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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 3 of the Provisional Agenda: Report of the Secretary on activities undertaken by the Secretariat since the twenty-fourth session of the World Heritage Committee

SUMMARY

This report includes the Powerpoint presentation given by the Director of the World Heritage Centre to the twenty-fifth session of the Committee in Helsinki on 11 December 2001.

The presentation includes a general view of the activities undertaken by the World Heritage Centre since the last Committee meeting in Cairns (Australia) in December 2000. The Report cross-references to the Working and Information documents (WHC-01/CONF.208/1 to 24 and WHC-01/CONF.208/INF.1 to INF.19). These documents have been made available electronically and distributed to Members of the Committee. The documents will also be available on the public web site at whc.unesco.org/req1.asp following the session.

Three annexes are attached:

- I 30 YEARS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION
- II THE VIRTUAL CONGRESS ON WORLD HERITAGE MANAGEMENT
- III CONFERENCE ON 30 YEARS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE
CONVENTION (14-16 November 2002)

I. Introduction

This Report summarizes the main actions, achievements and on-going activities of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the Secretariat of the World Heritage Committee.

2001 has been an extremely intensive year in the life of the *World Heritage Convention*, as several important reforms affecting all sections of the activity have been decided and gradually implemented.

This period has brought a number of important changes in the role, organization and activities of the Secretariat, as World Heritage establishes its role as a UNESCO "Flagship Programme".

These changes have imposed a remarkable load on the work of the Secretariat, while traditional problems of staffing, space and equipment have found only a partial solution.

In presenting to the Committee the activity report for the year 2001, I would like to commend the staff of the World Heritage Centre for the great dedication and professional quality of the work they have been able to complete – it has been for me a privilege to work with them in this first year of my directorship.

In the years to come, the *World Heritage Convention* will face some very important challenges. I would like to summarize them as follows:

- strengthening the legal tools to ensure conservation of heritage at risk of destruction
- achieving a more representative World Heritage List and promoting the identification of World Heritage in the different regions
- reinforcing its authority in the world of natural and cultural conservation, by defining and ensuring adequate standards for World Heritage
- giving more power to the International Assistance programmes, to foster capacity building for heritage management and prevent loss and destruction of heritage
- developing its outreach and educational activities to strengthen its links with the public and the younger generations.

These are not easy tasks, as the forces of conservation meet harder and harder challenges.

To cope with them, we need to strengthen the tools available to us, to reinforce the reach of the World Heritage Convention, to link more effectively with civil society.

In the year to come, the Secretariat will endeavour to follow the advice and guidance, and implement the decisions of the new World Heritage Committee.

Francesco Bandarin
Director
UNESCO
World Heritage Centre



Item / Point

3

Report on the activities undertaken by the Secretariat since the twenty-fourth session of the Committee / Rapport sur les activités menées par le Secrétariat depuis la vingt-quatrième session du Comité

Documents:

Report of the Secretary on activities undertaken by the Secretariat since the twenty-fourth session of the World Heritage Committee/Rapport du Secrétaire sur les activités entreprises par le Secrétariat depuis la vingt-quatrième session du Comité du patrimoine mondial

WHC-01/CONF.208/INF.3

New States Parties



Presentation of this Report

- Reform Issues
- Implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*
 - Monitoring
 - Establishment of the World Heritage List
 - Global Strategy
 - Global Training Strategy
 - International Assistance
- The World Heritage Centre
- Long-term conservation strategies
- 30th Anniversary of the *World Heritage Convention*

Reform Issues

- Resolutions of the 13th General Assembly (30 - 31 October 2001)
- Follow-up to the decisions of the Committee (Cairns 2000)
- Revision of the *Operational Guidelines*
- In Danger listing

WHC-01/CONF.208/5 Report on Reform Issues

13th General Assembly

- **Equitable Representation in the World Heritage Committee** - (*Rules of Procedure*: 13.1, reserved seat for State Party with no World Heritage sites, and 13.8, new electoral rules)
- **Representivity of the World Heritage List** (30 new nominations to be examined in 2003 and voluntary actions by States Parties)
- **Proposals for additional voluntary contribution by States Parties to the World Heritage Fund** - to be studied further by the Committee

