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Report

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REPORT BY THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE ON ITS ACTIVITIES (1996-1997)

OUTLINE

Source: Article 29.3 of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

Background: The Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage was established by the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by the General Conference at its seventeenth session, on 16 November 1972.

This report is submitted to the General Conference by the Committee in accordance with Article 29.3 mentioned above, which stipulates that ‘the Committee shall submit a report on its activities at each of the ordinary sessions of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization’.

Purpose: This report provides information on the increase of the World Heritage sites and their state of conservation, on the World Heritage Fund and the co-operation activities carried out under this Fund. Particular emphasis has been placed during this biennium on the representativity of the World Heritage List, the monitoring of the state of conservation and on the training of staff.

Decision required: Proposed resolution contained in Annex I (see paragraphs 19 and 20).

I. COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

1. The number of States Parties having deposited an instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession in respect of the World Heritage Convention was 143 at the beginning of the tenth General Assembly, which met during the twenty-eighth session of the General Conference of UNESCO (Paris, 1995). On 18 March 1997, the number of States Parties had increased to 148. The List of States Parties is available upon request.

2. At its tenth session, the General Assembly elected **seven** members of the Committee to replace those members whose terms of office are due to expire. The World Heritage Committee is composed at present as follows:

Australia***¹, Benin***, Brazil**, Canada***, China*, Cyprus*, Cuba***, Egypt*, Ecuador***, France**, Germany*, Italy**, Japan**, Lebanon**, Malta***, Morocco***, Mexico*, Niger**, Philippines*, Spain*, United States of America**.

3. Since the previous report, submitted to the General Conference during its twenty-eighth session (28 C/98), the Committee met twice: the first time at the invitation of the German authorities from 4 to 9 December 1995 in Berlin (Germany), and the second, at the invitation of the Mexican authorities, in Merida (Mexico) from 2 to 7 December 1996.

4. The Bureau of the Committee met twice in 1996. In 1997, the first meeting was held in June and the second will be held in November. It is composed as follows:

From December 1995 to December 1996:

Chairperson:	H.E. Dr Horst Winkelmann (Germany)
Vice-Chairpersons:	Australia, Italy, Japan, Lebanon and Mexico
Rapporteur:	H.E. Mr Lambert Messan (Niger)

Since December 1996:

Chairperson:	Ms Teresa Franco (Mexico)
Vice-Chairpersons:	Australia, Germany, Italy, Japan and Morocco
Rapporteur:	H.E. Mr Lambert Messan (Niger)

5. The World Heritage Committee, hereinafter referred to as 'the Committee', has four essential functions:

- (i) to identify, on the basis of nominations submitted by States Parties, cultural and natural properties of outstanding universal value which are to be protected under the Convention, and to list these properties on the 'World Heritage List' (Sections II and III of the document);

1. * States whose terms of office will expire at the end of the twenty-ninth session of the General Conference.

** States whose terms of office will expire at the end of the thirtieth session of the General Conference.

*** States whose terms of office will expire at the end of the thirty-first session of the General Conference.

- (ii) to monitor, in liaison with the States Parties, the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List (Section IV);
- (iii) to decide which properties inscribed on the World Heritage List are to be included on the List of World Heritage on Danger (Section IV); and
- (iv) to determine the most appropriate ways and conditions under which the resources of the World Heritage Fund can be used to assist States Parties, as far as possible, in the protection of their properties of outstanding universal value (Sections V and VI).

The Secretariat of the World Heritage Committee is provided by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

II. THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

6. On the basis of nominations put forward by States Parties in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention, the World Heritage Committee has, since its last report to the General Conference, decided to add **66** new inscriptions to the World Heritage List. It should be noted that some of these properties consist of several monuments or sites. As of 1 January 1997 the total number of inscriptions to the World Heritage List numbered **506**, distributed as follows: **380** cultural properties or sites, **107** natural sites and **19** mixed sites, the list of which is available upon request.

7. In drawing up the World Heritage List, the Committee has been guided by the need to ensure, as far as possible, the representative nature of the List for all cultural and natural properties which meet the requirements of outstanding universal value stipulated by the Convention and satisfy the criteria adopted by the Committee for the evaluation of cultural and natural properties; these criteria are set out in the document 'Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention' (WHC/97/2, February 1997). The Committee has evaluated each nomination in terms of these criteria, and in doing so taken note of the comments of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) or the World Conservation Union (IUCN), which, together with the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and the Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), attend the meetings of the Committee in an advisory capacity.

