

Distribution limited

WHC-98/CONF.203/7  
Paris, 30 September 1998  
Original: English/French

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL  
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE  
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-second session  
Kyoto, Japan  
30 November - 5 December 1998

**Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and on the List of World Heritage in Danger:**

**Reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger**

**SUMMARY**

In accordance with paragraphs 82-89 of the Operational Guidelines, the Secretariat submits herewith reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

If appropriate, the Secretariat or the advisory bodies will provide additional information during the session of the Committee.

**Decision required:** The Committee is requested to examine the attached state of conservation reports and take the appropriate decision in accordance with paragraph 89 of the Operational Guidelines.

## INTRODUCTION

1. The following reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger are submitted to the World Heritage Committee to facilitate the 'review at regular intervals [of] the state of property on the List of World Heritage in Danger' which is foreseen in paragraph 88 of the Operational Guidelines.

2. The Committee is requested to examine these reports and to take a decision in accordance with paragraph 89 of the Operational Guidelines which reads as follows:

*"On the basis of these regular reviews, the Committee shall decide, in consultation with the State Party concerned whether:*

- (i) additional measures are required to conserve the property;*
- (ii) to delete the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger if the property is no longer under threat;*
- (iii) to consider the deletion of the property from both the List of World Heritage in Danger and the World Heritage List if the property has deteriorated to the extent that it has lost those characteristics which determined its inclusion in the World Heritage List, in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraphs 46 to 56 above."*

3. To facilitate the work of the Committee, references are made at the beginning of each of the reports, to relevant sections of previous reports of the twenty-first session of the Committee and/or the twenty-second session of the Bureau. In addition, each of the reports is accompanied by a draft decision for examination and adoption by the Committee.

## NATURAL HERITAGE

4. Fifteen natural properties are included in the List of World Heritage in Danger. Reports on thirteen of those sites were reviewed by the Bureau at its twenty-second ordinary session. The observations and recommendations of the Bureau (see WHC-98/CONF. 203/4) were transmitted to the respective States Parties.

5. Information received from States Parties since the conclusion of the twenty-second ordinary session of the Bureau in June 1998, and from IUCN have been used in the compilation of the following reports on each of the fifteen sites included in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

### **Srebarna Nature Reserve (Bulgaria)**

WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.11

WH Bureau twenty-second session para. V.2

As decided by the nineteenth session of the Committee (Berlin, 1995), the Bureau, at its twenty-second ordinary session (June 1998) requested the Bulgarian authorities to submit a threat mitigation status report to the Centre before 15 September 1998 and asked IUCN to review that report and make recommendations to the twenty-second session of the Committee. The Bulgarian authorities submitted a report on Srebarna, on 28 August 1998 and invited the Centre and IUCN to field a mission to verify the results of measures undertaken to mitigate threats to the integrity of Srebarna. A team, consisting of one specialist each from IUCN and the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, and a consultant representing the Centre, will visit Srebarna and Sofia, Bulgaria, from 1 to 6 October 1998. A summary of the mission's findings and recommendations will be reported to the twenty-second session of the Committee and the full text of the report will be made available to the Committee as an Information Document.

**Decision required:** The Committee, based on the mission's findings and recommendations, is requested to assess whether mitigation measures implemented by the Bulgarian authorities have been effective in rehabilitating the integrity and the World Heritage values of Srebarna. If it finds that mitigation measures have failed to rehabilitate Srebarna, the Committee, may wish to determine whether procedures for the eventual deletion of Srebarna from the World Heritage List, in accordance with paragraphs 46 to 56 of the Operational Guidelines, need to be initiated.

### **Manovo-Gounda-St.Floris National Park (Central African Republic (CAR))**

WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.32

WH Bureau twenty-second session para. V.3

The Committee, at its last session (Naples, 1997), was seriously concerned about the uncontrolled poaching by armed groups which had led to the death of four members of the Park staff, decimated more than 80% of the Park's wildlife populations and brought tourism to a halt. The Committee had welcomed the efforts of the Government of CAR to assign site management responsibilities to a private Foundation and had requested the Centre and IUCN to contact the State Party and the Foundation to prepare a detailed state of conservation report and a rehabilitation plan for the site. The Bureau, at its twenty-second ordinary session (June, 1998) noted that the State Party had not responded to the Centre's letter outlining the Committee's recommendations mentioned above, and reiterated the Committee's request and recommended that the Committee retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. So far the Centre has not received a response from the State Party to its letter transmitting the recommendations of the twenty-second ordinary session of the Bureau.

