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WHC-2000/CONF.203/5
Paris, 13 October 2000
Original : English/French

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL
AND NATURAL HERITAGE

BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-fourth extraordinary session

Cairns, Australia
23 - 24 November 2000

Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

This document presents reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Decision required:

PART I: The Bureau is requested to examine the reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and take the appropriate decisions under the following three headings:

- (a) The Bureau recommends the Committee to inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
- (b) The Bureau transmits the state of conservation report to the Committee for action;
- (c) The Bureau transmits the state of conservation report together with its own observation/recommendation to the Committee for noting.

PART II: The Bureau is requested to take note of the information provided.

INTRODUCTION

1. This document deals with **reactive monitoring** as it is defined in the Operational Guidelines: "The reporting by the Centre, other sectors of UNESCO and the advisory bodies to the Bureau and the Committee on the state of conservation of specific World Heritage sites that are under threat". Reactive monitoring is foreseen in the procedures for the eventual deletion of properties from the World Heritage List (paragraphs 48-56 of the Operational Guidelines) and for the inclusion of properties in the List of World Heritage in Danger (paragraphs 86-93 of the Operational Guidelines).

2. Reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger are submitted directly to the World Heritage Committee. The Bureau is requested to examine reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.

3. The present document is also made available to the members of the Committee for consideration as Working Document WHC-2000/CONF.204/10. The observations/recommendations of the Bureau will be reflected in the report of the Bureau session that will be transmitted to the Committee as Working Document WHC-2000/CONF.204/4.

STRUCTURE OF THE DOCUMENT

4. To facilitate the work of the Bureau, state of conservation reports are presented in a standard format that includes the following information:

- Name of property (State Party)
- International assistance
- Previous deliberations (Reference is made to relevant paragraph numbers from the Reports of the twenty-third session of the Committee (29 November – 4 December 1999, Marrakesh, Morocco) and the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau (26 June - 1 July 2000, Paris, France). In order to limit the length of this working document to a minimum number of pages, texts from those two reports have not been repeated in this document.)
- New information
- Action required

5. In addition, this document is now divided into two parts:

PART I Reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List for examination

This part of the document includes state of conservation reports on which the Bureau is requested to take action, i.e. adopt a proposed decision under the following three categories:

(a) The Bureau recommends the Committee to inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;

(b) The Bureau transmits the state of conservation report to the Committee for action;

(c) The Bureau transmits the state of conservation report together with its own observation/recommendation to the Committee for noting.

PART II Reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List for noting.

This part includes information on the state of conservation of specific properties that is transmitted to the Bureau for noting.

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WORLD HERITAGE AND MINING

At its twenty-third session, the Committee took note of the “WCPA Position Statement on Mining and Associated Activities in Relation to Protected Areas” in light of its deliberations on ascertained and potential threats from mining to specific World Heritage properties. The Committee noted a number of initiatives demonstrating increasing levels of collaboration between mining and conservation interests. At this meeting, States Parties expressed concern regarding the threats or potential threats from mining to specific World Heritage sites. At the same time, it was recognised that there may be additional issues and/or opportunities related to mining and the management of World Heritage sites that warrant consideration. In accordance with the Committee’s request, IUCN and the World Heritage Centre planned and organised, in consultation with the International Council on Metals and the Environment (ICME), a technical meeting which analysed case studies on World Heritage and mining. This meeting was held at the IUCN Headquarters (Gland, Switzerland) from 21 to 23 September 2000. This meeting reviewed case studies from the following sites:

- Lorentz National Park, Indonesia;
- Huascarán National Park, Peru;
- Doñana National Park, Spain;
- Camp Caiman Gold Project, French Guyana (adjacent to a Ramsar site);
- Kakadu National Park, Australia;
- Greater St. Lucia Wetlands Park, South Africa.

Each case study was jointly presented by a representation of both the Conservation agency and the Mining company. Following these case study presentations, working groups were formed to examine:

- Principles underlying the relationship between World Heritage and mining;
- Recommendations to: World Heritage Committee and States Parties; management agencies; and the mining industry; and
- Follow up actions.

These were incorporated in a draft report which is being circulated for comments from workshop participants. A final report will be tabled for consideration at the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee (Cairns, November 2000) as an Information Document.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

“The Bureau takes note of the report contained in Information Document WHC-2000/CONF.203/INF.7 which is based on specific case studies on mining and World Heritage and commends the States Parties, site managers, IUCN, UN agencies and the mining industry for having started a collaboration in this matter. The Bureau notes the recommendations of the report and transmits them to the World Heritage Committee for examination.”

PART I Reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List for examination

NATURAL HERITAGE

At its twenty-fourth session (Paris, June 2000), the Bureau examined the state of conservation of twenty-one natural heritage properties, as well as properties affected by a cyanide spill in the Danube River in Romania. State of conservation reports of a total of thirty-four natural heritage properties are presented in this document.

I.1. World Natural Heritage Properties of Australia

The Assistant Secretary of the World Heritage Branch of Environment Australia, via a letter dated 15 September 2000 transmitted to the Centre detailed information concerning the state of conservation of Australian World Heritage properties. The letter included:

- (i) information on the commencement of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBCA) of 1999;
- (ii) State Party contributions to the work of ACIUCN to prepare a detailed state of conservation report for the Wet Tropics of Queensland;
- (iii) response to the observations and recommendations of the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau on the state of conservation of the Tasmanian Wilderness, Fraser Island, Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves, Great Barrier Reef and Kakadu; and
- (iv) a progress report on the implementation of the "Framework for Management" for the implementation of the "Focused Recommendations" adopted by the Committee at its last session (Marrakesh, Morocco, 1999) for monitoring the state of conservation of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

The information provided by the Australian authorities was transmitted to IUCN for review. IUCN observations and comments have been incorporated in the state of conservation reports on the respective sites described below.

At the forty-second ordinary meeting of ACIUCN, constraints and options for extending the ACIUCN process, already applied to the Great Barrier Reef, Shark Bay and the Wet Tropics of Queensland, to the Tasmanian Wilderness and Fraser Island, were discussed. The meeting agreed to establish a working group to further this work and adopted a timeline that would enable completion of the application of the process to the Tasmanian Wilderness by the twenty-fifth extraordinary session of the Bureau in 2001. Although Fraser Island was also included in the ACIUCN work programme for 2001, the feasibility of completing the ACIUCN process on Fraser Island during 2001 will be reviewed at the forty-third Ordinary Meeting of ACIUCN in March 2001. No further details on the state of conservation of the Tasmanian Wilderness or Fraser Island are included in this document.

IUCN has noted that the new EPBCA came into force in July 2000, and that this Act strengthens protection of a range of properties of national environmental significance, including World Heritage areas. The EPBCA seeks to promote a co-operative approach to the protection and management of the environment involving governments, the community, landholders and indigenous peoples. It has a number of positive implications for the management of Australian World Heritage sites, including strengthened provisions for environmental assessment, management planning, and development of World Heritage management principles. IUCN has strongly welcomed the new Act and considers that it will make a positive contribution to the improved management of World Heritage sites in Australia. In particular, IUCN has commended the initiative to develop World Heritage Management Principles to promote nationally consistent standards of management.

In IUCN's view the recently enacted South African World Heritage Convention Act, similar to Australia's EPBCA, is an important legislative initiative that aims to translate the World Heritage Convention into national law and specifically strengthen the management of World Heritage sites in South Africa. The EPBCA and the South African Act could serve as very useful models for use by other States Parties seeking to enact national World Heritage legislation.

I.2. Shark Bay, Western Australia

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.23

Twenty-third session of the Committee - Annex VIII, page 88

New information: IUCN has informed the Centre that it wishes to amend the Focused Recommendation no. 2 in the working document submitted to the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau as follows: "ACIUCN recommends that no mineral sands mining or exploration should be permitted if it is likely to cause damage to the Shark Bay World Heritage Area and World Heritage values." The Bureau may wish to seek the views of the State Party to this rewording of the Focused Recommendation no.2 at the time of its extraordinary session.

The Australian Government response to the ACIUCN's report on Shark Bay, dated 31 March 2000, and the five Focused Recommendations included in the working document considered by the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau was submitted to the Centre on 26 June 2000. The response indicates that the State Party supports the Focused Recommendations of IUCN on the overall

management framework, minerals and petroleum - exploration and extraction, and biological resource harvest. In the case of IUCN recommendations on invasive species and visitor management, the Australian Government has expressed its support in principle. For each of the five Focused Recommendations of IUCN the Australian Government proposes several actions, responsible authority for implementing actions, the level of priority assigned to the activity and achievements and commitments.

IUCN and the State Party however, need to consult further to establish time frames for execution of the actions by the State Party for implementing each of the five Focused Recommendations. As in the case of the Great Barrier Reef, IUCN and State Party need to agree on a "Framework for Management" for monitoring the implementation of the five Focused Recommendations for Shark Bay World Heritage Area. Most of the information needed to elaborate such a "Framework for Management" is already contained in the Australian Government response to the ACIUCN Report. The date of completion of each planned action is due as one aspect that IUCN and the State Party need to establish in order to prepare a "Framework for Management" similar to that prepared for the Great Barrier Reef in 1999. Such a Framework will provide a basis for monitoring the progress of the implementation of each of the five Focused Recommendations for monitoring the state of conservation of Shark Bay based on submissions of annual reports by the State Party.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau commends the State Party and IUCN to have successfully repeated the process applied to the Great Barrier Reef for the Shark Bay World Heritage area. The Bureau urges them to develop a Framework for Management that could be used as a basis for annual monitoring of progress in the implementation of the five Focused Recommendations and submit it to the consideration of the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau in 2001."

I.3. Great Barrier Reef

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.22

Twenty-third session of the Committee - Annex VIII, page 85.

New information: IUCN has reviewed the first-year progress report on the implementation of the "Focused Recommendations" prepared by the ACIUCN and the State Party. IUCN had pointed out as part of its state of conservation report on the site that problems of integrated management of land and catchments represent the most serious threat to the Great Barrier Reef, and had noted the

urgency of the need for effective integrated catchment management to reduce environmental impact on the World Heritage site. The progress report describes the establishment of a number of community-based Catchment Management Committees and the implementation of several associated projects in catchments from where waters flow into the World Heritage Area. IUCN has welcomed these initiatives and notes that planning for these Committees needs to be clearly and effectively linked with long-term strategic objectives and strategies for the management of the World Heritage Area.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau thanks the State Party for submitting a first-year progress report on the implementation of the "Focused Recommendations" adopted by the Committee at its twenty-third session. The Bureau notes with satisfaction the State Party's efforts to involve local communities in the work of Management Committees that are beginning to address integrated land and catchment management issues. The Bureau invites the State Party to sustain the pace of progress in the implementation of the "Focused Recommendations" achieved in the first year and submit the second-year report to the next extraordinary session of the Bureau in 2001."

I.4. Central Eastern Australian Rainforest Reserves

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.26

New information: A draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Naturelink Cableway project was released in June 2000. Public comments on the draft EIS are currently being considered. An assessment report on the EIS will be submitted to the Queensland Co-ordinator General who will take a decision as to whether or not the project can proceed.

The project has been referred to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, who will advise whether or not he believes the project is a controlled action in accordance with the requirements of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act of 1999. No decision has been made on this issue to-date and environmental assessment procedures are underway. IUCN has reiterated its concern in relation to the potential impact of the cable car project on World Heritage values and drawn attention to similarities between this project and the cable car proposal at Morne Trois Piton National Park of Dominica. In the case of the latter, the State Party, following the recommendations of the Committee decided to relocate the site of construction of the cable car to areas outside the boundaries of the World Heritage property.

In its letter dated 15 September 2000, the State Party has informed the Centre that it will keep the Centre informed of progress in its review of the cable car project proposal.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

“The Bureau notes that assessments on environmental impacts of the cable car construction project are currently underway and invites the State Party to submit to the Centre, before 15 April 2001, an up-date on the findings of such assessments and any decisions made regarding the project proposal.”

I.5. Wet Tropics of Queensland

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.22

Twenty-third session of the Committee - Annex VIII, page 88

New information: ACIUCN has completed its report entitled ‘Condition, Management and Threats’ on the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area (please refer to WHC-2000/CONF.203/INF.6) and has identified a number of recommendations. The report was compiled over several months culminating in its adoption by ACIUCN at its forty-second Ordinary Meeting convened on 6-7 September 2000. The State Party has co-operated closely with other members of ACIUCN in the preparation of this report. The overall report provides a comprehensive assessment of the issues in the Wet Tropics of Queensland and outlines 19 recommendations. As it had done in the case of the Great Barrier Reef and Shark Bay World Heritage Areas of Australia, ACIUCN undertook a cluster analysis of the 19 recommendations in consultation with the members of the working group and ACIUCN. This analysis identified four priority action areas or “Focused Recommendations”:

1. Support for Management of the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area (Recommendations 13 and 19 in the ACIUCN Report)

The Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area was inscribed on the World Heritage List in September 1988. It is subject to many and changing pressures and interactions of human use that can impact on its complex and incompletely understood ecosystems. The first Wet Tropics Management Plan was not completed until May 1998. Implementation of that plan requires ongoing commitment of expertise and resources.

ACIUCN recommends that the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments commit to a strategy, including a revised intergovernmental agreement incorporating a new financial agreement, which will provide and sustain adequate resources to enable the Wet Tropics Management Plan and the Strategic Plan 1998-2003 to be fully

implemented. This should be done with particular regard to field management, education, partnership building, research, monitoring, provision and maintenance of facilities and the capacity for strategic analysis and planning such as that required for the review of the Plan in 2003.

2. Management of Native and Introduced Species (Recommendations 2, 3, 4, 10, 17 and 18 in the ACIUCN Report)

The needs and most appropriate management regimes for management of many native plant and animal species are poorly understood. Matters of concern include optimum fire management strategies and the factors underlying the decline in several frog species. There is also a need to address the problems caused by exotic plant and animal species, introduced for agricultural or domestic purposes, which have now become weed, feral or invasive threatening native plant and animal communities.

ACIUCN recommends that substantial effort be applied to research, education, partnership building, and planning to address the protection of native vegetation, the management of fire, the control of current feral and exotic species and the management of the introduction of species in order to minimise the risk of impacts on native flora and fauna and to identify and address the threats to sensitive native species.

3. Management of Land Use and Human Impacts Within and Beyond the Boundaries of the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area (Recommendations 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 15 in the ACIUCN Report)

Long term protection of the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area and its associated values depends on containing and minimising the impacts of human use and activity upon the native flora, fauna and ecological processes. The provision of services for human use and access can have significant adverse impacts. There is concern at the potential for ecological damage within the area as a result of provision of roads and electricity, the extraction of water, the development of facilities for tourism and the effects of climate change and global warming. There is also concern that inappropriate management of lands and crop species in the region but outside the World Heritage area have the potential to create adverse impacts within the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area and the adjoining Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

ACIUCN recommends that management of land use and the provision of services for residential, urban, industrial and tourism developments be subject to full environmental assessment, impact minimisation and monitoring, taking into account the implications of climate change. The design for such facilities should be required to avoid and address fragmentation of habitat of native species through the fullest use of measures including strategic land acquisition.

Furthermore, **ACIUCN reiterates** policies adopted at earlier meetings that called for the rejection of proposals to construct the Tully Millstream Dam and to extend the electricity grid north of the Daintree River; however, a review of ACIUCN's position on mains power north of the Daintree may be appropriate when the Daintree Futures Study (which seeks to secure a sustainable future for the Daintree coastal region) is finalised.

4. Strategic Issues for Future Management (Recommendations 1, 14 and 16 in the ACIUCN Report)

The current Strategic Plan covers the period 1998 – 2003 and identifies the need to review the boundaries of the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area. The principal objective of such a review should be to increase the integrity of the World Heritage Area. Since the area was inscribed on the List greater understanding of the cultural values of the area has developed and hence, the need for greater indigenous involvement in the management of the area and the factors affecting the integrity of the boundaries for several distinctive species have gained recognition.

