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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 13 of the Provisional Agenda: Implementation of the Global Strategy

SUMMARY

This document contains:

- I. Background information
- II. Summary table
- III. Regional Progress Reports (2002-2003) and Action Plans (2004-2005)
- IV. Draft Decisions

Decision required: the Committee is requested to examine the Draft Decisions on pages 18-19 of this document.

I. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Although the Global Strategy for a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List was adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 18th session (Phuket, 1994)¹, it was only in 1998 that the Committee, at its 22nd session (Kyoto, 1998), examined Regional Global Strategy Action Plans².
- 1.2 Following the 22nd session of the Committee, the Secretariat prepared progress reports on the Regional Action Plans for examination by the World Heritage Committee³. The Action Plans focus primarily on Capacity Building.
- 1.3. Thus the aim of this Progress Report is to provide the Committee with an update on the activities undertaken in 2002 and 2003 as part of the Regional Actions for the implementation of a Global Strategy approved by the Committee at its 25th session (Helsinki, 2001)⁴ and to propose activities to be carried out in 2004-2005. The action plans proposed for 2004-2005 will need to be financed through the Regional Programmes (see WHC-03/27.COM/20B), the Preparatory Assistance from the World Heritage Fund-International Assistance and other extrabudgetary sources in view of the limited budget of the 2004-2005 World Heritage Fund.
- 1.4. In addition, the Committee decided:
 - At its 25th session in Helsinki to defer thematic studies and meetings until the completion of the global analyses of the World Heritage List with the view to identifying “under-represented” categories of heritage;
 - At its 26th session held in Budapest (24-29 June 2002) to defer regional analyses of the World Heritage List and national tentative lists until the completion of the global analyses by ICOMOS for cultural properties and IUCN for natural properties for review by the 28th session of the Committee in 2004.

II. Summary tables

Two summary tables on the implementation of Global Strategy over 2002-2003 are provided on the two following pages.

1. See Section X, Report of the 18th session of the World Heritage Committee (Phuket, December 1994)

2. See paragraph X.2, Report of the 22nd session of the World Heritage Committee (Kyoto, December 1998)

3. It should also be noted that the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, at its 12th session (Paris, October 1999), requested the World Heritage Committee to:

“(i) adopt a regional and multi-year Action Plan for the implementation of the Global Strategy, as a follow-up to the Action Plan adopted in 1999, and

(ii) evaluate the progress in the implementation of the Global Strategy Action Plan with the participation of all States Parties and define, should the need arise, adjustment measures to fulfil its objectives.”

For the complete text of the Resolution go to <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/12GA99-res.htm>

4. See paragraphs IX.1 – IX.19, Report of the 25th session of the World Heritage Committee (Helsinki, December 2001) and document WHC-01/CONF.208/11.

		Global	Africa	Arab States	Asia-Pacific		Latin America and Caribbean		Europe & North America		
					Asia	Pacific	LA*	CAR*	W/N EUR – NA*	C/E EUR*	
UNESCO Member States (June 2003)		191	46	18	27	18	17	16	26	23	
States Parties to WH Convention (June 2003)		176	38	18	27	13	17	14	27	22	
States parties with no property on WHL (June 2003)		51	15	6	7	10	0	7	4	2	
New States Parties in 2002-2003		9	1	1	4	3	0	2	0	1	
States Parties with Tentative Lists (June 2003)		131	25	13	23	3	16	5	24	20	
New Tentative Lists (2002-2003)		8	2	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	
Updated Tentative Lists (2002-2003)		32	2	2	4	1	5	1	11	6	
WHFund Prep Assistance 2002	No. of projects	28	6	5	4	0	2	3	2	3	
	Amount	358654	62953	56480	81000	0	28450	57200	1500	57571	
EXB-Preparatory Assistance 2002	Netherlands FIT	No. of projects	5	0	0	2	0	3	1	0	0
		Amount	124000	0	0	35000	0	73000	16000	0	0
	Italian FIT	No. of projects	7	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	1
		Amount	291000	100000	111400	50000	20000	0	0	0	9600
	Japan FIT	No. of projects	14	2	1	7	3	0	1	0	0
		Amount	255061	55692	17000	120869	55000	0	6500	0	0
	France-UNESCO	No. of projects	6	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
		Amount	58856	16000	9856	8000	0	15000	10000	0	0
No. of nominations in 2002		13	0	1	2	0	2 (including 1 extension)	1	4	3	
No. of first time nominations from SP in 2002		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
No. of inscriptions in 2002		11 (including 2 extensions)	0	1	2	0	2 (including 1 extension)	1	5 (including 1 extension)	2 (Hungary, including 1 extension)	
No. of first time inscriptions from SP in 2002		1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	

