



editorial

There have been several important changes affecting the life of UNESCO and World Heritage since our last Newsletter.

As I write, the 32nd session of the UNESCO General Conference and the 14th General Assembly of the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention are in session. In the General Conference, discussions have focused on new initiatives to recognize and enhance cultural diversity and the intangible cultural heritage, and tremendous support for World Heritage has been expressed by many Member States.

On 1 October, we celebrated the return of the United States of America to UNESCO as a Member State after a 19-year hiatus. We are confident that the United States, a founding member of UNESCO, will contribute its energy, talent and creativity, bringing back its intellectual resources, as well as its partnership. We look forward to joining forces so we can empower our common action for cultural and natural preservation.

In another recent development, the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) undertook to recognize World Heritage properties as 'no-go' areas. Shortly afterwards, the Royal Dutch/Shell Group of Companies (Shell) announced that they will not explore or develop resources on natural World Heritage properties. These commitments reflect the ongoing work of those concerned with World Heritage and their efforts to raise awareness about World Heritage and conservation issues.

World Heritage has also received further commitments from the United Nations Foundation (UNF). A first formal partnership project between Conservation International (CI) and the World Heritage Centre has been approved by the UNF board, focusing on the conservation of the Espiritu Santo island complex in the Gulf of California, Mexico. The two-year US\$0.5 million project will consolidate conservation gains, rationalize fishing activities in the area and support the eradication of invasive alien species on the island.

UNF has also approved the Rapid Response Facility project WHC submitted in co-operation with Fauna and Flora International. This project is designed to provide rapid emergency response financing to World Heritage sites in need.

We are currently awaiting approval for the Eastern Tropical Pacific Seas project proposal, submitted jointly by the WHC and CI to the UNF. The US\$5 million, four-year project involves high-level participation from authorities in Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia and Ecuador and aims at strengthening the conservation of marine protected areas.

The World Heritage Convention is receiving increasingly growing support and recognition from public and private organizations. We hope that this will bring a long-lasting and significant contribution to the conservation effort worldwide.

Francesco Bandarin, Director, World Heritage Centre

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“In the World Heritage Convention international co-operation is used as a key force for conservation. ... The concept of “conservation” can lead us towards an attitude which will culminate in an “Ethic of Conservation” which is an effective prerequisite to construct defences for peace and solidarity. Conservation used in this way will symbolize or reveal to us the need and the possibilities to protect and conserve other aspects of our common cultures and finally discover and unveil a common meaning in our lives.”

H.E. Mr Ahmad Jalali, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran Chairperson of the 14th General Assembly of the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, at the opening of the General Assembly, 14 October 2003

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World Heritage at the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress

The Vth IUCN World Parks Congress, held in Durban, South Africa from 8-17 September, approved the Durban Accord, which outlines a new commitment to protected areas and celebrates their role in achieving conservation and development aims. The IVth IUCN World Parks Congress set 10 per cent as the target for the surface of the globe to be included in protected areas. Coverage is currently at approximately 12 per cent, raising concerns now over financing and management. The Congress identified new sites for under-protected ecosystems, defined tools to improve management effectiveness, considered new legal arrangements, and brought new constituencies, particularly from local communities, on board. A new host of protected areas was announced in countries such as Madagascar, Senegal and Brazil. World Heritage was one of the three cross-cutting themes of the Congress.

The choice of World Heritage as one of the cross-cutting themes of this Congress illustrates the growing realization that the World Heritage Convention is a versatile instrument which can be applied to conservation. It reflects the importance of World Heritage issues for the design, planning and management of a wide range of protected areas.

One of the concrete results of the Congress was the launching of a new World Heritage Marine Site Managers' Network. World Heritage marine site managers, managers of sites who are preparing World Heritage nominations, as well as partner organizations, institutions and experts, will now be able to work together during the World Heritage nomination process. Effective management of the sites will also be enhanced through a system of mentoring, which will use the experience of existing and new sites, as well as that of the World Heritage Centre. The network will serve as a clearinghouse to ensure regular contact and information exchange.

'The World Heritage Convention can be effectively used in collaboration with other international, regional and national instruments for marine conservation, such as the Ramsar Convention, Man and Biosphere Programme,

and the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea,' said Francesco Bandarin, Director of the World Heritage Centre.

Ahead of the Congress twenty representatives from ten World Heritage sites met in Durban to review progress on the implementation of the Enhancing Our Heritage four-year project, which is funded by the United Nations Foundation with the support of the WHC.

