



editorial

The events of the past year have clearly placed armed conflict and the wilful destruction of the common heritage of humanity - such as the Buddhas of Bamyan - at the forefront of public concern. It has equally become apparent to the international community that UNESCO can, and must, use all international legal instruments available to protect and conserve the world's heritage.

The 25th session of the World Heritage Committee has called upon the Centre to organize a technical fact-finding and consultative mission to Afghanistan, within the framework of the UN Inter-Agency programme for the reconstruction of that country.

The mission will go to Afghanistan, as soon as the security situation permits, in order to assist the Afghan authorities in elaborating a national action plan. It will also provide assistance for assembling the documentation necessary to establish a national inventory of natural and cultural heritage properties. Above all, it will encourage the authorities in reactivating the nomination process initiated by the Afghan government in 1981.

The case of Bamyan served as a focal point for discussion on the concept of crimes against culture. The Committee recognized the need to examine possible actions it can take in the future where there are threats of deliberate destruction of listed and potential World Heritage sites.

In an entirely different part of the world, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the UNESCO/DRC/UNF-UNFIP Project is making considerable headway, not only in assessing damage caused by the civil war there, but also in working out solutions both with the Government in Kinshasa and the rebel groups in their strongholds for the protection and preservation of the natural heritage within the territories they control.

Unfortunately, in the DRC, natural disaster has now been added to the problems stemming from protracted civil war, with the eruption of the Mount Nyiragongo volcano in January. Much of the city of Goma, which borders on the Virunga National Park (one of the five World Heritage sites in the country) was destroyed. The displaced population and international aid agencies are now dealing with the enormous task of reconstruction and rehabilitation.

In addition to the 1972 *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*, there are several international legal instruments available for the conservation and protection of the world's heritage in zones of armed conflict, including: the *Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict* (The Hague, 1954), and its Protocols, the *Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property* (1970), and the *UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects* (1995).

All these conventions and other relevant international legal instruments will help those involved in conservation and protection. We must encourage States Parties to the World Heritage Convention who have not yet ratified these legal instruments to do so, and thus make it easier for us to fulfil our mandate.

*Francesco Bandarin, Director, World Heritage Centre*

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I wish to thank all those States Parties who have generously supported World Heritage in recent years. I also pay tribute to the United Nations Foundation which has granted a very large contribution to the World Heritage Centre to implement projects to benefit natural World Heritage sites, particularly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

*Koichiro Matsuura,  
Director-General of UNESCO,  
at the opening of the 25th session  
of the World Heritage Committee,  
Helsinki, Finland, December 2001*

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## People and Issues at the 25th Session of the Committee

The 25th annual session of the World Heritage Committee, held in Helsinki, Finland from 11 to 16 December 2001, reviewed the state of conservation of 100 properties and inscribed 31 new sites on the World Heritage List (see attachment). The Committee also added two sites, in Egypt and the Philippines, to the List of World Heritage in Danger, and removed one site in Brazil from this List (see opposite page). The session was attended by representatives of the 21 Committee members (Belgium, China, Colombia, Egypt, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Mexico, Portugal, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Thailand, Zimbabwe, and new members, Argentina, India, Lebanon, Oman, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Santa Lucia and the United Kingdom), over 50 observers from States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, as well as representatives from ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM, and nearly 20 other organizations.

The 25th annual session of the World Heritage Committee represents a first in its annals: the first session to be held in the Nordic region, and the first session ever, to be addressed by a Head of State.

Tarja Halonen, President of the Republic of Finland, in her opening speech, stressed the importance of ecologically sustainable and socially just development, saying that education is a key to achieving these goals. Ms Halonen welcomed the decision of UNESCO's General Conference to focus its cultural programme on diversity. The session was also addressed by Suvi Lindén, Minister of Culture and Satu Hassi, Minister of the Environment of Finland.

In his address to the session, Director-General of UNESCO Koichiro Matsuura, referred to two new international legal instruments, adopted at the General Conference in October, the *UNESCO Universal Declaration of Cultural Diversity* and the *International Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage*, as proof of the Organization's determination to reinforce the protection of cultural heritage.



Finlandia Hall in Helsinki



Highlights from the 25th session of the World Heritage Committee in Helsinki, from left to right: Henrik Lilius, Chair of the WH Committee, Francesco Bandarin, WHC Director and Minja Yang, WHC Deputy-Director; Koichiro Matsuura, UNESCO Director-General, Henrik Lilius and Tarja Halonen, President of Finland; Henry Cleere, ICOMOS; Delegates at Suomenlinna, warming up with a cup of Glögi, a local wine speciality

Photo credit: Finnish National Board of Antiquities

Mr Matsuura stressed the importance of the creation of long-term partnerships with all sectors of society in order to develop a support network for World Heritage conservation.

The Committee discussed the repercussions of the destruction last year of the Bamyán statues in Afghanistan at the hands of the Taliban. Mr Matsuura informed the Committee that the implementation of the provisions contained in existing international cultural heritage conventions needed to be strengthened and said that he had been asked by the General Conference to prepare a *Draft Declaration Against the Intentional Destruction of Cultural Heritage*.

The Committee reiterated the 13th General Assembly of States Parties' condemnation of 'the wilful destruction of the cultural heritage of Afghanistan'. It requested the Centre to organize a fact-finding and consultative mission to Afghanistan to reactivate the implementation of the World Heritage Convention there.

