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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL
AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Fourth session
(Paris, 1-5 September 1980)

Report to the General Conference

Article 29 (3) of the World Heritage Convention provides that "the Committee shall submit a report on its activities at each of the ordinary sessions of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization". The Committee reported to the 20th session of the General Conference on activities undertaken since its inception and up to 8 September 1978. A draft report covering the period 9 September 1978 to 5 September 1980 is hereby submitted to the Committee for approval ; this draft text will be completed to reflect the decisions taken by the Committee at its fourth session.

DRAFT REPORT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

I. COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

1. Article 8, paragraph 1, of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage stipulates that the number of States members of the Committee shall be increased to 21 as from the date of the ordinary session of the General Conference following the entry into force of [the] Convention for at least 40 States". As at 24 August 1978, 40 States had deposited their instrument of ratification or acceptance of the Convention (1), and thus, according to Article 33 thereof, the Convention had entered into force with respect to 40 States by 24 November 1978, the date at which the Second General Assembly of States Parties met.

2. The Second General Assembly elected five members of the Committee in replacement of those members whose term of office expired at the end of the 20th session of the General Conference and six members to fill the additional six seats mentioned above.

3. The composition of the World Heritage Committee was thus as follows as at the end of the 20th Session of the General Conference : Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bulgaria, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Ghana, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Senegal, Sudan, Switzerland, Tunisia, United States of America, Yugoslavia (2).

4. Since the previous report submitted to the General Conference (document 20 C/39), the Committee has met on two occasions : the first at the invitation of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Cairo and Luxor, from 22 to 26 October 1979 and the second at the invitation of the French authorities in the Hotel de Sully in Paris from 1 to 5 September 1980.

(1) As at 1 September 1980, this number had increased to 53 ; the list of these 53 States is given in Annex I.

(2) The terms of office of these States extend as follows :

- until the end of the 21st session of the General Conference of Unesco (1980) : Algeria, Ecuador, Ghana, Iran, Nigeria, Sudan, Yugoslavia ;
- until the end of the 22nd session of the General Conference of Unesco (1983) : Australia, Bulgaria, Egypt, Iraq, Nepal, Tunisia, United States of America ;
- until the end of the 23rd session of the General Conference of Unesco (1985) : Argentina, France, Italy, Pakistan, Panama, Senegal, Switzerland.

5. The Committee elected the following members of the Bureau :
- for the period 5 September 1978 to 22 October 1979 :
Chairman, M. David Hales (United States of America),
Vice-Chairmen : Ecuador, Egypt, France, Iran, Nigeria,
Rapporteur : M. Peter Bennett (Canada) ;
 - for the period 22 October 1979 to 1 September 1980 :
Chairman : Dr. Shehata Adam (Egypt),
Vice-Chairmen : Bulgaria, Nepal, Panama, Senegal and
United States of America,
Rapporteur : M. Michel Parent (France) ;
 - for the period 1 September 1980 to the beginning of the
fifth ordinary session of the Committee :

(to be completed)

6. The functions of the World Heritage Committee as stipulated in the Convention may be briefly summarized as follows :

- (i) to identify, on the basis of nominations submitted by States Parties, cultural and natural properties of outstanding universal value which are to be protected under the Convention, and to list those properties on the "World Heritage List" ;
- (ii) to decide which properties included in the World Heritage List are inscribed on the "List of World Heritage in Danger" (only properties which require for their conservation major operations and for which assistance has been requested under the Convention can be considered) ;
- (iii) to determine in what way and under what conditions the resources in the World Heritage Fund can most advantageously be used to assist States Parties, as far as possible, in the protection of their properties of outstanding universal value.

7. The following paragraphs describe the activities undertaken by the Committee since the closing of its second session on 8 September 1978.

II. THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

8. On the basis of nominations put forward by States Parties, the Committee entered in the World Heritage List 45 cultural and natural properties at its third session and properties at its fourth session. Each nomination was evaluated by the Committee in terms of criteria which it had adopted. These criteria are set out in the "Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention" (reference WHC/2 Revised), which have been

/To be completed/

communicated to all States Parties. As at 5 September 1980, the World Heritage List is composed of the following cultural and natural properties :

BULGARIA

Boyana Church
Madara Rider
Thracian tomb of Kazanlak
Rock-hewn churches of Ivanovo

CANADA

L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Park
Nahanni National Park
Dinosaur Provincial Park

CANADA AND UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Kluane National Park/Wrangell-St. Elias, National Monument

ECUADOR

Galapagos Islands
City of Quito

PT

Memphis and its Necropolis - the Pyramid fields from Giza to Dahshur
Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis
The Nubian monuments from Abu Simbel to Philae
Islamic Cairo
Abu Mena

ETHIOPIA

Simien National Park
Rock hewn Churches, Lalibela
Fasil Ghebbi, Gondar Region

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Aachen Cathedral

FRANCE

Mont St. Michel and its Bay
Chartres Cathedral
Palace and Park of Versailles
Vezelay, Church and Hill
Decorated Grottoes of the Vezere Valley

GHANA

Fortes and castles, Volta Greater Accra, Central and Western Regions

To be completed/

GUATEMALA

Tikal National Park
Antigua Guatemala

IRAN

Tchogha Zanbil
Persepolis
Meidan-e Shah Esfahan

ITALY

Rock drawings in Valcamonica

NEPAL

Sagarmatha National Park
Kathmandu Valley

NORWAY

Urnes Stave Church
Bryggen

POLAND

Cracow's Historic Centre
Wieliczka Salt Mine
Auschwitz Concentration Camp
Bialowieza National Park

