



editorial

All those involved in the preservation and conservation of heritage are constantly faced with having to balance social, economic and environmental realities. Cultural and natural heritage sites around the world can only be protected if the continued degradation of the global environment is reversed, while improving the lives of those living in poverty.

The *World Summit on Sustainable Development* in Johannesburg, South Africa gave a major boost to these two goals. Targets and timetables were set to halve the proportion of people without access to water or proper sanitation by the year 2015, to restore depleted fisheries, to increase access to energy services, to improve health conditions and agriculture, particularly in drylands, to better protect the world's biodiversity and ecosystems, and to phase out toxic chemicals by 2005. For the first time, countries adopted commitments toward increasing the use of renewable energy 'with a sense of urgency', although a proposed target for this was not adopted.

These commitments are good news for the cultural and natural heritage of the world as well, as sustainable development is an important factor in our work.

As we face the challenges posed by sustainable development, natural World Heritage sites are under major threat due to reduction in biodiversity, species extinction and desertification. Climate change will dramatically magnify these problems in the short and the long term. A comprehensive assessment of the extent of the threat posed by climate change to all sites urgently needs to be undertaken.

The Johannesburg Summit addressed many of these concerns. Commitments were made to reduce biodiversity loss by 2010 and to establish a network of marine protected areas by 2012. These commitments were supported by a series of partnership initiatives.

These partnerships by and between governments, citizen groups and business are bringing with them additional resources and expertise to attain significant results where they matter – in communities across the globe. These partnerships have increasingly become an important vehicle for achieving heritage conservation as well.

On the sidelines of the World Summit, the South African Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, in co-operation with the World Heritage Centre, organized a workshop on *African Heritage and Sustainable Development* (see article, p.2). This initiative emphasized the crucial role of heritage in promoting sustainable development and recognized the close link between nature and culture in Africa.

Francesco Bandarin, Director, World Heritage Centre

contents

“This Summit makes sustainable development a reality. [It] will put us on a path that reduces poverty while protecting the environment, a path that works for all peoples, rich and poor, today and tomorrow.”

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, at the conclusion of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, September 2002.

- 1 **Editorial - Francesco Bandarin**
Director of the World Heritage Centre
- 2 **Sustainable Development and World Heritage**

Interview with the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee

Successful Seminar in Argentina
- 3 **United Nations Foundation Continues Support to World Heritage Biodiversity**

DOCOMOMO and World Heritage

Nine Workshops for New Partnerships

World Heritage In Danger
- 4 **For Your Information**

What Are They Doing?

Calendar

Sustainable Development and World Heritage

The African Heritage and Sustainable Development workshop, organized by the South African Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, in co-operation with the World Heritage Centre, and funded by contributions from the World Heritage Fund, the Nordic World Heritage Foundation and the Italian Funds-in-Trust for UNESCO (IFIT), was held from 19-23 August in Pretoria, South Africa. Some 65 policy- and decision-makers from over 30 African countries, as well as the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, Tamás Fejérdy, Elisabeth Wangari, Chief WHC/AFR, Peter Strasser, consultant at the Africa Unit, and representatives of IUCN, ICCROM, the Nordic World Heritage Foundation, the Ecole du Patrimoine Africain and the East African Community attended the meeting.

The African Heritage and Sustainable Development workshop, held as an official side event of the World Summit in Johannesburg, brought to the fore, just ahead of the high-profile international event, the challenges of heritage management specific to Africa.

Participants agreed that the management of heritage is an important tool for the promotion of sustainable development and poverty alleviation, and that periodic reporting in the region must take this into account. The Africa Periodic Report, adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 26th session in Budapest, Hungary, was presented in plenary session.

The Workshop stressed the importance of building partnerships with funding institutions and other groups. Edy Thuthukile Skweyiya, the Ambassador of South Africa to France and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, pointed out that sustainable development needs to be linked to NEPAD, the New Partnership for African Development.

