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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-first session

**Naples, Italy
1-6 December 1997**

**Detailed reports on the activities undertaken since the twentieth session of the
World Heritage Committee and justification of expenses in accordance with the
workplan approved by the Committee: IUCN**

**REPORT ON IUCN ACTIVITIES IN 1996
TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION**

(aussi disponible en français)

JANUARY 1997

IUCN
The World Conservation Union

REPORT ON IUCN ACTIVITIES IN 1996

TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

Following the 19th session of the World Heritage Committee held in Berlin, Germany, IUCN was contracted for advisory services for 1996 in the amount of US\$ 250,600 to fulfil its task as advisory body on natural properties to the Committee. The following is an accounting of activities undertaken in fulfilling contracts 700.085.6; 700.035.6 and 700.320.6.

1. EVALUATION OF NOMINATIONS

In 1996 IUCN examined a total of 14 natural nomination files, plus 3 deferrals from 1994. IUCN's Head of Natural Heritage Programme coordinated the evaluations of all of these which involved consultations with over 100 external reviewers. Countries who kindly hosted field missions and cooperated in site reviews were Belize, China, France, Korea, Niger, Russia, Sweden, and Spain. An additional 90 government agency personnel were involved in these inspections.

IUCN is grateful to the respective authorities and to UNESCO contacts for facilitating these missions and to IUCN members in each of the areas in providing technical advice. It is IUCN's impression that such field inspections are particularly valuable in the screening process while raising awareness of the Convention at the local level.

Nomination evaluations were reviewed by a panel at IUCN Headquarters and the report then delivered to UNESCO where it was presented at the June Bureau meeting. Since the Bureau meeting, various clarifications have been incorporated and a final report was sent to the Secretariat in October in separate documents in English (128 p.) and French (132 p.). This report takes into account responses received from State Parties up to 1 October and is the basis for the 20th Committee meeting in Merida in December. A further supplemental evaluation (Miguasha) was also completed in November.

2. DOCUMENTATION

In cooperation with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), IUCN produced data sheets for all new nominations. A separate report containing standardised computer-based information on the new sites has been submitted to the Secretariat.

As part of the process of monitoring World Heritage sites in a systematic manner, the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) Protected Areas Unit (PAU) continued to update its information sheets on natural World Heritage sites to provide better baseline material for the monitoring process. A revised Directory of Natural World Heritage Sites, containing the latest information sheets for all 119 natural and mixed sites, was finalised in June 1996 and is now available as a basic reference source.

The Ramsar Convention Bureau is also located at IUCN Headquarters and a close working relationship exists regarding the ten sites that are on both Ramsar and World Heritage lists. The Ramsar monitoring procedure has used the World Heritage as a model and the sharing of results in this area is mutually reinforcing. Ramsar staff provided background information on two World Heritage monitoring reports during the year.

IUCN continued to draw on its network of some 1000 members of the Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas (CNPPA) to gather information on, among other things, real or potential threats to the integrity of World Heritage natural sites. IUCN's 51 field offices in 39 countries are also being increasingly used for these same activities and provide a world-wide network of contacts.

3. MONITORING

Paragraph 55 of the Operational Guidelines recommends "that State Parties cooperate with the Advisory Bodies which have been asked by the Committee to carry out monitoring and reporting on its behalf ...".

Written and verbal reports were submitted with reference to 12 different sites that need urgent attention. Follow-up inquiries to the relevant State Parties were subsequently processed by the World Heritage Centre and a final monitoring prepared for the December Committee meeting. IUCN field offices undertook monitoring activities on behalf of Headquarters and provided input into status reports on eight sites. The IUCN office in Costa Rica was provided funds to undertake a monitoring mission to Rio Platano in Honduras in cooperation with WWF and the Honduran authorities. Site visits were undertaken by IUCN's World Heritage Advisor to Australia and Mexico to review conservation status of two sites and to provide advice on specific management issues. Other CNPPA members did the same at meetings in Indonesia, China, Japan and Argentina.

