



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture

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Excellency,

In my capacity as President of the World Heritage Committee I would like to applaud your decision to halt the proposed saltworks at the World Heritage site of the "**Whale Sanctuary of El Vizcaino**" (Mexico).

On behalf of the World Heritage Committee, I wish to express my appreciation for the commitment of your Government to protect this unique World Heritage property for future generations.

The World Heritage Committee at its last session in Marrakesh, Morocco in December 1999 had the opportunity to review the report of the international UNESCO mission to the site, which was carried out at the kind invitation of your authorities in August 1999. The World Heritage Committee fully endorsed the recommendations of the report and I am pleased that you made reference to it in your statement of 2 March 2000.

Please be assured that the World Heritage Committee will continue to work with your Government to ensure the best implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Mexico. In this regard, I would like to underline that the World Heritage Convention is based on international co-operation to ensure the protection of the sites of outstanding universal value. The UNESCO World Heritage Centre, as secretariat to the World Heritage Committee is at your disposal to assist your Government if it wishes to envisage sustainable development projects for the benefit of local people.

I would like to thank you very much for your most generous and visible support of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

Please be assured, Excellency, of my highest consideration.

Abdelaziz Touri
Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Abdelaziz Touri", written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Ernesto Zedillo
President of Mexico

cc: World Heritage Committee members
IUCN, ICOMOS, ICCROM
CMS Convention, Ramsar Convention