The World Heritage Centre is hard at work preparing the 7th extraordinary session of the Committee, to be held at UNESCO Headquarters from 6 to 11 December.

This important meeting will examine, among other items, the relations between the World Heritage Convention and other UNESCO conventions relevant to cultural heritage, and in particular the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, adopted in 2003.

The Committee will use the occasion of the coming into force of the revised Operational Guidelines to acknowledge the historical background of the revision process. The major changes in the Guidelines and a progress report will be considered.

The Committee has also set itself the task of examining its working methods and will focus on improving them in order to better cope with the growing number of nominations as well as conservation reports.

A progress report on the preparation of the Periodic Reporting exercise for Europe and North America is to be presented at the session. Follow-up on the Periodic Reports of Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean are also to be presented. In addition the Committee will hear a progress report on the status of the proposed nomination of Qhapaq Ñan (the Main Andean Road).

This extraordinary session will also serve as an occasion to examine the trends of the 33C5 and budget for the next biennium.

A Progress Report on the Partnerships for World Heritage Conservation (PACT) will be presented for evaluation by the Committee. This report will examine the work undertaken since the establishment of the PACT initiative in Budapest in 2002. Significant new partnerships indicating the potential of the initiative will be highlighted, including some of the most recent ones with Hewlett-Packard Europe, the Calyon Bank, NHK, Japan's public broadcasting television channel, and the Earthwatch Institute.

The UNESCO World Heritage Centre appreciates all the efforts of partners involved in World Heritage programmes and projects. Their global actions are helping to ensure the survival of the world’s unique natural and cultural assets for generations to come.

Finally, I should like to share with you my own and the whole conservation community’s profound regrets regarding the loss of a great conservationist and former UNESCO colleague, Michel Batisse, one of the founding fathers of the World Heritage Convention. Without his vision of the inseparable links between culture and nature, the Convention would not have been what it is today. We are grateful for the legacy he has left us.

Francesco Bandarin, Director, World Heritage Centre
DRC of the Congo - Heritage in Danger

The first international event to support the heritage in danger of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, organized from 10 – 26 September by UNESCO, along with the United Nations Foundation (UNF), the DRC government and several conservation organizations and with the financial support of the governments of Belgium and Japan, was a resounding success. The centre of the event held at UNESCO in Paris was a week of workshops and conferences from 13 – 17 September, with more than 240 participants as a follow-up to the first phase of the four-year project, ‘Biodiversity Conservation in Regions of Armed Conflict: Conserving World Heritage Sites in the DRC’, launched by UNESCO in cooperation with UNF, the DRC government and conservation groups, to protect five DRC sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger: the National Parks of Virunga, Garamba, Kahuzi-Biega and Salonga, and the Okapi Wildlife Reserve.

International donors and non-governmental organizations responded favorably to the call to conserve the natural heritage of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its World Heritage sites with promises of US$50 million in the years to come. The contributions announced at the conference are part of a larger initia-

tive for the protection of the forests of the Congo Basin. NGOs say they will continue their commitments and their co-operation with the WHC. Within the pledges announced, the governments of Belgium and Italy, the UNF and the Wildlife Conservation Society committed US$3.5 million for the second phase of the UNESCO project.

At the conference, the Democratic Republic of the Congo renewed its commitment to conservation. Vice-President Z’Alid Naema promised that the 2005 DRC budget will provide a fund to rehabilitate World Heritage sites. He said that troops and local communities are still being threatened. It will take a long time to return to the parks.

Do you think that this project will now convince new donors to come on board, so that the parks can continue their tasks of protection and conservation?

What about the local communities? They are involved already. But we need to link conservation with the fight against poverty, give alternatives to the local communities so they can share in the benefits. Income generated through tourism needs to be re-invested in the local community.

What do you expect from donors and the international community?

We need donors to continue their support, to help us secure the parks, rehabilitate infrastructure, renew equipment for the guards, and determine the boundaries of the parks.