The Committee placed great emphasis on the reform process, which is aimed at bringing greater representivity to the World Heritage List and equitable representation to the Committee. It confirmed that at its session in 2003 the number of new nominations examined would be limited to a maximum of thirty. A priority system allows States Parties with no sites on the List to submit up to three new nominations, while all other States Parties may submit only one nomination.

Henrik Lilius of Finland, Chair of the World Heritage Committee, said that the Committee itself is now more representative of all regions and cultures of the world, thanks largely to the commitment of more States Parties to make their seats available after four years of their six-year mandate.

The Committee approved the budget of the World Heritage Fund in the amount of US\$4,105,000 for 2002 and US\$3,995,000 for 2003. Mr Bandarin, WHC Director,

pointed out that for the first time, the World Heritage Fund budget was being presented to the Committee for a biennial period (2002-2003).

The Director stressed the need to consider the growing inadequacy of available resources with respect to the needs posed by an ever-increasing number of sites located in countries and regions with limited technical and financial capacities. He proposed the exploration of new long-term models of partnerships with public and private institutions.

During the 25th session, the Committee adopted the proposed World Heritage Information Management Programme to be co-ordinated by the World Heritage Centre (see *Newsletter* N° 32).

The Committee recognized the special role that indigenous peoples have with respect to certain World Heritage properties and the importance of a network providing a forum for an exchange of information and experience. Although it did not approve the establishment of WHIPCOE (World Heritage Indigenous Peoples' Council of Experts), the Committee encouraged professional research, exchange of views on the subject, and activities undertaken by individual States Parties.

The Committee discussed Periodic Reporting activities in progress in Asia and the Pacific (report to be presented to the Committee in 2003), Latin America and the Caribbean (2004) and Europe and North America (2005/2006). It deferred adoption of the report on Periodic Reporting in the Africa Region, and called for a detailed Action Plan and association of follow-up activities to Periodic Reporting with activities under the AFRICA 2009 programme, jointly coordinated by African cultural heritage organizations, ICCROM, the Centre, and CRATERE-EAG.

The Committee decided to hold a meeting of a Drafting Group in March 2002, which will continue the preparation of a new, more user-friendly text of the *Operational Guidelines*.

The Secretariat put forward a proposal for 'Principles, Programmes and Partnerships', which for the sake of synthesis was labelled 'the three Ps'.

'The Principles tool would serve to establish clear guidelines for World Heritage conservation, while the basic aim of the Programmes proposal is to use International Assistance strategically to provide seed money that can then be supplemented by financial and technical support from other partners. The Partnerships tool would give coherence to, and expand, activities based on co-operation with partners,' Mr Bandarin told the Committee.

The Committee then requested the Centre, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, to further elaborate a paper on the development of these tools, considering the need to define and strengthen the 'credibility', the 'conservation' and the 'capacity-building' ('the three Cs') objectives of the World Heritage Convention.

The Committee also discussed the upcoming 30th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention. A number of events are scheduled to mark this anniversary. Among them are the 26th session of the World Heritage Committee in Budapest in June, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio + 10 Conference) in Johannesburg in September, a virtual, web-based Congress in October and finally, the International Congress of Experts in Venice in November. All these events will be occasions to evaluate the impact of the World Heritage Convention.

## Interview with the Chair

The *Newsletter* talked to Dr Henrik Lilius, Chair of the World Heritage Committee and Director General of Finland's National Board of Antiquities. We first asked him what he saw as the most important tasks of his mandate.

One of the main priorities is a rationalization of the way we carry out our work. Therefore the finalization of the *Operational Guidelines* becomes an imperative. We must also study what I would call the 'structure' of the World Heritage List itself. Since our goal is to bring about a better balance of regions and the various types of heritage, the studies being carried out by the Centre are of utmost importance.

*You are talking about a twofold concern for a better representation on the List from all regions, and a more-balanced approach to the types of the world's heritage that are inscribed.*

Yes. These two aspects must always be kept in mind. Concerning the types of heritage we inscribe on the List, the examples of Europe and Africa are a case in point. European natural sites in the past did not include the spiritual aspect. But African sites on the List often include both natural and spiritual values. We need to combine these two concepts in order to reach a better understanding of

heritage. Concerning the other aspect, a better representation by region, we should also not neglect the fact that although some regions are well represented (Europe, for example), countries within a region may still be under-represented.

*Can the World Heritage Committee meet all the demands placed on it?*

The workload is enormous, and the agenda at most meetings is too heavy. That is why the decision to reduce the number of nominations for examination by the Committee is a good one. The task of reviewing the state of conservation of sites is also enormous, and discussion on some sites is repeated year after year. I think that for many sites we should consider inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger. This list works in favour of States Parties to acquire the necessary assistance and expertise. It is not a stigma, as some States Parties tend to believe. But I am happy to say that there are many states that are fully aware of the fact that the List of World Heritage in Danger can be a tool for fostering conservation.

# New World Heritage Sites

December 2001

The 25th session of the World Heritage Committee at its meeting in Helsinki, Finland in December 2001 inscribed 31 new sites from 24 countries on the World Heritage List.

The 31 new inscriptions correspond to 6 natural sites and 25 cultural sites. For the first time, sites in Botswana and Israel have been included. The concept of cultural landscapes has also gained currency with, notably, the wine-growing region of Alto Douro (Portugal), Tsodilo (Botswana), the Champasak Cultural Landscape (Lao People's Democratic Republic) and the Cultural Landscape of Fertő/Neusiedlersee, which straddles Austria and Hungary.