Officials from the South African Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism: Ms R. Mabudafhasi, Deputy Minister, Ms M. Mbengashe, Chief Director Biodiversity and Heritage and Mr M. Makgolo, Assistant Director, together with Mr T. Fejérdy (Hungary), Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee



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Looking at the economic aspects of sustainable development, the Workshop considered that there was more at stake than just economic parameters in sustainability. 'New directions in heritage management emphasize economic development, human rights, poverty alleviation, sustainability and education. Identity and restoration of pride lead to better management of heritage. Traditional management systems have to be recognized,' said Webber Ndoro of ICCROM.

The Workshop highlighted the necessity of considering the spiritual aspects of Africa's heritage, its cosmology, thought processes and language in the promotion and support of heritage sites. It looked at the strong link between culture and nature, and stressed the necessity of paying special attention to sacred sites as common heritage.

The Workshop examined the importance of developing legal frameworks which work and can be implemented. Albert Mumma, of the Faculty of Law at the University of Nairobi,

pointed out the need to look at the mechanisms available to heritage workers in order to achieve sustainable development. He emphasized that there is a pressing need to harmonize planning codes and to give recognition to traditional law. 'These laws have to be allowed to operate where they still exist. And this can only be done if we redefine heritage through the community,' Dr Mumma said.

The Workshop looked at ways of promoting a participatory approach to the management of heritage in Africa. Conservation, it was considered, must be clarified so that it makes sense to everyone through information, comprehensive GIS data bases, good inventories and the promotion of local initiatives.

A monitoring mission was undertaken to the site of Robben Island, which was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1999.

Successful Seminar in Argentina



Mr R. Bárcena, Archaeologist, University of the Province of Mendoza, Ms D. Rolandi, Head of the National Institute for Anthropology and Latin-American Thought, and Mr R. Molinari, National Parks Administration

Within the framework of the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage, the Second Seminar on the 1972 Convention was held in the vicinity of the World Heritage site 'Jesuit Block and Estancias of Córdoba', Argentina, from 6-8 August 2002. More than 150 participants attended this sub-regional meeting, organized by the Argentine Committee on World Heritage thanks to the financial assistance provided through the World Heritage Fund and co-operation from the World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Montevideo Office.

The Seminar was conceived as a continuation of a similar successful event that took place three years ago in Buenos Aires. It provided an opportunity to exchange views on matters related to the implementation of the Convention as diverse as the preparation of the Argentine Tentative List and the periodic report for the Latin American region. Topics such as the management of World Heritage sites, including transboundary sites, the participation of local communities in the nomination of sites and the application of satellite technology to their conservation were also discussed.

Participants agreed on a set of valuable and imaginative recommendations, such as the development of educational programmes at all levels for the protection of cultural and natural heritage, and the allocation to conservation purposes of a part of the resources derived from tourism.

Interview with the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee

The Newsletter talked to Tamás Fejérdy, Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee and Director of Inspection of the Hungarian National Office of Cultural Heritage.

What do you see as the main task ahead during your time as Chairperson?

The Budapest Declaration, approved at the last Committee session, accurately sets out the tasks ahead. Obviously, I do not think that within the year of my chairmanship all of the tasks can be accomplished. But what I do think is that appropriate conditions for their implementation can be arranged. In other words, the reform procedure, already in progress, has to be speeded up, particularly with reference to the approval of the revised Operational Guidelines and a renewal of the decision-making methods. I also believe it is necessary to achieve a better balance of financial resources. It is expected that the Venice Congress in November will go in this direction as well. Relative to World Heritage values and sites, I would like to see a programme similar to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the protection of the environment. All these areas require extensive preparation and co-operation that can begin with the Hungarian chairmanship.

What, in your view, is the most important accomplishment of the Committee at its session in Budapest?

The 26th Committee session, celebrating the 30th anniversary, had a very full agenda, a part of which had to be put off to the extraordinary session to be held in March 2003. In spite of that, I am convinced of the success of the session. The Committee took its task very seriously and

concentrated on content. The approval of the strategic plan – which is also the basis of the Budapest Declaration – is a great step forward. I consider the exemplary and thorough work done, and the decisions made in connection with the sites, to be significant. We have made considerable progress in the discussion of important policy questions even if we will only draw conclusions at the extraordinary session. The decisions made for that session show how flexible and responsible the Committee is.