One urgent question addressed by the Congress was the problem faced by natural and mixed World Heritage in conflict zones. Eulalie Bashige of the Democratic Republic of the Congo Protected Areas Management Authority warned that park field staff is on the frontline, in such war-ravaged countries as the DRC. Eighty park rangers have been killed in recent violent clashes with armed poachers, she said.

'Protected areas have suffered from increased poaching by armed groups, the presence of large groups of displaced people and refugees inside and on the outskirts of protected areas, as well as from the destruction and looting of infrastructure and the systematic exploitation of natural resources,' Ms. Bashige said.

In a Congress workshop several case studies on conflict zones were presented, including a case study on protecting the five World Heritage sites in the DRC (which are all currently on the List of World Heritage in Danger). The WHC, with funding from the United Nations Foundation, is supporting the DRC Protected Areas Management Authority.

'...Without the support of this program, the impact of the conflict on the sites might have resulted in an irreversible loss of their outstanding value,' Georgina Peard of IUCN's Protected Area Program said.

The Congress noted that although the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict is designed to protect cultural heritage, there is no similar international legal instrument for the protection of natural heritage. Delegates to the workshop recommended the development and implementation of



Mr Marc Ravalomanana, President of Madagascar, at the WPC in Durban

Dance at one of the many cultural side events organized during the WPC

international and national instruments to strengthen the protection of World Heritage sites, and other protected areas in times of armed conflict.

During the Congress, Marc Ravalomanana, the President of Madagascar, announced an environmental protection plan that will triple the current protected areas surface in Madagascar. Up to six million hectares of protected areas and new World Heritage serial sites are to be identified in the country as part of the plan. Brazil announced the creation of six new protected areas, covering 3.8 million hectares. Senegal announced it was creating four marine protected areas, the first-ever in that West African nation.

World Heritage site managers, WHC staff, and other UN agency representatives gave 39 World Heritage-related presentations during the Congress. Two pre-congress workshops (Management Effectiveness; Marine World Heritage) were held. There was also a two-day 'lessons learned' workshop for 11 UNF-funded projects being carried out in World Heritage sites. Well-attended side events were held for sustainable tourism, marine World Heritage and for new partnerships.

The European Space Agency Assists World Heritage Conservation



European Space Agency

Within the framework of the European Space Agency (ESA) Data User Programme (ESA-DUP), ESA has awarded

a significant financial contribution to make use of space technologies and satellite images for the benefit of World Heritage Conservation in Central Africa. The project, known as Bego (Build Environment for Gorilla) is being implemented jointly by the ESA and the WHC. To carry out the work ESA has selected a consortium of four partners: Synoptics (Netherlands), Keyobs (Belgium), the Royal Museum of Central Africa (Belgium), and the Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium).

The ultimate goal of Bego is to assist national conservation authorities in strengthening their current conservation efforts by using satellite images to detect changes in the habitat of mountain gorillas.

The habitat of the mountain gorillas is located in three different areas in the border region between the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda. In addition to mountainous terrain that is difficult to access, these areas are subject to regular armed conflict and pressure from farming and refugees. For these reasons earth observation (EO) techniques are particularly valuable. Due to the very unstable atmospheric conditions in the area which prevent the use of a good optical instruments time series, satellite data from ERS-1 and 2, LANDSAT, SIR-C and ENVISAT will be combined with ground data and GIS information.

The ESA-selected consortium will derive a series of maps and vegetation change analyses from satellite images to support national conservation activities. It will also provide dedicated geo-information products and services to a variety of final user communities at international and local level that are active in the conservation and protection of gorilla habitats.

All products will be derived from satellite images and will be based on the requirements defined by the users. The outputs will be provided to the various conservation organizations/institutions assisting with field data collection. A document describing the methodology followed throughout the Bego project will be produced to assist local staff working in conservation in understanding the steps necessary to make use of satellite images in order to detect variations in the habitat of mountain gorillas.

For more information please contact: info@gorillamap.org

Rhodes Youth Forum

During the 7th International Symposium of the Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC) in Rhodes, Greece (23-26 September) a Youth Forum was held within the framework of the UNESCO World Heritage in Young Hands Project. The forum was attended by 19 young people between 18 and 20 years of age, who met at the Marc de Montalembert Foundation in the heart of the medieval city of Rhodes.

