

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-second session
Kyoto, Japan
30 November -5 December 1998

Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda: Report on the activities undertaken by the Secretariat since the twenty-first session of the Committee

SUMMARY

This document presents an overview of activities carried out by the World Heritage Centre between December 1997 and November 1998 according to the following subject headings:

1. Introduction
2. Overall functioning of the *World Heritage Convention*
3. Establishment of the World Heritage List
4. Monitoring and reporting on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List
5. International Assistance
6. World Heritage documentation, information, education and awareness-raising strategy

Further details may be found in the relevant working documents (**WHC-98/CONF.203/1** to **WHC-98/CONF.203/17**) and information documents (**WHC-98/CONF.203/INF.1** to **WHC-98/CONF.203/INF.18**), presented to the twenty-second session of the World Heritage Committee.

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1. Introduction

This document provides a summary of the main activities carried out by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre since the twenty-first session of the World Heritage Committee between December 1997 and November 1998. This summary report will be supplemented by an oral report by the Director of the Centre to be presented to the twenty-second session of the World Heritage Committee.

Detailed information on each of these activities may be found in the relevant working documents (**WHC-98/CONF.203/1** to **WHC-98/CONF.203/17**) and information documents (**WHC-98/CONF.203/INF.1** to **WHC-98/CONF.203/INF.18**), presented to the twenty-second session of the World Heritage Committee.

Additional information on some of these activities is available on the World Heritage Centre's web site www.unesco.org/whc and also can be found in the three issues of the *World Heritage Newsletter* disseminated in 1998.

2. Overall functioning of the *World Heritage Convention*

(i) World Heritage Statutory Meetings

The **twenty-second session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee** was held at UNESCO Headquarters from 22 to 27 June 1998 (see Report of the Rapporteur **WHC-98/CONF.203/4**).

The **twenty-second extraordinary session of the Bureau** was held in Kyoto, Japan from 27 to 28 November 1998 (see Report of the Rapporteur **WHC-98/CONF.203/5**).

(ii) Consultative Body of the World Heritage Committee

At its twenty-first session in December 1997, the Committee had requested that the Consultative Body, established following the twentieth session of the Committee in Merida, Mexico 1996, examine four issues and present a report to the twenty-second session of the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau:

1. Technical issues
2. Communications and Promotion
3. Management Review and Financial Audit
4. Use of the World Heritage Emblem and Fund-Raising Guidelines.

A meeting of the Consultative Body was held at UNESCO Headquarters on 29 and 30 April 1998. In accordance with the decision by the Consultative Body in December 1997, preliminary discussion papers were prepared by members of the Consultative Body which then formed the basis of the Consultative Body's deliberations on the four issues during their meeting. The Report of the Rapporteur of the meeting of the Consultative Body was

adopted on 24 June 1998 and was subsequently discussed at the twenty-second session (22-27 June 1998) of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee. The Bureau, made specific recommendations to the Committee. Some of the Bureau's recommendations have required substantial follow-up on the part of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies as well as by members of the Consultative Body. More detailed information can be found in document **WHC-98/CONF.203/11**.

- *External Audit of the World Heritage Fund for 1996*

In accordance with the decision taken by the World Heritage Committee at its twentieth session in December 1996 in Merida, Mexico, a Financial Audit and Management Review of the World Heritage Centre was undertaken by the external auditors of UNESCO. This assessment led to recommendations which were examined by the twenty-first session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee in July 1997. The Director-General's comments were also included in the documents submitted to the twenty-first session of the Bureau. The Bureau requested the World Heritage Centre to develop procedures covering its financial activities as recommended by the auditors. Following the decisions taken by the World Heritage Committee at the twenty-first meeting in Naples, the World Heritage Centre has responded to each and every recommendation of the Financial Audit with assistance from other UNESCO services.

Improved financial and administrative procedures have been steadily put into effect since September 1997. Detailed information is presented to the twenty-second session of the Committee in document **WHC-98/CONF.203/INF.16**.

The 155th session of the Executive Board of UNESCO, held at UNESCO Headquarters, examined the Financial Audit and the Management Review of the *World Heritage Convention* within the context of UNESCO wide audits and policy reviews and noted the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations made by the Financial Audit and the Management Review of the World Heritage Centre.

- *Information Management Review*

As approved by the 21st session of the World Heritage Committee, a group of six internationally recognized experts (including information specialists from National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) of the ESA (European Space Institute), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), met with staff of the World Heritage Centre from 11 to 13 March 1998 to review the information resources, infrastructure and needs of the Secretariat. Its recommendations noted that substantial economies combined with increased efficiency could be achieved by the implementation of a professionally designed integrated information management system. This system should link all information relating to technical and financial aspects of the day-to-day management of the *World Heritage*

Convention to produce a streamlined basis for swift responses to daily management issues. Finland, the United Kingdom and the United States are likely to contribute to the financing of this project.