ACIUCN recommends that:

- the cultural values of the area for indigenous people should be formally documented and that there should be increased indigenous involvement in management negotiated with traditional owners and their representatives;
- the area be re-nominated as World Heritage for its cultural values and to take account of any changes to boundaries to increase the integrity of the area that may arise from the boundary review;
- at least one member of the Board of the Wet Tropics Management Authority be a person recognised as an expert by the conservation movement.

In its letter of 15 September 2000, the State Party has informed the Centre that it closely co-operated with ACIUCN in the preparation of the report on Wet Tropics and that it will advise, in consultation with the Wet Tropics Management Authority, the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau steps to implement the focused recommendations that have been elaborated as part of the ACIUCN process.

Action required: The Bureau, based on State Party's advice to be made available at the time of its twenty-fourth extraordinary session may wish to take appropriate decisions and make recommendations for the consideration of the State Party, advisory bodies and the Centre.

I.6. Belovezhskaya Pushcha/Bialowieza Forest (Belarus/Poland)

International assistance: None

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.26

Twenty-third session of the Committee – page 88 of Annex VIII

New information: IUCN has received the published document 'Principles of the Bialowieza National Park functioning after its extension onto the entire Polish side of the Bialowieza Primeval Forest (Proposition)', dated June 2000. The Polish Ministry of Environment and the Parliamentary Commission for Environmental Conservation is recommending the document to guide the organisation and functioning of the proposed extended Park. Conservation NGO's have welcomed the document, while several representatives of local authorities objecting to the extension believe the document is a sound basis for a compromise. The document is a 'vision' for the National Park should it be enlarged. It was prepared in full consultation with all stakeholders as a basis for stimulating sustainable development of the region. A four-tiered zoning approach is proposed, including a strict protection zone (no forestry, no access), a passive protection zone (no forestry but access to the public to pick mushrooms, berries etc.), a transition zone (with moderate restoration management) and a restoration zone (satisfying local demand for wood). The logging intensity in the first year would be set at 70,000 cubic metres (60% of the present level) and is expected to gradually decrease due to the decrease in demand and changes in industry and employment trends.

It is envisaged that tourism development (one of the most important forms of regional economy) will take place at the edge of the Park and not encroach on the Forest. Education and training programmes are considered as ways of extending the tourist season, as well as building public awareness, understanding and trained professionals. IUCN applauds the "Principles Document" but notes that it is still uncertain whether a formal extension of the Park will take place.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau commends the efforts of the State Party. The Bureau urges the State Party to expedite the enlargement of the National Park to include the entire Polish side of the Bialowieza Primeval Forest, and to apply the document "Principles of the Bialowieza National Park functioning after its extension on to the entire Polish side of the Bialowieza Primeval Forest (Proposition)" as a basis for management of the National Park when it is enlarged."

I.7. Dja Faunal Reserve (Cameroon)

International assistance: US\$ 47,000 under Technical Assistance and US\$ 34,700 for Training.

Previous deliberations :

Twenty-second session of the Committee – page 94 of Annex IV

Twenty-third session of the Committee – page 88 of Annex VII

Twenty-fourth session of the Bureau –page 16 (IV.27)

New information: The State Party in a letter dated 22 September 2000 provided the Centre with a report outlining measures being undertaken to implement the recommendations of the Sangmelima meeting as requested by the twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee. The report mentions that the local stakeholders have adopted a «management plan», that the State Party wishes to enhance the technical and logistical capacities for the management of the Reserve, and that to this effect, a new organisational chart is under implementation to increase the above capacity. The Centre has not received a copy of the management plan mentioned in the report. The Centre and IUCN are in the process of studying the report. It is noted however that the report does not adequately address important issues raised by the Sangmelima meeting such as the poaching problems and the easing for licensing timber harvesting around the site. It has been reported to IUCN that despite the new Forest Law and the pressure of international donors for a better implementation of Cameroon's forest policy, there are only slight improvements. Illegal opening of roads for forestry activities and poaching by surrounding villages and hunters continues to be a major threat. IUCN also noted that a mine exploration phase for nickel and cobalt in the hinterland of the Dja Faunal Reserve has been carried out. Mining activities in the area may have significant impacts on the World Heritage site. The IUCN Regional Office for Central Africa has been working to support conservation efforts at this site since 1995 but the funding for these efforts concluded in December 1999. Since then, there have been no new projects to support site conservation efforts and additional resources are required to address the above threats.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

“The Bureau requests the Centre and IUCN to review the report and to co-operate with the State Party in view of working out methods for the implementation of the recommendations of the Sangmelima workshop, and to report on these measures, and on the state of conservation of this site with special reference to illegal roading, poaching, and the status of mineral exploration and any proposed mining activities in time for the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau. The Bureau also encourages international donors and partners to support conservation efforts at this site.”

I.8. Pirin National Park (Bulgaria)

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations :

Ninth session of the Committee (XIII.)

Tenth session of the Bureau (VI.j)

Fifteenth session of the Bureau (VI.29)

Fifteenth session of the Committee (VIII.)

New information: IUCN has received a report claiming that a project proposal has been developed which envisages a three fold enlargement of the existing ski-zone within the World Heritage site. It is understood that this proposal has been approved by the relevant government agencies but that, following pressure from nature conservation NGOs, the area of the proposed enlargement of the ski-zone has been reduced and is envisaged as a two fold enlargement of the existing site. IUCN has also received reports that the proposal will lead to the clear cutting of significant areas of old growth forest; that populations of animal and plant species in the area may be threatened, including species on the IUCN Red List and the Berne Convention; and that the new ski runs will have a very negative overall effect on the landscape of the largest valley in the Park.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

“The Bureau requests the State Party to provide a report on this development as well as on the legal status of the existing ski zone within the World Heritage site in time for the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau”.

I.9. Gros Morne National Park (Canada)

International Assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Eleventh session of the Bureau (III.A)

Eleventh session of the Committee (VII.)

New information: Via their letter dated 15 September 2000, the Canadian authorities provided information regarding possible logging threats. The information has been transmitted to IUCN for review. IUCN has received reports of possible impacts to Gros Morne National Park World Heritage site. Approved and proposed logging plans for lands adjacent to the National Park are said to be threatening the integrity of the site. Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Ltd. is seeking permission to increase their volume of timber extraction and to clear-cut timber in the watershed of the Main River, Newfoundland, immediately adjacent to the World Heritage site. NGOs, local conservation groups, academics and tourism operators are requesting that the logging be halted until a thorough environmental assessment is conducted and research carried out to better understand the unique natural features of the Main River watershed and its importance to the

World Heritage site. IUCN noted that the State Party has raised concerns in relation to this logging near the National Park and is working with the provincial government to address the situation.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

“The Bureau requests the State Party to provide a report on this development and issues associated with this site as indicated by IUCN in time for the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau.”

I.10. Los Katios National Park (Colombia)

International Assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.29

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.28 and Annex VIII

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.28

New information: A brief report was provided by the authorities on the technical meeting on the two World Heritage sites of Los Katios National Park and Darien National Park (Panama) held in Bogota on 23 and 24 May 2000. The meeting involved on-site staff and personnel from other institutions in both countries and focused on transboundary co-operation as well as on the implementation of the Biological Corridor Project. IUCN noted the continuing challenges in managing this area as highlighted in the transfrontier Darien Ecosystem workshop. Ongoing instability in the area continues to impact Los Katios and the contiguous Darien World Heritage site in Panama. IUCN noted that its Parks for Peace initiative may be relevant in this area, but that experience has shown the difficulties of establishing such initiatives in active conflict areas. Following the Bureau’s request for a mission to the site to obtain detailed information on the state of conservation, the Centre received a letter dated 8 September 2000 with an invitation for a field mission. The mission is proposed to be organised from 10 to 12 November 2000 and includes visits to Medellin, Turbo and Bogota for discussions with on-site staff. UNESCO is currently seeking security clearance for such a mission.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

“The Bureau welcomes the transboundary collaboration and recalls the request of the Committee at the time of the inscription to create a transboundary site between Colombia and Panama. Concerning the mission to the site, the Bureau may wish to take appropriate decisions based on additional information to be presented at the time of the Bureau session.”

I.11. Comoe National Park (Côte d’Ivoire)

International assistance: US\$ 97,000 under Technical Co-operation.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.24 page 30

Twenty-fourth session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.78

New information: The State Party is in the process of implementing International Assistance provided under Technical Co-operation by the twenty-third session of the World Heritage Committee amounting to US\$50,000 for the organisation of two national seminars for local authorities on poaching problems in the site, for elaboration of a management plan and a community micro-project. In a letter dated 1 September 2000, the State Party informed the Centre that two computers provided under the project have been received and are in the process of clearing a vehicle also provided under the project from the port. The Secretariat has not received an invitation from the State Party for a mission to review threats to the integrity of the site. The State Party submitted a report in July in response to a questionnaire prepared by the Centre under the Periodic Reporting exercise for Africa on the state of conservation of Comoe National Park which highlights the problems to be addressed by the project.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

“The Bureau wishes to give additional time to the State Party to enable it to complete the implementation of the International Assistance provided. The Bureau requests the Centre and IUCN to co-operate with the State Party with a view to undertaking the mission requested by the twenty-third session of the Committee, and requests the State Party to provide the detailed state of conservation report and corrective measures for mitigating threats to the site on or before 15 September 2001 to be considered by the twenty-fifth session of the Committee.”

I.12. Galapagos Islands (Ecuador)

International assistance: Preparatory Assistance (US\$ 15,000); Emergency Assistance (US\$ 60,500); Technical Assistance (US\$ 324,500); and Training (US\$ 100,000).

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.32

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.28 and of Annex VIII

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.29

New information: Following the meeting with the Minister of Environment of Ecuador in May 2000, the extension of the Galapagos Islands to include the marine part was provided on 1 July 2000 for review in 2001. IUCN has received the State Party report on progress in the conservation of this site. IUCN notes that good progress has been made in implementing the Management Plan. IUCN also notes that regulations to the Galapagos Special Law have been developed for: immigration, invasive species and tourism. Regulations for fisheries are also close to adoption and a fisheries zoning plan, including provision for 'No Go' areas has been developed. IUCN welcomes the comprehensive and detailed report on the implementation of management activities, particularly in relation to the control of illegal fisheries and invasive species. IUCN notes that the State Party proposed the Marine Reserve for addition to the World Heritage site and that an evaluation mission will be carried out in 2001. IUCN considers that it would also be worthwhile to carry out a monitoring mission of the terrestrial part of the World Heritage Site at the time of the evaluation, if acceptable to the State Party. IUCN welcomed efforts by the State Party to harmonise the Management Plans for both the Marine Reserve and the Terrestrial Reserve.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau welcomes the positive developments for conservation at this site and thanks the State Party for implementing its requests to consider extending the World Heritage Area to include the marine zone. The Bureau commends the State Party on the excellent progress with implementing the Management Plan and recommends that a monitoring mission be linked with the IUCN evaluation of the marine extension in 2001."

I.13. Komodo National Park (Indonesia)

International assistance: US\$ 2,500 as Preparatory Assistance; US\$ 119,500 under Technical Co-operation and US\$ 13,000 for staff training.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.28 and Annex VIII

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.30

New information: A team comprising experts from IUCN, the UNESCO Office in Jakarta, Indonesia and the National Park Agency of Indonesia are on a monitoring mission to this site from 25 to 29 September 2000. A report on the findings of the mission will be presented at the time of the extraordinary session of the Bureau. On 22 July 2000 the UN Foundation approved a US\$ 2.5 million project entitled "Linking Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism at World Heritage sites" for six sites, including the Komodo and Ujung Kulon National Parks of

Indonesia. Project execution is expected to begin in January 2001.

Action required: The Bureau, based on new information to be made available at the time of its extraordinary session may wish to take appropriate decisions and make recommendations to the consideration of the State Party, IUCN and the Centre.

I.14. Lorenz National Park (Indonesia)

International assistance: Preparatory assistance: US\$ 15,000

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph - VIII.3, Section A.1, page 9

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.78

New information: The Director of the National Park and a representative of the Freeport Mine presented a case study to the IUCN World Heritage and Mining Technical Workshop, held at IUCN Headquarters in September, 2000. Key issues noted include:

- Close co-operation between the Lorentz National Park and the Freeport Mining Company. Specifically, the support from Freeport for biodiversity conservation studies and projects within the World Heritage site, as well as potential support for the establishment of a proposed Lorentz Trust Fund.
- Environmental impacts associated with the mine site, particularly associated with the disposal of tailings. IUCN notes that the mill disposes tailings into a river system that transports tailings to the lowlands area and that the tailings flow toward the sea through the Freeport mining range and not through the Park. Waste is deposited in the sea and for most of the year this waste is pushed in a westerly direction, away from the Park; however, for a number of months a year the current pushes the waste eastwards toward the Park. This has potential impacts on the Park and this aspect should be further investigated and clarified. The Freeport Mine is developing ways to contain and treat this waste and is undertaking a health and ecological risk assessment study.

UNESCO, Jakarta and the UNESCO National Commission of Indonesia are continuing their efforts to urge the National Park Agency, WWF, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and industrial concerns, such as Freeport and Conoco, to co-operate to elaborate a three-year action plan for the conservation of the area, as they had agreed to do during a meeting hosted by the UNESCO Office in Jakarta, in February 2000. Furthermore, the Asia Pacific Focal Point (APFP) for World Heritage in Canberra, Australia, has been enquiring about possibilities for developing projects for Indonesia using Aus-AID support. Establishing a twinning arrangement between Lorentz and the Wet Tropics of Queensland may be considered as one potential component of such a bilateral co-operative project.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

“The Bureau encourages the Indonesian authorities to closely collaborate with Freeport and other partners like WWF and TNC who are keen to support the conservation of Lorentz. The Bureau welcomes the idea for the establishment of a Lorentz Trust Fund or similar arrangements to ensure long-term conservation financing for the site. The Bureau requests the Centre and IUCN to collaborate with the State Party and Freeport to obtain detailed information on the current practice of tailings disposal from the mining concession adjacent to the Park and the potential threats it may pose to the integrity of the Park. The Bureau endorsed IUCN’s suggestion that Freeport be requested to address this issue as part of the ecological and health risk assessment study it is preparing to undertake in the area.”

I.15. Mount Kenya National Park/Natural Forest (Kenya)

International assistance: US\$ 25,000 under Technical Co-operation

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee - page 90 of Annex VII

Twenty-fourth session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.31

New information: The Centre received a letter dated 11 September 2000 from the Director of the Kenya National Parks in which he transmitted to the Centre a copy of a Legal Notice No.93 dated 24/7/2000 gazetting all that area of land measuring approximately 2,124 sq.km covering Mt. Kenya indigenous forest, the Park and the plantations as National Reserve under Kenya Wildlife Service, and to be governed under the Wildlife Act (Cap 376). A report presented by the Senior Warden of Mount Kenya National Park at the African Natural World Heritage site managers held in South Africa from 18 – 22 September 2000, reveals that most of the indigenous forests on Mt. Kenya were heavily impacted by illegal activities leading to serious destruction of canopy and a decrease of the overall forest area. Quoting a 1999 Kenya Wildlife Service report, the Warden reported that the threats included 14,600 indigenous trees felled, 8,200 hectares of indigenous forest clear-felled, 2,465 charcoal kilns, 4,258 head of livestock grazing in the site, 21 areas impacted by fire, 120 landslides, 127 extensive areas on “non-resident cultivation” and some 200 hectares of cannabis cultivation. The report cites other counter measures taken by the Government, such as the creation of a task force comprising of Kenya Wildlife Service and Forest Department personnel to oversee and give recommendations on the transition of management of the indigenous forest and to work out modalities of continued Forest Department management of plantation areas within the newly gazetted National Reserve. In its letter, the State

Party suggested that the new measures undertaken by the Government to mitigate threats to this site would call for the extension of the World Heritage site and would also negate suggestions to include Mt. Kenya on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Kenya is in the process of implementing a management plan from an International Assistance amounting to US\$25,000 approved under Technical Cooperation by the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau. The management plan will include a rehabilitation program for Mount Kenya National Park/Forest Reserve. IUCN expressed extreme concern about the critical situation of this site. IUCN suggests that a monitoring mission should take place as a priority to ascertain the state of conservation of the site and to consider its potential inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

“The Bureau welcomes the actions taken by the State Party, and requests the Centre and IUCN to co-operate with the State Party with a view to undertaking a monitoring mission to the site to ascertain its state of conservation. The Bureau requests the State Party to co-operate with the Centre and IUCN with a view to completing the management plan and the programme of rehabilitation to be submitted to the Centre by 15 March 2001 for consideration by the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau.”

