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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE
Twenty-fifth session

Helsinki, Finland
11 – 16 December 2001

Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda: Information on Tentative Lists and examination of nominations of cultural and natural properties to the List of World Heritage in Danger and the World Heritage List

The identification of un-represented or less represented categories of natural and cultural properties

Summary

This document is presented in five sections with an annex:

- I. Overview of the Decision of the 24th Session of the Committee (Cairns, 2000)
- II. Introduction
- III. Overview of the Priority System to be used for the Selection of the 30 new nominations to be examined by the Committee in June 2003
- IV. Proposed application of the priority system
- V. Further decisions required of the Committee in 2002 and 2003

ANNEX Extract from the Report of the twenty-fourth Session of the World Heritage Committee (Cairns, 2000)

Decision Required: The Committee is requested to approve the proposed method for the selection of the 30 new nominations to be examined by the Committee in June 2003 (see Section IV).

OVERVIEW OF THE DECISION OF THE 24TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE (CAIRNS, 2000)

Objectives

- (i) to ensure a representative and balanced World Heritage List;
- (ii) to reduce the imbalances of the World Heritage List;
- (iii) to manage the increasing size of the World Heritage List; and
- (iv) to manage the number of nominations to be examined by the Committee each year.

Limited number of nominations to be examined by the Committee

The Committee at each ordinary session will set the maximum number of nominations to be considered.

30 new nominations to be examined by the Committee in 2003

In the first instance and on an interim basis, the twenty-seventh session of the Committee in 2003 will examine a maximum of 30 new nominations.

Deadlines

Nominations received by	To be examined by the Bureau	To be examined by the Committee
1 July 2000	June/July 2001	December 2001
31 December 2000	April 2002	June 2002
1 February 2002	April 2003	June 2003
1 February 2003	April 2004	June 2004

Number of nominations to be submitted by each State Party

No State Parties should submit more than one nomination, except those States Parties that have no sites inscribed on the World Heritage List who will have the opportunity to propose two or three nominations.

Establishment of a priority system

The following priority system will be applied each year by the World Heritage Centre before nominations are transmitted to the advisory bodies for evaluation, in determining which sites should be taken forward for consideration:

1. Nominations of sites submitted by a State Party with no sites inscribed on the List;¹
2. Nominations of sites from any State Party that illustrate un-represented or less represented categories of natural and cultural properties, as determined by analyses prepared by the Secretariat and the Advisory Bodies and reviewed and approved by the Committee;
3. Other nominations

Review

The system described above is to be reviewed by the Committee after two full years of operation.

¹ In evaluating these, and all other nominations, the Advisory Bodies should continue to apply a strict evaluation of criteria as set out in the *Operational Guidelines*.

II. INTRODUCTION

1. Following the decision of the twenty-fourth session of the Committee (Cairns, 2000) (see Section I), in the first instance and on an interim basis, the number of new nominations to be examined by the twenty-seventh session of the Committee in 2003 will be limited to 30 properties. The Committee will give priority to examining nominations of properties submitted by a State Party with no sites inscribed on the World Heritage List. Priority will also be given to nominations of properties that illustrate un-represented or less represented categories of natural and cultural heritage.

2. As a basis for determining the un-represented or less represented categories of natural and cultural properties, the twenty-fourth session of the Committee (Cairns, 2000) requested the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre to proceed with an analysis of sites inscribed on the World Heritage List and the tentative list on a regional, chronological, geographical and thematic basis. The Committee requested that the work be undertaken in two parts, sites inscribed on the World Heritage List and sites on the tentative lists. The Committee asked that the results of the analyses should be communicated no later than 30 September 2001.

3. At the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau (June 2001) and the 13th General Assembly (October 2001) the Director of the World Heritage Centre noted that the World Heritage Committee did not provide funding for the study and the World Heritage Centre was unable to find the resources to complete the study in time. He advised that the study will be funded in the 2002 budget with the kind assistance offered by some States Parties to complement resources.

4. Furthermore, the Director of the World Heritage Centre noted that on a provisional basis, a group of categories would be outlined at the World Heritage Committee in Helsinki for approval. The Director of the Centre also noted that the limitation of the thirty new property nominations to be examined by the Committee would only apply to the year 2003. The World Heritage Committee will decide annually what the future limits will be.

5. The 13th General Assembly commented on the importance of establishing clear criteria for the selection of the limited number of nominations to be examined by the Committee each year. Some States Parties expressed the need for caution to ensure that properties of outstanding universal value were not excluded from consideration just because a State Party already had a site on the World Heritage List. In conclusion the General Assembly noted that the process of selection should be inclusive rather than exclusive and should be conceived in consultation with States Parties.