Painted Churches in the Troodos Region (Cyprus) © UNESCO

Six sites already on the World Heritage List were also extended: China - Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa (extension to include the Norbulingka Palace); Cyprus - Painted Churches in the Troodos Region (extension to include the Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour); Ecuador - Galápagos Islands (extension to include the marine reserve); Kenya - Lake Turkana National Parks (extension of the

Sibiloi/Central Island National Parks to include South Island National Park); Russian Federation - Volcanoes of Kamchatka (extension to include Kluchevskoy Nature Park); Spain - Mudejar Architecture of Aragon (extension to the site formerly called Mudejar Architecture of Teruel).

The World Heritage List now numbers 721 sites of outstanding universal value in 124 countries, 554 of which are cultural sites, 144 natural sites and 23 mixed sites.

## AUSTRIA Historic Centre of Vienna

(C ii, iv, vi)  
Vienna developed from early Celtic and Roman settlements into a Medieval and Baroque city, the capital of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It played an essential role as a leading European music centre, from the great age of Viennese Classicism through the early part of the 20th century. The historic centre of Vienna is rich in architectural ensembles, including Baroque castles and gardens, as well as the late-19th-century Ringstrasse lined with grand buildings, monuments and parks.



Historic Centre of Vienna © UNESCO

## AUSTRIA/HUNGARY Cultural Landscape of Fertő/Neusiedlersee

(C v)  
The Fertő/Neusiedler Lake area has been the meeting place of different cultures for eight millennia. This is graphically demonstrated by its varied landscape, the result of an evolutionary symbiosis between human activity and the physical environment. The remarkable rural architecture of the villages surrounding the lake and several 18th- and 19th-century palaces add to the area's considerable cultural interest.

## BOTSWANA Tsodilo

(C i, iii, vi)  
With one of the highest concentrations of rock art in the world, Tsodilo has been called the "Louvre of the Desert". Over 4,500 paintings are preserved in an area of only 10 km<sup>2</sup> of the Kalahari Desert. The archaeological record of the area gives a chronological account of human activities and environmental changes over at least 100,000 years. Local communities in this hostile environment respect Tsodilo as a place of worship frequented by ancestral spirits.

## BRAZIL Brazilian Atlantic Islands: Fernando de Noronha and Atol das Rocas Reserves

(N ii, iii, iv)  
Peaks of the Southern Atlantic submarine ridge form the Fernando de Noronha Archipelago and Rocas Atoll off the coast of Brazil. They represent a large proportion of the island surface of the South Atlantic and their rich waters are extremely important for the breeding and feeding of tuna, shark, turtle and marine mammals. The islands are home to the largest concentration of tropical seabirds in the Western Atlantic. Baía de Golfinhos has an exceptional population of resident dolphin and at low tide the Rocas Atoll provides a spectacular seascape of lagoons and tidal pools teeming with fish.

## Cerrado Protected Areas: Chapada dos Veadeiros and Emas National Parks

(N ii, iv)  
The two sites included in the designation contain flora and fauna and key habitats that characterize the Cerrado – one of the world's oldest and most diverse tropical ecosystems. For millennia, these sites have served as refuge for several species during periods of climate change and will be vital for maintaining the biodiversity of the Cerrado region during future climate fluctuations.



Cerrado Protected Areas © UNESCO

## Historic Centre of the Town of Goiás

(C ii, iv)  
Goiás testifies to the occupation and colonization of the lands of central Brazil in the 18th and 19th centuries. The urban layout is an example of the organic development of a mining town, adapted to the conditions of the site. Although modest, both public and private architecture form a harmonious whole, thanks to the coherent use of local materials and vernacular techniques.

## CHINA Yungang Grottoes

(C i, ii, iii, iv)



Yungang Grottoes © UNESCO

The Yungang Grottoes, in Datong city, Shaanxi Province, with their 252 caves and 51,000 statues, represent the outstanding achievement of Buddhist cave art in China in the 5th and 6th centuries. The Five Caves created by Tan Yao, with their strict unity of layout and design, constitute a classical masterpiece of the first peak of Chinese Buddhist art.

## CUBA Alejandro de Humboldt National Park

(N ii, iv)  
Complex geology and varied topography have given rise to a diversity of ecosystems and species unmatched in the insular Caribbean and created one of the most biologically diverse tropical island sites on earth. Many of the underlying rocks are toxic to plants, so species have had to adapt to survive in these hostile conditions. This unique process of evolution has resulted in the development of many new species and the park is one of the most important sites in the Western Hemisphere for the conservation of endemic flora. Endemism of vertebrates and invertebrates is also very high.

## CZECH REPUBLIC Tugendhat Villa in Brno

(C ii, iv)  
The Tugendhat Villa in Brno, designed by the architect Mies van der Rohe, is an outstanding example of the international style in the modern movement in architecture as it developed in Europe in the 1920s. Its particular value lies in the application of innovative spatial and aesthetic concepts that aim to satisfy new lifestyle needs by taking advantage of the opportunities afforded by modern industrial production.

## FRANCE Provins, Town of Medieval Fairs

(C ii, iv)  
The fortified medieval town of Provins is situated in the former territory of the powerful Counts of Champagne. It bears witness to early developments in the organization of international trade fairs and the wool industry. The urban structure of Provins, which was built specifically to host the fairs and related activities, has been well preserved.

