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WHC-03/27.COM/7A
Paris, 2 June 2003
Original; English/French

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-seventh session
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room XII
30 June – 5 July 2003

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

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 current Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, 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 Committee.

Decision required: The Committee is requested to examine the following state of conservation reports. The Committee may wish to adopt the draft decision presented at the end of each state of conservation report.

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Information on the state of conservation of eighteen natural and fourteen cultural properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger is submitted to the Committee 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 current Operational Guidelines.

2. At its 26th session (Budapest, June 2002), the Committee examined the state of conservation of the eighteen natural and eight cultural properties. The Committee’s decisions and recommendations with regard to each site were transmitted by the Centre to the concerned States Parties.

3. Responses from States Parties and new information that has become available on the state of conservation of the properties since the conclusion of the 26th session of the Committee are submitted for review by the Committee.

4. The Committee is requested to examine the reports of eighteen natural and fourteen cultural properties provided herein and take appropriate decisions in accordance with paragraph 93 of the current 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.”

5. To facilitate the work of the Committee, 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, respectively;
- Inscription criteria;
- International assistance provided to the property to date;
- Previous deliberations. Reference is made to relevant paragraph numbers from the Report of the 26th session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee and 26th ordinary session of the Committee (June, Budapest 2002). In order to limit the length of this working document to a minimum number of pages, texts from this and other previous reports have not been repeated in this document).
- New information;
- Main issues/threats addressed in the report; and
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A. NATURAL HERITAGE

AFRICA

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1988

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in

Danger: 1997

Criteria: N (ii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

The site has received a total sum of US\$ 170,000 to implement a rehabilitation plan.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th session of the Committee – Chapter VIII.9 – VIII.11

25th session of the Bureau – Chapter V.8 – V.10

New Information:

WHC:

At its 25th session (Helsinki, 2001), the Committee requested the Centre and IUCN to co-operate with the State Party in order to identify potential financial sources to implement urgent rehabilitation measures and long-term conservation actions for the benefit of this site. The Committee also approved the release of US\$150,000 for the Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park Emergency Rehabilitation Plan. UNESCO's Division of Equipment Procurement is in the process of purchasing essential equipment as foreseen in the plan. Funds for field activities were decentralised to UNESCO Office in Yaounde, Cameroon. However, due to the recent political turmoil in CAR all equipment delivery and funds transfers have been suspended.

The State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the site dated 6 March 2003, highlighting a number of important threats. Illegal and poaching, organized from both inside and outside of CAR, remains a major problem. The State Party expressed the need for additional funds to address this issue through the reinforcement of an anti-poaching programme. It emphasized the need to develop a monitoring programme and compile an inventory of key fauna, as well as to improve infrastructure, management and communications in order to develop eco-tourism in the Park, as an alternative source of income for local people. The report states that illegal settlements have been established in the North-Western part of the site by people moving in from Chad, and this is resulting in illegal poaching and clear-felling to open up the area for agriculture. Mining is taking place along the river Manovo and is impacting on the natural flow and water levels of the river. Uncontrolled bushfires, illegal fishing and transhumance are also threats to the natural values of this site. The State Party has noted that villagers from Akoursoulback and Gordil are involved in illegal fishing within the Park, and transhumance is occurring between Sudan and CAR and Chad and CAR. In a meeting at the World Heritage Centre with the Minister responsible for protected areas it was suggested that a high

level meeting could be organized with authorities of Chad and Sudan to discuss the issue of cross border poaching. With the current political situation, it is unclear how follow up actions that may be recommended by the proposed high-level meeting between Ministers of the three countries could be ensured.

The site receives some support under the European Union funded ECOFAC programme for Central Africa. A component of this programme, the "Projet de Développement des Zones Cynégétiques villageoises" is developing mechanisms to regulate hunting in a 80.000 km2 region that includes the park. The activity report of the project for the period January to June 2002 concludes that even if the communal hunting zones can significantly contribute to the conservation of the site, there is an urgent need to strengthen anti-poaching activities in the site. The report notes that patrols need to be better armed to confront commercial poachers coming from neighbouring countries and that patrolling staff need to be trained in paramilitary techniques. ECOFAC also mentions that a limited quantity of arms and ammunition was provided to the Park and that a new anti-poaching strategy has shown some encouraging results since no foreign poachers were reported in the period covered by the report. The new strategy consists of preventing poaching groups coming from Chad and Sudan from entering the region through mixed patrols with the Central African Armed Forces and involving private hunting companies involved in combating poaching. The report also notes that due to the limited number of field staff, this activity has diverted capacities away from the control of poaching by the local populations. It is also mentioned that illegal miners on the Manovo River were forced to leave the Park but confirms reports by the State Party on increased pressure by local fishermen on the Gounda and Goro Rivers.

IUCN:

The new information provided above has been proposed on a consensual basis between IUCN and the Centre.

Issues:

Mining; Oil Gas and Exploration; Fishing; Poaching/Hunting; Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of monitoring system; Lack of presentation and interpretation; Lack of human or financial resources; Lack of institution coordination; Civil unrest.

Draft Decision:

Draft 27 COM 7 (a) 1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Reiterates its serious concern for the state of conservation of this site and the need for increased international support and co-operation, including that between CAR, Chad and Sudan;

2. Requests that the State Party take all necessary measures to halt mining along the Manovo River in order to minimize negative impacts of mining on the integrity of

the Park and confirms in writing the outcome of the measures taken;

3. *Invites* the State Party to seek additional support from bilateral and multilateral donors and from other appropriate sources for the management of the Park and the development of alternative livelihood activities for local people around the Park and find ways and means of strengthening the involvement of local communities in anti-poaching schemes;

4. *Notes* with concern that the Emergency Rehabilitation Plan for the site has not yet been fully implemented and requests the State Party to provide an up-to-date report on the status of implementation of this Plan.

5. *Decides* to retain the Manovo – Gounda St Floris National Park in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

2. World Heritage sites of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Virunga National Park – *Inscribed on the World Heritage List*: 1979 under criteria N (ii), (iii) and (iv); and *on the List of World Heritage in Danger*: 1994.

Garamba National Park - *Inscribed on the World Heritage List*: 1980 under criteria N (iii) and (iv); and *on the List of World Heritage in Danger*: 1996

Kahuzi-Biega National Park - *Inscribed on the World Heritage List*: 1980 under criterion (iv); and *on the List of World Heritage in Danger*: 1997;

Okapi Wildlife Reserve - *Inscribed on the World Heritage List* in 1996 under criterion (iv); and *on the List of World Heritage in Danger*: 1997;

Salonga National Park: *Inscribed on the World Heritage List* in 1984 under criteria N (ii) and (iii); and *on the List of World Heritage in Danger*: 1999.

Previous 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; and **Salonga National Park**: US\$ 85,500 for project planning, infrastructure and staff training.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (a) 2

25th session of the Committee – Chapter – VIII.12 – VIII.28

25th session of the Bureau – Chapter V.12- V.27

New Information:

WHC:

Since the Committee session of June 2002, the political situation in DRC has been in constant and rapid change. A peace accord was signed in July 2002, which led to a retreat of most foreign troops in October 2002. In April 2003 the new constitution was approved and agreement was reached on the integration of rebel movements into the new government. The establishment of a government of national unity is expected to occur in the coming months. Unfortunately progress at the political level has not led to more stability. Following the retreat of foreign troops, fighting and stand offs between different rebel factions within the DRC have increased sharply, particularly in the eastern parts of the country where four of the five World Heritage sites are located. Such increased fighting between rebel factions has in particular affected the Okapi Wildlife Reserve and the Kahuzi-Biega National Park.

Clashes between rebel groups for control of the Ituri region have seriously affected the **Okapi Wildlife Reserve**. In November 2002, the site was particularly subject to the front line movements of the *Mouvement de Libération du Congo* (MLC) and *Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie-National* (RCD-N) from the West and *Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie-Mouvement de Libération* (RCD-ML) from the East. The Park station at Epulu was looted and occupied by military, senior staff had to leave the Reserve and guards were disarmed. A meeting was organized in Beni on December 6, 2002 with officials of the RCD-ML in which participated the assistant Coordinator of the UNESCO/DRC/UNF Project and representatives of conservation NGO working in the site, RCD-ML officials recognized the importance of the protection of the site, agreed to cooperate with ICCN (Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature) staff and to hand back some requisitioned equipment.

In another United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) brokered a cease fire agreement signed on 30 December 2002 between the three factions MLC, RCD-N and RCD-Kisangani-ML, the MLC and RCD-N agreed to withdraw their troops 20 km from the city of Mambasa, to a location situated unfortunately inside the Okapi Reserve. This poses threats to conservation activities and could lead to increased poaching. The Centre has written to MONUC and the heads of the concerned rebel movements on 14 January 2003 requesting that the troops do not retreat to the central part of the Reserve, but instead to Mungbere to the North and Niania to the West. The Centre requested MONUC to facilitate free movement of the Reserve's personnel, the rearming of the guards and anti-poaching patrols and to receive MONUC's report related to the above issues in order to present the findings to the 27th session of the Committee. No report has been received so far. Recent information from the site indicates that MLC and RCD-N troops are still stationed inside the Reserve and elephant poaching and other illegal hunting activities are rampant.

Following the retreat of the Rwandan army in early October 2002, fighting broke out in the high altitude sector of the **Kahuzi-Biega National Park** between the *Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie – Goma* (RCD-Goma) and *Mai-Mai* militias. The high altitude sector accounts for only 10% of the Park's surface and has been the only part under regular control from field staff of the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN) during the last few years of conflict in eastern DRC. Fighting took place in a vital sector for gorillas, where three of the habituated gorilla families live. Fortunately, no gorillas have been reported killed during the clashes. The Park station was occupied by Mai-Mai militias and re-conquered by RCD-Goma shortly after. However, the station was not looted. All surveillance and gorilla localization activities had to be suspended. After negotiations between the Park staff, assisted by the advisor of the German Technical Cooperation Project in the Park, and the militia leaders, it was possible to resume gorilla monitoring and surveillance activities in the area around the Park station. The situation remains tense with both military groups positioned in different parts of the sector and Park staff patrolling the gorilla habitat in between the armed groups. Recent reports from Bukavu indicate a military build up by RCD-Goma in the Thshivanga station and other positions in the immediate vicinity of the Park. This might indicate that new military operations are planned with possible disastrous consequences for the high-altitude sector of the Park. There is an urgent need to demilitarize the sector in order to avoid fighting taking place inside the World Heritage site and to facilitate monitoring and surveillance operations.

The low altitude sector, covering 90% of the Park's area, remains largely uncontrolled by ICCN staff due to the prevailing insecurity. This sector was invaded by coltan (Niobium – Tantalum) miners in 2000 and 2001. With prices of coltan having dramatically decreased on the international market, extraction currently seems no longer economically viable and coltan extraction has apparently ceased in most parts of the Park. However, reports indicate that most miners remain in the Park and have reverted to gold panning and commercial bushmeat hunting. This sector is controlled by a large number of small, poorly organized armed groups.

Following the call by the Committee at its 26th session for urgent initiatives to check illegal encroachments and settlements threatening the **Virunga National Park**, the World Heritage Centre, in close co-operation with ICCN, WWF and the International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP), organized a mission to meet with high level officials of RCD-Goma and local authorities, including the governor and the head of the provincial parliament, to discuss how to address these issues. Authorities stressed that the people being resettled in that area were Congolese nationals from the Masisi area who fled the massacres committed by the Interahamwe militias in 1996 during the dismantling of the Goma refugee camps. They regretted the unclear language of the Committee's decision that refers to "people coming from across the border with Rwanda", giving the impression

that they are Rwandan nationals. Since 1996, these people were in refugee camps in Rwanda and with the deteriorating living conditions in the camps, many are determined to come back to DRC. With continuing insecurity in the Masisi area, RCD-Goma authorities decided to resettle them temporarily in the Kirokirwe area awaiting the return to their villages of origin. They stressed that these refugees had not been receiving any assistance from the international community but assured that their willingness to identify an alternative site further away from the Park if there would be some financial support from the UN agencies to assist in the movement of the people with their cattle and in settling them in the new area.

A memorandum was signed between the members of the mission and the governor in which the following actions were identified:

- Organise a joint mission between ICCN, conservation NGOs and relevant authorities and government departments to evaluate the state of conservation of the Kirokirwe and Kibumba areas, determine the exact degree of encroachment as well as the impact on the ecosystem.
- Determine an alternative site to install the returning refugees currently at the Kirokirwe site and to move people to this new site as quickly as possible. The site will be identified in cooperation with the United Nations organizations in Goma responsible for humanitarian aid and conservation NGOs in order to make sure that the site is in accordance to international standards.
- Organise mixed patrols in the Kibumba area in order to clear the sector from grazing cattle.
- Report regularly on progress made on these different points to the World Heritage Committee via the Centre.

The joint mission was organised from 4 to 7 October 2002 by ICCN, IGCP and WWF's 'Project Education Virunga' (PEVi). A detailed report was provided to the Centre and IUCN. The mission was able for the first time to evaluate the extent of damage in particular in the region of Kirokirwe to the west of the Park. The mission team found widespread deforestation, numerous furnaces for the production of charcoal in industrial quantities, large areas of land converted to crops and pasture, and numerous small settlements where even schools and churches have been set up. The deforestation and spread of crop growing has visibly changed the landscape from natural forest into an open landscape from which large fauna such as elephants and buffalo have completely disappeared. The mission team interviewed some of the people who have moved into this area of the Park and found that they are aware of the World Heritage importance of the Park but are not prepared to leave until their home-towns become secure. Some accuse the international community of condemning their move into the Park rather than coming to their assistance. The mission recommended that strong measures be taken to remove the illegal immigrants from the west of the Park. They recommended that the leaders of the groups now occupying the Park be called before a

special session of the Provincial Assembly of North Kivu in order to debate the problems related to the management and protection of the Park, and that illegal activities are sanctioned appropriately. Following the mission, RCD-Goma authorities proposed a new site to resettle the Kiorlirwe displaced people. However, the proposed site was also too close to the Park and thus unacceptable. To date, this issue remains unresolved and pressure on natural resources in the Kiorlirwe region is increasing with more people arriving every day. Progress was made in the Kibumba area where grazing cattle was removed from the Park.

