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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-fifth session
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room X
25 – 30 June 2001

Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger and on the World Heritage List:

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

SUMMARY

In accordance with paragraphs 92-93 of the Operational Guidelines, the Secretariat and advisory bodies submit herewith reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Where appropriate, the Secretariat or the advisory bodies will provide additional information during the session of the Bureau.

Decision required: The Bureau is requested to examine the attached state of conservation reports and take the appropriate decisions and recommend actions for implementation by the States Parties, advisory bodies and the Centre.

The World Heritage Centre is working to improve the format of documents. Please provide any comments and suggestions for further improvements to the Centre in writing.

1. Reports on the state of conservation of nineteen natural and five cultural properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger are submitted to the Bureau to facilitate the 'review at regular intervals [of] the state of property on the List of World Heritage in Danger' as foreseen in paragraph 92 of the Operational Guidelines.

2. At its twenty-fourth session held from 27 November to 2 December 2000 in Cairns, Australia, the Committee examined the state of conservation of eighteen natural and five cultural properties reported herein and made recommendations and observations. At the same session, the Committee decided to add the Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary (Senegal), the Fort and Shalamar Gardens of Lahore (Pakistan) and the Historic City of Zabid (Yemen) to the List of World Heritage in Danger and made specific recommendations for the consideration of the States Parties, advisory bodies and the Centre. The Committee's decisions and recommendations on all reported World Heritage sites in Danger were transmitted by the Centre to the concerned States Parties.

3. Responses from States Parties and new information that have become available on the state of conservation of the properties reported to the Committee are presented for review by the Bureau. No new information has been received in the case of Angkor (Cambodia). For Chan Chan Archaeological Zone of Peru, the last session of the Committee suggested that the State Party provide a report to the Centre before 15 September 2001 for review by the twenty-fifth session of the Committee in December 2001. Hence, a report for Chan Chan Archaeological Zone of Peru is not included in this document. In the case of the other nineteen natural and six cultural heritage sites, the Bureau is requested to examine the reports provided herein and take appropriate decisions and recommend actions in accordance with paragraph 93 of the Operational Guidelines, which reads as follows:

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

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

4. To facilitate the work of the Bureau, a standard format has been used for all state of conservation reports as follows:

- Name of property (State Party);
- Year of inscription on the World Heritage List and on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
- Brief description
- International assistance provided to the property to date;
- Previous deliberations. Reference is made to relevant paragraph numbers from the reports of the twenty-fourth session of the Committee (27 November – 2 December 2000; Cairns, Australia) and the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau (26 June - 1 July 2000; UNESCO, Paris). In order to minimise the number of pages of this document, texts from those two earlier reports have not been repeated herein;
- New information; and
- Action required.

A. Natural Heritage

Iguaçu National Park (Brazil)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1986; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1999.

Brief description: The semicircular waterfall at the heart of this site is some 80 m high and 2,700 m in diameter and is situated on a basaltic line spanning the border between Argentina and Brazil. Made up of many cascades producing vast sprays of water, it is one of the most spectacular waterfalls in the world. The surrounding subtropical rainforest has over 2,000 species of vascular plants and is home to the typical wildlife of the region: tapirs, giant anteaters, howler monkeys, ocelots, jaguars and caymans.

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

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

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.2

New information: The Ministry of the Environment of Brazil, via a letter dated 12 April 2001, has informed the Centre that: (a) financial resources have been provided to IBAMA to close the Colon Road and rehabilitate impacted areas; (b) contacts with Federal Agencies, particularly the Ministry of Justice, are being maintained to ensure the closure of the road; and (c) a project to implement the Management Plan for the site has been developed and submitted to donors for funding. In addition, the Ministry of Environment has informed the Centre that the oil spill that occurred on 16 July 2000 did not have any impacts on the Park.

In October 2000, the first workshop on the Management of Natural World Heritage sites in South America was convened in Foz do Iguacu. Since then staff from Iguacu of Brazil and Iguazu National Park of Argentina have held monthly meetings for transborder co-ordination of management activities. Visitor facilities in Iguacu of Brazil have been improved. Introduction of bus transport in the Park is expected to reduce visitor traffic by 70% by the end of 2001. Brazilian authorities are also proposing to carry out an environmental impact assessment of helicopter flights over the waterfalls.

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

"The Bureau acknowledges the State Party's continuing efforts to close the Colon Road but expresses its concern over the delay that may be incurred in ensuring the ultimate closure of the road. The Bureau invites the State Party to persist in its efforts to enforce the law and close the Colon Road as soon as possible. The Bureau notes with satisfaction the efforts taken by the State Party to improve visitor flow and management in the Park. The Bureau welcomes the increasing transborder co-operation with Iguazu National Park of Argentina and urges the two States Parties to harmonize their strategies on key management issues and problems."

Srebarna Nature Reserve (Bulgaria)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1983; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992.

Brief description: The Srebarna Nature Reserve is a freshwater lake adjacent to the Danube and extending over 600 ha. It is the breeding ground of almost 100 species of birds, many of which are rare or endangered. Some 80 other bird species migrate and seek refuge there every winter. Among the most interesting bird species are the Dalmatian pelican, great egret, night heron, purple heron, glossy ibis and white spoonbill.

International assistance: The site has received a total sum of US\$ 22,000 for technical and training activities.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.4

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.3

New information: The Centre has not yet received a response from the State Party to the recommendations of the twenty-fourth session of the Committee held in Cairns, Australia (November - December 2000). IUCN has informed the Centre that in 2000, the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences prepared, with financial support from the Ramsar Small Grants Fund for Wetlands Conservation and Wise Use, a management plan for Srebarna. The plan is well prepared. The Ramsar Bureau however, has recommended the establishment of an indicator system

with several simple, specific and easily measurable parameters to systematically monitor and rapidly detect changes in the state of conservation of Srebarna. In addition, the Ramsar Bureau has recommended that the Bulgarian authorities:

- seek alternatives to the mechanical removal of bottom sediments from the Lake in order to reduce eutrophication; alternatives to mechanical removal, some of which are identified in the plan, may have less ecosystem impacts;
- monitor water quality in the Danube River and the Srebarna Lake in a comparable manner so as to regulate water transfers between the two ecosystems; the objective of the management of the transfers between the River and the Lake should be to minimize eutrophication and to improve and restore natural ecological relationships between the two interconnected ecosystems; and
- use the practice of reed cutting as a management tool in selected areas and regulate it so as to improve habitat diversity and generate income for the local community.

IUCN has noted that the plan foresees the preparation of a project to establish a bilateral Ramsar site with Romania. IUCN has urged that the Centre/Ramsar/IUCN mission, recommended by the Committee at its last session, is fielded as early as possible in 2001. The mission should review plans and processes for transboundary co-operation and clarify other management issues including: long-term water management regimes, links and water-flows between the Danube and Srebarna; specific management needs in the short-to-medium term, including technical and financial support from external sources; and indicators for systematic monitoring of the state of conservation of the site.

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

"The Bureau commends the State Party and the Ramsar Secretariat for the preparation of the management plan and invites the State Party to consider the recommendations of Ramsar for further refining the plan as highlighted in the report above. The Bureau urges the Centre and IUCN to consult with the State Party and determine an early date for a Centre/Ramsar/IUCN mission to the site in 2001. That mission, apart from addressing issues highlighted by IUCN should also study, in accordance with the wish of the last session of the Committee, the following: the sustainability of the rehabilitation efforts undertaken; and whether the twenty-fifth session of the Committee should consider removing Srebarna from the List of World Heritage in Danger"

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

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1988; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1997.