SENEGAL

Island of Gorée

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Ancient City of Damascus

TANZANIA

Ngorongoro Conservation Area

TUNISIA

Medina of Tunis
Site of Carthage
Amphitheatre of El Jem

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mesa Verde
Yellowstone
Grand Canyon National Park
Everglades National Park
Independence Hall

YUGOSLAVIA

Old City of Dubrovnik
Stari Ras and Sopocani
Historical complex of Split with the Palace of Diocletian
Plitvice Lakes National Park
Lake Ohrid (part in Yugoslavia)
Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor

ZAIRE

Virunga National Park

9. A certificate, signed jointly by the Chairman of the Committee and the Director-General, will be issued to the State Party concerned for each property included in the World Heritage List.

10. At its third session, the Committee adopted a procedure for the eventual deletion of properties from the World Heritage List in cases :

- where the property has deteriorated to the extent that it has lost those characteristics which determined its inclusion in the World Heritage List, and
- where the intrinsic qualities of a world heritage site were already threatened at the time of its nomination by action of man and where the necessary conservation measures as outlined by the State Party at the time, have not been taken within the time proposed.

In adopting such a procedure the Committee was particularly concerned that all possible measures should be taken to prevent the deterioration of any property on the List. The Committee is ready to offer technical co-operation as far as possible to States Parties in this connection.

III. LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

11. At the request of the Government of Yugoslavia, the natural and culturo-historical region of Kotor was entered on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

IV. WORLD HERITAGE FUND

12. Total contributions to the World Heritage Fund amounted to \$ 1,269,603.34 as at 31 July 1980. Of this sum, 418,448.00 \$ had been received from States Parties in the form of mandatory contributions and \$ 595,192.53 as voluntary contributions. This sum also includes voluntary contributions from two Member States (Austria and the Netherlands) which are not Parties to the Convention as well as a contribution from a private foundation (Leopold Senghor Foundation).

13. Technical co-operation has been granted under the World Heritage Fund up to 1 September 1980 as follows :

a) Preparatory assistance

(assistance for the preparation of inventories of cultural and/or natural properties suitable for inclusion in the World Heritage List, of nominations to the List and of requests for technical co-operation).

Preparatory assistance has been made available to the following States Parties : Egypt, Ethiopia, Honduras, Guatemala, Malta, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Syrian Arab Republic, Tanzania and Zaïre, at an estimated cost of

b) Emergency assistance

(assistance for work in connection with cultural and natural properties included or suitable for inclusion in the World Heritage List and which are in immediate danger of total destruction or disappearance). This form of assistance has been made available to :

- Guatemala (for the purchase of equipment for restoration work in Antigua Guatemala) \$ 50.000
- Nepal (for consolidation of Swayambu Temple in Kathmandu Valley) \$ 30.000
- Yugoslavia (consultant services to assist with restoration of cultural buildings in Kotor) \$ 20.000

\$ 100.000
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c) Training

Fellowships have been granted to the following States Parties : Bulgaria, Canada, Ethiopia, Malta, Nepal, Tanzania, Tunisia and Zaïre. In addition, financial assistance was granted to Ecuador for the organisation of a regional training course for national park professional staff.

Estimated cost \$

d) Technical co-operation

(for safeguarding work on properties included, or nominated for inclusion in the World Heritage List). At its third session, the Committee granted technical co-operation to the following States Parties :

- Ecuador : equipment to enable the authorities to assure the integrity of the natural environment of the Galapagos Islands through protective measures\$ 50.000
- Egypt : consultant services and equipment for the preparation of a project for the restoration and development of the Islamic Centre of Cairo\$ 30.000

- Tanzania :

- . consultant services for the preparation of a project for the conservation and presentation of Olduvai and Laetolil in Ngorongoro Conservation Area \$ 5.400
- . financial assistance for the establishment of a management plan for Ngorongoro Conservation Area \$ 24.950

TOTAL \$110.350

14. At its fourth session, the Committee allocated funds amounting to for the following technical co-operation activities :

- preparatory assistance \$
- emergency assistance \$
- training \$
- technical co-operation for safeguarding work on the following properties included on the World Heritage List :

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V. PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

15. Promotional activities for the World Heritage Convention have consisted to date of the creation of a World Heritage Photolibrary, the publication of a 23 page explanatory brochure aimed at decision-makers, collaboration on an issue of the Unesco Courier devoted entirely to the Convention and several media seminars throughout the world. Ongoing activities include the publication of an illustrated and commented World Heritage List, the marketing of commemorative glass and silverware, the preparation of postage stamps, designs, postcards, slide series and ...

VI. OTHER MATTERS

16. The Committee feels that a reasonable balance should be ensured between the natural heritage field in implementing the Convention and that, in particular, the composition of the World Heritage List should reflect that balance (it is to be noted that of the ... properties included in the World Heritage List, ... can be considered as cultural properties whereas only ... are natural heritage properties. The Committee is particularly concerned that, in order to ensure full professional competence in taking its decisions, the interests of both the natural and cultural heritage be adequately represented in the designation of experts attending its meetings.

17. The Committee has called on each State Party to the Convention to take all measures possible under its national legislation to protect both the World Heritage Emblem and the name of the World Heritage Fund. The Committee feels that the use in names of the term "World Heritage" should be strictly limited to activities directly related to the Convention.

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