I.16. Whale Sanctuary of El Vizcaino (Mexico)

International Assistance: None.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.35

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph - X.25

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.31

New information: The President of Mexico in his statement entitled “Evaluation of the National Policy of Biodiversity Conservation” announced on 2 March 2000 that the proposed salt-works at the World Heritage site of El Vizcaino would not proceed. Both the Chairperson of the Committee and the Director-General of UNESCO welcomed this decision in their letters, and congratulated the President of Mexico for the actions taken to implement the World Heritage Convention. In his response, the President informed the Director-General that the Environmental Impact Assessment confirmed that the whales would not have been affected. On 22 July 2000, the UN Foundation approved a US\$ 2.5 million project entitled “Linking conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism at World Heritage sites” for six sites, including the two natural sites in Mexico, the Whale Sanctuary of El Vizcaino and Sian Ka’an. IUCN strongly supported and commended the State Party for its decision to halt the proposed salt-works at the World Heritage site

of El Vizcaino. This sends a clear message to the world about the importance of conserving the natural values within World Heritage sites and demonstrates the value of focused UNESCO/IUCN monitoring missions.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision and transmit it to the Committee for action:

“The Bureau suggests that the World Heritage Committee commends the Mexican Government for its actions to ensure the conservation of the World Heritage values of the Whale Sanctuary of El Vizcaino and to implement the World Heritage Convention. It encourages the authorities to collaborate with the Centre and other interested partners in implementing on-site projects for demonstrating possibilities for generating employment and income for the local communities, such as the UN Foundation project on 'Linking Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism at World Heritage sites'.”

I.17. Te Wahipounamu – South West New Zealand (New Zealand)

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.28 and Annex VIII

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.78

New information: As requested by the last two sessions of the Bureau, the Department of Conservation of New Zealand has supplied a report on the management of Himalayan Thar in this site. This report outlines the Department's commitment to the World Heritage Convention and the high priority it places on protecting the conservation values of the Te Wahipounamu World Heritage area. The Himalayan Thar Management Policy covers the management of Thar throughout New Zealand. The report points out that “the policy intentions of the New Zealand Government are clearly directed at sustained control of thar for the maintenance of an ecologically acceptable, vegetation and estate condition”. At present a Himalayan Thar Control Plan is in place as a tool for implementing the Policy and the total number of thar has been reduced from more than 13,000 to less than 7,000 in just five years. The Department notes its commitment to a scientifically robust monitoring programme to measure the impacts of thar on vegetation and it is expected to report on these results in 2002/3.

Following this report from the State Party, IUCN consulted with the Forest and Bird Society (FBS) who raised concerns over this issue with the World Heritage Centre and with the New Zealand Conservation Authority. FBS is pleased that the State Party has acted on the concerns raised and that progress is being made. However, the possibility of the World Heritage area being re-infested by thar populations from outside the area continues to be a

cause for concern and requires further consideration. The New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA), which has a statutory role under the National Parks Act has expressed some dissent on the overall Thar Management Policy:

- NZCA claims that “(T)he Policy is misguided. A concerted effort over a few years is required as opposed to selective culling and monitoring over many years. The Authority believes such an investment would be cost effective in both commercial and conservation terms.”
- The NZCA requested in 1998 that a review of the Policy be carried out in 2000. It believes that “monitoring the Plan is not likely to yield any information that will persuade either the recreational hunters or those concerned with the ecology of the conservation estate to change their views.”
- NZCA recognises that “any decision will be a political one as consensus will never be reached among the deeply divided interests in this matter. The Authority remains of the view that the Policy and Plan are inconsistent with the legislative framework for the management of public conservation lands.”

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

“The Bureau notes that the State Party is in the process of implementing a Himalayan Thar Control Policy but invites the State Party to take into consideration the criticisms of NZCA concerning selected aspects of the Policy. The Bureau requests that the State Party give due consideration to changes called for by the NZCA when it reviews the Policy's impacts during 2002/2003, or if possible, earlier. The Bureau invites the State Party to submit a progress report on the implementation of the Policy and its plan or efforts to undertake a review of policy implementation to the next extraordinary session of the Bureau in 2001.”

I.18. Arabian Oryx Sanctuary (Oman)

International assistance: US\$ 27,000 under Preparatory Assistance and US\$ 40,000 for Training.

Previous deliberations :

Twenty-second session of the Committee – page 98 of Annex IV

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.36

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.28 and Annex VIII

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.34

New information : In a letter dated 29 September 2000 addressed to the Centre following a mission undertaken by the Centre from 7 to 13 May 2000, the Permanent Delegate of Oman to UNESCO, referring to a letter from the Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Environment, informed the Centre that : « The Ministry agrees with the fact that it is necessary for Park personnel in the field of Sanctuary Management as well as for national personnel to

participate in the protection of National Heritage» as proposed by the mission. The World Heritage Regional Capacity Building Workshop was held from 25 to 27 September 2000 for which the twenty-second session of the World Heritage Committee approved a sum of US\$40,000. A report on the workshop is expected from the State Party for circulation. Several issues relating to tourism, regional planning, mining and off-road vehicle impact can be noted concerning this site. IUCN expresses strong support for the initiative to develop appropriate nature-based tourism opportunities within the site. There is a need for broad scale, participatory socio-economic assessment and regional development planning to ensure that the site is fully integrated into overall development agendas. The mining activity, both oil and gas and other forms of extraction, pose a potentially significant threat to the Arabian Oryx Sanctuary. IUCN believes these activities are incompatible with the objectives of management for World Heritage sites, and are therefore incompatible with the management of the site. IUCN acknowledges that mining activities and rights already exist within the Sanctuary prior to its inscription. IUCN does not, at this time, believe the threats to the site warrant it being placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. IUCN notes the positive progress made by the State Party in halting the poaching of Arabian Oryx and other wildlife species from within the Arabian Oryx Sanctuary.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

“The Bureau commends the State Party for finalising the draft management plan for the Sanctuary and proposing new, more rational boundaries. To maintain the integrity of the site, the Bureau requests the State Party, as a matter of urgency, to adopt the draft management plan, complete the boundary marking, and allocate adequate resources to the plan’s implementation. The Bureau invites the State Party to submit a new boundary for the World Heritage listing which excludes the buffer zone. Finally the Bureau requests the Centre and IUCN to collaborate with the State Party in order to continuously monitor the site and that regular reports be submitted by the State Party.”

I.20. Huascarán National Park (Peru)

International assistance: US\$ 70,000 under Technical Co-operation and US\$ 5,300 for staff training.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – paragraph VII.27 and Annex IV

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.37

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.35

New information: Following the mission to the site in May 2000, the draft report had been forwarded to the authorities in June 2000 for comments. The mission responded to concerns related to the impact on the integrity of the Park

concerning the temporary use of the Pachacoto-Yanashallay road (Central Road). Concerns were also raised relating to opening up new areas along the road and associated resource extraction as well as in relation to increased traffic on this road. The recommendations of the mission include the following:

- to commend State Party efforts to develop co-operative institutional options to monitor the temporary use and restoration of the Central Road;
- to commend the Antamina Mining Company for their co-operation in developing the Southern Road as an alternative to access directly through the World Heritage site.
- to recognise the support provided by all actors involved in this case: INRENA, Huascarán National Park administration, Antamina Mining Co., The Mountain Institute and the Working Group on Huascarán, while encouraging them to explore new ways and means to strengthen co-ordination and develop long-term partnerships, based on well defined and agreed Terms of Reference. Priority should be given to establish an agreement between INRENA and the Ministry of Energy and Mining to control and monitor mining activities that could affect the Park and its buffer zone, particularly in relation to small mining operations;
- to commend the Governments of The Netherlands, Germany, and others for the support provided for the conservation of Huascarán National Park;
- to encourage the State Party to provide support for the development and implementation of a new Management Plan for Huascarán National Park. In relation to tourism development it would be helpful for the new Management Plan to revise and incorporate key recommendations from the Huascarán National Park Recreation and Tourism Plan. In this regard, and considering the successful experience of the Working Group in relation to mining, it is particularly important to implement the recommendations of this plan concerning inter-institutional co-ordination in the tourism sector. The World Heritage Committee may also wish to recommend the State Party request support from the World Heritage Fund to prepare a new Management Plan for Huascarán National Park;
- to encourage the State Party to assess institutional and legal gaps that exist in relation to regulating and monitoring mining and tourism in protected areas. The Committee may also wish to recommend to the State Party that, in relation to tourism, a similar exercise as that for Machu Picchu to adopt a Regulation on Tourism Use, be prepared for Huascarán National Park;
- to encourage the State Party, through INRENA and the Ministry of Public Transportation, to enhance enforcement activities to control and mitigate direct or indirect impacts related to the use of the Southern Road. The Southern Road, which is a public road located in the buffer zone of the Park, will be completed in September 2000. This road will facilitate a higher level of visitation to the Park and its buffer zone, with potential associated impacts such as fires and illegal poaching, among others.

Issues related to the temporary use of the Central Road are soon to be solved. However the overall issue related to small mining operations within the National Park and its buffer zone requires further attention and follow-up as a potential important threat to the integrity of the Park. This is particularly important in relation to the impacts of such operations on the water quality of existing rivers and lakes. Support of UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme concerning monitoring of water quality in this World Heritage site and its buffer zone may be sought. The Working Group of Huascarán has almost completed its work in relation to the Central Road. This has proved to be a good initiative to co-ordinate activities of various actors involved in the temporary use of this road. However, considering that the mining activities continue to be a potential threat to the integrity of the Park, it would be helpful to maintain the Working Group under revised Terms of Reference to consider this issue. These should also consider follow-up and monitoring of indirect impacts that may occur related to the use of the Southern Road. The State Party may also wish to assess the possibility to re-nominate Huascarán National Park for World Heritage Listing under cultural criteria. During the mission it was evident that this area has important cultural values and on-going cultural traditions typical of the Andes that might be of outstanding universal value. Support from the World Heritage Fund to undertake such an exercise may be requested.

Furthermore, the site had been selected as one of the case studies at the technical workshop on World Heritage and mining held at IUCN from 21 to 23 September 2000. The recommendations of the workshop are presented in the first section of this document.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

“The Bureau encourages the State Party to implement the recommendations of the mission report and to regularly report on the status of the implementation of these recommendations.”

I.21. Danube Delta (Romania)

International Assistance: Preparatory Assistance for management plan (1991)

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph I.44

New information: The Ministry of Waters, Forest and Environmental Protection informed the Centre on 15 September 2000 that the accidental cyanide pollution (Baia Mare, 30 January 2000) did not bring any modification in the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve ecosystems. The pollution wave crossed the site from 26 February to 1 March 2000 during which the cyanide concentration remained over the maximum limit admitted by Romanian

standard of 0,01 mg/l. The monitoring of the pollution wave had been made in sections and in some control sections the cyanide ions concentration reached 0,043 to 0,049 mg/l. The report concludes that the cyanide pollution does not have any obvious effects on the flora and fauna of the Delta's ecosystem. This conclusion was confirmed by a statement from the Permanent Delegation of Romania dated 8 September 2000, which informed the Centre that the reopening of the mining activities on 13 June 2000 concerned only technical verifications for the new exploitation scheme. IUCN informed the Centre that it is understood that upgrading projects for the Aurul gold smelter in Baia Mare will include the construction of a new dam with a capacity of 250,000 cubic metres to act as an emergency buffer in case of overflows caused by excessive rains. The installation of a permanent cyanide detoxification unit, independent power generators as well as new pipelines for an open circuit system to bring waste water to 'normal quality' are also to be included in the upgrading. Aurul is now carrying out technical tests by operating at 60 percent of its capacity, with experts closely monitoring the tailings re-treatment operation.

IUCN urged caution in relation to future mining operations, in view of the fact that there have been four spills of cyanide and heavy metals from three mine sites in Romania in the period from January to July, 2000. The impacts of such activities on World Heritage values need to be kept under careful review and past experience in this area, and in Doñana National Park, Spain, has demonstrated the importance of mining companies having clear and effective disaster mitigation plans.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

“The Bureau thanks the State Party for having provided information on the impacts of the spill on the Danube Delta World Heritage area and urges the State Party to consider the importance of clear and effective disaster mitigation plans for any on-going or future mining activities which may affect World Heritage values.”

I.22. Golden Mountains of Altai (Russian Federation)

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.3

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.36

New information: Concerning the proposal to construct a road and gas pipeline from Russia to China through the Ukok Plateau, UNESCO staff at the Moscow Office met with representatives of the Russian Man and the Biosphere programme (MAB) and were informed that technically an easier version could be planned through Kazakhstan, but was not taken into consideration for political reasons. Via

his letter of 15 September 2000, the Permanent Delegate of Russia to UNESCO informed the Centre that the State Committee for Environmental Protection of Russia is aware of the decision to build a transportation route Urumchi (China) – Barnaul through the Ukok Plateau, but that Russia is bound to meet requirements concerning the site. The preparation of the project has not yet started and all possibilities to consider the biological safety will be taken into account. The State authorities of the Republic of Altai have expressed their negative opinion to these plans. IUCN has received the State Party response and stated that the State Party has confirmed that the road construction has not commenced. The project in fact exists only in the form of a possible economic prospect for the region's development. The State Party assures that it will insist that parties interested in this project will consider all possibilities to ensure the biological safety of the area. If the project is to be developed it will have to go through a State ecological assessment. The Fund for the 21st Century Altai has informed IUCN that they are planning to organise a conference with other NGOs on the issue of the proposed road across the Ukok Plateau. They hope to hold this before the Committee meeting in November, so that an update can be given to the Committee.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

“The Bureau invites the State Party to inform the Centre on details concerning the proposed road construction project, including any environmental impact studies that may be underway and any future developments in time for the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau.”

I.23. Volcanoes of Kamchatka (Russian Federation)

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-first session of the Committee - paragraph VII.39
Twenty-second ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph V. 28

Twenty-second session of the Committee - page 99 (Annex IV)

New information: IUCN has received reports of potential threats to the Volcanoes of Kamchatka World Heritage site. These include: i) salmon poaching; ii) proposals for gold mining; iii) a gas pipeline; and iv) a geothermal power plant.

- i) Salmon Poaching: Kamchatka boasts Asia's biggest salmon spawning run with 1.7 million salmon swimming up-stream to spawn which attracts hundreds of brown bears and rare sea eagles. One third of the world's Pacific salmon population spawns in the rivers of the Kamchatka Peninsula, including the World Heritage site. However, it is reported that organised illegal gangs of poachers flown in to the region are causing great damage to the salmon population. Rivers are blocked with nets sometimes stripping an entire year's salmon run.

Brown bears are also poached for their organs for the Asian market. Some estimates suggest that the bear population has decreased by fifty percent since the 1960's due to excessive hunting and poaching.

- ii) Gold mining: It has been reported to IUCN that there is interest in altering the boundaries of the Kamchatka World Heritage site and to shift the Park boundary northward by about 50km in order to open up part of the present site to gold mining. The Ministry argues that up to US\$600 million could be generated in revenues from a mine in the area. IUCN has been informed of opposition to these proposals from environmental groups and aboriginal people from the Bystrinsky district.
- iii) Gas pipeline: IUCN has received reports that the region is planning to spend US\$200 million to build a 470km pipeline from gas deposits in Western Kamchatka to the regional capital, following a route near the Bystrinsky Park. According to a UNDP report, this pipeline would cross 83 salmon-spawning rivers and streams and could threaten the region's salmon population.
- iv) Geothermal powerplant: An engineering firm, Geoterm, plans to complete a US\$150 million power plant next to the Mutnovsky Volcano at the end of 2001 to provide power for much of the main city of the Kamchatka Peninsula. The specific impacts of this on the World Heritage site are unclear.

