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BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-third session
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room X
5 - 10 July 1999

Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda: Report of the Secretariat on the activities undertaken since the twenty-second session of the World Heritage Committee

Summary

This document presents an overview of activities carried out by the World Heritage Centre, between December 1998 and June 1999 according to the following subject headings:

1. Introduction
2. Establishment of the World Heritage List
3. Monitoring and reporting on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger
4. Technical implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*
5. World Heritage documentation, information, education and awareness-raising strategy
6. Overall functioning of the *World Heritage Convention*

Further details may be found in the relevant working documents (WHC-99/CONF.204/1 to WHC-99/CONF.204/14) and information documents (WHC-99/CONF.204/INF.1 to WHC-99/CONF.204/INF.20), presented to the twenty-third session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee.

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- (vi) Overall management of the World Heritage Centre in 1999

1. Introduction

This document presents an overview of the main activities carried out by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (Paris, France) in servicing the statutory organs and the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention between December 1998 and June 1999. This work was undertaken in co-operation with the States Parties, the advisory bodies (ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN), other sectors of UNESCO and external partners. This summary report will be supplemented by an oral report by the Director of the World Heritage Centre to be presented to the Bureau.

Detailed information on these activities may be found in the relevant working documents (**WHC-99/CONF.204/1** to **WHC-99/CONF.204/14**) and information documents (**WHC-99/CONF.204/INF.1** to **WHC-99/CONF.204/INF.20**), presented to the twenty-third session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee.

Additional information on some of these activities is available on the World Heritage Centre's web site www.unesco.org/whc.

2. Establishment of the World Heritage List

(i) New States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention*

The total number of States Parties to the *Convention* has remained unchanged at **156**, since the twenty-second session of the World Heritage Committee.

(ii) The World Heritage List

Following the inscription of 30 new sites by the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-second session in December 1998, the World Heritage List now includes a total of **582** properties (**445** cultural properties, **117** natural properties and **20** mixed properties) located in **114** States Parties.

Nominations to the World Heritage List: 1999

The Bureau at its twenty-third session will examine a total of **70** nominations (**16** natural, **49** cultural and **5** mixed cultural and natural properties). In addition, proposals for the extension of 1 natural and 4 cultural properties will also be reviewed. Detailed information can be found in the working document **WHC-98/CONF.204/7**. The majority of new nominations received for 1999 continue to be received from Western European countries. In 1999, the Committee will be examining nominations from five States Parties (Bosnia and Herzegovina, South Africa, Saint Christopher & Nevis, Suriname, Turkmenistan) for the first time.

Sites	Europe			America			Arab States			Asia Pacific			Africa		
	C	N	M	C	N	M	C	N	M	C	N	M	C	N	M
	28	5	3	9	7	0	0	0	0	9	3	2	3	1	0
Total 70	36			16			0			14			4		
100 %	51.4%			22.8%			0 %			20%			5.8%		

(iii) Tentative lists

Of the 156 States Parties to the *Convention*, 104 have submitted tentative lists that comply with the format specified in the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the Convention (see working document **WHC-99/CONF.204/6**).

(iv) Global Strategy for a Representative and Balanced World Heritage List

Thematic Meetings

A regional thematic expert meeting on *African Cultural Landscapes* was held in Tiwi, Kenya, from 9 to 14 March 1999, with the participation of nine African experts, the World Heritage Centre, the UNESCO Nairobi Office, the advisory bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN) and the Nordic World Heritage Office. The participants illustrated with case studies the rich diversity of cultural landscapes in Africa and highlighted the links between nature, culture and spirituality. Specific notions such as ownership, the definition of boundaries, and, more particularly, the involvement of local communities at all stages of the inscription process and the management of the sites were emphasized. The participants adopted recommendations for the systematic consideration of the cultural and natural values of African sites, the recognition of traditional rights for the protection and ownership of the sites, and for their management in a perspective of sustainable development. The expert group also expressed the wish that the conditions of authenticity and integrity be defined from the African point of view. The need for an interdisciplinary approach in the evaluation of cultural landscapes was voiced, also in relation to the creation of an operational network of African experts for cultural landscapes. The field visits to the sacred Kaya Forests on the Coast led to a recommendation for their inscription on the tentative list of Kenya. The synthetic report and the recommendations are provided in information document **WHC-99/CONF.204/INF.4**.

Actions taken to improve representation in the Arab region include the commissioning of a second mission for the identification of potential natural heritage sites in the Arab region approved by the last Committee. The mission has so far visited three countries (Egypt, Syria and Lebanon). It is expected that another three countries will be visited before the next Bureau session, bringing the total to 14 countries visited since 1997 when the first mission was organized for this purpose under the Global Strategy. It is expected that after the conclusion of these missions and the organization of a series of capacity building workshops in natural heritage conservation, States Parties of the Arab region would be in a position to identify and nominate potential natural sites to the World Heritage List.

For cultural properties in Asia and the Pacific Region, the World Heritage Centre, in co-operation with the UNESCO Field Offices have initiated reviews of the tentative lists of Central Asian and Southeast Asian States Parties in preparation of the global strategy meetings of the two sub-regions being planned for the second half of 1999.

Negotiations for the organization of the Central Asian Global Strategy meeting, expected to be held in Turkmenistan, are continuing. Extra-budgetary funds are also being sought to supplement the allocation from the World Heritage Fund in order to meet the logistic costs and to invite experts from not only the five Central Asian Republics, but also from Iran, Pakistan, China and the Russian Federation.

The global strategy meeting for Southeast Asia is being partially combined with the training strategy review of this sub-region. The World Heritage Centre, ICCROM and ICOMOS,

together with representatives of several States Parties met, to define the orientations of these reviews and to identify existing training facilities and programmes in the region, in Nara (Japan) in March and in Melaka (Malaysia) in May on the occasion of international seminars held in these cities. The *Nara Seminar on the Integrity and Development of Historic Cities* provided an opportunity to discuss the notion of integrity as applicable to cultural sites such as historic cities. The conclusion of this Seminar is provided in information document **WHC-99/CONF.204/INF 5**. Also, in late August 1999, a sub-regional meeting for the Global Strategy in the *Pacific* will be held in Port Vila, Vanuatu in co-operation with the Pacific Islands Museums Association (PIMA).

The global dialogue on the role of the Convention in the conservation of tropical forest biodiversity, hosted by the Ministry of Forests of Indonesia and jointly organized by the Centre for International Forests Research (CIFOR) and the World Heritage Centre, from 7-11 December 1999 in Brastagi, Indonesia, yielded significant results. The principal outcome of the dialogue is contained in the Report on « World Heritage Tropical Forests », which has been distributed to all members of the Bureau. Members of the World Heritage Committee attending the third extraordinary session would also be provided with a copy on 12 July 1999.

It is proposed that the recommendations of this global dialogue are brought to the attention of the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-third session in Marrakesh, Morocco, from 29 November to 4 December 1999. If the recommendations concerning the nomination of new sites to the List, including potential clusters, are taken up for implementation by the States Parties, then the global coverage of the World Heritage tropical forest sites may rise to about 5 – 10%. Such a result would significantly increase the biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration benefits generated by World Heritage forests to the global environment.