**Decision required:** The Committee may wish to adopt the following:

“The Committee decides to retain this site in the List of World Heritage Danger. It requests the Director General of UNESCO and the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee to write to the President of the CAR, inviting

the President's urgent intervention for preparing a detailed state of conservation report and a rehabilitation plan for the conservation of this site.”

**World Heritage Sites of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC):**

**Virunga National Park**

**Garamba National Park**

**Kahuzi Biega National Park**

**Okapi Faunal Reserve**

WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.13, VII.14, VII.33, VII.34

WH Bureau twenty-second session para. V.4

The Committee had declared these four sites as World Heritage in Danger, during 1994-1997, when war and civil strife ravaged the country. At the time of its twenty-second ordinary session (June 1998), the Bureau was of the view that the security situation in the country may be improving. Hence, it encouraged the Centre to continue its efforts, in co-operation with international conservation NGOs, to ensure the purchase and safe delivery of one four-wheel drive vehicle to each of the four sites, in accordance with the decision of the Committee made at its last session (Naples, 1997). Nevertheless, the Bureau recommended that the Committee retain these four sites in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Since the conclusion of the twenty-second ordinary session of the Bureau in June 1998 however, the law and order situation in the country has unfortunately deteriorated once again, and renewed fighting has spread to all parts of the country. A strategic planning workshop for the conservation and management of Garamba National Park, which was to be held in Kinshasa in August 1998 under the auspices of WWF had to be indefinitely postponed. However, information received by IUCN seem to indicate that there has been no significant increase in poaching in Garamba. Nevertheless, frequency of rhino sightings have dropped and numbers of several large herbivores remain below their 1995 levels.

In the case of Okapi Faunal Reserve, some of the Park equipment donated by international conservation NGOs have been looted, one Park building occupied by armed groups and staff who were in the process of reviving conservation activities evacuated. In Kahuzi Biega WWF Project staff were withdrawn due to worsening security conditions in the area and the Tshibanga Station has been looted. In Virunga human encroachment has been detected along Lake Edouard, and poaching, which intensified with the resurgence of armed conflict in July-August, seems to have been brought under some control. Park guards no longer carry any weapons, and require military escort to patrol the Park and have not been paid their salaries for nearly two years. “Motivational allowances” paid to guards in the southern sector of Virunga by the International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP) had been stopped as the donor, i.e. UNHCR, withdrew its support to the scheme. IGCP and the national conservation authority (i.e. ICCN) have prepared a strategic action plan and are seeking funds for Park personnel. IGCP has agreed to distribute any financial support received to all sectors of the Virunga National Park. IUCN has recommended that the Committee consider providing emergency assistance to pay some allowances to the staff at Virunga.

The vehicles purchased for Garamba and Kahuzi Biega National Parks could not be transported beyond Nairobi, Kenya, due to lack of security. The Centre has been informed by WWF that the two vehicles destined for Garamba and Kahuzi Biega, which are currently in Nairobi, will cost the Fund additional customs clearance and storage charges. The Centre is in contact with WWF and the UNDP Resident Representative Offices in Kenya and with the Kenyan Government to find ways and means to exempt these two vehicles from storage and other customs charges. IUCN has requested that the Centre does not proceed with the delivery of vehicles to the sites in the Democratic Republic of Congo until such time when security conditions improve.

**Decision required:** The Committee may wish to adopt the following:

“The Committee decides to retain all four sites in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee requests the Centre to freeze all activities related to the purchase and delivery of vehicles to any one of the four sites until such time when security conditions improve. The Committee asks the Centre and IUCN to consult with IGCP and ICCN, to estimate the cost of paying allowances to staff at Virunga National Park as an interim measure and submit a proposal for emergency assistance for approval by the Chairperson of the Committee and provide a report to the next session of the Bureau on the impact of such emergency assistance on the state of conservation of Virunga.”

#### **Sangay National Park (Ecuador)**

WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.15

WH Bureau twenty-second session para. V.5

At its last session, the Committee was informed that colonisation and small-scale mining activities had been stopped, a new management plan was nearing finalisation and that several conservation projects funded by WWF had begun. The Committee had urged the Centre, in collaboration with IUCN, and agreement with the State Party and possible support from WWF, to plan and organise a site visit to address the problem of the Guamote-Macas road construction project and other threats to the integrity of the site.

The Bureau, at its twenty-second ordinary session (June, 1998) was informed that the on-going construction of the Guamote-Macos road was the main issue facing this Park and that a site-visit was considered not necessary for the moment. The road is being built primarily for strategic purposes and, despite the Committee's repeated requests, an EIA had not been conducted. Construction has been slow but very destructive to the environment. Only a small section of the road is inside the World Heritage site; the remainder of the road forms the Park's southern limit. The Bureau was however, concerned with the prevailing view that it is inevitable that the construction of the road is likely to proceed to its completion.