Without a doubt this project demonstrates that war has not buried the world. The war has driven the wildlife away, but we are back. Tourism is coming back. The mountain gorillas are there. The UNF has taken a risk which could have ended in defeat. That is why we need to move forward.

An exceptional group of organizations (the United Nations, NGOs and other civil society groups) came together in a dynamic that generated through tourism needs to be re-invested in the local communities.

Do you think that this project will now convince new donors to come on board, so that the parks can continue their tasks of protection and conservation?

Without a doubt this project demonstrates that war has not got the best of World Heritage. The effort was such over the past four years that we can say the project has been a success. It was innovative. There was political will on the part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to make it work. The international community was involved, as well as a unique combination of non-governmental organizations. We have to extend these results now beyond this project, build on what has been gained for World Heritage.

Z’Alid Naema
Vice-President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Do you think that this project will now convince new donors to come on board, so that the parks can continue their tasks of protection and conservation?

Without a doubt this project demonstrates that war has not got the best of World Heritage. The effort was such over the past four years that we can say the project has been a success. It was innovative. There was political will on the part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to make it work. The international community was involved, as well as a unique combination of non-governmental organizations. We have to extend these results now beyond this project, build on what has been gained for World Heritage.

Z’Alid Naema
Vice-President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

What are you expecting from donors and the international community?

We need donors to continue their support, to help us secure the parks, rehabilitate infrastructure, renew equipment for the guards, and determine the boundaries of the parks.

What about the local communities? They are involved already. But we need to link conservation with the fight against poverty, give alternatives to the local communities so they can share in the benefits. Income generated through tourism needs to be re-invested in the local community.

Jean-Pierre d’Huart
Advisor to UNESCO

You have said that this project was innovative, why?

An exceptional group of organizations (the United Nations, eight NGOs and the ICCN) came together in a dynamic that was triggered by the stress of war. The sites would either be wiped off the map or would be saved. And we managed to get the politicians and the armed groups to agree. The Ugandans, for example, helped partially re-arm the guards. The Rwandans helped receive others. This project involved an atypical group working together as well as the diplomacy of conservation.

Did the United Nations Foundation provide the necessary catalysis?

The UNF took a risk which could have ended in defeat. That clearly was not the case. Having taken the risk, a climate was generated through tourism needs to be re-invested in the local communities.

Ludovic Bashige
Director-General – Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN)

How successful has this four-year project been?

When we began, bullets were flying in all directions. We couldn’t keep people working in the parks. Through the programme funds in the 2005 budget for the ICCN, for the salaries of the guards. We are ready to work with donors to extend these results now beyond this project, build on what has been gained for World Heritage.

For further information contact: g.debonnet@unesco.org

Pilot Project on World Heritage Biodiversity Conservation in China

The UNESCO World Heritage Centre, together with the Ministry of Construction of China, the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the United Nations Foundation (UNF), other UN Agencies and international NGOs, have launched a pilot project on World Heritage Biodiversity Conservation (CHWBP) in China.

As a first step in developing the pilot project, an International Workshop on the China World Heritage Biodiversity Programme was held in Kunming, Yunnan Province, from 20 to 23 September, in order to conclude an agreement on the priorities of the CHWBP and on the institutional roles and responsibilities of all the partners involved.

As a follow-up, a detailed proposal has been developed to seek donor assistance to implement this project. Its purpose is to develop a comprehensive countrywide programme for building national capacity to effectively manage natural World Heritage sites for biodiversity conservation, specifically through creative partnerships with public and private sector agencies and organizations.

UNESCO, IUCN and the national and international partners will work specifically on improving the management of World Heritage sites; developing and implementing strategies for capacity building; exploring and identifying the role that NGOs and other civil society groups can play in site management; identifying and nominating natural World Heritage sites in Tibet and other Western Chinese provinces, as well as in other underrepresented biodiversity regions of China, conducting a study of all World Heritage sites to determine existing and potential financing sources; and reviewing, identifying and developing opportunities for trans-border World Heritage areas of conservation between China and its neighbouring countries.