This project is currently awaiting implementation. Meanwhile the Centre has created the International Assistance database that provides essential information on all international assistance projects. It is also an important tool to monitor the implementation of the projects and the overall international assistance budget.

(iii) Co-operation with the Advisory Bodies

Two co-ordination meetings took place with the Advisory Bodies with staff from CLT/CH and SC/ECO. The meetings were held on 2 February and on 21-22 September at UNESCO Headquarters. The agenda of the meetings included items such as the preparation of the Bureau and the Committee sessions; new nominations, state of conservation reports; co-ordination of missions, as well as the proposals of work plans, budget estimates and contractual arrangements. The meeting held in September 1998 also examined the necessary inputs for the documents for the twenty-second session of the World Heritage Committee (Global Strategy, Periodic Reporting, Revision of the Operational Guidelines, etc.).

Regular co-ordination activities refer in particular to the whole nomination and inscription process, reactive monitoring (examination of dossiers, fielding of expert missions) and international assistance (comments from the advisory bodies on requests for international assistance).

Among specific activities undertaken in 1998 are: the organization of training activities by ICCROM; the publication of *Risk Preparedness: a Management Manual for World Cultural Heritage* by ICOMOS (in collaboration with ICCROM, UNESCO-WHC). As a contribution to the Global Theme Study of the World Natural Heritage sites IUCN has published a report on "Human Use of World Heritage Natural Sites: A Global Overview" (September 1998).

The Centre participated in IUCN's 50th anniversary celebrations held in Fontainebleau, France, from 3 to 5 November 1998. The Centre and IUCN intend to co-operate more closely in developing a series of global projects benefiting biodiversity conservation focused on World Heritage natural sites. A programme is presently being developed with IUCN to contribute to the 4th World Parks Congress that will be convened in one of the African countries in the year 2002.

In 1998, seven international requests approved under the World Heritage Fund, as well as three in situ training activities related to Africa 2009, have been implemented by **ICCROM**, for a total amount of US\$258,900. ICCROM has also undertaken monitoring missions to some World Heritage sites. Acting as the Secretariat of the Programme Africa 2009, ICCROM played a major role in shaping the strategy approved by the Committee in

1996. The aim of the programme is to improve the conditions for the conservation of cultural heritage in sub-Saharan Africa through sustainable development.

(iv) Co-operation with other Sectors of UNESCO

Relations between biosphere reserves, natural World Heritage sites and protected areas were the subject of a general discussion with IUCN, Conservation International and WCMC during the 5th meeting of the Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves in July 1998. A better co-ordination was felt necessary, at international and national levels, for those sites which were at the same time designated as biosphere reserves, inscribed on the World Heritage List and sometimes also designated as Ramsar Sites. Common actions from the Secretariats concerned, including training and fund raising were also recommended. Accordingly, a special Task Force has been set-up with the Science Sector of UNESCO for joint programming for those sites which are at the same time World Heritage sites as well as UNESCO Biosphere Reserves. The Management Review of the World Heritage Centre had also recommended that such a Task Force be established for these sites. The Task Force met on 9 October 1998; a second meeting is foreseen soon after the conclusion of the 22nd session of the Committee to define a workplan and associated funding requirements to support, conservation of those sites which are both World Heritage sites and Biosphere Reserves. A case study for the conservation and management of a site designated as World Heritage and Biosphere reserve was discussed on-site in the presence of all workshop participants and representatives from international conservation organisations implementing projects in and around Dja Faunal Reserve (Cameroon).

To promote methodological coherence and exchange of technical knowledge relevant to the protection and conservation of the numerous urban heritage sites on the World Heritage List an expert working group on historic cities was established in March 1998 which has met four times in this year. The working group includes specialists from the Division of Cultural Heritage and the IGO Programme on Management of Social Transformations administered by the Division of Social and Human Sciences.

Regular meetings are held with the Sector for Education and the Associated Schools Project Co-ordination Unit (ASPnet) for the implementation of the Special Project - "Young People's Participation in the World Heritage Preservation and Promotion".

(v) Co-operation with other Conventions

Under the umbrella of the general memorandum of co-operation signed between UNESCO and the CBD Secretariat, the World Heritage Centre participated in the Fourth Conference of States Parties to the *Convention on Biological Diversity* (CBD) held in Bratislava, Slovakia, from 4 to 15 May 1998 at which World Natural Heritage sites were acknowledged as an important set of international protected areas for in-situ biodiversity conservation. Furthermore the importance of World Natural Heritage sites for

conservation of tropical forest biodiversity was brought to the attention of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forestry (IFF) and other global partners.

The Centre attended the Third Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the *Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict* held at UNESCO Headquarters on 13 November 1997 and was informed of the outcome of the Expert Meeting on the Revision of the 1954 Hague Convention which was held in Vienna, Austria from 11 to 13 May 1998.