In accordance with the Action Plan for the Future (Cultural Landscapes) adopted by the seventeenth session of the World Heritage Committee in December 1993, an international expert group on “*Management Guidelines for Cultural Landscapes*” met in Banská Stiavnica (Slovakia) from 1 to 4 June 1999 at the invitation of the Slovak authorities. The group consisted of 19 representatives from Africa, Arab States, Latin America, North America, Asia/Pacific and Europe, representatives from the advisory bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM), IFLA and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. The Expert Group prepared an outline for the Management Guidelines for Cultural Landscapes. It recommended that specific funding for the preparation of the management guidelines and its publication be sought and the publication including illustrative case studies from all regions of the world be prepared in a consultative process. A report of the meeting is presented in information document **WHC-99/CONF.204/INF 16**.

The expert meeting on “*Cultural Landscapes in Eastern Europe*”, which was approved by the last session of the World Heritage Committee is currently under preparation and is scheduled to be held in Poland in September 1999.

New attention has been given to the Caribbean region, where both natural and cultural heritage is under-represented. With financial assistance from the Fund, the organization of a workshop on “Natural Heritage in the Caribbean” has commenced and was scheduled to be held in Suriname in June 1999. However, the workshop had to be postponed to October 1999.

2. Monitoring and reporting on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger

(i) Periodic reporting

In response to the Resolution on periodic reporting adopted by the 29th General Conference of UNESCO, the World Heritage Committee, at its twenty-second session held in December 1998, established the periodicity of periodic reporting at six years and adopted the format and explanatory notes for the periodic reports. It also adopted a regional approach to the preparation and examination of the periodic reports.

The World Heritage Centre has distributed the format and explanatory notes to the States Parties through a circular letter, to the general public on its Internet web-site and through both the printed and the electronic World Heritage newsletters. A special brochure on periodic reporting is under preparation.

A number of States Parties have already taken initiatives to facilitate the implementation of periodic reporting. The Russian Federation will organize a training seminar on its application in Central and Eastern Europe; Mexico and Argentina will hold national seminars; and the Czech Republic is developing a national periodic reporting strategy. The Instituto Andaluz de Patrimonio Historico (Andalucia, Spain) organized and hosted a second meeting of experts from Latin America and Spain on the identification of indicators for measuring the state of conservation of historic World Heritage cities.

As requested by the Committee, the World Heritage Centre is developing strategies for periodic reporting for each of the following regions:

- Arab States
- Africa
- Asia and the Pacific
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Europe and North America

A new format for the presentation of these reports has been developed providing clearly identifiable information on:

Name of property (State Party)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List and/or on the List of World Heritage in Danger

International assistance

Summary of previous deliberations

New information

Action required.

The views of the Bureau on this format would be welcomed.

On 27 March 1999, ICCROM convened a meeting with representatives of the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre to further discuss ICCROM's proposal, submitted to the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-second session, to develop a *reference manual for monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage properties*. It was concluded that there is a need for such a manual and that monitoring should be understood as a tool for effective management within a larger management process. The format and contents of a manual were discussed in detail, as well as the process that would be followed for its

preparation. The Secretariat recommends that further discussions on this matter take place and that a draft proposal be submitted to the Committee at its twenty-third session in the context of the overall implementation of the periodic reporting process.

(ii) Reactive monitoring

Twenty-three properties are at present inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger (15 natural and 8 cultural properties). Of this number, reports on 12 natural properties and 2 cultural properties inscribed on this List are presented to the Bureau in working document **WHC-99/CONF.204/4**. Further reports will be submitted to the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-third session.

The reports on the state of conservation of 71 properties inscribed on the World Heritage List are included in working document **WHC-99/CONF.204/5**. This number includes the reports on six World Heritage sites in Central America as requested by the World Heritage Committee.

The number of reactive monitoring reports examined by the Bureau and the Committee has developed over the past years as follows:

	Bureau June 1997	Bureau/Comm. Nov./Dec. 1997	Bureau June 1998	Bureau/Comm. Nov./Dec. 1998	Bureau July 1999
DANGER LIST					
Natural	11	13	13	15	12
Mixed	-	-	-	-	-
Cultural	2	7	5	7	2
WH LIST					
Natural	20	19	18	32	28
Mixed	1	3	4	7	5
Cultural	24	29	34	37	38
TOTAL	58	71	74	98	85

The regional distribution of the reports that will be examined by the Bureau during its twenty-third session is as follows:

	Africa	Arab States	Asia and the Pacific	Latin America And the Caribbean	Europe and North America
DANGER LIST					
Natural	8	1	1	2	-
Mixed	-	-	-	-	-
Cultural	-	1	1	-	-
WH LIST					
Natural	4	1	10	8	5
Mixed	-	-	3	2	-
Cultural	-	8	14	7	9
TOTAL	12	11	29	19	14

Some regional examples

Arab States (State of the World Heritage Report to be submitted in 2000)

As recommended at the twenty-second session of the Committee, the Arab States are invited to submit, in the year 2000, periodic reports on the application of the World Heritage Convention, including the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List up to and including 1992. The World Heritage Centre has therefore prepared a detailed workplan for Periodic Reporting in the Arab States in co-operation with the advisory bodies of the World Heritage Committee

As a follow up to the monitoring mission to Yemen in November 1998, an UNESCO mission visited the Old City of Sana'a in March 1999. The mission was alerted of two planned interventions within and next to the site which may seriously undermine the World Heritage values of the Old City of Sana'a. The first concerns a plan to extend the Great Mosque further south which will entail the demolition of some 40 old houses of significant value, both architecturally and as groups of traditional buildings. The second case is the planned construction by the Ministry of Public Works of a 400m-long fly-over bridge located just outside the ancient wall between the Old City and the Ottoman City. While the location is outside the World Heritage site, the bridge might damage its beautiful townscape and skyline.

An expert mission of a structural engineer visited Jordan and Syria in March 1999 to assess structural problems of listed monuments and to provide practical advice on continuing structural studies at the sites in these States Parties.

In co-operation with the Egyptian National Commission for UNESCO and the Egyptian National Committee for Man and Biosphere Programme, a "Regional Workshop on Developing the Capacity for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Arab Region" was held from 29 May to 1 June 1999. In addition to reviewing the potential natural sites in the Arab region, the workshop also reviewed the state of conservation of two of the four natural sites in this Region (Ichkeul National Park in Tunisia and the Arabian Oryx Sanctuary in the Sultanate of Oman). The Workshop was attended by participants from among others nine Arab countries (Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Sudan, Syria, Lebanon, Oman, Morocco and Yemen) .

Africa (State of World Heritage Report to be submitted in 2001)

The World Heritage Centre, in co-operation with the advisory bodies, is placing an increasing emphasis on seeking the participation of African specialists and experts in the monitoring of the state of conservation of World Heritage sites. An expert mission to Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia and a non-State Party, i.e. Namibia, made important contributions to following up of the Committee's recommendations on the state of conservation of Mosi-oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls (Zambia/Zimbabwe), laid the foundation for initiation of the Convention's implementation in Botswana which ratified the Convention in late 1998 and explained to the Namibian authorities the advantages of ratifying the Convention. Another mission to Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) has resulted in a detailed state of conservation report which is currently being reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN.

The World Heritage Centre, UNESCO-MAB and IUCN have maintained contacts with a core-group of international conservation NGOs. This group met with representatives of ICCN (Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature) the World Heritage sites in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including those from the four sites included in the List of

World Heritage in Danger, to discuss options for providing direct support to staff who continue to reside in the sites despite the risks and insecurity arising from the on-going conflict in the eastern parts of the country. The recommendations of that meeting, held in Naivasha, Kenya during 12-16 April 1999, will be presented to the Bureau in working document **WHC-99/CONF.204/4**. A delegation comprising of representatives from ICCN and the four sites included in the List of World Heritage in Danger is expected to participate in the Bureau session.