Since the conclusion of the last session of the Bureau in June 1998, the Government of Ecuador has submitted a draft management plan to the Centre; the draft plan has been transmitted to IUCN for review. The State Party has also informed IUCN and the Centre that economic constraints have led to a halt in the activities related to the

construction of the Guamote-Macos road. IUCN has noted that the 5-year, US\$ 1.6 million project, financed by the Government of the Netherlands and jointly implemented by WWF and Fundacion Natura, will strengthen protection of the Park. IUCN has expressed its concern regarding the fact that the Government of Ecuador has not clarified whether or not an oil exploration concession has been awarded in 1998.

**Decision required:** The Committee may wish to adopt the following:

“The Committee decides to retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger and requests the Government of Ecuador to clarify the status of any permits issued for oil exploration within the Park. The Committee, invites the State Party to expedite the adoption of the management plan, taking into consideration IUCN’s comments, and take necessary mitigation measures to control the expansion of livestock within the Park and to rehabilitate damaged sections of the Guamote-Macos road. The Committee also requests the State Party to invite a Centre/IUCN mission to the site in 1999 with a view to submitting an up-to-date state of conservation report to the twenty-third session of the Committee.”

#### **Simen National Park (Ethiopia)**

WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.16

WH Bureau twenty-second session para. V.6

The Committee may wish to recall the fact that the Regional authorities in Bahir Dar, where this site is located, had expressed their disagreement with the decision of the twentieth session of the Committee (Merida, 1996), to include Simen in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Bureau, at its twenty-second ordinary session (June 1998) noted with satisfaction the efforts of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks of Ethiopia and the UNESCO Office in Addis Ababa, to provide more information to the Bahir Dar authorities on the meaning and implications of the Committee’s decision to include Simen in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Bureau had urged the Centre to continue negotiations with all relevant Ethiopian authorities and to resolve the ‘communication’ problem and to expedite the organization of the stakeholders’ workshop for which the Committee had approved a sum of US\$ 30,000 in 1996.

A member of the Centre staff who undertook a mission to Ethiopia, was informed that a ‘stakeholders’ meeting had in fact been convened in Gondar on 24-25 June 1998, and that the responsibilities for the management of the Park had been transferred from the Central Authorities to the region. The meeting had led to the formation of a ‘dialogue-group’ of various national and regional offices to discuss follow-up activities for the conservation of the Park. The meeting had called for the organization of a second stakeholders’ seminar, before June 1999, in collaboration with UNDP, Austria, UNESCO, UNCDF, Bahir Dar Regional Heads and donors, to follow-up on the outcome of the first meeting held in June 1998. The objectives of the second stakeholders’ meeting would be to establish a strategy for: (i) minimizing the human population inside the park, estimated at 8-10,000 people at present; (ii) rehabilitation of the Park and re-establishing populations of selected species, like the Walia Ibex

which have moved out of the park due to human presence and considerable areas of the Park being under cultivation; (iii) creation of an alternative to a road which currently goes through the Park; and (iv) establishment of a framework for co-ordination, including the possible setting up of an Inter-Agency Committee where donor participation will be invited, for the sustainable development of the Simen mountains ecosystem.

**Decision required:** The Committee may wish to adopt the following:

“The Committee decides to retain Simen in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee commends the Ethiopian authorities for convening a stakeholders’ meeting to identify the basic components of a strategy for the sustainable development of the Simen mountains ecosystem, including the protection of the Simen National Park. The Committee requests the Centre and IUCN to co-operate with the Ethiopian authorities, and authorises the Centre to obtain the US\$ 30,000, which the Committee approved in 1996, from the 1999 budget of the World Heritage Fund, as a contribution to the organisation of the second stakeholders’ meeting before June 1999.”

#### **Mount Nimba Nature Reserve (Guinea/Cote d’Ivoire)**

WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.17

WH Bureau twenty-second session para. V.7

The Committee, at its last session (Naples, 1997), had requested the State Party (Guinea) and the Centre to contact the relevant mining companies, which foresee exploiting an iron-ore mine in the vicinity of the Reserve in order to learn more details of their interest to set up an international foundation for the conservation of Mt. Nimba. The Bureau, at its twenty-second ordinary session (June 1998), learnt that the Secretariat was participating in a meeting jointly organized by the “Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique” (CNRS) and a number of French Foundations on the subject of the “Role of Foundations and Trusts in the Management of Cultural and Natural Heritage”. The Bureau had also noted that the Centre is implementing a project using the US\$ 20,000 approved by the Chairperson in 1997 to equip the Reserve’s hydrological laboratory and recommended that the Committee retain Mt. Nimba in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The meeting organized by the CNRS and French Foundations reviewed the role of foundations and trusts in the management of cultural and natural heritage from a very broad perspective. It did not however, improve the chances for the establishment of a specific Foundation for the Conservation of Mt. Nimba. The interest of the mining companies to establish a trust fund or a foundation for the conservation of Mt. Nimba appears to be contingent upon their obtaining the approval from the Government of Guinea to begin exploitation of the mine. The Centre has learnt in discussions with the members of the Permanent Delegation of Guinea to UNESCO that the process for obtaining such an approval of the Government of Guinea may take a considerable period of time. Thus it appears unlikely that a foundation or a trust fund for the conservation of Mt. Nimba will be established in the near future.