4. TECHNICAL COOPERATION REQUESTS AND TRAINING

Liaison with the World Heritage Centre is maintained on a regular basis on technical cooperation requests for natural properties following the requirements of the Operational Guidelines (paras. 102, 106 and 112). Assistance in preparing project proposals was also given direct to several State Parties (Pakistan, Russia, Tanzania, Senegal, Guyana and China), however, more needs to be done to design and implement effective field projects in sites that require assistance.

In addition to advising on projects with the World Heritage Fund, IUCN is becoming increasingly active in managing field projects in World Heritage sites. Project work in nine natural World Heritage sites (Victoria Falls, Ngorongoro, Comoé, Djoudj, Banc D'Arguin, Sinharaja, Aïr-Ténéré, Danube Delta and Dja) involves a total budget of some US\$ 1.1 million. Coordination with WWF projects in World Heritage sites (\$ 1mil. in 1995) was also undertaken with the objective of combining forces and developing additional cooperative projects.

IUCN's World Heritage Coordinator attended workshops in Belgium, Australia and Scotland at the request of the authorities to provide advice on the Convention in general and to discuss selection of natural sites for nomination. Other members from CNPPA attended World Heritage workshops in Australia, Micronesia, Japan, China and Trinidad. Several IUCN staff as well as the CNPPA Chair and Vice-chair attended the integrity workshop in Vanoise, France.

5. PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Promotion of the benefits of joining the World Heritage Convention was discussed with various Governments including South Africa, Botswana and Papua New Guinea. Other general inquiries on implementation of the Convention from a number of countries were also routinely carried out.

Articles on World Heritage were regularly published in the CNPPA Newsletter and the IUCN Bulletin. IUCN regional project offices in Southern, Eastern and Western Africa and Central America were provided with promotional materials as were numerous field officers. Substantial technical input was also provided to the Australian publishing company Harper-MacRae on their production of a new book on natural sites in North America ((to be provided to the World Heritage Committee at its 20th Session this December). Publications on World Heritage sites and issues conducted by various IUCN staff and members are listed under item 9. Extensive media coverage was also received especially in connection with site visits. An interview was also done for Discovery Channel for the North American audience.

6. OTHER ACTIVITIES

1996 was a year in which major efforts were expended on several new initiatives. First, IUCN has formed a World Heritage Policy Panel to raise the profile of and strengthen the work of the Convention in the Union. The Panel is co-chaired by the Assistant Director General and the Vice-chair for World Heritage of CNPPA. Observers from the World Heritage centre and the other Advisory Bodies are also invited. Two meetings are planned each year and minutes for the first two have been prepared.

A major event in 1996 was IUCN's World Conservation Congress held in Montreal 10 - 23 October. This event was attended by over 3000 people and World Heritage had a major place on the programme with a full one-day workshop, several resolutions at the plenary, and discussions in the working session of CNPPA (who since have changed their name to World Commission on Protected Areas). The summary report of the World Heritage workshop is attached to this report as an annex as are the two main resolutions passed by the Congress. (Please note that although these resolutions were adopted the final wording may change.)

An additional output from the Montreal meeting was the production of a World Heritage natural site slide show. This is a technical training module meant for distribution for promotional purposes with copies of slides and an accompanying text available in early 1997. Support for the preparation of this slide show and for the holding at the Workshop was provided by the World Heritage Fund and was coordinated with staff of the World Heritage Centre.

Another event that took place at this Congress was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between IUCN and the World Heritage Centre. This document is meant to clarify the working relationships of each body and is being separately provided to the 20th Session of the Committee for their information.

In conclusion, the Montreal Congress demonstrated the substantial global conservation network that IUCN harnesses and the widespread profile and interest that IUCN members have in the Convention.

Finally, at the request of the Bureau and in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, IUCN has completed a global theme study of significant events in earth's evolutionary history. The final draft of this study, which suggests sites that best display the record of evolution has been conducted by Dr. Rod Wells of Flinders University with the assistance of a grant of A\$10,000 from Australia's World Heritage Unit in Canberra. IUCN also attended the expert workshop on geological and fossil sites at the International Union of Geologists meeting in Beijing which reviewed the draft of the theme study.