With regard to the monitoring of the state of conservation of properties included in the List of World Heritage in Danger, the Centre, IUCN and the Ramsar Convention Secretariat fielded, in accordance with the wish of the twenty-second session of the Bureau (June 1998), a mission to assess progress in the implementation of measures to mitigate threats to the Ichkeul National Park of Tunisia. The findings of the mission will be presented to the Bureau in working document **WHC-99/CONF.204/4**

Asia and the Pacific (State of World Heritage Report to be submitted in 2002)

The periodic state of conservation reporting exercise, together with reactive monitoring activities conducted over the first six months of this year have enabled the Centre to update the information on 16 World Heritage cultural sites in Asia. Although the Regional Summary Report on the State of Conservation of World Heritage Sites in the Asia-Pacific Region is not scheduled for completion until 2002, a database covering the majority of Asian cultural properties inscribed before 1992 should be available on-line in the limited-access Website of the World Heritage Centre by the end of this year.

The World Heritage Centre's international co-operation activities in favour of cultural sites in Asia concentrated on sites under serious threat and those in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Low-Income Countries (LICs). Concerted action on the Kathmandu Valley site was continued in order to promote the implementation of the 55 Recommendations and Time-Bound Action Plan of Corrective Measures proposed by the UNESCO-ICOMOS-His Majesty's Government of Nepal Joint Mission in March 1998 and adopted by the HMG of Nepal. The dissolution of the Government in January 1999 and the following election campaign period until May 1999 have not facilitated the enforcement of heritage protection measures. Although steps have been taken to implement the 55 Recommendations and the Time-Bound Action Plan, important actions, such as the establishment of the Rules and Regulations for implementing the Ancient Monument Act, have been greatly delayed. However, international co-operation provided under the World Heritage Fund and others mobilized by the World Heritage Centre are resulting in the strengthening of local authorities' capacity in heritage management. Heritage Units have now been established in Lalitpur (Patan) and Bhaktapur municipalities.

The periodic reporting exercise has also enabled the Centre to become aware of a number of on-going public and private works which may seriously undermine the World Heritage value of the sites. In Pakistan, in March 1999, a football stadium was being constructed on the most ancient citadel site within Taxila World Heritage site. In June 1999, the essential hydraulic works of the Shalamar Gardens of Lahore were being demolished to enlarge a road adjacent to the Gardens. In India, great concern has been raised regarding the construction of a bridge within the site of Hampi. A report has also been received regarding the construction plans of a waste disposal incineration plant allegedly with high emission of pollutants, less than 7 kms from the site of the Sokkuram Grotto and the Pulgulksa Temple in the Republic of Korea.

To assist Asian States Parties in protecting World Heritage sites following international conservation standards, the Centre arranged for technical expertise to be made available for the Shish Mahal within Lahore Fort (Pakistan), Peking Man Site at Zhoukoudian (China) and Lumbini (Nepal), Luang Prabang (Laos) and Hue (Vietnam).

As a follow-up to the recommendations of an IUCN/UNESCO monitoring mission to China in September 1998, the World Heritage Centre will organize, in co-operation with relevant authorities in China, a national strategy workshop for natural heritage conservation, most likely at Mt. Emei World Heritage site in late August 1999.

The twenty-second session of the Committee's decisions concerning Kakadu National Park required that reports be prepared by the Australian authorities for review by the advisory bodies (IUCN, ICOMOS and ICCROM) and an Independent Scientific Panel established by the International Council for Science (ICSU) according to a very tight timeframe. The four reports concerning Kakadu National Park to be examined by the Bureau are presented as information documents **WHC-99/CONF.204/INF.9B** to **WHC-99/CONF.204/INF.9E**. The Bureau's recommendations will be submitted to the third extraordinary session of the Committee on 12 July 1999 at which time a decision will be made as to whether or not to include Kakadu on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Latin America and the Caribbean (State of World Heritage Report to be submitted in 2003)

The periodic reporting activities in this region can to a great extent be built upon past activities, such as the regional monitoring exercise for cultural properties, undertaken by the UNDP/UNESCO Regional Project from 1991 to 1994, and regional meetings for natural properties organized in collaboration with FAO (Santa Marta, Colombia in 1997).

The World Heritage Centre is in the process of preparing an inventory of the examination of the state of conservation of specific properties by the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau, as well as technical reports on these sites. This material, together with the nomination dossier and the evaluation by the advisory bodies, will be made available to States Parties as a basis for the reporting. Argentina and Mexico have already taken the initiative to organize national seminars on periodic reports; other States Parties are encouraged to do the same. At a later stage national reports and experiences could then be brought together on a sub-regional basis, concluding the regional periodic reporting cycle with a regional event for the preparation of the Regional State of the World Heritage Report.

Following the request by the World Heritage Committee joint IUCN-UNESCO monitoring missions were carried out to Iguacu National Park (Brazil) in March 1999, to Canaima National Park (Venezuela) in May 1999 and to Sangay National Park (Ecuador) in June 1999. Reports will be presented to this Bureau session under state of conservation reports of properties. An invitation for an IUCN-UNESCO mission to the Whale Sanctuary of El Viscaïno (Mexico) has been received from the Mexican authorities. The timing for this mission is yet to be confirmed.

The World Heritage Centre, in co-operation with the Charles Darwin Research Centre (CDRS) situated in Galapagos of Ecuador and IUCN, is preparing a 4-year project on control and eradication of invasive species. The project was approved for financing by the UN Foundation in mid-May for a sum of US\$ 3,999,850 which includes: (a) an outright grant of US\$ 1,999,850; and (b) a challenge grant of US\$ 1 million, subject to CDRS and the Centre raising an equivalent amount for establishing an endowment for the conservation of Galapagos. The project, when successfully implemented, will provide a significant boost to

the implementation of the Special Galapagos Law concerned with the introduction, spread, control and eradication of invasive species. The Centre is co-operating with the CDRS in finalizing the project document for further implementation.

Europe and North America (State of World Heritage Report to be submitted in 2004-2005)

The great number of States Parties and World Heritage properties in this region requires even more participation of States Parties and regional institutions in bringing the periodic reporting cycle to a fruitful conclusion. The World Heritage Centre will initiate consultations with States Parties and potential partners as soon as possible.

The UNESCO Moscow Office, in consultation with the Centre and the Division for Ecological Sciences organized on 9 March 1999 a workshop on the Baikal law. The adoption of the law had been requested by the World Heritage Committee at the time of the inscription of the site in 1996. The law passed by the Duma, has been signed by the President of the Russian Federation and entered into force with its publication beginning May 1999. The Governmental Baikal Commission held an extraordinary meeting on 13 May 1999 to decide on next steps to be taken to implement the law. At the same occasion the Commission requested the Federal Government that the Director of the UNESCO Moscow office become a member of the Commission, referring to the World Heritage status of Lake Baikal. A state of conservation report will be provided to the Bureau.

The situation at the Doñana National Park (Spain) continued to be of major concern following the toxic spill in southern Spain, which caused an ecological disaster affecting this site. Collaboration with the Ramsar Convention Bureau, IUCN and WWF continued and an IUCN/WCPA mission took place at the site between 6 and 10 June 1999 to review impacts of the spill will affect the World Heritage area as the pollution becomes more widely dispersed. A report will be presented to the Bureau.

4. Technical Implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*

There has been a dramatic rise in the number of international assistance requests and the amounts requested, reflecting the growing number of sites and increasing threats. The training budget for cultural heritage was entirely committed at the twenty-second session of the World Heritage Committee. By early June 1999, funds for technical co-operation for cultural heritage, preparatory and promotional assistance were also exhausted.