IUCN noted the socio-economic difficulties in this region and emphasised the need to link planning of the World Heritage site with development opportunities for local populations. IUCN supported the recommendations of the Project Kamchatka report (reported in IUCN April, 2000 State of Conservation Report), which make a number of practical suggestions to regulators and decision-makers relating to options for conservation, sustainable development and research. IUCN also strongly supported implementation of the UNDP/GEF project to enhance environmental protection in this region.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

“The Bureau notes with concern the reported threats to this site. The Bureau requests the State Party to provide a state of conservation report on this site which addresses the points raised by IUCN in time for the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau.”

I.24. Lake Baikal (Russian Federation)

International assistance: US\$ 15,000 as Preparatory Assistance and US\$ 48,259 for an *in-situ* training workshop.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.38

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.28 and Annex VIII

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.37

New information: A representative of the World Heritage Centre participated in the international workshop on “Sustainable Development of the World Heritage site Lake Baikal. Preparations of Recommendations to the Subordinate Legislation of the Federal Law on Protection of Lake Baikal” held in Irkutsk and Baikalsk from 10 to 12 July 2000. The Workshop was organised and financed by Greenpeace Russia and a number of Government agencies, NGOs, and international donor agencies attended. The necessity for a unique body for the whole region was recognised, however it was questioned whether the Baikal Commission could fulfil this role. The final recommendations have not yet been received and the information on the state of conservation of the site received by the State Party is dated “end of 1999”. IUCN noted that a workshop on Lake Baikal was held in July 2000 and that this meeting and other reports have indicated:

- Continuing concerns about the discharge of waste waters into Lake Baikal, particularly from the Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill. It is noted that this is leading to the build up of organochlorine compounds well in excess of Federal standards.
- A delay in the preparation of a detailed plan for the conversion of the Pulp and Paper Mill. The meeting did not provide any clarification on whether or not the plan would be implemented. The meeting also noted that re-profiling of the plant is not going to solve the existing sewage and sludge problem.
- Concerns about the adequacy and effectiveness of the Federal Law on Lake Baikal.
- Lack of local and regional awareness of the World Heritage Bureau requests for a State of Conservation Report for this site, as well as lack of awareness on the implications of listing the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.
- Other major threats to the integrity of the site, including impacts from unregulated hunting and fishing and impacts associated with extensive building development.

IUCN also noted that the State Committee on Environmental Protection has been abolished. The specific implications for World Heritage sites in the Russian Federation are unclear.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Bureau expresses its concern that no updated information was received from the State Party on this property and that other recent reports indicate serious threats to this site and that a case may exist for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Bureau requests the State Party invite a mission to this site in 2001 to ascertain whether it should be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.”

I.25. Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary (Senegal)

International assistance: US\$ 49,132 under Technical Co-operation and US\$ 30,000 under Training

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau- paragraph IV.38, page 19.

New information: A joint expert mission by the Centre, IUCN and the Ramsar Bureau was undertaken from 14 – 22 September 2000. The report of the mission calls for urgent financial assistance to deal with salvinia at key points around the Park where defences are likely to burst under the build up of the plant. The Centre received a letter dated 18 August 2000 from the Director of Senegal National Parks in which he expresses great concern over the severe invasion of *Salvinia molesta* reported by IUCN to the June 2000 Bureau, which has so far invaded over 15,000 hectares of the Park and spread up to 70 kilometres on the Delta. The Director reported that so far the State Party has been dependent on hand clearing of the species, with a lot of difficulties as the species spreads very quickly. Attempt was made in June this year to use biological control methods by releasing plant-eating beetles provided by South Africa, but this has proven to be inadequate since the site requires large quantities of insects and also there is the lack of technical knowhow in biological control. IUCN reports that this invasive species has now crossed over the Senegal River and has invaded the Diawling National Park of Mauritania. IUCN also notes that its Species Survival Commission has prepared guidelines for Invasive Species to be available at the 2000 World Heritage Committee meeting. Some financial support has been provided by the Senegalese Minister for Tourism, the Republic of China, and the Netherlands through the offices of IUCN and Ramsar. The State Party will co-operate with the Centre to submit an Emergency Assistance request from the financial plan elaborated by the mission for consideration by the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau. In view of the imminent danger facing the site, the Director of Senegal National Parks has requested that the site be inscribed in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision and transmit it to the Committee for action:

“The Bureau recommends the Committee to consider the site to be inscribed in the List of World Heritage in Danger, in accordance with the wishes of the State Party.”

I.26. Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal)

International assistance: US\$ 34,013 for Technical Co-operation (No International Assistance since 1990)

Previous deliberations:

Seventeenth session of the World Heritage Committee - paragraph X.2

New information: A report received by IUCN, following a recent visit notes that there exists significant threats from poaching by local subsistence farmers and armed gangs. The report suggests that there may soon (within five years) be no Derby Elands left, unless urgent measures are taken. There is also inadequate local capacity to guard and patrol this site against poaching. Gold prospecting is a potential threat that may spread from outside into the Park, the cultivation and clearing of land in the national part is going on and the environmental impacts associated with the main road through the Park.

IUCN reports that Senegal has expressed great concern for the situation in the Park and has reported that earlier this year, a programme was taking place to transfer animals, including the Derby Elands, from the World Heritage site to the Fathala Forest in the Saloum Delta National Park and Biosphere Reserve with the objective to safeguard and repopulate another National Park. However, IUCN notes that no study was ever carried out to assess the impacts of translocation on the animals or the National Parks.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

“The Bureau notes with concern the reports concerning this site. The Bureau requests the State Party to consider inviting a monitoring mission to this site in 2001.”

I.27. Doñana National Park (Spain)

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.39

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.26

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.39

New information: IUCN has received a WWF report on the conservation of the Doñana World Heritage site and the implementation of the Doñana 2005 Restoration Project dated September 2000. The report notes that the major concern for the conservation of the Doñana World Heritage site still relates to the mining disaster from 1998 and its consequences. The regional authority – Junta de Andalucía – has made significant efforts since 1998 to clean the polluted area and restore the river basin, covering more than 60 km, to a dynamic ecosystem and a regional “Green Corridor” that supports mammal migrations. Although major cleaning operations have been carried out by the authorities and the mining company, the pollution will have long-term effects in the area and requires an adaptation of management schemes. The mining activities are still of major concern, and it is important that Boliden-Apirsa develops projects for the decommissioning of the old tailings dam and the enlargement of the mine, including a higher storing capacity of mining waste in the old open mining pit. In a recent meeting in September 2000, the mining company expressed to WWF their

commitment to long-term environmental restoration of the area and during a field trip, relevant activities carried out by the company aimed at environmental protection were observed. However, WWF notes that better follow-up actions should be taken now and that in due course an international expert meeting should be held to evaluate the situation of the mining site in order to develop proposals for the future. A meeting on the 12 September, 2000, between WWF and the national and regional authorities concluded with commitments from the authorities to:

- Establish an Executive Commission for co-ordination between the national and regional authorities;
- Establish a joint research committee for the Doñana 2005 and the Green Corridor projects;
- Develop a proposal for the delimitation of the public riverine domain in all Doñana watersheds by the Guadalquivir Water Authority before end of October 2000; and
- Develop a report on the water quality and water treatment systems in the Doñana watershed by the Guadalquivir Water Authority before end of October 2000.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

“The Bureau commends the continuing efforts of the State Party to clean up the area, which indicates a gradual recovery of the Guadiamar River Basin. However, the Bureau notes that there is a long way to go and that there remains high pollution in some areas. The Bureau urges the State Party to accelerate implementation of the Doñana 2005 restoration project and implement the review meeting to be held during 2001. The authorities are invited to inform the Centre by 15 April 2001 on tentative dates and a programme for the review meeting.”

I.28. Sinharaja Forest Reserve (Sri Lanka)

International assistance: US\$ 5,000 under Technical Co-operation

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Committee - paragraph IV.78

New information: IUCN notes that when fixing visible posts to demarcate the boundary of this site during the implementation of the conservation management plan (1988-93), it has been revealed that there are a number of unauthorised settlements along the southern boundary of the Forest. The Forest Department has initiated action to re-demarcate the boundary, excluding these settlements. In this process more than 1,000ha of natural forest situated along the eastern border of the site, which was not originally included in the World Heritage site, has been identified and set apart to be included as part of the Reserve. It is hoped that the State Party will nominate this area as an extension to the World Heritage site in due course.

IUCN reviewed the letter submitted by the Forest Department of Sri Lanka, dated 2 August 2000 in response to the observations and recommendations of the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau. In addition, the Centre transmitted to IUCN an additional letter, dated 30 May 2000, from the Sinharaja Plantations Organic Ltd. The Forest Department confirmed that the process to release land to Sinharaja Plantations Organic Ltd. for a tea plantation has been stopped and that the Forest Department is taking steps to obtain legal ownership of the land. Sinharaja Plantations Organic Ltd. has claimed that it had followed all official legal processes in order to possess the land for a organic tea plantation. The company is contesting that this piece of land and the plantation will have any impact on the Forest Reserve as it lies 3 miles (4.8 km) from the boundaries of the World Heritage site.

IUCN Sri Lanka will be working with the Forest Department to implement a proposed GEF-funded project to conserve the south-western rainforests of Sri Lanka. The project will benefit southern parts of the World Heritage site, particularly buffer zone villages, through the creation of opportunities for cottage industries that are mostly based on non-timber forest products. The project will also support boundary-marking, awareness building for biodiversity conservation among rural communities and nature-based tourism.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

“The Bureau notes that the Forest Department is making efforts to reclaim the land released for organic tea farming and may encounter a legal challenge from the private enterprise concerned. The Bureau requests the Centre and IUCN to monitor further developments on the matter and report on progress to the next extraordinary session of the Bureau in 2001. In the addition, the Bureau invites the State Party to report on steps taken to incorporate 1,000 ha of natural forest to the National Reserve and its eventual inclusion in the World Heritage site.”

I. 29. Thungyai Huay Kha Khaeng (Thailand)

International assistance: US\$ 1,666 as Preparatory Assistance; and US\$ 20,000 under Technical Co-operation.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.40

New information: The State Party, via its letter dated 16 August 2000, has submitted its final report on the project on research, training and raising awareness of local people on forest fire prevention and control in and around this site. The report has been transmitted to IUCN for comments.

Action by the Bureau: The Bureau, based on comments of IUCN, to be submitted at the time of the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau, may

wish to take relevant decisions and make recommendations to the consideration of the State Party, IUCN and the Centre.

I.30. Bwindi Impenetrable Forest (Uganda)

International assistance: US\$ 2,600 as Preparatory Assistance.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.41

Twenty-third session of the Committee – page 92 of Annex VIII

New information: The Bureau at its twenty-third extraordinary session requested the Centre and IUCN to verify, with the Ugandan authorities, their needs for support for purchase of vehicles and staff training. The Secretariat has not received any request from the State Party, and no reply has been received to the Centre's letter dated 10 July 2000 informing the State Party on the decision of the Bureau.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

“The Bureau recalls its earlier request and recommends that the Centre and IUCN continue efforts to verify with the Ugandan authorities on their needs for support for purchase of vehicles and staff training and to continue assisting the Ugandan authorities to obtain financial support from suitable sources, including the World Heritage Fund. The Bureau requests the Centre and IUCN to report on the measures taken to support the management at the twenty-fifth ordinary session of the Bureau in mid-2001.”

I.31. Gough Island (United Kingdom)

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.28 and Annex VIII

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.40

New information: IUCN noted that the invasive species Sagina has been eradicated but urged the State Party to carefully monitor the situation to ensure that future outbreaks do not occur. IUCN noted that this experience underlines the need for strict measures to prevent a similar invasion in the future. In relation to the possible extension of the World Heritage boundary, IUCN noted the State Party has been invited to advise the Bureau on this matter.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

“The Bureau commends the State Party and the St. Helena Government for their effective and prompt response in eradicating this invasive species. It invites the State Party to keep the future situation of the site under close review.”

I.32. Ngorongoro Conservation Area and the Serengeti National Park (United Republic of Tanzania)

International assistance: US\$ 79,500 Technical Co-operation (Ngorongoro); US\$ 20,000 Training and US\$ 30,000 Technical Co-operation (Serengeti); US\$ 20,000 Emergency Assistance (Ngorongoro).

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee –page 93 of Annex VIII

Twenty-fourth session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.41

New information: No new information has been received by the Secretariat concerning progress in the process for investigating options available for the construction of an access road to Ngorongoro and the feasibility study reported to be underway in relation to the route. The Centre sent a letter to the State Party dated 10 July 2000 informing on the decision of the Bureau, but a reply has not been received at the time of preparing the Bureau’s report. However, IUCN has noted in the update that Mak-Consult, the contractor, has produced a detailed design of the road to tarmac it from Makuyuni to the Lodware Gate of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, and that a document on the proposal will be submitted to the Government of Tanzania in late 2000. An Environmental Impact Assessment was carried out on the various proposed routes for the planned access road and a decision made that the road should avoid environmentally sensitive areas. The road will be low speed and drifts will be used to reduce the speed.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

“The Bureau requests the Centre and IUCN to continue monitoring this site, and invites the State Party to provide reports to the Centre on a regular basis and to deposit at the Centre a copy of both the management plan and the Environmental Impact Assessment Study.”

I.33. Ha Long Bay (Vietnam)

International assistance: US\$ 42,957 under Technical Co-operation and US\$ 24,250 under Training.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.28 and Annex VIII

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - Annex VIII, page 94

New information: The Vietnam National Commission for UNESCO, via its letter dated 8 September 2000, submitted an annual report on the Management and Preservation of Ha Long Bay World Natural Heritage Area (1999-2000). IUCN has reviewed the report and noted a number of positive developments including: (i) staff numbers have been increased; (ii) the ‘Master Plan for the Development and Conservation of Ha Long Bay to the Year 2020’ has been completed and is awaiting ratification by the Prime Minister; (iii) the fifth anniversary of the inscription of the site on the World Heritage List was celebrated with a seminar of national and international experts, and was supported by a public festival organised by the Quang Ninh Tourism Department to raise public awareness; (iv) a workshop on World Heritage Management for the managers and administrative staff of proposed and designated World Heritage sites in Vietnam was held in Ha Long City on 20-21 July, 2000; and (e) a workshop on raising public awareness of World Heritage conservation through community-based education was implemented. Television programmes and documentaries are being used on a regular basis to raise public awareness of the global importance of the site. The Ha Long Bay Eco-museum Feasibility Study, financed by UNDP and jointly executed by the UNESCO Office in Vietnam and the Ha Long Bay Management Department (HLBMD), was launched on 1 July 2000. Initial activities included a team-building workshop and the production of a promotional brochure. A team of international and national experts is compiling a map of cultural and natural assets of the World Heritage area and its hinterland. The project’s principle output will be an interpretive management plan for implementation by HLBMD that will, amongst others, create interpretation products aimed at generating local employment, sustaining local cultural traditions of arts and crafts and raising environmental awareness. IUCN Vietnam, the Vietnam National Commission for UNESCO and the Quang Ninh Province co-organised a workshop on ‘Strengthening the Capacity of Ha Long Bay Management Department Authority’ held in Ha Long City from 19-20 July. The workshop reviewed the draft project proposal, which IUCN developed in consultation with the Quang Ninh Provincial Government, Ha Long Bay Management Authority and Vietnam National Commission of UNESCO. The draft project, based on comments provided by participants at the workshop, is currently being revised and will eventually be submitted to suitable donors.

Some donors who attended the workshop are pursuing possible avenues for collaboration with the HLBMD. A European Union Project in Vietnam, executed by Belgian Academic Institutions to use GIS techniques for resource use mapping is interested in launching a new phase of the project focusing on the World Heritage area and its environs. A seminar on the project’s Vietnam based activities, including discussions on potential future projects in the Ha Long Bay World Heritage area, is scheduled for 14 November 2000 with the participation of staff from the Cabinet for Development Co-operation of Belgium.