7. INVOLVEMENT OF IUCN NETWORK

Although coordinated by one person, World Heritage activities in IUCN involve a large number of other people. More than 120 experts from the voluntary network of IUCN's Commissions provided reviews of new nominations and monitoring reports. All professional staff in the Secretariat including the Director General performed the same function. Thirteen HQ staff participated in panel reviews of nominations and several attended World Heritage meetings with funds from other IUCN sources. IUCN's Communication Division assisted with Bulletin articles and press releases and is assisting in the marketing of **Masterworks of Man and Nature** and **Paradise on Earth**. IUCN's field offices are also providing advice and undertaking projects on World Heritage sites in their regions. Offices where IUCN staff involvement has been active in 1995 were Zimbabwe, Kenya, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Viet Nam, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and the USA.

In addition to the work of the World Heritage programme Coordinator, approximately one month of senior IUCN headquarters staff time (Assistant Director General, Head Protected Areas Programme and Programme Officer) was spent on direct World Heritage work. The staff cost to IUCN to provide this is estimated at \$ 27,000.

Several national IUCN Committees are also becoming active on World Heritage issues. The French Committee for IUCN, for instance, participated in a study of the Mont Nimba site on behalf of the Ministries of Environment and Cooperation.

The former Chairman of IUCN's Commission on National Parks and now its Vice-chair for World Heritage (a voluntary position) attends both the Bureau and Committee meetings, and has made presentations on World Heritage at seminars in Australia, France, Japan, New Zealand, Canada and Pohnpei. CNPPA's current Chair has also devoted time to amplifying the cultural landscape concept by attending a workshop in Austria and preparing a policy paper on the subject. Both the Chair and Vice-chair of CNPPA participated in the inaugural World Heritage Panel meeting of IUCN in March.

The value of this volunteer contribution to the IUCN's World Heritage programme has been computed to be \$75,000 for the time of the Vice-chair alone. Other major voluntary contributions came from

donations of professional time to represent IUCN at the CNPPA regional meetings in Japan, China (two), and at the International Geological Congress. Other IUCN programmes also provided free advice on World Heritage issues such as Yellowstone bioprospecting (Environmental Law Centre), education in World Heritage sites (Education Commission) and on Galapagos tortoises (Species Survival Commission).

In sum, World Heritage in IUCN is an interactive activity to which many people contribute often in a volunteer capacity. Means for even broader involvement of IUCN staff in HQ and in the field are continually being pursued. Appointment of a Vice-chair of CNPPA for World Heritage has also intensified the involvement of members of this Commission.

8. CONCLUDING NOTE

The 865 members (governments, government agencies, NGO's) of IUCN continue to endorse the World Heritage Convention as one of the most effective international legal instruments in protecting the world's most outstanding natural areas. With adherence to the Convention by additional countries and increased attention to monitoring activities, demands on IUCN's Secretariat have grown to require a staff member to be assigned for three-quarters of the year to coordinate World Heritage activities. Costs for provision of the above services are partly covered by the current World Heritage contract while growing inputs by IUCN staff and voluntary networks are covered from internal sources.

9. 1996 IUCN PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE CONVENTION

In addition to the Bureau, Committee evaluation and monitoring reports, the following publications and presentations relating to World Heritage were published in 1996:

- Roderick Wells. *Earth's Geological History. A Contextual Framework for Assessment of World Heritage Fossil Site Nominations*. Report prepared for IUCN. September. 43p.
- Bing Lucas. *Background Paper* for Expert Meeting on Evaluation of General Principles and Criteria for Nominations of Natural World Heritage Sites. Parc National de la Vanoise, France. March.
- Bing Lucas. *Presentation of World Heritage Areas: Developing Sustainable Tourism Practice in World Heritage Areas* and *Future Directions in World Heritage* (both papers for Workshop for Managers of World Heritage Areas in Australia, Southeast Asia and the South West Pacific Ravenshoe, Queensland, Australia 12-15 April).
- Bing Lucas. *Future Directions in World Heritage Implications for the Pacific*. Workshop on World Heritage Areas in the Pacific. Sydney, Australia 12-15 April.
- Bing Lucas. *Protected Landscapes: The Story so Far: The Lake District (1987) to Exmoor (1966)*.
- Bing Lucas. *Heritage Destroyed? - Conservation and Environmental Priorities for New Zealand and the Globe*. ECO Conference of Environment and Conservation Organisations, 23 August, Wellington, New Zealand.
- Bing Lucas. *From Caracas to Montreal and Beyond ... What has been achieved since Caracas and what needs to be done to enhance implementation of the Convention*. World Heritage Workshop at the World Conservation Congress, 17 October, Montreal, Canada.
- Les Molloy. *World Natural Heritage: Its Purpose and Significance*. Presented to International Symposium on Forests. Kagoshima, Japan. October.
- Jim Thorsell. *Identifying the World's Most Outstanding Mountains*. PARKS Volume 6 No.1. February.