Apart from the problem in Kiorlirwe, encroachment remains a critical issue for the whole Virunga National Park. The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) carried out an aerial survey of the Park in April 2003. Preliminary findings indicate a dramatic decrease of some mammal species, such as the hippopotamus. In the Semliki valley in the northern sector, the survey team could only count 80 individuals. If these figures are confirmed, this means that only 1 % of the original population of hippopotamus is left in this sector of the Park. The PEVi programme of WWF, with funding from the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), IGCP and WWF Switzerland has been successfully working on participatory border demarcation activities, resulting in the physical demarcation of 46,8 km of park borders and the reclaiming of approximately 2500 ha of encroached Park territory around Mount Tshiabirimu, Bibirizi and Kongo. Four local committees have been established to monitor the Park's boundary. The programme has been successful both in securing the Park and in improving the relationship with the local communities. Activities will be continued with some funds available under the Belgium funded DRC project on community conservation and it is expected that an additional 45 km could be demarcated in 2003. However, there is an urgent need to mobilize additional funding to scale up this activity in order to demarcate the remaining 450 km. The Centre together with WWF, IGCP and ZSL also developed a pilot project to test a new approach to promote conflict resolution and pacification in the northern part of the Virunga National Park. The new pilot project will bring together key stakeholders, including the existing pacification commissions, to address natural resources governance issues.

In August 2002, WWF Belgium informed IUCN that a Canadian company, Heritage Oil Corporation, in agreement with the DRC Government, intends to obtain oil explorations in the vicinity of the Park around its northern sector. The company informed WWF that it does not intend to carry out explorations within the Park's boundaries. IUCN is concerned however about potential impacts to the site, should explorations take place in it and in particular north of the site.

The **Garamba National Park** being at the border with Sudan has been impacted less by the current political instability in eastern DRC. A 2002 survey of large mammals by the International Rhino Foundation did not conclude any significant change in populations for most

species compared to the 2000 survey. The population of the endemic northern White Rhino remains stable at approximately 30 individuals. Despite the problems and known and suspected rhino losses during the wars, there has also been a high birth rate. Mosaic burning as well as protection patrols have proved valuable management techniques in giving the rhinos cover as well as grazing access and has contributed to their survival. The recent survey however noted an apparent decline of the population of the northern giraffe, which is a unique subspecies. The current major poaching pressure is coming from the east of the Park and giraffes tend to be concentrated on the edges of the Park, where the habitat is more wooded, and where they are therefore more vulnerable.

The permanent presence of Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) forces east of the Park allows them and their local collaborators easy access into the Park to poach. This issue is being dealt with at various levels with relevant authorities, for which the UNESCO/UNF Project provides useful support.

In the framework of the UNESCO/DRC/UNF Project, a report was recently prepared by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) on the state of conservation of the **Salonga National Park**. The report notes that the Park is being heavily impacted by poaching, both by surrounding communities and those coming from other areas. The limited number of guards in the Park and a lack of training, arms and basic equipment do not allow successful protection against poachers. The communities around the Park have mostly abandoned their farms. They have been cut off from commerce for a long period of time due to road destruction, and some of them are involved in poaching as a way of generating income. On a different scale, commercial poachers create an enormous threat to Salonga. The well-equipped organised groups, armed with automatic weapons and outboard motors, operating in the Southern Sector are said to originate from Mbandaka. Improved connections by commercial plane and the re-opening of shipping on the Congo River between Kinshasa and Mbandaka are said to have increased commercial poaching pressure. They enter the Park up the Lokolo River during the rainy season. The diversity of large mammals may be especially high in this region as numerous monkey and small antelope species can be observed within a few hundred meters of the villages outside the Park, and the local people are well acquainted with the bonobo, a unique species of chimpanzee found only in this region. Unlike the local people who primarily target monkeys and antelope species, commercial poachers are primarily targeting elephants. The region of Monkoto, Ikali, and Boangi is extremely vulnerable too.

Despite the growing threat of poaching, of the 12 sites recently surveyed by ZSM, eight have evidence of bonobos and seven have evidence of elephants. However, no location is completely devoid of signs of human intrusion. Increased guard surveillance since the beginning of the UNESCO/DRC/UNF programme appears to have increased the frequency of elephants (and possibly

bonobos) at certain sites. ZSM is currently analyzing findings from large mammal surveys. More survey work by WCS is underway as part of the CITES Convention programme on the monitoring of illegal killing of elephants (MIKE).

Although government troops control the northern part of the Park, fighting between RCD-Goma and the regular army brought approximately 20% of the southern sector of Salonga under the control of RCD-Goma. The situation has stabilized and MONUC military observers pulled out of the region. ICCN personnel that fled the fighting were able to return to the Anga station in May 2002. The Lukuru Wildlife Project that operates in the southern sector of the Park was able to provide the Anga station with some communication and patrol equipment.

The UNESCO/DRC/UNF Project continued its support to all five World Heritage sites. A detailed report was prepared by the Centre, in co-operation with its partners, as requested by the Committee at its last session. ICCN field staff is paid through the programme at all 5 sites, although payment is more irregular in Salonga and Virunga National Parks due to logistical problems funds transfer and delivery. Law enforcement monitoring systems are being set up in each of the sites and training for guard trainers was organised in South Africa in 2002. Sites also receive continued support for field operations from the different partners in the project. Basic field operation costs are covered in Kahuzi Biega National Park by the German Technical Agency (GTZ), in Okapi Wildlife reserve by Gilman International Conservation (GIC) and WCS, and in Garamba National Park by the International Rhino Foundation (IRF). In the Virunga National Park, IGCP is covering running costs for the gorilla sectors. A consortium of NGOs, including WWF, WCS, ZSL and IGCP is providing US\$ 50,000 for running costs of the other sectors of Virunga but this is clearly insufficient. Salonga National Park in spite of being the largest site with 36000 km² is hardly receiving any support for running costs. Although all five sites need more financial support, additional support to cover basic running costs is most needed for Virunga and Salonga National Park.

At the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in August 2002, a new regional initiative to conserve the forests of the Congo Basin was launched by the Government of the United States of America together with 28 other governments, international organizations, environmental groups and private enterprises. It is hoped that this initiative will generate additional financial support for DRC protected areas, including the World Heritage sites. A first coordination meeting was held in Paris from 21 to 23 January 2003. The U.S. contribution to the initiative will focus on eleven priority landscapes spanning the Congo Basin, which includes three DRC World Heritage sites, Salonga National Park, Okapi Wildlife Reserve and Kahuzi-Biega National Park.

In co-operation with the MIKE programme and with additional support from the Belgian Federal Office for Scientific, Technical and Cultural Affairs (OSTC), the Centre is developing an ecological monitoring database and base maps for all sites. For the Virunga and Kahuzi-Biega National Parks, base map development is also

supported by the European Space Agency for the monitoring of gorilla habitat. Pilot community conservation projects supported by the Directorate General for Development Co-operation of Belgium are also underway in the sites.

IUCN:

The new information provided above has been proposed on a consensual basis between IUCN and the Centre.

Issues:

Agriculture Pressure; Logging; Mining; Oil and Gas Exploration; Fishing; Poaching/Hunting; Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of monitoring system; Lack of Presentation and interpretation; Lack of human or financial resources; Lack of institution coordination; Armed conflict; Civil unrest; Looting/Theft.

Draft Decision:

Draft 27 COM 7 (a) 2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Expresses its serious concerns about the continuing threats of poaching in all sites and encroachments and cattle farming in Virunga;
2. Commends international conservation NGOs, the UNESCO/DRC/UNF Project and the Governments of Germany and Belgium for their commitment to support staff of the sites and to mobilize necessary financial and human resources needed to mitigate threats to the integrity of the five sites;
3. Invites the new National Unity Government of the State Party to commit itself to protecting the integrity of the five World Heritage sites and co-operate with MONUC and all other concerned UN, international and national authorities to ensure the complete removal of all armed groups from the territories of the five World Heritage sites;
4. Urges the new National Unity Government of the State Party to call upon all sections of society, including the military forces, local communities resident near the World Heritage sites and the broader public to commit to supporting the work of ICCN at the national, regional and site levels and provide the necessary human, material and financial resources for the conservation of the five World Heritage sites and biodiversity resources of DRC;
5. Requests the new National Unity Government of the State Party to enforce the legislation prohibiting mining and other resource extraction activities within the five World Heritage sites and gives careful consideration to evaluate environmental impacts of such activities whenever they are planned for implementation outside the World Heritage sites;
6. Commends the US Government, the European Union and other donor countries and international organizations for the launching of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership and invites them to work with the State Party and the Centre to develop a programme to consolidate the future of the UNESCO/DRC/UNF project;
7. Recommends that the Director General of UNESCO consider, in co-operation with the Government of Belgium,

IUCN, UNF, NGO partners and other appropriate States Parties, institutions and organizations to launch an international campaign for supporting World Heritage and biodiversity conservation in DRC and to ensure the full recovery of World Heritage values of the five sites; and

8. Decides to retain the Garamba, Salonga, Kahuzi-Biega and Virunga National Parks and the Okapi Wildlife Reserve of the DRC on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

3. Simien National Park (Ethiopia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1978

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996

Criteria: N (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

This site has so far received a total amount of US\$ 443,349 from the World Heritage Fund for project preparation, consultants, equipment and training. A further US\$ 30,000 was approved this year for the Mount Nimba Conservation Project.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th session of the Committee – Chapter VIII.30 – VIII.31
25th session of the Bureau – Chapter V.29 – V.33

New Information:

WHC:

At its 25th session (Helsinki 2001), the Committee requested the State Party to submit a report specifically addressing the issues that were emphasised in the IUCN/UNESCO monitoring mission report (April 2001). Based on this report the Committee set the following benchmarks in relation to the possible removal of Simien National Park from the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- Realignment of the Park's boundary to exclude the villages along the boundary;
- Extension of the Park to include at least Mesarerya and Lemalino Wildlife Reserves;
- Significant and sustainable reduction in the human population density within the Park, especially within the core area; and
- Effective conservation within the extended National Park of a larger population of Walia Ibex and Simien Fox.

The Centre and IUCN received the State Party's report dated 3 December 2002. Additionally, a report dated 21 March 2003 was received from the Swiss-based National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) North – South, in cooperation with the East and Southern Africa Partnership Programme (ESAPP) of the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) (University of Berne), based on a mission undertaken to the National Park from 25 February to 7 March 2003.

These reports provide the following information with regard to the benchmarks:

- On the question of realignment of the Park's boundaries, the State Party reports that discussions between all relevant stakeholders have been initiated in November 2002, under a new Simien Mountains National Park Integrated Development Project, jointly implemented by the Governments of Ethiopia and Austria. Detailed boundary negotiations are expected to take place on a village-by-village basis involving each of the 30 villages surrounding the Park. These negotiations might take away too much land from the Park and hence diminish its biodiversity value.
- On the issue of the Park extension, the State Party notes that this will be included in the planning and negotiation process started by the Austrian funded project. The process will include the definition of purpose and extent of additional conservation reserves, one in the Silki – Kidus - Yared – Abba Yared area and one in the Weynobar –Analu –Ras Dejen – Abbat Dejen area.
- The State Party gives no information about the reduction of the human population density in the Park. NCCR reports that no reduction of the human population within the Park has taken place yet and that contacts made with one village show strong resistance to resettlement. It has informed IUCN about its plans to undertake a scientific study, which would assess numbers of wildlife in the National Park in cooperation with the Amhara Regional Agricultural Research Institute (ARARI). The study would begin in October 2004 and would include the issue of review of World Heritage boundaries.
- On the issue of the effective conservation of the Walia Ibex and Simien Fox within the park, the State Party reports that populations have significantly increased from 1998 to 2001. Direct counts of Walia Ibex are indicating a increase from 270 individuals in 1995 to 514 in 2002, whilst the population of Simien Fox is reported to have increased from an estimated 20 – 30 individuals in 1997 to 45 in 2002. NCCR reports that they were unable to confirm these figures and recommend to carry out a detailed assessment of wildlife populations using techniques which exclude any double counting.

The State Party also provides information on the efforts of the regional government to strengthen the management of the Park. The rehabilitation of the Dirni Camp was completed, 16 additional scouts recruited, the number of vehicles increased to four, two computers were purchased and the operating budget increased from around US\$ 56 000 in 1998 to around US\$ 83 000 in 2001. A regional steering committee, led by the vice president of the regional government was also created in order to follow up the activities and progress on the conservation of the site. The State Party also reports that the illegal activities such as cultivation and logging have been reduced, although no detailed figures are reported. Numerous measures for community development and agriculture have been

undertaken and efforts will be stepped up under the Simien Mountains National Integrated Development Project. The State Party further reports that the numbers of tourists and the collected revenue have been increasing. The NCCR/CDE mission report highlights the subsequent need for the development of plans for tourist camps and a comprehensive master plan for private investments in the vicinity of the Park.

IUCN:

IUCN notes, based on the NCCR/CDE mission report, that there have been significant improvements in strengthening coordination and management of development activities in the Simien Mountains. The new information provided above has been proposed on a consensual basis between IUCN and the Centre.

Main Issues:

Agricultural Pressure; Logging; Poaching/Hunting; Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of monitoring system; Lack of human or financial resources; Lack of institution coordination.

Draft Decision:

Draft 27 COM 7 (a) 3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Commends the State Party on actions undertaken during the past year to improve the conservation of the Simien National Park World Heritage site;
2. Recommends that the State Party continue implementing positive measures mentioned in its report until significant on-the-ground conservation improvements are evident;
3. Recommends that IUCN, using expertise from its Species Survival Commission and in cooperation with the State Party, take measures to verify the increase in the population estimates of *Walia Ibex* and *Simien Fox* reported by the State Party;
4. Invites the State Party to provide additional information on progress made in the state of conservation of the site, particularly in relation to the benchmarks for the removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger and other recommendations outlined in the IUCN/UNESCO mission report (April 2001) for review at the 28th session of the Committee in 2004;
5. Decides to retain the Simien National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1981

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992

Criteria: N (ii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

This site has so far received a total amount of US\$ 443,349 from the World Heritage Fund for project preparation, consultants, equipment and training. A further

US\$ 30,000 was approved this year for the Mount Nimba Conservation Project.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (a) 3

25th session of the Committee – Chapter VIII.32 – VIII.43

25th session of the Bureau – Chapter V.34 – V.35

New Information:

WHC:

In late November 2002, armed conflict in Côte d'Ivoire spread to the western part of the country, paralysing the whole region. Conservation International (CI) and Birdlife International, major partners concerned with the Mount Nimba ecosystem project in Côte d'Ivoire, were forced to withdraw from the area and suspend their work in the region. Moreover, in January 2003, the European Commission suspended its funding to Côte d'Ivoire. As a result of regional instability, the tri-national cooperation process has been put on hold.

A proposal for a long-term management programme for the Guinean Biosphere Reserve, including the Guinean part of the World Heritage site, has been submitted to UNDP and GEF and will be considered by the GEF Council in May 2003. The programme consists of five different components harmonised in a landscape-level ecosystem-management approach. Component (I) will address the conservation of the three core areas, including the World Heritage Site whilst component (V) aims to strengthen the capacity of Centre de Gestion de l'Environnement des Monts Nimba (CEGEN) and improve its cooperation with other partners in the Nimba region. Other components aim to promote agricultural intensification, improve animal husbandry and management of wildlife and improve health conditions in the buffer and transition zones of the Biosphere Reserve. The requested funding from GEF amounts to US\$ 3.66 million. UNDP Guinea is currently finalizing co-funding for the different components. Co-funding for components (I) and (V) has been secured from the mining company and Fauna and Flora International (FFI); the United Nations Foundation and a number of bilateral donors have been contacted to provide additional funding for these components.

