



editorial

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the World Heritage Convention. After thirty years, the Convention remains a remarkably visionary document, with the potential to achieve further outstanding successes in global conservation.

The 25th session of the Committee in Helsinki last December, nevertheless, recognized the need for an overall strategic reflection on the implementation of the Convention. This will be discussed in Budapest at the 26th session of the Committee in June 2002.

As outlined by the Committee in Helsinki, strengthening the *credibility* of the Convention, supporting *conservation* of World Heritage properties, and fostering *capacity-building* for conservation are the objectives that underpin the future implementation of the Convention.

The Committee is now at the stage of fine-tuning the tools to be used to achieve these strategic objectives.

In order to strengthen the credibility of the World Heritage List, its high standard as a select global inventory and network of heritage properties of 'outstanding universal value' should be maintained.

The long-term conservation of World Heritage properties should be assured for all properties included on the World Heritage List. Inscription should demonstrate a tangible difference to the conservation and future protection of heritage (individual properties and the network of properties) on a global scale.

The implementation of the World Heritage Convention must also attract sustainable financing and other technical resources.

In this framework, the inscription of a property on the List of World Heritage in Danger (a much-debated issue in recent years) would serve to reinforce the mobilization of international solidarity and support for conservation of the property in co-operation with the State Party concerned.

Capacity-building, training, research and education, the third objective, are required to ensure an improvement of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. Technical, scientific and traditional skills of conservation of cultural and natural heritage need to be strengthened.

Ten years ago, in Santa Fe, USA, the 16th session of the Committee set a series of strategic orientations. The aim of the current round of strategic reflection is to enable World Heritage to meet the challenges of the next decade.

Francesco Bandarin, Director, World Heritage Centre

contents

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Message from Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO

1 Editorial - Francesco Bandarin
Director of the World Heritage Centre

2 Islamic Cairo Takes Centre Stage
Interview with the United Kingdom Permanent Delegate to UNESCO
France-UNESCO

3 Eco-tourism and World Heritage
World Heritage 2002: Shared Legacy, Common Responsibility
World Heritage In Danger

4 For Your Information
What Are They Doing?
Calendar

Islamic Cairo Takes Centre Stage

An International Symposium on the Restoration and Conservation of Islamic Cairo, organized jointly by the Egyptian Ministry of Culture, the Supreme Council of Antiquities and the World Heritage Centre was held in Cairo from 16–20 February 2002. Speakers included Abdel Raheem Shehatah, Governor of Cairo, Farouk Hosni, Minister of Culture, G.A. Gaballa, Secretary-General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, Henrik Lilius, Chair of the World Heritage Committee, Michael Petzet, Chair ICOMOS International, Francesco Bandarin, WHC Director, Mohamed El Deek, Director, UNESCO Cairo Office, and experts from universities, museums, and art and archaeological institutes in Egypt, Europe and the United States.

Cairo, a busy, modern city which has grown up and expanded around an historic core, has by far the greatest concentration of surviving monuments in the Islamic World. How best to co-ordinate efforts to conserve and protect this unique ensemble, as well as the city's Coptic and Roman heritage, was the theme that convinced some of the world's most renowned experts in conservation of historic cities to join Egyptian authorities and representatives of the World Heritage Centre in this five-day symposium.

A far-reaching decision in the early years of the nineteenth century to move the modern city of Cairo westwards by three kilometres has served to preserve the old city almost intact and largely functioning as it did hundreds of years ago. But despite this fortuitous circumstance, natural dilapidation and collapse have taken their toll. The increase in the ground water level, due to the continuous urban expansion around the historic core, is a constant threat to monuments. Historic buildings of all types have been severely affected by pollution, dust and burgeoning traffic, as well as by the lack of a comprehensive urban conservation plan.

After years of relative neglect, the Egyptian authorities have responded with a major restoration campaign to tackle these problems. An impressive documentation, composed of studies, research and surveys, has been collected by a special Department for Historic Cairo within the Ministry of Culture, and forty-eight monuments have been restored over the past

Islamic Cairo, Egypt



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three years. Plans are to triple that figure within the next six years.

Such a major undertaking, however, raised some concerns among the community of conservators, who worried about the respect for the authenticity of the historic buildings and the traditional social fabric of the city. The symposium, therefore, served as a forum for professional debate and evaluation of that programme, as well as an opportunity to discuss how other projects can be integrated into it.