- Jim Thorsell. *Virunga*. World Heritage Review No.1.
- Jim Thorsell. *Parques y reservas de la Cordillera de los Andes*. Flora Fauna y Areas Silvestres. FAO. 9/22
- Jim Thorsell and Jim Paine. *A Review of Natural World Heritage Sites in Tropical Regions*. Presentation to World Heritage Tropical Forest Conference. September. Cairns.
- Jim Thorsell. *Nature's Hall of Fame: IUCN and the World Heritage Convention*. Presentation to World Heritage Workshop. World Conservation Congress. Montreal. October.
- Jim Thorsell. *Guidelines for Management of Cave and Karst Areas*. Presentation to Second International Conference on Conservation of the Subterranean Heritage. Ramioul, Belgium. 2-3 November.

10. ANNEX: Financial Report

IUCN's WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION CONTRACTS: 1996 700.085.6; 700.035.6; AND 700.320.6

The following is a breakdown of the total allocation of US\$ 250,600 provided for IUCN's technical advisory services for 1996 in the above three contracts:

| 1. Nomination Evaluations | Costs in US\$ |
|---|-------------------|
| • Staff time to review nominations and prepare documentation (6 man months) | 87,000 |
| • Secretarial support (5 man months) | 34,500 |
| • Administrative support costs | 27,600 |
| • Travel | 25,300 |
| • Translation Services | 6,600 |
| • Publication and printing costs | 2,500 |
| Sub-total | \$ 183,500 |
| 2. Data Base and Monitoring (all staff time) | |
| • Preparation of Data Sheets and nomination summaries (0.25 man month) | 3,625 |
| • Inquiries, correspondence and preparation of monitoring reports (1 man month) | 14,500 |
| • Secretarial support (1 man month) | 6,900 |
| • Review of technical cooperation, requests and promotional activities (0.25 man month) | 3,625 |
| • Administrative support costs | 6,900 |
| Sub-total | \$ 35,550 |
| 3. Meetings and Workshops (list attached) | |
| • Staff time for attendance (1.5 man months) | 21,750 |
| • Secretarial support services (0.5 man month) | 3,450 |
| • Administrative support services | 6,900 |
| • Attendance at meetings of the World Heritage Bureau and Committee - travel costs | 11,600 |
| • World Heritage technical and training workshops, advisory body and policy meetings - travel costs | 12,400 |
| Sub-total | \$ 56,100 |
| TOTAL | \$ 275,150 |
| Contribution from IUCN to additional HQ staff time | \$ 27,000 |
| Contribution from IUCN for travel costs of CNPPA Vice-chair | \$ 10,000 |
| Additional subsidy from IUCN to cover remaining deficit | \$ 14,550 |