With the political turmoil in Côte d'Ivoire and the worsening security situation in Liberia, at least 8000 refugees came to the Nimba Mountains, placing enormous pressure on its natural resources. FFI is concerned about the long delay that may be incurred in making the GEF project operational and its capacity to mitigate the current emergency situation. FFI is providing CEKEN with a sum of US\$10,000 to liaise with humanitarian agencies working in the region to try to reduce impacts of refugees in the Reserves Core Areas, including the Dere Forest. In 2003, the World Heritage Fund has provided CEKEN with a grant of US\$30,000 to maintain its activities and respond to urgent threats. CEKEN, the World Heritage Centre, FFI and other partners are rapidly trying to mobilise support to address the refugee crisis in the Reserve.

IUCN held a meeting with the BHP -Billeteon Mining Company in Gland, on 11 October 2002 in order to discuss the company's proposal to carry out explorations in the Mount Nimba area, which is rich in high quality iron-ore. IUCN was informed that even if the explorations find the operation to be economically viable, no material is likely to be shipped out of the region prior to next ten years. It is estimated that around 600 million tons of iron-ore is exploitable during a thirty-year time frame. It was noted that precise geographical maps of the site are missing and that the mining company is proposing to prepare these in order to clearly show the boundaries of the site.

IUCN recommended that BHP - Billeton ensure regular and timely flow of information between itself and other mining companies, the Centre and IUCN in order to be as transparent as possible in its activities and processes. IUCN believes that the Committee should encourage the Guinean State Party to request IUCN's support in preparing baseline studies on the state of conservation of the site; and seek ongoing consultation with IUCN in the process so as to guarantee the protection of the natural values of the site. If BHP - Billeton carries out explorations and mining activities in the area, it should make every effort to make this an example of Best Practice and to work towards supporting sustainable development and responsible exploitation of resources. The company should also consider financing further conservation activities at the site.

IUCN:

The new information provided above has been proposed on a consensual basis between IUCN and the Centre.

Issues:

Agriculture Pressure; Logging; Mining; Oil Gas and Exploration; Poaching/Hunting; Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of monitoring system; Lack of human or financial resources; Lack of institution coordination; Armed conflict; Civil unrest.

Draft Decision:

Draft 27 COM 7 (a) 4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Expresses concern that the political turmoil in Côte d'Ivoire has led to the suspension of operations of the Mt. Nimba ecosystem conservation project in Côte d'Ivoire and has compelled some of the NGO partners to withdraw staff from the area;

2. Commends the Fauna and Flora International on their commitment to continue cooperation with the Guinean State Party in addressing the refugee crisis and developing a long-term management project;

3. Commends CEGEN for its important role in promoting and managing international cooperation with relevant partners under the prevailing difficult circumstances to protect the natural values of the Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve;

4. Invites the Liberian Government, the Côte d'Ivoire and the Guinean authorities including CEGEN to co-operate

with the Centre, IUCN, NGO partners, UNDP, humanitarian agencies and others concerned to explore ways and means of minimizing impacts, particularly those caused by uncontrolled movement of refugees due to the conflict in Cote d'Ivoire and the worsening security conditions in Liberia;

5. Decides to retain Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

5. Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1991

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992

Criteria: N (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves has benefited from a total sum of US\$ 143,250 from the World Heritage Fund including the US\$ 108,250 for projects that are being currently executed as part of the rehabilitation plan for the site.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (a) 5

25th session of the Committee – Chapter – VIII.46 – VIII.49

25th session of the Bureau – Chapter V.42 – V.44

New Information:

WHC:

The Centre received two letters from the State Party. In a letter dated 22 July 2002, the Minister for the Environment confirmed that the vehicle purchased using resources of the World Heritage Fund was stolen from the Reserve on 19 March 2002. The letter does not provide a detailed report on the circumstances of the incident as requested by the Committee at its 26th session. In another letter dated 4 April 2002, the Director for Wildlife and Fisheries of the same Ministry informs the Centre that the vehicle was transferred to the site without mentioning the fact that the vehicle was stolen. No additional information requested by the Committee was received from the State Party on the staffing, infrastructure development, management and security issues impacting the site. Unconfirmed reports received by the Centre staff indicate that the State Party has difficulties in implementing the ostrich-breeding programme included as part of the rehabilitation plan for the site.

IUCN:

The new information provided above has been proposed on a consensual basis between IUCN and the Centre.

Issues:

Agriculture Pressure; Poaching/Hunting; Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of monitoring system; Lack of human or financial resources; Lack of institution coordination; Civil unrest.

Draft Decision:

Draft 27 COM 7 (a) 5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Expresses its concern regarding the lack of clarity on the information received on the vehicles provided with financial assistance from the World Heritage Fund and reported stolen and reiterates its request from the 26th session of the Committee for the State Party report on the above issue and progress made in the implementation of the rehabilitation plan;
2. Recommends that the State Party consider inviting a Centre/IUCN mission to undertake a systematic assessment of the implementation of the rehabilitation plan for the site; and
3. Decides to retain the Air and Ténéré Nature Reserves on the List of World Heritage in Danger

6. Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary (Senegal)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1981

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2000

Criteria: N (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

The site has received a total sum of US\$ 241,297 as emergency aid and for equipment purchase and training.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th session of the Committee – Chapter VIII.50 – VIII.52

25th session of the Bureau – Chapter V.45 – V.50

New Information:

WHC:

The construction of the Diama Dam on the Senegal River led to proliferation of invasive species in the Senegal River's delta, in particular *Salvinia molesta*, which was accidentally introduced in 1999, and *Typha australis*. At the request of the State Party, the Committee at its 24th session inscribed the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger, approved emergency assistance of US\$ 130,000 to tackle the problem of invasive species in the delta and called on other donors to support this action. In November 2002, IUCN Senegal reported on the development of the project established in 2000 between the Park's scientific committee and the Royal Tropical Institute of the Netherlands. The project included the implementation of mechanical and biological control of *Salvinia molesta*. Mechanical protective measures (floating barriers, tight-mesh nets) were put in place by the end of 2000. Biological control consisted of the introduction of an insect *Cyrtobagus salviniae*, the natural enemy to the *Salvinia molesta*. In a report on the execution of phases 1 and 2 of the emergency assistance programme, dated February 2003, the State Party confirms that the problem of the invasion of *Salvinia molesta* can be considered as resolved but that there is a need for further monitoring by a special unit so that in the future, rapid intervention measures could be implemented whenever necessary. The State Party also notes that the uncontrolled development of

vegetation, the filling up of open waters and the increasing salinity of soils are changing the ecosystem and might threaten in the future the conservation of the site.

IUCN confirms that after the release of *Cyrtobagus salviniae* in areas bordering the Park and in the whole delta, *Salvinia molesta* has been reduced to an acceptably low level. Accordingly, it no longer represents a threat to the Park and the delta in general. However, IUCN points out that *Typha australis* and *Eichhornia crassipes* are major problems in the site, and require urgent attention and action. IUCN therefore notes that additional information is required about the surface affected by these species and clarification of the actual problems (specifically related to *Typha australis*) and remarks that in order to control *Typha australis*, biological control measures might not be adequate, as the potential of these measures needs further exploration and research.

Since the *Salvinia* problem is under control, the Centre in consultation with the State Party accepted to use the remaining budget under the emergency assistance grant to assist the Site management and the National Direction of National Parks to acquire vehicles and administrative material, which will improve the capacity of the State Party to react more swiftly to emergency situation. Part of the grant is also used to apply some management measures in favour of waterfowl.

IUCN:

The new information provided above has been proposed on a consensual basis between IUCN and the Centre.

Issues:

Agriculture Pressure; Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of monitoring system; Lack of human or financial resources; Fundamental change/diminution of protection.

Draft Decision:

Draft 27 COM 7 (a) 6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Commends the State Party and associated partners for their efforts to control *Salvinia molesta* in a cost effective manner and notes that savings made in the project funds are being used for strengthening State Party capacity to protect the site and implement measures benefiting the conservation of waterfowl;
2. Requests the State Party to continue cooperating with IUCN, the Centre, the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and other relevant partners in carrying out an urgent assessment of the scale and threat of *Typha australis* and *Eichhornia crassipes* to the site and in finding successful control measures to reduce the spread of these species to an acceptable level. The IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group, which already assisted in the case of *Salvinia molesta*, would be willing to provide technical support for this work at the request of the State Party;
3. Recommends that the Centre, IUCN, the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and the State Party advise the

twenty-eighth session of the Committee on possible benchmarks and timeframes that could facilitate the Committee deliberations on the possible removal of the Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary from the List of World Heritage in Danger;

4. Decides to retain the Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

7. Rwenzori Mountains National Park (Uganda)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1999

Criteria: N (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

The site has received a total sum of US\$ 32,249 for technical support activities and US\$64,000 as emergency assistance.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th session of the Committee – Chapter VIII.56

25th session of the Bureau – Chapter V.57 – V.59

New Information:

WHC:

A joint UNESCO/IUCN mission visited Uganda from 5 – 11 January 2003 to assess the state of conservation of the Rwenzori Mountains National Park World Heritage site, at the request of the 25th session of the World Heritage Committee (December 2001). The report of this mission, in English only, is available for consultation by States Parties.

The mission considered the overall integrity of the site, and found the following characteristics:

- The boundary of the site is virtually intact but some sections are poorly defined;
- Incidence of poaching as indicated by monitoring and patrol records is low with the possible exception of the southern parts of the park where the possible presence of landmines inhibits patrols.
- The population sizes of some mammalian species are reduced. A small population of elephants (less than 10 individuals) remains. Buffalo disappeared from the site before its World Heritage designation. There are indications that there is a reduced range of duikers to higher elevations;
- The amount and duration of snow cover, and the extent of glaciers has been progressively reduced;
- There is an increased visitor impact, especially on the central hiking circuit;
- Management staff is in control of the site;
- No security forces are occupying any part of the site;
- There is no illegal occupation of the site.

The mission concluded that the integrity of the site had not been significantly impacted by activities during the period in which it has been listed as World Heritage in Danger. The conditions that resulted in the site being inscribed on

the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1999 had improved dramatically. However, the integrity of the site remains vulnerable due to a number of threats, which if not managed or controlled could potentially adversely impact the integrity of the site. These include:

- Progressive isolation of the site from the surrounding landscape, apart from the north where the North Rwenzori Forest Reserve provides an ecological corridor through to lower altitudes. This has interrupted the ecological gradients from the higher slopes to the lower slopes, and has impeded or will impede in the future the movement of biota along these gradients, and possibly have impacts on long-term resilience of the site to climate change;
- A growing and predominantly poor human population living in areas adjacent to the site resulting in a continuation of consumptive use of natural resources and extensive cultivation that is progressively reducing the extent of previously undisturbed natural habitat in areas outside of the boundary of the Park;
- Increasing impacts of tourism, concentrated in certain key locations resulting in localised adverse impacts that affect some important values of the site, including wetlands;
- Global warming resulting in a progressive decline of the extent of glaciers, quantity and frequency of snow cover;
- Flooding and landslides towards the sites boundary due to vegetation clearing and cultivation. Flooding at lower levels has been attributed by local people to the protected area rather than to the destructive land-use on steep slopes, creating dissatisfaction among communities and authorities with the existence of the Park;
- Potential insecurity due to remaining pockets of rebel activities in the sub-region, although not in the site itself. There remains uncertainty regarding the precise location of anti-personnel weapons such as landmines within the site, although no evidence was provided that confirmed that there were ever landmines placed within the site;
- Increasing demand for land for development, which might result in increased pressure and encroachment in the future.

The mission found that the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and its partners were aware of these threats and had identified, where possible, measures to avoid or contain them. The ability to achieve this was impeded by the situation of insecurity that prevailed over the period 1997 to 2001, and the lack of resources to enable effective management. The mission noted that the State Party would need to give the area more financial support if the management of the site is to be effectively carried out, in accordance with the obligations of the State Party under the World Heritage Convention. It is also clear that the site requires greater financial and technical assistance from external sources, to ensure that the essential management actions are identified and implemented.

The mission made 18 recommendations to the State Party on issues relating to security, the extent of the site, institutional and policy issues, the management framework, the boundary demarcation, staff capacity, infrastructure, community interaction, communication with other authorities and tourism. Among those 18 recommendations, the following are the most important to the Committee's considerations regarding the possible removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- Site staff are to engage with the Security forces to declare key areas for tourism as landmine free zones;
- UWA should rapidly examine staffing, infrastructure and budgetary deficiencies at the site to restore management effectiveness at a level justified by its World Heritage status;
- The development of a Management Plan should be pursued as a matter of priority using an integrated approach. The Management Plan should include an assessment of staff training needs and requirements and a revised tourism strategy;
- Park management should monitor and evaluate the key issues of tourism, resource sharing and movement of people across the Park boundary in accordance with the monitoring plan developed in the USAID/WWF project prior to 1998;
- The completion of the boundary marking should be taken on as a priority activity, enlisting Local Council structures support to ensure the greatest possible acceptance by the community and authorities. A map indicating the precise surveyed and marked boundary should be compiled and lodged with the World Heritage Centre;
- The programme to establish Community Protected Area Institutions should be implemented as soon as possible;
- An analysis should be conducted of the manner in which climbing is undertaken in the site and how to reduce the environmental impacts of climbing expeditions.

The mission also recommends to develop trans-boundary cooperation with the adjacent Virunga National Park in DRC and to investigate the possibility of extending the site to the North Rwenzori Forest Reserve.

IUCN:

The new information provided above has been proposed on a consensual basis between IUCN and the Centre.

Issues:

Tourism Pressure; Agriculture Pressure; Logging; Poaching/Hunting; Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of monitoring system; Lack of Presentation and interpretation; Lack of human or financial resources; Armed conflict; Civil unrest.