The symposium agreed that common problems, such as ground water and infrastructure, found all over the city, require careful planning and institutional coordination. The upgrading of the water supply, the sewerage system and road surfaces is a top priority. Experts warned that if these measures are not taken quickly, much of the conservation work being done now will deteriorate so fast that it will soon have to be carried out all over again on the same buildings.

Another challenge for the conservation of Historic Cairo is the changing social composition of its inhabitants, as monuments are renovated and preserved. The symposium stressed the importance of the continuity of the traditional way of life and recognized that the presence of a strong social and economic base is an invaluable resource, which can serve as a

balance to government participation and subsidy in the conservation of Old Cairo. Restoration and adaptive re-use of monuments, it was emphasized, should be undertaken only when a compatible use and management mechanisms have been determined through a consultative process with all stakeholders.

Another important outcome of the symposium was the planned launch of a Handbook for the Conservation of Historic Cairo, which would provide standards and technical specifications for restoration and preservation, drawing from the exceptional experience gathered through years of conservation projects in Cairo. Egyptian authorities agreed to work on the Handbook, funded through Egyptian and Italian Funds in Trust at UNESCO, jointly with the World Heritage Centre.

Commenting on the symposium, Giovanni Boccardi, Chief of the Arab Region Unit at the WHC, said, 'We wanted to stress the professionalism of the encounter. It was important to have an exchange of ideas, to have what authorities and other participants had to say on record.'

A summary of the conclusions and recommendations of the symposium will be shortly available on the UNESCO World Heritage Centre web site (<http://whc.unesco.org>).

Dorset and East Devon Coast, United Kingdom

Interview with the United Kingdom Permanent Delegate to UNESCO

Over the next few months the *Newsletter* will be speaking to newly-elected members of the World Heritage Committee. This time, we spoke to David L. Stanton, Ambassador, United Kingdom Permanent Delegate to UNESCO. We asked him what role he sees for the UK on the Committee:

We need to recognize there is a large number of States Parties that does not take full advantage of the Convention, and we must develop ways to ensure that they do.

We must realize that the protection of heritage is moving forward from the concept of individual sites. A more holistic approach to conservation is developing. I am thinking of the concept of the cultural landscape, the Loire Valley being an example.

What contribution can the UK specifically make?

Britain has accumulated a lot of experience and has made some mistakes. We can share our experience of public and voluntary management of heritage in the UK, such as the work of the National Trust. It may also help that the UK is a member of UNESCO's Executive Board.

The work of the Committee in the UK itself has a very high visibility in relation to the rest of what UNESCO does. There is great public interest in preserving the world's heritage. For example, in the recently-published UK Annual

Official Yearbook, all the UNESCO World Heritage sites in Britain are shown prominently. We have our cathedrals on the List. But we have moved beyond that. We are now looking at industrial sites like Saltaire and Blaenavon, and more and more at our natural heritage such as the Dorset and East Devon Coast.

In your view, what is the relationship between the Committee and the Secretariat?

The Committee's role is to make decisions required by the Convention; the Secretariat's role is to implement those decisions.

One duty of the Committee is to manage the WH Fund. It should focus on the big picture, not on the details. It needs to approve the objectives and determine what results are achieved. This should be an output-based approach. The Committee should not micro-manage the Fund. The mobilizing of more resources for the Fund should become a much more important feature of the work of the Committee.

France-UNESCO

In a first of its kind agreement between UNESCO and a development agency, a Declaration of Intent was signed on 4 March by Jean-Michel Sévérino, Director-General of the French Development Agency (AFD) and Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO.

The agreement is grounded in the experience acquired by UNESCO and AFD in the implementation of a pilot project based on decentralized co-operation between the cities of Luang Prabang (Laos) and Chinon (France). AFD and UNESCO have decided to strengthen their co-operation in the fields of protection, promotion and preservation of cities, monuments and public space and to take measures to stimulate the rehabilitation of privately-owned historic buildings, and adaptive re-use to meet contemporary needs.

The Declaration of Intent was signed within the framework of the 1997 France-UNESCO Co-operation Agreement for the Protection of Monumental, Urban and Natural Heritage. The joint France-UNESCO Co-ordinating Committee met on 6 March to examine accomplishments in the past year and to set strategic priorities for 2002-2003. The Committee noted that partnerships with French local authorities, public institutions and UNESCO have expanded considerably in 2001.