III. OVERVIEW OF THE PRIORITY SYSTEM² TO BE USED FOR THE SELECTION OF THE 30 NEW NOMINATIONS TO BE EXAMINED BY THE COMMITTEE IN JUNE 2003

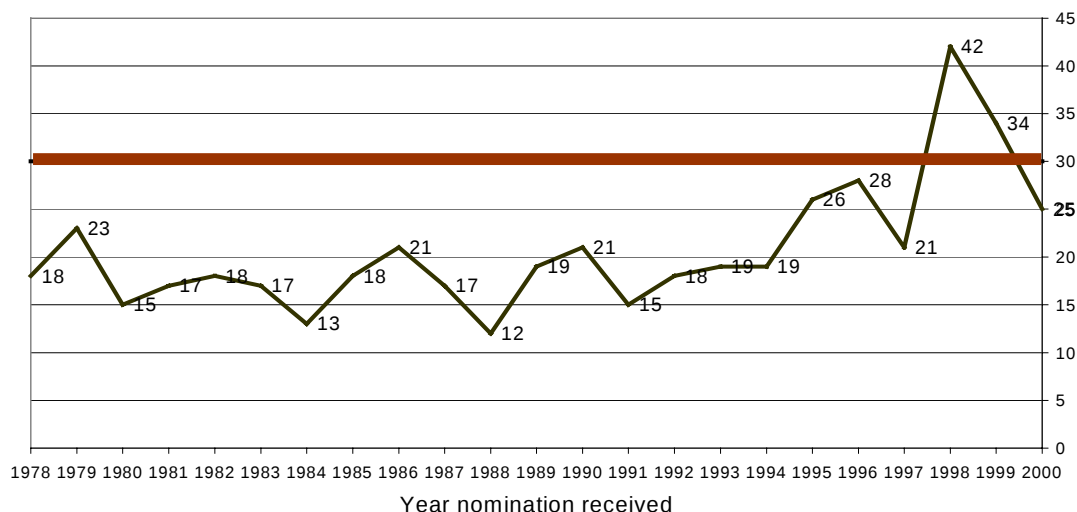
At its 24th session in Cairns, the Committee established a priority system to be used in determining whether nominations would be examined by the 27th session of the Committee in 2003:

1. States Parties with no sites on the List may submit 1-3 nominations (46 of the 167 States Parties may meet this requirement³);
2. All other States Parties may submit only one new nomination⁴;
3. If the number of new nominations is greater than 30, then a selection process will be applied, based on whether the nomination falls into one or more un-represented or less-represented categories.

It is possible that the application of this priority system may make a selection of un- or less-represented categories unnecessary.

An examination of the record of nominations over the life of the *Convention* shows that only in two years (1998 and 1999) did the number of States Parties submitting new nominations rise above the 30-State threshold. If the priority system had been applied for sites being reviewed in 2001, only 25 new nominations would have been presented to the Committee at its 25th session in Helsinki.⁴ The following chart shows the number of new nominations that would have been received had each State Party been limited to one nomination:

No. of States Parties submitting new nominations, 1978-2000



² The Committee also used the term "criteria" to describe the rules by which sites would be selected. The Secretariat considers that the term "priority system" is more accurate and will avoid any confusion with the ten cultural and natural criteria.

³ As noted in the list following, two of the forty-six States Parties currently have nominations pending before the 25th Session of the Committee, and if inscribed, these States Parties would be removed from the priority list. The priority list also includes two States, Bhutan and Eritrea, for whom the *Convention* will come into force in January 2002.

⁴ Revised nominations and extensions of existing sites are excluded from this analysis, since the Committee has determined that these types may be presented regardless of whether the 30-nomination threshold had been reached.

IV. PROPOSED APPLICATION OF THE PRIORITY SYSTEM

1. Nominations of sites submitted by a State Party with no sites inscribed on the World Heritage List as indicated in the table below.

The following States Parties have no properties on the World Heritage List as of 26 November 2001.

Africa	Arab States	Europe & North America	Latin America & Caribbean	Asia & the Pacific
Angola	Bahrain	Andorra	Antigua and Barbuda	Afghanistan
Botswana *	Qatar	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Grenada	Bhutan
Burkina Faso	Saudi Arabia	Iceland	Guyana	Dem People's Rep of Korea
Burundi	United Arab Emirates	Israel *	Jamaica	Fiji
Cape Verde		Monaco	Saint Lucia	Kazakhstan
Chad		San Marino		Kiribati
Comoros				Kyrgystan
Congo				Maldives
Eritrea				Mongolia
Gabon				Myanmar
Gambia				Niue
Mauritius				Papua New Guinea
Namibia				Samoa
Rwanda				Tajikistan
Sudan				
Togo				

* States Parties with properties being considered for inscription on the World Heritage List by the twenty-fifth session of the World Heritage Committee

This table will be updated as appropriate to reflect the decisions of the 25th session of the Committee after it inscribes new properties on the World Heritage List.

