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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**

**Twenty-second session  
UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, Room X (Fontenoy)  
22-27 June 1998**

**Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda: Requests for International Assistance**

**SUMMARY**

**Decision required:** In accordance with paragraphs 90-117 of the Operational Guidelines, the Bureau is requested:

- (i) to take decisions concerning International Assistance requests for natural and cultural heritage between US\$ 20,000. and US\$ 30,000. (inclusive);

The guidelines for International Assistance requests in paragraphs 90-117 of the Operational Guidelines have been synthesized in Table 1.

Type of international assistance												
PREPARATORY			TRAINING			TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION			EMERGENCY			
Maximum allocation in US \$	Advice from advisory bodies	Status of payment of dues to the Fund	Maximum allocation in US \$	Advice from advisory bodies	Status of payment of dues to the Fund	Maximum allocation in US \$	Advice from advisory bodies	Status of payment of dues to the Fund	Maximum allocation in US \$	Advice from advisory bodies	Status of payment of dues to the Fund	
Decision by												
<b>CHAIRPERSON</b>	15,000.00	n/a	applicable	20,000.00	as appropriate	n/a	20,000.00	as appropriate	applicable	50,000.00	as appropriate	n/a
<b>BUREAU</b>		n/a		30,000.00	as appropriate	n/a	30,000.00	as appropriate	applicable	75,000.00	as appropriate	n/a
<b>COMMITTEE</b>		n/a		above 30,000.00	as appropriate	n/a	above 30,000.00	as appropriate	applicable	above 75,000.00	as appropriate	n/a

Note: n/a = not applicable

## **A. Natural Heritage**

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**A.1 DOMINICA (Technical co-operation for Morne Trois Pitons National Park inscription ceremony and Regional Conference on the World Heritage Convention)**

**World Heritage site concerned:** Morne Trois Pitons National Park.

**Previous World Heritage Fund contributions:** A request for the revision of the management plan for Morne Trois Pitons National Park for an amount of US\$ 13,900 has been sent to the Chairperson for consideration.

**Status of payment due to the World Heritage Fund:** Dues fully paid up to 1997.

**Summary:** Morne Trois Pitons National Park was inscribed on the World Heritage List by the Committee at its twenty-first session as the first natural site from the Eastern Caribbean. This technical co-operation request, transmitted by the Ministry for Tourism of Dominica, requests assistance for the organization of an inscription ceremony and for hosting a regional conference on “The Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and its Social, Biological Cultural and Economic Relevance to the Caribbean” 3 - 5 August 1998. The conference will aim to promote the World Heritage Convention amongst Caribbean States and to provide a forum for sharing regional experiences (including eco-tourism) and technical knowledge with other States Parties from the region. The main focus of the conference is the implementation of the natural heritage part of the Convention, in particular to sensitize natural resource managers and to inform them about technical procedures (including nomination process and international assistance). The participants are Directors of National Parks, tourism, culture, and environmental specialists and a number of regional conservation associations.

**Budget breakdown:**

<b>Total budget:</b>	<b>US\$ 123,963.<sup>40</sup></b>
<b>National input:</b>	<b>US\$ 21,363.<sup>40</sup></b>
(including Private sector sponsorships of US\$ 5,362. <sup>40</sup> and local contribution of US\$ 16,000.)	
<b>Other input:</b>	<b>US\$ 72,600.</b>
Airfare and accommodation costs to be met by delegates and international sponsors	
<b>Amount requested from the World Heritage Fund:</b>	<b>US\$ 30,000.</b>
For transport and per diem of experts, interpretation, communication, video recording of the conference, final conference report.	

**Evaluation of the request:** IUCN provided detailed comments on the request, in particular, stressing the need to clearly define: (1) the objectives of the conference and the expected results and the selection of participants from the region; and recommended (2) focusing more on relevant themes for the region, such as those related to potential marine and coastal zone sites. The comments were submitted to the National Authorities and any further information received will be presented to the Bureau.

**Action by the Bureau:** If clarifications from the National Authorities concerning the objectives and the scope of the conference are received, the Bureau may wish to approve the total amount requested of **US\$ 30,000.**

## **B. Cultural Heritage**

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**B.1 BULGARIA (Technical co-operation for purchasing dehumidifying equipment for the Boyana Church)**

**World Heritage site concerned:** Boyana Church

**Status of payments due to the World Heritage Fund:** Dues fully paid up to 1997.

**Previous World Heritage Fund contributions:**

Technical co-operation: 1982 Equipment for Boyana, and two other World Heritage sites (US\$ 40,212).