In order to consolidate efforts, an additional agreement was signed on 3 April between the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNESCO, which creates a fiduciary fund. This system will allow for more flexibility in financing projects and will not be tied to annual budget constraints.



The United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage



UNITED NATIONS YEAR FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE
ANNÉE DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LE PATRIMOINE CULTUREL
AÑO DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS DEL PATRIMONIO CULTURAL
سنة الأمم المتحدة للتراث الثقافي
ГОД КУЛЬТУРНОГО НАСЛЕДИЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ
联合国文化遗产年

Above the door of the Kabul Museum, ravaged by more than 20 years of warfare, this maxim was posted up by persons unknown a few days ago: "A nation is alive when its culture is alive". This symbolic gesture gives a deeper meaning to the resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 21 November 2001 proclaiming 2002 **"United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage"**.

The cultural heritage of a people is the memory of its living culture. It is expressed in many different forms, both tangible (monuments, landscapes, objects) and intangible (languages, know-how, the performing arts, music, etc.). The origins of this heritage are multifarious, too. In retracing its own cultural lineage, in recognizing the many different influences that have marked its history and shaped its identity, a people is better able to build peaceful relations with other peoples, to pursue what is often an age-old dialogue and to forge its future.

To value the cultural heritage and to care for it as a treasure bequeathed to us by our ancestors that it is our duty to transmit as wholly as possible to our children, is a sign of wisdom. That is why we must pursue our standard-setting action and design instruments like the *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*, whose thirtieth anniversary is being celebrated this year, able to give effective protection to all cultural heritage.

Today, the biggest challenge facing UNESCO, designated lead agency for this Year by the United Nations, is to make the public authorities, the private sector and civil society as a whole realize that the cultural heritage is not only an instrument for peace and reconciliation but also a factor of development. There are numerous examples in which a new approach to the management of the cultural heritage has promoted economic growth by creating employment opportunities for local populations, whether through crafts, cultural tourism and the emergence of new trades or through new forms of activity.

We must therefore encourage each member of society to become actively involved in the conservation and enhancement of the heritage of humanity. It is through the heightening of public awareness and increased mobilization and action in favour of heritage values, involving young people in particular, that the year 2002, United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage, will acquire its full significance.

Hence the importance of associating cultural heritage with development policies and also the importance of demonstrating, as in the case of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Caucasus and Cambodia, how much this powerful symbol of a people's identity can become a unifying factor for national reconciliation – provided, that is, it is revitalized in people's minds not only as the mark of a common acknowledged past but also as the foundation of a shared future.

Koïchiro Matsuura
Director-General of UNESCO

20 March 2002



Cultural heritage takes many forms, both tangible (monuments, landscapes, objects) and intangible (language, know-how, the performing arts, music). The Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, adopted by UNESCO on 3 November 2001, emphasizes the importance of cultural heritage as a source of wealth and creativity.

All of humanity shares in the need to leave traces of everyday life, to express creative ability and to preserve history. Heritage provides the means for this exchange between the past, the present and the future. As a

repository of memory, our heritage embodies the symbolic value of cultural identity and serves as a fundamental reference for the structuring of society. Insofar as cultural heritage enables us to understand ourselves, it is one of the keys to understanding others. Our respect for and appreciation of human diversity depends on

our ability to learn from others. By providing an ongoing dialogue between civilizations and cultures, heritage contributes to establishing and maintaining peace among nations. Each nation draws a feeling of identity and cohesion from its heritage.

Our ideas of what constitutes cultural heritage have evolved over the decades.

In order to bear witness to the universality of human genius and its creations, the notion of heritage has been greatly modified to accommodate a more global and holistic perspective. Initially designating the greatest monumental vestiges of cultures, the definition of heritage has gradually been enriched by new categories drawn from non-artistic activities, such as industrial heritage, or from specific contexts, such as underwater heritage. Today, our concept of heritage is open and expanding to include new categories which reflect living cultures rather than a fossilized reflection of the past. We have known for over 30 years that in order to understand the diversity of cultural heritage, nature and culture cannot be considered as separate; particularly for those cultures which are inextricably linked to their natural environment.