**Decision required:** The Committee may wish to adopt the following:

“The Committee decides to retain Mt. Nimba in the List of World Heritage in Danger and requests the Centre, IUCN and the two States Parties co-operate to prepare an up-to-date state of conservation report for Mt. Nimba for submission to its twenty-third session in 1999. The Committee suggests that a strategic plan for the long term conservation of Mt. Nimba is also elaborated on the basis of the state of conservation report.”

**Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras)**

WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.18

WH Bureau twenty-second session para. V.8

The Committee may recall the fact that it included this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1996, and requested the State Party to implement the eleven-point corrective action plan that had been endorsed by the Minister for the Environment of Honduras. The elaboration of a management plan for Rio Platano is being carried out with a contribution of US\$ 30,000 from the World Heritage Fund, as part of a large scale project for strengthening the conservation of Rio Platano financed by GTZ-KFW (Germany). The Bureau, at its twenty-second ordinary session (June,1998), learnt from IUCN that a hydroelectric development project (Patuca II) is proposed for implementation near the Reserve. Terms of reference for a draft environmental impact assessment of the development project have been prepared; potential impacts of the project include opening of new access roads to the Reserve, reduction in downstream water flow and quality, and the loss of scenic and bio-diversity values. The Bureau urged that IUCN and the Centre report on details concerning the hydroelectric development project to the twenty-second session of the Committee and recommended that the Committee retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger, pending a review of its state of conservation in 1999.

IUCN has informed the Centre that it has received a large number of communications on the hydroelectric development project (Patuca II) particularly showing the concern and disagreement of a number of indigenous peoples living in and around the area who will be affected by the project. According to these reports, the Government is promoting the rapid implementation of this project and the process for preparing an EIA, which is currently underway, lacks consultation and transparency. Reports received also indicate a plan for opening a new road. IUCN has pointed out the need to obtain detailed information on this project in order to undertake a thorough review of its potential threats to the integrity of the site.

**Decision required:** The Committee may wish to adopt the following:

“The Committee decides to retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee requests the Centre to contact the State party to obtain detailed information on the proposed hydroelectric development project, including on the EIA which is currently under preparation and report it to the next session of the Bureau. Moreover, the Committee requests the State Party to invite the Centre and IUCN to undertake a site visit with a view to providing

a detailed state of conservation report on Rio Platano to the twenty-third session of the Committee in 1999.”

### **Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India)**

WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.19

WH Bureau twenty-second session para. V.9

The Bureau, at its twenty-second ordinary session in June 1998, was informed that the implementation of the rehabilitation plan for this site, approved at its last session in June 1997, was progressing satisfactorily. All equipment purchased using the first instalment of US\$ 75,000 approved under emergency assistance by the Bureau in June 1997 has been delivered to the site. Construction of range posts and staff housing to be undertaken using the second instalment of US\$ 90,000 approved by the Committee as emergency assistance at its last session (Naples, 1997), has however, been delayed due to heavy rains, but will begin soon after the end of the rainy season in November 1998.

The Indian authorities informed a member of the Centre staff who was on mission to New Delhi in August 1998 that while security conditions in and around Manas have improved, the problem of insurgency is still widespread in the State of Assam and militants often traversed the Sanctuary. Nevertheless, both MOEF and the Park Director were of the view that the conditions for site-protection and relationship with local villagers were gradually improving. The Park authorities are taking necessary precautions to locate the new constructions to be financed by the World Heritage Fund in areas where they are not completely isolated and could be vulnerable to raids by militants who are frequently in search of arms and ammunition. The Indian authorities have suggested that the Committee consider reviving its invitation, made at the time of inscription of Manas Wildlife Sanctuary of India on the World Heritage List in 1985, to Bhutan to ratify the Convention. Bhutan's ratification of the Convention will make it possible for the nomination and inscription of Bhutan's Royal Manas National Park as a World Heritage site and hence could significantly strengthen patrolling and surveillance operations for the protection of the whole of the trans-border Manas ecosystem.