Transboundary nominations

At its twenty-fourth session in Cairns, 2000, the Committee did not consider the case of joint nominations of properties that span an international frontier. The Centre proposes that, to encourage the preparation of these nominations, these nominations will be considered separately, as if the joint nomination is submitted by a new State Party. Thus, while State Party X might have several sites already inscribed, a joint nomination from State X and State Y would be treated as if were the first nomination from State-X/State-Y. This should encourage more States Parties to develop transboundary nominations. The more States Parties were associated with a single nomination, the higher would be the priority assigned to that nomination.

The following eleven transboundary sites have already been inscribed on the World Heritage List:

States Parties	World Heritage Property	Date Inscribed
Argentina/Brazil	Jesuit Missions of the Guaranis: San Ignacio Mini, Santa Ana, Nuestra Señora de Loreto and Santa Maria Mayor (Argentina), Ruins of Sao Miguel das Missoes (Brazil)	1984
Belarus/Poland	Belovezhskaya Pushcha / Bialowieza Forest	1979
Canada/United States of America	Kluane/Wrangell-St. Elias/Glacier Bay/Tatshenshini-Alsek	1979
Canada/United States of America	Waterton Glacier International Peace Park	1995
Costa Rica/Panama	Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves / La Amistad National Park	1983
Côte d'Ivoire/Guinea	Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve	1981
France/ Spain	Pyrénées - Mont Perdu	1997
Holy See/Italy	Historic Centre of Rome, the Properties of the Holy See in that City Enjoying Extraterritorial Rights and San Paolo Fuori le Mura	1980, 1990
Hungary/Slovakia	Caves of the Aggtelek Karst and Slovak Karst	1995, 2000
Lithuania/Russian Federation	Curonian Spit	2000
Zambia/Zimbabwe	Mosi-oa-Tunya / Victoria Falls	1989

2. Nominations of sites from any State Party that illustrate un-represented or less represented categories of natural and cultural properties, as determined by analyses prepared by the Secretariat and the Advisory Bodies and reviewed and approved by the Committee

If there are more than thirty new nominations received by the Centre, a selection process will take place based on a determination of un-represented or less-represented categories of natural and cultural properties. Nominations excluded will be automatically transferred to the 2004 cycle of nominations, in addition to those nominations received after the 1 February 2002 deadline.

A. Analysis of Natural Properties

In order to redress the imbalance of cultural and natural properties on the World Heritage List, **it is proposed, for this cycle only** (i.e. the selection of the 30 new nominations for examination by the Committee in June 2003), to accept all natural nominations **up to a limit of one half (15) of the new nominations** that meet the normal standards of completeness.⁵

If more than fifteen natural nominations are received, they will be chosen first on a regional basis, giving priority to nominations from the Arab States, Central Asia, the Pacific and the Caribbean, and secondarily from those un- or less represented biomes: e.g., coastal-marine and small islands, polar and sub-polar, and deserts.

The basis for prioritizing natural heritage nominations to be examined, beyond that of the geographical sub-regions referred to above, requires further study. At present there are 45 sites on the List that contain tropical forests. Forests could therefore be

⁵ Based on past years, it is anticipated that the number of new natural nominations will be between eight and 15. Historically, the average number of new nominations of natural properties received in any one year has been 9.5.

considered as well represented on the World Heritage List. However, attempts to minimize the number of new tropical forest World Heritage nominations would be counter-productive to efforts to develop a World Heritage Forest Programme. Furthermore, tropical forests may be far more important in conserving biodiversity of global significance than some other ecosystems, such as deserts. Hence, it is perhaps unrealistic to expect that each ecosystem or biome type of the world should have a similar number of World Heritage sites.

B. Examination of different methods to determine un- or less represented categories of Cultural and Mixed Properties

Several systems of categorization were examined for both cultural and mixed properties:

- Method 1. *World Heritage Convention* Article 1 Categories
- Method 2. Chronological Periods
- Method 3. Cultural Criteria
- Method 4. Regional distribution
- Method 5. 1994 Global Strategy categories
- Method 6. Provisional Subject Categories

Each method was tested for its practicality. For the purposes of the selection of the 30 nominations to be examined by the Committee in June 2003, the method was discarded if it was unable to assist in selecting un- or less-represented categories. However, these methods of analysis may contribute to a more complex, matrix-based analysis of the World Heritage List and Tentative Lists to be performed in 2002 and 2003.

Method 1. *World Heritage Convention* Article 1 categories of cultural heritage

In Article 1 of the *Convention* three basic categories of cultural heritage are defined: monuments, groups of buildings, and sites.

monuments: architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features, which are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science;

groups of buildings: groups of separate or connected buildings which, because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape, are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science;

sites: works of man or the combined works of nature and man, and areas including archaeological sites which are of outstanding universal value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological point of view.