Today, cultural heritage is a complex issue as it becomes ever more fragile and threatened, and as we recognize the important role it plays in the daily life and the development of societies. Conflicts, theft and plundering have added their negative effects to the onslaught of post-industrialization. Recent events have forced us to witness spectacular and dramatic destruction and have clearly illustrated that the heritage of others can become the symbolic target of aggressive action, incomprehension and rejection brought to bear against others. **The protection, safeguarding and transmission of our Heritage to future generations are therefore ethical dictates, inseparable from respect for human dignity and willingness of individuals and groups from different cultural identities to live together peacefully.** Heritage, in all its forms, testifies to human experience and ambitions. At the time of its creation, what is destined to become heritage draws from the living cultural traditions of the past and develops through contact with others. Heritage has to be shared. It offers every human being the opportunity for and the pleasure of self-discovery through exposure to cultural expressions different from ones own. As a shared experience, the foremost integral value of heritage is diversity.

If the use of cultural heritage as a means for exclusion is alarming today, it is undoubtedly due to the recognition of its usefulness in binding social groups together and bringing cultural communities closer to one another. There is, and there always will be, a risk of manipulation through heritage and a risk for heritage itself, both for its physical preservation and for the permanence of its symbolic value. Today, this risk must be clearly acknowledged and a commitment made to reject the trend towards exclusion so that heritage becomes a cause for safeguarding the diversity and dialogue of cultures.

The opportunity to enjoy heritage in its worldwide diversity, to appreciate it and to derive enrichment through contact with it, has created and justified the international obligation of solidarity and our collective responsibility for the safeguarding of the common heritage of humankind.

This shared responsibility, all the more necessary since it is now on a global scale, has manifested itself in the development of legal instruments which have introduced actions concerning heritage into the legal texts and

are aimed at ensuring its physical protection.

Our new responsibility is to better understand and further reflect on the use of cultural heritage as a means of strengthening our desire to live together.

Today we are faced with a new challenge: to make our diversity an instrument of dialogue and understanding.

By Resolution 56/8 adopted on 21 November 2001, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed **2002 as the "United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage"**. This Resolution invites UNESCO to serve as the lead agency for the celebration. This year will also mark the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* (1972).

The celebration of the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage provides an exceptional opportunity to ensure that the public bodies, the private sector, civil society as a whole, and especially young people, have a better understanding of cultural heritage and its role as an instrument for peace, reconciliation and mutual understanding, as well as a factor for development. It is for this reason that the activities for the celebration of this Cultural Heritage Year will be based on the two principal themes of **'dialogue'** and **'development'**.

The three main objectives foreseen for this Year are: **accelerating** the rate of implementation of programmes, activities and projects for heritage presentation and protection; **promoting** education to respect heritage; and **encouraging** voluntary contributions to fund and support activities to ensure the presentation and protection of heritage.

> For more information on how to get involved in the UN Year for Cultural Heritage:
web site: www.unesco.org/culture/unych
e-mail: unych@unesco.org

Eco-tourism and World Heritage

Representatives from the World Heritage Centre, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the RARE Center for Tropical Conservation and the United Nations Foundation (UNF) were in Indonesia from 21 January to 3 February to meet with authorities, NGOs and stakeholders and to launch the UNF Project, 'Linking Biodiversity, Conservation and Sustainable Tourism at World Heritage Sites.'

The mission that went to Komodo and Ujung Kulon National Parks investigated ways of linking the development of a local tourism industry to the conservation of World Heritage sites, under the UNF Project.

The two national parks have great tourism potential and are of paramount importance to the scientific community. The volcanic islands of Komodo National Park are inhabited



Boats such as this one are now used to transport tourists in Ujung Kulon, Indonesia

by a population of some 5,700 giant lizards, known as 'Komodo dragons', which exist nowhere else in the world. These lizards are of major interest to scientists involved in the study of the theory of evolution. Ujung Kulon National Park, the largest remaining area of lowland rainforests in the Java plain, is the home to the threatened Javan rhinoceros.

Apart from the two sites in Indonesia, the UNF Project has chosen four other World Heritage sites in Latin America and Asia in order to help with the development of eco-tourism.