TOTAL TRAVEL COSTS BREAKDOWN FOR 1996

The following is a detailed list of IUCN's travel expenses to date with an estimate for the remaining missions. Rounded to the nearest '00 they include all travel costs and DSA's:

| A. | Evaluations | SFr. |
|-----------|---|--|
| • | Belize: site inspection | 5,000 |
| • | Korea/China: 3 site inspections | 4,000 |
| • | Russia: 3 site inspections | 4,850 |
| • | France/Spain: site inspection | 1,800 |
| • | Russia: 2 site inspections | 9,300 |
| • | Sweden: site inspection | 1,500 |
| • | Niger: site inspection | 3,400 |
| | Sub-total | 30,350 (\$ 25,300) |
| B. | Bureau, Committee and Advisory Body Meetings | |
| • | Paris: Advisory body meeting (3 staff) | 2,250 |
| • | Paris: Bureau (4 staff) | 4,250 |
| • | Mexico: World Heritage Committee (2 staff) | 7,400 |
| | Sub-total | 13,900 (\$ 11,600) |
| C. | Training workshops, experts meetings | |
| • | WCMC: Annual workplan meeting | 1,350 |
| • | Vanoise: Integrity workshop (2 staff) | 900 |
| • | Cairns: World Heritage Tropical Forest Conference | 4,000 |
| • | Montreal: World Conservation Congress | 2,650 |
| • | Liege: Subterranean Heritage | 950 |
| • | Gland: Policy Panel | 550 |
| • | Beijing: International Geological Congress | 4,500 |
| | Sub-total | 14,900 (\$ 12,400) |
| | TOTAL | SFr. 59,150 or US\$ 49,300 |

11. ANNEX: IUCN Resolutions

WORLD HERITAGE RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT IUCN'S WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS. MONTREAL. CANADA. OCTOBER 1996.

1.67 World Heritage Convention

RECALLING the recommendations of the second, third and fourth World Parks Congresses and the 16th Session of the General Assembly of IUCN regarding the World Heritage Convention; the growth in that period of the number of natural sites on the World Heritage List to 102 plus 17 "mixed" natural and cultural sites, and the existence currently of 147 State Parties to the Convention;

BELIEVING that the potential benefits of World Heritage extend far beyond the sites which have been listed, since these areas can play a leadership role in setting standards for protected areas as a whole, can bring resources for training which will be of wider application and can be "flagships" in terms of raising public awareness of conservation issues;

NOTING that, while few World Heritage natural sites are pristine, many such sites, as well as many in the new category of cultural landscapes, demonstrate the practical application of the principles of ecologically-sound sustainable management as well as the conservation of natural resources;

CONCERNED that the Convention has not yet achieved universal coverage, the World Heritage List is not yet fully comprehensive, no global strategy has yet been prepared for natural sites, eight natural sites are currently on the World Heritage in Danger List, and that many more existing sites are coming under increasing threat;

RECOGNIZING that a number of State Parties to the World Heritage Convention are in arrears with their financial contributions and that resources for technical assistance from the World Heritage Fund are very restricted;

COMMENDING UNESCO's World Heritage Committee and the World Heritage Centre for significant conservation successes over the first 25 years of the operation of the Convention and recognizing the important role of IUCN and other advisory bodies in these successes;

The World Conservation Congress at its 1st Session in Montreal, Canada, 14–23 October 1996:

1. AFFIRMS that the World Heritage Convention is one of the most important international instruments available to achieve IUCN's Mission and therefore affirms anew its commitment to the principles of the Convention;
2. REMINDS State Parties that many natural sites of outstanding universal importance remain to be added to the World Heritage List, and also that the new category of cultural landscapes creates an opportunity to include sites in the World Heritage List which have important natural values occurring in association with human use of natural resources which is ecologically sustainable;
3. ENCOURAGES State Parties to the Convention that have not already done so to :
 - a) meet their financial obligations to the Convention;
 - b) include natural heritage specialists on their delegations to the World Heritage Committee meetings;
 - c) submit voluntary monitoring reports as requested in the Operational Guidelines for the Convention and cooperate with the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre in the periodic reporting on the conservation status of sites;