The World Heritage Centre undertook a review of international assistance requests approved in previous years up to 1999. An analysis is presented in working document **WHC-99/CONF.204/INF.15**, indicating trends in the allocation of World Heritage Fund. Through this exercise it was noted that a significant amount (some 9%) of the 1999 international assistance budget had to be used to finance activities approved in prior years, thereby decreasing the amount available to support new requests. The Centre therefore requests the Bureau to propose for the decision of the Committee, a mechanism for financing “carry-over” activities. Furthermore, to ensure that Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Low Income Countries (LICs) have the priority in receiving limited World Heritage funds to protect their sites, especially those on the List of World Heritage in Danger, the World Heritage Centre recommends non-LDCs/LICs to utilize limited World Heritage funds in a catalytic manner to raise funds for large-scale projects from other sources, in accordance with paragraph 113 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Promotional assistance was mainly granted for cultural heritage exhibitions, publications, and projects for raising general awareness of the Convention. By April 1999, the amount of US\$ 100,000 allocated at the twenty-second session of the Committee was completely exhausted. Over 50% of the budget were granted to European States Parties (Austria, Belgium, Finland, Germany, Norway, Slovakia, Sweden and Turkey). Many exhibitions were organized with this assistance: four for the Arab region, one for Asia (the Philippines), and one for Europe (Slovakia). States Parties are urged to follow paragraph 111(a) and (b) of the *Operational Guidelines* for the use of this assistance.

Implementation of international assistance requests approved by the World Heritage Committee, the Bureau and the Chairperson have been undertaken by the World Heritage Centre, in close co-operation with the States Parties, advisory bodies, UNESCO field offices and relevant units within UNESCO. Some examples are highlighted below:

NATURAL HERITAGE

Preparatory assistance for natural heritage was granted to enhance the representation of the World Heritage List, in Latin America and the Caribbean (Bolivia, Brazil), the African region (Benin, Niger and Nigeria) and in the Pacific region (Papua New Guinea).

New emphasis on training of natural heritage site managers in Eastern Europe is demonstrated by the example of a seminar at Lake Baikal (5 to 10 July) in Ulan Ude. Site managers from four natural sites and a number of potential World Heritage sites in the Russian Federation, including transfrontier sites with Mongolia and Lithuania will be present.

IUCN is assisting the World Heritage Centre in implementing a Strategic Action Plan for training natural heritage specialists. The project development workshop for integrating biodiversity information management into the Regional Training Centre was successfully concluded in March 1999 at the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) in Cambridge, UK. This seminar, financed through the training budget of the Fund, resulted in the development of project proposals which are now being refined for submission to interested donors.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, a new State Party to the Convention, was supported through the Fund to hold a training seminar for national and regional authorities and site-managers both natural and cultural heritage, for increasing awareness of the World Heritage Convention.

Small-scale technical co-operation projects are currently being carried out in Southeastern Europe at Plitvice Lakes National Park (Croatia) and Srebarna Nature Reserve (Bulgaria).

Emergency assistance was granted for the rehabilitation of the natural World Heritage site of Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area (China) which was affected by serious flood damage in 1998.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

For a balanced representation of the World Heritage List, preparatory assistance has been granted to many Eastern and Central European (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Hungary and the Slovakia) and Latin American / Caribbean (Brazil, Bolivia, Mexico) States Parties. Western European (Spain), Arab (Lebanon, Oman), and Asia-Pacific (Fiji, Laos, Republic of Korea) States Parties have also benefited from preparatory assistance.

For the African region, efforts have been concentrated on establishing contacts with countries which have expressed interest in identifying and presenting nominations to the World Heritage List, namely: Benin, Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Niger, Senegal, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe. Information concerning categories of African heritage defined by the Global Strategy was disseminated: the reports of the 4th Global Strategy meeting held in Porto-Novo in 1998, as well as the synthetic report of the Expert meeting on African Cultural Landscapes (Tiwi, Kenya, 9-14 March 1999). Discussions have once again stressed the importance of the link between nature, culture and spirituality, the need to define the conditions of authenticity and integrity in an African context, and to take into consideration traditional rights which govern the ownership and protection of cultural landscapes. Assistance was provided to formulate international assistance requests and to reinforce an operational network of African professionals.

Meanwhile, for capacity building in Africa-the *Africa 2009 Programme* implemented by ICCROM and the World Heritage Centre, has developed with the Co-ordination Committee, composed of 4 African experts, a panel of challenging activities for 1999. They include a seminar to be held in November in Benin on the topic of Preventive Conservation and Maintenance of Immovable Cultural Heritage, a site project to create a documentation centre for the Forts & Castles World Heritage site in Ghana, a national seminar in Ethiopia on the topic of International Standards for Conservation of Immovable Cultural Heritage and the publication of a newsletter and worldwide web site to allow for better communication and exchange of information. Another important activity will be a training course for African immovable cultural heritage professions to be held between 5 July and 3 September 1999 in Mombasa, Kenya. The course will cover topics such as the creation of site management, documentation and inventory, and sustainable development and conservation as well as establishing a better communication and networking at the level of directorates responsible for the conservation of cultural heritage

A large proportion of the technical co-operation allocation was granted to Arab (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia), European (Bulgaria, Georgia, Lithuania, Malta, Portugal, Turkey, Ukraine) and Latin America and the Caribbean (Brazil, Cuba, Peru) States Parties. These grants are being used for the rehabilitation of sites, and preparation of master plans, or for the purchase of equipment.

Arab (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon), Asian (China), Latin American and the Caribbean (Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba) States Parties benefited from the training budget for cultural heritage.

ICCROM has played an important role in implementing the World Heritage Convention through its activities in co-operation with the Centre and States Parties, for developing a training strategy in Southeast Asia, preserving earthen architectural and archaeological heritage in Latin America, building capacity for heritage management in Sub-Saharan Africa, and for enhancing conservation in urban areas.

Emergency assistance to safeguard the sites affected by hurricanes and threatened by volcanic activity was provided to the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. ICOMOS has undertaken a review of the damages to cultural World Heritage properties in Central America and will report on its findings during the twenty-third session of the Bureau. Arab and European sites in Albania, Armenia, Malta and Mauritania also benefited from emergency assistance for addressing conservation needs following damage of

sites due to fires, civil unrest followed by looting of the site, torrential rain, or for an exceptional case of gradual deterioration and lack of maintenance.

5. World Heritage documentation, information, education and awareness-raising strategy

(i) Introduction

A new Strategy for World Heritage Information, Documentation and Education Activities was adopted during the twenty-second session of the Committee in December 1998. This strategic plan, essentially targeting States Parties in support of their efforts to implement the Convention and the international community, was elaborated to help face a growing need for quality information about the Convention and the sites under its protection.

The proposed annual work plan for Information, Documentation and Education, elaborated to reflect the new strategy is being implemented as planned. Activities undertaken over the first six months of this year included primarily:

1. a thorough evaluation of the Centre's requirements in view of installing the Information Management System and preparation of a related implementation strategy;
2. a complete update of the basic information materials contained in the World Heritage Information package enriched with new elements and translated into other languages;
3. re-launch of the World Heritage Information Network, and
4. consolidation of existing partnerships with the media and publishers and promotion of new and varied methods of communication.
5. distribution of the World Heritage Educational Resource Kit for Teachers entitled "*World Heritage in young hands*"

(ii) Documentation

In the preparation for the meeting of the Bureau and the extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee in July 1999, 115 Word and PDF ("Portable Document Format") files (English and French) were prepared for distribution on the World Heritage Centre's secure web site. Files on the site are updated as revisions are made to the paper documents and access is limited through a password. For those States Parties without web access, provisional collections of these files can also be made available on CD-ROM.

