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REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE ON ITS ACTIVITIES (2002-2003)

OUTLINE

Source: Article 29.3 of the World Heritage Convention stipulates that “the Committee shall submit a report on its activities at each of the ordinary sessions of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization”.

Background: The Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the World Heritage Committee, was established by the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 17th session on 16 November 1972.

Purpose: This report contains information concerning the main activities and decisions taken by the World Heritage Committee since the thirteenth session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention held in October 2001.

Decision required: The present report requires no decision.

I. OVERVIEW AND STRUCTURE OF THIS DOCUMENT

1. This document is intended to provide the UNESCO General Conference with information regarding the main activities and decisions taken by the World Heritage Committee since the thirteenth General Assembly of States Parties (October 2001) in the implementation of the convention concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage (the World Heritage Convention).

2. In order to better present the varied information contained in this document, the main activities and decisions of the Committee have been grouped according to the Strategic Objectives of the World Heritage Committee. These Strategic Objectives, adopted by the Committee at its twenty-sixth session (Budapest, June 2002), are the following:

- (a) strengthen the **credibility** of the World Heritage List;
- (b) ensure the effective **conservation** of World Heritage properties;
- (c) promote the development of effective **capacity-building** in States Parties;
- (d) increase public awareness, involvement and support for World Heritage through **communication**.¹

II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

(a) Number of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention

One hundred and seventy-six States Parties (as of June 2003).² The States that have joined the World Heritage Convention since the thirteenth General Assembly (October 2001) are: Barbados, Bhutan, Eritrea, Federated States of Micronesia, Kuwait, Liberia, Marshall Islands, Palau, Republic of Moldova, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Vanuatu.

(b) Current members of the World Heritage Committee

Twenty-one members: Argentina, Belgium, China, Colombia, Egypt, Finland, Greece, Hungary, India, Lebanon, Mexico, Nigeria, Oman, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, South Africa, Thailand, United Kingdom and Zimbabwe. Their terms of office are as follows:

(c) Terms of office of members of the World Heritage Committee

- Until the **end of the 32nd session of the General Conference of UNESCO** (2003): Belgium,³ Finland, Greece, Hungary, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Zimbabwe.
- Until the **end of the 33rd session of the General Conference of UNESCO** (2005): Argentina, China, Colombia, Egypt, Lebanon, Nigeria, Oman, Portugal, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, South Africa, United Kingdom.

¹ See Decision 26 COM 17.1.

² The list of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention can be found at the following address: <http://whc.unesco.org/wldrat.htm>.

³ Belgium (whose mandate was to expire at the end of the 33rd session of the General Conference, 2005) has announced its intention to voluntarily give up its seat on the Committee during the 32nd session of the General Conference.

- Until the **end of the 34th session of the General Conference of UNESCO (2007)**: India.

(d) Members of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee since November 2001

1 November 2001- 24 June 2002	24 June 2002- 30 June 2003	30 June-5 July 2003	5 July 2003- 7 July 2004
Finland (Chairperson, Mr Henrik Lilius)	Hungary (Chairperson, Mr Tamás Fejérdy)	Saint Lucia (Chairperson, Ms Vera Lacoëuilhe)	China (Chairperson, Mr Zhang Xinsheng)
Mexico (Rapporteur, Mr Francisco Javier Lopez Morales)	Belgium (Rapporteur, Ms Bénédicte Selfslagh)	South Africa (Rapporteur, Ms Louise Graham)	South Africa (Rapporteur, Ms Louise Graham)
Egypt	Egypt	China	Saint Lucia
Greece	Greece	Nigeria	Nigeria
South Africa	South Africa	Oman	Oman
Hungary	Mexico	Argentina	Argentina
Thailand	China	United Kingdom	United Kingdom

**(e) World Heritage statutory meetings since the thirteenth General Assembly
(October 2001)**

Meeting session	Venue	Dates	Documents prepared
Fifth extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee (5 EXT COM)	Paris, France	1 November 2001	Two working/one information documents (WHC.2001/CONF.209/)
Twenty-fifth session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee (25 BUR)	Helsinki, Finland	7-8 December 2001	Four working/eight information documents (WHC.2001/CONF.205/)
Twenty-fifth session of the World Heritage Committee (25 COM)	Helsinki, Finland	11-16 December 2001	25 working/20 information documents (WHC.2001/CONF.208/)
Twenty-sixth session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee (26 BUR)	Paris, France	8-13 April 2002	16 working/seven information documents (WHC.2002/CONF.201/)