In January 2002 the OWHC asked mayors to select young people who would develop and implement projects on awareness raising related to heritage preservation. Throughout 2003 the selected youths engaged in a variety of activities in their cities. They made map games with stickers for children, produced documentaries, radio programmes, CDs and postcards, all relating to the issues of their city's heritage. They also organized outdoor activities and exhibitions for young adults in their community. Festivals and concerts were ideal occasions to reach out to other young people. They talked to older generations to learn stories about the past and explained heritage to the younger children.

At the Forum in Rhodes the young people shared their experiences, difficulties and successes among themselves. 'Discussions and exchanges among the young people were incredibly lively and motivated and the quality of the presentations was very high. The spirit of tolerance and



Participants in the Youth Forum at the Marc de Montalembert Foundation

interest in other cultures thoroughly marked this event', said Vesna Vujicic-Lugassy, responsible for the World Heritage in Young Hands Project at the WHC.

The conclusions and recommendations of the Youth Forum were then passed on to the mayors, scientists and decision makers attending the 7th Symposium of the OWHC and received strong support from them. The young people particularly underlined the need to establish regular forms of co-operation between the youth and decision makers and to reserve specific funds for young people's heritage activities in the municipalities' annual budgets. Establishing networks, both on the municipal level and on the international level - through the OWHC network - was one of the key issues for future involvement, they stressed. As one of the young participants in the Forum, Miss Dagnija Baltina from Riga, Latvia said: '1 + 1 may make 3 if our endeavours are based on true partnership rather than isolation or rivalry'.

In Memoriam: Peter Laws

It was with great sadness and regret that we learned of the decease of our dear colleague and friend, Peter Laws, on 1 August 2003. Peter had been a core team member working for Regional Periodic Reporting within the Asia Region Unit of the WHC at Headquarters between August 2002 and February 2003. Previous to this, Peter had worked for two years as a United Nations Volunteer Cultural Officer at the UNESCO Kathmandu Office.

Peter will be particularly remembered by the WHC for his valuable contribution to the preparation of the regional 'Periodic Report on the State of World Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region 2003,' which was examined by the 27th session of the Committee.

Colleagues will greatly miss Peter, his kind, gentle character and pleasant team spirit. He was much respected and appreciated by all and will be remembered for his professionalism and commitment to the noble cause of UNESCO.

List of World Heritage in Danger: Sites Inscribed, Sites Withdrawn

At its 27th session held last June/July in Paris the World Heritage Committee simultaneously inscribed the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) and Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) on the World Heritage List of World Heritage List in Danger. Comoé National Park (Cote d'Ivoire), Kathmandu Valley (Nepal) and the Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Azerbaijan) were also inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Three sites, Srebarna Nature Reserve (Bulgaria), Yellowstone (USA), and the Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor (Serbia and Montenegro) were withdrawn from the Danger List. There are now 35 properties on this List.

Simultaneous Inscription on the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger

Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan)

This site showcases the artistic and religious developments, which – from the 1st to the 13th centuries – characterized ancient Bakhtria, integrating Indian, Hellenistic, Roman and Sasanian influences into the Gandhara school of Buddhist art. The area contains numerous Buddhist monastic ensembles and sanctuaries, as well as fortified edifices from the Islamic period. The site is also testimony to the tragic destruction of the two standing Buddha statues by the former Taliban regime in March 2001. The property is in a fragile state of conservation since it has suffered from abandonment, military action and, most recently, deliberate destruction. The major dangers include: risk of imminent collapse of the Buddha niches with the remaining fragments of the destroyed statues, further deterioration of still existing mural paintings in the caves, looting and illicit excavation. Parts of the site are inaccessible due to the presence of antipersonnel mines.



Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley

Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq)

The ancient city of Ashur, which dates back to the 3rd millennium BC, is located on the Tigris River in northern Mesopotamia. From the 14th to the 9th centuries BC, it was the first capital of the Assyrian Empire, a city-state and trading platform of international importance. It also served as the religious capital of the Assyrians, associated to the god Ashur. The city was destroyed by the Babylonians, but revived during the Parthian period in the 1st and 2nd century AD. When Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) was nominated before the recent conflict, a large dam project threatened the site, which would have been partially flooded. While the dam project has been suspended by the current administration, the Committee considered that its possible future construction, as well as the present lack of adequate protection, justified the inscription of the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Azerbaijan)

Built on a site inhabited since the Palaeolithic period, the Walled City of Baku reveals evidence of Zoroastrian, Sasanian, Arabic, Persian, Shiryani, Ottoman and Russian presence in cultural continuity. The Inner City (Icheri Sheher) has preserved much of its 12th-century defensive walls. The 12th-century Maiden Tower (Giz Galasy) is built over earlier structures dating from the 7th to the 6th centuries BC, and the 15th-century Shirvanshah's Palace is one of the pearls of Azerbaijan's architecture. The site sustained significant damage during the earthquake of November

2000 and is increasingly affected by the pressure of urban development, the absence of conservation policies and by dubious restoration efforts. The Committee decided to inscribe the site on the Danger List due to the urgency of the situation and to ensure that concerted efforts by the State Party are made to halt ongoing demolition of historic buildings.

Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire)

One of the largest protected areas in West Africa, this park is characterized by its great plant diversity. Due to the presence of the Comoé River, the park contains shrub savannahs and patches of thick rainforest, which are normally only found much farther south. The recent unrest in Côte d'Ivoire has had an adverse effect on the site. Poaching of wildlife and fires caused by poachers, overgrazing by large cattle herds and the absence of effective management all present major risks to the park.

Kathmandu Valley (Nepal)

At the crossroads of the great civilizations of Asia, seven groups of Hindu and Buddhist monuments, as well as the three residential and palace areas of the royal cities of Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur, illustrate Nepalese art at its height. Among the 130 monuments are pilgrimage centres, temples, shrines, bathing sites and gardens – all sites of veneration for both religious groups. The exceptional architectural design of Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur is gradually disappearing due to uncontrolled urban development. The vernacular heritage of six of the seven monument zones has been partially or significantly lost since the time of inscription in 1979, resulting in a general loss of authenticity and integrity of the property as a whole. Although the efforts of the authorities have had some positive results, the threat of uncontrolled development has persisted, continuously deteriorating the urban landscape and architectural fabric of the property.

Withdrawal from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Srebarna Nature Reserve (Bulgaria)

The Srebarna Nature Reserve is a freshwater lake adjacent to the Danube and extending over 600 ha. It is the breeding ground of almost 100 species of birds, many of which are rare or endangered. Some 80 other bird species migrate and seek refuge there every winter. Among the most interesting bird species are the Dalmatian pelican, great egret, night heron, purple heron, glossy ibis and white spoonbill. The Committee decided to remove the site from the Danger List following efforts by Bulgaria to supply the reserve with water from the Danube, to stop damaging activities, as well as the adoption and implementation of a management plan.

Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor (Serbia and Montenegro)

In the Middle Ages, this natural harbour on the Adriatic coast of Montenegro was an important artistic and commercial centre with its own famous schools of masonry and iconography. A large number of the monuments (including four Romanesque churches and the town walls) were seriously damaged by the 1979 earthquake. Noting that the most remarkable historic monuments and buildings have been restored and renovated using appropriate conservation techniques, the Committee decided to withdraw the site from the Danger List. Nevertheless it expressed concern over the threat posed by uncontrolled urbanization to the site. A round table for management planning will be organized shortly.



Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor

Yellowstone

Yellowstone (United States of America)

The vast natural forest of Yellowstone National Park covers nearly 9,000 km². The park contains more than half of all the world's known geothermal features, with more than 10,000 examples. It also has the world's largest concentration of geysers, more than 300, or 2/3 of all those on the planet. Yellowstone is equally known for its wildlife, which includes grizzly bears, wolves, bison and wapitis. Following the abandonment of adjacent mining operations and in recognition of progress achieved in the handling of such issues as road construction and the pressure of year-round visitors, the Committee decided to withdraw the site from the Danger List. It urged the State Party to continue to report on Yellowstone's snowmobile phase-out and other efforts to ensure that winter travel facilities respect the protection of the park, its visitors and its wildlife. The Committee suggested using this case as a model for promoting success stories of the World Heritage Convention and for international co-operation with other States Parties facing similar problems in World Heritage properties. It invited the United States to continue providing information on measures taken and progress accomplished.



Thirty-five Properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Of the 754 properties currently inscribed on the World Heritage List, 35 are inscribed on the Danger List (17 natural and 18 cultural). These properties are deemed by the Committee to be threatened by a variety of dangers arising from natural causes or human intervention, such as: armed conflict and war, earthquakes and other natural disasters, pollution, poaching or unplanned construction. They are thus entitled to particular attention and emergency conservation action.

- Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan)
- Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan)
- Butrint (Albania)
- Tipasa (Algeria)
- Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Azerbaijan)
- Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin)
- Angkor (Cambodia)
- Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park (Central African Republic)
- Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire)
- Mount Nimba Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire/Guinea)
- Virunga National Park (DRC)
- Garamba National Park (DRC)
- Kahuzi-Biega National Park (DRC)
- Okapi Wildlife Reserve (DRC)
- Salonga National Park (DRC)
- Sangay National Park (Ecuador)
- Abu Mena (Egypt)
- Simien National Park (Ethiopia)
- Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras)
- Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India)
- Group of Monuments at Hampi (India)
- Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq)
- Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan)
- Timbuktu (Mali)
- Kathmandu Valley (Nepal)
- Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger)
- Bahla Fort (Oman)
- Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan)
- Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru)
- Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines)
- Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary (Senegal)
- Ichkeul National Park (Tunisia)
- Rwenzori Mountains National Park (Uganda)
- Everglades National Park (United States of America)
- Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen)

The **Royal Dutch/Shell Group** in August undertook not to explore for, or develop, oil and gas resources within any natural World Heritage sites. Shell is the first energy group to publicly make this commitment.

Fifteen of the world's largest mining and metal-producing companies signed an undertaking on 20 August to recognize World Heritage sites as 'no-go' areas. The **International Council on Mining and Metals** (ICMM) undertaking also includes a commitment to take all possible steps to ensure that operations are not incompatible with the outstanding universal values of World Heritage.

The 16th-century **Mostar Bridge** in Bosnia and Herzegovina, destroyed in 1993 during the Bosnian war, reached the final stage of reconstruction in August. As a crowd cheered a crane lowered the final stone slab into place, bringing the two halves of the bridge's arch together. The bridge, which has been nominated for the World Heritage List as part of the Old City of Mostar will be open to the public in 2004.

In September heavy rains destroyed at least 180 mud buildings in 8 areas of the city of **Timbuktu**, Mali. The areas in which two mosques of the World Heritage site are located were affected by the damage. The WHC has called for a detailed appraisal report on the damage, which has affected the walls of most of the inhabited structures in the area.

An **Information Course on the World Heritage Convention for Palestinian Experts** took place at ICCROM in Rome, Italy (8-13 September) in order to familiarize participants with the workings of the World Heritage Convention.

In July, the engagement of Argentina to support the World Heritage Convention through collaboration with the **Comision Nacional Argentina del Espacio (CONAE)** was confirmed. CONAE will provide space technologies to assist with the management of the transboundary site of Iguazu, the definition of 'El Camino del Inca' and a training workshop. In September, the **Canadian Space Agency (CSA)** announced its commitment to support World Heritage Convention activities through providing radar expertise and cloud-free radar images, particularly useful in tropical areas.



Participants in ICCROM's Information Course for Palestinian Experts

12 to 14 November

World Heritage Sites: Managing Conflict and Change. Durham, United Kingdom.

Information: Ingle@durhamcity.gov.uk

21 to 23 November

Australia ICOMOS Annual Conference and Workshop 2003. Interpretation in the conservation and design process.

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

Information: <http://www.icomos.org/australia>
alancrocker@design5.com.au

24 to 29 November

World Natural Heritage: Development, Sustainability and Ethics, Forum UNESCO - University and Heritage, 8th International Seminar, University of La Laguna.

La Laguna de Tenerife, Spain

Information: m.richon@unesco.org

27 to 30 November

Workshop for the Managers of World Heritage Sites in Central-Eastern Europe.

Sopron, Hungary. Hungarian World Heritage Committee.

Information: vilagorokseg@vilagorokseg.hu

28 to 29 November

Seminar on the Conservation and Management of Ksar Ait-Ben-Haddou (Morocco). Ouarzazate, Morocco. UNESCO Rabat Office.

Information: s.cravero@unesco.org

4 December

Special session on 'African Cities and Heritage', Africities Summit.

Yaounde, Cameroon.

15 to 17 December

Regional Seminar on Earthen Architecture Conservation. Muscat (Oman). Government of Oman and CRAterre.

Information: m.raabe@unesco.org

What Are They Doing ?