MOEF has agreed to inform the Centre, before the beginning of the twenty-second session of the Committee, on national counterpart funding provided in 1998 for the implementation of the rehabilitation plan for Manas

**Decision required:** The Committee may wish to adopt the following:

“The Committee decides to retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger and requests the Centre to continue monitoring the progress in the implementation of the rehabilitation plan. The Committee also requests the Director General of UNESCO to invite the Government of Bhutan to consider ratifying the World Heritage Convention and nominate the Royal Manas National Park of Bhutan as a World Heritage site in order to strengthen the overall protection of the trans-border Manas ecosystem.”

**Aïr et Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger)**

WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.20

WH Bureau twenty-second session para. V.10

The Committee at its twentieth (Merida, 1996) and twenty-first (Naples, 1997) sessions had called for a site visit to evaluate the state of conservation of the site in order to determine whether the site could be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Exploratory field missions of the IUCN Office in Niger, supported by the Swiss Development Corporation (SDC) have indicated that the numbers of most wildlife species are recovering; a population of more than 100 Addax has been found in the South-eastern part of the Ténéré Reserve. The flora also appears to be intact in most parts, except in some valleys where it has been over used by local people. Some wildlife species like the ostrich however, continue to be seriously threatened by poaching and international trade in live animals and its by-products; population size of ostrich in the Reserves has been found to be less than 10% of the 1990-91 estimates. IUCN Niger has advanced in the preparation of a new programme, in co-operation with SDC and DANIDA, for the conservation of the area, with the aim of establishing conditions for conservation of the Reserves and decentralised sustainable use initiatives. The programme will attempt to increase the economic value of the Reserves to local communities through eco-tourism, agriculture and animal husbandry.

The findings of the Centre/State Party mission to the site undertaken from 21 September to 3 October 1998, with the participation of the IUCN Office in Niger, were in agreement with the above-mentioned conclusions. The mission team was of the view that the Peace Agreement signed between the Government and rebels has been effectively implemented. Impact of rebel activities in the area on the integrity of the site has been less severe than expected. The team welcomed IUCN/SDC co-operation to start a project for the conservation of the site and has welcomed the initiative of site management to prepare a plan of priority conservation programmes that need to be implemented. This plan is being elaborated in consultation with the Centre, UNESCO, UNDP, IUCN, the State Party and national and local stakeholders in Niger and is due to be finalised during early 1999. IUCN has acknowledged the prospects for continuing improvements for the conservation of this site.

**Decision required:** The Committee may wish to adopt the following:

“The Committee commends the State Party for ensuring the protection of this site in spite of rebel activity and uncertain security conditions and welcomed the interest of SDC, DANIDA, UNDP and other donors to contribute to the conservation of this site. The Committee requested the Centre and IUCN to co-operate with the State Party and all other stakeholders to finalise the plan to identify priority conservation programmes and submit it to the twenty-third session of the Bureau. The Committee requested the Bureau to review this plan and recommend whether the Aïr and Ténéné could be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger at the twenty-third session of the Committee in 1999.

**Ichkeul National Park (Tunisia)**

WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.21

WH Bureau twenty-second session para. V.11

The Committee inscribed Ichkeul National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1996 and requested the Tunisian authorities to provide a programme of corrective measures to reverse the degradation of the site. At its twenty-second ordinary session (June 1998), the Bureau received a report from IUCN, which provided technical data to indicate that the salinity of the water in the lake may have reached excessively high proportions and that the chances for the recovery of the World Heritage values of the site may be fast receding. IUCN expressed its concern at the slow pace and the effectiveness of the implementation of the rehabilitation programme by the State Party.

The Observer of Tunisia informed the Bureau of several measures undertaken by his Government to retain freshwater in the lakes on a year-round basis and thereby reduce salinity of the lake. He also described other measures taken for providing: (i) irrigation and water supply needs of people; (ii) economic incentives to reduce the dependence of the people on the resources of the nearby mountain which constitutes part of an area from where the waters drain into the lake; and (iii) monitoring the number of migratory birds arriving at Ichkeul during the European winter. The Observer disagreed with some of the data presented by IUCN to the Bureau.

The Bureau recommended that the Committee retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger and expressed its concerns regarding the feasibility of effectively rehabilitating this site. The Bureau urged the State Party to take all necessary measures to ensure rapid and effective implementation of the programme for rehabilitating Ichkeul. The Bureau requested the Centre to co-operate with the State Party to field an expert mission to the site to undertake a thorough review of the state of conservation of the site. The Bureau noted the observation made by one of its members that the original nomination of Ichkeul, submitted in 1979, lacked adequate baseline data for evaluating the outcome of the programme of rehabilitation currently underway. The Bureau therefore recommended that the experts establish the necessary baseline data and information, and prepare a report on the adequacy of conservation measures undertaken and, if necessary, propose additional measures that may be needed for the conservation of the site. It also recommended the preparation of a statement of significance on the World Heritage values of the site, which could provide a framework for an objective evaluation of the success or failure of the rehabilitation programme currently being implemented by the State Party.

