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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL
AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

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**IUCN Comments on the Main Conclusions and Recommendations of the C3E
Report: "Evaluation of International Assistance in the Framework of the
Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural
Heritage" (WHC-2000/CONF.202/13)**

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Heritage” (WHC-2000/CONF.202/13)**

<i>5.1.1 Conclusions concerning the objectives of international assistance</i>	<i>IUCN Comments on the conclusions concerning the objectives of International assistance</i>
A. The priorities and the means of attribution of international assistance do not sufficiently take account of the success encountered by the Convention and international assistance.	Agree.
B. International assistance is not sufficiently guided by precise strategic orientations from the Committee and the Bureau.	Agree. The allocation of international assistance needs to be closely linked to the objectives of the revised Strategic Plan.
C. The conservation and the presentation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List will become dominant priorities in the coming decades.	Agree. IUCN believes that the conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List should take priority over the identification of new sites.
D. The emerging objective to “give life” to the heritage properties, and that of the creation of sustainable economic and social development for listed sites, calls for more in-depth reflection.	Agree. The creation of sustainable economic and social development options for listed sites is essential for their long-term conservation and to ensure support from local communities.
E. The operational objectives as set out in the Guidelines can lead to confusion because they mix the types of intervention (e.g.: preparatory assistance, training) with the types of beneficiaries (new properties, endangered properties, etc).	Agree. The objectives need to be reviewed along with the criteria for approving grants and the respective roles of the Secretariat and the Advisory Bodies.
F. The group of objectives assigned to international assistance is too ambitious in regard to the human and budgetary resources of the Fund and the Centre.	Agree – (see comment on conclusion E. above).

5.1.2 Conclusions concerning the results of international assistance

A. The catalyser effects give credibility to the projects, and enable the inscription of new sites and the conservation of the sites in regard to the national authorities and international funding organisations.	<p>IUCN agrees that international assistance can have more strategic prioritisation. However, it could be more effective given more strategic prioritisation through closer links to the Strategic Plan and increased follow-up to recommendations from technical and training meetings/workshops.</p> <p>Except for emergency assistance, greater emphasis should be placed on using international assistance to secure long-term sources of funding e.g. capacity building for fund raising.</p> <p>Except for emergency assistance, greater emphasis should be placed on co-funding with State Parties or foundations.</p>
B. Assistance in the framework of emergency situations is crucial because of the moral authority that UNESCO’s World Heritage Convention represents.	

C. Multiplier effects are important for the least-developed countries, but their effectiveness remains limited to certain precise cases that should be more clearly defined.	
D. The effects of capacity building for the least-developed countries are significant and are very effective when the activities are organised by “pooling” resources (regional training seminars, guides, by area...).	
E. Recurrent financing for the same site is only justified when it is necessary to assist the managers to meet the challenges of a critical phase in the “life cycle” of the site.	This should be assessed on a case by case basis.
F. In regard to budgetary and human constraints, greater selectivity is indispensable in regard to the potential contribution of the projects for meeting the objectives.	Agree.

5.1.3 Conclusions concerning the implementation of international assistance

A. The criteria for selecting requests are too vague and too general for each type of beneficiary: risk of “first come, first served”.	IUCN agrees that this is a major problem facing international assistance.
B. The Fund’s autonomy and the operational nature of the Centre enables rapid and flexible international assistance which many other international or national administrators do not have.	Any revision of the criteria of granting international assistance should ensure that this essential quality is not altered.
C. The Committee and the Centre do not have a truly proactive method.	Agree.
D. The role of the advisory bodies is essential in providing expertise independent of the Centre.	Agree.
E. The participation of the advisory bodies (as well as that of Secretariat staff) in the realisation of the services financed by International Assistance arouses suspicion.	Agree but believe that well defined criteria and transparent procedures for the analysis of international assistance requests could deal with this problem. Also, the identification of priorities as defined in the Strategic Plan will also reduce suspicion.
F. There remain serious problems of internal organisation in the Centre which necessitate the intervention of specialists in the months to come.	
G. Analysis of the effects of international assistance has been insufficient since the adoption of the Convention.	IUCN believes that there should be regular evaluations of the effectiveness of international assistance. This could be carried out on a regional basis with Periodic Reporting.

<i>Recommendations concerning the objectives</i>	<i>Responsible body</i>	<i>Temporality</i>	<i>IUCN Comment</i>
Focus the role of the Committee and the Bureau on updating the strategic priorities.	Committee, Bureau	Short term	Agree.
Seek a management system in accordance with the objectives to be attained in the frame of three situations that require international assistance: properties to add on the List; endangered properties; properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.	Committee World Heritage Centre	Medium term	Agree.

Simplify the means of attribution of assistance and exercise greater selectivity in accordance with priority needs.	Bureau, Centre	Short term	Agree.
Rebalance the priorities in favour of assistance to the sites already on the List that are experiencing difficulties.	Committee	Medium term	Agree.
Develop reflection concerning the emerging objective of creating a sustainable economic and social dynamic for listed sites.	Committee	Medium term	Agree.
Reduce the number of financial projects in order to produce more significant effects through more in-depth study and the concentration of available resources at regional level.	Centre	Medium term	Agree.

<i>Recommendations concerning the results</i>	<i>Responsible body</i>	<i>Temporality</i>	<i>IUCN Comment</i>
Prepare a new version of the Guidelines that concentrates the objectives and interventions of international assistance on what gives added value to the Fund in comparison with the activities of other international organisations.	Committee	Short term	Agree.
Develop and privilege the interventions capable of producing catalyser effects with properties to inscribe, but also properties already inscribed on the List.	Centre	Short term	Agree.
Continue efforts with regard to emergency situations for the cultural heritage and develop joint actions when possible with the NGOs in the natural domain.	Committee	Short term	Agree.
Reserve the co-financing of investments or rehabilitation work for the least-developed countries and/or the sites that are undergoing a temporary critical phase.	Committee, Centre	Short term	Agree.
Give priority to capacity building actions in a regional framework (sharing), based on new information and communication technologies (on line training, Internet, etc.) and in partnership with the decentralised relay institutions.	Centre	Medium term	Agree.

<i>Recommendations concerning implementation</i>	<i>Responsible body</i>	<i>Temporality</i>	<i>IUCN Comment</i>
Mobilise complementary financing to attempt to attain all of the objectives, based on the growing interest of peoples for environment protection and the discovery of other cultures (subscription via tourism, Internet...).	Centre	Medium term	Agree.
Establish a well-defined multicriteria grid to diagnose the critical phases in the life of a site, from its identification to its presentation, and which can justify an intervention of international assistance.	Centre, Advisory Bodies	Medium term	Agree.
Develop the management of requests on the Internet for an access in real time by the States Members of the Committee, as well as on line actions of assistance via the Internet.	Centre	Medium term	Agree.
Preserve and increase the present qualities of international assistance in terms of rapidity and flexibility, whilst increasing the transparency vis à vis the Committee (better “accountability”).	Centre	Long term	Agree.
Preserve the role of Advisory Bodies as independent technical expertise and take short or medium term measures to reduce the risk of confusion of roles.	Centre, Advisory Bodies	Short and Medium term	Agree.
Give priority to the intervention of management and organisational experts to improve the procedures of decision making, management and monitoring tools.	Bureau	Short term	Agree.
Make evaluations at least every six years.	Bureau	Medium term	Agree.