WHC-01/CONF.208/5 Report on Reform Issues

World Heritage Committee, 2001 - 2003

ARGENTINA	HUNGARY	REPUBLIC OF KOREA
BELGIUM	INDIA	RUSSIAN FEDERATION
CHINA	LEBANON	SAINT LUCIA
COLOMBIA	MEXICO	SOUTH AFRICA
EGYPT	NIGERIA	THAILAND
FINLAND	OMAN	UNITED KINGDOM
GREECE	PORTUGAL	ZIMBABWE

8 new Members of the World Heritage Committee

Follow-up to Committee 2000



- World Heritage meetings to be moved from June/November to April/June as of 2002
- First biennial budget (2002-2003) to be submitted to this session of the Committee

WHC-01/CONF.208/5 Report on Reform Issues

Revision of the *Operational Guidelines*



2001

- Meeting of a Drafting Group at UNESCO Headquarters, 8 - 12 October 2001.
- Draft revision of *Operational Guidelines* submitted to the Committee for noting

2002

- Drafting Group, 18 - 22 March 2002
- Final approval of *Operational Guidelines* by the World Heritage Committee (2002)

WHC-01/CONF.208/6 Revision of the *Operational Guidelines*

In Danger listing

Issues

- Inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger
- Possibility for deletion of a property from the World Heritage List

Committee 2000

- Request for Legal Advice from UNESCO

New issues raised

- implications for a State Party and consequences for the international community when a site's values are considered endangered
- means available to the Committee
- actions available to a State Party which does not agree with determination of the Committee

In Danger listing

Analysis in progress

- Preliminary internal analysis prepared (April 2001)
- Director-General asked for further internal analysis to involve Culture and Science Sectors
- Analysis proceeding (by March 2002)

Timetable

- Analysis to guide the work of March 2002 *Operational Guidelines* Drafting Group
- Committee, Budapest 2002 to debate and decide in context of approving revised *Operational Guidelines*

Implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* Monitoring

- Proposed changes to Periodic Reporting Schedule
- Periodic Reporting

- Africa
- Overview - Region by Region

- Reactive Monitoring
 - World Heritage in Danger
- Evolution of the World Heritage List

Proposed changes to Periodic Reporting Schedule

Asia and the Pacific

December 2002 to **June 2003**

Latin America and the Caribbean

December 2003 to **June 2004**

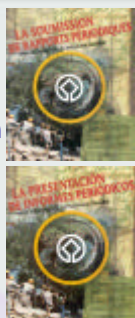
Europe and North America

December 2004/2005 to

June 2005/2006

New Periodic reporting cycle starts in **2007**

WHC-01/CONF.208/8 Periodic reporting: Progress report



Africa - Periodic Reporting

40 properties monitored in 18 States Parties

- 16 cultural properties, 23 natural properties, 1 mixed property

MAIN CONCLUSIONS

- Improve the regional network optimizing expertise and co-ordination of local and national capacities
- Establish a platform for future site monitoring
- Elaborate strategies for the prevention of natural and anthropic risks
- Create an African Heritage Fund

WHC-01/CONF.208/7 Report on the state of the World Heritage in Africa

Overview of Periodic Reporting

In progress:

- **Asia and Pacific:**
 - Regional Workshops (Tana Torja, Indonesia; Gyeongju, Republic of Korea; New Delhi, India in 2001 and upcoming in Australia, March 2002)
- **Latin America and the Caribbean:**
 - Preparation of first Meetings for South America and Central America/Mexico
- **Europe and North America:**
 - Preparatory meetings with the Council of Europe (project HEREIN) to develop an innovative strategy for 2005/2006

Follow-up:

- **Arab States:**
 - National Workshops in Algeria, Yemen and Syria, to review issues raised in the Periodic Reports and identify appropriate actions

WHC-01/CONF.208/8 Periodic Reporting: Progress report

List of World Heritage in Danger

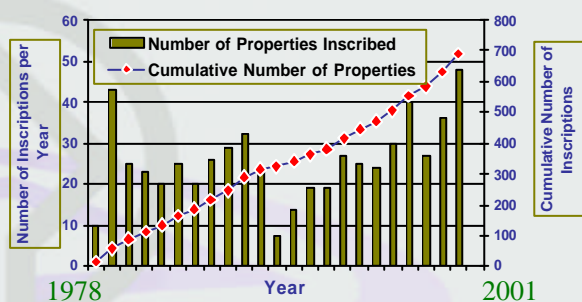
30 properties currently inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger (19 Natural and 11 Cultural)