Acronyms: LA: Latin America; CAR: Caribbean; WN/EUR: Western & Northern Europe; C/E EUR: Central/Eastern Europe

	Tentative Lists Studies and Meetings	Thematic Studies and meetings
Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “National Workshop for preparing Tentative Lists of Cultural Properties suitable for inclusion in the World Heritage List in Mauritius” (Mauritius, 28 March-8 April 2003) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3rd Regional Thematic Seminar on Legal Frameworks for Protection of Immovable Cultural Heritage (Mutare, Zimbabwe, 21 – 25 October 2002) - Southern African Rock Art Sites - British colonial architecture in Africa (ICOMOS study) - Ghanaian Forts and castles (ICOMOS study)
Arab States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional Meeting (Amman, Jordan, May 5-9 2002) - Regional Meeting for the harmonization of Natural Tentative Lists in Arab Countries (Cairo, Egypt, Feb 7-10 2003) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - World Heritage Opportunities for Marine Biodiversity, A. Meriwether W Wilson - Conservation in the East Atlantic, the southern Mediterranean, the Red Sea, March 2003
Asia-Pacific	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Central Asia and Asia WH List and Tentative List Analyses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Asian Modern Heritage
LAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Latin American Archaeology - Caribbean Archaeology. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Camino Inca - Modern Heritage - Wooden Heritage
Europe & North America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harmonization of Tentative Lists in the Caucasus region (Tbilisi, Georgia, October 2002) - Meeting on Tentative List in Ukraine with neighboring countries (Crimea, Ukraine, May 2003) - Harmonization meeting in the Baltic region (Latvia, June 2003) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wooden Heritage in Eastern Europe (internship study) - Study on bridges (internship study) - Publication on Vineyard Cultural landscapes (Hungary 2002) ; - Re-publication of Linking Culture and Nature (The Netherlands, 2003) - Harvard Meeting on Cultural and Natural Heritage in the Western Hemisphere (USA 2002) - Fortified Towns in Eastern and Central Europe (ICOMOS study) - Les monastères orthodoxes dans les Balkans (ICOMOS study)
Global	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Linking universal and local values: managing a sustainable future for WH (Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 22-24 May 2003) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Historic textile sites (TICCH study) - Historic non ferrous mining and metallurgical sites (TICCH study) - The International Collieries (ICOMOS study)

	ICOMOS WH List and Tentative List Analyses	IUCN WH List and Tentative List Analyses
Global	Analyses of World Heritage List cultural and mixed properties	<p>Analyses of WHL natural and mixed properties</p> <p>GIS-based analysis of WH natural coverage from perspective of habitat distribution. Findings will contribute to analysis in the “State of the World Parks reports 2003” to be presented to the IUCN 5th World Parks Congress (Durban, Sept 2003). Final report of the IUCN analysis to be presented to the WH Committee at its 28th session</p> <p>Publication of “Global Overview on Mountain Protected Areas on the WH List”, Sept. 2002</p>

NB: In addition to these studies and meetings listed above which addressed specific Global Strategy issues, other meetings of a more general nature to promote the WH Convention have also addressed the Global Strategy