The project on a “Feasibility Study for a Harmonized Information Management Infrastructure for Biodiversity Related Treaties” supported by financial contributions from the Ramsar, CITES, Biodiversity, Convention on Migratory Species and World Heritage Convention and UNEP and executed by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) has been completed. Recommendations of the study are now being implemented to improve co-operation between Convention Secretariats for harmonized information management.

Under the framework of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Programme of International Environmental Law, Ramsar, the World Heritage and the Biodiversity Conventions collaborated to organize a training workshop for Senior Administrators and Decision Makers in Asia and the Pacific region on “Multilateral Agreements for Biodiversity Conservation”. The training workshop was held at the Kushiro International Wetlands Centre in Japan from 13 to 19 September 1998.

A Policy Dialogue on World Heritage Forests will be convened from 7 to 11 December 1998 in Berastagi, North Sumatra, Indonesia. Experts from all regions of the world with tropical forests and important donor groups like GEF units of the World Bank and UNDP, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, WWF and UN Foundation of Washington D.C. USA are expected to participate. The dialogue is intended to develop an international programme of co-operation for using World Heritage Tropical Forests as centres for research and training and for demonstrating best management practice. The participants will also benefit from the implementation of the biosphere reserve concept in tropical forests in particular during the site visit to Gunung Leuser Biosphere Reserve (Indonesia).

The World Heritage Centre attended the Meeting of Governmental Experts on the **draft Convention on Protection of the Underwater Heritage** which took place at UNESCO Headquarters from 29 June to 2 July 1998.

The Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee and the Director of the World Heritage Centre made a joint presentation to the **Intergovernmental Consultation Conference on the Draft European Landscape Convention** in Florence, Italy from 1 to 4 April 1998. They highlighted the experiences gained with the inclusion of cultural landscapes in the World Heritage List and welcomed collaborative efforts with the Council of Europe for landscape protection in Europe.

(vi) Co-operation with other organizations

The World Heritage Centre attended the meetings of **the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS/CIBB)**. This International Committee was created in April 1996 by four NGOs active in the field of the protection of cultural property (International Council of Archives (ICA), International Council of Museums (ICOM), the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) as a unifying body to facilitate exchange of information and to provide advice for conservation action in emergency situations.

As a follow-up to the Bureau's suggestion to establish a study group on World Heritage and mining issues, the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and ICOMOS participated in a working session on "Mining and Protected Areas and other Ecologically Sensitive Sites" organised by the International Council on Metals and the Environment (ICME) in London on 20 October 1998. A draft "Policy on Mining and Associated Activities in Relation to Protected Areas" prepared by the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) of IUCN was discussed with ICME, which represents 28 internationally operating mining corporations. The ICME meeting was a first step towards the discussion of general principles for best practice and the development of a global framework for mining and protected areas. The Centre presented a report on these discussions also to the international meeting on geological heritage organised on 6 November 1998 by the UNESCO Division of Earth Sciences with the participation of IUGS and the Geosites group. Further recommendations and comments to the IUCN/WCPA draft policy are under preparation.

The **Nordic World Heritage Office (NWHO)** is now in its third year of existence. An in-depth external evaluation of the Office has been undertaken. The Office has been successful in establishing a Nordic World Heritage Network and, among others, assisted with the preparation of harmonized tentative lists that have been prepared in the Nordic countries. Of particular importance for the co-operation with Baltic States is the Sustainable Historic Cities Programme. As part of its strategy for 1996-98, the Office has finalized a progress report on the Periodic Reporting, an exercise that will assist the World Heritage Committee with the elaboration of a format for periodic reporting. The NWHO annual report and the report on the external evaluation as well as the introduction to the Periodic Monitoring Report are included in **WHC-98/CONF.203/INF.14**.

On the occasion of the Austrian presidency of the European Union a conference on "Monument-Ensemble-Cultural Landscape" was held in Krems, Austria from 12 to 15 October 1998 to which the World Heritage Centre, the European Union and the Council of Europe were invited. The conference specifically focused on the integral preservation of cultural landscapes through different legal instruments.

The collaboration between the **International Union for Geological Sciences (IUGS)** and the World Heritage Centre was enhanced through the "European Geosites" project which aims at identifying geological and fossil sites for potential inclusion in the World Heritage

List. A special World Heritage workshop was held at the IUGS conference at Sofia (Bulgaria) in June 1998. As a follow-up, a working session on “Geological Heritage” has been organized at UNESCO on 6 November 1998 with the participation of IUGS Secretariat, the Division of Earth Sciences and the World Heritage Centre. A study on potential natural World Heritage sites in the European Region carried out by IUCN’s World Commission on Protected Areas has been finalized following a workshop on Rügen Island (Germany) in November 1998. This study may assist States Parties in identifying potential World Heritage sites.

