Bureau expresses appreciation for the rapid deployment of the Reactive Monitoring mission to Sigiriya. While noting the national security concerns of the Government of Sri Lanka, the Bureau requests the State Party to reconsider the proposed expansion of the Sigiriya airstrip and to provide a report on decisions taken by the Government in this regard, by 15 September 2001, to the Secretariat for the consideration of the Committee at its twenty-fifth session.”

## **Old Town of Galle and its Fortifications**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1988

Brief Description:

Founded in the 16th century by the Portuguese, Galle reached the height of its development in the 18th century under Dutch rule, before the arrival of the British. It is the best example of a fortified city built by Europeans in South and South-East Asia, showing the interaction between European architectural styles and South Asian traditions.

Justification for inscription:

C (iv)

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the World Heritage Bureau (IV.80)

Main Issues:

Lack of maintenance of historic buildings and lack of control on building activities within the World Heritage historic centre, resulting in serious deterioration and deformation of the existing cultural-historic fabric.

New information:

During a mission to the Ancient City of Sigiriya in central Sri Lanka in April 2001, the Deputy-Director of the Centre undertook a short visit to examine the state of conservation of Galle. The main historic building, the Dutch Reformed Church dating from the 17th century, is in a very poor state of conservation requiring urgent action, notably in the reparation of the roof and stain glass windows to prevent rainwater infiltration. Moreover, the extent of deformation to the urban historic fabric caused by uncontrolled building activities is undermining the authenticity of this town characterized by the Portuguese, Dutch, English, Chinese and Indian building traditions.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

“The Bureau requests the Sri Lankan authorities to strengthen control on building permits and activities in the city and allocate funds for the maintenance of the historic monuments. The Bureau invites the State Party to submit an international assistance request to elaborate a programme of corrective measures.”

## **Latin America and the Caribbean**

### **Brasilia (Brazil)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1987

Brief description: Brasilia, a capital created *ex nihilo* in the centre of the country in 1956, was a landmark in the history of town planning. Urban planner Lucio Costa and architect Oscar Niemeyer intended that every element - from the layout of the residential and administrative districts (often compared to the shape of a bird in flight) to the symmetry of the buildings themselves - should be in

harmony with the city's overall design. The official buildings, in particular, are innovative and imaginative.

Justification for inscription: C (i) (iv).

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee (paragraph VIII.35; Annex X, page 126)

Main Issues: Development pressures and lack of clarity in decision-making and legislative structures.

New information: The State Party submitted a substantial report on the state of conservation of the site, emphasising, in answer to the raised issue of population pressure in the modern city, that the resident population of the *Plano Piloto* area has remained stable for the last 10 years. The increase of population in the surrounding areas, the so called "satellite towns", however, has generated significant pressures upon the service infrastructure and the vehicular traffic in the protected areas, a situation aggravated by the lack of an efficient public transportation system.

The report states the importance of well-defined competences and attributions of the different public bodies involved in the administration and preservation of the city. The conflicts of jurisdiction have caused the Institute for National Historical and Artistic Heritage (IPHAN) to be bypassed in some of the decision-making processes. To avoid this situation IPHAN has recently created a special Executive Body to monitor the process of preservation on the *Plano Piloto*.

Furthermore the State Party names several measures which are proposed and/or in different stages of implementation to mitigate current problems:

- implementation of awareness raising measures,
- establishment of an inventory for the *Plano Piloto*,
- organisational reinforcement of bodies involved in heritage preservation,
- elaboration and implementation of IPHAN's Preservation Plan, which is expected to be operational before the end of the year,
- elaboration and implementation of a Master Plan for *Plano Piloto* by the local government, consolidating all existing legislation and urban norms.
- effective coordination among agencies involved in the preservation of the *Plano Piloto*, eventually to be achieved through the elaboration of an integrated preservation system, perhaps under a specific management agency with enforcement powers.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

"The Bureau congratulates the State Party on its clear vision of the problems facing the site, as well as on the far reaching actions taken or being planned to mitigate them. The Bureau requests ICOMOS to study the report in the context of the ICOMOS/UNESCO monitoring mission which the twenty-fourth session of the extraordinary Bureau requested to be undertaken. The results of the mission should be reported to the twenty-fifth extraordinary session of the Bureau".