According to UNF Senior Programme Officer, Biodiversity, Seema Paul, 'There is no doubt that tourism can be beneficial, but there are not very many successful models of eco-tourism - meaning tourism that is ecologically sustainable. Our idea is to experiment with these programmes in order to find the best way to capture tourism revenues for the local community and the site, and then to apply those ideas to other sites.'

UNF provided a grant of US\$1.5 million to start the Project and offered another US\$500,000 pledge if an outside sponsor could match the sum. Aveda Corporation, a manufacturer of high-end beauty products, took up the challenge and donated US\$500,000 towards the four-year project which began in 2000.

'We believe that corporations must not compromise the ability of future generations to sustain themselves,' said Horst Rechelbacher, Founder of Aveda.

In Indonesia the visiting team met with a large number of stakeholders. Widodo S. Ramono, Director of Conservation Areas, recommended that the Project strengthen the abilities of the park staff in visitor management at Ujung Kulon. Non-governmental organizations such as the WWF, would like to build a tourism programme in the local communities close to the Ujung Kulon Park. Rili Djohani, Chief of the Nature Conservancy's Komodo Project, pointed out the need for a 'shared vision' of tourism development to maintain the attractiveness of the park and to maintain a quality visitor experience.

The organizers of the Project still need US\$1 million from outside sponsors to fully integrate activities underway in Indonesia and in the other four sites. The extra money will provide additional funding for local guides and business development training which will enable more local participation.

'This is a very exciting opportunity to get training and resources directly to people on the ground who are fighting to protect important natural sites,' said Natarajan Ishwaran, Chief of the Natural Heritage Section at the WHC. But he warned that the global tourism industry is currently generating few tangible benefits for World Heritage sites in developing countries.

The UNF Project, along with the United Nations proclamation of the year 2002 as the 'International year of Eco-tourism', should act as catalysts for these benefits both to local communities and to World Heritage.

'We want to adapt tourism activities to meet site and the local community needs by implementing grassroots projects linking conservation with local economic development,' said Art Pedersen, World Heritage Consultant on tourism and visitor management. 'We want to assist sites in planning for sustainable tourism to maintain the balance between tourism and conservation. Finally, we want to engage the tourism industry to leverage site benefits for enhanced site protection' he added.

Information: a.pederson@unesco.org



World Heritage in Danger

Ichkeul, Tunisia © San Marcos

Ichkeul National Park, Tunisia

Ichkeul National Park, one of the four important wetlands within the Western Mediterranean, has been on the List of World Heritage in Danger since 1996. It is an unusual wetland site containing a large lake from the centre of which a limestone mountain dramatically rises.

Dam-building since the late 1960s has had a severe effect on the wetland ecosystem, even though all the dams were constructed well outside the area of the National Park.

The filling of the Sejenane dam in the 1990s, and a drastic reduction in the major sources of freshwater, led to a drastic increase in salinity in the water of the lake. In only two of the last ten years has rainfall been above average, and in most winters it has been well below average. The lake has become a salty lake where salinity rises to concentrations considerably higher than seawater in summer and rarely descends below 15 gms per litre in winter.

As a result, the vegetation of the lake has changed. The effects of this loss of freshwater vegetation on the bird populations is immense. The vast numbers of wintering Pochard, Wigeon and other ducks have dwindled from over 200,000 to barely 10,000. Greylag Geese number a few hundred instead of 20,000. The breeding species have lost their nesting cover in the reed belt, as well as their natural foods, and have decreased to almost nothing.

Studies in the 1990s, which the Tunisian Government has been applying, suggested a series of measures to alleviate the situation and restore degraded habitats. Ichkeul's water requirements have now been formally included in the water-planning requirements of the region.

The lake needs 280 million cubic metres of water annually, and the Sidi Barak Dam is expected to serve as a stabilizer to compensate for any annual shortfalls caused by low rainfall and/or high rates of evapotranspiration.

The Committee has urged the State Party and IUCN to continue and finalize their negotiations to select parameters and indicators for monitoring the state of conservation and establishing benchmarks, timeframes and conditions for the Committee's annual assessments of progress to rehabilitate Ichkeul National Park.

World Heritage 2002: Shared Legacy, Common Responsibility

As part of the celebrations to mark the 30th anniversary of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, an International Congress of Experts will take place at the Cini Foundation, Island of San Giorgio Maggiore, Venice, Italy from 14 to 16 November. The Congress, entitled 'World Heritage 2002: Shared Legacy, Common Responsibility', is being organized by UNESCO with the support of the Italian Government.