Brief description: The importance of this park derives from its wealth of flora and fauna. Its vast savannahs are home to a wide variety of species: black rhinoceroses, elephants, cheetahs, leopards, wild dogs, red-fronted gazelles and buffalo, while various types of waterfowl are to be found in the northern floodplains.

International assistance: None.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.5

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.4

New information: Threats to this site reported to the previous sessions of the Bureau and the Committee continue to prevail. A meeting between the representatives of the Centre and Earth Conservancy, a conservation NGO working closely with the State Party to protect the site, was held in February 2001. This meeting has led the way to the organisation of a site visit from 5 to 13 May 2001 for assessing the state of conservation and preparing a rehabilitation plan for the site. The mission will include representatives from the Centre, IUCN, Earth Conservancy and the State Party.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to review the conclusions and recommendations of the May 2001 mission to the site expected to be available at the time of its session and take appropriate decisions.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Virunga National Park – Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1979; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1994.

Brief description: Virunga National Park (covering an area of 790,000 ha) comprises an outstanding diversity of habitats, ranging from swamps and steppes to the snowfields of Rwenzori at an altitude of over 5,000 m, and from lava plains to the savannahs on the slopes of volcanoes. Mountain gorillas are found in the park, some 20,000 hippopotamuses live in the rivers and birds from Siberia spend the winter there.

Garamba National Park - Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1980; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996.

Brief description: The park's immense savannahs, grasslands and woodlands, interspersed with gallery forests along the river banks and the swampy depressions, are home to four large mammals: the elephant, giraffe, hippopotamus and above all the white rhinoceros. Though

much larger than the black rhino, it is harmless; only some 30 individuals remain.

Kahuzi-Biega National Park - Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1980; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1997.

Brief description: A vast area of primary tropical forest dominated by two spectacular extinct volcanoes, Kahuzi and Biega, the park has a diverse and abundant fauna. One of the last groups of mountain gorillas (consisting of only some 250 individuals) lives at between 2,100 and 2,400 m above sea-level.

Okapi Wildlife Reserve - Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1996; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1997.

Brief description: The Okapi Wildlife Reserve occupies about one-fifth of the Ituri forest in the north-east of Zaire. The Zaire river basin, of which the reserve and forest are a part, is one of the largest drainage systems in Africa. The reserve contains threatened species of primates and birds and about 5,000 of the estimated 30,000 okapi surviving in the wild. It also has some dramatic scenery, including waterfalls on the Ituri and Epulu rivers. The reserve is inhabited by traditional nomadic pygmy Mbuti and Efe hunters.

Salonga National Park: Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1984; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1999.

Brief description: Salonga National Park is Africa's largest tropical rainforest reserve. Situated at the heart of the central basin of the Zaire river, the park is very isolated and accessible only by water. It is the habitat of many endemic endangered species, such as the dwarf chimpanzee, the Zaire peacock, the forest elephant and the African slender-snouted or 'false' crocodile.

International assistance: Total amount of international assistance provided from the World Heritage Fund to each of the five sites are: **Virunga National Park:** US\$ 64,000 for equipment, staff allowances and training; **Garamba National Park** US\$ 157,845 for equipment and staff allowances; **Kahuzi-Biega National Park:** US\$ 64,848 for equipment purchase. **Okapi Wildlife Reserve:** US\$ 23,000 for the preparation of the nomination dossier of the site, guard training and camp construction. **Salonga National Park:** US\$ 85,500 for project planning, infrastructure and staff training.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.6

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.5

New information: The continuing threats to the integrity of the five sites, four of them located in a zone of armed conflict in eastern DRC, are a major source of concern to

the international conservation community. In the early months of 2001 several reports from the international media and conservation organisations highlighted the specific threat from "coltan" mining, to two of the five sites; i.e. Kahuzi-Biega National Park and the Okapi Wildlife Reserve.

Coltan is a mixture of columbite and tantalite and is in high demand in its processed form by high-technology firms dealing with: nuclear medicine, electronic circuitry and computer chips, superconductivity research, mobile phones and synthesis of corrosion-resistant alloys for use in jet engines. IUCN notes that the ore is found in Africa, predominantly in DRC, and in Australia, Madagascar and the State of South Dakota in the United States of America. The Tantalum-Niobium International Study Centre (T.I.C.) located in Brussels, Belgium, estimates that less than 15% of the world's tantalum supply comes from Africa.

The miners entering Kahuzi Biega and Okapi in search of coltan are mainly immigrants. More than 10,000 people entered Kahuzi-Biega and 4,000 Okapi over the last six months. Reports received by IUCN point to extensive poaching by the miners on wildlife, including on the endangered lowland gorillas and elephants. In Kahuzi-Biega, where nearly 90% of the Park is still inaccessible to the staff, the status of the lowland gorillas and the elephants are of serious concern. The Diane Fossey Gorilla Fund estimates that the population of the endangered lowland gorilla, about 8000 before the war, may have dropped to around 1000; elephants have become a rare sight in Kahuzi-Biega and most of the decline in the populations of these two flagship species are attributed to poaching by miners and other illegal residents in the Park.

In the Okapi Wildlife Reserve, efforts to control poaching and mining have been somewhat more successful. The armed forces of Uganda assisted the staff to evict several poachers from the site in late 2000. The leader of the rebel group in control of this part of the DRC territory, Mr. Jean-Pierre Bemba, had ordered the removal of all miners from the site. Effective action is being taken by the staff and the rebel forces in the area and the threat to this site from miners and poachers has been brought under some degree of control compared to the situation in Kahuzi-Biega. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) of USA recently wrote to concerned authorities in Uganda appreciating their support for the conservation of Okapi. However, WCS expressed its strong objection to a recent incident where some Ugandan soldiers had allegedly assaulted a staff member of Okapi. WCS requested the Ugandan authorities to investigate the matter and take measures to prevent the recurrence of such incidents.

T.I.C. in Brussels, Belgium, has issued a press statement condemning the illegal mining in Kahuzi Biega and Okapi and in other protected areas of DRC. The T.I.C. has agreed to:

- inform its 66 member companies around the world of the issues surrounding the illegal activities and their consequences;

- support the efforts of relevant authorities to enforce an immediate removal of miners from within the boundaries of the national parks; and
- encourage major processors to obtain their tantalum and niobium supplies from lawful sources in Africa and other parts of the world and refrain from purchasing materials from regions where either the environment or wildlife is threatened.

An appeal was made by the Director General of IUCN in March 2001 to the Heads of States in DRC, Uganda and Rwanda and to world-wide media and interest groups. The IUCN appeal called on buyers of coltan to ensure that they are purchasing the product from lawful sources outside of World Heritage sites; on the Governments of DRC, Uganda and Rwanda to help enforce the immediate removal of miners from within the boundaries of both the affected sites, and invited the three governments concerned and the buyers of coltan to take necessary steps to find alternative livelihoods for all miners evicted from World Heritage sites of DRC.

Conditions for the conservation of wildlife remain relatively stable in the Garamba National Park. Some positive reports have been received from Virunga and Salonga too. In Virunga a joint monitoring exercise carried out by the International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP), Fauna and Flora International (FFI), WWF-International and the Diane Fossey Gorilla Fund International (DFGF-I) revealed that the population of the mountain gorillas has increased from 320 before the war (1989) to 355 in 2001. In Salonga, the Director-General of ICCN has developed a number of small projects supporting the conservation of key wildlife species in co-operation with new partners such as: the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) and the Max Plank Institute (MPI) of Germany.