Draft Decision:

Draft 27 COM 7 (a) 7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Noting that IUCN believes that the site's conditions have improved substantially since it was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1999 and that the State Party is showing increased commitment to the conservation of the site;
2. Commends the Uganda Wildlife Authority for the improvements to the management of the site and their efforts to protect the site in times of instability;
3. Invites the State Party to consider according a greater level of financial support to ensure the minimum level of effective site management, while also working with partners to seek further financial and technical support from external sources, especially for the development and implementation of a Management Plan for the site;
4. Recommends that the State Party establish cooperation between site staff and security forces to map out landmine-free zones for tourism in the Park; if necessary, the State Party may request the Chairperson of the Committee to approve modest financial assistance from the World Heritage Fund;
5. Recommends the State Party submit a report addressing the UNESCO/IUCN mission recommendations and describing benchmarks and timeframes for monitoring progress in implementation of mission recommendations to the 28th session of the Committee to enable the it to consider removing the Rwenzori Mountain National Park from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
6. Decides to retain the Rwenzori Mountains National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

ARAB STATES

8. Ichkeul National Park (Tunisia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1980

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996

Criteria: N (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

Ichkeul National Park has so far been provided with US\$ 50,000 for technical support and training activities and a sum of US\$ 50,000 as emergency assistance in 2002, including organizing a workshop to define indicators, benchmarks and other components of scientific monitoring programme for the Park.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (a) 6

25th session of the Committee – Chapter – CIII.53 - 55

25th session of the Bureau – Chapter V.51 – V.56

New Information:

WHC:

Representatives of IUCN and the Station Biologique de la Tour du Valat (Wetland Research and Conservation Centre, France) visited Tunisia from 17 to 23 June 2002. Their mission was to prepare an institutional framework and work plan for IUCN's assistance to the State Party under the US\$50 000 grant for emergency assistance approved by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee on April 9, 2002. During this mission, IUCN agreed to provide technical support to the State Party in organising a workshop to launch the process for the sustainable development and conservation of the Ichkeul catchment and lake, and in establishing a mutually agreed programme for monitoring the results of the rehabilitation plan for the Ichkeul Lake ecosystem.

The mission documented the following actions launched by the Agence Nationale de Protection de l'Environnement (ANPE):

- Rehabilitation and mechanization of the Tindja sluice gate (to be completed in mid 2003);
- Establishment of hydrological and meteorological monitoring stations in major tributary rivers and the lake (completed);
- Confirmation of GEF support for a six year US\$2.2 million project to assist in the development of a participatory management plan, and for updating the hydrological model (started in latter half of 2002);
- Bathymetric/topographic surveys of Tindja Channel and Joumine / Melah marshes to assist planning of water release (to be started in latter half of 2002); and,
- Establishment of a bio-physical monitoring programme (on-going).

The mission also learned about the construction of three additional dams on the Ichkeul catchment. One of the objectives of the dams is inter-annual water storage for release to Ichkeul during dry years, but the viability of this still has to be tested with the hydrological model.

As requested by the Committee's decision 26 COM 21(a) 6 taken in Budapest, Hungary, in June 2002, the workshop to launch the rehabilitation programme was held on 28 and 29 January 2003. IUCN worked closely with the MedWet Coordinator (Ramsar Convention), the Tour du Valat Research Station, and the French Research Institute for Development (IRD) to present recommendations to the workshop related to the future restoration work, including the establishment of indicators, benchmarks and a timetable for the scientific monitoring process and the development of a Management Plan. Principal conclusions of the workshop included:

- Confirmation of the need to reinforce the management structure for the Park. In the report of the workshop it is observed that as part of the implementation of the GEF project, the creation of an autonomous and permanent management structure,

that takes into consideration the specificities of Ichkeul and the sustainability of its values, with appropriate decision making powers needs to be established.

- Recommendation that the Tunisian authorities should guarantee the release of 80-120 million cubic meters of water annually from upstream dams. In the closing session of the workshop, the authorities for the hydraulic resources management in Tunisia informed that it has recently decided to consider the Ichkeul National Park as a water "consumer" for whom regular quantities of water must be ensured. This is a significant decision showing that the State Party is committed to make the necessary water resources available for maintaining the ecological integrity of the Park and ensure the effective preservation of the site;
- Elaboration of local Agenda 21 strategy that will ensure the necessary integration of the Ichkeul National Park management into regional ecological and socio-economic processes is foreseen. The strategy will acknowledge and sustain Ichkeul's role as one of the motors driving regional development. The creation of a "committee 21" to pursue this process was recommended by the workshop.
- Presentation by the Chief of Project during the workshop of a GEF/World Bank project to prepare a management plan included indicators for monitoring the performance of the project. Some of those indicators may be adapted to be included in the monitoring programme for measuring the success of the rehabilitation of Ichkeul National Park. Two types of indicators have been considered, scientific and technical. Scientific indicators include the establishment of populations of *Potamogeton*, an important plant for migratory bird feeding; and increase of the cover of *Sirpaies* by 50%. Technical indicators include: 100% of the permanent staff of the Park provided refresher training; increasing sensitivity of local communities to water management issues from a baseline of 25% to 70% of the population during a period of 5 years;
- 50% of the local communities to be trained in aspects related to the management of the Park etc.

IUCN considers that the outcome of the workshop and the commitment of the State Party to establish a monitoring programme for the rehabilitation of Ichkeul Lake have been commendable. Fortunately, the winter of 2002-2003 has been particularly wet, and this has allowed the lake to fill and flush out the salt accumulated over four years of recent drought. The return of the numbers of migratory birds to Ichkeul has also significantly increased compared to recent years of low rainfall. IUCN notes that the restoration of the site in the long term however, depends on water resources, about 80 to 120 millions cubic metres being released from dams on an annual basis. The decision of the Secretary of State for Water Resources confirming the State Party's commitment to this annual release as and when needed in future years is therefore awaited.

IUCN:

The new information provided above has been proposed on a consensual basis between IUCN and the Centre.

Issues:

Agriculture Pressure, Fishing; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation), Lack of monitoring system, Lack of institution coordination

Draft Decision:

Draft 27 COM 7 (a) 8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Commends the State Party for successfully convening the workshop and demonstrating strong commitment to the rehabilitation of the Ichkeul Lake National Park;
2. Urges the Secretary of State for Water Resource to write to the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee confirming that the authorities for hydraulic resources management in Tunisia will consider the Ichkeul National Park as a water “consumer” and committing to annual releases of 80 to 120 million cubic metres of water, as requested by point 2 of the recommendations of the workshop and indicating the expected date of completion of the construction of necessary infrastructure of dams and canals to enable such releases as and when needed;
3. Invites the State Party to create an autonomous and permanent management structure, that takes into consideration the specificities of Ichkeul and the sustainability of its values, with appropriate decision-making powers, and “Committee 21” for elaborating a local Agenda 21 as requested in the recommendations;
4. Recommends that IUCN and the Centre co-operate with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and other partners to ensure timely and effective implementation of the GEF/World Bank Project to prepare a participatory management plan for the Park;
5. Urges the State Party to continue implementing the restoration programmes for Ichkeul Lake and co-operate with IUCN, the Centre and the Ramsar Convention Secretariat to annually review the progress;
6. Requests the Centre and IUCN to co-operate with the State Party and other partners to submit annual reports of the outcome of Ichkeul National Park rehabilitation, clearly highlighting the scientific and technical improvements put in place, threats and limitations to effective rehabilitation of Ichkeul Lake and any changes in benchmarks and indicators that were identified in the January 2003 workshop financed by the World Heritage Fund;
7. Decides to retain the Ichkeul National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

ASIA-PACIFIC

9. Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1985

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in

Danger: 1992

Criteria: N (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

US\$ 270,000 for equipment, infrastructure rehabilitation and community support activities as part of the implementation of a 3-year rehabilitation plan begun in mid-1997.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (a) 4

25th session of the Committee – Chapter – VIII.44 – VIII.45

25th session of the Bureau – Chapter V.38 – V.41

New Information:

WHC:

A UN Foundation planning grant project for preparing a World Heritage Biodiversity Programme for India (WHBPI) is currently under implementation and a draft project document is expected to be finalized before the end of April 2003. The project document is being prepared by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment (ATREE) and is co-ordinated by the overall co-ordination of a Committee comprising representatives from Government, NGO and the private sector. A staff member from the UN Foundation is expected to be in New Delhi in early May to discuss the development of WHBPI which will include, amongst others, proposals for supporting the conservation of the Manas World Heritage site. While the project document on WHBPI is likely to be finalized before the end of June 2003, fundraising for the execution of WHBPI is expected to require time and efforts till the end of 2003. The Centre, in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) in New Delhi, WII, ATREE, UNF and other concerned partners is following the preparation of the WHBPI and hopes to ensure that the recommendations of the IUCN Mission in early 2002, and the decision 21 (a) 4 of the 26th session of the Committee for strengthening conservation, are fully taken into consideration in proposing activities in and around the Manas Wildlife Sanctuary World Heritage site.

IUCN:

The new information provided above has been proposed on a consensual basis between IUCN and the World Heritage Centre.

Issues:

Poaching/Hunting; Armed conflict; Civil unrest.

Draft Decision:

Draft 27 COM 7 (a) 9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Commends the Indian Government and partner institutes and research bodies for its efforts in preparing a World Heritage Biodiversity Programme for India with support for project preparation from the UN Foundation;
2. Invites the State Party to submit a report on the possible financing and execution of the Programme, including the implementation measures recommended by the 26th session of the Committee and the IUCN mission of early 2002 for the conservation of Manas, to the 28th session of the Committee in 2004; and
3. Decides to retain Manas Wildlife Sanctuary on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

EUROPE / NORTH AMERICA

10. Srebarna Nature Reserve (Bulgaria)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1983

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992

Criteria: N (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

The site has received a total sum of US\$ 56,000 for technical cooperation and training activities.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (a) 1

25th session of the Committee - Chapter VIII.6-VIII.8

25th session of the Bureau - Chapter V.6 and V.7

New Information:

WHC:

Following the findings of the mission to the site from 1 to 4 October 2001 presented to the 25th session of the Committee, the 26th session of the Committee decided that the site be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger, effective from the date at which the State Party submits to the Centre, IUCN and the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, a copy of the approved management plan, and a statement committing the necessary resources for the timely implementation of the plan. However, no information was received from the State Party despite reminder letters.

IUCN:

The approved action plan has not yet been submitted to the Centre, IUCN or the Ramsar Convention Secretariat for review. Following the recommendations of the UNESCO / IUCN / Ramsar Secretariat monitoring mission to the site in October 2001, the Committee at its 26th session, also recommended to the State Party to purchase a portable electric generator to ensure the rapid closure of the sluice gates in order to minimize the threats of contamination to the site from any potential future chemical spills in the Danube River at high water. No information is available on whether the State Party has taken any measures related

to this issue. IUCN remains concerned about the efficiency of the current infrastructure to protect the site against possible toxic spills in the Danube River. IUCN recommends the Committee to urge the State Party to purchase a portable electric generator to enable rapid closure of the sluice gates in a potential emergency situation. The Committee may wish to encourage the State Party to seek technical assistance from the World Heritage Fund to purchase such equipment if required.

Issues:

Lack of management mechanism (including legislation);
Lack of monitoring system.

Additional Details:

Lake rehabilitation and assessment of rehabilitation success; management plan finalization and adoption; and transborder cooperation with other States Parties sharing the Danube River.

Draft Decision:

Draft 27 COM 7 (a) 10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Expresses concern about the lack of response from the State Party;
2. Encourages the State Party to request, if necessary, technical assistance from the World Heritage Fund to urgently purchase a portable electric generator to enable rapid closure of the sluice gates in a potential emergency situation;
3. Urges the State Party to finalize the management plan and confirm its adoption by the Government and to submit a calendar of activities for preparing a proposal for a transborder World Heritage area in the Danube Delta in cooperation with other concerned States Parties;
4. Decides to retain the Srebarna Nature Reserve on the List of World Heritage in Danger, until the State Party submits the approved management plan and a statement committing the necessary resources for its implementation.

11. Everglades National Park (United States of America)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1993

Criteria: N (i) (ii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (a) 7

25th session of the Committee – Chapter VIII.57 – VIII.58

25th session of the Bureau – Chapter V

New Information:

WHC:

The State Party provided a report by the US Department of the Interior dated 17 April 2003, which reviews point by point the issues and threats, which led to the inclusion of the site on the Danger List. These are:

1. Alterations of the hydrological regime and impacts from adjacent urban growth, including reduced water levels from flood control operations. The report lists and briefly describes several projects that have been ongoing in order to try to save the remaining Everglades and restore some of their natural pre-drainage functioning:

- The Canal 111 series of projects will help facilitate a larger volume of water through Taylor Slough and into northeast Florida Bay. Work has been completed on the removal of portions of the old Park road from Anhinga Trail east to the Park boundary to further facilitate water flows. The report highlights that two of the five pump stations have been completed. In addition, the Canal 111's supplemental Corps plan has implemented over the last four years special emergency water management actions to protect the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow.
- The Northeast Shark Slough project may be critical to the survival of several endangered species, including the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow, whose population has declined dramatically. As of April 2003, approximately 98% of the total authorised acreage in the East Everglades addition are either in public ownership, condemnation, or have been referred for Declaration of Taking. It is estimated that sufficient funds have been provided to complete the remaining acquisitions.
- The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) incorporates 68 individual projects focusing on the whole of South Florida, including Everglades National Park. The State Party estimated it would take more than 30 years for projects to be completed.
- The Critical Ecosystem Studies Initiative (CESI) aims at providing scientific information for restoration processes. The CESI programme is currently refocusing from research and development to model applications and data collection in order to support the evaluation of the CERP and related restoration projects.

2. Increased nutrient pollution from agricultural activities. Water quality remains a concern in all restoration projects. To date, more than 16,000 hectares of filtration wetlands are completed, or nearing completion, to cleanse agricultural runoff from northern fields. According to the "Everglades Forever Act" water released into the Everglades by 2006, must contain a limited phosphorous level. The Secretary of the Interior and the Governor of Florida supported the suggestion of the scientists that a maximum level of 10 parts per billion of phosphorous is required to restore and maintain a healthy aquatic system.

3. The ecological deterioration of Florida Bay. With generally wetter weather conditions in south Florida since

1994, relatively more fresh water has reached Florida Bay. As a result, water salinity lowered and there have been reductions in the sizes of algae blooms. The report states these conditions help in the planned restoration of natural water flow regimes throughout the Park.

IUCN:

The new information provided above has been proposed on a consensual basis between IUCN and the Centre.

Issues:

Urban Pressure; Agriculture Pressure.

Additional Details:

Land acquisition and other rehabilitation measures to restore and maintain wetland ecosystem integrity and World Heritage values; elaboration of monitoring plan with benchmarks and indicators that can guide Committee decisions on removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision:

Draft 27 COM 7 (a) 11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Notes the detailed report by the State Party provided on 17 April 2003 and acknowledges the effort and commitment from the State Party in addressing key management problems,

2. Invites the State Party to co-operate with the Centre and IUCN to prepare a report for submission to the 28th session of the Committee in 2004, describing the steps State Party intends to take to develop and implement action plans and define parameters and conditions to monitor progress in the restoration of the site, with a view to facilitating the Committee's future considerations for removing this site from the List of World Heritage in Danger,

3. Decides to retain the Everglades National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger, as requested by the State Party.