For further information contact: f.jing@unesco.org
Latin America and the Caribbean: 2004 Periodic Report

The first State of the World Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2004 Periodic Report, prepared under the responsibility of the WHC on the basis of the periodic reports submitted by States Parties, was approved by the World Heritage Committee at its 28th session in Suzhou, China in July.

The he document, considered to be a model for other regions, was the result of a process that started in June 2000, involving several meetings of States Parties, missions and consultancies, two workshops of a Regional Group of Experts and frequent communication and coordination. The preparation of the report was coordinated by the Adviser for World Heritage for the region, based at the UNESCO office in Montevideo.

The region has 31 States Parties and the total number of properties from the region now stands at 108, out of a total of 788 world wide.

Reporting on the overall application of the Convention, the vast majority of States Parties indicated that inventories for the identification of cultural and natural heritage properties exist on national and local levels. The report concluded, however, that while some 70 percent of the States Parties said they had valid Tentative Lists, most of those lists do not reflect the full range of cultural and natural diversity that the region has to offer. There are also geographical areas that are under-represented, particularly in the Caribbean sub-region.

Nearly three-fourths of the responses suggested that reform is needed to existing policy and legal frameworks for identification, protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation of the heritage. While most States Parties in the region identified training needs and opportunities, just under 30 percent have developed their own training modules and programs.

As to the state of conservation of specific World Heritage properties, the report found that site managers often do not have a clear understanding of the concepts of "outstanding universal value" and "statement of significance". Furthermore, 34 percent of respondents felt that the borders and buffer zones of their sites were not adequate to ensure the protection and conservation of the property's World Heritage values.

An extremely high number said that the protection of their properties was insufficient and that it is necessary to revise administrative and management arrangements. Only 41 percent reported that formal monitoring systems were in place.

A Strategic Framework for Action and elements for a Regional Action Plan were also presented to the Committee, which included such vital recommendations as the necessity to strengthen harmonization of legal instruments, the further identification of under-representation, as well as balanced representation of cultural and natural diversity on the World Heritage List, integrated management plans, increased training and capacity-building activities, and increased public awareness.

The report also included a separate Action Plan for the Caribbean which recommended the development of comprehensive policy and legislative frameworks, and national inventories; an examination of the Slave Routes/Sites of Memory Project; the incorporation of World Heritage properties into government disaster management and response planning, capacity building which takes the needs and aspirations of all sectors into account; and the articulation of a multimedia World Heritage communications strategy.

The Committee approved the LAC Periodic Report and called on the WHC to report on the follow-up – and, in particular, on the implementation of the Caribbean and Latin American Action Plans – at its 7th extraordinary session in December 2004.

The Periodic Report can be consulted at http://www.unesco.org/uy/patrimonio/

Cologne Cathedral (Germany)

The German government has established a working group to provide detailed information, following the inclusion of the Cologne Cathedral on the List of World Heritage in Danger by the Committee at its 28th session in Suzhou, China in July.

Begun in 1248, the construction of the Gothic cathedral took place in several stages and was not completed until 1880. Over seven centuries, successive builders were inspired by the same faith and a spirit of absolute fidelity to the original plans. Apart from its exceptional artistic value and the artistic masterpieces it contains, Cologne Cathedral testifies to the enduring strength of European Christianity. The Cologne Cathedral was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1996.

The Committee sounded the alarm for the integrity of the urban landscape around the Cathedral, after hearing of the planned and continuing construction of several high-rise buildings on the bank of the Rhine River opposite the building.

The working group will provide detailed information on the planning process and constructions, address the state of conservation of the property, define a buffer zone for the site, and review the visual integrity study done by an independent consultant.

The working group consists of representatives of the government, the town-planning department, the site management and the German National Commission for UNESCO.