III. PROGRESS REPORTs 2002-2003 AND ACTION PLANS - 2004-2005

III.1 THEMATIC ACTIVITIES

III.1.1 World Heritage Marine properties

- Marine expert workshop (Hanoi, Vietnam, 22 February-1 March 2002)
 - Objectives: identify potential marine biodiversity sites in the tropical realm; suggest innovative approaches (transboundary and serial sites),
 - Outcomes: proceedings published as World Heritage Papers series (n° 4), and available on the web;
- Three pilot projects initiated in the Pacific and Caribbean regions:
 - Seascape conservation and management project, involving Galapagos (Ecuador) and Cocos Island (Costa Rica) WH sites and potentially small islands in Columbia (Malpelo and Gorgona) and Panama (Coiba). Project expected to commence within 2003,
 - Transboundary nomination of Central Pacific Islands and Atolls (which provide critical migratory areas for fish, birds and marine mammals): discussions initiated with Kiribati, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and the United States of America. First international planning workshop organized in Honolulu (Hawaii, 2-6 June 2003),
 - Preparation of a transboundary nomination incorporating Los Roques National Park and possibly Los Aves archipelago of Venezuela, Bonaire Marine Park and Curacao Marine Parks of the Netherlands Antilles (the Netherlands). Discussions underway with the Netherlands Antilles (and The Netherlands) and Venezuela. Both countries already expressed interest in project and first bi-national planning meeting held in Bonaire (1-4 May 2003);
- Provisional World Heritage Marine Strategy document commissioned;
- Meeting on WH Marine opportunities to be held prior to the IUCN World Parks Congress (Durban, South Africa, 7 September 2003):
 - Objectives: review the follow-up activities of the Marine workshop; discuss future activities,
 - Participants: site managers; existing and potential partners organization.

III.1.2 World Heritage Cultural Landscapes

In-depth evaluation of World Heritage cultural landscapes 1992-2002, including 13 thematic studies in all regions of the world (carried out in 2002). Study presented to the International workshop “Cultural Landscapes - the challenges of conservation” (Ferrara, Italy, 11-12 November 2002) and to be published as “World Heritage papers” series in 2003.

III.1.3 IUCN Mountain Study

“Global Overview of Mountain Protected Areas on the World Heritage List” (IUCN, Sept 2002):

- Published with the support of UNESCO and The Banff Centre (Canada), as a contribution to the International Year of Mountains;
- 6th IUCN working paper providing global overviews of natural WH sites in the major biomes of the world;
- Presents the list of mountain sites on the WH List (55 natural and mixed sites, ie one third of the total of all natural and mixed sites on the list as of 2002). Along with the sites in the terrestrial wetlands biome and in marine and coastal sites, mountains are among the three most ‘represented’ biomes in the WH List;
- Analyses the attributes of the sites inscribed and puts forward 28 mountain areas in 25 countries that might be considered by States Parties for potential nomination, including 9 sites from Central Asia (the world’s most mountainous region, currently containing only one natural site) and 7 from the Arctic region (where no sites exist as of 2002).

III.1.4 Boreal Forests’ Study

Draft report on potential boreal forests WH sites (IUCN Regional Offices Canada and Russia, 2002):

- Objective: promote the development of a network of boreal forest WH sites as a mechanism to enhance their conservation and management;
- Covers the area from Alaska to Russia, including USA, Canada, Russia, Finland, Norway and Sweden. Input provided by experts from these countries;
- Results to be reviewed at a workshop (Russia, October 2003), organized in collaboration with the State Party of the Russian Federation, with support from the WH Fund;
 - Objectives: prioritize the sites for future nomination; share techniques and best management practices; propose ways to overcome challenges and threats to boreal forests;
 - Final report to be presented to the WH Committee at its 28th session.

III.2 REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

III.2.1 Asia

III.2.1.1 Progress report January 2002 - April 2003

The following activities were undertaken, in addition to the (i) regional Periodic Reporting exercise which examined Global Strategy issues, (ii) co-operation between the 27 Asian State Parties, the WH Centre, Advisory Bodies and other partners:

- Central Asian Global Strategy Meeting on how to prepare Tentative Lists and nominations for Natural and Mixed Heritage properties (Almaty, Kazakhstan, December 2002);
- Analytical study on 19-20th century South Asian Heritage to assist the South Asian States Parties in preparing nominations of modern heritage (only one industrial heritage property in India inscribed on the WH List so far). Study commenced in December 2001, and expected to be completed by September 2003;
- Expert Meeting on Modern Heritage (Chandigar, India, February 2003);
- Analytical study on Central Asian Cultural Heritage to assist the Central Asian States Parties in harmonizing their Tentative Lists, expected to be completed in December 2003;
- Exceptional assistance to the Afghan Government for preparing the nomination dossier of Bamiyan Valley for emergency inscription on the WH List and List of WH in danger;
- Analytical study on Asian Cultural Heritage to assist the Asian States Parties in reviewing and harmonizing their Tentative Lists, expected to be completed in May 2004.