This is the 30th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention. What lessons should be retained from the past? What priorities should be set?

The past 30 years of the Convention, despite difficulties expressed in Committee meetings or in the periodic reports, is a success story. Without any doubt, it is not by chance that World Heritage is the most well-recognised and healthy UNESCO 'programme.' I would just like to highlight several reasons for this success: co-operation has always won out over confrontation; the means and methods of implementation have been developing along the right track; the Budapest Declaration points to a new objective which is to present and protect heritage value appropriately, rather than to increase the quantity of sites.

I will just add that when it comes to World Heritage, one must be patient. The necessary, but long-term, process must begin now.



© Hungarian WHC secretariat

Dr Tamás Fejérdy

United Nations Foundation Continues Support to World Heritage Biodiversity

The United Nations Foundation has approved a US\$6,006,000 grant to match US\$5,410,000 pledged by various conservation NGOs for World Heritage biodiversity conservation programmes in Brazil and Central Africa and networking among protected areas.

The World Heritage Program for Brazil is a ten-year initiative by the Brazilian government, the World Heritage Centre, the Nature Conservancy, Conservation International and the World Wildlife Fund to preserve 38 protected areas throughout the country. The project is also aimed at building local

awareness about the importance of biodiversity, and promoting ecotourism and other environmentally-friendly activities. The five World Heritage areas that are initially targeted are: Iguacu National Park, the Discovery Coast Atlantic Forest Reserves, the Atlantic Forest Southeast Reserve, the Pantanal Conservation Area and Jaú National Park. The Brazilian government has pledged nearly US\$1 million to the project.

The goal of the Central African Forest Initiative is to enhance the management of some important transboundary clusters of forest areas in Gabon, Central African Republic, Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo by combating illegal bushmeat trade and strengthening the park management authorities. The partnership, made up of the governments of these Central-African countries, UNESCO/WHC, FAO and various conservation NGOs (Conservation International, World Wildlife Fund, Wildlife Conservation Society and the Jane Goodall Institute) aims

at enhancing biodiversity conservation of these unique forest areas. Currently, only the Dja Faunal Reserve is a World Heritage site but the programme will also assess the possibility of nominating some of the clusters as new World Heritage sites.

Since its creation in 1998, the United Nations Foundation has focused on biodiversity as a major area of grant making. UNF has partnered with the World Heritage Centre to support and promote the management and conservation of the world's most biodiverse areas.



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Iguacu National Park, Brazil



Yellowstone National Park, USA © M. Balisse

World Heritage in Danger

Yellowstone National Park, USA

Yellowstone National Park, USA, was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1978, and the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1995. This vast park is threatened by pollution and noise from year-round tourism, sewage and waste contamination, and the illegal introduction of non-native lake trout.

Established in 1872, Yellowstone National Park is the first and oldest national park in the world. Its vast natural forest contains the world's largest concentration of geysers—2/3 of all those on the planet. These geothermal wonders are evidence of one of the world's largest active volcanoes, its last eruption having created a crater that spans almost half of the park. The park is the core of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, one of the largest intact temperate zone ecosystems remaining on the planet.

In winter, visitors using snowmobiles is an issue of particular concern. The IUCN reports that the 2001-2002 snowmobile season was the worst recorded in Yellowstone National Park history for illegal snowmobile activity.

The State Party has prepared a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement which demonstrates that snowmobile use could cause significantly more pollution and noise and provide less protection for Yellowstone's wildlife than the proposed alternative of using snow-coaches. A snowmobile industry lawsuit took almost a year and a half and has delayed the phase-out of the vehicles.

The United States Department of the Interior plans to spend US\$75,000 to move a sewer line away from the Old Faithful Geyser and the active portion of the basin in order to protect the geysers and groundwater and to prevent damage to the wastewater system.