Focus continued to be placed on the protection and conservation of World Heritage cultural properties located in urban areas, which represent close to two thirds of the World Heritage cultural properties in Asia. To mitigate the threats to these urban heritage sites imposed by the rapid pace of infrastructural development to meet the needs of the Asian population, the World Heritage Centre has adopted a double-pronged strategy aimed at promoting both preventive and reactive conservation activities.

The absence of specific laws or regulations protecting “urban heritage” in many countries and the relatively recent introduction of the designation of “conservation areas”, as distinct from “historic monuments”, remain the single largest obstacle to the development of a comprehensive policy to protect and conserve historic urban areas. The case of Kathmandu Valley World Heritage site, which has been the concern of the Committee for many years, illustrates some of the problems of uncontrolled urbanization which also concerns many other centres in Asia. See document **WHC-98/CONF.203/INF.12** for more details.

In view of the process of political decentralization occurring in China and the increasing authority vested in Provincial and Municipal Governments for urban management, the World Heritage Centre organized the Conference for the Mayors of Historic Cities in China and the European Union. This Conference, the first of its kind, was held in Suzhou, China in April 1998, bringing together the mayors or their representatives of 15 Chinese historic cities and 7 European Union historic cities and urban planners and policy executors. The attendance of more than 200 participants and the wide media coverage of this event indicated the importance attached to this issue. The co-financing of this Conference by the European Union, the Governments of China and France, the private sector L’Oréal, and the self-financing of the participation of the EU cities as well as the involvement of the Asia-Europe Foundation of ASEM (As-Europe Summit Meeting) also demonstrated the value and future potential of partnerships between international, regional, national and local authorities, the private sector and the media. The “Suzhou Declaration” adopted at the Conference to extend the networking of co-operation beyond China and Europe to other regions in Asia has already yielded concrete follow-up activities.

To foster such exchange, the World Heritage Centre has facilitated a number of study tours to EU historic cities by mayors of World Heritage cities in China, Vietnam and PDR of Lao. Thanks to the generosity of the Government of Japan and the City and Prefecture

of Nara, another follow-up meeting to Suzhou for directors of municipal urban planning and heritage conservation departments is likely to be held in March 1999 in Nara.

Also related to this theme of “heritage and development” was the Conference on Architecture and Cities for the 21st Century, organized in Valencia, Spain in July 1998 within the framework of the UNESCO-Valencia Third Millennium Programme. Gathering some twenty internationally renowned architects, urbanists and mayors, this Conference attended by over 700 people and covered “live” on internet web-site, debated on issues such as the relationship between new architectural creativity and conservation; ecological architecture and the potential nominations of 20th century architecture for World Heritage protection.

A number of emblematic operational projects in World Heritage cities, coordinated by the World Heritage Centre over the last two years also made important achievements in 1998. Activities initiated with limited inputs from the World Heritage Fund have enabled the development of several project proposals that were subsequently funded by multilateral and bilateral co-operation agencies. For example, four jointly prepared projects by the City of Chinon and the World Heritage Centre, for the Town of Luang Prabang in Laos have either been approved or are expected to be signed before the end of December 1998.

For the benefit of Fatih District, one of the two districts of the World Heritage Historic Areas of Istanbul, a feasibility study funded by the European Union has resulted in the approval of 7 million ECUs (US\$ 7.7 million) by the European Union under the MEDA Programme to co-finance with the Turkish Government, an innovative project to conserve and revitalize the historic area through social housing schemes and community-based public works. To facilitate this work, the “Fatih Heritage House”, a municipal service to advise the inhabitants of Fatih on housing improvement and building conservation method was created in June 1998.

Document **WHC-98/CONF.203/INF.12** entitled “The World Heritage Convention and Sustainable Urban Development in Asia” summarizes these and other urban heritage conservation activities and their interface with other international or regional programmes.

With a contribution from the Scandinavian tourism agency group TEMA and a grant from the World Heritage Fund, the first phase in the preparation of a tourism management training manual for site-managers for sustainable tourism development in Asia is being carried out and will be in draft form by May 1999. UNEP office for Industry and Environment in Paris, France, has agreed to finance the printing and distribution of the training manual.

(vii) The World Heritage Centre in 1998

The Centre acknowledges with thanks the secondment of two professional experts by the Government of Brazil and by the Government of the People’s Republic of China as well as the provisions of Associate Experts from Austria, Denmark and Japan who assisted the

Centre in its tasks. The staffing of the Centre is indicated in the document WHC-98/CONF.203/13 and includes an organizational chart.

3. Establishment of the World Heritage List

(i) New States Parties to the World Heritage Convention

Since the twenty-first session of the World Heritage Committee in December 1997, three new States Parties have ratified the *World Heritage Convention*: **Togo, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and Grenada**. These three States bring the total number of States Parties to the *Convention* to **155**. Of the 186 Member States of UNESCO, 13 African States have not yet ratified the Convention. Furthermore, 3 Arab States are not yet signatories, 9 States of the Asia - Pacific Region, 2 States in Europe and North America, 4 States in Latin America and the Caribbean are also absent. See table below.