Meeting session	Venue	Dates	Documents prepared
Twenty-sixth session of the World Heritage Committee (26 COM)	Budapest, Hungary	24-29 June 2002	29 working/18 information documents (WHC.2002/CONF.202/)
Sixth extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee (6 EXT COM)	Paris, France	17-22 March 2003	Eight working/11 information documents (WHC-03/6 EXT.COM/)
Twenty-seventh session of the World Heritage Committee (27 COM)	Paris, France	30 June-5 July 2003	26 working/17 information documents (WHC-03/27.COM/)
Total	110 working/82 information documents		(192 documents in total)

III. REFORM AND STRATEGIC REFLECTION

(a) Strategic Objectives of the World Heritage Committee

As indicated above (in paragraph 2), the Committee adopted the Strategic Objectives,⁴ also known as the “4 Cs”, which are: credibility, conservation, capacity-building and communication.

The Committee, at its sixth extraordinary session, adopted a revised budget structure for the World Heritage Fund, structured to reflect these Strategic Objectives.⁵

(b) Revision of the Operational Guidelines

A second meeting of the drafting group on the revision of the Operational Guidelines was held in March 2002 and produced a third draft annotated revision. This text was then discussed by the Committee at its sixth extraordinary session (March 2003). A revised user-friendly Operational Guidelines will be adopted by the Committee at its twenty-seventh session (June-July 2003).⁶

(c) Changes to the working methods of the Committee

To improve its working methods the Committee revised its Rules of Procedure. A new reporting method was also adopted to give greater prominence to the decisions taken by the Committee and to facilitate the follow-up of these decisions by States Parties, advisory bodies and the Secretariat.⁷

⁴ See 26 COM 17.1.

⁵ See 6 EXT.COM 6.

⁶ See 6 EXT.COM 5.

⁷ See 26 COM 3.3.

IV. STRENGTHENING THE CREDIBILITY OF THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

(a) Nominations to the World Heritage List

The decision taken by the Committee at its twenty-fourth session (Cairns 2000) to limit the number of new nominations to be examined each year to 30 (with a maximum of one nomination for those State Parties who already have properties on the World Heritage List) will be reviewed by the twenty-seventh session of the Committee (June-July 2003).

(b) Inscription of properties on the World Heritage List since the thirteenth General Assembly (October 2001)

Region	New cultural properties	New natural properties	New cultural and natural properties	Total
Africa	7			7
Arab States	4			4
Asia/Pacific	9	3		12
Europe/North America	27	4		31
Europe/Asia*		1		1
Latin America and the Caribbean	6	3		9
Total	53	11		64

* One transboundary site inscribed in 2003,Uvs Nuur Basin (Mongolia/Russian Federation), extends across two regions.

The total number of properties on the World Heritage List⁸ as of 5 July 2003 is 754 (582 cultural, 149 natural and 23 mixed). These properties are located in 128 States Parties (i.e. 48 States Parties do not have properties inscribed on the World Heritage List). One hundred and thirty-two States Parties have submitted tentative lists of properties they may decide to nominate in future years.

(c) Inscription of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger since the thirteenth General Assembly (October 2001)

Session	Number of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger	Number of properties removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger
25 COM (2001)	2 (Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines) and Abu Mena (Egypt))	1 (Iguaçu National Park (Brazil))
26 COM (2002)	2 (Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) and Tipasa (Algeria))	0

⁸ For the World Heritage List see: <http://whc.unesco.org/heritage.htm>.

Session	Number of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger	Number of properties removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger
27 COM (2003)	5 (Cultural landscape and archaeological remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan); Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Azerbaijan); Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire); Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq); Kathmandu Valley (Nepal))	3 (Srebarna Nature Reserve (Bulgaria); Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor (Serbia and Montenegro); Yellowstone (United States of America))

The total number of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger⁹ as of 5 July 2003 is 35 (18 cultural and 17 natural). These properties are located in 28 States Parties (Africa, 14 properties; Arab States, seven properties; Asia and the Pacific, eight properties; Europe and North America, three properties; Latin America and the Caribbean, three properties).