12. Yellowstone (United States of America)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1978

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1995

Criteria: N (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21(a) 8

25th session of the Committee – Chapter VIII.59 – VIII.60

25th session of the Bureau – Chapter V

New Information:

WHC:

The State Party provided a state of conservation report dated 17 April 2003, in which it requests the Committee consider removing the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The report provided the following information:

1. **Mining activities.** The State Party reported that the mining proposal at the site adjacent to the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness area (Gallatin National Forest) and Yellowstone National Park was abandoned and that most of the property was transferred to public domain. Cleanup of toxic materials from past mining started in 2000 and is expected to take seven years. The McLaren tailings, which are outside of the Yellowstone, were left out of the cleanup agreement and, while the tailings have stabilized and water quality inside the Park has improved, the Park continues efforts to have them removed and the site restored.

2. **Threats to bison.** In 2000, Yellowstone National Park, State of Montana, US Forest Service, USDA Plant and Animal Health Inspection Service co-signed a joint Bison Management Plan that agreed to maintain wildlife populations and manage the risk of transmission of *Brucella* infection from bison to cattle. The Plan has been successfully implemented for two years. Discussions and research are underway to consider ways to eventually eliminate *brucellosis* from wildlife in the Greater Yellowstone Area while maintaining wild and free ranging wildlife herds.

3. **Threats to cutthroat trout.** In 1994, predatory non-native lake trout were discovered in Yellowstone Lake threatening the existence of the rare, endemic Yellowstone cutthroat trout, plus 42 other native birds and mammals that depend on them for their own survival. Experts on these fish species concluded that no technology is known to eradicate lake trout. The best that could be implemented for long-term suppression of lake trout was the annual deployment of "industrial strength gillnetting". Since 1995, gillnetting fishing effort has resulted in the destruction of approximately 56,000 adult and juvenile lake trout. Catch-per-unit-effort declined in 2003 for the first year giving biologists hope that exploitation was beginning to affect the population, but this must be consistent for the next 3 -5 years before definitive conclusions can be made.

4. **Water quality issues.** All of the Park's fuel storage tanks have been replaced with new double-walled liquid tanks or with more environmentally friendly propane gas tanks. While the facilities with the biggest problems have been (or are being) replaced, a backlog of smaller wastewater facilities remain in Yellowstone and will be replaced or updated in the future as funds are available.

5. **Road impacts.** Since 1995, much has been accomplished in upgrading the existing road system, but it is a slow process because of the short construction season and the fact that reconstruction must be reasonably compatible with summer visitors. An annual funded

programme of complete bed and/or surface replacement is expected to continue through 2017.

6. **Visitor use impacts.** The completion of an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a new winter use management plan and a Record of Decision in 2000, called for phasing out snowmobile use over a three year period, and replacing them with non-polluting, mass transit snow coaches. This decision was challenged in federal court and a supplemental EIS (SEIS) had to be prepared. The final SEIS was released in February 2003, while the Record of Decision was signed on 25 March 2003. The National Parks Service decision allows for continued snowmobile use under strict limitations, establishing daily use limits, requiring the use of the new cleaner and quieter four cycle machines, and requiring snowmobile parties to be guided. The report states that the Park has focused on development of partnerships that have encouraged use of alternate fuels for transportation and facilities.

IUCN:

The new information provided above has been proposed on a consensual basis between IUCN and the Centre.

Issues:

Tourism Pressure.

Additional Details:

Tourism regulation; control of wildlife infection; invasive species eradication and control.

Draft Decision:

Draft 27 COM 7 (a) 12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Notes the detailed report by the State Party provided on 17 April 2003;

2. Urges the State Party to continue to report on Yellowstone's snowmobile phase-out and other efforts to ensure that winter travel facilities respect the protection of the Park, its visitors, and its wildlife;

3. Recommends the State Party continue its efforts in ensuring that the McLaren Mine tailings are not contaminating the site;

4. Recognizes the progress made in addressing all the key issues that led to Danger Listing of the site in 1995 and considers that the reasons for retaining the site on this List no longer exist;

5. Congratulates the State Party for the considerable efforts and suggests to use this as a model case for promoting success stories of the World Heritage Convention and for international cooperation with other States Parties facing similar problems in World Heritage properties;

6. *Decides to remove the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

LATIN AMERICA / CARIBBEAN

13. Sangay National Park (Ecuador)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1983

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992

Criteria: N (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

The site has received a total sum of US\$ 58,500 for equipment, community awareness building and staff training.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th session of the Committee – Chapter VIII.29

25th session of the Bureau – Chapter V.28

New Information:

WHC:

In a letter dated 6 February 2003, the Centre requested the State Party to submit a report on the conservation of the site. To date, no report has been received.

Sangay National Park is one of the sites included in the UN Foundation (UNF) financed IUCN/UNESCO pilot project “Enhancing Our Heritage: Monitoring and Managing for Success in World Natural Heritage Sites” (abbreviated as EOH Project). At its 25th session, the Committee requested to receive regular progress reports on the activities of the project. The project was developed in 2001 and the first phase of implementation commenced in April 2002. The project management in cooperation with the IUCN Regional Office for South America, organized two national workshops in order to discuss the development of indicators and benchmarks to monitor changes in the state of conservation of this site, as well as linking the monitoring with the timing of the possible removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The project report shows that various inventories and studies needed for developing such benchmarks and indicators are currently absent; they include: biological inventories, archaeological resources, socio-economic studies, stakeholders analysis, land tenure information, necessary budget for the adequate management of the Park, etc.

The key strengths and weaknesses in management identified by the project include:

- In general the national legislation provides an adequate legal framework for the protected area. There are however several laws and sector policies that threaten the integrity of the area through the promotion of incompatible activities.

- The zoning plan was designed and implemented without field verification or community consultation; subsequently there are several problems, including unresolved land tenure conflicts in the northern and southern Andean zones of the site.
- Land tenure information remains incomplete and there are no strategies in place to resolve conflicts.
- The Park’s management plan is generally ineffective and problematic. It is out of date and lacks indicators for analysing implementation and accomplishments. Local communities and Park staff lack familiarity with it, and the annual operations plan and monthly work plan are not guided by it.
- Staff deficiencies are prevalent. The management capacity of the protected area is reduced due to insufficient staff numbers, skills and knowledge.
- Deforestation is a problem in the Amazon zone of the site due to human settlements within and around the Park. Inappropriate agricultural practices, grazing activities, fishing and hunting within the park all contribute to this. However, a habitat quality assessment showed the natural vegetation of the Park is generally in good condition.
- Enforcement limitations and institutional weakness reduce the capacity of the management authority.

Key priority needs identified through the management evaluation process include:

- Urgent update and revision of the management plan of the site.
- Development of a community liaison programme focusing on conflict resolution and building partnerships is needed to improve relations between the Park staff and the communities resident in and around the Park.
- Development of the staff capacity in the management of the Park, including maintenance, monitoring, conflict resolution and enforcement.
- Increased resources for operational costs and maintenance in the highlands where administration and implementation of services are unsatisfactory.
- Sustainable development needs to be addressed through the development of an education programme and an alternative revenue generating strategy including a feasibility study of alternative income generation options.
- A detailed socio-economic study of the communities within and near the Park should be prepared.

IUCN notes that Fundacion Natura, in conjunction with EcoCiencia and the Ministry of Environment, coordinates the evaluation process of the EOH Project. The project report includes results of the Fundacion Natura’s Sangay Project, originally presented in a document “Evaluacion de Eficiencia de Manejo del Parque Nacional Sangay” in 2002. The Sangay Project showed that the construction of a segment of the Guamote – Macas road in the Park threatens the integrity of the site and to mitigate this threat an intensified social and environmental monitoring and enforcement efforts are required.

IUCN:

The new information provided above has been proposed on a consensual basis between IUCN and the Centre.

Issues:

Agriculture Pressure; Logging; Overflights; Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of monitoring system; Lack of human or financial resources; Lack of institution coordination; Fundamental change/diminution of protection.

Draft Decision:

Draft 27 COM 7 (a) 13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Expresses satisfaction with the progress made by the IUCN/UNESCO/UNF Project “Enhancing Our Heritage”;

2. Commends the State Party for its cooperation with this project and urges the State Party to continue this collaboration in order to improve protection of the site;

3. Recommends that the State Party work closely with the coordinator of the project “Enhancing Our Heritage” and Fundacion Natura in order to seek appropriate funding for the revision of the management plan as a priority, and for the participatory development of a community liaison and a capacity building programme;

4. Expresses concern on the fact that the Guamate- Macas road continues to threaten the integrity of the site and urges the State Party to consider all possible mitigation measures to reduce the impacts of the road on the site;

5. Recommends that the State Party in co-operation with the coordinators of the EOH and the Fundacion Natura projects, provide a detailed update on the state of conservation of Sangay, including benchmarks and indicators that may be useful in deciding the timing of the removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger for review at the 28th session of the Committee in 2004; and

6. Decides to retain the Sangay National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

14. Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1982

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996

Criteria: N (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

The site has so far received a total sum of US\$ 190,025 for technical co-operation and for supporting training activities.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th session of the Committee – Chapter VIII.42 – VIII.43
25th session of the Bureau – Chapter V.36 – V.37

New Information:

WHC:

Rio Plátano Biosphere Reserve is another of the pilot sites included in the UNESCO/IUCN project “Enhancing Our Heritage: Monitoring and Managing for Success in World Natural Heritage Sites” (EOH Project), financed by UNF. In relation to the implementation of this project, IUCN Regional Office for Meso-America and the Protected Areas and Wildlife Department (DAPVS) organized a workshop in Tegucigalpa from 5 to 8 February 2002. The main outputs of the workshop include: a better understanding of the project and the management effectiveness framework, identification of the detailed schedule for the first year of the project, and expression of interest by GTZ to integrate its Project Biosphere (Proyecto Biosfera) into the EOH Project.

IUCN received a report on the initial assessment that was implemented under the EOH project. This report, prepared by the State Forest Administration (SFA) noted that a number of problems are still affecting the integrity of this site, such as: (a) immigration flow to colonize areas around the site; (b) agricultural and cattle raising activities by local communities within the site’s boundaries which are leading to forest destruction and subsequent erosion of wetlands and dunes within this site; (c) illegal logging and hunting, and; (d) introduction of non-native species, such as *Tilapia sp* in a number of rivers. The report also asserts that the State Party has continued its efforts to improve conservation of the site by increasing financial support for the management of the site, commencing the implementation of the Master Plan for the site and by increasing institutional presence of the Reserve’s management authority.

The site is also a pilot site for the UNF-funded project “Linking Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Tourism at World Heritage Sites”. The project is assisting the protected area administration in tourism planning and is providing guidance on how tourism can be used as an economic alternative to extractive resources. Training in micro-enterprise development is taking place in a number of communities, while nature guide training is in the process of planning. A monitoring programme is in place to track how project interventions will impact identified site threats. A representative of the site participated in a meeting to discuss sustainable financing of World Heritage sites held at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, from 28 to 30 April 2003.

Reports from various sources indicate that encroachment continues to be a serious problem in the southern and western part of the site. In a letter dated 7 February 2003, the Centre requested the State Party for more information on the state of conservation of the site and the follow up on the recommendations presented by the UNESCO/IUCN

mission of November 2000. No reply has been received from the State Party so far. It needs to be noted that the UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission report recommended a follow-up evaluation mission to be held in 2003 in order to examine progress in management and the protection of the site and to consider possible removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

IUCN:

The new information provided above has been proposed on a consensual basis between IUCN and the Centre.

Issues:

Agriculture Pressure; Logging; Poaching/Hunting; Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of human and financial resources; Lack of institution coordination

Draft Decision:

Draft 27 COM 7 (a) 14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Expresses satisfaction with the work being carried out to assist site management under the EOH Project and the Sustainable Tourism and Biodiversity Conservation Project, both financed by the UNF;

2. Commends the State Party for its efforts to continue to improve management of the site;

3. Recommends that the State Party invites an IUCN/Centre mission to the site in 2003/2004, as recommended by the earlier mission in 2000 in order to systematically assess progress and establish benchmarks and timeframes that may facilitate the removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger; and

4. Decides to retain the Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

B. CULTURAL HERITAGE

AFRICA

15. Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1985

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1985

Criteria: C (iii) (iv)

International assistance:

In 2000, US\$ 40,000 under Technical Assistance and US\$ 20,000 for Training Assistance.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

Eighteenth session of the Committee para.IV.1.
Nineteenth session of the Bureau para VII.25

Nineteenth session of the Committee para VI.21

Twenty-first session of the Committee para VII.24

Twenty-second session of the Committee para VII.15

New information:

WHC:

The World Heritage Centre has been informed by the Cultural Heritage Division of the Culture Sector of UNESCO of the rehabilitation work currently going on in the Royal Palaces of Abomey in the King Behanzin's Palace.

These activities include: inventory, drainage, earthworks, restoration, re-building of sections of surrounding walls on site, and theoretical and practical training for 15 craftsmen on: building and bas-reliefs, framework and roofing techniques, and maintenance techniques.

One of the Royal Palaces of Abomey, King Behanzin's Palace is not included within the perimeter inscribed on the World Heritage List. However, the authorities of Benin envisage requesting the enlargement of this perimeter in order to include this palace, as soon as it has been restored. King Behanzin's Palace symbolises and synthesises three centuries of Danxomè's history, a history that shows relationships between Europe, Africa and America.

Draft Decision:

Draft 27 COM 7 (a) 15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Noting that the World Heritage Site of Royal Palace of Abomey could potentially be extended to include King Behanzin's Palace;

2. Invites the State Party and the World Heritage Centre to study the feasibility of extending the Royal Palaces of Abomey to include the King Behanzin's Palace.

16. Timbuktu (Mali)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1988

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1990

Criteria: C (ii), (vi), (v)

Previous international assistance:

In 1989, US \$5,500 under Preparatory Assistance for inscription to the World Heritage List in Danger;
In 1991, US \$45,000 under Technical Cooperation;
In 1995, US \$15,500 under Technical Cooperation for restoration of the three mosques;
In 1996, US \$40,000 under Technical Cooperation.

Previous Bureau/Committee deliberations:

18th session of the Committee (IV.1)

19th session of the Bureau (D.3.1)

19th session of the Committee (IV.1)

Issues:

Urban development pressure; Lack of capacities in presentation/interpretation; Lack of capacities in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism; Lack of awareness.

New information:

WHC:

The mosques of Timbuktu are one of the World Heritage sites that have been evaluated during the periodic reporting exercise for Africa. The three mosques of Sankore, Djingareyber and Sidi Yaya were placed in the list of World Heritage in Danger in 1990. While *in situ* actions have been on going since 1994 to improve their state of conservation, the old city of Timbuktu continues to face tremendous urban development pressures, insufficient awareness of urban heritage values, and difficulties to promote tourism.