III.2.1.2 Regional Action plan 2004-2005

Global strategy actions recommended by all Asian States Parties through the Periodic Reporting exercise will be initiated as part of the Regional Programme for Asia (see WHC-03/27.COM/20B) but implementation will be subject to States Parties request to WH Fund–International Assistance and extrabudgetary funds. Priority areas include:

- Strengthening of legislation through legal expertise to designated sub-regions and countries in order to ensure adequate protective measures for cultural landscapes (especially serial nominations for routes eg. Silk Road), modern heritage, proto-historic, vernacular heritage properties;
- Upgrading capacities for preparing Tentative Lists, Maps, Nomination Dossiers, Management plans;
- Sub-regional analyses of the World Heritage List and national Tentative Lists for the harmonization of the regional Tentative Lists and to identify future thematic studies.

III.2.2 Pacific sub-region

III.2.2.1 Progress report January 2002 - April 2003

- World Heritage Capacity Building workshop for the Pacific Islands (Apia, Samoa, 12-21 Feb 2003):
 - Organized with the support of Italian Funds-in-Trust,
 - Objective: build professional and institutional capacity of the Pacific Island Member States to promote the implementation of the *Convention*,
 - Training sessions provided on International co-operation mechanisms, the WH Convention, International Assistance and the development of National Strategies for World Heritage,
 - Participants: representatives of the Cook Islands, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu along with representatives of ICOMOS, ICCROM, IUCN, the UNESCO Office for the Pacific Islands States and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre,
 - Curriculum of the workshop compiled into a training manual entitled “Handbook on World Heritage Conservation for the Pacific”, to serve as a vital resource for future training in the Pacific sub-region.
- National Periodic Reports submitted by most Pacific Island States Parties; Regional Programme for the Pacific proposed as a follow-up (See WHC-03/27.COM/20B). Funding to be provided by the government of Norway for the initial consultation meeting to develop the Programme, and for a participant from the Pacific to attend the 27th session of the WH Committee;
- New draft nomination of the Kuk Early Agricultural site (Papua New Guinea) prepared with the support of Japan Funds in Trust. Request for Preparatory Assistance with the second phase of the preparation of the nomination to be submitted by the Papua New Guinea National Commission for UNESCO;
- No further developments in the preparation of the nomination for Bobongara, Huon Peninsula. Draft nomination received in 1999;
- Project for the assessment of the cultural value of the entire Island of Rennell (Solomon Islands) financed in 2000-2001, not implemented due to political and civil unrest;
- First phase in the preparation of the WH nomination of Levuka, Ovalau (Fiji, township and island) financed by Japan Funds in Trust:
 - Preparatory Assistance Request for project on World Heritage Stakeholder Consultation, to initiate a participatory process in order to identify Fijian cultural and natural heritage which meet the World Heritage criteria,
 - Preparatory Assistance Request for a Comparative Analysis Study for Levuka: chronological and thematic study on the evolution of Levuka within the history of Fiji, the Pacific, and the world;

- Preparatory Assistance Request from Vanuatu to develop site inventories and prepare the Tentative List was approved. Project to be completed in three years. Vanuatu expected to soon request Preparatory Assistance for the nomination “Roi Mata”;
- “Study Tour” for leaders from Nan Madol (Federated States of Micronesia) to Tongariro National Park (New Zealand):
 - Funded under Italian Funds in Trust,
 - Objectives: demonstrate to the traditional leaders and elected leaders of FSM the benefits of the World Heritage Convention,
 - To be implemented by the end of 2003, with the assistance of New Zealand;
- Funds to be made available from Spanish Funds in Trust to investigate the colonial architecture of Palau;
- Meeting to discuss the feasibility of a transboundary serial nomination for the Central Pacific Atolls and Islands (including the Line Islands) (Hawaii, Honolulu, 2-6 June 2003):
 - Organized by the WH Centre in co-operation with the Bishop Museum,
 - Participants from the Cook Islands, Kiribati, the United States of America (Department of Fish and Wildlife), IUCN, NOAA, The Nature Conservancy, Bishop Museum, UNESCO Apia and the WH Centre.