The annual report submitted by the State Party also identifies the following additional actions that have been

positively highlighted by IUCN: (i) a water services project is about to commence that will bring full wastewater treatment facilities to the whole of Ha Long Bay and Cam Pha Town, thus mitigating a major source of pollution of Bay waters; (ii) the coal port area of Hong Gai area of Ha Long City has been closed and the area will be cleansed and redeveloped for tourism and commercial purposes; (iii) the Bai Chay Bridge, when completed could, according to the State Party, remove the problems of pollution by ferries crossing the Bay and vehicles entering ferries from the jetties; (iv) a policy that allows local fishermen to sell souvenirs and refreshments in the World Heritage area in exchange for collecting rubbish and floating waste is working well but cannot solve the source of the problem of waste generation; and (v) the Department is in the process of drawing up proposals for visitor regulations in order to strengthen environmental protection. The Chair of the People's Committee of the Quang Ninh Province, via his letter of 18 July 2000, requested UNESCO's views on the Bai Chay Bridge construction project. The project is planned at a location outside of the World Heritage area, near the outer boundary of the buffer zone of the site. UNESCO's views were solicited for the Government's negotiations with potential donors for financing the bridge construction project. IUCN had provided written comments to the Centre on documents submitted by the State Party in late 1999 on: (i) the engineering design of the Bridge; (ii) EIA of the bridge construction project; and (iii) the Ha Long Bay Environmental Study, jointly implemented by the Government of Vietnam and JICA. Using IUCN observations and comments the Director's letter to the Chairperson of the People's Committee of Quang Ninh emphasised the following:

- The EIA of the Bai Chay Bridge Construction provides a good framework for mitigation measures to be taken as to not impact the state of conservation of the site. But assumptions regarding the main bridge having a positive impact on landscape values are not justifiable and the main landscape values of the area are primarily dependent on the natural features protected by the Ha Long Bay World Heritage area;
- Predicted landscape and visual impacts of the road construction, as that may be seen from the site associated to the approach roads, particularly the Hon Gai access road which lies within the buffer zone of the World Heritage site are of concern. According to the EIA report this will be clearly visible during the construction and operation of the bridge;
- In relation to water quality in the World Heritage site it is not predicted to be the subject of impacts from erosion and run-off associated with the cuts needed to construct access roads provided that the mitigation measures identified in the EIA are implemented;
- The impacts associated with the Bai Chay Bridge construction are relatively small within the context of the Master Plan for the overall development of Ha Long City, including the need to develop and industrialise Bai Chay Bay. The impacts of planned development of the physical environment of Ha Long City have the potential to cause long-term adverse impacts to the marine environment and landscape character of the area, including the World Heritage

site. IUCN is in agreement with the EIA report on the need to balance all proposed development plans to ensure the long-term integrity of the World Heritage site. In particular proposals for the construction of the Cai Lan Port continue to be a major concern since its future operation could significantly increase the risk of accidents and oil spill in the World Heritage area;

- The EIA report recognises that there is a large degree of uncertainty as to whether mitigation measures for the Bai Chay Bridge construction project can be effectively implemented or enforced. Currently the environmental legislation and the EIA process do not provide any means to check that the construction phase mitigation measures are implemented. This should be clearly addressed by the State Party, particularly considering the cumulative impacts from a number of development projects on the World Heritage site;
- IUCN considers that the Environmental Monitoring and Audit Programme recommended by the EIA report for the Bai Chay Bridge construction project is comprehensive and the implementation of mitigation measures identified in the report, during the construction phase and beyond, should be ensured by the State Party. However, IUCN takes the view that considering the various development projects proposed for the environs of the Ha Long Bay World Heritage area, the implementation of a broader Environmental Monitoring and Audit Programme, as proposed in The Study on Environmental Management for Ha Long Bay (JICA, 1999), is equally urgent and important.

Action requested: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

“The Bureau commends the commitment of the State Party to continue to improve infrastructure and capacity for the protection of the site and for providing a report on the Management and Preservation of the site. The Bureau however, draws the attention of the State Party to risks linked to addressing environmental impacts of individual projects to the neglect of monitoring cumulative impacts of the overall development of Ha Long City and other areas surrounding the World Heritage area. The Bureau urges the Government of Vietnam and the Provincial Government of Quang Ninh, to seek donor support, including from JICA and other Japanese Institutions that co-operated to carry out Study on Environmental Management of Ha Long Bay, to initiate implementation of the Study's recommendations with minimum possible delay. The Bureau recommends that the State Party amends the environmental legislation as appropriate to ensure the full implementation of the Environmental Management and Audit Programme recommended by the EIA of the Bai Chay Bridge Construction Project, during the construction phase as well as beyond. The Bureau invites the State Party to submit a progress report on the outcome of its efforts to implement the

above recommendations to the next extraordinary session of the Bureau at the end of 2001.”

I.34. Mosi-oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls (Zambia/Zimbabwe)

International assistance: US\$ 7,000 as Preparatory Assistance and US\$ 20,000 as Technical Co-operation.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – paragraph VII.27

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.46

New information: The Centre received an undated letter from the Deputy Executive Director of the Zimbabwe National Museums and Monuments concerning the proposed bilateral meeting between Zambia and Zimbabwe on Victoria Falls/Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park. In the letter the Centre was informed that on 17 August 2000 the Zimbabwe National Commission for UNESCO convened high level meeting of the Zimbabwe National stakeholders and that this meeting recommended the setting up of a National Technical Team to produce a

comprehensive conservation status report of the property prior to the joint Zimbabwe/Zambia meeting. The letter said that the report would enable the National Commission for UNESCO to facilitate a joint proposal to request financial assistance to enable the States Parties to organise a bilateral meeting, and that the request was scheduled to be submitted to the “World Heritage Committee” before 15 September 2000. The Centre was informed through the same letter that the Zimbabwe Technical Team will meet and submit its report on 14 September 2000 and thereafter Zimbabwe would meet with Zambia. So far no report has been received from Zimbabwe confirming as to whether the above meetings have taken place and no report has been received.

Action requested: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

“The Bureau reiterates its requests of earlier sessions and the those of the Committee, that the States Parties expedite the organisation of the bilateral meeting in order to report to the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau in mid-2001.”

MIXED (NATURAL AND CULTURAL) HERITAGE

I.35. Kakadu National Park (Australia)

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

WHC-99/CONF.204/15

Twenty-third session of the Bureau -paragraph IV.47

WHC-99/CONF.205/5 Rev.

Third extraordinary session of the Committee, 12 July 1999

WHC-99/CONF.209/22

Twenty-third session of the Committee - paragraph X.32 and Annex VIII

WHC-2000/CONF.202/INF.6

Australia’s Commitments: Protecting Kakadu National Park (Progress Report to the World Heritage Centre, 15 April 2000)

WHC-2000/CONF.202/17

Twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau, June 2000– paragraph IV.46

New information: In co-operation with the Australian Supervising Scientist, the Independent Scientific Panel (ISP) of the International Council for Science (ICSU) and a representative of IUCN made a site visit to the Jabiluka

and Ranger Mineral Leases from 3 to 7 July 2000 (see **WHC-2000/CONF.203/INF.5**).

The World Heritage Centre has received the following letters and reports (all of which were transmitted to the Australian authorities and to the relevant advisory body/bodies for review and comment):

12 September 2000 Letter and report from Australian environment groups (Australian Conservation Foundation, Environment Centre NT Inc and Friends of the Earth)

- Reference to (i) Failed programme of corrective measures, (ii) further evidence of the inadequacy of the monitoring and regulatory regime for uranium mining in the Alligator Rivers Region and (iii) increased corporate uncertainty.
- Concluded that property should be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

15 September 2000 Letter and summary of a detailed study of the history and environmental performance of the Ranger Uranium Mine, Gavin M. Mudd, University of Queensland.

- 20 September 2000 Letter and report from Mr Geoff Clark, Chairman of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC).
- 27 detailed recommendations including recommendation for inscribing the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.
- 22 September 2000 Letter and report from Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation
- Refers to the objection of the Mirrar people to participate in the proposed cultural heritage management process as they say it would facilitate the development of the Jabiluka mine.
 - Recommends "That a high-level, expert advisory mission including representatives of ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN visit Kakadu National Park prior to the twenty-fifth Session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee with a view to assessing the current status of identified threats to World Heritage values".
- 22 September 2000 Letter from Senator the Hon. Nick Bolkus, Shadow Minister for Environment and Heritage and Member of the Senate Environment References Committee that inquired into Jabiluka Uranium Mine Project in 1999
- Restated key majority findings of the Senate inquiry (inclusion of Kakadu on List of World Heritage in Danger and cessation of Jabiluka uranium mine) and referred to uncertainty following recent acquisition of Energy Resources of Australia by Rio Tinto.
- 5 October 2000 Copy of letter from Senator the Hon. Robert Hill to Ms Yvonne Margarula, Chairperson, Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation dated 22 September 2000
- Request for all stakeholders to meet in Jabiru or Darwin in the next few months to discuss how to prepare a Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the Jabiluka Lease.
- 5 October 2000 Copy of letter from Senator the Hon. Robert Hill to Mr Gatjil Djerrkura OAM, Commissioner, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission dated 22 September 2000.
- Sought confirmation from Mr Djerrkura that he would be available as facilitator for a meeting to discuss the process of Cultural Heritage Management Planning.
- In addition, the following report was received from IUCN on 29 September 2000.
1. "The proposed development at Jabiluka is in a state of transition and the mission was presented with new information in relation to aspects such as water retention ponds, water circulation and treatment, and tailings disposal. These are assessed in the ICSU report but it is important that any new developments are subjected to scientific peer review and appropriate analysis.
 2. The mission reviewed information associated with the leakage of tailing water at the Ranger mine lease and reported leaks of contaminated water from old mines in the Park. IUCN considers the tailings pipe leak to have had minor ecological impact. However, IUCN notes the delays in reporting this leakage and the inconsistency in responses between the Northern Territory Supervising Authority and the more detailed response of the Australian Government Supervising scientist and ERA to the incident.
 3. IUCN believes this vindicates the need for the Federal Government of Australia to resume direct control and authority for the activities and operations on a mine lease within the World Heritage Area.
 4. IUCN notes that the natural values in and around the Jabiluka lease require further documentation. In particular, a full analysis of the rare and endangered, or endemic, flora and fauna, and refugial or relictual habitats likely to contain these biota needs to be undertaken.
 5. IUCN specifically recommends that a survey of the flora and fauna of the local area in and surrounding the Jabiluka lease site, should be implemented, paying particular attention to the potential for the occurrence of rare and endangered, or endemic species, and refugial or relictual habitats likely to contain such natural values. Where such elements are located, an analysis of the degree of threat posed to them as a result of all aspects of the development proposed for the region, should be instigated.
 6. There should be a synthesis undertaken of existing and new information on both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems to establish, for example, trophic relationships, and to provide for an understanding of key ecosystems functioning in the lease site or adjacent to it. Building on the synthesis, ecological modelling should be commenced with a view to the delivery of an ecological understanding of potential cumulative and/or interactive effects of all developments on the lease site or adjacent to it.
 7. IUCN notes the importance of transparent and open engagement of all stakeholders in issues associated with Jabiluka, particularly traditional owners, the scientific community and non-governmental groups.

IUCN recommends the Bureau request the State Party to provide assurances that:

- a) the key natural values of the lease site and adjacent areas will be documented and evaluated in the light of all types of potential impacts, preferably before further development proceeds; and
- b) formal assessment will be conducted for all new aspects of the proposal, including long-term monitoring protocols, and approvals will only be granted if analysis shows that risks to natural values are negligible."

Action required: The Bureau is requested to examine the following and submit its recommendations to the twenty-fourth session of the World Heritage Committee:

- (i) examine the final report and recommendations of the Independent Scientific Panel (ISP) of the International Council for Science (WHC-2000/CONF.203/INF.5),
- (ii) examine the report and recommendations of IUCN (see above),
- (iii) examine any new information on "progress to find a constructive solution to addressing the economic, social and cultural expectation of the people of Kakadu while protecting the full range of World Heritage values" to be provided by the Australian authorities, ICOMOS and ICCROM at the time of the session.

I.36. Mount Emei and Leshan Giant Buddha (China)

International assistance: Technical Co-operation in 1999, US\$ 20,000, National Strategy Workshop for Natural Heritage Conservation in China

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee (para. number X.30)

Twenty-fourth session of the Bureau (para. number IV.48)

New information: The Secretariat arranged the reactive monitoring mission by IUCN and ICOMOS to the site in July and August 2000 following the construction of a monorail at the Summit of Mount Emei. Concerns had been expressed regarding the impact of the monorail on the natural and cultural values of the site. In general, the mission found that the Mount Emei Administration has taken steps to enhance the conservation of the area in a number of ways, including through the construction of the monorail, the management of tourists visiting the area, and the plans to gradually move out people who are living in the site. The paths in the site are frequently patrolled, and staff removes all litter, thus resulting in a very tidy appearance in most places.

The monorail, follows the line of the former path between the Golden and Wanfo Summits, was inspected by the consultants from IUCN and ICOMOS to ascertain its

impact on the natural and cultural values of the site. Very little vegetation has been cleared for the monorail and the vegetation is now encroaching on the old path, which is no longer used. For the most part, the monorail is unobtrusive and not easily visible from a distance.

In conclusion, the mission was of the view that the monorail does not make any significant adverse impact on the natural values of the Mount Emei World Heritage site, on the contrary, it probably serves to minimize the impact of tourism on the Wanfo Summit.

The mission also identified some other conservation issues such as tourist pressure and biodiversity monitoring to the site.

The mission recommended that the World Heritage Committee should give much higher priority to biodiversity monitoring within both natural and mixed sites of China. This should be considered an essential and normal part of any management plan. The World Heritage Committee should agree on minimum standards for such monitoring programmes, and States Parties should then provide information on how their monitoring programmes relate to the minimum standards. Where additional capacity is needed to develop and implement such programmes, the World Heritage Fund should be considered as one possible source of financial support.

The ICOMOS mission visited the Leshan Giant Buddha in August 2000. The situation at the Leshan Giant Buddha is clearly becoming serious, with incipient danger to visitors because of the worn out nature of the existing stairway and the steadily increasing visitor numbers. ICOMOS commends the decision of the administration of the site not to carry out any alternations to the historic access stairway, which is an integral part of the monument. The solution that is proposed is a bold one but it has been developed with great care and sympathy for the overall view of the Giant Buddha when seen from the river. It will be simple in form and rendered more unobtrusive by the use of surfaces that harmonise with the colour of the natural rock. ICOMOS believes that this is an admirable solution to a serious problem and one that will in no way detract from the cultural values of this important World Heritage monument.

The results and recommendations of the mission undertaken by the advisory bodies will be presented to the Bureau in Cairns, Australia.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau examined the results and findings of the IUCN and ICOMOS missions. The Bureau requested that the State Party should impress upon the managements of all World Heritage properties in China that major projects of this type should not be implemented without the World Heritage Committee being fully informed of all aspects of project planning and implementation and of all

environmental impacts. Furthermore, the Bureau drew the attention of the Chinese authorities to the need to improve training of site staff so that they can better monitor and mitigate tourism impacts and develop biodiversity monitoring programmes on the site. The Bureau recommended that the Secretariat, the State Party and the advisory bodies develop follow-up actions. The Bureau also recommended that the report of the IUCN/ICOMOS mission be transmitted to the relevant Chinese authorities.”

I.37. Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru)

International assistance: 1987 to 1992: approximately US\$ 50,000 for preparation of a Master Plan.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee (para. number X.31)

Twenty-fourth session of the Bureau (para. number IV.49)

New information: The World Heritage Centre received from the Peruvian authorities a report by the Machu Picchu Management Unit on the following points:

- The Technical Committee for Touristic Use of the Cultural and Natural Heritage of the Nation was constituted.
- The Management Committee for the property was put in place.
- An Integrated Forest Fire Prevention Plan was approved.
- The projects concerning problems with the management of liquid and solid waste were advanced.
- The time limit for the implementation of the Regulation for the Use of the Inca Trail had to be extended to the end of December 2000.
- Possibilities are being investigated of financial collaboration with the Japanese Government in the UNESCO-Kyoto University project on Landslide Hazard and Mitigation (IGCP-425).