A delegation from ICCN, Kinshasa, DRC, joined various partners such as the WCS, ZSM, UNF and UNFIP to launch a meeting in UN, New York, to raise the awareness of UN Delegates to the threats facing the conservation of World Heritage and other protected areas in the DRC. The meeting discussed the need to launch effective monitoring programmes to assess the status of biodiversity, including that of flagship species such as the gorillas, elephants, rhinos and the bonobo chimpanzees.

Despite the improvements reported above, the need to sustain the relative stability in the conservation status of Garamba is a continuing concern. In Virunga, every other indicator of the site's integrity, except that of the mountain gorilla population, is showing negative trends: 45% of the central sector of the Park is invaded by cultivation and nearly 2500 villagers reside along the Park's boundaries in the central sector and are decimating the tree cover along the Kabasha escarpment. Cultivation of food crops, including export crops like tea and coffee, is rising in the eastern sectors of the Park. The eastern sector serves as an ecotonal corridor between Virunga and the Queen Elizabeth National Park of Uganda used by elephants for migrating between the two sites. Pirate fisheries and illegal

construction are increasing in fishing enclaves. A large part of the Rutshuru hunting area is occupied by illegal settlements and plantations. In the northern sector, the 67,700 ha forest from Lubilia to Kasindi is invaded by logging groups and others who are illegally constructing houses with authorisation from local politicians. In 2000, more than 1500 animals of various species were killed by automatic weapons. The guards were not paid for several months and do not have weapons. The relative safety enjoyed by the mountain gorilla population in Virunga may be attributable to the fact that it is not a game species sought after for its meat.

In Salonga too, IUCN has been informed by ICCN that uncontrolled poaching on elephants and the bonobos, lack of equipment for staff to do anti-poaching work, insufficient numbers of guards and inadequate training available for guards are some of the major constraints to the effective protection of the site.

The UNESCO/DRC/UNF-UNFIP Project - Biodiversity Conservation in Regions of Armed Conflict - was designed and launched in 2000 as a first step to build the morale of the staff who demonstrated dedication to conservation of the sites in DRC by continuing to remain and work in a region where risks to their lives and property are significant. Paying monthly support payments, performance related bonuses and other remuneration to site-staff as a way of stabilising the conservation situation in each site was considered a priority activity for implementation. Although contracts with partners for delivering support payments to site-staff were drawn-up in September-October 2000, their finalisation and the disbursements of funds experienced unexpectedly long delays. Contractual partners expressed dissatisfaction with several of the contracts' clauses including standard clauses integral to all UNESCO contracts. The partners were of the view that these clauses, though they might be acceptable in peacetime situations, fail to appreciate the risks that the partners are taking in delivering assistance to sites in a war zone. In the case of Kahuzi-Biega and Salonga, the management authorities of the two GTZ projects who were expected to enter into contractual arrangements with UNESCO for executing the UNESCO/DRC/UNF-UNFIP project, were not authorised by their superiors to sign the contracts and hence alternative contractors had to be identified.

Following communications between the Division of Legal Affairs of UNESCO and partner NGOs, the execution of contracts have now begun. These negotiations were significantly aided by assurances given by the donor, i.e. UNF, that it would not hold UNESCO responsible for loss of cash in a war zone due to events and accidents beyond its control and its contractual partners.

Monthly support payments, performance related bonuses and other remuneration to more than 500 staff in Virunga, about 230 in Garamba and about 60 in Okapi are currently being delivered and cover a period beginning from October 2000. In the case of Salonga, contractual arrangements were finalised with ZSM, as per the

recommendation of the GTZ-PARCID Project and ICCN, Kinshasa and payments to staff have begun as of March 2001. ZSM and its counterpart ICCN staff have had useful meetings with the Chief of the UN Organisation Mission in DRC (MONUC) in early April 2001. The Head of MONUC has agreed to assist with air-transport of personnel and materials to cities near Salonga whenever conditions permit. For Kahuzi -Biega National Park, WCS is assuming responsibility as the contractor of UNESCO and will work with the GTZ project for the site and other conservation groups active in the area, to transfer payments to staff beginning from March 2001.

While the delays incurred in contractual negotiations between the Centre and the partners were regretted by all concerned, they have cleared the path for effective delivery of assistance to site staff on a continuous basis for the next 3-4 years under the UNESCO/DRC/UNF-UNFIP Project. Contractual arrangements for the next three years would be revived each year via the mere updating of the first-year contracts that have been negotiated and are unlikely to incur any significant delays as those experienced in the first year of project execution.

Other arrangements for the execution of biodiversity monitoring, training for site staff in law enforcement monitoring, purchase and delivery of equipment essential for staff performance of duties etc., are being currently negotiated with selected project partners. Possible dates for a high level diplomatic mission to DRC, Uganda and Rwanda, and the possibilities for the Director-General of UNESCO leading such a mission, are also under study. Updates on the Centre's efforts on these aspects of project execution will be reported at the time of the Bureau session.

A UN Panel Report on the "Illegal exploitation of mineral and forest resources in the DRC", released in April 2001 holds many of the African countries implicated in the war in DRC responsible for unsustainable and often illegal resource extraction practices in DRC. Most of those countries are States Parties to the World Heritage Convention. In respect of the coltan mining threat reported earlier, IUCN has pointed out that the UN Panel has recommended that the "Security Council should immediately declare a temporary embargo on the import or export of coltan (and other resources)...." and that "UNESCO in collaboration with UNEP, the Secretariat of CITES and non-governmental organisations working in the DRC, should assess the extent of damage to wildlife in Garamba National Park, Kahuzi-Biega National Park, the Okapi Wildlife Reserve and Virunga National Park, and propose sanctions to be taken against those countries whose governments were involved in the mass killings of endangered species". The report's findings imply that many African States Parties involved in the war in DRC may have failed to comply with Article 6, paragraph 3 of the Convention that calls upon States Parties to refrain from actions that may directly or indirectly damage the heritage situated in the territory of another State Party to the Convention. In accordance with the recommendations of the Report of the UN Panel, the UNESCO/DRC/UNF-

UNFIP Project has already established co-operation with the MIKE (Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants) of the CITES Convention and joint monitoring activities to determine the status of the key endangered species in each of the five sites in DRC that are under discussion.

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

"The Bureau invites the Director-General of UNESCO to write, quoting appropriate texts from the UN report on the illegal exploitation of natural resources in the DRC, to Heads of concerned African States Parties to the Convention recalling their obligations to comply with Article 6, paragraph 3 of the Convention and inviting them to ensure that their representatives and agents in DRC refrain from taking actions that may directly or indirectly threaten the integrity of the World Heritage sites in DRC. The Bureau urges the Centre and IUCN to liaise with T.I.C. to explore ways and means to initiate a dialogue between the member companies of T.I.C. and their respective governments that are States Parties to the Convention. Such a dialogue should make the T.I.C. membership fully aware of their countries' obligations under the World Heritage Convention to protect the heritage of all States Parties to the Convention, including that of DRC. The Bureau notes with satisfaction that monthly support and other payments are now reaching the site staff and thanked the UNF for providing this timely assistance that will continue until 2004. The Bureau however, stresses the need for the Centre and its project partners to ensure effective and timely execution of the 4-year UNESCO/DRC/UNF-UNFIP Project and requests the Centre to submit a report on the progress achieved by the project to the twenty-fifth session of the Committee in December 2001".

Sangay National Park (Ecuador)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1983; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992

Brief description: With its outstanding natural beauty and two active volcanoes, the park illustrates the entire spectrum of ecosystems, ranging from tropical rainforests to glaciers, with striking contrasts between the snowcapped peaks and the forests of the plains. Its isolation has encouraged the survival of indigenous species such as the mountain tapir and the Andean condor.