Over 600 participants are expected to attend the Congress, which aims to strengthen the World Heritage Convention's outreach and broaden the debate on the future of the Convention and to reinforce partnerships between governments and civil society in the promotion of sustainable conservation and development.

Meeting in plenary session, participants will discuss the following themes:

- International co-operation for World Heritage conservation
- Enlarging the circle of partners including the role of local and regional authorities and development agencies
- The relationship between World Heritage conservation and socio-economic development
- World Heritage as a flagship for nature conservation
- The role of non-governmental actors in conservation and sustainable development
- Examples of new forms of partnerships for natural and cultural heritage conservation
- Awareness raising, capacity building and the role of a variety of media tools for communicating about World Heritage conservation
- Membership programmes as vehicles to raise awareness

- The universe of technical skills for cultural heritage conservation
- Ways and means of involving young people in World Heritage conservation
- Partnership initiatives for World Heritage.

Sponsored by the Italian Government, and organized by the World Heritage Centre in collaboration with the UNESCO Office in Venice (ROSTE), the City of Venice and the Veneto Region, the Congress will be the culminating event in a series of initiatives just ahead of the experts meeting.

Immediately prior to the Congress, several Italian cities will be hosting a series of thematic symposia on 11 and 12 November. Workshop themes include:

- Legal tools for World Heritage conservation
- Cultural landscapes: the challenges of conservation
- Private sector responsibility in World Heritage management
- Partnerships for the conservation of World Heritage cities
- Monitoring World Heritage
- Partnerships to conserve nature and bio-diversity
- World Heritage university training
- World Heritage site management
- Mobilizing youth for World Heritage.

Information:
e-mail: venice2002@unesco.org
<http://whc.unesco.org/venice2002>



The Cini Foundation, Venice, Italy

© P. Verquin

A Ugandan woman extracts salt from the soil at Kibiro Salt Gardens, a cultural landscape visited during the Eastern Africa Capacity-Building workshop



© G. Fontana Antonelli

Forum UNESCO - University and Heritage is an international network of universities teaching disciplines related to heritage. This network was created in 1996 and now includes over 300 universities worldwide. Its objectives are the promotion of exchange between students and academics, as well as the dissemination of information and development programmes. The headquarters are located at the Polytechnic University of Valencia, Spain. Within WHC the Forum is co-ordinated by WHC Deputy-Director Minja Yang, with the assistance of Marielle Richon. For more information: www.unesco.org/culture/forum

The **Sub-Regional Periodic Reporting Meeting for South America**, organized by UNESCO Montevideo, was held in Montevideo, Uruguay from 12 – 17 March. It was attended by participants from ten States Parties, representing both cultural and natural heritage, as well as by regional experts and representatives of advisory bodies and UNESCO.

From 24 February to 4 March, a joint team of WHC and natural and cultural experts went to the **Caribbean State of Grenada** to advise the State Party on possible sites, which could be inscribed on its tentative list. Following this mission, three sites were recommended.

From 25 February to 1 March, sixty-two marine experts held a workshop in Hanoi, Vietnam, organized by UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the World Conservation Union (IUCN), and financed by the UN Foundation, to discuss and determine priorities for **protecting biodiversity of outstanding universal value in tropical marine, coastal and small island ecosystems**. The workshop recommended that the WH Committee encourage and assist the inscription of stand-alone and cluster/transboundary sites in the tropical realm from the areas identified by experts as a matter of priority.

A sub-regional workshop on **'Capacity Building and Institutional Development in Eastern Africa'** was held in Kampala, Uganda on 21 February. Representatives from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda attended. The participants and trainers carried out a 'hands-on' working session in Kibiro, on the shore of Lake Albert, at a site that represents a new category among potential World Heritage sites: traditional know-how and technical heritage. The workshop was the first phase of a wider project which will include the discussion of national action plans.