A set of five CD-ROMs containing the nomination dossiers of sites inscribed 1978-1997 has been distributed to the advisory bodies. A sixth CD has been prepared containing the sites inscribed at the 1998 meeting of the World Heritage Committee. It will be distributed to the advisory bodies at the time of the Bureau meeting.

As of 2 July 1999, 56 nominations had been received by the World Heritage Centre for review by the Committee in the year 2000. This year, the 1000th nomination to the World Heritage List since 1978 was received. It is anticipated that this year for the first time, a CD-ROM containing these nominations will be distributed to the advisory bodies in late August.

Approximately 40 new sites from five States Parties have been added to the Tentative Lists since January 1999.

Information Management System (IMS): An agreement for the development of an IMS for the World Heritage Centre is being finalized with the European Space Agency, who will help guide the development of the project. It is anticipated that the first part of this new system will be operational in late 1999.

(iii) Information

The **World Heritage Information Package** was updated with the 1999 version of the World Heritage Map and Brochure, printed in 26,000 copies. Its distribution to States Parties has followed the requests sent to the World Heritage Centre as answers to a circular letter of November 1998 proposing a cost-sharing policy for information material on the World Heritage Convention. New sheets completing the existing **Information Kit**: on tentative lists, Global Strategy, sites in danger and benefits of ratification are in preparation. Issues 10 and 11 of the **World Heritage Review** have been published and issue 12 should be in print by the time of the World Heritage Bureau meeting. The **World Heritage Diary** for the year 2000 is in its pre-printing phase.

The printed versions of the **World Heritage List** and **Brief Descriptions** were revised and reprinted using a new two-column format, improving its appearance while also reducing the number of pages required.

On the recommendation of the Consultative Body of the World Heritage Committee, a **circular letter** was prepared and distributed to all delegations and national commissions, requesting their approval of the Brief Descriptions of each of the World Heritage sites. Approval and supplementary information has also been sought for new web pages on each of the 156 States Parties to the Convention (see below, C. Internet and WHIN). At the same time, the opportunity has been taken to update the contact addresses for local site managers and other institutions associated with each of the World Heritage sites.

The **World Heritage travelling exhibition** has been shown at the site of Pyrénées/ Mont-Perdu and a CD ROM version of it has been sent to the Australian site of Lord Howe Island for an on-site preparation of an exhibit – an entirely new form of co-operation in this field. In March 1999 a photo exhibition on the World Heritage site- *City of Lviv*, organized by the Permanent Delegation of Ukraine to UNESCO, was held at UNESCO Headquarters.

Ceremonies on the occasion of the inscription of the properties in the World Heritage List were held in Austria, Cyprus, France, Italy, Ukraine, Turkey, Japan and a number of other States Parties in different regions.

It is anticipated that the **World Heritage Newsletter** will return to its projected bi-monthly schedule. Two issues of the Newsletter were produced in early 1999 and will be distributed at the time of the Bureau meeting. A third issue is in production and will be made available in July 1999.

(iv) Internet and WHIN

The World Heritage web site, www.unesco.org/whc/ continues to show exceptional growth. In March 1999, the site had a record number of 955,103 "hits", a nearly 50 percent increase over the comparable number in December 1998. A major addition to the site in the first half of 1999 was the preparation of web pages containing basic information on each of the 156 States Parties. This data, being sent for approval to the Permanent Delegations and National Commissions of UNESCO, includes a record of international assistance given to the State

Party since 1978, all World Heritage sites inscribed, the date of the most recent tentative list on file with the Secretariat, membership (if any) in the World Heritage Committee, and the names and addresses of the government agencies in each State Party responsible for World Heritage activities.

Eleven issues of **WHNEWS, the e-mail newsletter**, were distributed in the first five months of 1999.

Following the introduction in early 1999 of a new search engine for the **World Heritage Information Network (WHIN)** by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), WHIN will be re-launched with new guidelines for the inclusion of partner organizations. State Parties, through the circular letter noted above, have been requested to identify to the Centre official web sites, if such sites exist. With a new stable search environment, the World Heritage Centre and WCMC plan to start a programme to proactively involve existing web site managers working on World Heritage information in the future development of improved information services on World Heritage sites; and facilitate improved capacity where it does not already exist, so that all World Heritage sites and all agencies working on World Heritage conservation, are able to provide information on World Heritage sites on the World Wide Web.

(v) Partnerships with the Media and Publishers

The new Agreement between **Südwestrundfunk (SWR)**, German public producer and broadcaster, and UNESCO is being executed according to plans. SWR delivered its yearly production schedule in December 1998 which foresaw 19 new productions, which were already in preparation, and another 35 productions planned the end of 1999.

Tokyo Broadcasting System (TBS) is celebrating its third year of production of the World Heritage Film Project in 1999 and is in the process of creating a CD-ROM version of the World Heritage Brief Descriptions (including photos) to commemorate this event. 1,000 copies of the CD-ROM will be produced in Japanese and distributed free of charge. TBS has also offered to begin the production of various ancillary products based on the television series and this proposal is currently under evaluation by the Centre in close consultation with the UNESCO Publishing Office and Office Public Information of UNESCO (OPI).

Several new **audio-visual/publication projects** were validated by the concerned National Commissions and will be implemented according to recommendations made by UNESCO. The World Heritage Centre has also been actively participating in conferences related to the application of new technologies in heritage presentation and preservation, particularly those involving virtual reality systems.

The Centre has also been working in close co-operation with OPI to **develop radio programmes** on World Heritage. The radio programmes currently being produced by OPI, in consultation with the Centre, are mostly site-specific. They are broadcast over UNESCO's own internal radio system as well as through national radio broadcasting corporations in Brazil, the Russian Federation and certain countries in Eastern Europe

(vi) The UNESCO Special Project: *Young People's Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion*

The UNESCO Special Project "*Young People's Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion*" continues to be implemented by the World Heritage Centre jointly with the

Associated Schools Project Co-ordination Unit (ASPnet) of the Education Sector. It aims to develop new educational approaches to provide young people with the necessary knowledge, skills and commitment to become involved in the protection and promotion of the world's natural and cultural heritage.

The Educational Resource Kit for Teachers "*World Heritage in young hands*" has been published in English and French (1500 F, 2500 E) in 1999 and is being distributed and tested in about 500 ASP-schools in more than 90 Member States. Translations and publications of the Kit into Arabic and Spanish will be finalized for distribution in September 1999 and UNESCO has received more than 50 requests for translation into national language versions.

In January 1999, a World Heritage Education Workshop was held on Robben Island in South Africa following the Fourth World Archaeological Congress. In February 1999, an International Workshop on World Heritage Education was held in Chartres, France to introduce the Kit to Directors of UNESCO Regional Offices, education experts and international experts from the advisory bodies to the World Heritage Committee. The participants discussed and formulated the strategy for the implementation of the Special Project (see information document **WHC-99/CONF.204/INF.10**). The Kit was also presented to the international press at a press conference held at UNESCO Headquarters on 4 June 1999, in the presence of the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Federico Mayor, and the President Director-General of the Rhône-Poulenc Foundation of France, Mr Jean-René Fourtou. The press highly commended the commitment of UNESCO in empowering young people through their participation in World Heritage preservation.