### **Antigua Guatemala (Guatemala)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979

Brief description: Antigua, the capital of the Captaincy-General of Guatemala, was founded in the early 16th century. Built 1,500 m above sea-level, in an earthquake-prone region, it was largely destroyed by an earthquake in 1773 but its principal monuments are still preserved as ruins. In the space of under three centuries the city, which was built on a grid pattern inspired by the Italian Renaissance, acquired a number of superb monuments.

Justification for inscription: C (ii) (iii) and (iv).

International assistance: The site received US\$ 80,926 in Emergency Assistance (1979, 2000) and US\$ 20,000 in Technical Co-operation (1994).

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee (paragraph VII.42).

Twenty-third session of the Bureau (paragraph IV.15).

Main Issues: Damage to architecture through earthquake and impact of proposed shopping centre.

New information: To respond to concerns raised over the planned construction of a shopping centre with possible impact on the World Heritage values of the site, the State Party submitted a report and requested an ICOMOS advisory mission, which is currently being organised.

Furthermore, the World Heritage Centre received a report on the damages caused by the earthquake that shook Central America on 13 January 2001. The tremors aggravated damages already suffered in 1976 and caused moderate damage but heightened the danger of collapse for some of the buildings. The report shows that an inventory of the damages has been elaborated, as well as a budget estimate for repair and consolidation works. The World Heritage Centre has recently received a request for international assistance that is being processed.

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

**Fortifications on the Caribbean side of Panama:  
Portobelo – San Lorenzo (Panama)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1980

*Brief description:* Magnificent examples of 17th- and 18th-century military architecture, these Panamanian forts on the Caribbean coast form part of the defence system built by the Spanish Crown to protect transatlantic trade.

*Justification for inscription:* C (i) and (iv).

*International assistance:*  
US\$ 73,888 for the sites' protection and equipment (1980, 1986, 1993).

*Previous deliberations:*  
Twenty-fourth session of the Committee (paragraph VIII.39; Annex X page 130).

*Main Issues:* No preparation for expected rise in tourism numbers and degradation of the sites due to a total lack of management.

*New information:* In reaction to the ICOMOS report on the precarious state of conservation of the site and the lack of management, the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau requested a report from the State Party by 15 April 2001. By the time this document was elaborated no report had been received by the World Heritage Centre.

The World Monuments Fund reported on a collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution/Monitoring and Assessment of Biodiversity Program to form an institutional partnership in order to explore the potential of collaborative field work and integrated conservation planning for sites containing endangered cultural and natural resources. In close cooperation with Panama's relevant governmental and non-governmental agencies the 'twin' site of Portobelo – San Lorenzo was selected as pilot project. The project will have a duration of 14 – 18 months and aims to specify and implement limited emergency physical interventions related to primary threats affecting the built environment as well as deepen an understanding of the ecosystems that surround the forts. These activities shall address the high development pressures both sites are subject to and which might be aggravated by the cruise ship stopover programme centred in Colon, entitled "Colon 2000", for which the government formed an agreement with several cruise ship operators recently.

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

**Archaeological Site of Chavín (Peru)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1985

*Brief description:* The archaeological site of Chavin gave its name to the culture that developed between 1500 and 300 B.C. in this high valley of the Peruvian Andes. This

former place of worship is one of the earliest and best-known pre-Columbian sites. Its appearance is striking, with the complex of terraces and squares, surrounded by structures of dressed stone, and the mainly zoomorphic ornamentation.

*Justification for inscription:* C (iii).

*International assistance:*  
US\$ 37,250 Emergency Assistance (1998).

*Previous deliberations:*  
Twenty-fourth session of the Committee (paragraph VIII.39; Annex X page 130).