Proposal to remove one site from the List of World Heritage in Danger after acceptance by State Party

Recommendations from the Bureau to inscribe 4 additional properties

WHC-01/CONF.208/9 State of conservation - List of World Heritage in Danger

The World Heritage List 1978-2000



Total of 690 properties

Regional Analysis of the World Heritage List

REGION	CULTURAL	MIXED	NATURAL	TOTAL
Africa	21	2	30	53
Arab States	48	1	3	52
Asia & the Pacific	90	9	36	135
Europe & North America	302	8	42	352
Latin America & the Caribbean	68	3	27	98
TOTAL	529	23	138	690






690 properties in 122 States Parties

Regional distribution of the 45 nominations to be examined by this Committee

Region	Cultural	Mixed	Natural
Africa	4	0	1
Arab States	1	0	0
Asia - Pacific	4	0	0
Europe and North America	18	4	8
Latin America & the Caribbean	1	0	4
TOTALS	28	4	13

WHC-01/CONF.208/12 Rev Nominations to the World Heritage List

28 Cultural Properties to be examined

in 5 thematic categories		Already inscribed	Proposed for 2001
	Historic town centres	181	8
	Religious properties	120	5
	Architectural monuments	41	3
	Technological ensembles	28	5
	Cultural landscapes	23	7

WHC-01/CONF.208/12 Rev Nominations to the World Heritage List

17 Mixed and Natural Properties to be examined

	Already inscribed	Proposed for 2001
 Mixed sites	23	4
Natural properties in 3 biogeographic realms		
 Palearctic Realm	44	8
 Afrotropical Realm	31	1
 Neotropical Realm	30	4

WHC-01/CONF.208/12 Rev Nominations to the World Heritage List

Global Strategy for a balanced and representative World Heritage List

- Tentative Lists
- Activities in 2001
- Proposed World Heritage Indigenous Peoples Council of Experts (WHIPCOE)

Tentative Lists

Sites inscribed on the World Heritage List	690
Total number of sites presented for nomination	1076
Sites included on the tentative lists	1271
States Parties which have presented tentative lists	118
States Parties which have not presented a tentative list	49

as of 15 November 2001

WHC-01/CONF.208/12 Rev Tentative Lists

Analysis of World Heritage List and Tentative Lists

- Requested by Committee (Cairns, 2000) but not financed
- Now foreseen for 2002-2003
- Objectives:
 - Assess and analyse
 - Establish categories for selection of un- and less represented categories of cultural and natural heritage
 - States Parties to renew Tentative Lists

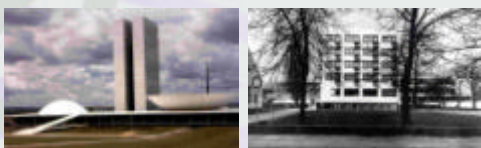
WHC-01/CONF.208/12 Add Categories of natural and cultural properties

New initiative on Modern Heritage

World Heritage List only includes 9 properties from the 20th century and relatively few from the 19th century

Aim: To identify, promote and protect outstanding modern heritage worldwide

- Meetings at UNESCO, February & October 2001
- Two regional seminars in 2002 - 2003
- DOCOMOMO September 2002 at UNESCO



WHC-01/CONF.208/11 Progress Report on Global Strategy

Cultural Landscapes

Drafting meeting for Management Guidelines for Cultural Landscapes, Cinque Terre, Italy (17 - 20 March 2001)

Regional thematic expert meeting on vineyard cultural landscapes, Hungary (11 - 14 July 2001)

Asian Sacred Mountains as Cultural Landscapes, Wakayama, Japan (5 - 10 September 2001)

Desert landscapes and oases systems in the Arab Region, Egypt (23 - 26 September 2001)

WHC-01/CONF.208/11 Progress Report on Global Strategy

Global Strategy

Meeting of States Parties from the Alpine Arc, Turin, Italy (4 - 7 July 2001)