Following the success of five World Heritage Youth Fora in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Europe, the Second African World Heritage Youth Forum will be held at the Island of Gorée, Senegal from 21 to 27 August 1999 and the First Arab States World Heritage Youth Forum in Morocco from 23 to 28 November 1999.

Preparations are underway to organize sub-regional teacher training workshops in Zimbabwe, Jordan, Qatar, Thailand, Uzbekistan, India, Western Samoa, Russian Federation, Ecuador, and Jamaica in 1999 with extra-budgetary funding received from the Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation (NORAD) and the Rhône-Poulenc Foundation of France.

An information video (14 minutes) presenting the history and the activities of the Special Project was produced and distributed (550 copies in Arabic, English, French and Spanish) to Member States and relevant organizations in June 1999. The Project brochure was reprinted and distributed in March 1999 (1000 F, 3000 E) and a bilingual information flyer (6000 copies) presenting the Kit was produced and distributed in June 1999. A biannual newsletter entitled "*Patrimonto's Newsletter*" will be published for the first time in August 1999 and distributed to young people participating in the Special Project.

6. Overall functioning of the *World Heritage Convention*

(i) Co-operation with the advisory bodies

The World Heritage Centre continues to develop co-operation with IUCN, ICOMOS and ICCROM to ensure the follow-up to the contracts for advisory services, monitoring, specific international assistance activities, etc.

Regular co-ordination activities refer to the whole nomination and inscription process, reactive monitoring (examination of dossiers, fielding of expert missions) and international

assistance (advice from the advisory bodies on requests for international assistance). In February 1999, the advisory bodies were also invited to participate in formulating a strategy for the implementation of the UNESCO Special Project: “*Young People’s Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion*”.

A meeting of the advisory bodies and the World Heritage Centre was held at IUCN Headquarters on 15 February 1999 with the participation of staff members of the Centre, relevant sectors of UNESCO (Division of Cultural Heritage, Sector for Culture and Division of Ecological Sciences, Natural Sciences Sector) and experts from the advisory bodies (ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN).

IUCN’s new Director General, Ms. M. Koch-Weser started her tenure on 1 March 1999. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are cooperating closely to introduce natural heritage as a major focus of operations in the UN Foundation’s emerging programme on ecosystems and biodiversity. Participation of IUCN’s networks members in evaluation and monitoring missions are broadening. IUCN and the World Heritage Centre are also cooperating in donor negotiations for the benefit of sites in Nepal and Vietnam. Joint efforts of the Centre and IUCN/WCPA’s Vice-Chairman for World Heritage has led to the New Zealand Government awarding a NZ\$75,000 (US\$39,000) grant for placing a consultant for World Heritage implementation at the UNESCO Office in Apia, Samoa.

The World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) which maintains and manages the data sheets for natural World Heritage sites is to be brought under the administration of UNEP.

In addition to the country-specific project-based co-operation between the Centre and ICOMOS and ICCROM, notably for the deployment on mission of ICOMOS and ICCROM experts, the Centre’s co-operation with these two advisory bodies have been particularly strengthened in developing a strategic approach that combines monitoring, reporting and training for the protection and conservation of urban heritage sites.

(ii) Co-operation with other sectors of UNESCO

Following the recommendation made by the External Auditor on the *Management Review of the World Heritage Convention* in 1997, particularly on the co-operation with other sectors of UNESCO, the World Heritage Centre was able to take follow-up actions in this domain.

The level of co-operation with UNESCO-MAB, Division of Earth Sciences (SC/GEO) and Unit on Coastal Areas and Small Islands (SC/CSI) continue to be regular with regard to information exchange and launching joint actions. The topic chosen for the 2nd course on Multilateral Agreements for Biodiversity Conservation is: «Integrated Conservation and Development Planning: The Role of Multilateral Agreements Related to Biological Diversity». The importance of the role of buffer and transition zones, as promoted by UNESCO’s Biosphere Reserve Concept, for the conservation of World Heritage sites will be given particular attention.

Similar arrangements were made to reinforce the co-operation with other sectors, notably the Sector for Culture on the information exchange and monitoring the state of conservation of the cultural heritage. To promote methodological coherence and exchange of technical knowledge relevant to the protection and conservation of the numerous urban heritage on the World Heritage List, the working group on historic cities established in 1998 within the World Heritage Centre is also attended by colleagues of the Division of Cultural Heritage and

the Sector of Social and Human Sciences' Division of Modern Social Transformation, as well as by outside international experts.

In addition, the World Heritage Centre co-operates closely with the Education Sector, particularly the Associated Schools Project Co-ordination Unit (ASPnet) for the implementation of the UNESCO Special Project: "*Young People's Participation in the World Heritage Preservation and Promotion*".

In further developing co-operation with the different sectors of UNESCO, the advisory bodies, States Parties and other partners involved in World Heritage conservation, priority is being given to the monitoring of properties, especially those on the List of World Heritage in Danger and the development of bi-lateral and multi-lateral approaches to providing assistance to these properties.

(iii) Co-operation with other Convention Secretariats

The project on the « Feasibility Study for Harmonized Information Management among International Conventions dealing with Biodiversity Convention » implemented by WCMC with financial support from Biodiversity, Ramsar, CITES, CMS and World Heritage Conventions has resulted in the Biodiversity Convention hosting a closed non-modulated list server and a common web page for the five Conventions at www.biodiv.org/rioconv/WEBSITES.HTML/. The Centre and Ramsar Convention Secretariat have concluded a Memorandum of Understanding for enhancing co-operation.

Following the joint presentation by the Chairperson and the Director of the World Heritage Centre to the *Intergovernmental Consultation Conference on the Draft European Landscape Convention in Florence* (1-4 April 1998), the Draft Convention has been reviewed and is currently in the process of adoption.

(iv) Co-operation with other organizations

Considerable progress has been made regarding the co-operation with external partners:

World Bank, UNDP, UNEP and other agencies

The World Heritage Centre participated in the Workshop on the « Options for the Comprehensive Development of the Quang Ninh-Hai Phong Coastal Zone Vietnam » organized by the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) and the **World Bank** Office of Vietnam in April 1999. The meeting has opened up negotiations between IUCN, Hanoi and donors for biodiversity studies of the Ha Long Bay World Heritage Area and its environs and capacity building for the Ha Long Bay Management Department. During the meeting the Government of Vietnam, including the Provincial Government of Quang Ninh province where Ha Long Bay is located, committed to protect the environment of the Ha Long Bay World Heritage Area in accordance with international standards and norms.

Also, the **World Bank** visited the World Heritage Centre to discuss contents and co-operation for cultural and development projects in Turkey, Yemen, Lebanon and Ethiopia. The Centre is requesting that such projects be designed in such way that the World Heritage Convention is properly applied. A video conference on site management took place in April 1999 between the World Bank, Technical University of Delft (Netherlands) and the Centre

UNDP has allocated US\$40,000 to the World Heritage Centre to study the role of World Heritage sites in the overall development of the country of Egypt.

The World Heritage Centre's efforts to ensure that sites are protected against the growing number of visitors has led to the preparation of a draft of the tourism management training manual for Asian site-managers, supported with a financial contribution from a Swedish tourism agency. In co-operation with **UNEP**, the draft manual will be edited and published by January 2000, and will be distributed to Asian site-managers and relevant authorities. The World Heritage Centre intends to adapt this manual for use in other regions at a later stage. Furthermore, in order to encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use of traditional buildings within World Heritage areas, the Centre is implementing three pilot projects to restore and convert historic buildings into quality tourism accommodations at Bhaktapur and Patan in Kathmandu Valley (Nepal), with extrabudgetary contributions from a Swedish tourism agency and a Japanese NGO. Moreover, to sensitize the tourism industry and tourists visiting World Heritage sites concerning issues related to their protection, the Centre has entered into dialogue with **UNEP**, the World Tourism Organization (**WTO**) and representatives of tour operators.