*Main Issues:* Lack of a Management Plan and deterioration of the condition of the site.

*New information:* The World Heritage Centre received a brief report from the State Party, which indicates that the national authorities are revising the international assistance request first submitted in February 2000. The report neither makes reference to the Project of Archaeological Investigation that was initiated in co-ordination with the Management Plan Commission in August 2000, as reported to the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau, nor was information supplied on the effort to secure extra-budgetary funding for works on the site.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

"The Bureau notes with concern the very slow progress being made in the elaboration of a Master Plan for the site. It stresses the importance of having a plan to ensure coordination of any type of intervention or protective measure. The Bureau encourages the national authorities to formulate clear objectives for the future protection of the site and elaborate them into a detailed Master Plan at the earliest possible date. Furthermore it suggests to formulate the international assistance request that is currently being revised in such a manner that it concentrates on the activities most needed to initiate this process. The Bureau requests a report concerning the advances made to be submitted by 15 September 2001 for examination by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth extraordinary session."

**Europe and North America**

**Historic District of Québec (Canada)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1985

*Brief description:* Québec was founded by the French explorer Champlain in the early 17th century. It is the only North American city to have preserved its ramparts, together with the numerous bastions, gates and defensive works which still surround Old Quebec. The Upper Town, built on the cliff, has remained the religious and administrative centre, with its churches, convents and other monuments like the Dauphine Redoubt, the Citadel

and Château Frontenac. Together with the Lower Town and its medieval districts, it forms an urban ensemble which is one of the best examples of a fortified colonial city.

**Justification for inscription:** C (iv) and (vi):

**International assistance:**

Technical Co-operation in 1991: US\$ 26,000 (Actes Quebec)

**Previous deliberations:**

Sixteenth session of the Bureau (paragraph 60).  
Sixteenth session of the Committee (paragraph VIII.9)

**Main Issues:** Building plans for a cruise-ship landing at Pointe-à-Carcy.

**New information:** During the course of last year the World Heritage Centre has received information, mainly from the Québec Mayor's Office and the *Conseil des Monuments et Sites du Québec*, expressing concern over the planned cruise-ship landing at Pointe-à-Carcy and its possible impact on the World Heritage values of the Historic District of Québec. The Canadian government submitted documentation on the project proposed by the Québec Port Authorities as well as several studies realised in order to investigate the environmental impact of the project and recommendations concerning its implementation. The controversy remains because of a significant divergence of interpretation of the project, the studies and the recommendations. The documentation was transmitted to ICOMOS for study and advice.

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

**Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin (Germany)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1990

**Brief description:** With 500 ha of parks and 150 buildings constructed between 1730 and 1916, Potsdam's complex of palaces and parks forms an artistic whole, whose eclectic nature reinforces its sense of uniqueness. It extends into the district of Berlin-Zehlendorf, with the palaces and parks lining the banks of the River Havel and Lake Glienicke. Voltaire stayed at the Sans-Souci Palace, built under Frederick II between 1745 and 1747.

**Justification for inscription:** C (i), (ii), (iv)

**International assistance:** None

**Previous deliberations:**

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee (paragraph VIII.37; Annex X page 127).

**Main issues:** Impact of urban development and infra-structural works on cultural landscape of Potsdam.

**New information:** To date the information on the Havel project (German Unity project 17) requested by the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau has not been received.

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

**Classical Weimar (Germany)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1998

**Brief description:** In the late 18th and early 19th centuries the small Thuringian town of Weimar witnessed a remarkable cultural flowering, attracting many writers and scholars, notably Goethe and Schiller. This development is reflected in the high quality of many of the buildings and of the parks in the surrounding area.

**Justification for inscription:** C (iii), (vi)

**International assistance:** None

**Previous deliberations:**

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee (paragraph VIII.37; Annex X page 128)

**Main issues:** Impact of road project.

**New information:** A report on the impact of the construction of a road close to the Castle of Tiefurth was submitted by the German Federal State of Thuringia, on 4 January 2001. As requested by the Bureau an independent ICOMOS expert travelled to Weimar in April 2001 to examine the project.

