



editorial

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 the Arab States, 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 Insitute.

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

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“I was delighted that the relation between the two major UNESCO Conventions dealing with the protection of the tangible and the intangible heritage was addressed by the World Heritage Committee at its last session in Suzhou, China, where I had the opportunity to advocate the need for the harmonization of definitions and for the development of a consistent set of heritage policies. A recommendation in this regard will be submitted to the extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee to be held at UNESCO Headquarters in December.”

Koichiro Matsuura, UNESCO Director-General, on the occasion of the International Conference 'The Safeguarding of Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage: Towards an Integrated Approach'. Nara, Japan, 20 October 2004

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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 co-operation 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'Ahidi Ngoma promised that the 2005 DRC budget will provide for a fiduciary fund to rehabilitate World Heritage sites. He said that troops and local populations which threaten the integrity of the World Heritage sites will be moved out. Mr Ngoma also promised that the salaries of personnel at the sites will be paid, a factor of major importance for the viability of the parks and the nature reserve. The DRC vice-president said that monies from ecotourism will be distributed equitably among residents around the sites.

An innovative aspect of this conference was a one-day forum on partnerships for heritage in the DRC. Twenty companies from the mining, forest, oil, tourism and financial sectors participated and agreed to set up a co-ordination platform in order to continue the exchange between private companies and conservation groups.

The event successfully raised the awareness of the richness and diversity of Congolese heritage through an exhibition at the UNESCO Headquarters 'Congo, Nature and Culture in the Democratic Republic of the Congo' curated by the Royal Museum for Central Africa of Belgium and a fundraising concert bringing together the greatest musicians of the Congolese rumba.

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

Interviews at the Congo: Heritage in Danger Conference

Mr Z'Ahidi Ngoma, Vice-President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo with Mr Koichiro Matsuura, UNESCO Director-General

The Newsletter spoke to several major players involved in the conservation and protection of the wildlife reserve and four national parks in the DRC which were part of the four-year project.

Z'Ahidi Ngoma

Vice-President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

What do you consider as the main benefits of this four-year project?

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.

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?

Congo did not come to this conference empty-handed. The DRC government is committed to this project, and we have programmed funds in the 2005 budget for the ICCN, for the salaries of the guards. We are ready to work with donors to keep the parks alive.

Eulalie 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 conservation diplomacy activities started by the project, we managed to get a commitment from both the government and the former rebels. Our guards were able to continue working and now have a minimum of equipment. The okapis are still around. Tourism is coming back. The mountain gorillas are there.

This project also brought together all the partners in conservation at a time when it was extremely difficult. Personnel from the different parks met, exchanged experiences in spite of the fact that the country was politically divided. Thanks to the project, the World Heritage sites were managed in a unified way, a big achievement in a country where the central government lost control over major parts of the national territory.

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 retrain others. This project involved an atypical group working together as well as the diplomacy of conservation.

Did the United Nations Foundation provide the necessary catalyst?

The UNF took a risk which could have ended in defeat. That clearly was not the case. Having taken the risk, a climate was created that helped bring others into the project: the European Union, the Belgian government, the World Bank, and very soon the Italian government.

UNESCO called upon you to evaluate the results after four years. What still needs to be done?

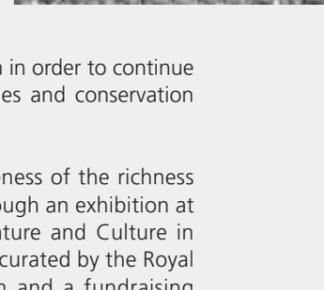
On the international stage the political neutrality of the sites has not yet been obtained. The sites and surrounding areas must be de-militarized, people must be disarmed, and guards must be re-armed. In theory the ICCN should be autonomous at this point. It is not. The DRC still needs aid to pay the guards, and particularly to carry out training and monitoring. What is needed now is to focus on training and funding.



The Congolese Ministers of Culture, Tourism and Higher Education



Exhibition on Congo's nature and culture



Three Parallel Rivers National Park in China

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 (CWHBP) in China.

With a considerable number of biosphere nature reserves and four natural World Heritage properties, China is one of the world's most biologically rich countries and is included on the list of 'megadiversity' countries and 'biodiversity hotspots'.

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 CWHBP 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 identify, nominate and 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 unrepresented 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.

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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 periodic reports submitted by the States Parties, was approved by the World Heritage Committee at its 28th session in Suzhou, China in July.

The 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/>



Weimar Library Fire

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

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.

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 Koïchiro 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 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 Conference' in 1968, which resulted in the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB) and which also helped pave the way for the UN Conference 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. (He) ... understood, with great foresight, the links between science and environment, development and heritage, nature and culture', said Françoise Rivière, 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 significant 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 Bolla and published in 2003 by the Association of Former UNESCO Staff.