1992 Equipment for improving environmental conditions for protection of mural paintings at Boyana (US\$ 10,000).

**Summary:** In 1996 and 1997, UNESCO granted equipment for a mobile laboratory to Bulgaria for a scientific analysis of the structure and material of the monuments forming part of the cultural World Heritage sites. By the end of 1997, it was reported that "work continues but lack of funds and the precarious state of the murals and the air-conditioner, which is their life support system, poses continuous problems." Upon request, the State Party prepared a state of conservation report, which indicated the need to replace some old equipment in order to stabilize the climatic conditions in the church for preserving the 13<sup>th</sup> century fresco paintings. Restoration of the fresco paintings will continue through national financing. However, the State Party requests technical co-operation for the delivery of the following equipment in order to repair and/or replace old equipment for climatic control within the Church of Boyana;

1. Automatic dehumidifier	US\$ 3,000
2. Cylinder for dehumidifier, delivered by UNESCO in 1996-7	US\$ 600
3. Spare parts for printer (to print out the climatic datas)	US\$ 800
4. Control set (in order to measure the climate conditions)	US\$ 100
5. 12 electric heaters	US\$ 500
6. Air conditioning	US\$ 20,000

**Budget Breakdown:**

<b>Total budget:</b>	<b>US\$ 35,000</b>
Continuation of the preservation work	US\$ 10,000
Purchase of equipment	US\$ 25,000
<b>National input:</b>	<b>US\$ 10,000</b>
<b>Amount requested from the World Heritage Fund:</b>	<b>US\$ 25,000</b>

**Evaluation of the request:** ICOMOS supports this request.

<b>Action by the Bureau:</b> The Bureau may wish to approve the total amount requested of <b>US\$ 25,000.</b>
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**B.2 COLOMBIA (Technical co-operation for the conservation of the National Archaeological Park of Tierradentro)**

**World Heritage site concerned:** National Archaeological Park of Tierradentro

**Status of payments due to the World Heritage Fund:** Dues fully paid up to 1997.

**Previous World Heritage Fund contributions:**

Emergency Assistance 1994 Tierradentro (US\$ 69,500)

**Summary:** The National Archaeological Park of Tierradentro was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1995 on the basis of criterion iii). It consists of a complex of *hypogeos* underground burial chambers that are accessible by a spiral stairway. Emergency assistance for an amount of US\$ 69,500 was provided in 1994 (before its inscription on the World Heritage List) in response to damages caused to the site by an earthquake. This assistance was used for expert advice, research and emergency measures at the site. The Minister of Culture submitted this request for technical co-operation for undertaking a pilot project for the structural conservation of the burial chambers.

The objectives of the project for the structural conservation of the burial chambers are to:

- 1) Define the criteria and intervention methods for the restoration of the *hypogeos*;
- 2) Apply methods for monitoring the environment of the interior of the *hypogeos*.

**Budget breakdown:**

**Total project budget:** US\$ 100,000

Details of budget breakdown has been requested by the World Heritage Centre.

**National contribution:** US\$ 70,000

**Amount requested from the World Heritage Fund:** US\$ 30,000

**Evaluation of request:** ICOMOS advised favourably on this request.

<p><b>Action by the Bureau:</b> The Bureau may wish to approve the request for the total amount of US\$ 30,000.</p>
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**B.3 SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC (Restoration and Conservation Project of the Roman Bathes in the south of the Ancient City of Bosra)**

**World Heritage site concerned:** Ancient City of Bosra

**Status of payment of dues to the World Heritage Fund:** Dues fully paid up to 1998.

**Previous World Heritage Fund contribution:**

Technical Co-operation: 1996 Preservation of the Roman Baths in the south of the Ancient City of Bosra

**Summary:** Due to heavy rain and weathering from exposure to strong wind, the roofs of the Roman Baths have been deteriorating. There has been a serious need to prevent further collapse of the Roman Baths. Consequently, the Syrian Authorities, in co-operation with IFAPO (Institut français d'archéologie de proche-orient), launched a preservation project in 1996. This request is to assist the national authorities to continue their preservation work and on-site training activities, in co-operation with IFAPO.

The objectives of this project are:

- 1) Studying the structures of the Roman Baths;
- 2) Facilitating the installation of sub-structural frames to support the weight of roofs of the baths;
- 3) Training of national staff.

**Direct target beneficiaries:** Concerned national restorers, conservators and staff of the Department of Antiquities and Museums

**Budget breakdown:**

<b>Total project budget</b>	<b>US \$ 36,000.-</b>
Details of budget breakdown will be presented to the Bureau.	
<b>National input</b>	<b>US \$ 5,000.-</b>
<b>Other input (IFAPO)</b>	<b>US \$ 1,000.-</b>
<b>Amount request from the fund</b>	<b>US \$ 30,000.-</b>

**Evaluation of the request:** ICOMOS gives its support to this request, as it considers the project to be well conceived and organized. The Secretariat also considers this request to be well planned.