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Arab States

I.38. Islamic Cairo (Arab Republic of Egypt)

International assistance:

- Preparatory Assistance (US\$ 14,900) and Technical co-operation (US\$ 19,000) in 1998 to formulate strategy guidelines for the rehabilitation of Historic Cairo and completion of a three-year rehabilitation programme (submitted to the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-second session).
- Technical Co-operation in 1999 (US\$ 120,000) and 2000 (US\$ 80,000) for the implementation of the rehabilitation programme (institutional building; donors conference; placing of a Policy Advisor, a Technical Co-ordinator and an Architect-restorer and

The Management Unit considers it to be of great importance to conclude a study on the carrying capacity of the Inca Trail and the Acropolis of Machu Picchu.

At the beginning of September 2000, the World Heritage Centre received from the *Comisión de Promoción de la Inversión Privada* (COPRI) a draft version of the Terms of Reference for a study to identify a new location for the planned cable car in Machu Picchu. The *Instituto Nacional de Recursos Naturales* (INRENA) emphasised the importance of considering the project’s impact on the landscape as well as the necessity of extending the study of possible locations to areas other than Puente Ruinas.

Furthermore, information reached the World Heritage Centre that during the production of a beer commercial at the site, a crane that formed part of the film team’s equipment fell on the Intihuatana or stone sundial, chipping off a piece of stone. The Secretariat expressed its concerns and has requested a detailed report on this matter.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

“The Bureau commends the State Party for the actions taken to protect the property, especially the advances made in consolidating the institutional structure for the management of the site. The Bureau, however, expresses very serious concern over the accident that damaged one of the most important monuments at Machu Picchu, the Intihuatana or stone sundial. The Bureau requests the Peruvian authorities to submit a report on the accident and the restoration efforts taken, as well as on further progress in the consolidation of the institutional structure and the development of the cable car project. The report shall be submitted by 15 April 2001 for examination by the World Heritage Bureau at its twenty-fifth session.”

Pilot Projects at Beit Sinnari and the vicinity of the Al-Azhar Mosque.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee (para. number X.35)

Twenty-fourth session of the Bureau (para. number IV.59)

New information:

- Restoration activities undertaken by the Ministry of Housing are ongoing for Bab El-Nasr, Bab El-Foutouh and the North Wall. At the same time some reconstruction and development is taking place in the Gamaliya district, involving non-pollutant handicraft workshops and a training centre.

- Restoration and development of the Darb Al-Asfar area started in April of this year. In the same month the restored Gate of the Madrasa An-Nasir Mohamed in the Gamaliya district was inaugurated, while the Minister of Culture signed a contract to start the restoration project of the Cairo Aquaduct (Aquaduct of Sultan Al-Ghouri).
- There is a continuation of the Beit Sinnari restoration which is expected to be completed before 2001, to be followed by rehabilitation works in the quarter.
- The Policy Advisor, the Director General of the National Documentation Centre on Cultural and Natural Heritage, and the Technical Co-ordinator, the Director of the Department of Archaeology and Engineering, School of Engineering of Cairo University, established by UNESCO will continue to do their work until the end of the year.

It is important to note that after an initial period of investment in and build-up of plans and projects for Islamic Cairo -a mega-city in which the urban heritage is difficult to manage and steer- now the various works are being implemented and gradually the momentum is changing, slowly paying off the efforts invested. The improvement of the co-ordination through the Policy Advisor and Technical Co-ordinator has its impact on the conservation projects also.

ICOMOS will report to the Bureau on the results of its mission to Cairo in July 2000.

Actions required: The Bureau may wish to examine information that will be provided at the time of its session and take the appropriate decision thereupon.

I.39. Petra (Jordan)

International assistance:

Technical Co-operation (US\$ 50,000), 1988

Technical Co-operation (US\$ 29,500), 1996

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth session of the Bureau (para. number IV.68)

New Information: Upon the request of the World Heritage Committee, ICOMOS undertook a mission for the tourism management of the site, the physical and economic development of the vicinity, including the possibility of integrating the Dana Reserve into the work and a detailed review of the state of conservation of Petra. ICOMOS will report the findings of the mission at the session of the Bureau.

Actions required: The Bureau may wish to examine information that will be provided at the time of its session and take the appropriate decision thereupon.

I.40. Byblos (Lebanon)

International assistance: Preparatory Assistance (US\$ 10,000), 1999, Seminar on Byblos at Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee (para. number X.39)

New information:

- A mission by ICOMOS to examine the state of conservation of the archaeological mound of Byblos, as requested by the Committee, has not taken place yet.
- The provision of information concerning the second expert meeting in Byblos in November 1999 is pending. The publication of the proceedings by the Lebanese-American University is in preparation.
- The conservation projects of the World Bank in Lebanon, of which UNESCO is in charge of co-ordination, are at this moment not moving. Information is requested from the Lebanese authorities.
- Progress is being made in the writing of a Monograph on Byblos World Heritage site, a joint project by UNESCO-WHC and Delft University of Technology.
- A follow-up on the two previous expert meetings on Byblos is scheduled for March 2001, in which a task force will be formed to decide on the Terms of Reference for a Management Plan and Master Plan for Byblos.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

“The Bureau reiterates its request for an ICOMOS mission to examine the state of conservation of the archaeological mound and the presentation of the Byblos World Heritage site. In addition, it requests the Secretariat to further the co-ordination and co-operation with the Lebanese Government on the different projects and activities taking place. It also asks the Lebanese authorities to submit a report on the advancement of the World Bank financed conservation projects.”

I.41. Ksar Ait Ben Haddou (Morocco)

International assistance: Technical Co-operation (US\$ 50,000), 1988

Technical Co-operation (US\$ 29,500), 1996

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth session of the Bureau (para. number IV.68)

New information: A mission report dated August 2000 formulated the following recommendations:

- Status of the site at the national level: finalise the process of listing the site, including the private properties included therein;
- Strengthen the capacities of the CERKAS responsible for the site;
- Create a management commission for the site;
- Create a working group to elaborate a management plan;

- Content of the management plan and the timeframe for its elaboration.

However, since the inscription on the World Heritage List of Ksar Ait Ben Hadou, this site has progressively become abandoned and has degraded and the report recommends that the site be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. This inscription is fully justified given its present state and deterioration of a large area, as well as the fact that the corrective measures which are required should be undertaken most urgently. It comprises an adobe architecture which can last for centuries if it is regularly monitored and maintained, but may “collapse” in a few decades if not properly kept in good repair.

Consequently, it was recommended that the authorities request that this site be placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger before the month of November 2000 so that a decision may be taken during the next meeting of the World Heritage Committee in December 2000. Furthermore, financial assistance should be requested for the implementation of the afore-mentioned recommendations.

Action required: The Bureau is requested to examine additional information that may be available at the time of its session and take the appropriate decision thereupon.

I.42. Historic City of Zabid (Yemen)

International assistance :

Technical Assistance (US\$ 19,000), 1998
Assistance for promotional activities (US\$ 15,000), 1995
Emergency Assistance (US\$ 30,000) 1994

Previous deliberations :

Twenty second session of the Bureau (para. number V.71)

New information: A UNESCO mission visited Zabid in November 1999 and informed the World Heritage Centre that the city is in a bad state of conservation. In July 2000 the consultant in charge of the periodic reports, discussed the problem with the GOPHCY (General Organization for the Preservation of the Historic Cities of Yemen) who agreed that the situation is totally out of their control and that an international action will be necessary to help seek a solution.

The Yemeni Authorities are presently discussing at the highest level, the ways of informing the Committee about this situation and eventually requesting for the inclusion of the City in the List of the World Heritage in Danger.

Since the date of nomination, it has been difficult for the Government to give the City top priorities due to the country's difficult economic and social situation.

Due to a lack of conservation measures, the City is now facing huge threats that are endangering its authenticity and integrity:

- Serious deterioration of the built-up heritage (40% of the residential houses being replaced by compact cement and multi-storey buildings)
- The remains of the houses in the City are rapidly deteriorating, due to the prevailing low income of the inhabitants
- Since the suq activities have been transferred outside the City, the suq is almost empty and free from any type of activity and the shops are falling apart
- The traditional economic role of the City as the centre of its micro-region has vanished
- The city in general, is lacking any conservation and rehabilitation concepts.

By reviewing all these elements, the mission was of the opinion that the situation of the city corresponds to the following criteria of danger: Ascertained danger: (b), (c) and (d) and Potential danger: (b) and (c).

Action required: The Bureau is requested to examine additional information that may be available at the time of its session and take the appropriate decision thereupon.

The Bureau may wish to ask the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to send a multidisciplinary team of experts to the site in order to evaluate the situation and to assist the national authorities to draw up a programme of corrective action.

Africa

I.43. Island of Mozambique (Mozambique)

International assistance: Emergency Assistance 1998: US\$ 30,000.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee (paragraph VII.36)

Twenty-third session of the Committee (paragraph X.46 and Annex VIII)

New information: ICOMOS undertook a reactive monitoring mission to the site and will submit its report during the session of the Bureau.

Action required: The Bureau is requested to examine additional information that may be available at the time of its session and take the appropriate decision thereupon.

Asia and the Pacific

I.44. Peking Man Site at Zhoukoudian (China)

International assistance: Emergency Assistance: 1993 US\$ 26,000 to prevent the collapse of some of the Caves damaged by heavy rains in 1992-1993

Previous deliberations:

Eighteenth session of the Bureau (para. number VII.21)

Twentieth session of the Committee (para. number VII.47)

Twenty-third session of the Bureau (para. number IV.52).
Twenty-third session of the Committee (para. number X.34)

New information: Regarding the ICOMOS - ICCROM joint mission's recommendation to add cultural criterion (iv) and remove criterion (vi) under which the site is inscribed on the World Heritage List, the Committee at its twenty-third session requested ICOMOS to examine this matter further in consultation with the State Party.

ICOMOS undertook a study of the six fossil hominid sites inscribed on the World Heritage List, those being: Lower Valley of the Awash (Ethiopia, 1980), Lower Valley of the Omo (Ethiopia, 1980), Willandra Lakes Region (Australia, 1981), Peking Man Site at Zhoukoudian (China, 1987), Sangiran Early Man Site (Indonesia, 1996), Fossil Hominid Sites of Sterkfontein, Swartkrans, Kormdraai, and Environs (South Africa, 1999). It noted that there was some inconsistency in the criteria applied in the case of the first three sites, but by contrast that the two criteria used for Zhoukoudian have also been applied in both of the subsequent cases.

In the case of Zhoukoudian, therefore, ICOMOS does not support the proposal of the joint mission, but recommends that the two criteria currently applied should be retained. It does not recommend, however, that the criteria applied to the fossil hominid sites inscribed earlier be changed.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to formulate a decision upon examining the recommendations of ICOMOS.

I.45. The Potala Palace, Lhasa (China)

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twentieth session of the Bureau (para. number III.19)
Twentieth session of the Committee (para. number VII.48)
Twenty-second extraordinary session of the Bureau (para. number III.C)
Twenty-second session of the Committee (para. number VII.43)
Twenty-third session of the Bureau (para. number IV.53)
Twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau (para. number III.C)
Twenty-fourth session of the Bureau (para. number IV.58)

New information: The Bureau, at its twenty-fourth session, requested the State Party to maintain the authenticity of the area and provide a report on the conservation plan of Shöl to the Secretariat by 15 September 2000 for examination by the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau. The Secretariat received, on 25 September 2000, a Report on the Protection of the Shöl Area under the Hill of the Potala Palace and related Plans prepared by the State Administration of Culture Heritage of China. The Report was transmitted to ICOMOS for review and comments. The Secretariat was informed that the local authorities terminated the activities of the Tibet Heritage Fund, a NGO supported by several European governments

working in Lhasa for the conservation of traditional building in the Barkhor area surrounding the Jokhang Temple. This area is proposed as an extension to the World Heritage site of the Potala Palace.

The report submitted by the Government of China stated that "according to reports from the Cultural Heritage Bureau of the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), there were schemes to demolish ancient buildings or set up tourist facilities at the Shöl Area by non-cultural heritage organisation or individuals. However, the Cultural Heritage Bureau of Tibet, the competent authority of TAR, has stopped all the projects. The future plan for the area is to move out the residents who are not original dwellers of the area, so as to better reserve the traditional buildings in their true and integrate conditions. It was also learned that the Tibetan Archives, with financial support from a foreign non-government institution, the Tibet Heritage Fund, has started the restoration of the ruins of an ancient building without the permission from the competent culture heritage authorities, which is now making investigations and settlement."

Furthermore, the Secretariat was informed that the protection area of the Potala Palace has been redefined according to the "Measures on the Protection and Management of the Potala Palace" issued by the No 10 Order of the People's Government of the Tibet Autonomous Region. The protection area circled by the surroundings walls is the core area as well as the Northeast Corner of the Red Hill where the Potala Palace stands. The buffer zone is clearly indicated on a Map attached to the report.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine the information provided above and request the State Party for clarifications regarding the government policy on the involvement of international NGOs, multilateral and bilateral development co-operation agencies in the conservation of cultural heritage in Lhasa.

I.46. Khajuraho Groups of Monuments (India)

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations: None

New information: Following information received from ICOMOS/ICCROM international experts concerning illegal encroachment within the site, the World Heritage Centre requested ICOMOS to organise a Reactive Monitoring Mission. The ICOMOS expert was expected to undertake this Mission in October 2000, at the time of preparation of this working document. The findings and recommendations of the ICOMOS Mission will be presented to the Bureau at its session.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to formulate a decision upon examining further information to be presented by ICOMOS at the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau.

I.47. Sun Temple of Konarak (India)

International assistance: Emergency Assistance 1997: US\$ 39,000 for structural study due to heavy monsoon rain.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-first session of the Committee (para. number VII.5)

Twenty-third session of the Bureau (para. number IV.62)

Twenty-third session of the Committee (para. number X.38)

Twenty-fourth session of the Bureau (para. number IV.65)

New information: The Bureau, at its twenty-fourth session, examined the findings and recommendations of the ICOMOS monitoring mission to the site undertaken in February 2000. In order to mitigate potential threats caused by illegal encroachment and ad-hoc construction in the areas surrounding the site, the Bureau requested the authorities concerned to urgently prepare a Comprehensive Development Plan and requested the Secretariat to assist the State Party in mobilising international technical expertise and co-operation as required. The Bureau further requested the Government of India to report to the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau on the progress made in preparing this Plan but at the time of drafting this working document, further information has not been received by the Secretariat. The Centre has been informed by the Permanent Delegation of India to UNESCO that information will be made available prior to the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to formulate a decision upon examining further information to be presented by the Secretariat at the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau.

I.48. Luang Prabang (Laos)

International assistance: Preparatory Assistance: 1994: US\$ 15,000 for nomination file, 1996: US\$ 7,342 to develop project proposal for conservation plan.

Training: 2000: US\$30,000 on-site training in archaeological survey and documentation.

Technical Co-operation: 1996: US\$ 39,900 inventory of timber buildings protection/conservation plan, 1997: US\$ 25,000 for conservation guidelines/ pedagogical tools.

Promotional activities: 1998: US\$ 5,000 for awareness-raising of local population (posters/slide show, neighbourhood workshops).