In order to evaluate the situation, the World Heritage Centre was able to send a UNESCO mission to Timbuktu in 2002. The mission was organized within the Joint Declaration on Cooperation for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage between the Italian Government and UNESCO. The mission report highlighted the following problems facing Timbuktu old town:

- Lack of a conservation and management plan for three World heritage sites;
- Deterioration of the historic urban fabric;
- Problems of boundaries delimitation and buffer zones for the three mosques;
- Insufficient awareness programs among local population and religious authorities on urban heritage conservation.

Based on the above, the mission recommended a number of complementary activities, which aim at safeguarding the old town and the three mosques as one entity:

- Organization of two workshops in Timbuktu on management plans elaboration of Malian World Heritage sites and on restoration of African earthen urban fabric;
- Elaborate in partnership with Malian authorities, a management plan to define the long-term conservation objectives of the mosques including conservation of the historic town values;
- Organization of a pilot work site for restoration of a sample of urban fabric;
- Rehabilitation and improvement of access to mausoleums and cemeteries.

Finally, within the Africa 2009 Programme training activities, a professional working for the Cultural Mission of Timbuktu attended in 2000, in Benin, the 2nd Regional Course on Site Management and Conservation of immovable cultural heritage.

Draft Decision:

Draft 27 COM 7 (a) 16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Noting the report of the UNESCO mission undertaken in 2002, and the recommendations aiming at safeguarding Timbuktu old town and the three mosques inscribed in the World Heritage List in Danger;
2. Thanking the Italian government for its support towards the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Africa;
3. Recalling the nomination dossier's ICOMOS evaluation of 1987, recommending to envisage the inclusion of the Timbuktu old town to the World heritage List;
4. Invites the State Party to implement as much as possible the recommendations made by the UNESCO mission and within the Africa Periodic Report, such as considering the possibility of submitting a new nomination dossier to extend the current World Heritage site by including the entire Old town of Timbuktu; elaborating management plans for the three mosques; organizing two workshops in Timbuktu on the elaboration of a management plan and on the restoration of earthen urban structures in African historic towns.

ARAB STATES

17. Tipasa (Algeria)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1982
Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2002

Criteria: C (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount (up to 2000); US\$ 56,231 In 2001;
Emergency Assistance: Elaboration of an emergency plan and implementation of corrective measures for the Archaeological site of Tipasa, US\$ 35,500.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th session of the Bureau (Chapter VII.36, page 71)
26 COM 21(b) 34 and 26 COM 23.23

New Information:

WHC:

During a mission to Algeria in September 2002, staff from the Centre visited Tipasa and reviewed with local authorities the state of conservation of the site, further to the recommendations contained in the report of the previous Centre's mission of February 2002. A meeting was also arranged in Algiers with the Minister of Culture, H.E. Ms Khalida Toumi, where the mission had the opportunity to clarify the implications of the inscription of the site on the List in Danger and raise the Minister's awareness of the importance to act quickly to remedy the situation. The mission confirmed the observations made in

February 2002, namely concerning the non-respect of the *non edificandi* zone within the buffer zone, the presence of over 100 families illegally installed within the perimeter of the site, the use of cement in conservation works, the lack of maintenance and the polluting effect of a sewerage crossing the site near the ancient Punic port. Concerning the legal protection of the site, the two existing instruments (Land Use Plan and Urban Development Plan) exert pressure on the site, as they do not take into account the special protection required by the fragile archaeological area, nor its actual limits. A Conservation and Presentation Plan (Plan de Sauvegarde et de Mise en Valeur, PSMV) for the archaeological site, initiated by the Ministry of Culture, was still inapplicable in the current legal framework, pending the finalization of the bylaws for the national antiquities Law adopted in 1998. In the face of these threats, the services of the Ministry of Culture were still clearly inadequate in terms of human and financial resources. The Centre's mission produced a report, which listed, for the consideration of the Algerian authorities, what it considered the most urgent actions to undertake. These included:

- The immediate delimitation of the official perimeter of the World Heritage site and its buffer zone, based on the existing archaeological studies, and the issuing of a temporary official Decree freezing all constructions within these boundaries;
- The establishment of a plan, including a timeframe, to relocate approximately 100 families presently living within the site outside the perimeter of the property, in consultation with them and the local authorities;
- The strengthening of the human and financial resources of the local Inspectorate, possibly providing it with an annual operational budget (excluding staff and running costs) equivalent to 50,000 dollars;
- The repairing of the roofing of the storages, which are today in a critical state of conservation, and where important objects are kept.
- Urgent preventive conservation measures for mosaics and other exposed structures, including a more effective visitor control;
- The finalizing of the bylaws of the National Antiquities Law of 1998 and the quick elaboration and implementation of the PSMV, in consultation with the Centre, to replace the existing Urban Instruments.

In the medium term, the Centre's mission recommended to develop a Management Plan along the lines provided in the technical reports prepared by the Centre's consultants in 2002, including an effective mechanism to ensure the dialogue among the concerned stakeholders, the relocation of the families currently living within the World Heritage site, and consideration for landscape protection. In a letter dated 29 March 2003, moreover, the authorities informed the Centre that the bylaws concerning the application of the Antiquity Law of 1998 for archaeological sites had been prepared and would shortly be officially adopted. In the letter, the Algerian authorities also agreed to a proposal

by the Centre to use the funds remaining from the International Assistance approved in 2001 to conduct a training seminar on the management of archaeological sites.

ICOMOS:

ICOMOS fully supports all the recommendations made by the Centre Mission and urges the State Party to implement them without delay.

Issues:

Urban Pressure; Tourism Pressure; Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of Presentation and interpretation; Lack of human or financial resources; Lack of institution coordination; Looting/Theft.

Draft Decision:

Draft 27 COM 7 (a) 17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having noted the information provided by the Centre following the mission to the site;

2. Strongly encourages the Government of Algeria to take the necessary measures towards the swift implementation of the recommendations contained in the Centre's report, and notably:

- *The immediate delimitation of the official perimeter of the World Heritage site and its buffer zone, based on the existing archaeological studies, and the issuing of a temporary official Decree freezing all constructions within these boundaries;*
- *The establishment of a plan, including a timeframe, to relocate approximately 100 families presently living within the site, outside the perimeter of the property, in consultation with the interested parties and local authorities;*
- *The strengthening of the human and financial resources of the local Inspectorate, possibly providing it with an annual operational budget (excluding staff and running costs) equivalent to US\$ 50,000;*
- *The repairing of the roofing of the storages, which are today in a critical state of conservation, and where important objects are kept.*
- *Urgent preventive conservation measures for mosaics and other exposed structures, including a more effective visitor control;*
- *The official adoption of the bylaws of the National Antiquities Law of 1998 and the quick elaboration and implementation of the PSMV, in consultation with the Centre, to replace the existing Urban Instruments.*
- *The preparation, in the above framework, of a Management Plan for the site, also in consultation with the Centre.*

3. Thanks the State Party for the elaboration of new bylaws concerning the application of the 1998 Antiquity Law;

4. Requests the State Party to submit a report on progress achieved on the above recommendations to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2004, for the consideration of the Committee at its 28th session of 2004.

5. Decides to retain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

18. Abu Mena (Egypt)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2001

Criteria: C (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

In 2001- Technical Co-operation (Ancient Thebes and Abu Mena), US\$ 14,000

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th session of the Committee - Chapter VIII.111
26 COM 21 (b) 44

New Information:

WHC:

At the request of the Egyptian authorities, a World Heritage expert hydrologist carried out a mission in September 2002 to the site, with the aim of evaluating the technical proposals made by the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) in order to reduce the negative effects of the increased groundwater level on the historic monuments.

According to the expert's report, the SCA project is currently in its first phase of implementation out of three. A review of the project documentation and design suggested that the proposed measures are generally feasible and possibly adequate and that the groundwater level can be lowered through the proposed structural interventions made of combined installation of drainage systems and pumping wells. However, the newly proposed phase II and III of the project should take into account the flow pattern of the water coming from the irrigated areas and the implementation costs should be assessed, in order to implement engineering measures, which will be proved to be sustainable and cost-effective.

Considering that engineering methodologies and mitigation measures, although very effective in the short term, can quickly get outdated by sudden changes in urban development, new land reclamation projects, extended irrigation schemes, etc., two hierarchically related groups of remedial actions are suggested: long-term political/organizational measures focusing on the source of problems, and engineering measures for technical problems.

In fact, structural measures can be appropriate only if coordinated with other measures, namely the reorganization of the agricultural practice and careful planning of future land reclamation activities in the area. In order to overcome the present lack of coordination among various Government agencies and local authorities whose activities affect the site, the report recommends the establishment of a Cultural Resources Planning Unit, within the SCA, which will be responsible for coordinating with the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, the city planning authorities, the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation and the Ministry of Tourism, in order to review all infrastructure projects having a potential impact on major national heritage sites.

A draft framework for a Cultural Resources Impact Assessment procedure, which should be mandatory for any initiative that could affect the historic heritage, could be developed as a pilot project for Abu Mena. Moreover, a Management Plan for the site should be prepared in consultation with all institutions involved and, particularly, with the Groundwater Research Institute as well as with local farmers and representatives. The Plan should include a programme for regular monitoring of the state of conservation of the site, so as to allow a quick response to potential threats.

ICOMOS:

ICOMOS warmly endorses these proposals and congratulates the Centre and its expert for the prescient report. It furthermore urges the State Party to adopt the recommended courses of action without delay, given the urgency of the threats to the monuments and the certainty that they will continue unless firm action is taken.

Issues:

Agriculture Pressure; Lack of monitoring system; Lack of institution co-ordination.

Draft Decision:

Draft 27 COM 7 (a) 18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having taken note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the results of the mission to the site;

2. Commends the State Party for the efforts, which are made in order to complete the project for the protection of the area;

3. Stresses, however, that engineering solutions to the groundwater problems might prove not cost-effective and sustainable if the source of the problem is not addressed in a comprehensive and co-ordination effort;

4. Recommends to the State Party to halt the on-going engineering interventions and review Phases II and III of the project, taking into account the recommendations of the WHC expert;

5. Strongly encourages the State Party to consider establishing a Cultural Resources Planning Unit within the SCA, which would be responsible for maintaining contacts with all institutions involved in planning activities with a potential impact on heritage, as well as for promoting pro-active assessment, planning, monitoring and management of all activities within these properties;

6. Suggests to the State Party to consider requesting international assistance for technical co-operation, if necessary, with a view to set up this Unit and develop its operational procedures;

7. Requests the State Party to submit a report to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2004, on the progress in the implementation of these recommendations for the consideration of the Committee at its 28th session (2004);

8. Decides to retain the site of Abu Mena on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

19. Bahla Fort (Oman)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1987

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1988

Criteria: C (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

International Assistance: Total amount (up to 2000) US\$ 66,772; missions on an annual basis 1996- 2000 (on a cost-sharing basis) to monitor restoration works and provide advice to the conservation team.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

Decision 26 COM 21 (a) 12

New Information:

WHC:

A mission was sent by the Centre to the site from 17 to 19 September 2002. At that time, the site was still without proper technical supervision. The mission examined the ongoing conservation works, and set the priority for future action calling again for a quick appointment of a Chief Site Conservator. It appeared, moreover, that during the rainy season no maintenance works had been conducted. The mission also discussed the progress on the preparation of the Management Plan with all the concerned parties. This revised version of the first phase of the Management Plan was considered to be technically sound, and an adequate basis for the development of the full document. However, the need to involve all local stakeholders in the two foreseen consultative workshops was reiterated by the Centre's mission. The Oman authorities have officially established a Steering Committee, including all Ministries concerned, as well as the police. To this day, it would seem that this Steering Committee has never met to review the Management Plan. Concerning the project for a new market, the Centre's expert was able to meet with the Company entrusted with the design, and to sensitize it on

the importance of preserving the traditional character of the local architecture. According to the proposal presented to the mission, the project for the new market would include the diversion of the truck traffic from the road currently adjacent to the Fort, thus considerably reducing pollution and acoustic impact. Furthermore, by letter of 22 October 2002, the Oman authorities informed the Centre that the Ministry of Heritage and Culture is co-ordinating with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to review the terms of reference for the project, taking into account the recommendations of the Centre's expert. By letter of 11 March 2003, the Oman authorities informed the Centre that a Chief Conservator for the site has been re-appointed. Lastly, the Regional Training Seminar on the Conservation of Earthen Structures, organized by the Ministry of Heritage and Culture with the Centre and CRATerre and due to take place in March 2003, was postponed until the autumn 2003 due to the prevailing situation in the region.

Issues:

Urban Pressure; Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation).

Draft Decision:

Draft 27 COM 7 (a) 19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Commends the Oman authorities for the progress achieved in the preparation of the Management Plan and for having re-appointed a Chief Site Conservator;

2. Encourages the State Party to continue supporting the elaboration of the Management Plan, as well as the development of national capacity towards the establishment of a permanent management structure that will be responsible for the daily implementation of the Plan;

3. Invites the State Party to hold the first of the two workshops foreseen for the reviewing and development of the Management Plan, and to involve all concerned stakeholders, including representatives from the local population;

4. Reiterates the importance of ensuring that the project for the new market be developed in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Management Plan Team, and takes into account the character of the local vernacular architecture, including its traditional materials;

5. Decides to retain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

20. Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1993

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2000

Criteria: C (ii) (iv) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount (until 2001): US\$ 64,000.

In 2001: Emergency assistance for a safeguarding plan of the site and for the implementation of emergency measures for an amount of US\$ 50,000.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

24th session of the Committee, Chapter VIII 31

25th session of the Bureau, Chapter VIII.80-82

26 COM 21 (a) 16

New Information:

WHC:

During the World Heritage Centre mission to Yemen in June 2002, a meeting of all the partners involved in the preservation of Zabid was organised to define a *modus-operandi* and to co-ordinate all the actions to be undertaken to safeguard the city. The elements necessary for the elaboration of a Preliminary Plan to safeguard and develop the Town of Zabid were also examined. This Plan and its regulations for application, prepared with funding from the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust, was submitted to the authorities in December 2002, during a new Centre mission to Yemen. An action plan, established by the Centre and defining the possible roles and respective responsibilities of all the actors at site, was approved by the GOHPCY. The Centre also presented a proposal for the creation of a heritage house in Zabid as a future focal point for a technical and administrative unit responsible for the implementation of the urban conservation plan. If the authorities should approve and support the creation of this Heritage House, UNDP would be willing to cover the costs linked to the recruitment of a United Nations volunteer to strengthen its staff. During the December 2002 mission, it was noted that the condition of the town has remained unchanged and that there were no visible results at site. The refuse collection project (financed by the German GTZ) has begun and a weekly market is under preparation on the esplanade of the Citadel. The infrastructure projects have been delayed due to implementation difficulties, and are now foreseen for the second half of 2003 (drainage, paving, lighting). The mission also observed the continuing lack of an administrative and technical structure in Zabid with adequate resources to ensure the co-ordination and monitoring of the different ongoing initiatives for the rehabilitation of the old town. This uncertain situation risks compromising the efforts carried out by the Yemeni authorities in 2001, when a decree to halt of all new constructions was decided upon by the Government. In April 2003, the Centre was informed that numerous sites for construction works were still on-going in Zabid.