The three categories are too broad for use in the proposed analysis. However, the terms used to define the categories (e.g., architectural works, cave dwellings, archaeological sites, etc.) may inform the definition of more useful and specific

categories as part of a thorough analysis of the World Heritage List and Tentative Lists.

Method 2. Chronological periods

At its 24th session, the Committee requested the Centre and ICOMOS to use chronological periods as one means of selecting sites for examination. A preliminary test of chronological periods was done using an approximate measure of the property's period of significance. Each property was assigned a century (c.) or range of centuries. The table below shows the number of sites in each chronological category.

Chronological period	Africa	Arab States	Asia / Pacific	Europe / North America	Latin America / Caribbean
Pre-history	3	3	8	15	3
2900 BC-1 AD	1	20	12	38	6
1st - 5th c.	1	11	5	19	2
6th - 10th c.	1	9	21	29	10
11th - 15th c.	9	6	22	117	4
16th - 17th c.	4	3	16	39	36
18th c.	3	-	2	29	4
19th c.	-	-	6	15	4
20th c.	1	-	1	6	2

While this method does demonstrate some trends (for instance the prevalence of 16th and 17th-century sites in Latin America and the Caribbean and of European medieval-period sites), it is an unwieldy tool for the selection process. Should the submission of nominations from the recent past of a given region be encouraged because those periods are under-represented on the World Heritage List? Rather, this analysis may demonstrate that regions have peaks of cultural development which need further examination.

Method 3. Cultural criteria

The following table shows the number of times in each region a given cultural criterion was used to inscribe a property on the World Heritage list for both cultural and mixed properties.

Cultural criterion	Africa	Arab States	Asia / Pacific	Europe / North America	Latin America / Caribbean
(i)	5	14	36	118	20
(ii)	6	17	41	153	24
(iii)	14	34	55	118	30
(iv)	10	28	53	213	50
(v)	4	14	11	36	9
(vi)	8	16	43	69	10
Sites in region	53	52	135	352	98

Is it possible to identify meaningful lacunae that should be addressed by the Global Strategy? Should properties inscribed on the basis of cultural criterion (v) - uniformly the least used among all the cultural criteria - be favoured in any selection process?

Such an approach is unlikely to have an affect on either regional distribution or the range of types or categories of properties on the List.

Method 4. Regional Distribution

Region	No. of States Parties	Total No. of Cultural and Mixed Properties	Average number of Cultural and Mixed properties per State Party
Africa	36	23	0.6
Arab States	17	49	2.9
Asia / Pacific	35	99	2.8
Europe / North America	49	310	6.3
Latin America/ Caribbean	29	71	2.4
Total	166	552	3.3

The above table demonstrates the extent to which regions are under represented, measured by the average number of cultural and mixed sites in each State Party by region. While it would be possible to favour some regions over others, such an approach would discriminate against States Parties in a well-represented region even when that State Party itself had only one or two properties on the World Heritage List.

Method 5. 1994 Global Strategy categories

The June 1994 Expert Meeting⁶ which formulated the concept of the "Global Strategy" concluded that "in order to ensure for the future a World Heritage List that was at the same time representative, balanced, and credible, ... [it would be] necessary not only to increase the number of types, regions, and periods of cultural property that are under-represented in the coming years, but also to take into account the new concepts of the idea of cultural heritage that had been developed over the past twenty years. ... The List should be receptive to the many and varied cultural manifestations of outstanding universal value through which cultures expressed themselves." The Group identified some areas "as having high potential to complete gaps in representation". These "areas" were: Movement of peoples (nomadism, migration); Settlement; Modes of subsistence; Technological evolution; Human interaction; Cultural coexistence; Spirituality and creative expression.

Since 1994 nominations of properties representative of these "areas" have been proposed and/or inscribed on the World Heritage List through the application of specific criteria, such as cultural criteria (ii), (v) and (vi). However, the necessary comparative studies have not been prepared. These studies should define the means by which these "areas" should be evaluated. By what parameters should a nomadic site be judged? How would "settlement" be defined to broaden the concept of historic centre or cultural landscape and yet retain the concept of "outstanding universal value"? For these reasons it is proposed to defer the use of these categories to the two-year analysis of the World Heritage List and Tentative Lists.

⁶ See "Expert Meeting on the "Global Strategy" and thematic studies for a representative World Heritage List" (WHC-94/CONF.003/INF.6).

Method 6. Provisional subject categories

Over the last five years, both ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre have developed a working set of cultural heritage categories, using terms developed by Expert Groups or which were incorporated into the *Operational Guidelines*. While this method is more vulnerable to subjective interpretation, it does provide a basis for selection that may be used on an interim basis. Under-represented categories were also identified by the "Progress report on regional actions for the implementation of the Global Strategy Action Plan for a Representative and Balanced World Heritage List" (see working document WHC-01/CONF.208/11).