Cultural Interpretation of Heritage sites, Palau, Micronesia, (23 - 27 July 2001)



Global Strategy for World Heritage cultural properties in Southeast Asia, Toraja, Indonesia (24 - 28 April 2001)

WHC-01/CONF.208/11 Progress Report on Global Strategy

WHIPCOE

- Proposed World Heritage Indigenous Peoples Council of Experts (WHIPCOE)
- Working Group workshop hosted by Parks Canada, Winnipeg (6-8 November 2001)
- Developed:
 - WHIPCOE Terms of Reference (Draft)
 - Purpose, Functions, Membership, Structure, Reporting, Funding
- Proposal to establish a globally representative meeting in Africa October 2002

WHC-01/CONF.208/13

Report on proposed WHIPCOE

The Global Training Strategy

Document drafted by:

ICCROM in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and ICOMOS

Main Objectives:

- integrate reference to cultural and natural heritage training in a single strategy
- provide general purpose and basic principles
- suggest some concrete actions

WHC-01/CONF.208/14 Progress Report on Global Training Strategy

World Heritage Information Management

Management of World Heritage data and information (nominations, other databases)

2002 - 2006 Strategy: to involve the Centre, Advisory Bodies and States Parties

Partnerships: Council of Europe, Nordic World Heritage Office (NWHO), Space Agencies

The Challenge: To secure the necessary funding

WHC-01/CONF.208/16

World Heritage Information Management Programme

Awareness Building and Education

Part I: Awareness Building

- A. Tools and activities for the implementation of the World Heritage Promotion and Communication Strategy (1998)
- B. Information campaigns
- C. Special Events

Part II: Education and co-operation with Universities

- A. Tools and activities in support of World Heritage Education
- B. Mobilisation of technical resources from Universities in the framework of Forum UNESCO - Universities and Heritage
- C. Update on CONNECT

Part III: Partnerships with the Tourism Industry

Part IV: Extra-budgetary sources of Income



WHC-01/CONF.208/17

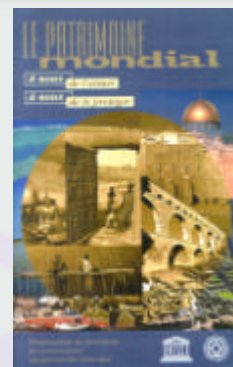
Awareness Building and Education

Awareness Building and Education

World Heritage: Ours to Cherish, Ours to Protect

A World Heritage film
sent to site managers
in 2001

Interest was high
showing need for
such materials at
local level



WHC-01/CONF.208/17

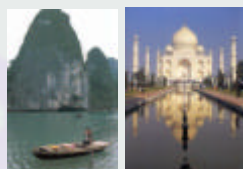
Awareness Building and Education

Public service announcements for TV

Series will comprise over 200 films

Pilots include the following sites:

Brasilia, Venice, Cliff of Bandiagara,
Taj Mahal, Fes, Halong Bay,
Kairouan, Chartres ...



WHC-01/CONF.208/17

Awareness Building and Education

World Heritage Education



WHC-01/CONF.208/17

Awareness Raising and Education

Proposed World Heritage Visual Identity

A World Heritage Visual Identity and accompanying user's manual

Recommended new World Heritage Signature

Aims:

- to create a clearer international identity
- to assist States Parties and site managers in developing their own communication strategy
- to provide future partners with user-friendly guidelines based on 1998 Emblem Principles

WHC-01/CONF.208/17

Awareness Building and Education



The proposed new World Heritage signature

International Assistance 2001

Amount approved for use in 2001

US\$ 2,955,000

REQUESTS APPROVED

	US\$
• Preparatory Assistance	350,000
• Technical Co-operation	878, 200
• Training Assistance	853,100
• Promotional Assistance	68,000
• Emergency Assistance	485,000

TOTAL 2,634,300 (89%)

WHC-01/CONF.208/18, 19 and 20

International Assistance



Funding from Partners

• Bi-lateral and multi-lateral co-operation:

- Belgium, France, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom, World Bank

• United Nations Foundation (UNF)

• Co-operation with the private sector:

- Tourism and Media industries etc.