III.2.2.3 Regional Action plan 2004-2005

- Regional Programme for the Pacific (World Heritage - Pacific 2009):
 - Proposed as follow up to the Periodic Reporting exercise (see WHC-03/27.COM/20B),
 - Objectives: create World Heritage awareness, build capacity and partnerships and promote the preparation of Tentative Lists and WH nominations including transboundary serial nominations;
- Funding requests submitted to donors for:
 - Preliminary discussions with the Government of Papua New Guinea and Conservation International and a feasibility study for the possible WH nomination of Milne Bay,
 - Assessment of the WH value of the 17 Community Conservation Areas established by the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP),
 - Survey of Traditional and Colonial Architecture in the Pacific,
 - Contribution to the Regional Programme for the Pacific 2009.

III.2.3 Latin America and the Caribbean

III.2.3.1 Progress report January 2002 - April 2003

- Thematic Expert Meeting on Wooden Urban Heritage in the Caribbean (Georgetown, Guyana, 4-7 February 2003):
 - Organized by the UNESCO Office for the Caribbean in Kingston, CARIMOS and the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport of Guyana at the invitation of the World Heritage Centre,
 - Financial support of the governments of the Netherlands and Guyana,
 - Brought together 30 experts from the Caribbean region;

- Sub-Regional Meeting on the Camino Inca (Lima, Peru, 2-4 April 2003):

The Qhapac Nan – Camino Inca is the denomination of the extensive communication networks of roads that in pre-Hispanic times connected the territories of present day Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile and Argentina and that found its culmination under the Inca rule. The system was composed of the roads themselves and associated architectural and engineering structures (lodging houses, storage facilities, bridges etc.). It connected human settlements, administrative centres, agricultural and mining areas and religious and sacred places. Up to the present day, the road system passes through areas of high cultural value and natural bio-diversity. The initiative of Peru to promote the inscription of the Camino Inca cultural landscape site on the *World Heritage List* was launched in 2001. The site was then inscribed on the Tentative lists of both Peru and Argentina. The Sub-Regional meeting, proposed by Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador and Peru, aimed at coordinating approaches and concepts to the Camino Inca Initiative, and to present, for endorsement, the project profile of a technical cooperation project for submission to the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB). This project proposal, based on identification and management of archaeological and natural resources, sustainable tourism and community development, was supported by Bolivia, Chile and Ecuador.

At the April Sub-Regional meeting, the representatives requested the World Heritage Centre to inform the World Heritage Committee of the actions taken by individual States Parties as well as the result of the meeting. Therefore, further details of the results of the meeting and proposed future actions are provided in WHC-03/27.COM/INF.13 and a Draft Decision (27 COM13.2) is presented on page 18-19 of this document.

- Publication of “Paisajes Culturales en Mesoamerica”, proceedings of the expert meeting (San Jose, Costa Rica, 2002).

III.2.3.2 Regional Action plan 2004-2005

The periodic reporting for the region is currently underway. Two Global Strategy meetings are in the planning phase, being:

- Thematic Expert Meeting on Archaeological sites in the Caribbean;
- Scientific Expert Meeting on the Camino Inca in Peru under preparation (Cajamarca, Peru)
 - Survey to be conducted by the World Heritage Centre in view of the meeting, on the human resources and the state of the art in documentation and investigation,
 - Experts from all countries involved to be selected in various fields including archaeological resources, communication systems, landscape management, sacred places, natural resources-protected area management, indigenous communities, responsible tourism.

III.2.4 Arab States

III.2.4.1 Progress report January 2002 - April 2003

- Regional Training Workshop in Cairo, Egypt (17-20 February):
 - Objectives: prepare and harmonize the Natural Tentative Lists in Arab Countries; formulate an Arab strategy for the nomination of natural heritage sites for inscription on the WH List,
 - Recommendations: identification of more natural or mixed sites for Tentative Lists and preparation of their nomination files; activities on terminology, procedures, media and public awareness, to identify and study sites matching the nomination criteria; establishment of an “Arab Council” responsible to co-ordinate all activities related to the protection of Arab natural heritage, suggesting educational policies and promoting eco-tourism,
 - Outcomes: List of 57 sites produced, divided into 13 habitat types, highlighting the high proportion of landscape, biodiversity, mountain and forest and scrub sites and showing that the proposed sites already declared as nature reserves are combined with cultural features;
- Training Workshop on the Application of the World Heritage Convention and Harmonisation of Tentative List in the Arab region (Amman, Jordan, 5-9 May 2002). All the Arab States Parties were represented and a participant of the Palestinian National Authority attended as an observer.