International assistance: A total sum of US\$ 58,500 for equipment, community awareness-building and staff training.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.7

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.6

New information: Following the recommendation of the Committee made at its last session (Cairns, Australia, November - December 2000), Sangay National Park has been included as one of the ten pilot sites in a UNESCO/IUCN/UNF-UNFIP Project entitled: "Enhancing our heritage: monitoring and managing for success in World Natural Heritage sites". The 4-year project financed at a total cost of US\$ 2 million by UNF-UNFIP will elaborate and test a monitoring regime for Sangay with indicators and benchmarks, including those that could signal the timing of the removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger. This project will also promote and assess implementation of recommendations from the UNESCO/IUCN mission to this site. Project activities specific to Sangay and two other Latin American pilot sites will commence in the second half of 2001.

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

"The Bureau notes with satisfaction the inclusion of Sangay as one of the pilot sites in the UNESCO/IUCN/UNF-UNFIP Project as a step to implementing the Committee's recommendations made at its last session in Cairns, Australia. The Bureau invites the Centre to submit a brief update on the progress achieved in initiating project activities in Sangay to the twenty-fifth session of the Committee to be convened in Helsinki, Finland, in December 2001".

Simen National Park (Ethiopia)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1978; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996.

Brief description: Massive erosion over the years on the Ethiopian plateau has created one of the most spectacular landscapes in the world, with jagged mountain peaks, deep valleys and sharp precipices dropping some 1,500 m. The park is home to some extremely rare animals such as the Gelada baboon, the Simen fox and the Walia ibex, a goat found nowhere else in the world.

International assistance: Simen National Park has been awarded a total sum of US\$ 119,307 for management planning support, equipment, consultant missions and training.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.8

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.7

New information: In accordance with the recommendation of the last session of the Committee held in Cairns, Australia (November - December 2000) a Centre/IUCN mission was fielded to the site from 8 to 13 April 2001. A detailed report on the conclusions and recommendations of

the mission will be submitted to the Bureau at the time of its session.

Preliminary research carried out by IUCN in preparation for the mission revealed that a high-level mission to the site was fielded in March 2000 by the Amhara Regional Government which is now directly responsible for the Park. In March 2001, IUCN received a report of that mission produced by the Swiss Centre for Development and Environment. A high-level Simen Mountains Development and Conservation Co-ordination Committee, chaired by the Vice-President of the Regional Government, has been set up to consider the recommendations of the mission that relate to: (a) Park boundary adjustment; (b) re-alignment of the road; (c) development in the buffer zone and beyond; (d) relocation of some villages from the centre of the Park; and (e) integration of tourism into management.

It has recently been reported to IUCN that there are an estimated 1,450 households inside the Park and the human population growth in the Park is around 1.5 - 2.0%. The total cultivated area in the Park, about 24%, has not increased significantly since the time of its establishment in 1969, but grazing pressure from livestock on forests and grasslands has intensified and is particularly heavy near human settlements. The endangered Walia ibex tend to have some natural protection in the steep escarpments in the eastern boundary of the Park. Large areas of the unique afro-alpine habitat in the region, which are the main stronghold for the Ethiopian wolf, remain outside the boundaries of the Park and some efforts are underway to protect them by modifying the boundaries of the Park and to reduce poaching on the ibex. However, a systematic monitoring regime to track wildlife population trends is not yet in place.

IUCN notes that a road has been built through the Park to Chennek Camp and extends southwards. The road has had erosion impacts but has provided greater access to the Park's resources, including for tourism development. Enforcement of regulations is weak and there appears to be little control of livestock grazing which poses significant threat to natural habitats in the Park.

IUCN will review the report of the mission to this site and will provide a verbal recommendation to the Bureau in June 2001.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to review the conclusions and recommendations of the April 2001 mission to the site expected to be available at the time of its session and take appropriate decisions

Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Guinea/Côte d'Ivoire)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1981; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992

Brief description: Located on the borders of Guinea, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, Mount Nimba rises above the surrounding savannah. Its slopes are covered by dense forest at the foot of grassy mountain pastures. They harbour an especially rich flora and fauna, with endemic species such as the viviparous toad and chimpanzees that use stones as tools.

International assistance: This site has so far received a total amount of US\$ 261,009 from the Fund for project preparation, consultants, equipment and training.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.9

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.8

New information: The Centre has been co-operating with the Fauna and Flora International (FFI), a conservation NGO working with the governments of the two States Parties, and with Liberia which embraces parts of the Mt Nimba ecosystem. Two meetings to promote dialogue among the three countries, FFI, the Centre and other stakeholders were planned for 2001. The meetings were intended to contribute to the long-term conservation of Mt Nimba by: establishing and encouraging contacts between technical staff, site managers, decision-makers and local community representatives to share information and experience; and increase harmonised management planning and practices among the three countries sharing the Mt Nimba ecosystem. The two meetings planned for 2001 were seen as fora to bring together various stakeholders, including the private sector, and promote international co-operation for the conservation of Mt Nimba. These meetings were also to be linked to the GEF Project that is being elaborated for the conservation of the site with the participation of FFI.

The first meeting, scheduled for the first half of 2001 had to be indefinitely postponed because of instability in the border regions between the three countries. Considerable numbers of refugees fleeing the war in Liberia have entered the ecosystem in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea and have had direct negative impacts on the biodiversity of Mt Nimba.

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

"The Bureau expresses its serious concerns over the resurgence of a refugee influx into the Mt Nimba Nature Reserve and requests the Centre and IUCN to contact the States Parties, FFI and other partners to ascertain the impacts of refugee activities on the values of the site and ways and means by which those impacts could be mitigated. The Bureau asks the Centre and IUCN to submit a report, based on their findings, to the twenty-fifth session of the Committee in December 2001. In addition, the Bureau also requests the Centre to report to the forthcoming session of the Committee on the plans for the

organisation of the two stakeholders' meetings in 2001, and the progress achieved in the design and development of the GEF project".

Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1982; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996.

Brief description: Located on the watershed of the Río Plátano, the reserve is one of the few remains of a tropical rainforest in Central America and has an abundant and varied plant and wildlife. In its mountainous landscape sloping down to the Caribbean coast, over 2,000 indigenous people have preserved their traditional way of life.

International assistance: Rio Platano has so far received US\$ 178,025 from the World Heritage Fund for technical support and training activities.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.10

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.9

New information: As requested by the last session of the Committee (Cairns, Australia, November - December 2000), the Centre transmitted to the State Party the report of the UNESCO/IUCN mission to the site fielded in October 2000. The response of the State Party on the conclusions and recommendations of the mission is still awaited.

Rio Platano has been included as a pilot site in two projects approved by the UN Foundation in July 2000 for execution by the Centre. They are: UNESCO/UNEP/RARE Center for Tropical Conservation project on "Linking Conservation of Biological Diversity with Sustainable Tourism Development at World Heritage sites"; and the UNESCO/IUCN project on: "Enhancing our heritage: monitoring and managing for success in World Natural Heritage sites". Both projects are of a 4-year duration and are expected to generate new information that will aid the systematic monitoring of the state of conservation of the site, while also promoting the implementation of recommendations from the 2000 UNESCO/IUCN mission. The project, aiming to link biodiversity conservation and sustainable tourism development, is also expected to generate income and employment opportunities to the local communities resident near the site.

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

"The Bureau, once again, invites the State Party to submit its responses on the conclusions and recommendations of the UNESCO/IUCN mission to the site in October 2000. The Bureau urges the Centre, IUCN and other partners to ensure effective

execution of the two UNF-financed projects where Rio Platano and others are included as pilot sites and submit a brief update on the progress achieved in initiating project activities in Rio Platano to the twenty-fifth session of the Committee to be convened in Helsinki, Finland, in December 2001".

Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1985; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992.

Brief description: On a gentle slope in the foothills of the Himalayas, where wooded hills give way to alluvial grasslands and tropical forests, the Manas sanctuary is home to a great variety of wildlife, including many endangered species, such as the tiger, pygmy hog, Indian rhinoceros and Indian elephant.

International assistance: US\$ 165,000 for equipment, infrastructure rehabilitation and community support activities as part of the implementation of a 3-year rehabilitation plan begun in mid-1997.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.11

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.10

New information: IUCN and the Centre are negotiating with the State Party to organise a site visit in May 2001; however, as monsoon rains may begin anytime in May, there is a likelihood of the mission being delayed until October 2001. The Bureau will be updated with regard to progress on this matter at the time of its session.

The security situation in the Sanctuary and surrounding areas are also being given due considerations in determining the preferred timing for the organisation of the mission. IUCN has received reports that indicate continuing insurgency in the area. Alleged in-fighting within the United Liberation Front of Assam is speculated to have caused a movement of insurgents into the Sanctuary in December 2000 from the Bhutan side of the transborder Manas ecosystem. The Chief Minister of Assam has informed the State Assembly that offensive operations against 35 insurgents suspected to have entered the Barpeta district were underway.

IUCN believes that poaching continues to be a significant threat to key wildlife species in the Sanctuary; e.g. populations of rhino, elephants and swamp deer. The construction of a road through the Bhutan side of the Manas ecosystem has increased significantly traffic and access to the core areas of Manas World Heritage site of India.

Despite the above-mentioned concerns, IUCN notes that the efforts of Forest Department and village communities have led to the establishment of 25 "Manas Bandhu" ("Friends of Manas") groups. These groups of young

volunteers from the villages around the Sanctuary have been conducting awareness campaigns and contributing to conservation work. A Forest Department Workshop on Wildlife Conservation conducted in September 2000 at Bansbari Range to explore possibilities of co-operation between these volunteer groups and NGOs, generated self-employment opportunities for some local villagers and increased people's support for the conservation of Manas.

Manas is also a pilot site included in the UNESCO/IUCN/UNF-UNFIP project entitled: "Enhancing our heritage: monitoring and managing for success in World Natural Heritage sites". As part of the project a site-specific monitoring regime, including indicators and benchmarks tracking the state of conservation of the site and which could signal the time of removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger, will be elaborated and tested over a 4-year time frame.

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

"The Bureau urges the State Party, Centre and IUCN to organize the field visit as early as possible and submit a detailed report to the twenty-fifth session of the Committee in December 2001. The Bureau welcomes the co-operative approach of the Forest Department to solicit the support of local communities for conservation and welcomes and encourages the work of the "Manas Bandhu" groups. The Bureau reiterates the urgent need for Bhutan's ratification of the Convention so as to allow for transborder co-operation between India and Bhutan in the conservation of the Manas World Heritage site of India. The Bureau requests the Director-General of UNESCO to invite His Majesty, the King of Bhutan to ratify the World Heritage Convention as early as possible".

Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1991; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996.

Brief description: This is the largest protected area in Africa, covering some 7.7 million ha, though the area considered a protected sanctuary constitutes only one-sixth of the total area. It includes the volcanic rock mass of the Aïr, a small Sahelian pocket, isolated as regards its climate and flora and fauna, and situated in the Saharan desert of Ténéré. The reserves boast an outstanding variety of landscapes, plant species and wild animals.

International assistance: Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves has benefited from a total sum of US\$ 177,000 from the World Heritage Fund including the US\$ 127,000 for projects that are being currently executed as part of the rehabilitation plan for the site.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.12

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV. 11

New information: On 14 March 2001, IUCN was informed by the State Party that since the end of the rebellion in the area, numerous visits to the Reserves have been fielded. Local people have regained their confidence and are actively participating in development activities. The Programme of Support for the Management of the Natural Reserves held an extraordinary session of its Pilot Committee on 7 February 2001 and a new phase of project activities is due to be in place before the end of 2001 or early 2002. Danish and Swiss bilateral aid agencies are committed to financing the new phase. The outcome of the donor mission concluded during 9-16 February 2001 is awaited. The GEF Project for the site is however, still under negotiation.

The Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM) is providing financial assistance to the conservation of the Sahelo-saharan antelopes in the framework of the Convention of Migratory Species (CMS) and that assistance will benefit conservation activities in some parts of the Reserves. Population status of addax, gazelles and wild sheep are improving and Reserve staff undertake regular anti-poaching patrols.

Unfortunately, the ostrich population seems to have been completely wiped out during the rebellion. US\$ 25,000 from the World Heritage Fund contribution for implementing the rehabilitation plan will enable the State Party to experiment with an ostrich re-introduction programme. Implementation of other aspects of the rehabilitation programme approved by the Committee in 1999 are also progressing. A new request for US\$ 20,000 has been submitted for the consideration of the Chairperson to organise a workshop for members of the local Committee for the development and the management of the site.

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

"The Bureau recalls the fact that the State Party had informed the last session of the Committee of its wish to complete the implementation of all activities of the rehabilitation programme before inviting the Committee to consider removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Bureau notes with satisfaction the improving conservation status of the Reserves and requests the Centre and IUCN to find ways and means to expedite the design and development of the GEF project for the conservation of the Reserves. The Bureau requests the Centre to transmit the Bureau's appreciation of the efforts of the Danish and Swiss Governments and the FFEM for the conservation of the site and urges those donor States Parties to the Convention to make long-term

commitments for the protection of the Reserves. The Bureau suggests that the IUCN/Centre mission to evaluate the outcome of the rehabilitation programme be delayed until 2002 to allow time for the completion of all planned activities to be undertaken as part of the rehabilitation programme".

Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary (Senegal)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1981; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2000

Brief description: Situated in the Senegal river delta, the Djoudj Sanctuary is a wetland of 16,000 ha, comprising a large lake surrounded by streams, ponds and backwaters. It forms a living but fragile sanctuary for some 1.5 million birds, such as the white pelican, the purple heron, the African spoonbill, the great egret and the cormorant.

International assistance: A total sum of US\$ 210,607 has been provided as assistance, including US\$ 130,475 approved by the last session of the Committee (November – December 2000) as emergency aid and other earlier amounts for equipment purchase and training.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.22

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

New information: At its last session (Cairns, November-December 2000), the Committee approved a sum of US\$ 130,475 for a project on the "Fight against *Salvinia molesta* in the Delta of the Senegal River at Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary". Since then, the Centre and IUCN together with the Ramsar Secretariat and the State Party, have been developing a plan to eradicate and control invasive species in the Wetlands of the Senegal River Delta and the Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary.

A two-person expert mission to the site was fielded from 31 March to 10 April 2001 to start work on the development of the plan, to be incorporated as part of the management plan of the Sanctuary. The mission reviewed the following issues: (a) role and functions of relevant Government agencies and the interests of major donors and partners; (b) co-ordination mechanisms to promote synergies between the major stakeholders and for integrating the invasive species plan as part of the long-term management of the site and the Delta; (c) evaluation of the need for further studies to better understand the ecology of the Delta; and (d) development of the institutional, organisational and budgetary aspects of the plan and the identification of indicators and actions for implementing monitoring activities. A report on the main findings of the mission, including the possible timing and goal and objectives of a second mission, is expected to be ready soon.