(d) State of conservation reports of World Heritage properties examined by the Committee since the thirteenth General Assembly (October 2001)

	World Heritage List			List of World Heritage in Danger		
	25 COM	26 COM	27 COM	25 COM	26 COM	27 COM
Arab States	9	11	10	3	3	5
Europe/ North America	31	30	36	4	5	5
Asia/Pacific	22	16	24	4	5	6
Latin America and the Caribbean	10	11	24	4	1	3
Africa	5	4	11	11	3	13
Total	77	72	105	26	17	32

(e) Global Strategy for a credible, balanced and representative World Heritage List

More than 24 studies, workshops and conferences have been carried out with regard to thematic activities. These activities relate to potential World Heritage marine properties, cultural landscapes, an IUCN mountain study and a boreal forests' study. Over 30 regional and subregional activities, such as analytical studies, training workshops, preparatory assistance and expert meetings were also carried out for the implementation of the global strategy and as follow-up activities to periodic reporting.

(f) Analysis of the World Heritage List and of the tentative lists

In order to find new ways to achieve a more credible, balanced and representative World Heritage List, the Committee has asked ICOMOS and IUCN to carry out analyses of both the World Heritage List and tentative lists and to present their results to its 28th session (June 2004).¹⁰

⁹ For the List of World Heritage in Danger see: <http://whc.unesco.org/danglist.htm>.

¹⁰ See 26 COM 13.

V. ENSURING THE EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION OF WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES

(a) Approved International Assistance (IA) from the World Heritage Fund since the thirteenth General Assembly (October 2001)¹¹

Regions	Number of States Parties to request IA	Number of requests	Total amount approved (in us \$)
Africa	27	77	2,026,931
Arab States	12	50	1,011,390
Asia and the Pacific	23	74	1,503,416
Europe and North America	4	5	69,649
Central and Eastern Europe	13	25	498,510
Latin America and the Caribbean	18	46	1,194,675
Global	N/A	25	688,450
Total	97	302	6,993,021

(b) Periodic reporting

At its 25th session (Helsinki 2001) the Committee examined the periodic report for Africa. Eighteen African States Parties (with 40 World Heritage properties) participated in the periodic reporting exercise. The report and an action plan were approved by the Committee at its twenty-sixth session (Budapest 2002) and the report has now been published as part of the World Heritage Series.

The Committee has welcomed new World Heritage Programmes on sustainable tourism, cities, earthen architecture and forests and has requested that new regional programmes be developed as a follow-up to periodic reporting.

At its twenty-fourth session (Cairns 2000) the Committee approved an action plan for the preparation of the Asia-Pacific regional periodic report. Of the 39 States Parties, 16 States Parties with properties inscribed on the World Heritage List before or in 1994 were requested to prepare state of conservation reports for a total of 88 properties (55 cultural and 33 natural or mixed). Thirteen national, regional and international consultative meetings were organized to share information and to encourage active participation on the part of the States Parties. The periodic report for Asia and the Pacific will be presented to the twenty-seventh session of the Committee.

(c) Policy and legal issues concerning the List of World Heritage in Danger

A comprehensive study on policy and legal issues concerning inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger and deletion from the World Heritage List was presented to the twenty-sixth session of the Committee (Budapest 2002).¹² The Committee agreed to retain the current wording of the Operational Guidelines regarding the inclusion of properties on the List of World Heritage in

¹¹ As of 20 June 2003.

¹² See document WHC-02/CONF.202/8.

Danger, deletion of properties from the World Heritage List and the process of reactive monitoring.¹³

(d) Protection of World Heritage in Afghanistan

The Committee sent a fact-finding mission and provided assistance for the preparation of nominations (Minaret of Jam and the Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley) and a tentative list. The Committee allocated US \$199,000 from the World Heritage Fund for these and other activities. The Committee (in Budapest 2002) simultaneously inscribed the Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam on the World Heritage List and List of World Heritage in Danger.

(e) Protection of World Heritage in Iraq

The nomination of Ashur (Qala'at at Sherqat) will be presented to the Committee at its twenty-seventh session for inscription on the World Heritage List. UNESCO, through its intersectoral group, is preparing a possible mission to the site in July to gather more information on its state of conservation.