Following the World Heritage Bureau's suggestion to establish a group on mining issues and World Heritage, and IUCN, ICOMOS and the Centre's participation in a one day workshop on "Mining and Protected Areas and Other Ecologically Sensitive Sites" organized by the International Council on Metals and the Environment" (ICME) on 20 October 1998 in London, a number of meetings on these issues took place. Colleagues from **UNEP**'s office in Paris met with the Centre's staff on 12 April 1999 to discuss possible collaboration with regard to mining and World Heritage areas, as well as mining tailings. A meeting with the Vice-President, External Relations, of ICME took place at UNESCO on 9 June 1999. Following the Committee's suggestion, the « *WCPA Position Statement on Mining and Associated Activities in Relation to Protected Areas* » has been circulated and made available as information document **WHC-99/CONF.204/INF.14**.

The newly established UN Foundation (1998) is viewing natural World Heritage as a strategic focus for its programme operations in biodiversity and the Centre and IUCN are in regular dialogue with the Foundation in order to promote that interest. **UNF**'s Programme Framework Group (PFG) for ecosystems and biodiversity met in New York, from 14-15 June 1999. It is hoped that the process for finalizing UN Foundation's Strategy for ecosystems and biodiversity would be finalized by September 1999, with its current strong emphasis on supporting World Natural Heritage operations benefiting biodiversity conservation.

The Centre has increased its frequency of contacts, particularly with the Global Environment Fund (**GEF**) Secretariats of the World Bank and **UNDP** and is preparing a list of on-going and pipeline projects on World Natural and Mixed Heritage sites receiving financial support from the GEF. The potential for linking outcomes of the Centre/IUCN monitoring missions to project development activities of the GEF Programmes is also expanding.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN is also in the process of discussing with the International Financing Corporation (**IFC**) on the feasibility for pilot testing IFC/GEF's loan programme to support Small and Medium-Scale Enterprises (SME) that GEF's operational objectives relevant to biodiversity conservation and mitigating global climate change. Currently, IUCN's Protected Area Economics Unit has expressed an interest to manage a loan package that could benefit SME activity in and around World Natural Heritage sites. A meeting between staff of IUCN, IFC and the Centre is foreseen on 13 July 1999.

Co-operation among States Parties

The catalytic use of the World Heritage Fund has enabled the World Heritage Centre to continue supporting States Parties to mobilize expert services from European local authorities for the benefit of World Heritage cities in Asia. A new bilateral aid agreement for US\$ 2 million from the French Development Agency was signed in December 1998 for a project developed by the City of Chinon (France) and the World Heritage Centre. This bilateral project is to support the urban heritage protection activities of the Luang Prabang Heritage House established in 1996 under the decentralized cooperation scheme between Luang Prabang and Chinon (France), under the aegis of UNESCO. A similar decentralized co-operation between Hué (Vietnam) and Lille Metropolis (France) established in 1997 with the Centre's support has also resulted in the establishment of a Hué Heritage House and pilot conservation works. In 1998-99, the Centre has brokered partnership agreements between the cities of Manila (Philippines), Barcelona (Spain) and Marseilles (France); between Vigan (Philippines), Valencia (Spain) and Macclesfield (UK); between Goa (India), Guimaraes (Portugal) and Brighton & Hove (UK); between several municipalities of the Kathmandu Valley, Bath and North East Somerset (UK) and the Province of Treviso (Italy); between Patan and Kokhana (Nepal), Chester (UK) and Feltre (Italy). The Centre provided technical assistance to these seven different groups of partners to prepare project proposals for funding consideration under the European Union's Asia-Urbs Programme. The Centre is currently developing partnerships between Lahore (Pakistan), Manchester (UK), Strasbourg (France), and Brandenburg (Germany) as well as with other Asian local authorities with World Heritage sites.

The Agreement of Co-operation between France and UNESCO for the Protection and Development of Monumental and Urban Heritage signed in October 1997 between the Director-General of UNESCO and the French Minister of Culture and Communications has become operational. A series of 16 activities agreed upon by the two parties includes the deployment of expert missions to support States Parties in the preparation of World Heritage nomination files. These activities are aimed to support the World Heritage Global Strategy by focusing on countries under-represented on the World Heritage List.

To commemorate the World Heritage inscription of the Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara, a *Nara Seminar for the Integrity and Development of Historic Cities* was organized by the City of Nara and the World Heritage Centre between 5-7 March 1999 and supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Agency for Cultural Affairs of the Government of Japan, ICOMOS and ICCROM, amongst others. Governors, mayors and experts from fifteen local authorities and conservation organizations from eleven historic cities addressed the particularly difficult issues of urban heritage preservation. The Seminar was followed by a one-day public meeting to debate on the challenges of safeguarding the living historic city of Nara and the role of the citizens which was attended by over 200 Japanese experts and local inhabitants of Nara and widely covered by the national and local media.

In May 1999, an international conference and workshop on the "Economics of Heritage" was organized by the UNESCO Regional Office in Bangkok and the States of Penang and Melaka of Malaysia. Attended by over 300 participants, this meeting also provided an important forum of exchange in urban conservation and adaptive re-use of historic buildings. Furthermore, this conference enabled the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to advise the national and local authorities in their preparation of a World Heritage nomination dossier, grouping several settlements of the Strait of Malacca.

In co-operation with IUCN, the International Centre for Protected Landscapes (ICPL), UK, and Ministry of Soil and Forest Conservation, the Department of Wildlife and National Parks and the Ministry of Tourism of Nepal, the World Heritage Centre also participated in donor negotiations with the Department of International Development (DFID), UK, to develop a project on sustainable tourism development in and around the Sagarmatha National Park of Nepal. Project development and donor negotiations, with DFID as well as other potential donors, are continuing.

At the invitation of the Institute for Responsible Tourism and the University of La Laguna (Tenerife, Spain), the Centre participated together with a number of intergovernmental organizations and partners from the tourism industry at the *International Seminar on Sustainable Tourism* (19-23 April 1999).

Co-operation has been established with the *Instituto Andaluz de Patrimonio Historico* (IAPH) of the Junta de Andalucia, Spain, for the reflection on the matter of indicators for evaluating the state of conservation of historic cities in Latin America and Spain. A first meeting of experts took place in March 1998 in Colonia del Sacramento in Uruguay; a second meeting was organized by the IAPH in Ubeda-Baeza, Spain in April 1999.

Other institutions

At the invitation of SPREP (the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme) a representative of the World Heritage Centre attended the Third Roundtable for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region in Suva, Fiji from 17 to 19 February 1999. The Roundtable discussed possibilities for collaboration in the implementation of the *1999-2002 Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands region*. Following the Centre's representation at the first two Roundtables, the conservation of properties of outstanding cultural and/or natural value has become an integral part of the *Action Strategy*. A further Roundtable is scheduled to take place in November 1999.

The World Heritage Centre also actively participated in the review and selection of the nominations for the World Monuments Watch programme of the *World Monuments Fund*.

Co-ordination and collaboration has continued with the *Butrinti Foundation* (based in London) on matters related to the World Heritage site of Butrinti, Albania, that was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in December 1997.