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

**Megalithic Temples of Malta (Malta)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1980 - 1992.

**Brief description:** Seven megalithic temples are found on the islands of Malta and Gozo, each the result of an individual development. The two temples of Ggantija on the island of Gozo are notable for their gigantic Bronze Age structures. On the island of Malta, the temples of Hagar Qin, Mnajdra and Tarxien are unique architectural masterpieces, given the limited resources available to their builders. The Ta'Hagratt and Skorba complexes show how the tradition of temple-building was handed down in Malta.

**Justification for inscription:** C (iv)

**International assistance:** US\$ 72,448 Emergency Assistance for urgent preservation measures (equipment was delivered for an amount of US\$ 22,779). New proposals for the use of the remaining funds (49,669 US\$) have been received.



Previous deliberations: None

Main issues: Instability of structures; damages by vandalism.

New information: The World Heritage Centre was informed of serious damages that were caused in the beginning of April 2001 to the temple of Mnajdra, one of the Megalithic Temples of Malta. The Government of Malta submitted a report concerning the damages to the site. This report was sent to ICOMOS for further advice. In order to prepare an assessment of the damages to the site, ICOMOS will undertake a mission to the site from 11 to 12 May 2001.

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

### **Auschwitz Concentration Camp (Poland)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979

Brief description: The fortified walls, barbed wire, platforms, barracks, gallows, gas chambers and cremation ovens show the conditions within which the Nazi genocide took place in the former concentration and extermination camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest in the Third Reich. According to historical investigations, 1.5 million people, among them a great number of Jews, were systematically starved, tortured and murdered in this camp, the symbol of humanity's cruelty to its fellow human beings in the 20th century.

Justification for inscription: C (vi)

#### International assistance:

Technical co-operation in 1998 (US\$ 20,000) for the organisation of international expert meetings for the Strategic Governmental Programme for Auschwitz. In 2000 an amount of US\$ 10,000 was approved for another meeting of the International Group of Experts. This meeting was not held and by letter of 9 February 2001 the Permanent Delegation of Poland informed the Secretariat that the meeting will be rescheduled and a new request for financial assistance will be forthcoming.

#### Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee (paragraph VIII.34; Annex X page 125)

Main issues: Planning and management of surroundings of the camps; establishment of a buffer zone.

New information: On 2 May 2001 the Secretariat received a report from the Under Secretary of State of Poland concerning the Government Strategic Programme for Oswiecim (GSPO). In summary the report provides information on the following issues:

#### Implementation of the Strategic Government Programme for Oswiecim:

- The programme (GSPO) was established in 1996 and over 1 million US\$ were provided for its implementation, mainly for transportation systems around the camps of Auschwitz and Birkenau and the rehabilitation of the former tobacco factory. The programme is being implemented according to plan and within the budgets allocated;
- The Government of Poland has made a preliminary decision to extend the programme for another five years until 2007.

#### International Auschwitz Council:

- The International Auschwitz Council was established on 20 January 2000. Its aim is to co-operate with the national and local authorities for the protection and presentation of Holocaust monuments.

#### International Group of Experts:

- The International Group of Experts was appointed in 1999 by the Undersecretary of State and Plenipotentiary for the Implementation of the Strategic Government Programme for Oswiecim. Due to scheduling problems, the International Group of Experts could not meet in November 2000 as was foreseen.
- The Group will be brought under the aegis of the International Auschwitz Council. A formal decision to this effect is expected in May 2001. Once formalised, the Council and the Group will meet to define rules and scope of the Group.

In response to the question regarding the buffer zone the Under-Secretary of State commissioned a legal analysis of the issues in the context of Polish law and Poland's international obligations.