8. In view of the increasing number of nominations from States Parties, it is highly desirable that **tentative lists** be drawn up of properties which may be nominated for inclusion on the World Heritage List, as provided for in Article 11 of the Convention. ICOMOS, which at the request of the Committee, must examine all cultural nominations in the light of comparative studies, needs to have the tentative lists drawn up by the States Parties concerned in order to evaluate new cultural nominations. For IUCN which, in 1982, published an inventory of the world's greatest natural areas, such tentative lists are useful for improving and updating the world inventory. Henceforth, the tentative lists, both cultural and natural, will be brought to the attention of the Bureau and Committee members on a regular basis. As of 1 December 1996, **72** states had submitted tentative lists of cultural properties.

III. GLOBAL STRATEGY

9. Further to the decisions by the World Heritage Committee at its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions in 1992 and 1993, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS organized a working group to study the representative nature of the World Heritage List and the methodology for its definition and implementation, in 1994. The object of the meeting was to consider the best ways of ensuring this representativeness, and hence the credibility of the World Heritage List in the future. The report of the Expert Meeting on the 'Global Strategy' identified geographical, temporal and spiritual imbalances on the World Heritage List, identified a number of themes (to be considered in their broad anthropological context) as having high potential to complete gaps in the representation on the List, suggested a regional approach and recommended modifications to the cultural criteria to ensure that these imbalances were redressed.

10. To improve the balance and representativeness of cultural heritage on the World Heritage List, and to facilitate and focus the work of the Committee in this regard, a number of specific activities have been undertaken. Two subregional meetings on the categories of African cultural properties, presently under-represented on the World Heritage List, were held in Harare, Zimbabwe, in October 1995 and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July-August 1996. To date about half of the African States Parties invited to these meetings have presented new tentative lists. In addition two bilingual publications derived from these meetings have been widely disseminated in Africa and it is expected that new nominations from this region will be presented as a result. These meetings have contributed to a further six African countries (Republic of South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Chad, Eritrea and Djibouti) announcing their intention to become States Parties to the *Convention*.

11. The third subregional Global Strategy meeting, for the Pacific, presently under-represented on the World Heritage List, was held in Fiji in July 1997. A scientific publication will be produced and distributed.

12. Following the request of the World Heritage Committee at its eighteenth session in 1994 for a Global Strategy for natural heritage, an Expert Meeting on the 'Evaluation of general principles and criteria for nominations of natural World Heritage' was held at the Parc National de la Vanoise, France, in March 1996. The Vanoise meeting was organized in close co-operation with both ICOMOS and IUCN. At the request of the twentieth session of the Bureau, the report of this meeting was sent to all States Parties to the Convention under cover of a Circular Letter in July 1996. The Committee requested, at its twentieth session, that a joint meeting of cultural and natural heritage experts be held in 1997/1998.

13. A meeting on geological and fossil sites was held during the International Geological Congress held in Beijing, China, in August 1996. This meeting is contributing to ensuring the better representation of fossil and geological sites currently under-represented on the World Heritage List.

14. The cultural landscape categories were included in the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* by the Committee at its sixteenth session in 1992. Further to a number of thematic and regional cultural landscape meetings having been held between 1993 and 1995, an Expert Meeting on European cultural landscapes was held in Vienna, Austria, in April 1996. This meeting, held in collaboration with ICOMOS and IUCN, established co-operation with the Council of Europe with the purpose of examining the complementarity between the European Convention on landscapes and the World Heritage Convention. Two additional regional and thematic cultural landscape meetings are foreseen in

Latin America (Cultural Landscapes of the Andes) and in Africa in 1997 and 1998, and one in the Caribbean region in April 1998. These meetings will be held in close co-operation with both IUCN and ICOMOS.

15. In general terms the Global Strategy is making a contribution to the nomination of new types of cultural and natural properties for inclusion on the World Heritage List (for example, industrial heritage properties, traditional settlements, linear cultural sites, cultural landscapes, fossil and geological sites, etc.).