- d) prepare tentative lists, especially for natural sites and cultural landscapes, with a view to achieving more balance on the World Heritage List;
 - e) adhere to existing mechanisms for systematic monitoring to avoid World Heritage sites being degraded to the point of inscription on the World Heritage in Danger List and ultimate delisting;
4. REQUESTS the donor community to recognize the importance of the Convention for conservation and ecologically sustainable development, as well as the constraints of the World Heritage Fund, and therefore to receive favourably requests for assistance to World Heritage sites, giving priority to those on the World Heritage in Danger List;
 5. ASKS UNESCO to strengthen further the professional capabilities in natural heritage within the World Heritage Centre and to propose to the World Heritage Committee a process to encourage State Parties to regularly update information on the values of sites already inscribed on the World Heritage List to take account of new knowledge and facilitate more effective monitoring;
 6. CALLS on NGO members of IUCN to be more active in promoting the Convention, including promoting candidate sites and reporting on threats;
 7. CALLS on all IUCN members, through IUCN's National and Regional Committees, and in other ways, to address World Heritage issues in their activities, including marking in some appropriate manner the 25th anniversary of the Convention in 1997;
 8. CALLS on IUCN Commissions, and especially the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), to continue to give priority to World Heritage in their work;
 9. CALLS on the IUCN Commissions, particularly the WCPA, to support IUCN's role in reactive monitoring;
 10. REQUESTS the Director General of IUCN, within available resources, to:
 - a) promote greater awareness of the relevance of the Convention through education, communication initiatives and training;
 - b) collaborate closely with the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) on mixed cultural and natural sites and in a systematic assessment of cultural landscapes;
 - c) build the capacity in IUCN's Regional and Country Offices to strengthen World Heritage expertise in the regions;
 - d) pursue, as resources permit, the preparation of global thematic studies of natural heritage in cooperation with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre and the World Heritage Centre;
 - e) expand the input into IUCN's World Heritage work through involving staff, IUCN members and Commissions as well as other relevant scientific networks.

1.101 World Heritage in Oceania

AWARE of the rich and diverse natural and cultural heritage of the South Pacific;

AWARE that most of the 22 island States of Oceania are not yet signatories to the World Heritage Convention and that there is a need to promote awareness of this Convention and the potential benefits for the States of the region in becoming signatories;

MINDFUL that the geography, culture and ownership of the lands and seas of the region may require special consideration in applying the World Heritage concept;

NOTING that, despite the richness of the region in cultural and natural terms, there are not yet any World Heritage sites in the island nations of Oceania;

RECOGNIZING that the island nations of Oceania may lack the financial and technical resources to survey, identify, nominate and manage World Heritage sites;

The World Conservation Congress at its 1st Session in Montreal, Canada, 14–23 October 1996:

1. CALLS UPON IUCN members in its Oceania region to:
 - a) promote awareness of the potential benefits and relevance of World Heritage to the island nations of Oceania through culturally appropriate means;
 - b) actively encourage more island States in Oceania to become signatories to the World Heritage Convention;
 - c) initiate, with the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), a collaborative survey of the islands and seas of the South Pacific to identify potential options for World Heritage nominations including possible serial sites by the relevant island nations;
2. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, to:
 - a) actively seek resources to facilitate information, survey, identification, nomination and management of any World Heritage sites in Oceania;
 - b) support the above action in respect of the South Pacific by including an activity on World Heritage in Oceania in the IUCN Programme;
3. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, to communicate this Recommendation to the Director General of UNESCO and the Director of the World Heritage Centre, urging that the existing UNESCO presence in Oceania be enabled to serve as an effective focal point to promote the World Heritage Convention in the region.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegation of the State member Germany indicated that it had not participated in discussion of the Recommendation nor would it have participated in any voting. The delegation of the State member Sweden indicated that had there been a vote the delegation would have abstained.