It states that the Committee's decision in 1979 to inscribe the site on the World Heritage List does not refer to any buffer zone. As to the statement in the nomination dossier -that the Museum will extend its buffer zone from 300 to 1000 meters- it is stated that no legal actions were taken at the time and that the maps provided with the nomination dossier showed a buffer zone as was defined at the time by the land-use plan adopted by local authorities.

The description of intentions concerning the buffer zone boundaries was not binding in character since the boundaries were neither delineated nor included in the inscription decision. Moreover, no previous technical or urban planning studies had been conducted which would justify the particular boundaries or indicate how the area within the buffer zone would be used.

A legal act establishes buffer zones around Holocaust Monuments (Act dated 7 May 1999, art. 3 par.2) including the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camps. This is a buffer zone of a strip of land no wider than 100 meters from the boundaries of the Holocaust Monument.

According to this Act, the Minister of Internal Affairs issued a directive on 27 May 1999 specifying the

boundaries of the buffer zone which are delineated in such a manner to ensure the necessary protection of the Monument while enabling normal functioning of the city and township. The buffer zone around the camps has a surface of 38,89 hectares.

Since this Act regulates assemblies as well as business activity, the construction of buildings, temporary structures and construction installations and the expropriation of property, the Polish side believes that it has met the obligations stemming from the Convention. The report stresses that the use of the land outside statutory zones is to be decided exclusively by the elected officials of the township and that the solutions adopted by the Oswiecim township in the land-use plan fully guarantee the inviolability of the Museum's surroundings.

Finally the Undersecretary of State emphasises the high esteem for UNESCO and his will to cooperate with it. He ensures that the inhabitants as well as the local authorities of Oswiecim and Brzezinka are well aware of the weight of the responsibility.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to examine the information that has been provided and take the appropriate decision thereupon.

#### **Kizhi Pogost (Russian Federation)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1990

**Brief description:** The *pogost* of Kizhi (i.e. the Kizhi enclosure) is located on one of the many islands in Lake Onega, in Karelia. Two 18th-century wooden churches, and an octagonal clock tower, also in wood and built in 1862, can be seen there. These unusual constructions, in which carpenters created a bold visionary architecture, perpetuate an ancient model of parish space and are in harmony with the surrounding landscape.

**Justification for inscription:** C (i), (iv), (v)

#### **International assistance:**

In 2000, a request for training assistance for an international workshop on the preservation and conservation of wooden structures on the example of the restoration of the Church of the Transfiguration of Kizhi Pogost was not examined by the Bureau owing to the States Party's outstanding dues to the World Heritage Fund.

#### **Previous deliberations:**

Eighteenth session of the Bureau (page 27)  
Eighteenth session of the Committee (page 38-39)

**Main issues:** Poor state of conservation of the church.

**New information:** At the time of the evaluation of the request for International Assistance referred to above, ICCROM emphasised that the site is in urgent need of assistance.

In view of the possible threat to the site and the advice provided by ICCROM on the request for training assistance, the Secretariat requested the Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation on 2 March 2001 to prepare a report on the state of conservation of the site to be submitted, if possible, by 15 April 2001. To date no report has been received.

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

#### **Route of Santiago de Compostela (Spain)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1993

#### **Brief description:**

Santiago de Compostela was proclaimed the first European Cultural itinerary by the Council of Europe in 1987. This route from the French-Spanish border was - and still is - taken by pilgrims to Santiago de Compostela. Some 1,800 buildings along the route, both religious and secular, are of great historic interest. The route played a fundamental role in encouraging cultural exchanges between the Iberian peninsula and the rest of Europe during the Middle Ages. It remains a testimony to the power of the Christian faith among people of all social classes and from all over Europe.

**Justification for inscription:** C (ii), (iv), (vi)

**International assistance:** None

**Previous deliberations:** None

**Main issues:** Impact of barrage on section of the route.

**New information:** The Secretariat has been informed about a project to construct an enlargement of a barrage in the regions of Navarra and Aragon ('el embalse de Yesa'). This enlargement would have as a consequence the inundation of some archaeological sites, a village, religious monuments and a stretch of five kilometres of the Route of Santiago between the villages of Artieda and Ruesta. The project foresees the relocation of the most important monuments and the reconstitution of the Route along the side of the lake. In June 2000, the Spanish authorities submitted extensive documentation on the possible impact of the barrage on the cultural heritage.