IV. STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

16. The World Heritage Committee, in reviewing the implementation of the World Heritage Convention on the occasion of its twentieth anniversary in 1992, recognized monitoring and reporting on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List as an essential function. Making a distinction between systematic and reactive monitoring, the Committee allocated amounts of US \$200,000 in 1996 and US \$245,000 in 1997 for support to States Parties for systematic monitoring and reporting activities, and amounts of US \$60,000 (1996) and US \$80,000 (1997) for reactive monitoring.

Systematic monitoring and reporting

17. The Committee adopted in December 1994 procedures for systematic monitoring and reporting and invited States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Committee, every five years, a scientific report on the state of conservation of the World Heritage properties on their territories.

18. However, the tenth General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, held in 1995, did not reach a conclusion and decided 'to continue the debate on the systematic monitoring and reporting on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties at the eleventh General Assembly of States Parties that will be held in 1997'.

19. As requested by the tenth General Assembly of States Parties, the Committee prepared a report and a draft resolution on monitoring and reporting for examination by the eleventh General Assembly, which are based on the following principles:

- (i) monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage properties is the responsibility of the State Party concerned and is part of the site management;
- (ii) the commitment of the States Parties to provide regular reports on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties is consistent with the principles of the World Heritage Convention and should be part of a continuous process of collaboration between the States Parties and the World Heritage Committee;
- (iii) regular reports may be submitted in accordance with Article 29 of the Convention. The General Conference of UNESCO should be asked to activate Article 29 of the Convention and to entrust the World Heritage Committee with the responsibility to respond to these reports;
- (iv) the World Heritage Committee should define the form, nature and extent of the regular reporting in respect of the principles of state sovereignty.

20. Following the decision making of the eleventh General Assembly, the World Heritage Committee will submit a draft resolution to the General Conference regarding the application of Article 29 of the World Heritage Convention (Annex I).

Reactive monitoring

21. In 1996-1997, reports on the state of conservation of all properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger were submitted to the Committee and its Bureau. No property inscribed on this List was removed.

22. Twenty-two properties are at present inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger (see Annex II); special attention, as well as financial considerations, are accorded to them by the Committee. Since its nineteenth session (Berlin, December 1995), the World Heritage Committee has inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger the following sites: Yellowstone National Park (United States of America), Simen National Park (Ethiopia), Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras), Ichkeul National Park (Tunisia) and Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of Congo).

23. Furthermore, each year, the Committee and its Bureau have examined annually more than 50 reports on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties and made specific recommendations to the States Parties for corrective or preventive measures.

24. The 1996-1997 biennium saw States Parties to the Convention become increasingly active in undertaking systematic monitoring of World Heritage sites and elaborating state of conservation reports. In the case of natural heritage sites, regional and subregional meetings were convened for synthesizing state of conservation reports on individual sites in: Queensland, Australia for South-East Asia and the Pacific (April, 1996); New Delhi, India for South Asia (January, 1997); Morocco for the Arab Region (May, 1997); and Santa Marta, Colombia for the Latin American Region (May, 1997). In Africa similar meetings were held at the country level in Uganda (February, 1996) and Guinea (May, 1996), and at the subregional level for Central and West Africa, in Côte d'Ivoire (June, 1996), and for Francophone Africa, in Niger (October, 1996).

25. A good example of regional co-operation in this field is that of the Nordic states. In accordance with the Environmental Strategy for 1996-2000 which it has promoted, the Nordic Council of Ministers produced in November 1996 a report on the 'Nordic World Heritage', evaluating the Nordic region representation on the World Heritage List.

V. THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND

(i) Contributions

26. As at 30 June 1997, contributions received from States Parties for the period **1996-1997** amounted to US \$4,380,979, of which US \$2,457,018 were mandatory contributions and US \$1,923,961 voluntary contributions. Mandatory contributions still receivable for 1996-1997 amount to US \$1,641,184 and to US \$3,112,814, if account is taken of the total of unpaid contributions for the years 1996-1997 and the previous years. There is a cash balance of US \$6,167,856 as at 30 June 1997. It is recalled that paragraph 4 of Article 16 of the World Heritage Convention stipulates that voluntary contributions shall be paid on a regular basis at least **every two** years, and should not be less than the contributions which they should have paid if they had been bound by the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article.