A report, including the findings of the working group, should be submitted by 1 February for consideration at the World Heritage Committee session in July 2005. The Venice Conference on high-rise buildings in May 2005 may be a further opportunity for discussions on this subject.

In Memoriam

Michel Batisse

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Michel Batisse (Paris, 27 September) who contributed for over half a century to the architecture and development of UNESCO’s programmes on environment and natural resources.

Batisse, an engineer and physicist, was Secretary-General of the pioneering intergovernmental ‘Biosphere Convention’ in 1968, which resulted in the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB) and which also helped pave the way for the U.N. Convention on the Human Environment held in Stockholm in 1972.

Michel Batisse “was one of the first to have had an integrated vision of environment management and to have been among the founders of the concept of sustainable development.” (Philippe Avenel, Assistant Director-General, UNESCO).

During the 1970s, and as Assistant Director-General for Science from 1972 to 1984, Michel Batisse was given broad responsibilities for promotion and co-ordination of UNESCO’s programmes relating to environmental sciences and natural resources.

He played a critical role in the preparation and negotiation of the World Heritage Convention, by guaranteeing the rightful place of natural heritage. This was a great achievement, given the initial opposition in some important quarters to the notion of combining the protection of outstanding examples of the world’s cultural and natural heritage in a single international instrument. Michel Batisse described some of the principal obstacles that had to be overcome before the Convention was adopted and ratified by the international community, in an historical review prepared with his colleague Gérard Boï and published in 2003 by the Association of Former UNESCO Staff.

Michel Batisse leaves behind his wife, Claude Batisse, and two daughters, Laurence Aronico and Stéphane-Isabelle Autin-Rouzaud, and several grand-children.

© Mechtild Rössler / UNESCO

World Heritage in Danger

Weimar Library Fire

The Duchess Anna Amalia Library, part of the Classical Weimar World Heritage site in Germany

It is thought that most of the damage was caused by smoke and water, rather than flames. Most of the books were unique, and therefore could not be insured.

UNESCO Director-General Koichiro Matsuura deplored the loss. “The fact that this unique library ... could be prey to such a sudden accident, despite all the plans for its conservation, highlights the vulnerability of the architectural and documentary treasures which UNESCO seeks to preserve,” he said.

A fund ‘Help the Anna Amalia Library” has been created under the patronage of the President of Germany, Horst Köhler. Donations can be directed to the Gesellschaft Herzogin Anna Amalia (Sparkasse Mittelthüringen BLZ 82051000, Kto 301040400).

In the night of 3 September some 30,000 priceless volumes were destroyed by a fire that swept through the Duchess Anna Amalia Library, which is housed in a 16th-century palace in Weimar, Germany. The four-hundred-year-old library, part of the World Heritage site Classical Weimar, contained close to one million volumes and manuscripts and was home to the most outstanding collection of 17th- and 18th-century German literature.

Some 6,000 historical works, including a 1534 Martin Luther Bible, were saved by a human chain of workers, who spirited the documents to safety, before the ceiling threatened to collapse. Among the losses to the collection were up to 10,000 original editions of Shakespeare’s works, first editions of Schiller’s dramas, part of the collection of the first Weimar librarian Daniel Schurzfleisch, and the sheet music collection of Duchess Anna Amalia.

The report also included a separate Action Plan for the Caribbean which recommended the development of comprehensive policy and legislative frameworks, and national inventories; an examination of the Slave Routes/Sites of Memory Project; the incorporation of World Heritage properties into government disaster management and response planning, capacity building which takes the needs and aspirations of all sectors into account; and the articulation of a multimedia World Heritage communications strategy.

The Committee approved the LAC Periodic Report and called on the WHC to report on the follow-up – and, in particular, on the implementation of the Caribbean and Latin American Action Plans – at its 7th extraordinary session in December 2004.