Region	No. of States Parties	No. of Cultural and Mixed Properties	Categories of cultural heritage <u>un- and less represented</u> on the World Heritage List
Africa	36	23	architectural monuments & ensembles cultural landscapes hominid sites rock art routes technological ensembles vernacular/traditional architecture
Arab States	17	49	architectural monuments & ensembles cultural landscapes modern heritage religious properties rock art routes technological ensembles vernacular/traditional architecture
Asia / Pacific	35	99	cultural landscapes defensive structures hominid sites modern heritage rock art routes technological ensembles vernacular/traditional architecture
Europe / North America	49	310	cultural landscapes (Eastern Europe) hominid sites modern heritage rock art technological ensembles (Eastern Europe) vernacular/traditional architecture
Latin America/ Caribbean	29	71	architectural monuments & ensembles cultural landscapes modern heritage rock art routes technological ensembles vernacular/traditional architecture
Total	166	552	

Derivation of categories:

Architectural monuments & ensembles. For the purposes of this analysis, "architectural monuments and ensembles" excludes religious, industrial, and military-related structures. According to an ICOMOS study prepared for the 12th General Assembly (see working document WHC-2000/CONF.204/INF.8, Annex 3), there were 35 architectural monuments or ensembles on the World Heritage List as of 1 January 2000, primarily in Europe and Asia.

Cultural landscapes are defined by paragraphs 35 - 40 of the *Operational Guidelines*. "Cultural landscapes represent the "combined works of nature and of man" designated in Article 1 of the *Convention*. They are illustrative of the evolution of human society and settlement over time, under the influence of the physical constraints and/or opportunities presented by their natural environment and of successive social, economic and cultural forces, both external and internal. They should be selected on the basis both of their outstanding universal value and of their representativity in terms of a clearly defined geo-cultural region and also for their capacity to illustrate the essential and distinct cultural elements of such regions." (paragraph 36)

Defensive/military structures. Many different categories of fortifications exist, such as castles, fortresses, fortlets, citadels, townwalls, fire trenches, bunkers, as well as soldiers' cottages, garrison towns, regiments, barracks and officers' messes. Although some regional work has been undertaken, no larger scale global comparative study has yet been prepared in this area.

Hominid sites. A comparative study of fossil hominid sites was conducted for ICOMOS in 1997 (see: "Potential fossil hominid sites for inscription on the World Heritage List, an ICOMOS Comparative Study" (1997) by Clive Gamble and Chris Stringer⁷). This study identified potential regions, including Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe, where more potential World Heritage sites might be found.

Modern heritage. On 2 February and 26 October 2001 two meetings were held at UNESCO Headquarters under the programme on Modern Heritage, a joint initiative with ICOMOS for the identification, documentation and promotion of the built heritage of the 19th and 20th centuries. With only 29 properties, out of 690, related to 19th or 20th century built heritage, the concept of Modern Heritage is currently under-represented on the World Heritage List.

Religious properties. This category encompasses not only places of worship (churches, mosques, synagogues, temples, etc), but monasteries, sacred monuments and other ancillary structures associated with religious belief. While some types of religious properties are well represented on the World Heritage List, other types are less well-represented. According to the ICOMOS study referred to above, (working document WHC-2000/CONF.204/INF.8, Annex 3), there were 110 religious properties on the World Heritage List as of 1 January 2000, primarily in Europe (Christian monuments) and Asia (Buddhist monuments).

Rock Art. A comparative study of Rock-Art sites was conducted by ICOMOS in 1998. The study noted that the term was defined as artistic expression on a rock medium. "It is the sole cultural expression of humanity which has continued without

⁷ <http://www.icomos.org/studies/hominid.htm>

interruption for 30 millenia, to be brought to us, in multiple forms, unchanged since its origins. The beginnings of the artistic creation are not the fruit of a single culture or ethnic group, but an essential component of *Homo sapiens sapiens*: as soon as mankind expanded his territory, rock art manifestations appeared everywhere, from the extreme north of Scandinavia to the southern tip of Africa, from Spain and Portugal to Siberia, covering all of Asia and the Americas, and expanding throughout all Oceania, particularly in Australia, but even as far as Easter Island."⁸ Fourteen Rock Art sites are currently on the World Heritage List; the study indicated that all regions had potential World Heritage sites.

Routes. The concept of "routes" or cultural itineraries was discussed by the Report on the Expert Meeting on "Routes as a Part of our Cultural Heritage" (Madrid, Spain, November 1994) (WHC-94/CONF.003/INF.13). "The concept of heritage routes is shown to be a rich and fertile one, offering a privileged framework in which mutual understanding, a plural approach to history and a culture of peace can all operate. It is based on population movement, encounters and dialogue, cultural exchanges and cross-fertilization, taking place both in space and time." Many routes, such as those of the Silk Route, encompass multiple centres of religious and cultural exchange.