27. The budgets approved by the World Heritage Committee respectively for its nineteenth (Berlin, December 1995) and twentieth (Merida, December 1996) sessions for 1996 and 1997 are as follows:

Details	1996 US \$	1997 US \$
World Heritage Fund	3,000,000	3,500,000
Emergency Reserve Fund	500,000	500,000

(ii) Assistance to States Parties

28. From 1 January 1996 to 1 May 1997, various types of international assistance have been provided to States Parties from the World Heritage Fund.

(a) **Preparatory assistance** At its nineteenth and twentieth sessions, the World Heritage Committee, granted respectively preparatory assistance of **US \$175,000** for 1996 and **US \$300,000** for 1997. Assistance for the preparation of tentative lists of properties suitable for inclusion on the World Heritage List, the preparation of nomination dossiers or projects was provided to the following States Parties:

1996-1997

Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guyana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Latvia, Malta, Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Tanzania, Uruguay, Zimbabwe.

(b) **Training:** At its nineteenth and twentieth sessions, the World Heritage Committee granted respectively for 1996 **US \$550,000** and for 1997 **US \$745,000** for training activities. The Committee continued to give priority to group training rather than individual fellowships.

29. The following training activities were approved, by the Committee for amounts above US \$30,000, by the Bureau for amounts between US \$20,000 and US \$30,000, and by the Chairperson of the Committee for amounts below US \$20,000.

Cultural heritage

	US \$
Interregional Postgraduate Course for Conservation of Monuments and Rehabilitation of Historic Cities CECRE, Salvador de Bahia (Brazil)	65,000
Central America: Training Seminar for Managers of Archaeological Sites (Honduras)	35,000
	US \$
Regional training course for the conservation and protection of cultural monuments and sites for architects of the Maghreb (Tunisia)	36,000

Regional training course for integrated urban and territorial conservation (third year) - CUTI/BR (Brazil)	40,000
Pilot project for the Conservation of James Island (Gambia)	10,000
Seminar on the Conservation of movable properties in sub-Saharan Africa (ICCRROM)	30,000
Training course for an Integrated Approach to Urban Conservation (ICCRROM)	40,000
Training seminars - Director of programmes for World Heritage Conservation (Argentina)	20,000
International Study and conservation Project for Tumilat (Egypt)	20,000
Regional course on the financial and institutional capacities for the Urban Renovation of Historic Cities (Cuba)	30,000
Regional course for Latin America and the Caribbean on the Scientific Conservation Principles (ICCRROM)	30,000
Regional training workshop in Tbilissi and Signagi on the importance of Vernacular Architecture and Conservation Problems (Georgia)	27,500
Training workshop for responsables in charge of Urban Management in Historic Cities of China (China)	25,000
James Island and Albreda, Juffure, San Domingo, Prehistoric Circle of Stones (Gambia)	10,000
Training of Algerian architects for the Kasbah of Algiers (Algeria)	8,700
Documentation and recording of seven zones of monuments in Kathmandu Valley (Nepal)	14,000
Training course by the Old Town Renewal Trust of Edinburgh for Vilnius (Lithuania)	8,630
TOTAL	449,830

Natural heritage

	US \$
Regional training course on Habitats of Wet Tropics Keoladeo National Park (India)	30,000
First Asia CNPPA meeting in Jakarta (Indonesia)	15,000

Training of the local population for the Protection and Conservation of Lake Malawi (Malawi)	4,850
Regional Scientific Conference on Monts Rwenzori (Uganda)	12,249
Training on the Use of Economic Tools for Site Management (Slovakia)	9,860
19th International Course on Protected Areas (CATIE) (Costa Rica)	30,000
Two-year Individual fellowships at the Training School for Wildlife Specialists at Garoua (Cameroon)	45,000
Training fellowships (3) for the College of African Wildlife Management (Tanzania)	30,000
Training fellowships at Mackay, Queensland, Australia (Indonesia)	17,000
Three training fellowships at Colorado University, United States (Regional)	16,050
Training Course, ENGREF - Cameroon (Regional)	19,000
Seminar for Site Managers at Santa Marta (Colombia) (Regional)	19,000
TOTAL	248,009

30. Furthermore, the Committee approved the preparation by ICOMOS of guidelines for the provision and preparation of risks at cultural World Heritage sites (US \$30,000) and decided to contribute an amount of US \$25,000 with ICCROM to a technical assistance programme, including documentation and small-scale equipment/material for the conservation and management of sites. The Committee also approved an amount of US \$20,000 to complete the training strategy for cultural heritage, in close collaboration with ICCROM. With IUCN, the Committee decided to contribute an amount of US \$15,000 to the IUCN World Congress which was held in Montreal (Canada, in 1996). Finally, an amount of US \$50,000 was also approved for the production of video films on the World Heritage Convention for training purposes.