The World Heritage Centre

- UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy and Programme and Budget
- World Heritage Centre Staff
- Equipment and office space
- Administration and procedures

31C/4 UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy

- 2002 - 2007
- World Heritage - a **UNESCO flagship programme**



WHC-01/CONF.208/18 Budget 2002 - 2003



31C/5 UNESCO Programme and Budget

- 2002 - 2003
- Major Programme IV - Culture
- Programme IV.1 Reinforcing normative action in the field of culture
- Sub-Programme IV.1.1 Promotion of the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
- **Programme Budget 2002 - 2003 US\$1,068,900**



WHC-01/CONF.208/18 Budget 2002 - 2003



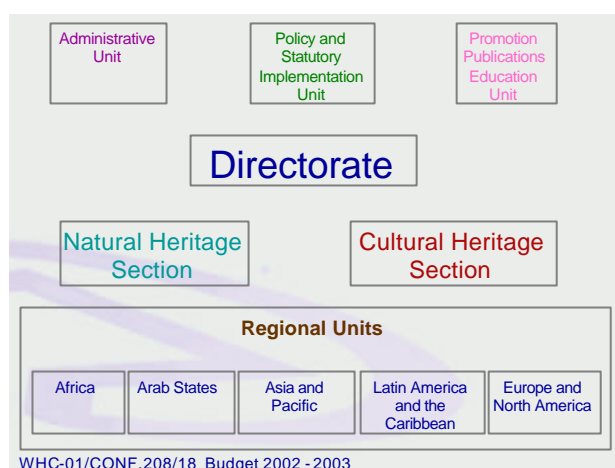
World Heritage Centre Staff

- 31/C5 - 26 Established Posts
- Restructuring of Sections and Units
- New Staff from extra budgetary funding and secondment (Belgium, China, Finland, France, Italy, United Kingdom, UNF)
- Temporary Staff

Space and Equipment issues ...

WHC-01/CONF.208/18 Budget 2002 - 2003





Administration and procedures

- Preparation of new biennial budget for World Heritage Fund (2002 - 2003)
- Strengthening of Administration and fund-raising capacity

Proposed procedural reforms:

- Delegation of authority
- Access to full amount of overhead costs
- World Heritage Fund Bank Account

WHC-01/CONF.208/18 Budget 2002 - 2003

Budget and resources 2002 - 2003

UNESCO Regular Programme (31C/5 Approved)
US\$ 1,068,900

World Heritage Fund US\$ 9,300,000

Extra-budgetary Resources* US\$ 9,913,100

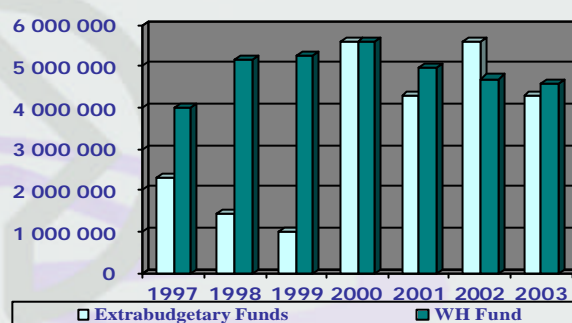
• **TOTAL (2002 - 2003) US\$ 20,282,000**

* Not including expected income from media and publishers and tourism industries (US\$ 956,000)

UNESCO Staff Costs (26 posts) US\$ 4,803,500

WHC-01/CONF.208/17 Budget 2002 - 2003

Evolution of World Heritage Fund and Extra-budgetary funds



WHC-01/CONF.208/18

Budget 2002 - 2003

World Heritage Fund (millions of US\$)

	2000	2001	2002*	2003*
Chapter I – Implementation of the Convention	0,3	0,2	0,3	0,3
Chapter II – Establishment of the World Heritage List	1,1	1,0	0,9	0,8
Chapter III – Technical Implementation of the Convention	2,7	2,3	2,1	2,2
Chapter IV – Monitoring the state of conservation of sites	0,6	0,5	0,6	0,5
Chapter V – Awareness-building and Education	0,3	0,3	0,2	0,2
TOTAL	5,0	4,3	4,1	4,0