The State Party has mobilised Government authorities, armed forces and the local population during the last six months to manually clear *Salvinia molesta* and protect key sites, notably those located at the entrance to the Sanctuary. Mechanical and manual removal of the invasive species are essential steps during a 2-3 year period when biological control measures will play a key role in invasive species control. The insect *Cyrtobagus salvinae* has been identified as the biological predator to control *Salvinia molesta* and about 1,200 insects have been imported and are presently being bred at the Djoudj Biological Station to increase their numbers. The Senegal Delta is threatened by other invasive plants too, e.g. *Typha australis*, and a comprehensive approach to mitigate the spread of invasive species throughout the Delta is needed. Biological control measures are being implemented on the Mauritanian side of the Delta as well, and co-ordination mechanism for the work of the two Governments are in place. IUCN has informed the Centre that a 2-year European Union project on "Policy research to identify conditions for optimal functioning of the Senegal River Ecosystem in Mali, Mauritania and Senegal" has begun. IUCN has stressed the importance of linking the EU project to the World Heritage and State Party-sponsored initiatives in the Senegal River Delta.

The Directorate of the National Parks of Senegal has been designated by the Ministry of Environment as the lead agency for implementing the biological control measures. The Directorate is seeking support, both at the national and local levels, to: (a) improve staff presence in the Delta; (b) implement and monitor progress of the biological control measures; (c) co-ordinate and co-operate with national, regional and local institutions; and (d) access up-to-date information and knowledge in invasive species mitigation, particularly in respect to *Salvinia molesta*, and disseminating such information and knowledge to stakeholders and partners via technical meetings and training activities.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to review the conclusions and recommendations of the report of the first mission undertaken in March - April 2001 expected to be available at the time of its session, and take appropriate decisions.

Ichkeul National Park (Tunisia)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1980; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996.

Brief description: The Ichkeul lake and wetland are a major stopover point for hundreds of thousands of migrating birds, such as ducks, geese, storks and pink flamingoes, who come to feed and nest there. Ichkeul is the last remaining lake in a chain that once extended across North Africa.

International assistance: Ichkeul National Park has so far been provided with US\$ 65,000 for technical support and training activities.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.13

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.12

New information: IUCN has informed the Centre that reports it has received indicate considerable deterioration in the ecology of the site:

- total rainfall for the winter of 1999/2000 was below average and did not trigger the closing of the sluice gates at Oued Tinja; this resulted in sea water flowing into the Lake;
- the winter of 2000/2001 has been as dry as that of 1999/2000 and the sluice gates are likely to remain open causing further increases in the salinity of the Lake waters;
- no release of water from other sources has been made in an effective manner during the years 2000 and 2001; a recommendation of the mission in 2000 had suggested that the Joumine Canal be blocked to spread the water to the marshes, but attempts to do so failed due to the low amounts and the poor quality of water in the Canal;
- as salinity of Lake waters has increased in 2000 and 2001, the composition of water birds has become dominated by salt tolerant species such as shelducks and shovelers, resulting in a net reduction in the diversity of species wintering in the Lake.

At its twenty-third session, the Bureau had noted that the rehabilitation of Ichkeul had to be based on a reasonable time frame since "Inter-linked indicators such as salinity, availability of preferred species of food plants of birds and the number of wintering birds arriving at Ichkeul could fluctuate significantly, based on annual variations in rainfall and evapo-transpiration which affect water levels in the Lake" At that time the Bureau had noted that plans for the provision of fresh water to the Lake would become operational by 2001.

IUCN has noted that the Sidi Barrak dam has been built and is now linked to the Tunisian water grid. However, a pumping station for transporting the water from Sidi Barrak into the Sedjenane from where it could reach Ichkeul has not yet been built.

A high-level meeting was held in 2000 with the participation of the Minister of Environment and the Secretary of State for Agriculture in charge of water issues to discuss the situation at Ichkeul. The meeting had formally recognised the ecological need for providing the Lake with freshwater – 20 million cubic meters of water had been prescribed as the need, although an earlier study carried out by the National Environment Agency had set the requirement at 80 million cubic meters of freshwater.

At the twenty-third session of the Bureau, the "Tunisian Observer informed the Bureau that three of the six dams that would have diverted waters coming into the Lake had been suspended". IUCN however has reported that the

proposed dams on the Tine, Douimis and Melah Rivers, that flow directly into Ichkeul, appear to be still programmed.

A GEF Project has approved the first stage for preparing the management plans for three of Tunisia's National Parks, one of which is Ichkeul. In the work for elaborating a management plan for Ichkeul, the GEF consultants have informed the State Party that unless a volume greater than the 20 million cubic metres of water is planned for the Lake, GEF does not consider it feasible to conserve the wetland biodiversity values of the Park. The consultants have, therefore asked the Tunisian authorities, inter alia, to clarify urgently whether additional water can be provided.

IUCN notes that at the twentieth session of the World Heritage Committee in 1996, when the site was placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, the Committee informed the State Party "...of the possibilities of the deletion of the property from the World Heritage List if rehabilitation of the site would not be possible". IUCN notes this as an option for consideration by the Committee in case of no tangible improvements to the conservation of this site.

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

"The Bureau expresses its serious concerns over the deterioration in the ecology of the Lake during 2000 and 2001 due to lower than average rainfall. The Bureau invites the State Party, once again, to respond to the recommendation of the twenty-fourth session of the Committee and provide a formal written response on the implementation of the recommendations of the March 2000 mission to the site. The Bureau recommends that the State Party consult with concerned national authorities, GEF, Ramsar, IUCN and the Centre to determine how it could assure the release of at least 20 million cubic metres of water to prevent the deterioration in Lake ecology, particularly during dry years. The State Party also needs to put in place procedures and institutional mechanisms that would ensure timely action to release this minimal volume of water into the Lake. The Bureau invites the State Party to submit a detailed report, before 15 September 2001, to the Centre to be presented for thorough review by the Committee at its next session."

Rwenzori Mountains National Park (Uganda)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in: 1994; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1999

Brief Description: Covering nearly 100,000 ha in western Uganda, the park comprises the main part of the Rwenzori mountain chain, which includes Africa's third highest peak (Mount Margherita: 5,109 m). The region's glaciers, waterfalls and lakes make it one of Africa's most beautiful alpine areas. The park has many natural habitats of endangered species and a rich and unusual flora comprising, among other species, the giant heather.

International assistance: US\$ 32,249 for technical support activities.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.14

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.13

New information: The Executive Director of Uganda Wildlife Authority transmitted on 15 April 2001 an update on the state of conservation of this site.

In the Mbuta, Kibwa and Musandama areas encroachment has been curtailed but requires constant surveillance. Illegal pit-sawing in Bundibugyo District is on the increase; poaching by some Local Defence Units and individuals belonging to the Special Police, of monkeys and other small mammals is rampant. Chimpanzee poaching and trafficking are very common. The Park area has been increased by a donation of land by the Rwenzori Mountaineering Services, and an additional 60 acres purchased by Ecotrust Uganda. The former land parcel needs to be surveyed and the payment for the latter finalized. The Park has no infrastructure such as Headquarters and outposts for Park monitoring.

Security has been improving since the beginning of 2000 through the efforts of the Uganda Police Department Force (UPDF). With some improvement in security and reassurance from the UPDF, all the security threats could be brought under control and the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UAW) plans to re-open the site for tourism in July 2001. The Central Tourist Circuit has been opened and maintained from March 2000, and the re-opening of the Park for tourists will require:

- a VHF Radio System or other communication network
- repair of the Kurt shafer Bridge
- Construction of a Ranger Base at Nyabitaba
- Securing of field equipment and gear, warm clothing and rescue equipment.