(c) **Technical co-operation:** At its nineteenth and twentieth sessions, the World Heritage Committee approved respectively, a budget of **US \$685,000** for 1996 and **US \$900,000** for 1997. The following requests submitted by States Parties for the period 1996-1997 were approved by the Committee in the framework of this budget.

31. As at 1 May 1997, the following projects have been approved by the Committee for amounts above US \$30,000, by the Bureau for amounts between US \$20,000 and US \$30,000 and by the Chairperson of the Committee for amounts below US \$20,000.

For 1996

	US \$
Training architects for the Safeguarding of the Kasbah of Algiers	

(Algeria)	18,900
Management and Conservation Plan for the Archaeological Park of San Agustin (Colombia)	10,400
Preparation of technical studies for the restoration of the roof of Santo Domingo, Quito (Ecuador)	20,000
Flood Control Project at Petra (Jordan)	32,500
Integrated conservation project, Ile du Mozambique (Mozambique)	19,900
Conservation of Salt Sculptures of Wieliczka Salt Mine (Poland)	100,000
Equipment for Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of Congo)	2,450
Conservation of Spissky Hrad (Slovakia)	23,333
Restoration of the Baths, S. Bosra (Syria)	20,000
Reinforcing management at the Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Guinea/Côte d'Ivoire)	18,000
Transport and communication equipment for Rwenzori National Park (Uganda)	20,000
Surveillance vehicle for Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of Congo)	30,000
Equipment for excavation work at Mankhor, Tassili n'Ajjer (Algeria)	16,000
Preparation of Guidelines for the Management Planning of the Megellan Peninsula as buffer zone of the Los Glaciares National Park (Argentina)	11,012
Water resources development project for the buffer zone of Ujong Kulon National Park (Indonesia)	40,000
Purchase of a boat for Komodo National Park (Indonesia)	30,000
	US \$
Biological inventory and management plan for the Lake Malawi National Park (Malawi)	30,000
Preparation of a strategy for the Jesuit Missions of the Chiquitos (Bolivia)	30,000
Equipment to improve security at the Museum site of the Chengde Temples (China)	34,150

Thracian tomb of Kazanlak, Madara Rider, Boyana Church Rock-hewn Churches of Ivanovo, Rila Monastery, Ancient City of Nessebar, Thracian tomb of Sveshtari (Bulgaria)	30,000
Islamic Cairo, restoration of a monument (Egypt)	30,000
Timbuktu mosques - List of World Heritage in Danger (Mali)	40,000
Tourism Impact Study on the Historic Centre of Mompox (Colombia)	30,000
TOTAL	636,645

For 1997 (up to 1 May)

	US \$
Conservation strategy and preparation of a management plan for the Biosphere Reserve of Rio Platano (Honduras)	30,000
Technical Workshop on the Conservation of Simen National Park (Ethiopia)	30,000
Establishment of a Project Office in the Historic Centre of Olinda (Brazil)	33,000
Conservation of traditional houses, Luang Prabang (Laos)	39,900
Documentation, studies and inventory of rock-art paintings, Serra de Capivara National Park (Brazil)	35,000
International Seminar on Conservation and Management of Joya de Ceren (El Salvador)	10,000
Assistance for the organization of the Third General Assembly of the of World Heritage Cities Organization Evora (Portugal)	30,000
Logistic support for the renovation programme for the Old City of Vilnius (Lithuania)	25,000
	US \$
Studies and restoration programmes for Lalibela, Fasil Ghebi, Lower Valley of the Awash, Tiya, Aksum and Lower Valley of the Omo	27,500
Technical assistance for Vlkolinec (Slovakia)	10,000
Establishment of construction standards for Hué (Viet Nam)	12,500
City-Museum Reserve of Mtskheta (Georgia)	16,500

Restoration of the monument Al-Sinnari, Islamic Cairo (Egypt)	20,000
Regional Conference on Universities and World Heritage Cities (Canada)	10,000
Acquisition of school equipment for Tetouan (Morocco)	20,000
TOTAL	349,400

(d) **Emergency assistance:** Thanks to an emergency reserve fund of five hundred thousand dollars in 1996, established from reserves of the World Heritage Fund and maintained at the same level in 1997, several rapid interventions have made it possible to contribute and respond to emergency requests, for both the cultural and the natural heritage.