12. ANNEX: IUCN World Conservation Congress Workshop

CARING FOR THE EARTH -25 YEARS OF WORLD HERITAGE ACTION

Montreal 17 October 1996

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS DURING THE DAY

1. This workshop addressed the subject of the World Heritage Convention. This is one of the oldest and most successful International Conventions dealing with the conservation of the world's most important natural and cultural areas. In fact, 1997 marks the 25th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention and this workshop provided a timely opportunity to review what has been achieved through the Convention and future directions for the World Heritage Convention.
2. The workshop noted that World Heritage areas protect the outstanding areas on earth and as such can be clearly identified as "Paradise on Earth". However, such areas face many challenges in the face of increasing development and human pressures. The World Heritage Convention must adapt to changing circumstances and promote a new vision for the future of the world's natural heritage.
3. The workshop was divided into 4 sessions. The first, **Setting the Scene and Looking to the Future**, examined the history and background to the Convention. It was noted that the Convention was a pioneering Convention when it was first developed and that it is equally applicable today. The second session: **Managing the Tension** outlined some of the pressures facing World Heritage Sites, through discussion of case studies of World Heritage Sites in the Galapagos and the United States (Yellowstone). The third session: **Preventive Measures and New Solutions** identified some innovative approaches and opportunities which are applicable to World Heritage. This section was illustrated by practical examples from the Victoria Falls and the Rocky Mountains World Heritage Sites, where innovative planning approaches are enhancing the management of World Heritage Sites. The **Concluding Session** examined ways in which World Heritage can best adapt to the next century.
4. The meeting was followed by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between IUCN and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre which will consolidate and expand the existing excellent working relationship between these two agencies.

CONCLUSIONS

World Heritage is a bridge to the future

World Heritage sites are a source of pride, wonder and inspiration and are a "gift to the world" held in trust by this generation for future generations. World Heritage provides a unique opportunity to foster environmental awareness at all levels, particularly for the young. Innovative education programs focused on World Heritage, such as the UNESCO World Heritage Youth Forum, need to be encouraged and expanded.

Partnerships are needed

Achieving the goals of the World Heritage Convention requires partnership. Established partnerships, such as those between the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and IUCN are crucial: these need to be consolidated and expanded. New partnerships are also required, at all levels. At the international level, this could involve enhanced partnerships with other Conventions, particularly the Convention on Biological Diversity. At national levels, better partnerships are required between agencies that manage World Heritage Sites and other relevant organisations and agencies. Opportunities for transboundary World Heritage sites, between two or more countries, need to be explored, and expanded in the case of existing areas, such as the Victoria Falls site between Zambia and Zimbabwe. Exchange schemes between countries which aim to improve World Heritage site management, such as those between Indonesia and New Zealand in relation to the Ujung Kulon World Heritage Site, need to be developed. At local levels better and more effective working relationships with local

people need to be established. Planning for World Heritage Sites need to be considered in the context of regional land use and innovative planning schemes, such as the Bow Valley Study in the Banff National Park in Canada, need to be implemented.

Resources need to be mobilised

A number of World Heritage sites are under pressure. Targeted financial assistance is required. A number of sites have been placed on the "World Heritage in Danger" list; such listing should be seen as a positive measure which trigger efforts, at all levels, to address the pressures faced. Opportunities, such as those provided by the Global Environmental Facility, need to be explored.

The management of World Heritage sites needs to be strengthened.

Management of World Heritage sites needs to be strengthened. Focused training programs need to be developed to enhance the skills of world heritage managers. The prestige of "World Heritage" must be instrumental in raising the stature and esteem of protected area managers in society. Stronger and more effective institutions need to be developed. Every use needs to be made of modern technology to strengthen communication and dialogue between World Heritage Site managers, including through the use of the internet and strengthened information management networks such as the WCMC World Heritage Information Network. Guidelines to assist the management of World Heritage sites need to be developed but these need to be practically focused.

CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

Gender

The management of World Heritage sites must involve key groups from local communities. The role of women in this process is critical, particularly in relation to communication of the values of World Heritage in a way which "makes sense" to local communities.

Communications

More effective communication is particularly important in relation to World Heritage. This is applicable at many levels. At the international level there is a particular need for better communication and interaction with other Conventions particularly the Convention on Biological Diversity. At the national level, there is a need for communication with key policy and decision makers to ensure that World Heritage is clearly understood. In many cases there is not a clear understanding of World Heritage, and why it is important, and this in turn has often caused problems. At the local level there needs to be communication of how World Heritage is relevant to local communities, with particular emphasis on the many positive benefits associated with World Heritage.

Law

The World Heritage Convention provides an international framework for action to protect the worlds special places. Specific legislation is also needed at a national level, such as is the case in Australia, to ensure that the Convention is translated in a way that is relevant to the unique needs and circumstances of each country. Such legislation needs to be responsive to changing circumstances.