Michel Batisse leaves behind his wife, Claude Batisse, and two daughters, Laurence Aronica and Stéphane-Isabelle Audoin-Rouzeau, and several grand-children.

Cologne Cathedral, Germany © Mechthild Rössler / UNESCO
World Heritage in Danger



Cologne Cathedral (Germany)

The German government has established a working group to provide details and 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 intrinsic 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 Vienna Conference on high-rise buildings in May 2005 may be a further opportunity for discussions on this subject.

The Ninth International Seminar of Forum UNESCO – University and Heritage, **'Heritage Management: Centre and Periphery'** was held at the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina (11-16 October). Sessions were organized on Heritage as a Factor for Cultural, Economic and Social Development; Management Models; Community and Heritage; City and Territory.

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 Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Partnership, was held at the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage site (15-16 October). Topics included: The Changing Approach to Industrial World Heritage; World Heritage & Industrialization; The Next 20 years of World Heritage in the UK.

A one-year US\$425,000 project **'Control and Eradication of Invasive Species: A Necessary Condition for Conserving Endemic Biodiversity of the Galapagos World Heritage Site - Next Steps'** was approved on 15 September. 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 5,000£ grant (September 2004) to the WHC initiative **'Astronomy and World Heritage'** to create a special database for cultural sites connected with astronomy, which will serve as a network of communication and collaboration among scientists on a global level.

The government of Belgium approved in July 2004 a US\$800,000 budget to finance the UNEP-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 improve the coherent application of the decisions and policy directions identified by 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 in India, in the Philippines and in a Kiswahili version. For copies of the Hindi version contact UNESCO New Delhi, B-5/29, Sarfardarjung 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, 633 General Luna Street, Intramuros 1002, Manila, Philippines. e-mail: info@ncca.gov.ph For copies of the Kiswahili version, contact the UNESCO Office in Nairobi, UN Office, Gigiei, UN Avenue, Block C, Nairobi, Kenya. e-mail: nairobi@unesco.org

There are three new publications in the **World Heritage Papers Series**: No.9: *Partnerships for World Heritage Cities - Culture as a Vector for Sustainable Urban Development* (in English and French) provides a summary of the Urbino workshop held to mark the 30th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention. No.10: *Monitoring World Heritage* (in English) contains the proceedings from the Vicenza workshop held at the same occasion. No.11: *Periodic Report and Regional Programme. Arab States 2000-2003* (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 Rome (28 September) which reviewed the priority activities proposed by the Iranian Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organization (ICHTO). 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 Thingvellir, Iceland's first World Heritage site. ■ Mr Boccardi, along with **Karim Hendili** and **Mizuko Ugo** of the Arab States Unit, was in Jordan for the 'Training Workshop on the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention for Iraqi Specialists' (4-11 September). Mr Boccardi conducted a technical mission to Sana'a, Yemen, along with expert architect restorer, **Jacques Feiner**, (24-30 July) to report and make recommendations on the renovation of the gypsum decoration on the facades of the Old City. ■ **Mechtild Rössler**, Chief, Europe and North America Unit, attended an international conference on 'World Heritage – Earth Heritage', at the World Heritage site Dorset and East Devon Coast, UK (7-11 September). Ms. Rössler also went to the Nordic World Heritage Meeting, at the Vega Archipelago, Norway (29-31 August). ■ **Ron van Oers**, Chief (a.i.) Latin America and Caribbean, was in Brasilia and Olinda, Brazil (1-7 June) to attend a planning meeting for the Olinda Conference, as well as to obtain information on the management situation at the Serra da Capivara National Park. He also met with Brasilia Office Director **Jorge Werthein**. Mr Van Oers and **Feng Jing**, Programme Specialist, Asia/Pacific Unit, undertook a mission (10-22 July) to the Chinese section of the Silk Road (Gansu and Xinjiang), to follow up on the preparation of the serial nomination of this cultural route. They also organized a National Stakeholders Consultation Workshop in Beijing (23-24 July), to identify the potential cultural properties to be included in this nomination. ■ **Nuria Sanz**, Programme Specialist, Latin America and Caribbean Unit, attended the International Seminar on Archaeological Sites of the Caribbean (20-23 September) in Fort-de-France, Martinique, organized within the framework of the France-UNESCO Convention.