The Periodic Report can be consulted at http://www.unesco.org/uy/patrimonio/
The International Seminar of Forum UNESCO – University and Heritage attended by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre was held at the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina (11-16 October). Topics included: the Changing Approach to Industrial World Heritage: World Heritage & Industrialization; The Next 20 years of World Heritage in the UK.

A conference to mark the 20th anniversary of the United Kingdom’s ratification of the World Heritage Convention, sponsored by English Heritage, the University of Derby, the Arkwright Society and the Devon Valley Mills World Heritage Site Partnership, was held at the Devon Valley Mills World Heritage site (11-16 October). Topics included: the Changing Approach to Industrial World Heritage: World Heritage & Industrialization; The Next 20 years of World Heritage in the UK.

A conference on the US$340 million project “Control and Eradication of Invasive Species: A Necessary Condition for Conservation and Sustainable Development of Traditional Urban Cultural Heritage Sites” next steps was approved on 15 November. This is a follow-up to the previous four-year US$4 million project. The United Nations Foundation will provide a 1:1 match from the Charles Darwin Foundation Inc., the Galapagos Conservation Fund, the Frankfurt Zoological Society and the Galapagos Conservation Trust for the project.

The UK Royal Astronomical Society gave a 5.000E grant (September 2004) to the WHC initiative “Astronomy and World Heritage” to create a special database for cultural sites connected with astronomy, which will provide information and collaboration among scientists on a global level.

The government of Belgium approved in July 2004 a US$900,000 budget to finance the WHIP-led project “Issue-based Modular Approach to the Coherent Implementation of the biodiversity-related Conventions”, with the aim of increasing the ability of States parties and convention secretariats to develop and implement a decision of the policies and decision procedures for the various biodiversity-related Conventions, the Rio Conventions and other pertinent international and regional agreements.

The “World Heritage in Young Hands Educational Resource Kit for Teachers”, is now available at the UNESCO Office in New Delhi, B-5/29, Safdarjung Enclave, 110 029 New Delhi, India. e-mail: newdelhi@unesco.org. For the Filipino version, in interactive CD-ROM form, contact the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, 833 Gurney Drive, B-5/29, Safdarjung Enclave, 110 029 New Delhi, India. e-mail: newdelhi@unesco.org. The version, in English and French provides an overview of the state of conservation of the World Heritage properties in the region and of the results of the first steps of the Periodic Reporting exercise.

What Are They Doing ?

- Francesco Bandarin, WHC Director, along with Giovanni Boccardi, Chief, WHC, Asia/Pacific Unit, and Junko Taniguchi, UNESCO Tehran Office, attended the first session of the International Steering Committee for Bam (in Iran) (28 September) which reviewed the priority activities proposed by the Iranian Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organisation (ICTO). Mr Bandarin was in Barcelona, Spain, (14 September) to chair the “Cities as World Heritage” workshop within the framework of the World Urban Forum. He also represented UNESCO at the inscription ceremony of Thonburi, Thailand’s first World Heritage site.

- Mr Boccardi, along with Ari Kimmendill and Mizuko Ugo of the Arab States Committee, attended a Disaster Mitigation Workshop on the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention for Iraq Specialists (4-11 September). Mr Boccardi conducted a technical mission to Syria, Yemen, along with expert artihist restorer, Jacques Feiler, (24-30 July) to report and make recommendations on the conservation and use of the Koran decoration on the facades of the Old City.

- M theolog Rössler, Chief, Europe Unit and WHC, North America Unit, attended an international conference on ‘World Heritage – Earth Heritage’, at the World Heritage site of Dordt and East Devon Coast, UK (7-9 September). Mr. Rössler also went to the Nordic World Heritage Meeting, at the Vega Archipelago, Norway, (7-9 September), to organize an international forum on the Project ‘Preservation and Development of World Heritage Cities in Mauritania’.

- Fumiko Ohinata, Associate Expert Europe Unit, undertook a joint UNESCO-ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission (8-14 September), together with Ulf Bertilsson. President ICOMOS Rock Art Committee, to the site of Rock Drawings in Valcamonica, Italy.