Africa (13)	Arab States (3)	Asia – Pacific (9)	Europe / N. America (2)	Latin America / Caribbean (4)
Botswana	Kuwait	Bhutan	Israel	Bahamas
Chad	Somalia	Cook Islands	Rep. of Moldova	Barbados
Comoros	United Arab Emirates	Kiribati		Saint Vincent & the Grenadines
Djibouti		Marshall Islands		Trinidad & Tobago
Equatorial Guinea		Nauru		
Eritrea		Samoa		
Guinea-Bissau		Tonga		
Lesotho		Tuvalu		
Namibia		Vanuatu		
Rwanda				
Sao Tome & Principe				
Sierra Leone				
Swaziland				

(ii) The World Heritage List

Following the inscription of 46 new sites by the World Heritage Committee at its session in Naples in 1997, the World Heritage List now includes a total of **552** properties (**418 cultural** properties, **114 natural** properties and **20 mixed** properties) located in **112** States Parties.

- Nominations to the World Heritage List, 1998

The Bureau at its extraordinary session and the Committee at its twenty-second session will examine a total of **40** nominations (**6 natural**, **33 cultural** and **1 mixed** cultural and natural properties). Detailed information can be found in the working document **WHC-**

98/CONF.203/10. The majority of new nominations received for 1998 continue to be received from Western European Countries. In 1998 the Committee is examining nominations from two States Parties (Solomon Islands and Belgium) for the first time.

Sites	Europe			America			Arab States			Asia Pacific			Africa		
	C	N	M	C	N	M	C	N	M	C	N	M	C	N	M
	24	4	1	4	-	-	1	-	-	4	2	-	-	-	-
Total 40	29			4			1			6			0		
100 %	72.5 %			10 %			2.5 %			15 %			0%		

- Nominations to the World Heritage List, 1999

For **1999**, a total of **89** nominations have been received by the World Heritage Centre of which **68** nominations (**16 natural**, **5 mixed** and **47 cultural – including 12 cultural landscapes**) have been forwarded to ICOMOS and IUCN for evaluation.

(iii) Tentative lists

Of the **155** States Parties to the *Convention*, **99** have submitted tentative lists that comply with the format specified in the Operational Guidelines of the Convention (see **WHC/98.CONF.203/9**). This figure represents a substantial improvement compared to 1997 when 84 States Parties submitted their tentative lists.

The 2nd National World Heritage Committee meeting was held from 2 to 4 March 1998 in Cape Town, **South Africa**. The purpose of the meeting was to draw up South Africa's tentative list for cultural and natural properties, and prepare a calendar for nominations up to the year 2000. A tentative list including 12 cultural and 9 natural sites and two nominations were submitted to the World Heritage Centre by July 1998.

(iv) Global Strategy for a representative and balanced World Heritage List

At the request of the twentieth session of the World Heritage Committee in December 1996 a **World Heritage Global Strategy Natural and Cultural Heritage Expert Meeting** was held in **Amsterdam** from 25 to 29 March 1998. The meeting was hosted by the Government of the Netherlands and attended by 47 experts from 22 countries, the Advisory Bodies and the Secretariat.

The Expert Meeting recommended that the criteria for natural and cultural properties be unified, that the conditions of integrity (to include the notion of authenticity, as appropriate) be related directly to each of the criteria and that sections I, C and D of the Operational Guidelines be revised.

On the subject of "outstanding universal value", the Expert Meeting endorsed the Global Strategy's regional and thematic approach to ensuring a more representative and balanced World Heritage List. The Expert Meeting called for an anthropological approach to the

definition of cultural heritage and people's relationship with the environment, the identification of sub-themes and for the increased availability of information about the Global Strategy.

A series of specific recommendations were prepared with the aim of indicating that inscription of a property on the World Heritage List is, and must be seen to be, part of a process, not an isolated event, preceded and followed by a long-term commitment to its conservation. For the report of the meeting see **WHC-98/CONF.203/INF.7**.

A **“Workshop on the Cultural Heritage of the Caribbean and the World Heritage Convention”** was held in April 1998 in Martinique with the participation of experts from Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, France (including Guadeloupe and Martinique), Haiti, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis. The workshop examined themes that are of particular interest to the region, such as Arawak and Caribe heritage, colonial and vernacular architecture, fortifications, industrial heritage, cultural landscapes etc. The experts concluded that in the Caribbean a regional and thematic approach would be most appropriate to further explore these specific themes, as had been done already on the initiative of Colombia for the Fortifications of the Caribbean.

An expert meeting on **“Cultural Landscapes in the Andean Region”** took place in Arequipa (Peru) from 17 to 23 May 1998 with participants from Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, representatives from ICOMOS, IUCN and UNESCO. In their case studies, the cultural and natural heritage experts revealed the rich diversity of cultural landscapes in the Andean mountain range. For a detailed report see **WHC-98/CONF.203/INF.8**.