## GERMANY Zollverein Coal Mine Industrial Complex in Essen

(C ii, iii)  
The Zollverein industrial landscape in Land Nordrhein-Westfalen consists of the complete infrastructure of an historical coal-mining site, with some 20th-century buildings of outstanding architectural merit. It constitutes remarkable material evidence of the evolution and decline of an essential industry over the past 150 years.

## ISRAEL Masada

(C iii, iv, vi)  
The site of the self-immolation of approximately a thousand Jewish patriots in the face of a large Roman army, Masada is a symbol of the ancient kingdom of Israel. Built as a palace complex and place of refuge by Herod the Great, King of Judaea (reigned 37–4 BC), Masada's extensive remains survive on the summit of this seemingly impregnable fortress, set in a rugged natural landscape of great beauty. The siege works of the Roman army and other related sites lie unexcavated at the base of the rock.

## Old City of Acre

(C ii, iii, v)  
The historic townscape of the walled port city of Acre is characteristic of Islamic town planning, with narrow winding streets and fine public buildings and houses. Beneath the 18th- and 19th-century Ottoman Acre, lie almost intact the remains of its predecessor, the Crusader city, dating from 1104 to 1291. Crusader Acre is today mostly subterranean and has only recently begun to be revealed.

## ITALY

## Villa d'Este, Tivoli

(C i, ii, iii, iv, vi)

The Villa d'Este in Tivoli, with its palace and garden, is one of the most remarkable and comprehensive illustrations of Renaissance culture at its most refined. Its innovative design along with the architectural components in the garden (fountains, ornamental basins, etc.) make this a unique example of an Italian 16th-century garden. The Villa d'Este, one of the first giardini delle meraviglie, was an early model for the development of European gardens.

## KENYA

## Lamu Old Town

(C ii, iv, vi)

Lamu Old Town is the oldest and best-preserved Swahili settlement in East Africa, retaining its traditional functions. Built in coral stone and mangrove timber, the town is characterized by the simplicity of structural forms enriched by such features as inner courtyards, verandas, and elaborately carved wooden doors. Lamu has hosted major Muslim religious festivals since the 19th century, and has become a significant centre for the study of Islamic and Swahili cultures.

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC  
Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape

(C iii, iv, vi)



Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape © UNESCO

The Champasak cultural landscape, including the Vat Phou Temple complex, is a remarkably well-preserved planned landscape more than 1,000 years old. It was shaped to express the Hindu vision of the relationship between nature and humanity, using an axis from mountain top to river bank to lay out a geometric pattern of temples, shrines and waterworks extending over some 10 km. Two planned cities on the banks of the Mekong River are also part of the site, as well as Phou Kao mountain. The whole represents a development ranging from the 5th to 15th centuries, mainly associated with the Khmer Empire.

## MADAGASCAR

## Royal Hill of Ambohimanga

(C iii, iv, vi)

The Royal Hill of Ambohimanga consists of a royal city and burial site, and an ensemble of sacred places. It is associated with strong feelings of national identity, and has maintained its spiritual and sacred character both in ritual practice and the popular imagination for the past 500 years. It remains a place of worship to which pilgrims come from Madagascar and elsewhere.



Central Sikhote-Alin © A.P. Khrenov

## MOROCCO

## Medina of Essaouira (formerly Mogador)

(C ii, iv)



Medina of Essaouira © UNESCO

Essaouira is an exceptional example of a late-18th century fortified town, built according to the principles of contemporary European military architecture in a North African context. Since its foundation, it has been a major international trading seaport, linking Morocco and its Saharan hinterland with Europe and the rest of the world.

POLAND  
Churches of Peace in Jawor and Swidnica

(C iii, iv, vi)

The Churches of Peace in Jawor and Swidnica, the largest timber-framed religious buildings in Europe, were built in the former Silesia in the mid-17th century, at a time of religious strife following the Peace of Westphalia. Constrained by physical and political conditions, the Churches of Peace bear testimony to the quest for religious freedom and are a rare expression of Lutheran ideology in an idiom generally associated with the Catholic Church.

PORTUGAL  
Alto Douro Wine Region

(C iii, iv, v)

Wine has been produced by traditional landholders in the Alto Douro region for some 2,000 years. Since the 18th century, its main product, port wine, has been world famous for its quality. This long tradition of viticulture has produced a cultural landscape of outstanding beauty that reflects its technological, social and economic evolution.

## Historic Centre of Guimarães

(C ii, iii, iv)

The historic town of Guimarães is associated with the emergence of the Portuguese national identity in the 12th century. An exceptionally well-preserved and authentic example of the evolution of a Medieval settlement into a modern town, its rich building typology exemplifies the specific development of Portuguese architecture from the 15th to 19th century through the consistent use of traditional building materials and techniques.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
Central Sikhote-Alin

(N iv)

The Sikhote-Alin mountain range contains one of the richest and most unusual temperate forests of the world. In this mixed zone between taiga and subtropics, southern species such as the tiger and Himalayan bear cohabit with northern species such as the brown bear and lynx. The site stretches from the middle currents of the Ussuri River tributaries to the peaks of Sikhote-Alin and further to the Sea of Japan and is important for the survival of many endangered species such as the Amur tiger.

## SPAIN

## Aranjuez Cultural Landscape

(C ii, iv)

The Aranjuez cultural landscape is an entity of complex relationships: between nature and human activity, between sinuous watercourses and geometric landscape design, between the rural and the urban, between forest landscape and the delicately modulated architecture of its palatial buildings. Three hundred years of royal attention to the development and care of this landscape have resulted in the expression of an evolution of concepts from humanism and political centralization, to characteristics such as those found in its 18th-century French-style Baroque garden, to the urban lifestyle which developed alongside the sciences of plant acclimatization and stock-breeding during the Age of Enlightenment.