The Bureau's intention in suggesting an expert mission was to give due consideration to the possibility for developing an improved rehabilitation programme for Ichkeul and retain its status as a World Heritage site. The Bureau recommended that the Committee allow time for the implementation of the programme and reiterated its recommendation that the State Party submit a comprehensive report on the results of the implementation of the rehabilitation programme to the twenty-third session of the Committee in 1999.

IUCN has informed the Centre that it will continue monitoring the progress in the rehabilitation of Ichkeul in close co-operation with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and the Mediterranean Wetlands Programme (MedWet) in anticipation of a site visit in 1999.

By letter received on 21 September, the Ambassador of Tunisia to UNESCO invited an expert mission to be organized in the second half of December 1998.

**Decision required:** The Committee may wish to adopt the following:

“The Committee decides to retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger and requests the Centre and IUCN to co-operate with the State Party to field the expert mission to Ichkeul National Park as early as possible. The Committee recommends that the Centre and IUCN give due consideration to all the observations and recommendations made by the twenty-second ordinary session of the Bureau with regard to the organization of the expert mission and evaluating the effectiveness of the rehabilitation measures implemented by the State Party. The Committee requests the Centre to submit the report of the expert mission for review to the twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau and invite the State Party to submit a comprehensive report on the results of the implementation of the rehabilitation measures to the twenty-third session of the Committee at the end of 1999.”

**Everglades National Park (United States of America)**

WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.22

At its last session (Naples, 1997), the Committee noted significant progress made in the state of conservation of this site following generous Federal and State allocations of financial and human resources. However, the Committee noted that the State Party was of the view that the site is still under threat and hence decided to retain the site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The State Party has informed the Centre that it will provide an update on the state of conservation of Everglades in time for the twenty-second session of the Committee.

**Decision required:** The Committee may review new information expected to be available at the time of its twenty-second session and decide whether or not this site should be retained in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

**Yellowstone National Park (United States of America)**

WH Committee twentieth session para VII.23)

At its last session (Naples, 1997), the Committee commended the initiative of the President of the State Party to remove the potential mining threat to Yellowstone National Park, by offering a mutually agreed upon trade of land valued at US\$ 65 million. The Committee noted that the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Lands and Minerals Management and the Under Secretary of Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Environment had both signed, on 12 August 1997, the decision authorizing the withdrawal of mineral entry from 22,065 ha near Cooke City, Montana. Despite the successful mitigation of the threat due to the proposed mining project, the Committee

agreed with the assessment of the State Party that there remain other serious threats to the natural resources and values of Yellowstone. Hence, the Committee decided to retain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The State Party has informed the Centre that it will provide an update on the state of conservation of Yellowstone in time for the twenty-second session of the Committee.

**Decision required:** The Committee may review new information that is expected to be available at the time of its twenty-third session and decide whether or not Yellowstone National Park should be retained in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

## CULTURAL HERITAGE

6. Ten cultural properties are included in the List of World Heritage in Danger. Reports on five of those sites were reviewed by the Bureau at its twenty-second ordinary session, held in June 1998. The observations and recommendations of the Bureau (see Document WHC-98/CONF.203/4) were transmitted to the respective States Parties.

### **Butrinti (Albania)**

WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.44

WH Bureau twenty-second session para. V.13

On the basis of a joint UNESCO-ICOMOS-Butrint Foundation assessment mission (October 1997), the Committee at its twenty-first session decided to inscribe Butrinti on the List of World Heritage in Danger and to allocate US\$ 100,000 as emergency assistance for the implementation of remedial actions.

The Secretariat has made arrangements with the Albanian authorities (National Commission for UNESCO, Institute of Archaeology, Institute of Monuments) for the implementation of concrete actions, such as an inventory and publication of stolen archaeological objects, purchase of water pumps, improvement of fences, the construction of sanitary facilities and repairs at the museum building and the storage facilities. It has also advised the Albanian authorities on the redefinition of the boundaries of the World Heritage site and the establishment of a buffer zone.

The Butrint Foundation organized in April 1998 a workshop to define the guidelines for a master plan for Butrinti. A draft master plan is scheduled to be completed by the end of 1998. In September 1998, the Butrint Foundation also organised a workshop on the presentation and preservation of the baptistery and its extremely well preserved mosaics. The Government of Greece made a high-level expert available for the workshop. Furthermore, the Butrint Foundation reported to the Secretariat that it had assisted the Government in consultations with the European Union, the World Bank and public and private organizations, with a view to incorporate the planning for Butrinti in local and regional planning schemes.