In addition to attending the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress in Durban in September, WHC Director **Francesco Bandarin**, was in South Africa to develop contacts and project proposals with the South African authorities on World Heritage-related matters. He also attended a pre-Congress meeting in the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park. In late July, Mr Bandarin was in Washington D.C., where he was received by the US Secretary of Interior, Ms **Gale Norton**. On July 22nd, he inaugurated a World Heritage Exhibition at the UN Headquarters in New York. On 20 June he was in Strasbourg, France to take part in the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of Europa Nostra at the Council of Europe Headquarters. Apart from attending the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress **Natarajan Ishwaran**, Chief Natural Heritage Section, along with **Fernando Brugman**, Associate Expert, was in Vilm, Germany (11-15 August) to participate in a training workshop for representatives from Russian natural and mixed World Heritage sites. **Maria Moskvina** represented the Ministry of Natural Resources. Mr Ishwaran was in India (19-25 July) to expedite the finalization of the development of a WH Biodiversity Programme for India under a UNF Planning Grant Project. He was also in Thailand (15-19 July) to participate in IUCN's Asia Regional Office meeting. After attending the World Parks Congress, **Sarah Titchen**, Chief Policy and Statutory Implementation Unit, went to China (19-24 September) for meetings with the new Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee Zhang Xinsheng. Ms. Titchen was in Munich, Germany (25-27 July) for an ICOMOS symposium on the 'Methodical Approach to the Representativity of the World Heritage List'. **Mechtild Rossler**, Chief Europe and North America Unit, was in Brühl, Germany 8-9 July for the first periodic reporting meeting of site managers and officials from German speaking countries (Austria, Germany, Switzerland). From 1-4 June she was in Latvia to review the state of conservation of the historic centre of Riga and attended a seminar on the harmonization of the tentative lists of the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania), financed by the German World Heritage Foundation. **Giovanni Boccardi**, Chief Arab States Unit, was in Morocco (19-26 July) to evaluate the state of conservation of the medinas of Meknes and Fez. **Giorgio Piccinato**, architect of the University of Rome, as well as **Silvia Cravero**, architect-curator of UNESCO's Rabat bureau also participated in the mission.

On 19 September **Junko Taniguchi**, Acting Chief of the Asia Unit, assumed a new post of Cultural Advisor at the UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office, after serving almost seven years at the WHC. **Ron van Oers**, Latin America and the Caribbean Unit and **Feng Jing**, Asia Unit,

were on mission to China (21 August - 2 September) to advise the Chinese State Administration for Cultural Heritage on a possible serial nomination for the Chinese section of the Silk Road. Since the Latin America Unit is involved in the preparation of the nomination of the Gran Ruta Inca, this mission was part of the close co-operation with the Asia Unit concerning these two nominations. **Henry Cleere**, former WH Coordinator for ICOMOS and **Yang Zhijun**, Director-General of the SACH Department of Cultural Heritage Protection also participated. Mr Van Oers represented the WHC at the 300th Anniversary celebration (3-5 September) of the Imperial Mountain Resort site in Chengde, China. From 19-26 July **Lazare Eloundou**, Africa Unit, participated in the first technical course on inventory and documentation organized within the framework of *Africa 2009*, held in Bafoussam, Cameroon. He also represented the WHC at the *Africa 2009* Steering Committee in Yaounde (4-6 June). Following the launch of the Partnerships initiative in 2002, a team dedicated to implementing the World Heritage Partnerships for Conservation Initiative, also known as PACT, was established within the WHC, its main objectives being to raise awareness for World Heritage and mobilize sustainable financial and technical resources for its long-term conservation. To achieve these goals, **Joanna Serna-Sullivan**, **Lynne Patchett**, **Karina Lennon** and **Akane Nozaki** - PACT's core team - will work to promote key areas of co-operation with existing partners, showcase projects in need of support and help identify new private sector World Heritage partners. After ten years at the WHC, **Minja Yang**, Deputy Director since 2000, has taken up new duties as Chargée de mission for special projects at the Office of the UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture.

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The 100-year-old Bamileke Royal Palace in Cameroon, documented at the Africa 2009 course

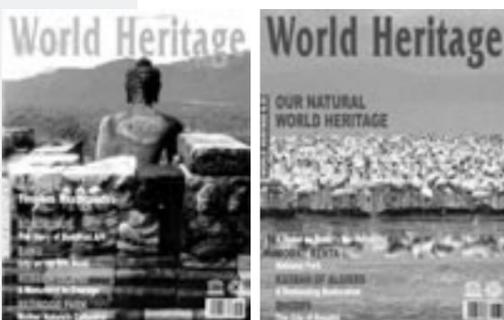
Two issues of the *World Heritage Review* have been published since June 2003.

No. 31 featured **Adobe architecture on the World Heritage List; Redwood National Park (USA); Robben Island (South Africa); Borobudur Temple Compound (Indonesia); and the Walled City of Baku (Azerbaijan).**

No. 32 featured the **Vth World Parks Congress; Mount Kenya National Park (Kenya); the Medieval City of Rhodes (Greece); the Historic Centre of Goiás (Brazil); and the Kasbah of Algiers (Algeria).**

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