## SWEDEN

## Mining Area of the Great Copper Mountain in Falun

(C ii, iii, v)

The enormous mining excavation known as the Great Pit at Falun is the most striking feature of a landscape that illustrates the activity of copper production in this region since at least the 13th century. The 17th-century planned town of Falun with its many fine historic buildings, together with the industrial and domestic remains of a number of settlements spread over a wide area of the Dalarna region, provide a vivid picture of what was for centuries one of the world's most important mining areas.

SWITZERLAND  
Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschhorn

(N i, ii, iii)

This is the most glaciated part of the Alps, containing Europe's largest glacier and a range of classic glacial features such as U-shaped valleys, cirques, horn peaks and moraines. It provides an outstanding geological record of the uplift and compression that formed the High Alps. The diversity of flora and wildlife is represented in a range of Alpine and sub-Alpine habitats. Plant colonization in the wake of retreating glaciers provides an outstanding example of plant succession. The impressive vista of the North Wall of the High Alps, centred on the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau peaks, has played an important role in European art and literature.

## UGANDA

## Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi

(C i, iii, iv, vi)



Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi © UNESCO

The Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi constitute a site embracing almost 30 ha of hillside within Kampala district. Most of the site is agricultural, farmed by traditional methods. At its core on the hilltop is the former palace of the Kabakas of Buganda, built in 1882 and converted into the royal burial ground in 1884. Four royal tombs now lie within the Muzibu Azaala Mpanga, the main building, which is circular and surmounted by a dome. It is a major example of an architectural achievement in organic materials, principally wood, thatch, reed, wattle and daub. The site's main significance lies, however, in its intangible values of belief, spirituality, continuity and identity.

## UNITED KINGDOM

## Derwent Valley Mills

(C ii, iv)

The Derwent Valley in central England contains a series of 18th- and 19th-century cotton mills and an industrial landscape of high historical and technological interest. The modern factory owes its origins to the mills at Cromford, where Richard Arkwright's inventions were first put into industrial-scale production. The workers' housing associated with this and the other mills remains intact and illustrates the socio-economic development of the area.

## Dorset and East Devon Coast

(N i)

The cliff exposures along the Dorset and East Devon coast provide an almost continuous sequence of rock formations spanning the Mesozoic Era, or some 185 million years of the earth's history. The area's important fossil sites and classic coastal geomorphologic features have contributed to the study of earth sciences for over 300 years.



Dorset & East Devon Coast © R. Edmonds

## New Lanark

(C ii, iv, vi)

New Lanark is a small village set in a beautiful Scottish landscape where the philanthropist and Utopian idealist Robert Owen established a model industrial community in the early 19th century. The imposing mill buildings, the spacious and well-designed workers' housing, and the dignified educational institute and school still testify to Owen's humanism.

## Saltaire

(C ii, iv)

Saltaire, West Yorkshire, is a complete and well-preserved industrial village of the second half of the 19th century. Its textile mills, public buildings and workers' housing are built in a harmonious style of high architectural standards and the urban plan survives intact, giving a vivid impression of Victorian philanthropic paternalism.

UZBEKISTAN  
Samarkand - Crossroads of Cultures

(C i, ii, iv)

The historic town of Samarkand is a crossroad and melting pot of the world's cultures. Founded in the 7th century BC as ancient Afrasiab, Samarkand had its most significant development in the Timurid period from the 14th to the 15th centuries. The major monuments include the Registan Mosque and madrasahs, Bibi-Khanum Mosque, the Shakh-i-Zinda compound and the Gur-Emir ensemble, as well as Ulugh-Beg's Observatory.



Samarkand - Crossroads of Cultures © UNESCO

# Democratic Republic of the Congo: Armed Conflict and Biodiversity

From November 24th to December 3rd 2001 representatives of the UNESCO/DRC/UNF-UNFIP Project on 'Biodiversity Conservation in Regions of Armed Conflict: Protecting World Natural Heritage in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)' travelled to the DRC to meet with staff and partners working to protect Virunga, Garamba, Kahuzi Biega and Salonga National Parks and Okapi Wildlife Reserve in a war-ravaged country. All five sites are on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The team, which included WHC Director Francesco Bandarin, Chief of Natural Heritage Section Natarajan Ishwaran, Project Consultant Advisor Jean-Pierre d'Huart (Belgium), UNESCO/DRC/UNF-UNFIP Project Coordinator Kes Hillman Smith (Kenya) and her DRC counterpart Mafuko Girineza of the ICCN (Institut congolais pour la conservation de la nature), also met with officials in Kinshasa, the capital of the DRC, and went to Goma, Beni and Bunia, administrative centres of the different rebel groups in the eastern part of the country.

In a country that has faced two major civil wars since 1996, and is now in the process of shoring up a still shaky peace process, the arrival of the UNESCO/DRC/UNF-UNFIP team was a morale-booster.

The mission went to the DRC to meet with the relevant authorities both in the government- and rebel-controlled zones, to promote the conservation of the five World Heritage sites. They also reviewed progress in carrying out the UNESCO/DRC/UNF-UNFIP Project and announced the launch of a Belgium-financed project of 300,000 Euros for four years in support of activities to promote community participation in the conservation of the DRC sites.