III.2.4.2 Regional Action plan 2004-2005

- Desk study on the World Heritage List and Tentative Lists of the Arab States initiated:
 - Objectives: determine to which extent the diversity of the cultural heritage of the Region is represented on the WH List and Tentative Lists; provide orientations to the WH Committee and States Parties,
 - Results: to be completed for submission to the WH Committee at its 29th session (2005);
- Global strategy actions to be initiated within the Regional Programme for the Arab States.

III.2.5 Africa

III.2.5.1 Progress report January 2002 - April 2003

The Centre is continuing with efforts to encourage the eight Member States of UNESCO, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Lesotho, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Swaziland, to ratify the Convention. Eight State Parties have established National Committees, and Management Plan for sites such as Mount Kenya, Dja, Timbuktu, Djenné and Bandiagara are already under review.

The following activities were undertaken in 2002-2003:

- Study mission of Earthen Heritage in Timbuktu, Old Towns of Djenné, and Cliff of Bandiagara (Land of the Dogons) (Mali, 13-25 July 2002);
- Preparatory experts mission to the Island of Mozambique (25 March-05 April 2003);
- Mission and national workshop in Mauritius for national capacity building and with an inventory of the islands heritage sites for Tentative listing (25 March-5 April 2003), organized in collaboration with France-UNESCO Convention;
- Expert meeting on the Great Rift Valley (Dead Sea, Israel, October 2002)

The Great Rift Valley is a global geo-morphological phenomenon of universal interest and cultural values covering 22 countries in the African, Arabian and European continents over 7,000 km. As well as its geo-morphological attributes and values, the Great Rift Valley system contains outstanding environmental and cultural features. In the region of the Great Rift Valley 61 cultural and natural sites are inscribed on the World Heritage List, including 16 sites whose WH value is in direct connection with the Great Rift Valley. The suggested Great Rift Valley World Heritage concept widens the approach towards understanding regional and global links, thereby adding to the meaning of individual sites. As a pioneering project, it may open the way to further transboundary serial nominations and regional co-operation.

- International workshop on the management of protected areas in West Africa (14-19 April 2003), organized in collaboration with the University of Benin
- Participation in the International workshop on the Moravian Heritage (Christiansfeld, Denmark, 17 March 2003);

- Preparatory Assistance to Benin for the Slave Route project:

The “Slave Route of Benin” is a priority on the Tentative List of this country. The nomination dossier submitted in 2001 considered incomplete, the World Heritage Centre requested that this dossier be further developed, not only in view of the exceptional characteristics of the site itself, but also its significance. The site especially corresponds to the cultural landscapes criteria, with the possibility however of becoming a mixed site with the integration of a variety of natural landscapes that extend over 400 km of its area. It could thus be considered a "serial site". If, at the outset of the study, the city of Ouidah was the only important urban conglomeration of the site – it as called the "Slave Route of Ouidah" - later analyses, and in particular the WHC mission of 2001, revealed the interest in integrating the cities of Abomey and Ganvié. Although limited to Benin, the theme is inscribed in the continuity of the "Slave Route" international cooperation project launched in 1993 by UNESCO (Resolution 27C/3.13) and will be a significant contribution to the 2004 commemoration under the aegis of UNESCO of the Year of Slavery. Capacity building of African heritage expertise is also a significant component of this project through the mobilisation of the international schools: EPA (African Heritage School, in Porto Nova) and EAMU (African School for the Professions of Architecture and Urbanism, in Lomé).