The Henry Ford European Conservation Award-launched in 1983- is a major programme for the recognition of achievements in the protection of the natural and cultural environment. As in previous years, a representative of the World Heritage Centre participated in the jury of the Award and attended the Awards Ceremony in June 1999 at Aachen, Germany.

The *ROTONDI* Award 1999 for the section "World", an initiative of the Community of Sassocorvaro in Italy, was dedicated to the UNESCO World Heritage Programme in recognition of the successful safeguarding measures with respect to the world's most significant cultural sites. The Award was handed over to a member of the Centre on behalf of the Director-General of UNESCO on 19 June 1999 during a ceremony in the Castle of Sassocorvaro, Italy.

Regional World Heritage Offices

Nordic World Heritage Office

The Nordic World Heritage Office (NWHO) was established by the Government of Norway in 1995 as a three-year pilot project under an agreement with UNESCO. This agreement was signed on 27 June 1995. An evaluation of the operation and achievements of the Office was undertaken in 1998, and reported upon to the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-second session. Following the recommendation of the evaluation, the mandate of the Office is being extended for another three-year period.

The Nordic World Heritage Office has continued to promote the application of the Convention in the Nordic countries, particularly by supporting networks of site managers and introducing monitoring and reporting mechanisms. In the international field the Nordic World Heritage Office successfully completed a project on "Sustainable Historic Cities" which was developed and carried-out in close collaboration with the cities of Riga (Latvia), Tallinn (Estonia), Visby (Sweden) and Ålesund (Norway). This activity has greatly furthered the co-operation between local and national and municipal authorities in the Nordic and the Baltic region.

World Heritage Office in Argentina

On 3 December 1996, the Director-General of UNESCO and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Argentina signed a declaration expressing their intention to establish a World Heritage Office in Argentina. Argentina and UNESCO are presently negotiating the draft text of an agreement for the establishment by Argentina of a World Heritage Office in Buenos Aires. This draft agreement will be considered by the competent authorities and organs.

World Heritage Office in Japan

The Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU), a well-established regional body based in Tokyo has established a new section to promote international co-operation for World Heritage. This new section will have an office in Nara (Japan) supported by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Nara Prefecture and Municipal authorities. The official inauguration of this office is expected in September 1999 and an international meeting of experts is being planned tentatively for March 2000. This office is expected to focus on training needs particularly aimed to strengthen local capacities in managing development activities in World Heritage protected areas.

(v) Follow-up to the work of the Consultative Body of the World Heritage Committee

(a) The Financial Audit of the World Heritage Fund and the Management Review

The Consultative Body of the World Heritage Committee was established at the twentieth session of the Committee (Merida, 1996) "to undertake a review of the way in which the World Heritage Centre has assisted the Committee in implementing the World Heritage Convention". The review was conducted in two parts – A Financial Audit of the World Heritage Fund for the year ended 31 December 1996 and a Management Review.

The Deputy External Auditor of UNESCO presented the report on the audited Financial Statements of the World Heritage Fund to the twenty-first session of the Bureau in June 1997.

The “*Report of the External Auditor to the Director-General of UNESCO on the Management Review of the World Heritage Convention*” was submitted to the twenty-first session of the World Heritage Committee (Naples, 1997).

The twenty-second session of the Committee (Kyoto, 1998) asked the twenty-third session of the Bureau to examine *A Progress Report on Follow-up to the “Report of the External Auditor to the Director-General of UNESCO on the Management Review of the World Heritage Convention”, June 1999* prepared by the World Heritage Centre and contained in Annex I of working document **WHC-99/CONF.204/8**. The twenty-third session of the Bureau is asked to present its own report and recommendations on the subject to the twenty-third session of the World Heritage Committee for adoption.

(b) Tasks and functions of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre

In 1998, at its twenty-second sessions, the Bureau and the World Heritage Committee requested that the Director-General of UNESCO provide a report outlining "the tasks and functions of the World Heritage Centre as Secretariat to the Convention".

The Report from the Director-General of UNESCO concerning the roles and functions of the World Heritage Centre, as requested by the twenty-second session of the World Heritage Committee is presented as Annex II of working document **WHC-99/CONF.204/8**. The Bureau may decide to provide recommendations, if necessary, to the twenty-third session of the Committee concerning the tasks and functions of the World Heritage Centre.

(vi) Overall management of the World Heritage Centre in 1999

Changes in the staffing of the World Heritage Centre during the first part of 1999 were as follows:

In February 1999, following the retirement of the former Director, Mr Bernd von Droste, Mr Mounir Bouchenaki was entrusted by the Director-General of UNESCO to be responsible for the work of the World Heritage Centre.

The funding of three Associate Experts posts terminated by June 1999. These are: the two posts of Associate Experts for cultural heritage in Europe and the post for cultural heritage in the Arab States. However, a new Japanese Associate Expert is expected to take over his duties at the Centre in early July for the Arab States; a German Associate Expert will arrive on 1 October 1999 for cultural heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean and an Italian Associate Expert in October-November for cultural heritage in the African region.

The Administrative Assistant was transferred to Haïti in early May. This post is vacant and candidates are being sought.

In the proposed Programme and Budget for 2000/2001 (30 C/5) of the Centre, five additional posts were requested: for relations with the Media, information networks, Arab States, a secretary for the Africa culture desk and a clerk for Administration. Efforts are also being made to regularize two members of the Centre currently on secondment from China and Austria.

Requests for financial contributions from the World Heritage Fund have increased steadily. As of 31 May 1999, the financial situation of the World Heritage Fund was the following:

Chapter	Budget	Approved requests	Implementation at 31 May 1999
Chapter I. Implementation of the World Heritage Fund	225,000	N/A.	19,2%
Chapter II. Establishment of the World Heritage List	975,000	N/A.	80,3%
Chapter III. Technical Implementation of the World Heritage Convention			
- Preparatory Assistance	300,000	300,000	69,3%
- Technical Cooperation	1,245,000	1,077,137	42,3%
- Training	981,000	869,600	44,2%
-On-site promotional activities	100,000	125,000	66,4%
Chapter IV. Monitoring the State of Conservation of the sites	465,000	N/A.	45,4%
Chapter V. Documentation, Information and Education	385,000	N/A.	51,2%
Emergency Assistance Reserve	600,000	500,605	90,3%

These figures, clearly indicate that, on the one hand the Fund's limits are being reached, while on the other, the capacity of the Centre to implement the increasing numbers of requests for cooperation is stretched to the limit. One should also bear in mind that more extra-budgetary resources are becoming available for joint activities through co-operation with international development banks and institutions, global funds and national agencies. These opportunities however require additional human and financial resources to ensure proper execution of activities and project management.

The Regular Budget of the World Heritage Centre has been severely cut, as for all sectors and units of UNESCO, decreasing for 1999 from an approved amount of US\$ 534,318 to US\$ 251,719. Together with the balance due to settle expenditures for prior year statutory meetings, this budgetary reduction greatly reduces the ability of the Centre to exercise its function as Secretariat of the World Heritage Convention. To enable the Centre to fulfill its minimal role, i.e. the organization of the statutory meetings, all other activities foreseen under the Regular Budget have been cancelled and all decentralized funds returned to the Centre, except those allocated for the Special Project: *Young People's Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion*.

As at 31 May 1999, 44% of the contributions due to the World Heritage Fund for 1999 had been received, amounting to US\$ 1,471,452. With the cash balance in the Reserve amounting to some US\$ 6 million. The Fund is however relatively healthy. But efforts will be continued to encourage States Parties to settle their arrears payment to the Fund so that the growing need for the protection of World Heritage sites can be met through the catalytic use of the international assistance.