Francesco Bandarin awarding badge of honour to a guard at Virunga National Park

The UNESCO/DRC/UNF-UNFIP Project has contributed significantly to making monthly support payments to guards at the reserve and in the national parks, providing for their basic training and equipment needs, monitoring the biodiversity status at the sites, and co-ordinating the work of ICCN personnel from the three different territories controlled by the separate UN-recognized Kinshasa government and the rebel groups in eastern DRC.

In a solemn ceremony, WHC Director Francesco Bandarin awarded badges of honour, provided by the Society for Conservation Biologists (SCB), to guards at the Ranger Station in south-western Virunga National Park, in recognition of services rendered to conserve biodiversity despite threats and risks to their property and lives. Mr Bandarin also awarded badges to staff representatives at the other four sites during the team's several meetings, held in Kinshasa, Goma, Beni and Bunia. Compensation from SCB member contributions is to be given to the widows of guards who died in the line of duty.

Salomon Banamuere, DRC Minister of the Environment in Kinshasa, described the UNESCO/DRC/UNF-UNFIP Project as a 'project of hope for conservation in DRC that arrived at the right time.' Without the Project, he said, there would have been no conservation effort in any of the five sites during the last two years and all five sites could have been irreversibly damaged.

## Armed Groups

The team found that one of the main obstacles to conservation is the continued presence of armed groups and renegade militia in the parks and the reserve. Site staff has to be armed for their own protection and for patrolling and surveillance.

'Even though they are going through hard times at the moment, the DRC authorities and the rebel groups all agreed that conserving the vast parks and reserves has contributed to stability and peace. The most pressing challenge we are facing now is to reconcile the redevelopment and the protection of the parks with the aspirations of local communities for a better life,' said Jean-Pierre d'Huart, the Project Consultant Advisor.

## Return of Peace

In the long term, the return of peace and stability are essential to the conservation of World Heritage sites and other protected areas and habitats in DRC, under the 'Lusaka

Agreement.' The government in Kinshasa, the rebel groups and their Ugandan and Rwanda backers have agreed to halt the fighting, even if the political solution and disarmament are still to be negotiated.

While demilitarizing the parks and disarming the renegade militia hiding in protected areas, including the World Heritage sites, are likely to be difficult tasks, representatives of several aid organizations and DRC and rebel military forces believe many such armed groups are made up of deserters and youth who would accept a return to civilian life if they are offered an alternative, legitimate means of making a living.

Natarajan Ishwaran says he sees the likelihood for more collaboration between the DRC, Uganda and Rwanda for the conservation of mountain and lowland gorillas in the ecosystems shared by the three countries, as the execution of the peace agreement progresses.

A certain level of co-operation already exists among the protected-area personnel from the three countries. The command of the Ugandan forces in Bunia, who met with the UNESCO/DRC/UNF team, indicated that Ugandan forces have already provided assistance to guards in Okapi Faunal Reserve.

## A Study of the Lists

The 25th session of the World Heritage Committee requested that the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies proceed with an analysis of sites inscribed on the World Heritage List and the States Parties' tentative lists. Final results of this comprehensive study are set to be presented to the States Parties by the end of 2003.

The aim of this far-reaching study of the 721 sites inscribed on the World Heritage List and the 1325 on the tentative lists is to identify under-represented categories, and enable the Committee to have a clear overview of what sites will be up for consideration.

'Better knowledge of the situation,' said WHC Director Francesco Bandarin, 'will mean better representivity. This is all part of the Global Strategy for ensuring a balanced World Heritage List.'

The study, which will be carried out by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, will also be used as a tool for assisting States Parties with revising their current tentative lists.

Under Article 11 of the World Heritage Convention, States Parties are asked to provide tentative lists (inventories) of cultural and natural sites which they intend to nominate to the World Heritage List in the following five to ten years.

Preparatory assistance is available from the Centre upon request and tentative lists may be updated at any time. In recent years, the number of States Parties presenting tentative lists has grown exponentially, from 26 percent in June 1995 to 75 percent in January 2001.

The World Heritage List itself will be the target of the first phase of the analysis. Short- and medium-term trends will be examined on the basis of regional, chronological, geographical and thematic categories. This phase should be completed by June 2002. The analysis of the tentative lists, based on the same categories, should be completed by June 2003.

In order to identify under-represented categories, the study will look at the diversity and particularities of heritage properties in each region. It will also draw on the results of regional Periodic Reporting, and take into account the recommendations of the regional and thematic meetings on the harmonization of tentative lists held since 1984 and those on the Global Strategy organized since 1994.

## In Memoriam: Ferenc Németh

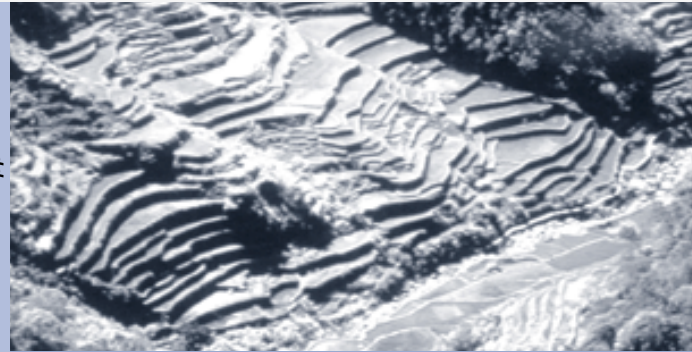
The tragic and untimely death of Ferenc Németh in an automobile accident in Hungary, saddened the opening of the 25th session of the World Heritage Committee.