The Government of Albania decided in August 1998, to create a Co-ordinating Office for Butrinti in the nearby town of Seranda, with a Director and staff provided by the

Institute of Archaeology, Institute of Monuments and the local municipal authorities. At the date of preparation of this report, this office still had to be established. In the view of the Secretariat, this will be crucial for effective actions to be taken for the long-term management and preservation of the site.

**Decision required:** The Committee may wish to adopt the following:

“The Committee commends the Albanian authorities and collaborating institutions on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the 1997 assessment mission. It encourages the Government of Albania to effectively establish the Co-ordinating Office for Butrinti and to provide it with adequate authority and human and financial resources. The Committee places particular importance on the redefinition of the boundaries and buffer zone of the site, as well as the preparation of a management and master plan.

The Committee requests the Secretariat to submit a report on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the 1997 assessment mission to its twenty-third session.

The Committee decides to retain Butrinti on the List of World Heritage in Danger.”

### **Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin)**

WH Committee, twenty-first session, para. VII.24

This property constitutes an important tangible witness to the Danxome history and civilization dating from the 17th century to the end of the 19th century. It comprises a group of buildings, open areas and extremely high walls and covers an area of about 44 hectares.

At the request of the World Heritage Committee, the Benin authorities have prepared a conservation plan, partly financed by the World Heritage Fund. This conservation plan was developed as an instrument for co-operation and partnership to coordinate and ensure the coherence of actions carried out at the site, and to guarantee the:

- continuing process of conservation of its outstanding values for future generations,
- expression of traditional Abome culture,
- integration of the site in the process of evolution and social and economic development of the city.

The Ministry of Culture and Communications, responsible for the site, has prepared this plan in consultation with the Royal families from which it receives a right of use and the bodies responsible for the development of the city of Abomey, which have subscribed to the following objectives:

- the establishment of partnerships at the local, national and international level,
- the increase of resources for the museum and the establishment of dynamic management and strengthening of capacities of the museum team, and the creation of a data base on the site,
- the creation of a management advisory body and establishment of a monitoring and evaluation system,
- the strengthening of legal protection,
- improved promotion, in line with the increased knowledge of the site and its components,
- the removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger, after an initial programme of action of five years.

These proposals for the safeguarding and enhancement of the site and its integration in the local development process have encouraged the Government of Benin to agree to a 50% increase in the subsidy it grants to the site, for the coming five years.

**Decision required:** The Committee may wish to adopt the following:

« The Committee congratulates the Benin authorities for their efforts in preparing the conservation plan, and the allocation of additional resources for this site;

The Committee requests the Benin authorities to report to the Committee at its twenty-fourth session concerning the progress made in the implementation of this plan.

The Committee decides to retain the Royal Palaces of Abomey on the List of World Heritage in Danger. »

### **Angkor (Cambodia)**

WH Committee, twenty-first session, para. VII.25

WH Bureau, twenty-second session, para. V.14

1. Obligations following the inscription of the site on the World Heritage List. Following the expert mission to prepare the legal instruments indispensable for the application of the law for the protection of cultural heritage, it became evident that there was a need to train jurists within the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts. The training programme proposed by the Cambodian authorities during the plenary session of the International Co-ordination Committee (C.I.C.) is under preparation. The technical session of the International Co-ordination Committee for the Safeguarding and Development of the Historic Area of Angkor (C.I.C.), for which UNESCO provides the Secretariat, will meet in December 1998.

2. Emergency assistance

The hydrogeological studies of the moats of Angkor financed under Emergency Assistance approved by the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee in June 1998, are underway.

### 3. Operational projects

The operational projects being financed by UNESCO funds-in-trusts and managed by the different international teams progress normally. Phase II of the restoration project for the Pre Rup Temple, financed by the Government of Italy through its UNESCO funds-in-trust, will commence in November 1998. This one-year project is to consolidate the three south-east towers as well as to carry out a structural study of the five upper towers. At the Photographic Laboratory for the Conservation of Angkor, a Digital Imagery Department is being set up. This is linked with a training project on digital techniques for young national photographers. The training project in the Faculties of Architecture and Archeology at the Royal University of Fine Arts at Phnom Penh, financed by the Japanese under UNESCO funds-in-trust, continues for the 1998-1999 academic year.

With regard to bilateral activities, the last phase of intervention on the Preah Ko Temple, with financing from the German Government, will recommence in November 1998.