2000 - 2003 WORLD HERITAGE FUND - 20 %

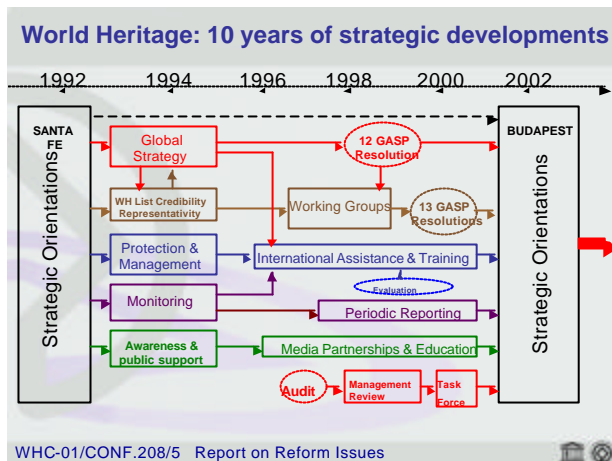
WHC-01/CONF.208/18 Budget 2002 - 2003

Extrabudgetary Resources

	2000	2001	2002*	2003*
Bilateral	0,5	2,2	2,3	1,8
UNF	3,0	3,5	2,8	2,0
Others	1,5	1,1	0,5	0,5
TOTAL	5,0	6,8	5,6	4,3

WHC-01/CONF.208/18

Budget 2002 - 2003



The World Heritage Convention as a Tool for Conservation

ACHIEVEMENTS

Greater Efforts on Representativity of the List
More Reactive Monitoring
Launch of Periodic Reporting
Better Information Management
Increasing Public Interest

CURRENT ISSUES

Stronger Focus on Management and Capacity Building
Growing Gap in International Assistance Needs
Lack of International Cooperation Strategy
Limited Public Outreach

Proposal for the improvement of the long-term conservation strategies of World Heritage properties

Principles	Guidelines for the conservation of World Heritage properties
Programmes	Reorganization of International Assistance
Partnerships	Partners Initiative

Guidelines for the conservation of World Heritage properties

- for both cultural and natural heritage
- guidelines for conservation of World Heritage sites to supplement *Operational Guidelines*
- to be elaborated by the World Heritage Centre in co-operation with the Advisory Bodies

Calendar

- Concept to be developed and discussed in 2002

WHC-01/CONF.208/5

Report on Reform Issues

Reorganisation of International Assistance

- Links to World Heritage Committee priorities
- Linked to Global Strategy objectives
- To address needs identified in regional Periodic Reports

Characteristics

- Long term
- Co-financed
- With strong regional articulation

WHC-01/CONF.208/19

Towards a Programme Approach

World Heritage Partners Initiative

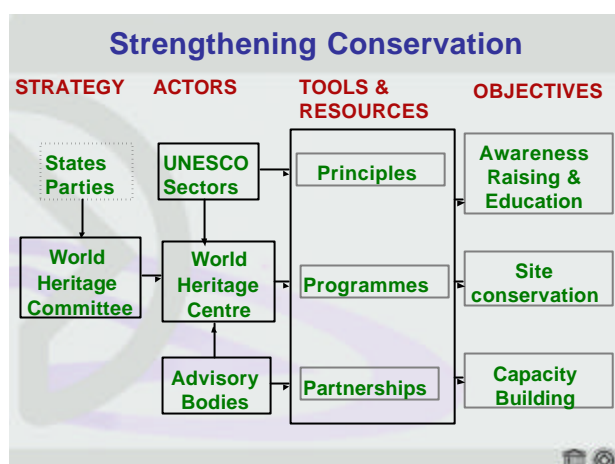
Coalition of:

Local and regional governments
Site conservation institutes
Universities
Enterprises and corporations
Foundations
NGOs

Institutional building

Technical capacities

Financial sustainability



30th Anniversary of the *Convention*

Objectives :

1. Evaluate the impact of the *Convention*
2. Adopt new strategy
3. Strengthen existing networks
4. Increase visibility
5. Effective site management

WHC-01/CONF.208/INF.3

Report of the Secretary

Twenty-sixth session of the World Heritage Committee, June 2002

Venue: Budapest, Hungary

Proposed Agenda:

- Opportunity to focus on strategies and future of Conservation
- Technical Assistance strategy
- Monitoring
- Information activities