- Alexander zu Sayn-Wittgenstein, Consultant, Europe Unit, participated in the celebrations of the first natural site from Denmark/Greenland, held in Rissalit, Greenland (4-5 September).

- Kerstin Manz, Consultant, Europe Unit, participated in the First Meeting of French World Heritage Site Managers in the Val de Loire, France (9-10 September).

- Karalyen Schenk, Editorial/Editorial Affairs Assistant has moved from WHC Promotion, Publication and Education (PPE) Unit to work on a new museum partnership project in the Culture Sector of the Preservation of Endangered Movable Cultural Properties. She has been replaced by Frédérique Thai-Klass, former communications advisor and press officer for the Canadian Centre for Studies and Documentation of the Digital Repository.

- Anna Sidorenko-Dulom, Assistant Programme Specialist, Arab States Unit, was in Nsous, Mauritania (8-18 September) to report on the Project ‘Preservation and Development of World Heritage Cities in Mauritania’.

- Frédérique Tsaï-Lam, French Advisor Europe Unit, undertook a joint UNESCO-ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission (8-14 September), to report on the Project ‘Preservation and Development of World Heritage Cities in Mauritania’.

- Mechtild Reise, Chief, Europe Unit and WHC, North America Unit, attended an international conference on ‘World Heritage – Earth Heritage’, at the World Heritage site of Dordt and East Devon Coast, UK (7-9 September). Mr. Rössler also went to the Nordic World Heritage Meeting, at the Vega Archipelago, Norway, (7-9 September), to organize an international forum on the Project ‘Preservation and Development of World Heritage Cities in Mauritania’.

- Véronique Dauge, Assistant Programme Specialist, Arab States Unit, was in Nsous, Mauritania (8-18 September) to report on the Project ‘Preservation and Development of World Heritage Cities in Mauritania’.

- Fumiko Ohinata, Associate Expert Europe Unit, undertook a joint UNESCO-ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission (8-14 September), together with Ulf Bertilsson. President ICOMOS Rock Art Committee, to the site of Rock Drawings in Valcamonica, Italy.

- Alexander zu Sayn-Wittgenstein, Consultant, Europe Unit, participated in the celebrations of the first natural site from Denmark/Greenland, held in Rissalit, Greenland (4-5 September).

- Kerstin Manz, Consultant, Europe Unit, participated in the First Meeting of French World Heritage Site Managers in the Val de Loire, France (9-10 September).

- Karalyen Schenk, Editorial/Editorial Affairs Assistant has moved from WHC Promotion, Publication and Education (PPE) Unit to work on a new museum partnership project in the Culture Sector of the Preservation of Endangered Movable Cultural Properties. She has been replaced by Frédérique Thai-Klass, former communications advisor and press officer for the Canadian Centre for Studies and Documentation of the Digital Repository.

- Anna Sidorenko-Dulom, Assistant Programme Specialist, Arab States Unit, was in Nsous, Mauritania (8-18 September) to report on the Project ‘Preservation and Development of World Heritage Cities in Mauritania’.

- Frédérique Tsaï-Lam, French Advisor Europe Unit, undertook a joint UNESCO-ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission (8-14 September), to report on the Project ‘Preservation and Development of World Heritage Cities in Mauritania’.

- Mechtild Reise, Chief, Europe Unit and WHC, North America Unit, attended an international conference on ‘World Heritage – Earth Heritage’, at the World Heritage site of Dordt and East Devon Coast, UK (7-9 September). Mr. Rössler also went to the Nordic World Heritage Meeting, at the Vega Archipelago, Norway, (7-9 September), to organize an international forum on the Project ‘Preservation and Development of World Heritage Cities in Mauritania’.

- Véronique Dauge, Assistant Programme Specialist, Arab States Unit, was in Nsous, Mauritania (8-18 September) to report on the Project ‘Preservation and Development of World Heritage Cities in Mauritania’.