Since 1999 Mr Németh had served as Head of the Secretariat of the Hungarian World Heritage Committee, and had worked in the Hungarian Ministry of Cultural Heritage. From 1998 to 1999 he was Head of the Department of Monument Protection in the Hungarian Ministry of Cultural Heritage. Before that, he was an independent architect.

In 1995 Mr Németh was assigned by the Royal Angkor Foundation to work on the protection of the Angkor World Heritage site in Cambodia. He also served as Head of the Department of Architectural Design in the State Centre of Monument Restoration at the National Monument Protection Authority in Budapest in the 1990s. Mr Németh, in his long career, won many awards, including the Chamber of Hungarian Architects' Award and the Pro Architectura Award. He also contributed to many scholarly publications.

'Ferenc was a very gentle and intense person, who performed his role with great discretion and style, always knowing how to anticipate problems and find appropriate solutions,' said WHC Director Francesco Bandarin at the opening of the Committee's 25th session.

Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras

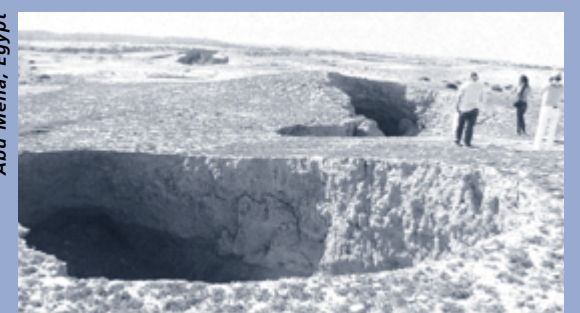


World Heritage in Danger

The Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras and the city of Abu Mena in Egypt were inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger at the 25th session of the World Heritage Committee. Brazil's Iguazu National Park (inscribed in 1999) was removed from this List. The List of World Heritage in Danger now includes 31 sites around the world.

The Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1995, represent a very delicate, evolving cultural landscape. In the absence of a systematic monitoring programme and comprehensive management plan, it is, at present, impossible to guarantee the preservation and sustainable development of this landscape. The State Party considers the inscription of the Rice Terraces of the Philippines Cordilleras on the List of World Heritage in Danger as an essential tool for mobilizing effective, decisive and rapid intervention to address the threats facing this site.

Abu Mena, Egypt



The early Christian holy city of Abu Mena (Egypt), built over the tomb of the martyr Menas of Alexandria, has retained its church, baptistery, basilicas and monasteries, as well as houses and workshops. While the dry soil was capable of supporting these buildings, a land-reclamation programme for agricultural development has caused a dramatic rise of the water table. Excess water is posing a serious threat of collapse to numerous buildings and they have had to be closed to the public (see photo). The State Party expressed its agreement for the inscription of Abu Mena on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Abu Mena was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1979.

Iguazu National Park (Brazil) was removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger on which it was inscribed in 1999. Since the In-Danger listing, the State Party closed an illegally opened road that cut the Brazilian part of the World Heritage site in two (see Newsletter N° 31).



Presentation of the Youth Project in Helsinki



A **Co-operation Agreement** has been approved with the Government of the Netherlands to improve the implementation of the World Heritage Convention through an additional contribution of 1.8 million Euros made available to the World Heritage Centre over the period 2001-2004. The **Netherlands Funds-in-Trust** will support activities for the implementation of the Global Strategy, technical co-operation, education and periodic reporting.

**Salvinia molesta**, a damaging floating aquatic weed has been eradicated from the **Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary in Senegal** through the introduction of beetles (*Cyrtobagous salvinia*) into the area, made possible by a US\$130,000 Emergency Assistance grant approved by the Committee at its 24th session. This success story of Emergency Assistance will be followed by specialized training for Senegalese experts in Côte d'Ivoire and South Africa, training of local guards and eco-guards, continued monitoring of Djoudj to eradicate *Salvinia* in any remaining isolated pockets where it may emerge and purification of targeted areas that might influence future re-infestation of Djoudj.

Within the framework of the UNESCO Special Project 'Young People's Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion' an **International World Heritage Education Workshop** was held in Helsinki, Finland, in December to coincide with the 25th session of the World Heritage Committee. The workshop, organized by WHC and the Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) in the Education Sector, in co-operation with the Finnish National Commission for UNESCO and the Finnish National Board of Education, suggested that a World Heritage Day be organized on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention. The World Heritage Educational Resource Kit for Teachers, **World Heritage in Young Hands**, is available online in French and English at <http://www.unesco.org/whc/education>

In tribute to the **International Year of Mountains 2002**, UNESCO has produced a CD Rom in collaboration with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). The CD Rom, which includes an overview of the main UNESCO programmes operating in mountain regions, provides information on mountain World Heritage sites and mountain biosphere reserves. The information contained on the CD Rom is also available online at <http://valhalla.unep-wcmc.org/unesco/index.htm>

### 6 to 12 February

**International Conference on World Heritage in Young Hands - A Dialogue amongst Civilizations** Aswan/Cairo, Egypt.  
Information: [r.oei@unesco.org](mailto:r.oei@unesco.org)

### 11 to 22 February

**Sub-Regional Workshop on Capacity Building and Institutional Development in Eastern African countries** Kampala, Uganda.  
Information: [g.fontana@unesco.org](mailto:g.fontana@unesco.org)