The Fourth Global Strategy Meeting for West Africa was held at Porto Novo (**Benin**) from 16 to 19 September 1998. Eleven States Parties and non-Parties participated. The meeting permitted the identification of natural and cultural transboundary sites likely to be inscribed on the World Heritage List (Rock art; Megalithic sites; Losopen Ruins; Park “W”). Emphasis was also placed on cultural itineraries (Slave Routes, Pilgrimage routes and trans-Saharan Routes). The participants underlined the importance of training in the field of conservation of immovable heritage. A synthesis report of this meeting will be presented to the Committee in Document **WHC-98/CONF.203/INF.9**.

The international symposium on “Maintaining and Sustaining Cultural Landscapes” was held in Wörlitz, Germany from 20 to 23 March 1998 organized by the Naturschutzbund Deutschland (NABU). More than 100 participants including the representatives of indigenous peoples, governmental bodies, NGOs, funding agencies and UNESCO. The symposium provided an analysis of the state of conservation of cultural landscapes in various parts of Eurasia. Landscape protection instruments were reviewed and their practical implementation for the sustainable development of cultural landscapes assessed.

A conference was organized from 7 to 9 May 1998 in Lithuania concerning the preparation of a nomination dossier of a transboundary site, the Curonian Spit (Neringa),

between Russia and Lithuania. Experts from a number of European countries, from the two States Parties, ICOMOS and IUCN and the World Heritage Centre participated.

Steps have been taken to overcome the imbalance caused by the low number of **natural areas** nominated and inscribed on the World Heritage List from States Parties in **South-East Asia**. The First National Seminar on World Heritage Strategy took place in Malaysia from 22 to 29 July 1998. As an outcome, nominations of three natural properties - Taman Negara NP (Peninsular Malaysia), Gunung Mulu NP (Sarawak) and Mount Kinabaklu NP (Sabah) - are expected to be submitted in 1999.

In the **Pacific**, the World Heritage Centre has established close co-operation with SPREP (South Pacific Regional Environment Programme) located in Apia, Samoa, to step-up implementation of the World Heritage Convention. Multi-lateral co-operation aims to increase the number of State Parties in the Pacific from the current level of 3 (Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands) to cover all 14 Pacific Island Member States during the next 2-3 years. This co-operation has also generated new nominations of properties from Pacific Island States Parties to the Convention and thereby contribute to remedying regional imbalances in the representation of sites in the World Heritage List. This work is being conducted in conformity with the initiative of the 29th General Conference of UNESCO called “ **Focus on the Pacific**”.

4. Monitoring and reporting on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

(i) Periodic Reporting

Major progress has been made in 1998 in the further development of mechanisms and procedures for the application of Article 29 of the Convention, i.e. the periodic reporting by the States Parties on the application of the World Heritage Convention and the state of conservation of World Heritage properties.

As requested by the Committee at its twenty-first session, the Secretariat in consultation with the Advisory Bodies developed proposals for the implementation of the decisions taken in this respect by the Eleventh General Assembly of States Parties and the 29th General Conference of UNESCO, both held in 1997.

There is no doubt that the periodic reporting will become a major challenge for the States Parties, the Secretariat, the World Heritage Statutory Bodies and the Advisory Bodies. A close co-ordination and co-operation between all the partners involved is a pre-requisite for this process to be beneficial to all of them and to contribute to a strengthened implementation of the Convention. It is for this reason, that the Secretariat proposes that periodic reporting be considered as a process –*the periodic reporting process*– that could be defined as: *the process of the preparation and submission of periodic reports by States Parties, including the exchange of information among States Parties, the adequate review of*

the periodic reports, the identification of specific needs and the preparation of a Regional State of the World Heritage Report.

The Secretariat proposes furthermore, that for each of the regions strategies be developed to give form to this process and to ensure that the periodic reports are prepared and examined in a proper manner and that appropriate assistance and collaboration be offered to States Parties in this regard.

These proposals were well received by the Bureau at its twenty-second session. On the basis of comments and observations made by the Bureau, the World Heritage Centre revised the proposals for examination by the Committee at its twenty-second session (document **WHC-98/CONF.203/6**).

Following the successful programme of monitoring cultural World Heritage properties in **Latin America and the Caribbean** (1991-1994), activities in the region are focusing again on the state of conservation. In this context, a workshop was held in Uruguay in March 1998 with the objective to develop indicators for measuring the state of conservation of historical cities. Furthermore, a national meeting was held in May 1998 in Cusco, Peru, for the Directors of cultural and natural heritage as well as the site managers of all Peruvian World Heritage sites. This proved to be an important step in initiating the process of the periodic reporting by the State Party. Similar national and regional meetings will be further promoted.