### 4. Illicit traffic

In addition to the ongoing work in the legal domain, UNESCO and the C.I.C. remain vigilant with regard to this subject. Concerning the initiatives undertaken for the preparation of a national inventory of cultural properties, the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts is working on the clearing and surveillance of the sites of Prei Kuk and Beng Mealea. UNESCO, for its part, provides support to the archaeological cartographic project undertaken by the 'Ecole Française d'Extreme Orient'.

**Decision required:** The Committee may wish to adopt the following:

« The Committee notes the report of the Secretariat concerning Angkor and commends the continued efforts of the International Co-ordinating Committee in mobilizing international support for Angkor. The Committee expresses appreciation for the progress made in the implementation of the various restoration and training projects. The Committee requests the State Party and the Secretariat to continue its work in promoting measures to prevent the illicit traffic of cultural properties and to keep the Committee informed on developments in this regard. »

### **Old City of Dubrovnik (Croatia)**

WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.26

WH Bureau twenty-second session para. V.15

The Bureau at its twenty-second ordinary session examined a substantive state of conservation report on the state of conservation of Dubrovnik that was submitted by the Croatian authorities. ICOMOS informed the Bureau that it was greatly impressed by the restoration works undertaken in Dubrovnik and strongly supported the request made by Croatia to delete Dubrovnik from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The Bureau, with great satisfaction decided to recommend the Committee to delete the Old City of Dubrovnik from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

**Decision required:** The Committee may wish to adopt the following:

“The Committee, following the recommendation of the Bureau, decides with great satisfaction to delete the Old City of Dubrovnik from the List of World Heritage in Danger. It congratulates the Croatian authorities for the effective measures taken for the preservation and restoration of this World Heritage site.”

**Bahla Fort (Oman)**

WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.28

WH Bureau twenty-second session para. V.16

Following previous expert missions, a third mission took place from 19 September to 3 October 1998 in order to assess the quality of the restoration works in terms of authenticity and use of materials, advise on future works and on the preparation of a management plan for an extended area, including the Fort and the oasis, as well as on the hydro-metric survey that should be undertaken urgently.

The Secretariat will present the results of the mission at the Committee session.

**Decision required:** The Committee may wish to examine information that may be available at the time of its session and take appropriate action thereupon. It is recommended to retain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

**Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru)**

WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.29

WH Bureau twenty-second session para. V.17

The Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee approved in 1997 an amount of US\$ 20,000 under technical cooperation for the preparation of a management plan for Chan Chan.

The Government of Peru submitted on 16 July 1998 a progress report on the preparation of the management plan for the site. This management plan is being prepared by an interdisciplinary team of experts under the aegis of the National Institute for Culture of the La Libertad region and receives advice from an international expert from Mexico. The report includes the outline and a workplan for the conclusion of the management plan.

The report includes an additional request for an amount of US\$ 8,700 in order to be able to conclude the management plan. This request will be examined by the Bureau at its twenty-second extraordinary session.

As to the impact of the El Nino phenomenon, World Heritage Centre staff, during a visit to the site in May 1998, could observe that this has been relatively modest. This was mainly due to the fact that this El Nino was characterised by less rain than expected (major damage in the country, however, were caused by severe flooding) and

that the protective measures, undertaken with emergency assistance from the World Heritage Fund, were effective.

As to training, it is recalled that in 1996, the first Pan-American Course on the Conservation and Management of Earthen Architectural and Archaeological Heritage was held in Chan Chan (Government of Peru, ICCROM, CRATerre EAG, Getty Conservation Institute). The second course will be held in 1999 at Chan Chan and will thus directly benefit to the preservation and management planning for the site.

**Decision required:** The Committee may wish to adopt the following:

“The Committee commends the Government of Peru for its initiative to prepare a management plan for the Chan Chan Archaeological Zone. It requests the Government to submit the management plan as soon as it is finalised together with a report on the arrangements for its implementation.

The Committee decides to retain the Chan Chan Archaeological Zone on the List of World Heritage in Danger.”

#### **Wieliczka Salt Mines (Poland)**

WH Committee twenty-first session para. VII.30

At its twenty-first session, the Committee was informed that the effectiveness of the dehumidifying system at the mines could only be assessed in the second half of 1998.

**Decision required:** The Committee may wish to adopt the following:

“The Committee requests the Polish authorities to submit a report on the effectiveness of the dehumidifying system at the mines by 15 September 1999 for consideration at its twenty-third session.

The Committee requests the Polish authorities to submit at the same time a substantive report on the overall state of conservation of the mines, together with an assessment of further remedial actions that might be necessary for their preservation.

Awaiting these reports, the Committee decides to retain the Wieliczka Salt Mines on the List of World Heritage in Danger.”