Other initiatives have been taken to protect the park. A mutually agreed-upon trade of land has been made to remove the potential threat of adjacent mining operations to the watershed ecology of the Yellowstone River. Remedial measures have been taken to mitigate the effects of one hundred years of mining activity in the area. A long-term plan for the management of bison has also been undertaken to reduce the risk of transmission of *brucellosis* from bison to cattle, which allows for the conservation of wild, free-ranging bison.

At its 26th session, in June 2002, the World Heritage Committee recommended that Yellowstone National Park be kept on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and invited the State Party to co-operate with IUCN and WHC to prepare a report for submission to its 27th session, containing steps it intends to take to develop action plans and define parameters and conditions to monitor progress in the restoration of the integrity of the site.

DOCOMOMO and World Heritage

The World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS jointly organized a session on 'Identification and Preservation of Modern Urban Heritage' during the 7th International Conference of DOCOMOMO (the International Working-party for Documentation and Conservation of Buildings, Sites and Neighbourhoods of the Modern Movement), at UNESCO Headquarters from 16-19 September 2002. WHC Director Francesco Bandarin chaired the session. Maristella Casciato, Chair of DOCOMOMO International, Jean-Louis Cohen, Director of the Institut français d'architecture (Paris), Marco de Michelis, Professor at the University Institute of Architecture (Venice), Jukka Jokilehto, Senior Consultant for ICOMOS and Fabio Grementieri, Architect and Architectural Critic (Buenos Aires) were members of the panel.

Some 400 international professionals and academics, historians, architects, planners and policy-makers attended the Conference, for three days of discussions on this year's theme: Image, Use and Heritage: the Reception of Architecture of the Modern Movement.

The panel on 'Identification and Preservation of Modern Urban Heritage,' organized by the WHC and ICOMOS, dealt with some of the important issues related to modern heritage, such as the test of authenticity (in design, craftsmanship and materials), the role and value of shared heritage, and the significance of urban ensembles, also in combination with historic centres.

This session examined the importance of the identification and preservation of urban ensembles which are related to the

modern era, and how they can be integrated with historic cities or city centres. A significant issue was the determination of the criteria for assessment of modern heritage properties proposed as World Heritage. The panel also addressed the question of how to find advocates for modern heritage.

It was suggested that appropriate methodologies for the assessment and selection of this type of heritage need to be developed, providing for balanced thematic and geographical representation. Strategies must also be devised to advise States Parties and the general public on the importance of the protection and conservation of modern heritage.

'The main question,' said Ron van Oers, WHC Consultant for urban conservation and management, and one of the organizers of the Conference, 'is how to reach an understanding and agreement on the specific character of properties of modern heritage, in particular the urban ensembles from the modern era, in the sense that they represent major changes in economic, social, cultural, artistic and/or aesthetic concepts and values.'

The DOCOMOMO Conference also focussed on buildings, urban schemes and their interpretations, the audience and users and the local and international dimensions of modern architecture. Participants also discussed the writings and images of the modern movement and the reception of technical innovations.

For more information:
<http://www.bk.tudelft.nl/docomomo/conf7.htm>

Nine Workshops for New Partnerships

The International Congress of Experts, entitled *World Heritage 2002: Shared Legacy, Common Responsibility* will take place from 14 to 16 November at the Cini Foundation, Island of San Giorgio Maggiore, Venice, Italy, to mark the 30th anniversary of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Prior to that event, from 11 to 15 of November, nine workshops are to be held in and around Venice which will bring together World Heritage experts from around the world.

The catchword for the workshops leading up to the Congress is partnership. Organized thanks to the co-operation and support of the local municipalities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, the nine workshops will cover the following themes:

- The Legal Tools for World Heritage Conservation (Siena)
- Cultural Landscapes: the Challenges of Conservation (Ferrara)

- Towards Innovative Partnerships for World Heritage (Venice)
- Partnerships for the Conservation of World Heritage Cities (Urbino and Pesaro)
- Monitoring World Heritage (Vicenza)
- The World Heritage Convention: Partnerships to Conserve Nature and Biodiversity (Trieste)
- World Heritage University Training (Feltre)
- World Heritage Site Management (Padova)
- Mobilizing Youth for World Heritage (Treviso).