- Fumiko Ohinata, Associate Expert Europe Unit, undertook a joint UNESCO-ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission (8-14 September), together with Ulf Bertilsson. President ICOMOS Rock Art Committee, to the site of Rock Drawings in Valcamonica, Italy.

- Alexander zu Sayn-Wittgenstein, Consultant, Europe Unit, participated in the celebrations of the first natural site from Denmark/Greenland, held in Rissalit, Greenland (4-5 September).

- Kerstin Manz, Consultant, Europe Unit, participated in the First Meeting of French World Heritage Site Managers in the Val de Loire, France (9-10 September).

- Karalyen Schenk, Editorial/Editorial Affairs Assistant has moved from WHC Promotion, Publication and Education (PPE) Unit to work on a new museum partnership project in the Culture Sector of the Preservation of Endangered Movable Cultural Properties. She has been replaced by Frédérique Thai-Klass, former communications advisor and press officer for the Canadian Centre for Studies and Documentation of the Digital Repository.

- Anna Sidorenko-Dulom, Assistant Programme Specialist, Arab States Unit, was in Nsous, Mauritania (8-18 September) to report on the Project ‘Preservation and Development of World Heritage Cities in Mauritania’.

- Frédérique Tsaï-Lam, French Advisor Europe Unit, undertook a joint UNESCO-ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission (8-14 September), to report on the Project ‘Preservation and Development of World Heritage Cities in Mauritania’.

- Mechtild Reise, Chief, Europe Unit and WHC, North America Unit, attended an international conference on ‘World Heritage – Earth Heritage’, at the World Heritage site of Dordt and East Devon Coast, UK (7-9 September). Mr. Rössler also went to the Nordic World Heritage Meeting, at the Vega Archipelago, Norway, (7-9 September), to organize an international forum on the Project ‘Preservation and Development of World Heritage Cities in Mauritania’.

- Véronique Dauge, Assistant Programme Specialist, Arab States Unit, was in Nsous, Mauritania (8-18 September) to report on the Project ‘Preservation and Development of World Heritage Cities in Mauritania’.

- Fumiko Ohinata, Associate Expert Europe Unit, undertook a joint UNESCO-ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission (8-14 September), together with Ulf Bertilsson. President ICOMOS Rock Art Committee, to the site of Rock Drawings in Valcamonica, Italy.

- Alexander zu Sayn-Wittgenstein, Consultant, Europe Unit, participated in the celebrations of the first natural site from Denmark/Greenland, held in Rissalit, Greenland (4-5 September).

- Kerstin Manz, Consultant, Europe Unit, participated in the First Meeting of French World Heritage Site Managers in the Val de Loire, France (9-10 September).

- Karalyen Schenk, Editorial/Editorial Affairs Assistant has moved from WHC Promotion, Publication and Education (PPE) Unit to work on a new museum partnership project in the Culture Sector of the Preservation of Endangered Movable Cultural Properties. She has been replaced by Frédérique Thai-Klass, former communications advisor and press officer for the Canadian Centre for Studies and Documentation of the Digital Repository.

- Anna Sidorenko-Dulom, Assistant Programme Specialist, Arab States Unit, was in Nsous, Mauritania (8-18 September) to report on the Project ‘Preservation and Development of World Heritage Cities in Mauritania’.

- Frédérique Tsaï-Lam, French Advisor Europe Unit, undertook a joint UNESCO-ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission (8-14 September), to report on the Project ‘Preservation and Development of World Heritage Cities in Mauritania’.

- Mechtild Reise, Chief, Europe Unit and WHC, North America Unit, attended an international conference on ‘World Heritage – Earth Heritage’, at the World Heritage site of Dordt and East Devon Coast, UK (7-9 September). Mr. Rössler also went to the Nordic World Heritage Meeting, at the Vega Archipelago, Norway, (7-9 September), to organize an international forum on the Project ‘Preservation and Development of World Heritage Cities in Mauritania’.