Technological ensembles. Properties in this category (para. 24, *Operational Guidelines*) cover a wide range of examples from the history of industry and engineering, and include not only the mill and factory, but the social and engineering triumphs spawned by the new technologies, including canals, railways, bridges and other forms of transportation and power engineering. Examples of Roman and medieval engineering (e.g., water supply aqueducts) are included as well as more recent properties from the 18th and 19th centuries. A study specific to canals was the result of an Expert meeting in 1994⁹. ICOMOS comparative studies on railways¹⁰, canals¹¹, and bridges¹² have also been prepared.

Vernacular/traditional architecture. The ICOMOS Charter on the Built Vernacular Heritage (2000)¹³ defines the built vernacular heritage as "the fundamental expression of the culture of a community, of its relationship with its territory and, at the same time, the expression of the world's cultural diversity. ... Vernacular building is the traditional and natural way by which communities house themselves. It is a continuing process including necessary changes and continuous adaptation as a response to social and environmental constraints." According to the ICOMOS analysis prepared in 2000 referred to above (WHC-2000/CONF.204/INF.8, Annex 3), there were 16 examples of vernacular settlements on the World Heritage List as of 1 January 2000, primarily in Europe and Africa.

⁸ Dr. Jean Clottes, Président du Comité international d'Art Rupestre de l'ICOMOS, 2 avril 1998, original in French.

⁹ Report on the Expert Meeting on Heritage Canals (Canada, September 1994), WHC-94/CONF.003/INF.10.

¹⁰ "Railways as World Heritage Sites" (1999): <http://www.icomos.org/studies/railways.htm>

¹¹ "International Canal Monuments List" (1996): <http://www.icomos.org/studies/canals-toc.htm>

¹² "Context for World Heritage Bridges" (1996): <http://www.icomos.org/studies/bridges.htm>

¹³ Ratified by the ICOMOS 12th General Assembly, held in Mexico, from 17-24 October 2000; <http://www.international.icomos.org/VERNAC-ENG.htm>

3. Other considerations

When applying this priority system, date of receipt of full and complete nominations by the World Heritage Centre shall be used as the secondary determining factor within the category where the number of nominations established by the Committee is reached.

All properties nominated must be included on a national tentative list.¹⁴

In addition to the approved maximum number of sites, the Committee will also consider nominations deferred, or referred, from previous meetings and changes to the boundaries of already inscribed properties. The Committee may also decide to consider, on an emergency basis, situations falling under paragraph 67 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

All decisions on the selection of sites will be fully documented.

IV. FURTHER DECISIONS REQUIRED OF THE COMMITTEE IN 2002 AND 2003

26th Session of the World Heritage Committee (24 - 29 June 2002)

- Decide on the number of nominations to be examined by the Committee at its 28th session in June 2004;
- Consider the recommendations of the World Heritage Centre on possible changes to the selection priority system based on the experience gained in February 2002;
- Review the progress report on the Analysis of the World Heritage List and Tentative Lists.

27th Session of the World Heritage Committee (June 2003)

- Decide on the number of nominations to be examined by the Committee at its 29th session in June 2005;
- Adopt the report concerning the Analysis of the World Heritage List and Tentative Lists.

¹⁴ Decision of the World Heritage Committee at its 24th session in Cairns, Australia (2000) (WHC-2000/CONF.204/21, para.VI.2)

Extract from the report of the twenty-fourth session of the World Heritage Committee (Cairns, 2000) (WHC-2000/CONF.204/21)

3. REPRESENTIVITY OF THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

The Committee examined and discussed the recommendations of the Working Group on the Representivity of the World Heritage List chaired by Ambassador Yai (Benin), which had been transmitted by the Special Session of the Bureau with some changes.

The Committee recognized that the issue of representivity of the World Heritage List was the most difficult of the reform issues under consideration by the Committee. The Committee noted that more effective use of tentative lists and greater regulation of the ever-increasing number of nominations was required. It was agreed that other measures, such as assistance for capacity-building would be vital for ensuring the representation of sites from all regions on the World Heritage List.

The Committee therefore agreed on a decision presented in 5 sections:

1. Respecting the Convention
2. Tentative Lists
3. Nominations
4. Resolution of the Twelfth General Assembly, 1999
5. Capacity Building for under-represented Regions

With reference to Section 3, the Delegate of Hungary asked that his request for a change in the deadline for submission of nominations to be examined in 2002, from December 2000 as agreed by the Committee, to April 2001, be noted in the Report. The Committee agreed to note this request by the Delegate of Hungary but stated that in the interest of a smooth transition, the majority position of the Committee will be maintained.