In March 2001, the Secretariat received a preliminary report from the Spanish ICOMOS Committee that had reviewed the documentation and undertaken a review in-situ. In the report, ICOMOS Spain expresses serious concern about the impact of the barrage on the Route of Santiago and the historical and social fabric of the villages and the area.

The Secretariat transmitted all documentation to ICOMOS for review and advice.

**Action required:** The Bureau may wish to examine the advice of ICOMOS at the time of its session and take the appropriate decision thereupon.

### **PART III REPORTS ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST FOR NOTING.**

#### **NATURAL HERITAGE**

##### **Latin America and the Caribbean**

###### **Noel Kempff Mercado National Park (Bolivia)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2000

*Brief description:* The National Park is one of the largest (1,523,000 ha) and most intact parks in the Amazon Basin. With an altitudinal range of 200 m to nearly 1,000 m, it is the site of a rich mosaic of habitat types from Cerrado savannah and forest to upland evergreen Amazonian forests. The park boasts an evolutionary history dating back over a billion years to the Precambrian period. An estimated 4,000 species of flora as well as over 600 bird species and viable populations of many globally endangered or threatened vertebrate species live in the park.

*Justification for inscription:* N (ii) and (iv):

*International assistance:* Preparatory assistance US\$ 13,000;

*Previous deliberations:*

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee (paragraph X.A.1)

*Main issues:* mining proposal;

*New information:* The Secretariat had received information that the mining company Martha would have been given mining concessions within the World Heritage site. The Bolivian authorities informed the Centre via their letter dated 30 March 2001 that no mining concessions were given for the World Heritage area.

###### **Morne Trois Pitons National Park (Dominica)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1997

*Brief description:* Luxuriant natural tropical forest blends with scenic volcanic features of great scientific interest in this national park centred on the 1,342-m-high volcano known as Morne Trois Pitons. With its precipitous slopes and deeply incised valleys, 50 fumaroles, hot springs, three freshwater lakes, a 'boiling lake' and five volcanoes, located on the park's nearly 7,000 ha, together with the richest biodiversity in the Lesser Antilles, Morne Trois Pitons National Park presents a rare combination of natural features of World Heritage value.

*Justification for inscription:* N (i) and (iv)

*International assistance:* US\$ 9,000 for the preparation of the Management Plan and US\$ 30,000 for a Regional conference at the occasion of the inscription of the site.

*Previous deliberations:*

Twenty-second session of the Committee – paragraph VII.27 / Annex IV page 96.

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.28 / Annex VIII page 89.

*Main issues:* tourism management and aerial tram project;

*New information:* The Secretariat was informed by a letter dated 29 September 2000 that the Forestry, Wildlife & Parks Division of the Ministry of Agriculture & Environment continues to undertake the resource monitoring within the site. Tracts of previously unallocated State Land adjoining the National Park leased to the company undertaking the Aerial Tram Project, continues to be maintained as a buffer zone to the Park. The developers of the Aerial Tram Project commenced construction of the road and trail. A new management plan is being developed with financial assistance from the World Heritage Fund. It will, among other things, incorporate such elements as the buffer zone, resource monitoring, maintenance of facilities and trails as well as co-ordination with the Ministry of Tourism.

###### **Huascarán National Park (Peru)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1985

*Brief description:* Situated in the Cordillera Blanca, the world's highest tropical mountain range, Mount Huascarán rises to 6,768 m above sea-level. The deep ravines watered by numerous torrents, the glacial lakes and the variety of the vegetation make it a site of spectacular beauty. It is the home of such species as the spectacled bear and the Andean condor.