WHC-01/CONF.208/INF.3

Report of the Secretary

Virtual Congress: October 2002

- **Web-based Congress** on information technology-application for World Heritage site management
- Call for Papers, exemplary application of remote-sensing, GIS, 3-D modelling, Virtual Reality
- 3 meetings - **Strasbourg, Beijing & Cairo** linked to web-based Congress

WHC-01/CONF.208/INF.3

Report of the Secretary

International Congress: Venice, Italy November 2002

Goals:

Assess the success and limitations of *Convention*
Define strategy for future

Expected Results:

- Linking *World Heritage Convention* with development strategies
- Greater visibility
- Launching of World Heritage Partners initiative
- Proposals for new Programmes

WHC-01/CONF.208/INF.3

Report of the Secretary

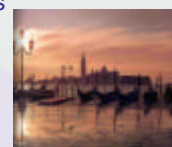
International Congress: Venice, Italy

11-12 November

- Workshops on conservation issues

14-16 November Congress sessions

- International co-operation
- Enlarging the circle of partners
- Non-governmental actors
- Awareness raising



WHC-01/CONF.208/INF.3

Report of the Secretary

30 YEARS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

Preliminary Program of Events for 2002

The General Conference of UNESCO adopted the *Convention concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage* at its seventeenth session in Paris on the 16th of November 1972.

The 30th anniversary of the Convention is an ideal opportunity for the world community involved in cultural and natural heritage conservation to reflect on achievements to date, and to review the main issues, constraints and opportunities in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*.

At the same time, the 30th anniversary provides an opportunity to further promote World Heritage conservation partnerships between governmental, non-governmental and private institutions, and to foster mobilisation of the public on world heritage conservation.

UNESCO has decided to promote and support events and initiatives aimed to assess the results of its action in the area of international legal protection of cultural and natural heritage, look at the future developments and challenges, foster new international partnerships for conservation, and extend public information on issues related to conservation.

Public and private institutions are invited to cooperate in this effort, by taking a role in the organisation of the planned events, and by proposing and organising new ones in their own countries.

In addition to events directly related to the *World Heritage Convention*, a number of international events related to cultural and natural heritage conservation will take place in 2002 in different parts of the world. UNESCO plans to participate in these events and to use these opportunities to further enhance the support for its action.

Twenty-sixth session of the World Heritage Committee, June 2002

The twenty-sixth session of the World Heritage Committee in Budapest in June 2002 constitutes an unique opportunity to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the *Convention*. As this session of the Committee corresponds with a change of the calendar of meetings, only a limited number of nominations will be considered and no periodic reporting document will be presented.

This will allow a considerable amount of time to discuss the strategic directions of the *Convention*. In particular, sessions could be dedicated to the following topics:

- Partnerships for World Heritage Conservation;
- International Assistance programmes ;
- A Charter of the World Heritage Convention;
- New categories of World Heritage sites;
- Training and education for World Heritage;
- Monitoring of World Heritage sites;
- World Heritage and the information society;

A number of special events could be organised by the hosting country to attract the international media and to consolidate partnerships.

The Committee could issue a Declaration assessing the results of the World Heritage Convention and projecting it into the next decade. The Budapest Declaration would constitute an Agenda for action of the Committee and the secretariat in the coming years.

THE VIRTUAL CONGRESS ON WORLD HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

In co-operation with the ISRSP (International Society for Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry – network of companies, research institutions, professionals), and the VSMM (Virtual System Multimedia – network of universities and research institutes for new technologies, with a focal point in Gifu, Japan), this project will organize an internet-based global conference on World Heritage conservation, supported by a limited number of regional seminars on the same day in October 2002, in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the *World Heritage Convention*.

Through a “call for projects” to be launched via the VSMM and ISRSP networks, over 50 projects on new technology application for archaeological, architectural & urban conservation, natural properties conservation in World Heritage sites will be gathered. New information technology (NIT) which can facilitate the visualization of the values of natural and cultural properties and of conservation skills and methods, has proven to be an excellent tool in the didactic presentation of conservation objectives.

Objectives:

1. Test NIT application for environmental protection and management;
2. Discuss new information technology for sustainable development ;
3. Support broader access to information technology ;
4. Promote more scientific rigour in the application of new technologies in the presentation of cultural and natural sites

Expected Outputs:

Outputs would include some 50 websites/CD-roms of virtual reality, Geographical Information System (GIS) and remote-sensing applications on World Heritage sites.