With the exception of Hungary, the text of the decision was adopted by all members of the Committee. A letter from the Italian Government is included as Annex IX of this report.

The Committee agreed to transmit its decision to the Thirteenth General Assembly of States Parties in 2001.

1. Respecting the Convention

The Committee reaffirmed the Convention for the Protection of the World Natural and Cultural Heritage as an instrument of consensus, cooperation and accord between States Parties and takes particular note of Articles 6 (1) and 6 (2) and Article 11 (1):

(i) Whilst fully respecting the sovereignty of the States on whose territory the cultural and natural heritage mentioned in Articles 1 and 2 is situated, and without prejudice to property right provided by national legislation, the States Parties to this Convention recognize that such heritage constitutes a world heritage for whose protection it is the duty of the international community as a whole to co-operate (Article 6 (1))

(ii) The States Parties undertake, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, to give their help in the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage ... if the States on whose territory it is situated so request (Article 6 (2)).

(iii) Every State Party to this Convention shall, in so far as possible, submit to the World Heritage Committee an inventory of property forming part of the cultural and natural heritage, situated in its territory and suitable for inclusion in the list ... (Article 11 (1)).

Decisive cooperative action is required by the Committee and States Parties to ensure that the World Heritage List is fully representative of the world's natural and cultural heritage.

2. Tentative Lists

(i) In the future, consistent with Article 11, the tentative lists of cultural and natural sites should be used, as a planning tool to reduce the imbalances in the World Heritage List. States Parties are reminded of the invitation to submit tentative lists in conformity with Article 11 of the Convention. The Committee should revise paragraphs 7 and 8 of the *Operational Guidelines* to extend to natural sites its decision not to examine nominations of sites for inscription if the property does not appear on a tentative list.

(ii) The advisory bodies and the World Heritage Centre should proceed with an analysis of sites inscribed on the World Heritage List and the tentative list on a regional, chronological, geographical and thematic basis. This analysis should be undertaken as soon as possible, taking into account the workload on advisory bodies and the financial implications of this work, particularly in regard to the large number of sites on the tentative list. For this reason, the work should be undertaken in two parts, sites inscribed on the World Heritage List and sites on the tentative list. The analysis will provide States Parties with

a clear overview of the present situation, and likely trends in the short to medium term with a view to identifying under-represented categories.

(iii) The advisory bodies should take into account in their analyses:

- The diversity and particularities of natural and cultural heritage in each region,
- The results of regional Periodic Reporting, and
- The recommendations of the regional and thematic meetings on the harmonisation of tentative lists held since 1984 and those on the Global Strategy organised since 1994.

(iv) The World Heritage Centre and advisory bodies should communicate the results of the analyses to the World Heritage Committee and, following the Committee's examination, the results should be conveyed to States Parties to the Convention, together with the Committee's recommendations. This will allow them to prepare, revise and/or harmonise their tentative list, taking into account, where appropriate, regional considerations, and to take the results of the analyses into consideration for the submission of future nominations.

(v) The results of the analyses should be communicated no later than 30 September 2001.

3. Nominations

In order to promote the effective management of the increasing size of the World Heritage List, the Committee at each ordinary session will set the maximum number of nominations to be considered. In the first instance and on an interim basis, it is proposed that at the twenty-seventh session of the Committee in 2003, the number of nominations examined by the Committee will be limited to a maximum of 30 new sites.

In order to determine which sites should be given priority for consideration, all nominations to be considered at the twenty-seventh session of the Committee must be received in full by the new due date of 1 February 2002 agreed by the Committee as part of the change of cycle of meetings. No State Parties should submit more than one nomination, except those States Parties that have no sites inscribed on the World Heritage List who will have the opportunity to propose two or three nominations.

In order to address the issue of representivity of the List the following criteria will be applied in order of priority¹⁵:

¹⁵ In nominating properties to the List, States Parties are invited to keep in mind the desirability of achieving a reasonable balance between the numbers of cultural heritage and natural heritage properties included in the World Heritage List (Paragraph 15 of the *Operational Guidelines*)

In the event that the number of nominations received exceeds the maximum number set by the Committee, the following priority system will be applied each year by the World Heritage Centre before nominations are transmitted to the advisory bodies for evaluation, in determining which sites should be taken forward for consideration:

1. Nominations of sites submitted by a State Party with no sites inscribed on the List;¹⁶
2. Nominations of sites from any State Party that illustrate un-represented or less represented categories of natural and cultural properties, as determined by analyses prepared by the Secretariat and the Advisory Bodies and reviewed and approved by the Committee;
3. Other nominations.

When applying this priority system, date of receipt of full and complete nominations by the World Heritage Centre shall be used as the secondary determining factor within the category where the number of nominations established by the Committee is reached.