### 16 to 20 February

**International Symposium on the Restoration and Conservation of Islamic Cairo** Cairo, Egypt.  
Information: [n.alhassan@unesco.org](mailto:n.alhassan@unesco.org)

### 19 to 22 February

**International Conference on the Overall Development and Integration of Tourism within Historic Cities** Grenada, Spain.  
Information: [cicm@cg-congresos.com](mailto:cicm@cg-congresos.com)  
<http://www.cg-congresos.com/congresociudadesmonumentales>

### 25 February to 1 March

**Expert Meeting on World Heritage Marine Sites** Hanoi, Vietnam. Organised as a part of UNESCO/IUCN/UNFIP project Filling critical gaps and promoting multi-sites approach in new nominations of tropical coastal, marine and small island ecosystems.  
Information: [m.kokkonen@unesco.org](mailto:m.kokkonen@unesco.org)

### 8 to 13 April

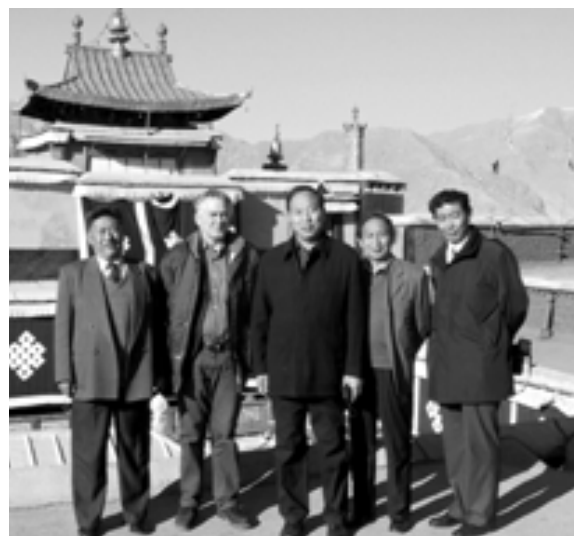
**26th session of Bureau of the World Heritage Committee** UNESCO Headquarters, Paris.

### 24 to 29 June

**26th session of the World Heritage Committee** Budapest, Hungary.

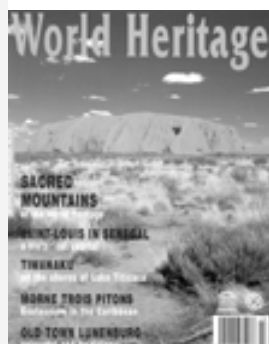
## What Are They Doing ?

**Minja Yang**, WHC Deputy-Director, went to Myanmar in late December, where she met with the Minister of Culture, U Tin Win, to discuss the Bagan cultural landscape nomination and management plan, being prepared with input from the Japan Funds-in-Trust; before his mission undertaken in December with the WHC Director to Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chief of Natural Heritage **Natarajan Ishwaran** went to Washington for a meeting, organized by the World Bank and Shell International B.V., on Protected Areas and Extractive Industries. While in the United States, Mr Ishwaran also participated in the Steering Committee meeting to initiate activities of the UNF-financed planning grant project for developing a Central African World Heritage Forest Initiative; **Mechtild Rössler**, Chief of the European Unit, went to Spain at the end of November at the invitation of the Spanish Government to review the situation of Doñana National Park, following the 1998 mining disaster, and to attend the Second International Conference on the Hydric Restoration of Doñana; **Junko Taniguchi**, programme specialist for the Asia-Pacific region, was in Iran in January to elaborate with the national authorities a work plan for new nominations of Iranian cultural heritage properties. She discussed international co-operation for building capacity for the conservation of cultural heritage in the Central Asian sub-region, including Afghanistan, Pakistan and the five Central Asian republics; **Art Pedersen**, World Heritage Consultant on tourism and visitor management, was at the El Vizcaino Whale Sanctuary, Mexico in November to participate in site assessment workshops, organized under the UNF project, 'Linking Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism at World Heritage Sites'. Site assessment workshops are carried out to help project staff determine how best to adapt tourism activities to meet site and local community needs. **Peter Stott**, Consultant for Nominations and Documentation, carried out a fact-finding mission to the Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace,



Left to right, Mr Chamba Kelsang, Director of Potala Palace, WHC Consultant Peter Stott, Gho Zhan, Department for Preservation of Cultural Properties in Beijing, and other representatives of the Potala Palace on the roof of the Jokhang Temple Monastery

Lhasa, China, and reported that the southeastern wall of the palace, which partially collapsed in August 2001 due to heavy rainfall, is being repaired. Mr Stott also went to Sichuan, Shaanxi province and the Beijing region at the request of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage of China to examine World Heritage sites and to meet local officials and site management authorities; **Ron van Oers**, Consultant for Urban Conservation & Management, was in Guyana to discuss future action to be taken in the nominating process of Georgetown and to review current initiatives for the protection and management of the cultural-historic parts of the city.



**World Heritage Review No. 23** has been available since December 2001 in bookshops in Spain, France, Canada and the United States (and by subscription elsewhere). The leader article in this issue focuses on the Sacred Mountains of World Heritage. Other articles feature: the Island of Saint-Louis in Senegal, founded in the 17th century; the extraordinary vestiges of the city of Tiwanaku, Bolivia, considered the precursor of Inca culture; the conservation of the spectacular tropical forest in Morne Trois Pitons National Park on the Caribbean island of Dominica; and Old Town Lunenburg in Nova Scotia, Canada, which still conserves its original urban layout and wooden architecture.

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