Previous deliberations:

Twentieth extraordinary session of the Bureau (para. number III.C)

Twentieth session of the Committee (para. number VII.51)

Twenty-first extraordinary session of the Bureau (para. number III.C)

Twenty-second session of the Committee (para. number VII.43)

Twenty-second extraordinary session of the Bureau (para. number III.C)

Twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau (para. number III.C)

Twenty-third session of the Committee (para. number X.46)

Twenty-fourth session of the Bureau (para. number IV.69)

New information: As follow-up to the decision of the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau, the Secretariat:

- informed the State Party and the Asian Development Bank
- received technical support from the Agence Française de développement (AFD) to prepare the terms of reference for the ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission
- technical documents and TOR for a soil mechanic/hydro-engineering expert was transmitted to ICOMOS on 5 September 2000 but identification of expert is still pending
- ADB and the State Party agreed to delaying the planned works pending results of ICOMOS technical advice on cause of riverbank erosion (surface water drainage or river current), possible alternatives to riverbank consolidation
- ADB and AFD have agreed to merge their project to ensure complementarity (total US\$ 8 million) and the Centre currently negotiating to merge EU-AsiaUrbs project (US\$ 400,000) provided through UNESCO/WHC-Chinon-Luang Prabang decentralised co-operation
- WH Fund co-financed conservation plan; pedagogical manual; posters and brochures now completed and used in training workshops for local authorities; heads of villages and local population – all with excellent results
- Centre's expert mission under France-UNESCO agreement took place in September for consultations with the State Party to identify necessary revisions to national heritage protection law and local regulations and to establish implementation modalities on Fund for Conservation Aid to the Local Population.
- The Centre initiated in co-operation with the AFD and Caisse des depots et consignations (CDC- French national financial institution for savings account and housing loans etc) cases studies on systems of subsidies, loans and fiscal advantages offered to private owners of historic buildings not only in Luang Prabang, but in other developing nations of Asia.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

“Having examined the report of the Secretariat, the Bureau expressed appreciation to the State Party and the Asian Development Bank for halting the planned works on the riverbank consolidation and the quay to take into consideration the outcome of the ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission. The Bureau notes with interest the report by the Secretariat on its co-operation with the Agence Française de développement (AFD) to establish a system of

subsidies and soft loans to be offered to owners of historic buildings located within the World Heritage protected area through a “Fund for Conservation Aid to the Local Population” and requests to be kept informed of developments. The Bureau requests the State Party to prepare, with support from the Secretariat, a full report for the twenty-fifth extraordinary session of the Bureau on the national heritage protection laws and regulations related to Luang Prabang and on the subsidy scheme to the inhabitants to encourage conservation of the site.”

I.49. Kathmandu Valley (Nepal)

International assistance: A total of US\$ 240,374 has been provided as assistance from the World Heritage Fund for safeguarding this site since its inscription in 1979 until September 2000.

Preparatory Assistance:

1997 US\$ 7,510: Formulation of the nomination form of Khokana Village as an additional Monument Zone to Kathmandu Valley site.

Training Assistance:

1997 US\$ 14,000: Training of Development Control Unit staff of the Department of Archaeology.

Technical Co-operation:

1995 US\$ 52,000: UNESCO International Technical Advisor for a 6-month period to strengthen conservation measures.

1998 US\$ 35,000: UNESCO-ICOMOS-HMG of Nepal Joint Mission for conservation report and to elaborate a plan of corrective measures.

1998 US\$ 28,000: Studies on traditional architecture, construction, and conservation techniques, and documentation of Bhaktapur Monument Zone buildings.

1998 US\$ 19,800: Thorough structural survey of the 55 Windows Palace in Bhaktapur Monument Zone.

1999 US\$ 20,000: Documentation of 120 historical buildings of the Bauddhanath Monument Zone.

Emergency Assistance:

1995 US\$ 24,310: Restoration of the tower roof of Taleju Mandir, Patan Palace, Patan Monument Zone, Kathmandu Valley site.

1997 US\$ 19,969: Restoration of the roof and upper floors of the Ritual Kitchen of Taleju Mandir, Patan Palace, Patan Monument Zone, Kathmandu Valley site.

Promotional Assistance:

1998 US\$ 5,000: Promotion of the World Heritage Convention.

Monitoring: A total of US\$ 62,601 for UNESCO expert missions at the request of the World Heritage Committee or its Bureau.

1994 US\$ 3,356: Monitoring mission, Strategy Meeting on Kathmandu Valley site.

1996 US\$ 3,000: Kathmandu Valley Donors’ Meeting Preparation.

1996 US\$ 6,129: Expert Mission to assist the national authorities in the preparation of a state of conservation report for submission to the World Heritage Committee.

1996 US\$ 2,300: Expert participation at the International Technical Meeting on the Conservation of the 55 Windows Palace, Bhaktapur Monument Zone, Kathmandu Valley site.

1998 US\$ 3,700: UNESCO Reactive Monitoring Mission.

1998 US\$ 16,062: ICOMOS experts, Joint Mission.

1998 US\$ 6,380: Nepalese participation, Joint Mission.

1998 US\$ 7,800: Secretariat, editing, publishing, Joint Mission.

Others:

UNESCO-Japan Funds-in-Trust projects and activities supported by the UNESCO Division of Cultural Heritage within the framework of the International Safeguarding Campaign.

Earmarked voluntary contributions to the UNESCO World Heritage Fund from NGOs (US\$ 90,000) and private sector donors (US\$ 40,000) for pilot projects mobilized by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

Previous deliberations:

Sixteenth session of the Committee (para. number VIII.9)

Seventeenth session of the Committee (para. number X.8)

Eighteenth session of the Bureau (para. number VI.21)

Eighteenth session of the Committee (para. number IX.22)

Nineteenth session of the Committee (para. number VII.46)

Twentieth session of the Committee (para. number VII.52)

Twenty-first session of the Bureau (para. number IV.50)

Twenty-first extraordinary session of the Bureau (paragraph III.C)

Twenty-first session of the Committee (para. number VII.53)

Twenty-second session of the Bureau (para. number V.55)

Twenty-second extraordinary session of the Bureau (para. number III.C.b)

Twenty-second session of the Committee (para. number VII.37)

Twenty-third session of the Bureau (para. number IV.69)

Twenty-third session of the Committee (para. number X.42)

Twenty-fourth session of the Bureau (para. number IV.70)

New information: The High Level Mission to Kathmandu Valley, composed of the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, a Vice President of the World Heritage Committee also representing ICOMOS, an eminent international expert on Kathmandu Valley and President of the International Safeguarding Campaign for Kathmandu Valley who assisted the Nepalese Government in formulation the original nomination dossier in the 1970’s, a former Minister of Housing of the Government of France, the Director of the World Heritage Centre and the Centre staff, was undertaken between 24-29 September 2000.

The findings and results of this High Level Mission will be reported to the Bureau at its twenty-fourth extraordinary session.

Action required: Taking into consideration the numerous deferrals of the decision by the World Heritage Committee to inscribed Kathmandu Valley on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and upon examination of the findings of the High Level Mission, (24-29 September 2000), the Bureau may wish to recommend a decision to be taken by the World Heritage Committee.

I.50. Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (Nepal)

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Bureau (para. number IV.70)
Twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau (para. number III.C.c)
Twenty-fourth session of the Bureau (para. number IV.71)

New information: The Centre received an international assistance request from the Nepalese authorities for the organisation of the International Technical Meeting to discuss and initiate alternative draft conceptual designs for rehabilitating the Maya Devi Temple. The Chairperson of the Committee approved the request, and the World Heritage Centre is organising this meeting, currently scheduled for April 2001, the earliest possible dates for the appropriate international experts to travel together to the site.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

“The Bureau requests the World Heritage Centre to continue assisting the Nepalese authorities in the organisation of the International Technical Meeting. The Bureau requests the findings of this meeting to be reported to its twenty-fifth session. In the meantime, the Bureau requests the authorities concerned to continue implementing the recommendations of the Bureau at its twenty-fourth session, and to report to its twenty-fifth session in June/July 2001 on any further measures taken to enhance the management and conservation of the site.”

I.51. Taxila (Pakistan)

International assistance:

Technical Co-operation: 1995 US\$ 28,000: Vegetation control in the archaeological remains of Taxila, carried out in 1999.

Promotional Assistance: 1999 US\$ 5,000: On-site promotion of the World Heritage Convention to increase awareness of the Convention and national legislation at 10 of the 55 archaeological sites of the Taxila World Heritage site.

Previous deliberations:

Nineteenth session of the Bureau (para. number VI.20)
Nineteenth session of the Committee (para. number VII.47)
Twenty-third session of the Bureau (para. number IV.71)
Twenty-third session of the Committee (para. number X.43)
Twenty-fourth session of the Bureau (para. number IV.72)

New information: The Centre and ICOMOS organised a UNESCO-ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission to Taxila (1-5 September 2000) following the request of the Committee and Bureau. The findings and recommendations of this Mission will be reported to the Bureau at its session.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine further information at the time of its twenty-fourth extraordinary session and take decisions thereupon.

I.52. Fort and Shalamar Gardens of Lahore (Pakistan)

International assistance: Emergency Assistance: 1981

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second extraordinary-session of the Bureau (para. number III.C.b)
Twenty-third session of the Bureau (para. number IV.72)
Twenty-third session of the Committee (para. number X.43)
Twenty-fourth session of the Bureau (para. number IV.72)

New information: The Centre and ICOMOS organised the UNESCO-ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission to the Fort and Shalamar Gardens of Lahore (5-8 September 2000) following the request of the Committee and Bureau. The findings and recommendations of this Mission will be reported to the Bureau at its session.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine further information at the time of its twenty-fourth extraordinary session and take decisions thereupon.

I.53. Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines)

International Assistance:

Preparatory Assistance: 1995 US\$ 13,200 Preparation of the nomination files; 1997 US\$ 15,000 Preparation of project proposal on mapping.

Training request: 1995 US\$ 30,000 Expert Meeting on Regional Thematic Study of the Asian Rice Culture and its Terraced Landscapes.

Technical Co-operation: 1999 US\$ 50,000 GIS for mapping the Rice Terraces of the Philippines and for strengthening site-management

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Bureau (para. number IV.74)
Twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau (para. number III.C)

Twenty-third session of the Committee (para. number X.46)

New information: At the twenty-third session of the Committee, the Observer of the Philippines assured the Committee that the long-term integrated development plan of the site, including a tourism development plan for the site, would be submitted to UNESCO before 15 September 2000. At the time of preparation of this working document, this report has not been received by the Secretariat.

The World Heritage Centre was informed in June 2000 that an expert Geographic Information System (GIS) consultant had completed an assessment of the terms of reference for the GIS mapping of the site which included a framework for the integrated management of the cultural heritage resources within their total environmental context. The requisite computer hardware to set up the GIS facility on-site was purchased. In November 1999, the GIS consultant conducted introductory training on the use of GIS for staff members of the Banaue Rice Terraces Task Force, the interim government agency responsible for the site's conservation. Advanced GIS software would be provided free-of-charge by ESRI, under a UNESCO-ESRI agreement. The national authorities are currently negotiating with the UNDP Manila Office to provide additional funds required to set up an integrated resource management system in Ifugao and the Mountain Provinces, using the World Heritage GIS as its base.

However, the UNESCO Regional Office in Bangkok has expressed concern regarding the sustainability of the GIS project and consequently for the management of the site as a whole. This concern is caused by the ad hoc nature of the Task Force and current developments which have resulted in the loss or displacement of all staff of the Task Force who have received GIS training under the World Heritage Fund Technical Co-operation grant. UNESCO's concern was expressed in a communication sent to the Secretary of the Department of Tourism and Chair of the Task Force on 28 March 2000. The Secretary transmitted the Government's assurance that qualified replacements for the displaced personnel will be hired and that additional internal funding would be raised to sustain the GIS mapping project. The Secretary advised UNESCO that a legislative bill is being prepared for filing in the Philippine Congress for the creation of a permanent agency to manage the conservation of the Philippine Cordilleras World Heritage site. Once created, this agency will be assured of an annual budgetary appropriation and permanent staff positions. The latest development reported by the Task Force on 3 May was a fire at their offices which may have affected the computer hardware. Damage to the computer units is still being assessed.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

“Considering the extremely fragile eco-system of this World Heritage Cultural Landscape, the Bureau encourages the national authorities to give priority to the creation of a permanently staffed agency

responsible for the implementation of the site's conservation, preservation and development programmes, including the GIS mapping of the site and its heritage resources. The Bureau requests the State Party to report, through the Secretariat by 30 April 2001, on the establishment of this permanent agency and on the progress of the GIS mapping project at its twenty-fifth session.”

I.54. Baroque Churches of the Philippines (Philippines)

International Assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-first session of the Committee (para. number VII.55)

Twenty-second extraordinary session of the Bureau (para. number III. C)

Twenty-second session of the Committee (para. number VII.43)

New information: In July 2000, the World Heritage Centre received correspondence from the owners of the San Augustin Church in Manila together with supplementary information from the Philippines National Commission for UNESCO and the Permanent Delegation of the Philippines to UNESCO concerning renewed plans to construct a new building within the existing church complex to meet the demands caused by the increased congregation, and specifically, to extend the priests' residence. The owners of the San Augustin Church suggested in a letter addressed to the Secretariat that they might consider being delisted from the site if World Heritage status causes constraints upon the use of the site. The World Heritage Centre requested ICOMOS in September to undertake a Reactive Monitoring Mission, to examine the potential negative impact the new building could cause to the integrity and authenticity of the site.

Following receipt of an international assistance request for restoration work to be undertaken for the San Augustin Church in Paoay, an ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission was organized in July 2000 at the request of the World Heritage Centre. The findings and recommendations of this ICOMOS Mission will be reported at the time of the Bureau.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine further information provided by the Secretariat and ICOMOS at the time of the session and take a decision thereafter.

I.55. Complex of Hué Monuments (Vietnam)

International assistance:

Preparatory Assistance: 1998 US\$ 5,000 on-site exhibition

Technical Co-operation:

1994 US\$ 20,000 for seminar on Hanoi/Hue

1995 US\$ 108,000 for wood conservation laboratory and training for their use

1996 US\$ 12,500 evaluation of the World Heritage boundary
1997 US\$ 35,000 for legal diagnosis of urban heritage protection regulations
1998 US\$ 16,811 for Hue-Hoi An workshop on timber buildings conservation

Emergency Assistance:

1997 US\$ 50,000 consolidation of typhoon-damaged Queen Mother's Palace of Hue
1999 US\$ 50,000 for November 1999 Hue flood assessment and consolidation

Promotional activities:

2000 US\$ 5,000 Production of the World Heritage Education Kit in Vietnam

Previous deliberations:

Eighteenth session of the Bureau (para. number V.C.2)
Eighteenth extraordinary session of the Bureau (paragraphs III.C, V.C.2 & VI.2.B)
Eighteenth session of the Committee (para. number IX.22)
Nineteenth session of the Committee (para. number VII.49)
Twentieth session of the Committee (para. number VII.70)
Twenty-first session of the Committee (para. number VII.54)
Twenty-second session of the Committee (para. number VII.43)
Twenty-third session of the Committee (para. number X.45)
Twenty-fourth session of the Bureau (para. number IV.77)

New information: The Bureau, at its twenty-fourth session, noted with deep concern, a report on the gravity of the damages caused to the monuments and the urban heritage of the Hue World Heritage site by the November 1999 floods. In view of the damage and the important funding support required to redress the situation and to mitigate risks of future seasonal floods, the Bureau requested the State Party to consider the inscription of this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger and to report to the Centre by 15 September on their decision. To date the State Party has not responded. An ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission took place in August – September 2000.

Despite efforts by UNESCO to solicit donor support for the emergency projects, prepared jointly by UNESCO and Vietnamese experts, only the Government of Belgium has responded expressing their willingness to consider support. The Government of Switzerland has informed the Centre of substantial bilateral support extended to Hué for the upgrading of the drainage system and flood control works.

For the urban conservation activities, also supported by the Committee and through the Hué-Lille Metropole decentralised co-operation, the European Commission has approved a project for a feasibility study to establish a Housing Improvement loan and subsidy scheme for the benefit of private owners of historic buildings located within the Hué World Heritage site. The Caisse des Depots

et Consignation (CDC), a French national bank, in co-operation with Lille Metropole and the Centre are continuing to support this activity.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine the information provided above and the results of the ICOMOS mission at the time of the session and take a decision thereafter.

Latin America and the Caribbean

I.56. Brasilia (Brazil)

International assistance: 1997 to 2000: US\$ 42,000 for international conferences on modern architecture.

Previous deliberations:

Seventeenth session of the Committee (page number 25)

New information: The Secretariat received information on reported rapid demographic development in connection with building activities which might imperil the architectural integrity of the modernist city. To date, the State Party has not responded to a request from the Secretariat for a report on this matter.