■ **Anna Sidorenko-Dulom**, Assistant Programme Specialist, Arab States Unit, was in Nouakchott, Mauritania (8-18 June) 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. ■ **Alexandra zu Sayn-Wittgenstein**, Consultant, Europe Unit, participated in the celebrations of the first natural site from Denmark/Greenland, held in Ilulissat, 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). ■ **Karalyn Schenk**, Editorial/Media Relations Assistant has moved from WHC Promotion, Publication and Education (PPE) Unit to work on a new museum partnership programme in the Culture Sector for the Preservation of Endangered Moveable Cultural Properties. She has been replaced by **Frédérique Tsai-Klassen**, former communications advisor and press officer for the Canadian government. ■ **Sophia Labadi** has joined the PPE Unit to work on the State of World Heritage Report. ■ **Jorun Poettering**, financed by the German Carlo Schmid Foundation, is working with the Europe Unit on statistical analysis for the European Periodic Reporting. ■ **Giovanni Boccardi**, Chief of the Arab States Unit, took up his functions on 8 September as Chief of the Asia and Pacific Unit. ■ **Véronique Dauge**, presently Culture Programme specialist in the UNESCO Beirut Cluster Office for the Middle East, has been appointed Chief of the Arab States Unit as of 1 November. After graduating in archaeology, history of art and oriental studies, she joined UNESCO in 1989 to initiate the safeguarding programme for Angkor, Cambodia. Since then, she has been managing projects both in the Division of Cultural Heritage at Headquarters and in the field.



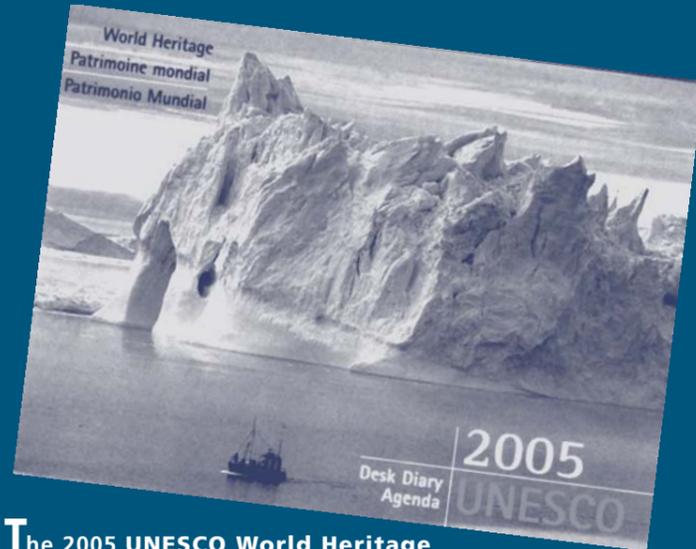
Mr Björn Bjarnason, Iceland's Minister of Justice and President of the Thingvellir Commission and Mr Bandarin during the inscription ceremony of Thingvellir



World Heritage of September 2004, No. 37, dedicates its feature article to the Survival of natural sites in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In this issue you will also discover: a master piece of the Timurid architecture, the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi in Kazakhstan; the Guanacaste conservation area which hosts the largest tropical dry forest in Central America; the genius of the Spanish architect and craftsman, Antonio Gaudí; and the magnificent Egyptian monastery of Byzantine architecture, the Monastery of St Catherine.

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11 to 13 November

4th Regional Meeting on Modern Heritage: North America, Coral Gables and Miami Beach, USA.

Information: regraham@ufl.edu or r.vanoers@unesco.org

17 to 19 November

Thematic meeting: 'Algerian World Heritage Sites and Conservation Areas: Management, Protection, Enhancement'.

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris.
Information: a.sidorenko@unesco.org

17 to 25 November

3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress, 'People and Nature – Only One World'.

Bangkok, Thailand.
Information: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/wcpa/iucncongress.htm>

22 to 24 November

First Interregional meeting: 'Cultural Itineraries of the Sahara Desert: Desert Routes – Salt Routes'.

Palais des Congrès, Niamey, Niger.
Information: a.sidorenko@unesco.org or l.maziz@unesco.org

29 and 30 November

Round Table: Partners of the National Park Banc d'Arguin, Mauritania – Management, Protection, Enhancement.

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris.
Information: a.sidorenko@unesco.org

2 and 3 December

Second Session of the International Steering Committee for the World Heritage property of Bam and its Cultural landscape.

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris.
Information: j.taniguchi@unesco.org and g.boccardi@unesco.org

6 to 11 December

7th Extraordinary Session of the World Heritage Committee.

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris.
Information: n.dhumal@unesco.org

12 to 16 December

Training Workshop on the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

Doha, Qatar.
Information: k.hendili@unesco.org

16 and 17 December

International Co-ordinating Committee for the Safeguarding and Development of Angkor. Siem Reap/Angkor, Cambodia.

Organized by the Secretariat of ICC and the UNESCO Office in Phnom Penh.
Information: t.teneishvili@unesco.org

26 December

World Heritage inscription ceremony for Bam and its Cultural Landscape.

Information: j.taniguchi@unesco.org

The World Heritage news letter

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