32. Assistance for work relating to cultural and natural properties inscribed or suitable for inscription on the World Heritage List and which have undergone or are threatened by serious damage due to unpredictable and sudden phenomena, was provided for the period 1 January 1996 to 1 May, for the following properties:

	US \$
Consolidation of Teatro Sucre of Quito (Ecuador)	65,000
Consolidation of structures of the Casa de Guaimaro Valley des los Ingenios (Trinidad)	46,000
Emergency assistance for the Archaeological site of Joya de Ceren (El Salvador)	20,000
Fire damage at the Eglise de la Compagnie de Jesus (Ecuador)	40,000
Historic City of Lijiang, earthquake damage (China)	40,000
TOTAL	211,000

33. Finally, during its twentieth session, the World Heritage Committee unanimously requested that at the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the World Heritage Convention and the fifth year of functioning of the World Heritage Centre, there be an external evaluation of the functioning of the Centre. This financial and management evaluation should provide the Organization and the Committee with indications for the improvement of procedures for the implementation of the Convention.

34. The first part of this evaluation undertaken by the UNESCO external auditors, concerning the financial statements of the World Heritage Fund, took place in April-May 1997 and its results were presented to the Director-General of UNESCO and the twenty-first session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee (23-28 June 1997). Prior to this, the Consultative Body established by the World Heritage Committee to monitor the evaluation, met twice in Paris (1 and 2 April, 20 June 1997) to elaborate the terms of reference of the audit and to study the conclusions and recommendations of the auditors. These were submitted to the Bureau of the Committee at its twenty-first session. The Bureau approved them and

decided to transmit them to the World Heritage Committee. Furthermore, the Bureau approved a text containing measures aiming to improve the financial management of the Fund as well as the co-ordination between the World Heritage Committee, the Bureau and the World Heritage Centre.

VI. PROMOTION AND EDUCATION

35. Public awareness building being fundamental to the transmission of values and knowledge, and sense of individual responsibility for the protection of World Heritage, as clearly indicated in the World Heritage Convention, information and promotional activities over the past two years have focused on the dissemination of World Heritage information to as wide a sector of the general public as possible. Partnership with public and private television companies and publishing houses have been established for the production of documentary film series, numerous photographic books and a 13-volume encyclopedia on World Heritage, among other media products. A World Heritage Information Network (WHIN) has been built on the Internet through UNESCO's web site during this biennium. WHIN links over 400 providers of information about World Heritage and World Heritage sites. Receiving well over 40,000 queries a month, WHIN has proven to be an essential public information and education tool.

36. In addition to its dissemination through the Internet, the World Heritage Newsletter is widely distributed in paper form to those countries and regions which do not have access to the Internet. The World Heritage Review, a quarterly magazine richly illustrated with photographs is published in co-operation with a Spanish publisher in Spanish, French and English versions.

37. Photographic exhibitions, as well as special regional and thematic publications have also been widely diffused during this period. The ever-increasing public information requests and opportunities for partnership with media partners indicate the growing importance of World Heritage in contemporary society and to future generations.

38. Initiated in 1995 with the Bergen World Heritage Youth Forum, this six-year Special Project adopted by the General Conference at its twenty-eighth session involves so far some 60 countries. With the aim of introducing World Heritage Education into the school curricula, a World Heritage Education Kit is being prepared for distribution in 1998, using the experience gained in ASP secondary schools all over the world. A total of 150 students and teachers have met in 1996 at Regional World Heritage Youth Fora held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, and Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The Fora have been organized jointly with the National Commissions for UNESCO and the Regional Office in Harare. China has officially proposed to host the Asia-Pacific World Heritage Youth Forum in Autumn 1997.

39. The World Heritage Fund contributed US \$85,000 to this project over the two-year period, whereas US \$545,000 were obtained from extrabudgetary funding (Rhône-Poulenc \$165,000 1996/1997, Norad \$70,000 1996 - plus \$310,000 foreseen in 1997 according to agreement in process).