In addition to the approved maximum number of sites, the Committee will also consider nominations deferred, or referred, from previous meetings and changes to the boundaries of already inscribed properties. The Committee may also decide to consider, on an emergency basis, situations falling under paragraph 67 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Transition arrangements

Committee meeting, December 2001

No change to existing system.

Committee meeting June 2002

Full and complete nominations received by the World Heritage Centre prior to 31 December 2000 will be considered together with nominations deferred, or referred, from previous meetings and changes to the boundaries of already inscribed properties. The Committee may also decide to consider, on an emergency basis, situations falling under paragraph 67 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Committee meeting June 2003

Nominations to be submitted by 1 February 2002 and prioritized in accordance with the system as described above.

¹⁶ In evaluating these, and all other nominations, the Advisory Bodies should continue to apply a strict evaluation of criteria as set out in the *Operational Guidelines*.

Review

The system described above is to be reviewed by the Committee after two full years of operation.

4. Resolution of the Twelfth General Assembly, 1999

The Committee decided to call on States Parties concerned to inform the Committee with a minimum of delay, of measures taken in the implementation of the clauses of the Resolution adopted by the Twelfth General Assembly (Paragraph B) that invites all States Parties that already have a substantial number of sites inscribed on the World Heritage List to:

(i) Apply paragraph 6 (vii) of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*:

a) by spacing voluntarily their nominations according to conditions that they will define, and/or

b) by proposing only properties falling into categories still under-represented, and/or

c) by linking each of their nominations with a nomination presented by a State Party whose heritage is under-represented, or

d) by deciding, on a voluntary basis, to suspend the presentation of new nominations.

ii) Initiate and encourage bilateral and multilateral co-operation with States Parties whose heritage is still under-represented in the List within the framework of the preparation of tentative lists, nominations and training programmes,

iii) Give priority to the re-examination of their tentative lists within the framework of regional consultations and to the preparation of periodic reports.

5. Capacity Building for Under-represented Regions

The Committee decided that cooperative efforts in capacity-building and training are necessary to ensure that the World Heritage List is fully representative and agrees that:

(i) The World Heritage Centre should continue to promote training programmes, preferably at the regional level, aimed at allowing States Parties whose heritage is still under-represented to be better versed in the Convention and to better implement the measures under Article 5. These primarily concern the identification, management, protection, enhancement and conservation of heritage. Such programmes should also assist States Parties to acquire and/or consolidate their expertise, in the preparation and harmonisation of their tentative lists and the preparation of nominations.

(ii) The advisory bodies and the World Heritage Centre should use the opportunity of evaluation missions to hold regional training workshops to assist under-represented States in the methods of preparation of their tentative list and nominations. Appropriate financial and human resources should be provided through the World Heritage Centre budget process to undertake such workshops.

(iii) Requests by States Parties whose heritage is non-represented or under-represented should be given a high priority when the portion of the World Heritage budget relating to Preparatory Assistance in preparing nominations is developed.

(iv) The order of priorities for the granting of international assistance, as defined in paragraphs 91 and 113-114 of the *Operational Guidelines*, should be revised in a manner consistent with the recommendations of the International Expert Meeting on the Revision of the *Operational Guidelines* (Canterbury, United Kingdom) to improve the representivity of the World Heritage List and to be coherent with the Global Strategy. Beyond the conditions provided for by the Convention, and subject to the conclusions of the evaluation of international assistance, the new priority order should take into account:

-The necessity of encouraging the beneficiary countries to develop measures for the implementation of the Convention in their country,

- The order of priority for the examination of the nominations for inscription,

- The state of preparation of the beneficiary countries, and

- The necessity of giving priority to the least developed countries (LDCs) and countries with a low revenue.

(v) Regional Plans of Action should be updated and developed within the framework of the Global Strategy. These should specify for each targeted region and State Party, the objective, action needed, responsibility, timetable for adoption, state of play and a mechanism to report on progress in implementing these at each session of the World Heritage Committee. In order to underline their incentive nature, the Plans of Action should highlight the actions by the States Parties concerned, notably in application of Article 5 of the Convention, and should mention the bilateral or multilateral co-operation programmes in the field of heritage in general, for the elaboration in particular of nominations.

(vi) The next UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy should stress the necessity of adopting an intersectoral policy aimed at better implementing the Convention. From the 2002-2003 biennium, an intersectoral project should be developed and implemented to encourage the States Parties whose heritage is still under-represented to reinforce their capacity to protect, conserve and enhance it.

The Committee noted that the Hungarian authorities had prepared a proposal for the establishment of a Heritage Partnership Programme to be examined by the Committee at its twenty-fourth session in Cairns (WHC-2000/CONF.204/19).

The Committee decided that a review of the implementation and effectiveness of such measures should take place not later than 2003.