(f) Protection of cultural heritage in the Palestinian Territories

In 2002, the World Heritage Committee provided assistance for the protection of Cultural Heritage in the Palestinian Territories.¹⁴ The World Heritage Centre carried out a mission in October 2002 which resulted in a work plan, agreed upon by the Palestinian Authority. This work plan includes the preparation of a preliminary inventory of potential World Heritage properties, an assessment of the state of conservation of two selected properties contained in the inventory, and training activities to introduce Palestinian specialists to the objectives and procedures of the World Heritage Convention.

(g) World Parks Congress

The Centre is cooperating with IUCN and a number of other partners in the preparation of the Fifth World Parks Congress to be convened by IUCN and the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) in Durban, South Africa from 8 to 17 September 2003. Preparatory activities were organized with respect to all seven Congress Streams during 2002-2003 with World Heritage Fund support and in cooperation with IUCN. The Streams are:

1. Linkages and landscapes (February 2003);
2. Sustainable financing of protected areas (April 2003);
3. Capacity-building (April 2003);
4. Governance (consultancies and studies throughout 2002 and 2003);
5. Management Effectiveness (February 2003);
6. Gaps and protected areas systems (January 2003);
7. Building support for protected areas (October 2002).

¹³ See 6 EXT.COM 4.

¹⁴ See 26 COM 6.1, 26 COM 6.2 and 26 COM 24.2.5.

VI. PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE CAPACITY-BUILDING IN STATES PARTIES

(a) Global Training Strategy

A Global Training Strategy was adopted by the Committee at its twenty-fifth session (Helsinki 2001). Some of the key initiatives that have been carried out in 2002-2003 are:

1. Preparation by ICCROM of “Guidelines” for organizing World Heritage training activities;
2. Completion of training kits on World Heritage nominations and periodic reporting/monitoring;
3. Africa 2009, a joint programme of African Cultural Heritage Institutions, ICCROM, the World Heritage Centre, and CRATerre-EAG, which focuses on an integrated approach to training and networking for cultural heritage professionals in sub-Saharan Africa;
4. Organization of a World Heritage capacity-building workshop for the Pacific island countries (Samoa, February 2003);
5. Development of World Heritage management guideline publications such as World Heritage Cities Management Guide, World Heritage Cultural Landscape Management Guidelines, World Heritage Risk Preparedness Management Guidelines, Management Guidelines for World Cultural Heritage Sites and Managing Tourism at World Heritage Sites.

(b) Education activities

Four World Heritage youth forums and workshops took place since November 2001 (in Sweden, Slovakia, the Russian Federation and Oman). The World Heritage Education Kit “World Heritage in Young Hands” has now been translated into more than 20 languages and a second edition has been published and commercialized. To maximize the use of these Kits, eight teacher-training seminars were organized in the same period in the following countries: the Philippines, Russian Federation, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Syria, France, Slovakia and Sweden. A World Heritage Skills Development Course for Young People in the Arab Region was held at Petra, Jordan, in April 2002, and another one on Mobilizing Youth for World Heritage and animated cartoon techniques, was organized in Treviso, Italy, in November 2002.

An International Conference on “World Heritage in Young Hands – a Dialogue among Civilizations” was held in Aswan/Cairo, Egypt, in February 2002.

Other initiatives being currently developed are: multimedia educational material on specific World Heritage sites; a cartoon series (“Patrimono’s World Heritage Adventures”) and posters done “by the young for the young”. Following the World Heritage Skills Development Course in Jordan, 2002, a manual illustrating best practice examples is currently being finalized in collaboration with ICCROM.

(c) Other training activities

UNESCO continued to assist in building the capacity of States Parties to protect World Heritage with training courses, seminars and other technical cooperation activities and on site conservation of properties in Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil,

Cambodia, China, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritania, Myanmar, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Slovakia, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

VII. INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS, INVOLVEMENT AND SUPPORT FOR WORLD HERITAGE THROUGH COMMUNICATION

(a) Awareness-raising

The following public information activities have been carried out:

1. a special lightweight travelling exhibition on the thirtieth anniversary of the World Heritage Convention was prepared in six languages (English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian and Chinese) and provided free of cost to all States Parties to the Convention;
2. a photographic exhibition entitled "Our Past, Our Future", with 60 photographs of selected World Heritage sites was created through the support of three sponsors: Japanese FIT, World Monuments Fund-France and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Marianna Vardinoyannis;
3. a half-day press workshop on the World Heritage Convention and its thirtieth anniversary was held in October 2002;
4. a new contract was established with a Japanese company for a series of 50 documentary films entitled "New Journeys into the World Heritage" focusing on UNESCO World Heritage sites, mainly in Asia;
5. the production of a World Heritage calendar in cooperation with Panasonic is continuing, and a new three-year contract is in preparation.
6. the cooperation with Südwestrundfunk (Germany) and Tokyo Broadcasting System (TBS) in the production of video films on World Heritage continues.