III.2.5.2 Regional Action plan 2004-2005

- Expert mission to Eritrea for inventory of Modern Heritage with possible support of the Italian-Funds-Trust (2003);
- Expert mission and sub-regional workshop on the rehabilitation of Earthen Heritage (Mali, 2004);
- International Expert meeting on Great Rift Valley planned in Nairobi, Kenya, 2003 (International Assistance request to be submitted by the State Party to the Committee at its 27th session, see doc WHC-03/27.COM/12),
- Proposed International working session on “Transborder World Heritage sites for biodiversity Conservation” at the World Parks Congress (Durban, South Africa, 8-17 September 2003);
- Planned expert missions in at least four countries for building capacities for inventorying of heritage sites in Africa for Tentative listing (2003-2004);
- Regional capacity building workshop on inventorying of wetlands of heritage importance for Tentative List in collaboration with the Ramsar Bureau (Niamey, Niger, 30 May-6 June 2003);
- Mission to assist the State Party upgrade its capacity in inventorying of heritage sites for Tentative listing, in collaboration with UNDP Office in Cape Verde (second half of 2003);

- Assistance to 2-3 countries in the establishment of National Committees and National Focal Points for the World Heritage Convention to enhance participation and information sharing within and among States Parties in Africa;
- Proposed regional meeting on "Heritage in Southern Africa: "Imagining and marketing public culture and history" (Zambia, first half of 2004);
- Activities related to the Slave Route: "2004 as the International Year for the Commemoration of combating slavery and its abolition":
 - Desk study on the cultural and mixed sites on the World Heritage List and on the National tentative lists relevant to the Slave Route,
 - Management evaluation and project proposals for extra budgetary funds on three pilot sites on the Slave Route,
 - Three missions planned on potential Slave Route sites to encourage serial Nomination,
 - Reactive monitoring mission to Goree Island in Senegal (reportedly to be under threat),
 - Series of publications in CRATerre-EAG Newsletter on slavery and slave trade linked to World Heritage sites (in collaboration with CRATerre-EAG);
- Follow-up on the implementation of the Africa 2009 Programme (see WHC-03/27.COM/INF20B), to strengthen institutional capacities in cultural heritage; Request for assistance of US\$200,000 presented by ICCROM and WHC, to be examined during the present session.
- Global Strategy activities will be closely linked with the follow-up actions for the implementation of the Regional Programme for Africa (see. WHC-03/27.COM/INF20C)

III.2.6 Europe

III.2.6.1 Progress report January 2002 - April 2003

The activities focused on regions currently underrepresented on the World Heritage List: the Caucasian region, Central Eastern Europe and the Baltic Region.

- Harmonization meeting for tentative lists in the Caucasian region organized in collaboration with the Moscow Office and the Georgian authorities (Tbilisi, Georgia, 23-28 October 2002). Results and recommendations distributed to all countries in the region;
- Participation in a meeting with the President of the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania and experts (UNESCO Headquarters, 1 April 2003) on “Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage, Mountain Ecology and Sustainable Development: the case of the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania », where the results of the harmonization meeting were presented;
- Meeting to identify potential sites in Ukraine and to harmonize the tentative lists of Ukraine and its neighbouring countries, (Ukraine, 22-24 May 2003) with support from the WH Fund for US\$ 19,600;
- Harmonization meeting for tentative lists in the Baltic Region organized in collaboration with the Latvian authorities, the German World Heritage Foundation and the Nordic World Heritage Foundation, (Latvia, 2-4 June 2003).
- Working group meeting (12 Sept 2002) organized in cooperation with the Council of Europe to identify geological heritage:
 - Participants: ProGeo, Geosites, the International Union of Geological Sciences, the European Federation of Geologists and the European Palaeontological Association,
 - Recommendation on “Conservation of the geological heritage and areas of special geological interest” to be prepared by the Committee for the activities of the Council of Europe in the field of biological and landscape diversity (CO-DBP), for submission to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe;
- Meeting on temperate karst phenomena proposed by the French authorities, to be organized in conjunction with the next meeting of the Working Group in September 2003;
- Desk study carried out on wooden heritage in Eastern Europe.