The Park authorities envisage undertaking new policies for Community Protected Area Institutions and for revenue sharing, and to focus on collaborative institutions to fill the vacuum created by the departure, more than three years ago, of foreign NGOs and inaction of the local ones. The Park plans to conduct an assessment on the effect of war on wildlife and on the ecosystem.

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

“The Bureau notes with satisfaction that security conditions may be improving and the site may be opened for tourism in the latter half of 2001. But the Bureau expresses concerns about the situation of the site with regard to poaching on small mammals and chimpanzees and encroachment. The Bureau requests

IUCN and the Centre to assist the State Party in its assessment of the effects of war on wildlife and the ecosystem and explore ways and means to facilitate the State Party’s efforts to rehabilitate the Park. The report of the mission will be presented at the time of the Bureau session. The Bureau requests that the Centre and IUCN report on the outcome of their consultations with the State Party to the twenty-fifth session of the World Heritage Committee in December 2001.”

World Heritage sites of the United States of America:

Everglades National Park

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1979; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1993

Brief description: This site at the southern tip of Florida has been called ‘a river of grass flowing imperceptibly from the hinterland into the sea’. The exceptional variety of its water habitats has made it a sanctuary for a large number of birds and reptiles, as well as for threatened species such as the manatee.

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.15

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau -paragraph IV.14

New information: None

Action required: The Bureau may wish to review new information that may be available at the time of its session and take appropriate decisions.

Yellowstone

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1978; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1995.

Brief description: The vast natural forest of Yellowstone National Park covers nearly 9,000 sq. km; 96% of the park lies in Wyoming, 3% in Montana and 1% in Idaho. Yellowstone contains half of all the world’s known geothermal features, with more than 10,000 examples. It also has the world’s largest concentration of geysers (more than 300 geysers, or 2/3 of all those on the planet). Established in 1872, Yellowstone is equally known for its wildlife, such as grizzly bears, wolves, bison and wapitis.

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.15

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.15

New information: IUCN informed the Centre that the Park Service will phase out snowmobile use in Yellowstone over the next three years. The plan has been developed following years of research showing that the vehicles cause excessive pollution, placing Park visitors, employees, and wildlife at risk, as well as overwhelming the Park's attractions with noise. Eventually snow-coaches will be the only motorised winter access to the Park over snow. The gradual phase out of snowmobiles is intended to allow local businesses that depend heavily on

B. Cultural Heritage

Butrint (Albania)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1992 and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1997

Brief description: Inhabited since prehistoric times, Butrint has been the site of a Greek colony, a Roman city and a bishopric. Following a period of prosperity under Byzantine administration, then a brief occupation by the Venetians, the city was abandoned in the late Middle Ages after marshes formed in the area. The present archaeological site is a repository of ruins representing each period in the city's development.

International Assistance: Following the decision of the Committee in 1997 to allocate US\$ 100,000 as Emergency Assistance, four contracts have been established for a total amount of US\$ 33,000. In 1999, a proposal for implementation of further activities was received and has been approved for a total amount of US\$ 40,800 by the Chairperson of the Committee. However, there are serious delays in the implementation and reporting on some of the contracts.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.16

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.16

New information: As requested by the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-fourth session (Cairns, November – December 2000), a UNESCO-ICOMOS-Butrint Foundation mission was undertaken to the site.

Action Required: The Bureau may wish to examine the findings and recommendations of the UNESCO-ICOMOS-Butrint Foundation mission at the time of its session and take appropriate decisions.

snowmobile tourism to increase the number of snow-coaches and adjust to the Park Service's decision.

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

“The Bureau commends the State Party for its decision to phase out snowmobiles from this site. The Bureau invites the State Party to co-operate with IUCN and the Centre to follow up on the recommendation of the twenty-fifth session of the Committee to put in place a schedule of actions to track improvements in the state of conservation of the site and for determining the appropriate time for its removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger”.

Group of Monuments at Hampi (India)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1986 and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: in 1999

Brief description: The austere, grandiose site of Hampi was the last capital of the last great Hindu Kingdom of Vijayanagar. Its fabulously rich princes built Dravidian temples and palaces which won the admiration of travellers between the 14th and 16th centuries. Conquered by the Deccan Muslim confederacy in 1565, the city was pillaged over a period of six months before being abandoned.

International assistance: None.

Previous deliberations:

World Heritage Committee, twenty-fourth session, paragraph VIII.18

World Heritage Bureau, twenty-fourth session, paragraph IV.60

Main Issues / Threats to the Site:

- **Lack of a comprehensive management approach and plan:** At the time of inscription of the site on the World Heritage List in 1986, the World Heritage Committee requested the Indian Authorities to elaborate, adopt and implement a comprehensive management plan taking into due consideration the large territory designated as World Heritage, the various rural development pressures and the numerous stakeholders concerned for the conservation and development of the site. No plan has been formally adopted and implemented to date.
- **Lack of co-ordinating authority:** Hampi is presently administered by numerous local bodies with overlapping jurisdiction and varying functions, increasing the difficulties in ensuring adequate site management.

- **Rural development pressure and ad-hoc public works:** The inclusion of the Groups of Monuments at Hampi on the List of World Heritage in Danger was prompted by the construction of two suspension bridges, which dominate the extraordinary natural environment. These bridges threaten the World Heritage site's integrity, and pose ascertained and potential threats to the monuments and archaeological remains within the site. The construction and use of the roads linked to the vehicular bridges will result in a major increase of traffic transporting products from the mining and steel industries in the immediate vicinity of the World Heritage site. The construction of a new road leading to the large bridge in Anegundi has already resulted in the dismantling and reconstruction of an important historic monument - a mandapa (a pillared stone rest-house), signifying serious problems in the implementation of existing cultural heritage policies and regulations.

New information:

- 4-point recommendations for corrective measures elaborated in February 2000 by the ICOMOS-UNESCO Reactive Monitoring Mission, endorsed by the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee in June 2000 and by the World Heritage Committee in December 2000.
- Following a study and its recommendations undertaken by the Karnataka State Government's Task Force for Hampi, Karnataka State Government Cabinet decided to dismantle and relocate two bridges in May 2000. This decision was received favourably by the general public in India.
- Resolution concerning Hampi adopted by the participants of the UNESCO-Archaeological Survey of India National Workshop for Management of Indian World Cultural Heritage (22-24 October 2000) strongly recommending that a special administrative body empowered to ensure integrated development and conservation of the whole World Heritage protected areas is established. The primary objective of this authority would be to coordinate various development and cultural and natural heritage conservation activities within the World Heritage protected areas.
- Karnataka State Government Authorities took action to remove illegal encroachment within the site by November 2000.
- Karnataka State Government Authorities, and in particular, the District Commissioners of Bellary and Koppal began the preparation of a

comprehensive management plan by November 2000.

- The Chief Minister of the Karnataka State Government announces that a detailed study of the vehicular bridge connecting Anegundi and Hampi would be undertaken, with a view to maintaining a balance between the needs to protect the heritage values and those of the local community members who had been demanding the construction of these bridges and therefore had strong views on the matter.
- A plan of action for implementing the 4-point recommendations for corrective measures drafted by the World Heritage Centre for consideration by the Indian Authorities between January – April 2001.
- Indian Authorities inform the World Heritage Centre that they welcome the Centre's proposal for a UNESCO team of experts to examine various issues, with the concerned authorities, in order to elaborate a comprehensive management and development plan for Hampi, with a view to establishing Hampi as an international case study for sustainable conservation and development in May 2001.
- At the request of the Indian Authorities, the World Heritage Centre is elaborating an international assistance request for assisting the authorities concerned in carrying out the necessary needs assessment and feasibility studies for elaborating the comprehensive management plan. The Centre has contacted the Japan Bank for International Cooperation to propose a joint UNESCO/WHC – JBIC mission to examine both the conservation and regional development issues.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine any additional information at the time of its session, and adopt the following:

“The Bureau welcomes the positive actions taken and being planned by the State Party and the World Heritage Centre to elaborate a comprehensive management plan for the site. The Bureau requests the State Party and the Centre to continue its close co-operation in order to complete the needs assessment and feasibility studies as a matter of urgency, in order to ensure that an integrated conservation and development management plan be elaborated, adopted and implemented as soon as possible. The Bureau requests the State Party and the Centre to report on the progress made in removing the threats to the site for examination by the Committee at its twenty-fifth session.”