*Justification for inscription:* N (ii) (iii)

*International assistance:* None

*Previous deliberations:*

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.28 / Annex VIII page 92.

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.25 / Annex X page 115.

*Main issues:* mining operation outside of the park and impacts on the site (road use etc.);

*New information:* The Peruvian authorities informed the Secretariat in a letter received 10 April 2001 that Antamina mining company has concluded its work at the Ruta Central as specified in the Environmental Impact Assessment. During 2000 the Huascarán working group has held several meetings on mining, for revising the draft operative plan and for integrating the work done by different institutions which have activities within the

Huascarán National Park. The Tourism Plan of Huascarán National Park is foreseen in the work plan for the Park. During 2001 the Management Plan for Huascarán National Park will be reformulated.

## **Europe and North America**

### **Lake Baikal (Russian Federation)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1996

***Brief description:*** Situated in south-east Siberia, the 3.15-million-ha Lake Baikal is the oldest (25 million years) and deepest (1,700 m) lake in the world. It contains 20% of the world's total unfrozen freshwater reserve. Known as the 'Galapagos of Russia', its age and isolation have produced one of the world's richest and most unusual freshwater faunas, which is of exceptional value to evolutionary science.

***Justification for inscription:*** N (i), (ii), (iii) (iv)

***International assistance:*** US\$ 15,000 as Preparatory Assistance and US\$ 48,259 for an *in-situ* training workshop.

***Previous deliberations:***

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.38

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.28 and Annex VIII

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.37

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.27 / Annex X page 116.

***Main issues:*** pollution of the lake, integrity and management issues;

***New information:*** Via letter of 17 April 2001 the States Party informed the Centre that the Ministry of Natural Resources proposes that the IUCN-UNESCO mission to review the state of conservation be carried out in September 2001. IUCN notes that the joint UNESCO / IUCN monitoring mission has been invited and that the 6<sup>th</sup> Living Lakes Conference on Water Quality and Traditions in Lake Areas will take place at Ulan-Ude, Lake Baikal at the end of July, 2001. The focus of the conference is on appropriate measures and projects to protect the water quality of Lake Baikal and other case studies of Living Lakes Partners, as well as the influence of traditional ways of living on the lake ecosystem.

## **CULTURAL HERITAGE**

### **Arab States**

#### **Hatra (Iraq)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1995

***Brief description:*** A large fortified city under the influence of the Parthian Empire and capital of the first Arab

Kingdom, Hatra withstood invasions by the Romans in A.D. 116 and 198 thanks to its high, thick walls reinforced by towers. The remains of the city, especially the temples where Hellenistic and Roman architecture blend with Eastern decorative features, attest to the greatness of its civilization.

***Justification for inscription:*** C (ii)(iii)(iv)(vi)

***International assistance:***

Technical Cooperation (US\$ 7,464), 1988, Archaeological sites

Promotional Assistance (US\$ 3,500), 1999, Photo exhibition on Hatra

***Previous deliberations:*** None

***Main issues:*** Poor state of conservation; Looting

***New information:***

A staff member of the Secretariat, accompanied by representatives from the Iraqi Ministry of Culture and the Department of Heritage and Antiquities, carried out a mission to Hatra in May 2000, to evaluate its general state of conservation.

Due to the difficult conditions that the country has faced over the last decade, the state of conservation of this very large site is particularly worrying. Among the main factors affecting the property, as stressed also by the Iraqi authorities in their periodical report, are the lack of maintenance, lack of trained personnel and looting. Conservation problems are also caused by the extensive use of cement in past restoration works, which in the presence of raising damp from the water table produces salts efflorescence damaging the original stones of the ancient buildings. Finally, the absence of a reliable survey of the site and its monuments and of regular monitoring prevents the definition of management and conservation plans.

The Iraqi authorities requested verbally assistance to train site staff in identifying conservation priorities, surveying the site, preparing and implementing a long term management plan for the conservation and presentation of Hatra.