The Chinese National Commission for UNESCO invited the World Heritage Centre and other partners to participate in the monitoring exercise for the World Heritage sites of Mt. Taishan, Mt. Huangshan, Wulingyuan, Huanglong and Jiuzhaigou. With the completion of this monitoring exercise state of conservation reports for all World Heritage natural and mixed sites in South and South-East Asia have been compiled. Together with regular information obtained concerning the Australian and New Zealand sites, the Centre and its partners, namely IUCN, ICOMOS and WCMC, now has information to compile a comprehensive volume of the "State of Conservation of World Natural and Mixed Heritage of Asia".

The Draft Report on the State of Conservation of World Heritage Cultural Sites in Asia is available for consultation.

(ii) Reactive Monitoring

The Centre has initiated the process to consolidate the state of conservation reports that are available on specific sites and to link these with the information available in the nomination and other dossiers that exist for these sites. Proposals for next year's actions in this respect are included in document **WHC-98/CONF 203/11**.

The number of reactive monitoring reports that are examined by the Committee and its Bureau continues to increase, as can be seen from the following table:

	Bureau June 1997	Bureau/Comm. Nov./Dec. 1997	Bureau June 1998	Bureau/Comm. Nov./Dec. 1998
Danger Natural	11	13	13	15
Mixed	-	-	-	-
Cultural	2	7	5	7
WH List Natural	20	19	18	32
Mixed	1	3	4	7
Cultural	24	29	34	37
TOTAL	58	71	74	98

The regional distribution of the reports that will be examined by the Bureau and the Committee during this session is as follows:

	Africa	Arab States	Asia and the Pacific	Latin America and Caribbean	Europe and North America
DANGER					
Natural	8	1	1	2	3
Mixed	-	-	-	-	-
Cultural	1	1	1	1	3
WH LIST					
Natural	2	1	12	7	10
Mixed	-	-	5	1	1
Cultural	5	8	9	5	10
TOTAL	16	11	28	16	27

State of conservation reports are submitted to the Committee in document **WHC-98/CONF.203/7 and 8**.

- Examples from the Regions

In 1998, a great number of reactive monitoring activities and missions were undertaken by the Advisory Bodies and/or the Secretariat. In several cases, joint missions were undertaken which proved to be extremely effective.

In **Europe**, reactive monitoring mission were undertaken among others to Reims (France), Tallinn (Estonia), Burgos Cathedral (Spain), Istanbul (Turkey), Angra do Heroismo (Portugal) and Tanum (Sweden). Furthermore, a monitoring mission took place to Srebana Nature Reserve (Bulgaria) from 1 to 6 October 1998 with the participation of IUCN, the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and the Centre. A summary report is presented in document **WHC-98/CONF.203/INF.6**. Upon the request of the Spanish authorities an assessment mission took place to Donana National Park to review the situation and actions taken since the disaster of the broken mining reservoir and the toxic spill in April 1998.

In **Asia**, reactive monitoring missions were sent to Tchoga Zanbil (Iran), Kandy (Sri Lanka), Itchan Kala and Historic Centre of Bhukhara (Uzbekistan). Missions are also foreseen to the Baroque Churches of the Philippines and Hampi (India).

Upon the request of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee a mission to the Kakadu National Park in Australia to evaluate the impact of a uranium mining proposal on the site was undertaken on 26 October to 1 November 1998. The mission was headed by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee with participation of the Director of the World Heritage Centre, an expert from ICOMOS, IUCN and the US National Park Service as well as two experts of Australian nationality.

A number of threats have to be reported on natural heritage sites in **Latin America**, including a mining project affecting Huascarán National Park in Peru, the re-opening of a road at Iguacu National Park (Brazil) and an electrical power line through Canaima National Park in Venezuela. A mission to Canaima National Park which was organised in response to the Bureau's and the State Party's request had to be called back for security reasons.

El Nino, the weather phenomenon that warms Pacific waters and influences climatic conditions throughout the world, was unusually severe. Emergency measures were taken, with assistance from the World Heritage Fund, to protect two fragile World Heritage sites in Peru against rain and flooding: Chan Chan, a very extensive archaeological area with mud-brick structures, and Chavin, already in a delicate state of conservation and partly in danger of collapse, both cases illustrate the urgent need for advanced planning and risk preparedness schemes.

Hurricanes and storms in the Caribbean were also extreme in 1998. On 22 September 1998, hurricane Georges, with winds up to 220 kilometres per hour, destroyed trees and roofs of numerous buildings in the World Heritage city of Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic. It was reported that several privately owned houses from the sixteenth century were about to collapse, that several churches were affected, particularly the church of Santa Barbara, and that the most serious damage occurred to the Casa de Juan de Herrera of which the gallery of the main facade collapsed. A request for emergency assistance is presently under consideration.

Another hurricane, called Mitch, swept over Central America during the last days of October, causing heavy rains and storms and inundating important parts of Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador. Damage to cultural or natural heritage in these countries has not been reported yet. Honduras has two World Heritage sites –the Maya site of Copan and the Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve, inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger-, whereas El Salvador has one World Heritage site, the Joya de Ceren Archaeological Site.