In September an Italian freighter caught fire off the coast of South Africa, endangering the **Greater St Lucia Wetland Park** which houses, along with 6 other estuaries, South Africa's largest populations of crocodiles and hippos, 2 species of turtle and more than 530 species of bird, including a population of 50,000 flamingoes.

The establishment of a marine conservation and sustainable development corridor in the Eastern Pacific between Galápagos (Ecuador), Cocos (Costa Rica), Coiba (Panama), Gorgona and Malpelo (Colombia) islands was launched on 4 September in Johannesburg as a side event to the **World Summit on Sustainable Development**. This initiative is a joint venture, in which WHC is co-operating with Conservation International, the World Conservation Union, the United Nations Environment Programme and other partners as well as with the governments of the four countries.

A seminar on the Management of World Heritage sites, held in **Iguazu, Argentina** from 2-6 September 2002 decided that a permanent network of managers of World Heritage sites in Argentina will be established with annual encounters to discuss problems, strategies and themes of common interest.

The **severe flooding** that occurred across Europe in August affected World Heritage sites in Austria (the Wachau Cultural Landscape, and parts of Salzburg), the Czech Republic (historic centres of Prague and Cesky Krumlov), Germany (the Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz) and Hungary.

A mission concerning the rise of the groundwater level and its adverse impact on the World Heritage sites at **Ancient Thebes** and **Abu Mena, Egypt**, organized by UNESCO in response to a request from the Egyptian authorities, was carried out from 26 August-13 September. The mission concluded that an important cause of the increase of the groundwater level in the Nile valley is the construction of the Aswan dam, and the intensive irrigation of crops.

The **11th International World Heritage Youth Forum**, held in Veliky Novgorod, Russian Federation from 24-28 August, brought together some 100 Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) students and teachers from 13 countries for hands-on activities and visits to World Heritage sites in the region. The Forum was organized by the Governor of Novgorod, the Federal Minister of Education and the Russian National Commission for UNESCO, in co-operation with the Novgorod Region and Administration Physical Culture and Sport Committee and the UNESCO Moscow Office.

The intersectoral project team for **Sustainable Management of World Heritage Sites for Poverty Reduction** has met three times during the reporting period to better define the objectives of this project and the pilot sites in Porto Novo (Benin), St Louis (Senegal), Georgetown (Guyana), Luang Prabang (Laos) and the six Canal Towns of the Lower Yangtze River (China).

The China State Administration of Cultural Heritage, the Ministry of Construction, the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO and the WHC jointly organized a national workshop on **Periodic Reporting for Cultural, Natural and Mixed World Heritage Properties in China** at the World Heritage site of the Dazu Rock Carvings from 16 to 19 July 2002.

What Are They Doing ?

Francesco Bandarin, WHC Director, was in China from 5-12 July, along with **Feng Jing**, WHC Asia-Pacific Unit, to discuss the organization of the 27th session of the World Heritage Committee with Chinese authorities and visit the proposed venue at Suzhou. Mr Bandarin also visited heritage sites in Beijing, Xian, Chengdu and the Suzhou area. **Natarajan Ishwaran**, Chief WHC Natural Heritage Section, was in New Delhi, India from 21-26 July to discuss the execution of the planning-grant activities financed by the UNF and review on-going and potential activities to promote World Heritage in South Asia with Indian authorities. Mr Ishwaran was also in Nairobi, Kenya in July to attend the co-ordination meeting of the UNESCO/UNF/DRC project. **Sarah Titchen**, Chief WHC Policy and Statutory Implementation Unit, attended the University of North London's conference on the Politics of World Heritage from 2-4 September. In August she participated in a meeting with the International Institute for Indigenous Resource Management in Denver, Colorado (USA). **Mechtild Rössler**, Chief Europe Unit, went with the British Deputy Minister for the Environment and Rural Development, **Allan Wilson**, to St Kilda, Outer Hebrides, United Kingdom, from 14-17 August to discuss the re-nomination process, the state of conservation and the finalization of the management plan for the site. Together with **Alexandra zu Sayn-Wittgenstein**, Consultant Europe Unit and **Wolfgang Reuther**, Director, UNESCO Moscow Office, she attended the International Workshop on Preservation and Conservation of the Wooden Structure of the Church of Transfiguration