<b>Action by the Bureau:</b> The Bureau may wish to approve the total amount requested of <b>US \$ 30,000.</b>
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#### **B.4 TURKEY (Technical co-operation for the “House of Fatih Inhabitants” within the Historic Centre of Istanbul)**

**World Heritage site concerned:** Historic Areas of Istanbul

**Status of payments due to the World Heritage Fund:** Dues fully paid up to 1997.

**Previous World Heritage Fund contributions:**

Technical co-operation	1983 Hagia Sophia mosaic conservation, Historic Areas of Istanbul (US \$ 30,000)
	1987 Photogrammetry equipment, Historic Areas of Istanbul (US\$ 31,247)
	1988 Equipment, Historic Areas of Istanbul (US\$ 29,902)
	1991 Hagia Sophia mosaic conservation, Historic Areas of Istanbul (US\$ 20,000)
	1994 Hagia Sophia, Historic Areas of Istanbul (US\$ 20,000)
	1994 Hagia Sophia mosaic resotation, Historic Areas of Istanbul (US\$ 30,000)
Training	1987 Stone conservation training, Historic Areas of Istanbul (US\$ 12,000)

**Summary:** This technical co-operation request, submitted by the Municipality of Fatih of Istanbul and endorsed by the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO, is for assisting the operations of the “House of Fatih Inhabitants”, which provides neighbourhood advisory service to improve the housing conditions and the built environment of the Fatih district, which is part of the historic centre of Istanbul.

Development pressure, notably from continued migration of population into the city, has resulted in a critical shortage of housing and public infrastructure, particularly in the historic areas under protection by the State. However, due to the strict cultural heritage protection laws and the poverty of the inhabitants, new construction is banned and even renovation is restricted, resulting in a serious deterioration of the built environment. This is particularly the case in the Fatih district, consisting of the sectors of Zeyrek, Fener and Balat, where some 20 historic monuments listed on the national inventory are located, including those specifically protected by the World Heritage Convention. As mentioned in the ICOMOS reactive monitoring report presented at the 21<sup>st</sup> session of the Committee, the historic area of Zeyrek, renown for the Ottoman-epoch timber houses, has been largely deserted by the inhabitants due to the danger caused by the structural instability of the historic houses. Inadequate public and private investment are also resulting in the dilapidation of Fener and Balat, which are part of the nationally protected conservation area located within the World Heritage buffer zone.

Following the recommendation of a study conducted by a joint European Commission/UNESCO/Fatih project financed by the European Union, the “House of Fatih Inhabitants” for heritage protection was established by the Municipality of Fatih in April

1998 to prevent the further deterioration of the historic urban fabric by mobilizing the inhabitants themselves in the preservation effort. Within the proposed project with a global budget of US\$ 170,920, the requested input from the World Heritage Fund is US\$30,000. This input would finance half the cost of one international expert mission (3-month duration) and national urban planners and architects (i) to set-up the neighbourhood advisory service; (ii) to carry out the necessary socio-economic and architectural surveys of the inhabitants and the buildings of architectural value requiring urgent rehabilitation and; (iii) to prepare information material on buildings conservation mechanism and the internet website on the Historic Areas of Fatih/Istanbul to be established by the Municipality of Fatih.

**Budget Breakdown:**

<b>Total project budget:</b>		<b>US\$ 170,920</b>
<b>National input (Municipality of Fatih):</b>		<b>US\$ 135,920</b>
- acquisition and rehabilitation of a building for the House of Inhabitants	US\$ 106,810	
- furnishing	US\$ 19,910	
- running costs including communications	US\$ 4,200	
- co-financing of national project assistant	US\$ 5,000	
<b>Other input (Government of France) :</b>		<b>US\$ 5,000</b>
- 50% co-financing of international project expert		
<b>Amount requested from the World Heritage Fund:</b>		<b>US\$ 30,000</b>
- 50% co-financing of international project expert	US\$ 5,000	
- 50% co-financing of national project assistant	US\$ 5,000	
- national experts (urban planner, architect, jurist)	US\$ 6,000	
- computer equipment and software	US\$ 4,000	
- establishment of internet website	US\$ 4,000	
- printed information document	US\$ 6,000	

**Evaluation of the request:** The Secretariat fully supports this project, especially in view of the capacity building impact it has for the local authorities and the empowerment of the local inhabitants in the preservation of their own heritage homes. Advice from ICOMOS and ICCROM are being sought and will be presented to the Bureau.

**Action by the Bureau:** The Bureau may wish to approve the total amount requested of **US\$ 30,000**. The Bureau may wish, on this occasion, to stress the importance of promoting the active participation of the local inhabitants in maintaining the integrity of urban conservation areas which require not only the preservation of historic monuments but also of vernacular buildings of architectural value.