III.2.6.2 Regional Action plan 2004-2005

The European and North American Region have started the Periodic Reporting exercise and Global Strategies issues will be addressed in this process. Priorities are given for:

- Assistance to States Parties in the preparation and up-dating of tentative lists with a priority for sub-regional activities. A number of preparatory assistance requests have been received (e.g. Belarus);
- Follow-up to harmonization meetings organized in priority regions of Europe, in particular Central and Eastern Europe and dissemination of results to all stakeholders;
- Dissemination of results of thematic studies (e.g. geological heritage) and regional global strategy meetings (e.g. cultural landscapes in Eastern Europe, Alpine Arc) to national authorities.

IV. DRAFT DECISIONS

Draft Decision 27 COM 13.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Noting the Regional Progress Reports (2002-2003) and Action Plans 2004-2005 for the Global Strategy presented in document WHC-03/27.COM/13,*
2. *Requests the World Heritage Centre, working in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies and States Parties to the World Heritage Convention to continue to implement the Global Strategy as a contribution to strengthening the credibility of the World Heritage List.*

Draft Decision 27 COM 13.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Taking note of the information provided by the Secretariat in WHC-03/27.COM/13 and WHC-03/27.COM/INF.13 on the initiative of five Andean States Parties to collaborate in the process of nominating the Qhapac Nan - Camino Inca road system for inscription on the World Heritage List,*
2. *Considering the results of the consultation meeting with the Permanent Delegations to UNESCO (29th January 2003 at UNESCO Headquarters), and the documents adopted at the first sub-regional technical meeting held in Lima, Peru, on 1 and 2 April 2003,*
3. *Welcoming the desire of the States Parties to develop a multi-national cooperation for a joint World Heritage nomination and to respond to priorities established by the World Heritage Committee in the context of the Global Strategy for a Representative World Heritage List and the Committee's Budapest Declaration,*
4. *Requests the World Heritage Centre to establish a consultation mechanism with the Permanent Delegations of the States Parties concerned. This should ensure the proper coordination and follow-up of actions and international assistance on the sub-regional level, and national level as appropriate, that will be required to implement successfully the process of nomination of the Qhapac Nan - Camino Inca for inscription on the World Heritage List;*
5. *Requests the World Heritage Centre, in consultation and coordination with the Permanent Delegations of the States Parties concerned and in cooperation with the relevant UNESCO offices in the region, to ensure the proper coordination of the World Heritage inscription initiative with other relevant programmes, projects and activities, such as the IDB Technical Cooperation project and the IUCN protected areas project;*
6. *Requests the World Heritage Centre to collaborate with the States Parties concerned in the implementation of the recommendations of the first sub-regional technical meeting*

held in Lima, Peru, and in seeking extra-budgetary contributions from relevant donor and financing institutions;

7. *Authorizes the World Heritage Centre to organise a scientific meeting on the Qhapac Nan – Camino Inca as recommended by the delegates at the meeting in Lima in April 2003. This meeting should take place in Peru in the second half of 2003;*
8. *Requests that the World Heritage Centre keep the Committee informed on the progress made in the implementation of this initiative.*

Draft Decision 27 COM 13.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Noting with concern the continuing disparities between regions and States Parties in their capacity to prepare Tentative Lists and nominations of properties for inscription on the World Heritage List,*
2. *Noting the progress made in the analyses of the World Heritage List being undertaken by ICOMOS and IUCN for submission to the 28th session of the Committee in 2004;*
3. *Recognizing the progress in the preparation of studies to promote the revision of national tentative lists through regional consultations and the periodic reporting exercise;*
4. *Recalling the spirit of the Resolution of the 12th General Assembly of States Parties in 1999, notably in encouraging bilateral and multilateral cooperation for the benefit of States Parties whose heritage is under-represented in the List; and to promote their capacity-building and training,*
5. *Invites States Parties whose heritage is well represented on the List to voluntarily space new nominations and to assist the under-represented States Parties requiring technical cooperation to enhance conditions for the preparation and updating of Tentative Lists and the nomination of their cultural and natural heritage;*
6. *Requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to (i) support the States Parties in the implementation of the Global Strategy for a credible, balanced and representative World Heritage List and Tentative Lists, (ii) report to the 28th session of the Committee (2004) on the results of the on-going analyses of the World Heritage List and (iii) propose practical and operational actions within the Regional Programmes to enhance the representivity of the World Heritage List in view of the world's cultural and natural diversity, as part of the implementation of the Strategic Objective to strengthen the credibility of the World Heritage List.*