of Kizhi Pogost, Russian Federation from 31 July-5 August. The President of the World Heritage Committee, ICCROM and the President of ICOMOS also participated. **Herman van Hooff**, Adviser for World Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean, was in Caracas and Coro, Venezuela from 28 July-3 August to participate with ICOMOS in the reactive monitoring mission for Coro and its port. Workshops were held with the broad participation of representatives of the national, regional and local authorities, and non-governmental institutions involved or interested in the management and preservation of the site. **Guy Debonnet**, Programme Specialist for Natural Heritage, met with authorities in July in Kigali, Rwanda and Goma, DRC to discuss solutions to current threats to Virunga National Park. From 28 August-5 September, he was in Madagascar together with **Bénédicte Leclercq**, WHC Consultant, to prepare the launching of a new UNF-funded project to enhance the management of five protected areas in the lowland humid forest zone that are to be nominated as World Heritage. With the generous assistance of the Government of Italy, the World Heritage Centre is pleased to welcome **Salamat Ali Tabbasum** as an Associate Expert from Pakistan. Mr Tabbasum is trained in the field of sustainable environmental management and is currently assisting in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Pacific region for natural and mixed heritage.



Salamat Ali Tabbasum



The World Heritage Review No. 26 has been available since July 2002 in English, French and Spanish. The leader article focuses on the **Renewal of Venice** and the city's efforts to keep the high tides of the Adriatic at bay. Other articles feature two World Heritage sites in the Seychelles archipelago: the **Vallée de Mai** and the **Aldabra Atoll**; the development and preservation of the metropolis of **Cairo**; the **Loire Valley**, a living cultural landscape engaged in a process of sustainable development; and the **City of Québec** with its dynamic and sensitive environment.

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World Heritage got full attention during the 11th International Youth Forum held in Veliky Novgorod, Russian Federation

calendar

29 September to 4 October
Experts Meeting on the Great Rift Valley. Dead Sea, Israel. Information: Israel National Commission for UNESCO, Fax: +972-2-5603745

15 to 17 October
30th Anniversary Virtual Congress: World Heritage in the Digital Age. Technology and New Media for Documentation, Preservation, Management, Sustainable Tourism and Education. Alexandria (Egypt), Beijing (China), Dakar (Senegal), Mexico City (Mexico), Paris (France). <http://www.virtualworldheritage.org>

23 to 26 October
First Egyptian International Conference on Protected Areas and Sustainable Development. Sharm El-Sheikh, South Sinai, Egypt. http://www.eeaa.gov.eg/English/main/event_paconf.asp

29 October to 1 November
Bishkek Global Mountain Summit. Organized by the Government of Kyrgyzstan in collaboration with various UN agencies including UNESCO, FAO, UNEP, UNDP, UNU; and other international organizations. Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Information: t.schaaf@unesco.org

5 to 8 November
Space Applications for Heritage Conservation. Virtual Heritage Congress in Strasbourg, France. (EISRY, ISU, WHC). <http://www.euris.asso.fr>
Information: eurisy@micronet.fr

11 to 15 November
Workshops preparatory to the International Congress of Experts to discuss specific aspects of implementing the Convention and associated issues. In Siena, Ferrara, Venice, Urbino/Pesaro, Vicenza, Trieste, Padua, Treviso (Italy). <http://whc.unesco.org/venice2002/workshops/index.htm>

14 to 16 November
International Congress of Experts World Heritage 2002: Shared Legacy, Common Responsibility. Venice, Italy. <http://whc.unesco.org/venice2002>
Information: j.sullivan@unesco.org

16 November
30th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention.

1 to 5 December
ICOMOS 13th General Assembly and International Scientific Symposium, Strategies for the world's cultural heritage - preservation in a globalised world: principles, practices, perspectives. Madrid, Spain. <http://www.international.icomos.org/madrid2002>

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