ICOMOS reviewed the information and indicated that a reactive monitoring mission might be required.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine information that will be provided at the time of its session and take the appropriate decision thereupon.

I.57. Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo – San Lorenzo (Panama)

International assistance: To date: US \$ 73,888 for their protection and equipment.

Previous deliberations:

Sixteenth session of the Committee (para. number VIII.4)
Seventeenth session of the Committee (page number 23)

New information: ICOMOS transmitted information on the present state of conservation of the two sites to the World Heritage Centre that is cause of grave concern. Both sites seem to be in a state of absolute abandonment with no management in place whatsoever. This has led to unimpeded deterioration of the architectural substance. The Secretariat has requested the authorities of Panama to submit a report on this matter.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine information that might be provided at the time of its session and take the appropriate decision thereupon.

I.58. Archaeological Site of Chavin (Peru)

International assistance: 1998: US\$ 37,250 Emergency Assistance.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee (para. number VII.43 and Annex IV)

Twenty-third session of the Committee (para. number X.46)

Twenty-fourth session of the Bureau (para. number IV.87)

New information: The State Party informed the World Heritage Centre that, in accordance with the Emergency Plan, two of the mounds at the site were protected from the rain. In August 2000 a Project of Archaeological Investigation was initiated in co-ordination with the Management Plan Commission. The following are the objectives:

- a) Assessment of the viability of a new route for the road that now passes behind the monument.
- b) Determination of the extension of the site.
- c) Structural analysis of the exterior wall of the central mound with the aid of test pits to help programme future consolidation and restoration works.

The State Party furthermore informed the World Heritage Centre that a Project Profile had been prepared in June 2000 with the aim to request Japanese funds for the construction of a site museum and a containing wall along the River Mosna. The World Heritage Centre also received a request for emergency assistance from the World Heritage Fund, over US \$ 30,000, which is currently being discussed with the State Party.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

“The Bureau commends the State Party for its efforts to ensure the conservation of the site but emphasises the importance of a Master Plan for well co-ordinated short and long-term actions to be taken. The Bureau furthermore encourages the State Party authorities to collaborate with the Centre and other interested partners in the endeavour to generate the necessary funds for safeguarding of the site. The Bureau requests the Peruvian authorities to submit a report on the progress made by 15 April 2001 for examination by the World Heritage Bureau at its twenty-fifth session.”

Europe and North America

I.59. Roman Monuments, Cathedral St. Peter and Liebfrauen-Church in Trier (Germany)

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Bureau, Chapter IV.59

Twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau

Twenty-fourth session of the Bureau, Chapter IV.62

The Bureau of the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-fourth session requested the German authorities to submit a report on the integration of the Roman water pipes and town ramparts in the plan for the buildings close to the Roman Amphitheatre before 15 September 2000.

New information: The requested report was received from the German authorities and transmitted to ICOMOS for examination.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine the information that may be available at the time of its session and take the appropriate decision thereupon.

I.60. Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin (Germany)

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee, Chapter VII.34

Twenty-third session of the Committee, Chapter X.37

Twenty-fourth session of the Bureau, Chapter IV.63

The Bureau of the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-fourth session requested the German authorities to submit a report on the state of conservation with the regard to the Havel project (German Unity Project 17) before 15 September 2000.

New information: The requested report was received from the German authorities and transmitted to ICOMOS for examination.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine the information that may be available at the time of its session and take the appropriate decision thereupon.

I.61. Classical Weimar (Germany)

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations: None

New information: The Secretariat has been informed by a great number of persons of a plan to construct a road close to the Castle of Tiefurth, which forms part of the World Heritage site *Classical Weimar* (Germany). According to this information several proposals have been developed for the location of the road. The Secretariat requested on 11 July 2000 the German authorities for a report on this matter. To date, the requested report has not yet been submitted to the Secretariat.

ICOMOS raised some concern with regard to the planned road and recommends that the Committee should request a thorough analysis of this matter by an independent expert before the bypass project is finally implemented.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

“The Bureau requests the German authorities to submit a report on the possible impact of the construction of a road close to the Castle of Tiefurth, which forms part of the World Heritage site *Classical Weimar* before 15 April 2001 in order that it may be examined by the Bureau at its twenty-fifth session. Furthermore, the Bureau requests the Secretariat in co-operation with ICOMOS to identify an independent expert to undertake a thorough analysis of this matter.”

I.62. Hortabágy National Park (Hungary)

International assistance: US\$ 50,000 Emergency Assistance for 2000.

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph I.45

New information: The State Party provided a report on 12 September 2000 on the state of conservation of the site in connection with the cyanide pollution of River Tisza, which was caused by the spill of 30 January 2000 at the Romanian Baia Mare mining site. The cyanide pollution potentially threatened the artificial and natural wetland areas of the site. There are three separate units along the river Tisza and structures were built to halt the impacts of the pollution and a monitoring programme was put in place. The report points out that the traditional land-use and other cultural values are not affected.

IUCN’s comments can be summarized as follows. The report outlines the threats and damage to the natural environment of the site. Due to actions taken by the authorities the cyanide pollution affected only the wildlife, especially the fish fauna of the riverbed of the River Tisza, flowing through the Tisza Lake. River algae reappeared several days after the spill and research shows that there has been no decline in invertebrates. The numbers of one of the most important mayfly species has increased suggesting a lower number of predator fish feeding on the larvae of this species. Large amounts of fish were poisoned, including species protected by national and international law. No figures are given. No mammal or bird species were found dead inside or around the Park and no decline has been reported for the waterfowl-breeding season in 2000. The Hungarian Ministry of Environment has set-up a monitoring programme including water quality and biodiversity issues. The Programme is co-ordinated by the Water Research Institute with the participation of various authorities and NGO’s. Biodiversity monitoring includes: surveying and monitoring of strictly protected mammals (especially the European otter and bats); monitoring of rare birds and those nesting in colonies; monitoring of reptiles and amphibians; monitoring of protected and commercial fish populations; effects of the cyanide pollution on insects; effects of the pollution on the macro-vegetation and gallery forests; landscape scale monitoring; and

development of a GIS database for the wildlife of the River Tisza. The State Party suggests that the following actions should be taken in order to avoid damage in the future: a detailed action plan should be prepared by relevant authorities (water, environmental, national park directorates) and experts for prevention purposes. The Plan should focus on the improvement of the exchange of information in similar emergency situations, three permanent structures should be built to prevent any polluted water from entering into the protected wetlands of the National Park.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

“The Bureau commends the efforts of the State Party for establishing a monitoring programme and many other organisations for their actions taken in response to this environmental disaster. The Bureau encourages the State Party to provide reports on the results from this programme and give priority to the implementation of a restoration programme. The Bureau requests the State Party to provide a report on the monitoring programme, its action plan and the state of conservation of the by 15 April 2001.”

I.63. Auschwitz Concentration Camp (Poland)

International assistance: For the organisation of international expert meetings for the Strategic Governmental Programme for Auschwitz, in 1998 the amount of US\$ 20,000 and in 2000 US\$ 10,000 were provided under technical co-operation from the World Heritage Fund.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee, Chapter VII.38

Twenty-third session of the Bureau, Chapter IV.75

Twenty-third session of the Committee, Chapter X.46 and Annex VII

Twenty-fourth session of the Bureau, Chapter IV.73

The Bureau of the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-fourth session requested the Government of Poland to submit a further progress report by 15 September 2000 for examination by the Committee at its twenty-fourth session.

New information: To date, the requested report has not been received by the Secretariat.

The Secretariat has been informed through different sources that the Polish Minister of the Interior would have lifted a ban on the construction by a private company of a visitors’ centre with a cafeteria and a parking lot close to the Auschwitz concentration camp. Furthermore, the Secretariat was informed that a discotheque was opened outside of the World Heritage site but in a building that was used for slave labour. The Secretariat requested the Polish authorities for a report on these matters, recalling that the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-second session confirmed its support that the implementation of the *Declaration Concerning Principles for Implementation of Programme Oswiecimsky* continues in a consensual manner among all

parties involved.. To date, the requested report has not been received.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine the information that may be available at the time of its session and take the appropriate decision thereupon.

I.64. Cultural Landscape of Sintra (Portugal)

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth session of the Bureau, Chapter IV.75

New information: The joint mission of IUCN/ICOMOS requested by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth session will take place from 30 October to 3 November 2000. The results of the mission will be presented during the session of the Bureau.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine the information that will be available at the time of its session and take the appropriate decision thereupon.

I.65. Historic Areas of Istanbul (Turkey)

International assistance:

Emergency Assistance:

1999 US\$8,000 Evaluation of fire-damaged timber buildings

2000 US\$30,000 Emergency assistance for evaluation of earthquake damage to Hagia Sophia

Technical Co-operation:

1983 US\$ 30,000 Conservation of mosaics of Hagia Sophia

1987 US\$ 31,247 Photogrammetry equipment

1988 US\$ 29,902 Equipment for conservation of mosaics of Hagia Sophia

1991 US\$ 20,000 Conservation of mosaics of Hagia Sophia

1994 US\$ 20,000 Hagia Sophia

1994 US\$ 80,000 Conservation of mosaics of Hagia Sophia

1999 US\$ 50,000 Conservation of mosaics of Hagia Sophia

1999 US\$ 30,000 Establishment of the Istanbul Heritage House – municipal advisory service on conservation of urban heritage

2000 US\$35,208 Completion of the documentation of the buildings and monuments within the city walls of Istanbul

Training:

1987: US\$ 12,000: Training in stone conservation

Promotional activities:

1999: US\$ 5,000: Map of the World Heritage protected areas

Previous deliberations:

Sixteenth session of the Bureau (para. number VI 44)

Sixteenth session of the Committee (para. number VIII 2)

Seventeenth session of the Bureau (para. number VIII.3)

Eighteenth extraordinary session of the Bureau (para. number IV.1)

Eighteenth session of the Committee (para. number IX. 22)

Twenty-first extraordinary session of the Bureau (para. number III.C)

Twenty-first session of the Committee (para. number VII 55)

Twenty-second session of the Bureau (para. number V 67)

Twenty-second extraordinary session of the Bureau (para. number III C)

Twenty-second session of the Committee (para. number VII.43)

Twenty-third session of the Bureau (para. number IV.85)

Twenty-third session of the Committee (para. number X.46)

New information: The State Party, by letter of 2 October from the Permanent Delegate of Turkey to UNESCO, informed the Secretariat that:

- the Conservation Plan at 1:5000 scale prepared by the Istanbul Technical University was submitted to the Greater Istanbul Metropolitan Authority and subsequently, on 24 April 2000, to the Istanbul No. 1 Council for the Protection of Cultural Properties for examination.
- For Eminonu, the 1:500 scale Conservation Plan, an inventory of monuments located within this municipality was prepared for the first time, and in accordance with Construction Law No. 3194, the views and comments of related public institutions and organs are being sought before submission to the Council for Protection of Cultural Properties for their assessment and approval.
- For Fatih, the 1:1000 scale Zeyrek “conservation-oriented construction plan”, the 1:1000 scale “conservation oriented urban design plan”, the 1:500 scale Molla Zeyrek Mosque and urban design project as well as proposals based on the 1:200 scale analysis on the present state of conservation of this World Heritage protected area together with recommendations on the future physical and functional improvements have been prepared and submitted to the Greater Istanbul Metropolitan Authority. Upon receipt of their endorsement, these plans concerning Zeyrek will be forwarded to the Istanbul Council for Protection of Cultural Properties.

In August, the Secretariat received information from several non-governmental organizations and Turkish conservation experts expressing concern over the impact of the on-going extension of the underground transport system on the cultural heritage of Istanbul. In September, the State Party was requested to respond to these concerns and ICOMOS was requested to carry out a reactive monitoring mission to carry out a technical assessment. To support the process of finalizing the conservation plan of Istanbul, a UNESCO expert mission is scheduled to take place from 29 October – 5 November 2000 to confer with the national and local authorities of the State Party.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine additional information that will be provided at the time of its session and take the appropriate decision thereupon.

PART II Reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List for noting.

NATURAL HERITAGE

No reports submitted under this section.

MIXED (NATURAL AND CULTURAL) HERITAGE

No reports submitted under this section.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Arab States

II.1. Historic City of Meknes (Morocco)

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations: None

New information: In June 2000, a mission to the site revealed the existence of problems relating to the ramparts of the City:

- Urban problems, where in spite of a management plan in the process of being approved, numerous and on-the-spot decisions are being taken by the administration to the detriment of the preservation of the site;
- Structural problems, where the ramparts are threatened by natural degradation (rains, rising of capillary waters) and by degradation of human origin (canals disturbing the foundations, partial demolition for illicit construction, breaches for roads and vibration due to automobiles).

The report proposed a long-term plan in several stages to solve the problem permanently. It also recommended proceeding immediately with the implementation of emergency repair works and a maintenance plan spread over a period of time, due to the importance of the works and their costs.

Africa

No reports submitted under this section.

Asia and the Pacific

No reports submitted under this section.

Latin America and the Caribbean

II.2. Colonial City of Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic)

International assistance: To date: US\$ 58,000 for preparation of the inscription and rehabilitation.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee (para. number VII.31)

Twenty-third session of the Bureau (page number 62)

New information: The Secretariat received a report, prepared by the Cultural Heritage Office of the Dominican Republic, describing the advances by the authorities during the period from 1998 to 2000 in relation to the observations and recommendations resulting from the 1998 monitoring mission to Santo Domingo.

To further the revitalisation of the Historic Centre of Santo Domingo the State Party also submitted an international assistance request for US\$ 27,137, with the objective to prepare a global strategy for the management of cultural tourism in the Historic Centre. The request corresponds to the hierarchical list of objectives proposed in a report assessing the present situation of the Colonial City of Santo Domingo, elaborated by a group of consultants of the Inter-American Development Bank in collaboration with national organisations and support from Spain.

II.3. Historic Centre of Puebla (Mexico) Earliest 16th-Century Monasteries on the slopes of Popocatepetl (Mexico)

International assistance: 2000: US\$ 100,000 Emergency Assistance for the Convents of San Francisco, Tochimilco, and San Agustín, Puebla.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Bureau (para. number IV.68)

Twenty-third session of the Committee (para. number X.41)

New information: In May 2000, a general report on work on the Convents of San Francisco, in Tochimilco, and San Agustín, in Puebla, was submitted by the State Party. It was followed by a report in July 2000 on the advances of consolidation and restoration work done in the whole region affected by the earthquakes in 1999, detailing that 93 % of the work was concluded, with only 298 buildings still in state of repair.

Europe and North America

II.4. Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg (Austria)

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth session of the Bureau, Chapter IV.57

New information: The Austrian authorities submitted in writing - as requested by the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau - their views which they presented orally during the Bureau with regard to a project to construct a huge sport-stadium near the Baroque Castle of Klessheim close to the World Heritage site *Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg* (Austria). In their views, the project neither forms part of the Castle of Klessheim, nor of the World Heritage site. Moreover, the distance between the planned stadium and the buffer zone of the site is over three kilometers and no direct line of sight exists. Furthermore, the height of the building has been reduced in the latest design version. These views also confirm the views of ICOMOS as expressed during the Bureau session.

II.5. Amiens Cathedral (France)

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations: None

New information: The Secretariat was informed on several occasions of the construction of a building on the Parvis of the Cathedral. Consultation with the French Delegation to UNESCO have been held and an ICOMOS mission was sent to Amiens. After this mission, ICOMOS informed the Secretariat that the new building was not compromising the values for which the Cathedral was inscribed on the World Heritage List and that its design and proportions were fully in keeping with the overall appearance of the Parvis and the setting of the Cathedral.

II.6. Palace and Park of Fontainebleau (France)

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations: None

New information: The Secretariat was informed on several occasions of a development project in the immediate neighbourhood of the Palace of Fontainebleau. Consultation with the French Delegation to UNESCO have been held and an ICOMOS mission was sent to the site. After this mission, ICOMOS informed the Secretariat that the project does not significantly impair the setting of the World Heritage monument and that every care has been taken by the French authorities to achieve this result.