Participants:

Minimum of 120 persons will participate in the regional seminars and an estimated 2 million persons will visit the website of the Virtual Congress.

**CONFERENCE ON 30 YEARS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION
(14-16 November 2002)**

UNESCO and the Government of Italy are promoting an International Congress of experts on the World Heritage Convention, scheduled to take place in Venice from 14-16 November 2002. The Conference will provide a forum for government officials, experts, site managers, foundations and donors to build on past experience and discuss opportunities in fostering partnerships to ensure long-term conservation of natural and cultural heritage.

The organization of the Conference will be handled by the World Heritage Centre, as UNESCO's focal point, in collaboration with UNESCO's Venice ROSTE, the City of Venice and the Veneto Region. In addition, the Advisory Bodies of the World Heritage Committee (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM) and many public and private, regional and national heritage institutions will be associated with the organisation of the Congress.

OBJECTIVES:

The aims of the Conference are:

- 1] **To assess the successes and limitations of the World Heritage Convention**, with specific reference to its major objective, the protection of outstanding cultural and natural heritage worldwide. The Conference and its thematic workshops will be the opportunity to evaluate the relationship between the different international legal tools for cultural and natural conservation and to discuss the link between conservation and social and economic development.
- 2] **To foster partnerships for World Heritage conservation** between governmental and non-governmental organisations. In particular, partnerships with local and regional governments, private foundations and enterprises, NGOs and universities will be discussed and promoted.
- 3] **To involve the international media and to disseminate information on World Heritage conservation**. The Conference will be an opportunity to launch specific initiatives and partnerships in the area of public information and communication.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME:

Keynote address: “World Heritage: A Shared Legacy, A Common responsibility”

Theme of Session 1: International Cooperation for World Heritage Conservation

Presentations will include:

30 years of World Heritage Protection

The International Framework of Legal Instruments

The International Political Dimension of World Heritage

Theme of Session 2: Enlarging the circle of Governance***Presentations will include:***

The Changing role of Local and Regional Authorities in World Heritage Conservation

The Cities Model: Links between Conservation and Development

Bilateral Cooperation: the role of development agencies

Panel: *Linking World Heritage conservation and human, social and economic development*

Special presentation: *World Heritage as a flagship programme for nature conservation*

Theme of Session 3: Non-governmental actors in World Heritage Conservation***Presentations will include:***

Civil Society as a key partner in conservation and sustainable development

The Role of Foundations in Cultural and Natural Heritage Conservation

The Private Sector: moving towards new ethics for conservation

Panel: *New forms of partnerships for natural and cultural conservation*

Theme of Session 4: Raising awareness and building capacity for World Heritage conservation***Presentations will include:***

Promoting the values of World Heritage through Tourism

Panel: *Membership programmes as vehicles for raising awareness*

Special presentation by Advisory Bodies: *The universe of technical skills for cultural heritage conservation: assessment and future trends.*

Theme of Session 5: Presentation of the World Heritage Partners Initiative

**SERIES OF WORKSHOPS LINKED TO PLENARY MEETING
(11-12 November 2002)**

A number of thematic seminars will be conducted immediately prior to the Conference in World Heritage Cities located near Venice. Subject to agreements and confirmation, the following seminars are foreseen:

- The World Heritage Legal Challenge
- Ten years of Cultural Landscapes
- Private sector responsibility in World Heritage management
- World Heritage Cities and urban development
- Monitoring World Heritage
- The World Heritage Convention: 30 years of work to conserve nature and bio-diversity
- Promoting World Heritage values and building awareness
- Academic Training on World Heritage issues
- World Heritage and Tourism

RELATED 2002 EVENTS

In 2002, a number of related events will take place in different part of the world. Although these events will not all be specifically dedicated to the conservation of World Heritage, they will provide further opportunities to refer to the role of the Convention and discuss some of the issues at stake.

- ICOMOS General Assembly, October 2002, Zimbabwe
- The politics of World Heritage, University of North London, 3-4 September 2002
- Meeting of the UNESCO German National Commission “the 30th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention”, 6-7 June 2002