ANNEX I

RECOMMENDATION

The World Heritage Committee, at its twentieth session (December 1996), decided to recommend to the General Conference to adopt the following proposed resolution:

The General Conference,

1. Noting that the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage has recognized that the cultural and natural heritage 'are increasingly threatened with destruction, not only by traditional causes of decay, but also by changing social and economic conditions which aggravate the situation with even more formidable phenomena of damage or destruction',
2. Reaffirms that 'deterioration or disappearance of any item of the cultural or natural heritage constitutes a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of all the nations of the world';
3. Considers that the Convention should be interpreted in the light of 25 years of experience in its implementation;
4. Considers that such interpretation recognizes the sovereign right of the State Party concerned over the World Heritage sites situated on its territory;
5. Considers that a well-reflected and formulated common policy for the protection of cultural and natural heritage is likely to create a continuing interaction between States Parties;
6. Emphasizes the interest of each State Party to be informed of the experience of others with regard to conservation methods and the possibilities so offered, through voluntary international co-operation, for the general improvement of all actions undertaken;
7. Reaffirms the standard setting role of the General Assembly as well as of the World Heritage Committee;
8. Concludes that monitoring is the responsibility of the State Party concerned and that the commitment to provide regular reports on the state of the site is consistent with the principles set out in the Convention in

- (i) the first, second, sixth, seventh and eighth preambular clauses
 - (ii) Article 4
 - (iii) Articles 6.1 and 6.2
 - (iv) Article 7
 - (v) Article 10
 - (vi) Article 11
 - (vii) Article 13
 - (viii) Article 15
 - (ix) Article 21.3
 - (x) Article 29;
9. Emphasizes that monitoring by the State Party is part of the site management which remains the responsibility of the States Parties where the site is located, and that regular reports may be submitted in accordance with Article 29 of the Convention;
10. Recalls that Article 4 of the Convention provides that ‘Each State Party ... recognizes that the duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage ... situated on its territory, belongs primarily to that State’;
11. Recalls that Article 6 lays down the concept of world heritage ‘for whose protection it is the duty of the international community as a whole to co-operate’, and that Article 7 requires the establishment of a ‘system of international co-operation’ and assistance ‘designed to support States Parties’ efforts to conserve and identify that heritage;
12. Emphasizes that regular reporting should be part of a consultative process and not treated as a sanction or a coercive mechanism;
13. Notes that within the broad responsibility of the World Heritage Committee in standards setting, the form, nature and extent of the regular reporting must respect the principles of State sovereignty;
- The involvement of the Committee, through its Secretariat or advisory bodies, in the preparation of the regular reports would be with the agreement of the State Party concerned. The States Parties may request expert advice from the Secretariat or the advisory bodies. The Secretariat may also commission expert advice with the agreement of the States Parties;
14. Invites the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention to submit in accordance with Article 29 of the Convention, through the World Heritage Committee, via its secretariat the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, reports on the legislative and administrative provisions and other actions which they have taken for the application of the Convention, including the state of conservation of the World Heritage properties located on its territories;
15. Requests the World Heritage Committee to define the periodicity, form, nature and extent of the regular reporting on the application of the World Heritage Convention

and on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties and to examine and respond to these reports while respecting the principle of State sovereignty;

16. Requests the World Heritage Committee to include in its reports to the General Conference, presented in accordance with Article 29.3 of the Convention, its findings as regard to the application of the Convention by the States Parties;
17. Encourages States Parties to take advantage of shared information and experience on World Heritage matters and to contribute to the conservation of World Heritage properties, including through voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund;
18. Invites other States to become States Parties to the Convention.

**Conférence générale**

Vingt-neuvième session
Rapport

Генеральная конференция

Двадцать девятая сессия
Доклады

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Paris 1997

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Twenty-ninth Session
Report

المؤتمر العام

الدورة التاسعة والعشرون
تقرير

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29ª reunión
Informe

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第二十九届会议
报告

29 C/REP.10 Corr.

17 October 1997

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**REPORT BY THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE
FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND
NATURAL HERITAGE ON ITS ACTIVITIES (1996-1997)**

CORRIGENDUM

Paragraph 32 should be read as follows:

‘32. Assistance for work relating to cultural and natural properties inscribed or suitable for inscription on the World Heritage List and which have undergone or are threatened by serious damage due to unpredictable and sudden phenomena, was provided for the period 1 January 1996 to 1 May 1997, for the following properties: ...’