An international conference, **"World Heritage in Young Hands - A Dialogue Amongst Civilisations"**, organized by the Egyptian National Commission for UNESCO in close collaboration with UNESCO headquarters, was held in Aswan and Cairo, Egypt from 6 to 12 February 2002, bringing together some 80 heritage and education experts from 20 countries. The main outcome of the event was the commitment of participating countries to enhance World Heritage Education on the national level and to develop guidelines for educational multimedia packages on World Heritage sites. Follow-up activities include the development of projects on Intercultural Dialogue routes using three themes: the Silk Road, the Mediterranean Basin and Trans-Ocean.

for your information

What Are They Doing ?

Francesco Bandarin, WHC Director, was on mission in March to Argentina and Uruguay where he attended the South American meeting on Periodic Reporting; In February he took part in the International Symposium on the Conservation of Historic Cairo and attended in Tunis the International Conference on the 'Enhancement of Cultural Heritage Strategy' organized by the Institut National du Patrimoine of Tunisia; in February, **Minja Yang**, WHC Deputy-Director, participated in an expert seminar for real estate developers organized by the Instituto Empresa of Madrid and gave a speech on 'Real Estate Development in World Heritage Cities : a Threat or an Opportunity?'. In January Ms Yang went to Benin together with the Permanent Delegate of Benin to UNESCO, Ambassador O.Yai and C.Barillet, expert seconded to the World Heritage Centre from the French Government, to advise the authorities of Benin in the preparation of the World Heritage nomination of the historic town of Porto Novo and to launch a multiyear project to prepare its urban conservation plan; **Natarajan Ishwaran**, WHC Chief, Natural Heritage Section, was at the IUCN in Gland, Switzerland in March for the preparatory meeting to discuss the Fifth Congress on World Protected Areas, in Durban, South Africa in September 2003; **Mechtild Rössler**, WHC Chief, Europe Unit, and **Frédérique Robert**, WHC Assistant Programme Specialist, Europe Unit, were part of the international UNESCO-ICOMOS mission to the Romanian



Herman Van Hooff, WH Adviser in Latin America and the Caribbean; Mariano Arana, Mayor of Montevideo and Francesco Bandarin, WHC Director

medieval town of Sighisoara in March to evaluate the impact of a planned theme park, 'Dracula Park,' nearby; within the framework of the joint Government of Italy/UNESCO Declaration for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, **Giovanni Boccardi**, WHC Chief, Arab States Unit, participated this March in Rome in an orientation course for Italian experts, organized by the WHC in collaboration with ICCROM. Twenty-one experts from the Italian Ministry of Cultural Properties, the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended.



World Heritage Review No. 24 (February 2002) highlights the 31 new sites added to the World Heritage List. Other articles feature: Ancient Merv in Turkmenistan on the Silk Route, embodying 4,000 years of the history of human settlement in this desert region; Arequipa in Peru with its magnificent white colonial buildings; the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor where eight natural World Heritage sites are part of an ambitious conservation project; and the Historic Centre of Riga, Capital of Latvia, with one of the most important bodies of Art Nouveau buildings in Europe.

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<http://www.worldheritagereview.org>

Calendar

18 to 20 April
The Future of the Alps - International Conference on the Alpine Convention
Innsbruck, Austria.
Information: franz.maier@umweltdachverband.at

20 to 25 April
First World Heritage Skills Development Course for Young People in the Arab Region
Petra, Jordan. Information:
e.qaraeen@unesco.org.jo or r.oei@unesco.org

16 to 17 May
Alternatives to Historical Reconstruction in UNESCO World Heritage Cities International Conference
Tallinn, Estonia. National Commission of Estonia.

31 May
World Heritage Inscription Ceremony at the Mining Area of the Great Copper Mountain
Falun, Sweden (inscribed 2001).
Swedish National Commission.

6 to 8 June
Celebration of the 30th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention in Germany
Potsdam, Germany.
German National Commission for UNESCO.

12 to 15 June
IUCN/WCPA Europe Meeting
Poertschach, Woerther See / Carinthia, Austria.
Information: ingrid.adelpoller@bmu.gv.at

20 to 22 June
International meeting on Mountain Cities : World Heritage Cities and Natural Disasters Organized by the City of Chambéry (French Focal Point for the IYM) in collaboration with UNESCO's Division of Earth Sciences and the World Heritage Centre
Chambéry, France.
Information: w.eder@unesco.org

24 to 29 June
26th session of the World Heritage Committee
Budapest, Hungary.
Information: <http://www.whcmeeting.hu/>

The World Heritage newsletter

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