(b) Publications

Eight issues of the *World Heritage Review* have been published and diffused in English, French and Spanish. A Russian edition is being produced since the beginning of 2002. Eight issues of the *World Heritage Newsletter* have been sent to more than 20,000 addresses. Within the World Heritage Papers series, the first five publications have been printed: Managing Tourism at World Heritage Sites, A Guide to International Assistance, Periodic Report Africa, World Heritage Marine Biodiversity Workshop, and Identification and Documentation of Modern Heritage.

The World Heritage Map and Brochure "Our World Heritage" has been produced in an updated and redesigned version and the 2002 and 2003 editions of the World Heritage diary have been published. Twelve editions of the electronic newsletter *WH News* were prepared.

(c) Thirtieth Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention:

An international congress “World Heritage 2002: Shared Legacy, Common Responsibility” was held in Venice (November 2002) to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the World Heritage Convention. The Congress gathered more than 600 experts from around the world to discuss the evolution of the Convention and to consider its role for the future. The Conference was one of the key events of the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage.

Nine workshops were also held throughout Italy before the Venice Congress on the following subjects:

1. The Legal Tools for World Heritage Conservation, Siena;
2. Cultural Landscapes: The Challenges of Conservation, Ferrara;
3. Towards Innovative Partnerships for World Heritage, Venice;
4. Partnerships for World Heritage Cities: Culture as a Vector for Sustainable Urban Development, Urbino-Pesaro;
5. Monitoring World Heritage, Vicenza;
6. Partnerships to Conserve Nature and Biodiversity, Trieste;
7. World Heritage University Training, Feltre;
8. World Heritage Site Management, Padua;
9. Mobilizing Young People for World Heritage, Treviso.

The proceedings of the Venice Congress and the associated workshops will be published.¹⁵

More than 30 other events and activities such as itinerant exhibitions, press conferences and an Internet-based Virtual Congress on World Heritage in the Digital Age, gathering more than 200 papers and multimedia projects and linking 11 special events around the world (Beijing, Dakar, Alexandria, Mexico City, Paris, Strasbourg and the Loire Valley) were also organized to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Convention.

To further commemorate the anniversary, the Committee (at its twenty-sixth session) adopted the Budapest Declaration on World Heritage.¹⁶ The Declaration is a call for action for Credibility, Conservation, Capacity-Building and Communication in support of World Heritage.

(d) Partnerships

The World Heritage Partnerships Initiative was launched on a trial basis for the period 2002-2007.¹⁷ New partnerships were announced at the Venice Congress in November 2002. These included a UNESCO-United Nations Foundation (UNF)-Conservation International (CI) tripartite agreement worth US \$15 million. A similar partnership is under negotiation with WWF US. Fauna and Flora International also pledged to cooperate with UNESCO, UNF and other interested partners to build a rapid response mechanism to respond to threats to World Heritage natural sites and

¹⁵ For more information, see <http://whc.unesco.org/venice2002/>.

¹⁶ See <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/02budapest-decl.htm> for the text of the Budapest Declaration.

¹⁷ See 26 COM 17C.

generate the initial capital needed for a fund that will support the mechanism's operations. An agreement with the Grand Circle Foundation has been finalized, which pledges US \$100,000 per year to selected World Heritage properties agreed with the World Heritage Centre over a five-year period, and a partnership with Hewlett Packard is under discussion.

A partnership with International Space Agencies was launched at the 25th session of the Committee (Helsinki 2001). New initiatives are currently being developed with the European Space Agency, the Belgian Universities of Ghent and Louvain la Neuve, with the Brazilian and Argentinean space agencies and with NASA in order to better monitor and map World Heritage properties.

(e) Bilateral agreements with States Parties

In the past two years, five new agreements with Australia, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, and New Zealand have been signed. Another, with the United Kingdom is under discussion. Two existing UNESCO-wide agreements, with France and Japan respectively, have been used to support World Heritage projects and monitoring activities. Significant earmarked contributions have also been gratefully received from a number of States Parties.