The Secretariat intends to send a short expert mission to Hatra to identify the scope, modalities and estimated cost of a training activity to be provided to staff from the Iraqi Department of Heritage and Antiquities through the World Heritage Fund.

### **Africa**

None

### **Asia and the Pacific**

#### **Hiroshima Peace Memorial (Genbaku Dome) (Japan)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1996

Justification for inscription: C (vi)

Brief description:

The Hiroshima Peace Memorial (Genbaku Dome) was the only structure left standing in the area where the first atomic bomb exploded on 6 August 1945. Preserved in the same state as immediately after the bombing, it is a stark and powerful symbol of the most destructive force ever created by humankind, and also expresses the hope for world peace and the ultimate elimination of all nuclear weapons.

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations: None

Main Issues:

Possible damage from large earthquakes: On 22 March 2001, a strong earthquake occurred in the Hiroshima Area of Japan, where this site is located but no direct damage was reported.

New information:

On 2 April 2001, the Secretariat expressed its deepest sympathy for the victims of this natural disaster and asked the Japanese authorities for information concerning the state of conservation of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, Genbaku Dome World Heritage site.

By letter of 20 April 2001, the Permanent Delegation of Japan to UNESCO informed the Secretariat that no damage to this World Heritage site resulted from the March 2001 earthquake.

**Latin America and the Caribbean**

**Joya de Cerén Archaeological Site (El Salvador)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1993

Brief description: Joya de Cerén was a pre-Hispanic farming community that, like Pompeii and Herculaneum in Italy, was buried under a volcanic eruption c. A.D. 600. Because of the exceptional condition of the remains, they provide an insight into the daily lives of the Central American populations who worked the land at that time.

Justification for inscription: C (iii) and (iv).

International assistance: The site has received US\$ 15,000 in Preparatory Assistance (1992), US\$ 55,000 in Emergency Assistance (1996, 1998) and US\$ 25,000 (1994) for the development of a management plan. Furthermore, several seminars were held concerning the site with funding from the World Heritage Fund.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-first extraordinary session of the Bureau (page number 25).

Main Issues: Damage to the site and its facilities caused by earthquake.

New information: The earthquake that shook the territory of El Salvador on 13 January 2001 caused considerable damage to the archaeological site of Joya de Cerén, damaging the excavated buildings as well as causing the banks of the excavations to collapse and the protective roof structures to be debilitated. The second quake on 13 February 2001 caused very little damage because first emergency consolidation measures were already in place.

The World Heritage Centre received an Emergency Assistance request of US\$ 49,470 intended for cleaning-up of collapsed embankments and debris, consolidation of the ash surrounding the excavated vestiges and the consolidation and/or reconstruction of the protective roofing over the excavations. Furthermore the damages to the archaeological finds themselves (cracks, collapse and loss of architectural elements) shall be restored. This request is presently being processed.

**Europe and North America**

**Cultural Landscape of Sintra (Portugal)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1995.

Brief description: In the 19th century Sintra became the first centre of European Romantic architecture. Ferdinand II turned a ruined monastery into a castle where this new sensitivity was displayed in the use of Gothic, Egyptian, Moorish and Renaissance elements and in the creation of a park blending local and exotic species of trees. Other fine dwellings, built along the same lines in the surrounding *serra*, created a unique combination of parks and gardens which influenced the development of landscape architecture throughout Europe.

Justification for inscription: C (ii), (iv) and (v).

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth session of the Bureau, paragraph IV.75  
Twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau, paragraph I.64  
Twenty-fourth session of the Committee, paragraph VII.42; Annex X page 132

Main issues: Lack of management plan; urban intrusion; degradation of the park (natural values and exotic species).

New information: The Bureau at its twenty-fourth extraordinary session requested the State Party to provide a management plan for the site by the end of 2001. New information was received concerning the state of conservation of the site (on-going constructions, road maintenance, etc..) was received and transmitted to ICOMOS and IUCN for further advice and to the State Party for comments. Following this review process new information will be provided to the twenty-fifth extraordinary session of the Bureau.