Bahla Fort (Oman)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1987. On the World Heritage List in Danger: 1988

Brief description: The oasis of Bahla owes its prosperity to the Banu Nebhan, the dominant tribe in the area from the 12th to the end of the 15th century. The ruins of the immense fort, with its walls and towers of unbaked brick and its stone foundations, is a remarkable example of this type of fortification and attests to the power of the Banu Nebhan.

International Assistance: Technical co-operation 1988 (US\$ 7,000), 1989 (US\$ 50,000) and 1995 (US\$ 9,772) for technical advice and urgent conservation works. Missions on an annual basis 1996- 2000 (on a cost sharing basis) to monitor restoration works and provide advice to the conservation team.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.19

Twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.19

New information: As requested at the twenty-fourth session of Committee, two consultants carried out a mission to Oman in December 2000, to review the state of conservation of the Bahla Fort, identify the terms of reference for a Management Plan and discuss the objectives of a seminar on the conservation of mud-brick architecture.

The two consultants found that the arrival of a new Architect Conservator in charge of the restoration of the Fort (2000) had considerably improved the situation, with respect to the previous year. A number of interventions are being carried out to preserve the complex, and to correct previous mistakes in the restoration of the Fort. These works are now being conducted using traditional materials.

Concerning the preparation of the Management Plan, the experts identified the scope of work required and proposed two alternative plans for its preparation and implementation: 1) Intervention of a multidisciplinary team of experts during 6 months; and 2) Intervention of an external consulting firm under the supervision of UNESCO experts.

As requested at the twenty-fourth session of Bureau, the Ministry of National Heritage and Culture submitted to the secretariat a General Concept of a Regional Seminar on the Conservation of Earth Structures, to be organized in cooperation with ICCROM, ICOMOS and CRATERre. The two experts added useful suggestions to the programme, which will be reviewed by the Omani authorities and the WHC on the occasion of the mission by a Secretariat staff member foreseen for the second half of May 2001. The mission will also offer an opportunity to define the best strategy for the preparation of the Management Plan, identify roles and responsibilities and set a definite time frame.

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

“The Bureau commends the Omani authorities on the efforts made which have resulted in a considerable improvement to the state of conservation of the Fort Bahla.

The Bureau wishes as well to encourage the Omani authorities to continue supporting the conservation of the Fort, the preparation of a Management Plan and the establishment of a permanent management structure on site.

Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1981 and on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2000

Brief description: These are two masterpieces from the time of the brilliant Mughal civilization, which reached its height during the reign of the Emperor Shah Jahan. The fort contains marble palaces and mosques decorated with mosaics and gilt. Near the city of Lahore, the elegance of the splendid gardens, built on three terraces with lodges, waterfalls and large ornamental ponds, is unequalled.

International assistance:

Technical Co-operation: 2000, US\$ 10,000, Archaeological, soil and design research and the preparation of a planting plan for the Shalamar Gardens, for preparing a restoration plan. Emergency Assistance, 2001, US\$ 50,000, Elaboration of a comprehensive management plan

Previous deliberations:

World Heritage Committee, twenty-fourth session, paragraph VIII.30

World Heritage Bureau, twenty-fourth session, paragraph IV.72

Main Issues / Threats to the Site:

1. Lack of a comprehensive management strategy and plan, urban encroachment and ad-hoc public works:

- 375-year old hydraulic tanks built to supply the Garden's fountains were destroyed in June 1999 to widen the road that borders the gardens on their south side.
- The perimeter walls of the Garden are deteriorating, aggravated by construction of illegal shelter along the walls.
- Public works immediately adjacent to the Shalamar Gardens are carried out with minimum or no consultation with the conservation authorities, resulting in negative impact upon the material conservation of the Shalamar Gardens walls and its presentation.

2. Need for enhancing the capacity of site-management authorities in conservation techniques, project elaboration, and site presentation:

- Conservation and rehabilitation work carried out whenever funds are available and on *ad-hoc* basis

without adequate archaeological and scientific research; quality of the work depends on the amount of funds and time available for the authorities to carry out the work.

New information:

- In view of the damage observed and the threat facing the site, the Government of Pakistan requested the site to be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in November 2000. The Committee decided to inscribe it on the List of World Heritage in Danger.
- A plan of action for elaborating a comprehensive management plan and for undertaking corrective measures was drafted by the World Heritage Centre for consideration by the Pakistani Authorities between January – April 2001.
- With the US\$ 10,000 Technical Co-operation funds approved by the Bureau in July 2000, the Department of Archaeology, signed and submitted a contract with UNESCO for archaeological, soil and design research and the preparation of a planting plan for the Shalamar Gardens.
- The Centre and the Government of Pakistan has formulated a plan of action to develop a comprehensive management plan for the Shalamar Gardens with the US\$ 50,000 Emergency Assistance approved under the 2001 budget. Activities will commence upon approval by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee.
- At the invitation of the national authorities, experts of the City of Strasbourg (France) and the Deputy Director of the World Heritage Centre undertook a mission in April 2001 to Lahore for consultations with the national and local authorities concerned on urban encroachment and the management of the Shalamar Gardens and Lahore Fort, with a view to developing a proposal for submission to the European Union Asia-Urbs Programme and to the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- A UNESCO Conservation Expert undertook a 2-week mission in April 2001 to Shalamar Gardens to prepare 15 project proposals for the rehabilitation of the Shalamar Gardens following international conservation norms. Once finalized, these projects will be proposed to potential private sector or bilateral donors.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine any additional information at the time of its session, and adopt the following decision:

“The Bureau welcomes the positive actions taken and being planned by the State Party and the World Heritage Centre for the rehabilitation of the Shalamar

Gardens and for elaborating a comprehensive management plan for the site. The Bureau requests the State Party and the Centre to continue its close co-operation in order to ensure that an integrated conservation, management and development plan will be elaborated, adopted and implemented as soon as possible. The Bureau requests the State Party and the Centre to report on the progress made in removing the threats facing the site for examination by the Committee at its twenty-fifth session.”

Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1993 and on the World Heritage List in Danger: 2000

Brief description: Zabid’s domestic and military architecture and its urban plan make it an outstanding archaeological and historical site. Besides being the capital of Yemen from the 13th to the 15th century, the city played an important role in the Arab and Muslim world for many centuries because of its Islamic university.

International Assistance: Emergency Assistance 1994 (US\$ 30,000), Technical co-operation 1995 (US\$ 15,000) for publication on Zabid, 1998 (US\$ 19,000) for construction of the furnace for making mud bricks, a restoration material in Zabid.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph III.2 (i)

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee – paragraph VIII.31

New information: As recommended by the twenty-fourth session of the Committee in Cairns, a joint multidisciplinary mission by ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre is being organized and is expected to take place before the Bureau meeting. The result of the mission will be presented at the meeting.

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