Issues:

Urban Pressure; Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of monitoring system; Lack of human or financial resources; Lack of institution co-ordination.

Draft Decision:

Draft 27 COM 7 (a) 20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Noting that, despite the commitment and support of the Government, progress has been very slow in addressing the threats that had justified the inscription of the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger;

2. Urges the Government of Yemen to take immediate measures towards the enforcement of the ban of new constructions within the Old City decided in 2001, and the strengthening of the local bodies in charge of the conservation of the site, including the local GOPHCY Unit, possibly through the project for the establishment of a Heritage House in Zabid;

3. Recommends to the State Party to adopt and start implementing, on a temporary basis, the Preliminary Urban Conservation Plan prepared by the Centre in December 2002, together with its regulations;

4. Requests the State Party and the Centre to continue working in close co-operation and in consultation with the local population and all other concerned actors and stakeholders, to finalize the Urban Conservation Plan and co-ordinate the efforts for the rehabilitation of the site.

5. Decides to retain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

ASIA-PACIFIC

21. Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2002

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2002

Criteria: C (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

Assistance to the authorities for enhanced conservation and management of the Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam is included within the Emergency Assistance Package for 2003 (US\$ 100,000).

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 23.2

26 COM 23.3

New Information:

WHC:

Following the inscription of the Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam on the World Heritage List in 2002, the World Heritage Centre prepared a project for the elaboration of a management plan for the site amounting to US\$ 50,000 to be financed by the Government of Italy under the Funds-in-Trust Agreement. The implementation of this project, which aims to elaborate a management plan, strengthen the legal regulations for the protection of the site and to enhance the awareness of the local community of the importance of safeguarding cultural heritage, is expected to start in 2003. However, due to the security instability in spring 2003, the international expert mission to assist the authorities in establishing a management mechanism and plan mid- to long-term conservation of the entire property, scheduled to take place in May 2003, had to be postponed until autumn 2003.

Other UNESCO Sector or Field Office:

CLT/CH, in co-operation with the World Heritage Centre, organised an Expert Working Group for the Rehabilitation of Jam and Herat in January 2003. The working group urged the Afghan Government to prevent illicit traffic and to seek financial and technical assistance from the international community for the conservation of Jam and Herat. Concerning the property of Jam in particular, the working group stressed the need for adequate documentation, a metric survey of the minaret and effective monitoring. Furthermore, it was recommended that investigation for the stabilization of the Minaret should be undertaken, as well as the monitoring of the leaning, structural analysis and research concerning seismic hazards in the region. The possible impact of a road construction project was also discussed and it was decided that UNESCO should alert the national authorities in this regard and forward to them the recommendations of the Working Group.

Issues:

Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of monitoring system; Lack of presentation and interpretation; Lack of human and financial resources; Lack of institution co-ordination; Earthquake; Civil unrest, Looting/Theft.

Additional Details:

Structural instability of the leaning Minaret aggravated by seasonal flooding.

Draft Decision:

Draft 27 COM 7 (a) 21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the state of conservation report of the Archaeological Remains and Minaret of Jam,
2. Notes with concern the instability of the leaning Minaret, continued illicit excavation on-site, and lack of management mechanism;
3. Expresses appreciation to the Secretariat for its efforts to mobilise international co-operation for the conservation of the property;
4. Requests the Secretariat to continue to co-operate closely with the national authorities to enhance the protection, conservation and management of the property;
5. Requests the State Party to examine closely the impact the road construction in the immediate vicinity of the Minaret could have both on the Minaret as well as the archaeological remains, before finalizing plans for the completion of this thoroughfare;
6. Decides to examine the state of conservation of the property at its 28th session in 2004;
7. Decides to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

22. Angkor (Cambodia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1992

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992

Criteria: C (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

A total amount of US\$ 140,880 from the World Heritage Fund under preparatory assistance, training and technical co-operation.

On-going extrabudgetary projects funded by: Japan Funds-In-Trust: US\$ 4,457,356; French Funds-in-Trust: Euros 100,542; Italian Funds-In-Trust: US\$ 227,469; Accor Group (French Tour Operator): US\$ 25,000.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

- 17th session of the Committee (X.7)
- 18th session of the Committee (IX.22)
- 19th session of the Committee (X.7 and VII.26)
- 20th session of the Committee (VII.24)
- 21st session of the Committee (VII.25)
- 22nd session of the Committee (VII.16)
- 23rd session of the Committee (IV.12)
- 24th session of the Bureau (IV.17)
- 24th session of the Committee (VIII.17)
- 25th session of the Committee (VIII 62-63)

New Information:

WHC:

Other UNESCO Sector or Field Office:

CLT/CH and UNESCO Field Offices:

Following the decision of the World Heritage Committee at its 26th session (June 2002), the Government of Cambodia submitted on 13 March 2003, a progress report with technical details on all activities carried out between 1992 and 2002, together with the National Periodic Report to be reviewed within the framework of the Regional Periodic Reporting Exercise.

All information has been transmitted to ICOMOS for review and information. The following conservation activities of the Authority for the Protection of the Site and Development of the Region of Angkor (APSARA) and other international teams between 1992 and 2002 were presented:

A. Conservation activities carried out by APSARA:

Maintenance and cleaning: Two maintenance teams were established for the site. One team is composed of 300 staff members and is responsible for the cleaning of the surfaces of the monuments and the immediate surroundings. Another team composed of 20 people, is responsible for the cleaning of the buildings, removing plants, moss and parasites growing on the monument structures. A Monuments Conservation Service has been created which is responsible for: the maintenance of monuments and important restoration work; implementation of projects, and follow-up and monitoring of the international operator's work.

Security, prevention and protection: Since 1999, Angkor Vat has been protected by a security team. Its staff has increased from 16 to 610 persons at present. The on-site protection, prevention and site surveillance has been secured by the creation of a special police commissariat for heritage in October 1997 employing 520 police officers. Currently, it has a total staff of 250.

B. On-site Conservation activities undertaken by the Cambodian and International Teams (9 international conservation teams have on-site staff totalling 583).

• Cambodia: APSARA/DMA (Department of Monuments and Archeology) • France: EFEO (Ecole Française d'Extrême Orient) • Japan: JSA (Japanese Government Team for Safeguarding Angkor), Sophia University, Nara Institute for the Protection of Cultural Properties; • Italy: IgeS (Ingegneria Geotecnica e Strutturale) • Germany: GACP (German APSARA Conservation Project) • USA: WMF (World Monument Fund) -Switzerland: SDC (Swiss Development and Co-operation) • China: CSA (Chinese Safeguarding Angkor) • Indonesia: ITASA (Indonesian Technical Assistant for Safeguarding Angkor) • Hungary: RAF (Royal Angkor Foundation) • India: ASI (Archaeological Survey of India).

A total amount of US\$ 4,340,659 was provided by UNESCO/Japan Trust Funds for the Conservation of the Royal Plaza (Prasat Suor Prat and its terrace), the Bayon (elaboration of a Master Plan) and Angkor Wat (Northern library inside the outermost enclosure) - Phase III –2003-2005. In the framework of both long-term and short-term training programmes, training activities have continually been carried out by the Japanese Government Team for Safeguarding Angkor.

An amount of US\$ 48,195 was provided under UNESCO/Japan Funds-In-Trust for the production of a CD-Rom on the International Symposium for the Preservation of the Bayon Temple (2002-2003). This CD-Rom contains proceedings of the previous International Symposium for the Preservation of the Bayon Temple organized between 1996 and 2001. Also, an amount of US\$ 16,183 was provided under Japan Trust Funds for the production of the international versions of a series of videos on Angkor.

Funds were provided from Japan Funds-In-Trust (US\$ 27,459) and French Funds-in-Trust (45,682 Euros) to support the International Co-ordination Committee for the Safeguarding and the Development of the Historic Site of Angkor (ICC).

The production of a documentary film and publication on 10 years of international assistance for the safeguarding and development of the historic site of Angkor was co-financed by Japanese and French Funds-In-Trust, which will be presented during the Inter-governmental Conference to be held in Paris in November 2003.

The Italian Funds-In-Trust (US\$ 227,469) supported the restoration of the Pre Rup Temple – Phase III – 2003-2004. The project aims to complete the restoration of the most badly damaged towers of the temple and to gather information on the state of conservation of the other building structures. On-site training will be organized to transfer the acquired experiences to the local technicians involved in the project. Phase III constitutes the final phase of this project.

The French Tour Operator, ACCOR Group, provided support for a project on the consolidation and development of Bat Chum Temple in 2003 to consolidate the three towers and to clean the surrounding moats of the Temple. This project is being implemented by APSARA.

As stated in the National Periodic Report submitted by the Government of Cambodia, the monuments of Angkor are in varying states of conservation. Since inscription on the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1992, more than 20 major conservation and restoration projects have been undertaken at the site. However, due to the vastness of the property, there are still many monuments in need of conservation attention.

Meanwhile, the property attracts a growing number of visitors. Between 2001-2002, international tourists at the site increased by 29% from 208,472 to 269,155. To enable

the local communities to absorb such rapid social changes and to draw out positive benefits from the tourism industry while simultaneously conserve the values of the property, a project entitled "Training of APSARA cultural mediators" has been organized by UNESCO and APSARA in close co-operation with the Ministry of Tourism.

Issues:

Tourism Pressure; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of presentation and interpretation; Looting/Theft.

Additional Details:

In the National Periodic Report, the State Party proposed measures necessary to enhance the conservation and management of the property.

Draft Decision:

Draft 27 COM 7 (a) 22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Commends the Government of Cambodia and particularly the Authority for the Protection of the Site and Development of the Region of Angkor (APSARA) for submitting a detailed report to the Committee on the major conservation activities carried out at the site with the generous technical and financial contributions from Japan, France, Italy, Germany, USA, Switzerland, China, Indonesia, Hungary, India and private groups such as ACCOR;
2. Encourages APSARA to: a. Continue the implementation of the existing management plans as appropriate, and harmonize and revise these plans to include adequate measures to control tourism development to mitigate negative impact upon the heritage values (tangible and intangible) and the local communities; b. Reinforce on-site legal provisions for heritage protection together with their administrative measures for implementation;
3. Recommends that the State Party strengthens co-operation between APSARA and the provincial authorities to improve preventive measures against on-site looting and theft;
4. Requests UNESCO, the Advisory Bodies and other international partners to continue co-operation with the national and local authorities to implement the above-mentioned action by providing appropriate international assistance;
5. Requests the State Party to provide a report on the state of conservation of the property to be examined by the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee;
6. Decides to retain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

23. Group of Monuments at Hampi (India)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1986

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1999

Criteria: C (i) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

Training Assistance in 2002 (US\$ 17,370) for a study trip of Indian site managers from Hampi World Heritage site to the UK for national and local capacity building site management

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26th session of the Committee (XXI (a) 11)

25th session of the Committee (VIII.64-68)

New Information:

WHC:

Following the decision of the 26th World Heritage Committee, the Government of India submitted on 25 July 2002 an International Assistance request for Emergency Technical Co-operation to elaborate a management plan for Hampi World Heritage site in Danger. This request is being reformulated in accordance with the recommendation of the Advisory Bodies, but the State Party has expressed its desire for ICCROM and ICOMOS participation to be financed from sources other than the International Assistance allocation since the Advisory Bodies' recommendation will require the mobilization of an important portion of the project fund for their mission.

The World Heritage Centre, English Heritage and the Indian Authorities organized a Study Tour to the United Kingdom in October/November 2002 for the regional and national site managers of Hampi to share site management experiences with English Heritage.

In April 2003, international experts and NGOs from Hampi alerted the World Heritage Centre on a new decision taken by the State Government of Karnataka to resume the construction work at the large vehicular bridge connecting Hampi and Anegundi, both historic and archaeological areas protected under the World Heritage Convention.

A UNESCO mission to Hampi was carried out from 30 April to 11 May by the Deputy Director of the World Heritage Centre together with a regional development and conservation expert (ABF) seconded from the French Ministry of Culture to examine the state of conservation of the property and progress in the implementation of corrective measures.

The mission noted that since the inscription of the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger, the following measures had been taken by the State Party:

- (1) Demolition of the foot bridge;
- (2) Suspension of completion work of the vehicular bridge; pending construction of a by-pass road to ensure deviation of traffic away from the core area as

recommended by UNESCO expert mission of 1999/2000;

- (3) Official establishment by special legislation of the Hampi World Heritage Management Authority composed of Central Government (Archaeological Survey of India), Karnataka State Government, local authorities, community representatives and NGOs;
- (4) Adoption of State regulations banning stone quarrying within the World Heritage protected area (core and buffer), and designation of new quarrying area elsewhere;
- (5) Adoption of official decision to remove illegal informal commerce and squatters from the historic arcade which had been deformed by illegal construction of additional floors and extensions;
- (6) Purchase by State Government of land to build a visitor centre near the main temple to accommodate tourist buses, shops, and other amenities, the design of which is under preparation;
- (7) Initiation of legal measures for purchase of land for the by-pass road (total 4.6 kms of which some 2.5 kms stretch of land under ownership of 21 proprietors);
- (8) Allocation of special central and State Government funds for monument conservation, archaeological surveys, management planning, etc.

The UNESCO mission was received by the Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Central Government, State Ministers of Culture and Tourism, and senior officials of the Central and Karnataka State Governments, and was assured that: the vehicular bridge will not be completed until the by-pass road is constructed; that the squatters being removed from the historic arcade will be provided with alternative shops and residence, and that the Hampi Management Plan currently under preparation will take into consideration the feasibility of a new road for through traffic to divert transit passage away from the World Heritage area.

The authorities accepted to reduce the width and elevation of the by-pass road and to follow the natural contour as recommended by the UNESCO mission and welcomed its involvement in the design of the new visitor centre. The mission expressed concern over the anarchic growth of the Kamalapuram and Anegundi villages and recommended planned extensions of the two settlements with architectural design and urban regulations. Mobilization of the important budget for social housing was discussed as a means of realizing the village extensions and to house the squatters to be moved from the core monument areas. Funding from the World Heritage International Assistance to co-finance the Hampi Management Plan will take into consideration the integrated needs of the region.

Issues:

Lack of management mechanism (including legislation),
Lack of institution co-ordination.

Additional Details:

Rural development pressure

Draft Decision:

Draft 27 COM 7 (a) 23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having noted the information provided by the Centre further to its mission to the property,

2. Commends the State Party, particularly the Karnataka State Government for the tangible action taken to implement the corrective measures to protect the World Heritage property;

3. Stresses the importance of postponing the completion of the vehicular bridge until the by-pass road is constructed; to consider the vehicular bridge to be temporary pending the identification of a long-term solution within the Hampi Management Plan; to adopt provisional regulations for new construction and renovation in the World Heritage protected area to halt uncontrolled urbanization;

4. Recommends to the State Party, the establishment of a technical unit reporting to the Hampi World Heritage Management Authority, with trained staff and financial resources to ensure building control and community advisory service for conservation; ensure continuity of the top decision-makers of the Hampi Management Authority despite frequent rotation of civil servants;

5. Encourages the State Party to mobilize social housing, agricultural support and cottage craft industry subsidies and technical expertise in the elaboration of and financial resources for the Hampi Management Plan, to ensure that conservation and development needs of the local population, especially the poor, are addressed;

6. Invites the State Party to continue associating UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies in the elaboration of the Management Plan and to review the architectural design of the visitor centre;

7. Requests the Centre to strengthen efforts to mobilize international support for the conservation of Hampi, particularly for large-scale regional infrastructure to support conservation and sustainable development objectives;

8. Requests the State Party to submit a progress report by 1 April 2004 on the corrective measures taken for examination by the Committee at its 28th session;

9. Decides to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

24. Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1981

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2000

Criteria: C (i) (ii) (iii)

Previous International Assistance:

Total World Heritage Fund amount from 1981-2001: US\$ 115,000

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

23rd session of the Bureau (IV.72)

23rd session of the Committee (X.43)

24th session of the Committee (VIII.30)

25th session of the Bureau (V.79-81)

25th session of the Committee (VIII.69-79)

New Information:

WHC:

At its 24th session in December 2000 the World Heritage Committee decided to inscribe Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens on the List of World Heritage in Danger and approved an International Assistance request amounting to US\$ 50,000 to: a) elaborate a comprehensive management plan and b) undertake consolidation and conservation measures of the hydraulic works destroyed in 1999 to adequately protect what still remained at the time, subject to the State Party submitting a revised work plan and budget breakdown for the activity. The Government of Pakistan submitted these requested documents on 14 February 2003, and the implementation of the activity will commence in 2003, provided the Advisory Bodies support the revised work plan and budget breakdown.

Using project proposals elaborated in 2001-2002 with World Heritage Centre extrabudgetary funds, the UNESCO Islamabad Office and national authorities organized a donors' meeting in 2003 to raise funds for conservation interventions at specific structures within the Shalamar Gardens.

A project proposal (Euro 750,000) to apply for EU-Asia-Urbs Programme funding has been prepared and the French city of Nancy has agreed to serve as a partner.

Issues:

Urban Pressure; Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of monitoring system; Lack of human or financial resources.

Additional Details:

Pollution is considered a particular threat to the property. New infrastructures, motorized traffic, industrial installations and encroachments are threatening the conservation of Shalamar Gardens and the Lahore Fort.

Draft Decision:

Draft 27 COM 7 (a) 24

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Expresses appreciation to the State Party for submitting the revised work plan and budget breakdown for the Shalamar Gardens International Assistance request;

2. Requests the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre to assist the authorities in implementing this International Assistance request;

3. Requests the State Party to examine the heritage values of Shalamar Gardens and Lahore Fort to redefine the core, buffer and support zones of these two sites;

4. Requests the State Party, in the meantime, to a) examine the strengths and weaknesses of the existing legal management provisions, and b) identify areas for harmonizing lacunas or overlaps in jurisdiction of the area immediately surrounding the Shalamar Gardens;

5. Requests UNESCO to continue efforts to mobilize international support to implement the corrective measures;

6. Requests the State Party to submit a progress report by 1 April 2004 for examination by the Committee at its 28th session in 2004;

7. Decides to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

25. Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1995

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2001

Criteria: C (iii) (iv) (v)

Previous International Assistance:

A total amount of US\$ 183,200 from the World Heritage Fund under preparatory assistance, training, technical co-operation and emergency 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

Emergency Assistance: 2002: US\$75,000, Emergency Technical Assistance for the Enhancement of Conservation and Management of the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

23rd session of the Bureau (IV.74)
23rd extraordinary session of the Bureau (III.C)
23rd session of the Committee (X.46)
25th session of the Committee (VIII 111-120)
26 COM 21(a)15

New Information:

WHC:

When the Banaue Rice Terraces Task Force (BRTTF), management authority for the Rice Terraces of the Philippines Cordilleras World Heritage property was abolished in March 2002, IUCN expressed concern in its letter to the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines (UNACOM). IUCN requested clarification on the rationale for BRTTF's abolition and the government's intention to establish another management body as its replacement. UNACOM informed IUCN and the Centre that the Provincial Government of Ifugao had established the Ifugao Rice Terraces and Cultural Heritage Office (IRTCHO), supported by the Provincial Government and the National Commission for Culture and Arts (NCCA). The Provincial Government had provided approximately US\$40,000 to start the rehabilitation work on the irrigation systems in the Terraces, while NCCA allocated approximately US\$ 1 million in support of conservation programmes.

In the state of conservation report dated 14 March 2003, the State Party informed the Centre that IRTCHO is now responsible for the updating and implementation of the Ifugao Rice Terraces Master Plan, and that several projects are under way to halt the erosion of the landscape value, such as the Indigenous Farming System Demonstration Project, Banaue – Batad Road Improvement Project.

At the national level, an Advisory Body, composed of UNACOM, NCCA, National Committee on Marine Sciences (NCMS), UNACOM Culture Committee, and the Office of the Governor, has been formed to oversee the management of the rice terraces.

The World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Regional Advisor for Culture in the Asia-Pacific Region organized a mission to the site between 12 and 19 October 2002 which resulted in the elaboration of a work plan and timetable for the implementation of the Technical Emergency Assistance (US\$75,000) allocated by the Committee at its 25th session. This work plan was approved in February 2003 by the national authorities concerned. The Centre was informed that an Activity-Financing Contract was established with IRTCHO to undertake activities as stipulated in the approved work plan. The First Review and Stakeholders' Workshop will take place from 21 to 26 July 2003. The meeting will review the accomplishments made against goals set in the 1994 Management Plan and analyze all physical interventions (irrigation, terrace wall repair, replanting of watersheds, etc.) necessary to revive the rice production at the five terrace clusters of the property.

Issues:

Lack of management mechanism (including legislation);
Lack of human or financial resources.

Additional Details:

Natural erosion (landslides) through lack of maintenance

Draft Decision:

Draft 27 COM 7 (a) 25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the state of conservation of the property,
2. Recommends that the State Party consider ways and means to enable IRTCHO to raise funds in addition to those allocated by NCCA, and increase stakeholder involvement in its work;
3. Requests that the State Party provide a report by 1 April 2004 on the progress made in the implementation of corrective measures, for the Committee's examination at its 28th session;
4. Decides to retain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

EUROPE / NORTH AMERICA

26. Butrint (Albania)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1992

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1997

Criteria: C (iii)

International Assistance:

1997 - US\$ 100,000 as Emergency Assistance, four contracts were established for a total amount of US\$ 33,000.

1999 - US\$ 40,800.

Previous deliberations:

25th session of the Committee – Chapter VIII.61
26 COM 21 (a) 9

Main issues:

Lack of management mechanisms and tourism pressure;
state of conservation of the property and implementation of the recommendations of the joint missions.

New information:

WHC:

The Secretariat has been informed that the Government of Albania has decided to nominate the site and the neighbouring area to the RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat. To date, this nomination is under examination. Furthermore, the Secretariat has been informed that a decree - rather than a law - may be

proposed for the legal protection and management of the World Heritage site. A letter was sent to the Permanent Delegation of Albania on 12 February 2003 requesting some information on the consequences it would have for the protection level of the site. In addition, the Secretariat has been informed that a large tourist development project is currently foreseen by the Albanian authorities in the immediate vicinity of the World Heritage site. A letter was sent on 28 February 2003 to the Permanent Delegation of Albania to UNESCO.

On 14 March 2003 the World Heritage Centre received copies of the translation of two newspaper articles stating that the Albanian Minister of Culture is considering the possibility of allowing the construction of tourist resorts in the National Park and to suspend the archaeological excavations carried out by the Butrint Foundation (*Koha Jone*, 14 March 2003). In another article (*Korrieri*, February 28 2003), some contradictory information is given about the excavation activities of the past years in the area by British archaeologists.

On 27 March 2003 the Centre received a copy of a letter from the World Bank to the Albanian Prime Minister concerning planned construction activities within or close to the World Heritage site of Butrint. In this letter the Bank 'strongly recommends that any residential or commercial developments should be considered only after appropriate land use study and environmental assessment are carried out', and that the Bank is aware 'of continuing reported attempts to encroach on the Butrint National Park, or pursue other developments in its immediate vicinity'.

On 1 April 2003 the Permanent Delegation of Albania sent a report from the Albanian Minister of Culture wherein the Centre is informed about the extension of the members' composition of the Board of the National Park of Butrint, about the fact that the duties and policies that each of the members of the Board have planned to develop in the Butrint Park are clearly identified in a yearly Agreement between the members of this Board; that the identification, priorities and time schedule of the preservation works to be carried out by the Cultural Monuments Institute are clearly identified in the Agreement and that the Albanian Council of Ministers is discussing a draft decision 'on the Functioning of the Administration and Coordination office of the National Park of Butrint; Moreover, the report lists the legal framework that has been developed since 1992 and confirms that the Albanian Parliament ratified the RAMSAR Convention and that the new law for cultural heritage has already been adopted by the Council of Ministers.

This report also states that all illegal construction built within the boundaries of the park has been demolished, and it is noted that there is no decision of the Council of Ministers giving license to build inside the spaces of the National Park.

In addition to the information above, the Centre was informed on 14 April 2003, that the cultural heritage law of Albania was passed in the Albanian parliament. This

would lead to an important step in the protection of Butrint.

Draft Decision:

Draft 27 COM (a) 26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Thanks the Albanian authorities for the progress made with the legal protection of and the institutional arrangements for the World Heritage site;
2. Recalls that a mission is foreseen to the site in October 2003 in order to assess if the site can be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
3. Requests that a report be submitted by 1 February 2004 for review by the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-eighth session;
4. Decides to retain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

27. Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor (Serbia and Montenegro)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1979

Criteria: C (i) (ii) (iii) (iv).

International Assistance:

Emergency Assistance: 1979, US\$ 20,000, Kotor (earthquake)

Technical Cooperation: 1982, US\$ 39,284.

Previous deliberations:

3rd session of the Committee (XVII.60)

26 COM 21 (a) 17

Main issues: Earthquake; no new information 1979-2003

New information:

WHC:

A joint UNESCO-ICOMOS mission was requested by the 26th session of the Committee in order to evaluate the restoration of the site and its current state of conservation. The joint UNESCO-ICOMOS mission to the site has been undertaken from 25 March to 3 April 2003. The full report of the mission is contained in information document WHC-03/27.COM/INF.7B.

The mission concluded that in spite of heavy losses caused by the 1979 earthquake and subsequent urbanization with the ensuing results, the Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor has maintained the substance of all values for which it was inscribed on the World Heritage List.

The inclusion in the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1979 was motivated by serious damages caused by the devastating earthquake. The most valuable monuments and historical buildings, especially those situated in the historic centre of Kotor, have been repaired by means of qualified conservation and partial reconstruction. As the conditions for which the site was included in the List of World Heritage in Danger no longer exist, the site could now be removed from that List.

The mission furthermore recommended a) to continue systematically the restoration work undertaken during the past 24 years, also of architecturally less important historical buildings, and b) to take appropriate measures for the effective protection of the cultural landscape, which is indispensable for the character of the site.

It also further recommended preparing, specifically for the World Heritage site, a management plan in compliance with the existing legislation. This management plan could be defined by a Round Table meeting that would gather all stakeholders and representatives from UNESCO and ICOMOS. The mission further recommended that the Government appoint a site coordinator and confer upon him the necessary authority to enact the implementation of the site management plan.

Draft Decision:

Draft 27 COM (a) 27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Acknowledges the results of the international UNESCO-ICOMOS mission to the site providing up-date information;
2. Notes that the threats for which the site was included on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1979, namely the partial destruction through the earthquake, have been mitigated through professional restoration;
3. Requests the State Party to take into account the specific recommendations from the mission, in particular to prepare a management plan for the World Heritage area and to appoint a site coordinator;
4. Endorses the proposal for a Round Table in order to include all stakeholders in the management planning;
5. Requests an update report on progress made by 1 February 2004;
6. Decides to remove the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

LATIN AMERICA / CARIBBEAN

28. Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1986

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1986

Criteria: C (i) (iii)

Previous International Assistance:

1987- Technical Cooperation, US\$ 19 950;

1999- Master Plan for Chan Chan Archaeological Zone, Technical Cooperation, US\$ 8 700;

1995- Conservation adobe, Chan Chan Training, US\$ 20 000.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (a)14

New Information:

WHC:

The State Party did not transmit the requested report. However, it transmitted the Section II of the Periodical Report, which includes updated information on the legal actions foreseen. The draft legislation, which declares the site of Chan-Chan in state of emergency and offers a solution to re-settle the farmers, is still pending (Draft Legislation n° 3807). It includes a redefinition of the limits of the site. Financial problems obliged the State Party to postpone the implementation of the actions foreseen under the management plan. In addition, the Secretariat received on 4 April 2003, updated information on the last results of the ongoing research and the measures that need to be taken in the near future to avoid further structural damage.

El Niño, as well as the rise of the groundwater level, are damaging the basis of the structures (*huanchaques*). The November 2000 monitoring results of the 68 wells showed a slight rise of the water level. Since August 2002, a progressive rise of the water has been registered, and it increased in January 2003 by 60% in comparison with December 2002, reaching alarming levels. This phenomenon is due to: - the 1998-99 Niño; - the change in the irrigation technology for extensive mono-cultures in the area; - the reduction by 46% of the use of water, as the local population now obtains the water from a new system provided by the Chavimochic Plan. The following actions require urgent attention: the completion of the topographical registration of the site and national and international co-operation to assist in halting – with lasting solutions – of the rise in the water level. During a World Heritage Centre mission to the site, the site manager requested an international workshop to address this matter.

Issues:

Urban Pressure; Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of monitoring system; Lack of presentation and interpretation; Floods/Landslides/Hurricanes.

Additional Details:

Rise of ground water level.

Draft Decision:

Draft 27 COM 7 (a) 28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the measures and the studies undertaken by the State Party to protect the site;

2. Commends the State Party for the efforts made to monitor the water level;

3. Urges the State Party to adopt the draft legislation foreseen;

4. Strongly recommends that the State Party define the limits of the site in order to avoid further encroachment;

5. Recommends that the State Party review the system of water canalisation, water distribution and consider requesting international assistance under the World Heritage Fund to identify the appropriate remedial measures;

6. Requests the State Party to submit, by 1 April 2004, a report on the progress made in implementing the above-mentioned corrective measures, for examination by the Committee at its 28th session;

7. Decides to retain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.