Another source of concern is the reactivation of volcanoes in Ecuador. Since the beginning of October and for the first time since three hundred years, seismic movements

have been registered at the Guagua Pichincha, the volcano close to the historic city of Quito. It was feared that an eruption (most probably stones and acid ashes) could seriously imperil the lives of the inhabitants of villages and the city of Quito and could affect its historic centre and monuments. A scientific committee has been established to monitor the situation and the Mayor of Quito has been assigned the co-ordinating authority for the crisis management.

The seismic activities also affect the natural properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. On Tuesday 15 September 1998, the Cerro Azul, one of the more active volcanoes on Isabela Island (Galapagos Islands), erupted and it was feared that it could have impacts for the wildlife, in particular the tortoises populations. The lava flux is currently monitored by satellite. The speed of the lava is constant and is expected to reach the coastline soon. A few tortoise nests may be affected, but it is hoped that no further damage would threaten the Galapagos Islands at this stage.

A positive report can be given for the Galapagos. The “Special Law on the Galapagos” has been published by the Official Registry of Ecuador as Law No. 278 on 18 March 1998. An ecological monitoring system is currently being developed.

5. International Assistance

(i) Preparatory Assistance

The broad range of preparatory assistance provided can be seen from the following :

In **Africa**, preparatory assistance was approved for the nomination of a rock art site in Malawi.

In the **Arab States**, three preparatory assistance requests have been approved, for example, for the preparation of new nominations of properties located in the Syrian Arab Republic.

In **Latin America and the Caribbean**, preparatory assistance was provided to Uruguay and Ecuador.

In **Europe**, preparatory assistance was provided to explore and determine the World Heritage values of the Curonian Spit and its possible future conservation through the establishment of a transboundary Biosphere Reserve/World Heritage site. Support was also provided for the preparation of nomination of properties in Armenia and Azerbaijan. In Tallinn a seminar of World Heritage Cities was organised by the Estonian National Commission with the support of the World Heritage Fund.

In the **Asia-Pacific Region**, support was given to Pakistan for the updating of the tentative list and nomination of the Indus Valley in Pakistan and the preparation of the nomination dossier for the Historic Centre of Hoi An in Vietnam.

(ii) Technical Co-operation

In **Africa**, equipment was provided to strengthen the management of “W” National Park, Niger.

In the **Arab States**, three technical co-operation requests have been approved for Yemen for the preservation of Al-Maidan steam bath in Sana’a, the purchase of equipment for the handicraft centre in Shibam and the construction of a furnace for making mud bricks in Zabid.

In **Latin America and the Caribbean**, Dominica organized from 1 to 5 August 1998 a “Regional Conference on the Convention concerning the World Natural and Cultural Heritage – It’s Social, Cultural and Economic Relevance to the Caribbean” at the occasion of the inscription on the World Heritage List of their first site, Morne Trois Pitons National Park. The conference was supported from the World Heritage Fund, the Caribbean Development Bank, the European Union and the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica. Assistance from the World Heritage Fund has also been provided for the revision of the management plan for this site. A brochure to promote the World Heritage Convention in the Caribbean has been published on this occasion.

In **Europe**, Poland has received technical assistance for an International Expert Meeting on the Planning and Protection of the Surroundings of the World Heritage site of Auschwitz Concentration Camp, held from 2 – 3 June 1998 in Auschwitz. Latvia received technical assistance for the preparation of a computerized architectural inventory of the Historic Centre of Riga. The second phase of this project will be the preparation of a master plan for Riga and the identification of restoration and rehabilitation projects. The revitalization programme for the Old Town of Vilnius in Lithuania is progressing. Technical Assistance has been provided for the preparation and coordination of this programme and for the establishment of OTRA (Old Town Revitalisation Agency).

In the **Asia-Pacific Region**, support was provided to Indonesia to hold a training course on the preservation of rock art. With the co-operation of City of Lille (France) Vietnam is revising its urban planning regulations for the Imperial City of Hué. A UNESCO/ICOMOS/H.M. Government of Nepal joint mission, funded by the World Heritage Fund, resulted in the adoption by H.M. Government of Nepal of 55 recommendations and a time-bound Action Plan of Corrective Measures for enhanced management of Kathmandu Valley. Nepal is also conducting a structural survey of the 55 Windows Palace within the Bhaktapur monument zone. In addition, a thorough study and documentation of traditional architecture, construction and conservation techniques is being conducted at Bhaktapur monument zone.

(iii) Training Assistance

In **Africa**, a meeting was held from 23 to 25 March 1997 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire to launch AFRICA 2009, a new initiative aimed at improving conditions for the conservation of immovable cultural heritage in Sub-Saharan African through its better integration into a sustainable development process. The elaboration of this new programme is the result of the effort of ICCROM, the World Heritage Centre, and CRATerre-EAG. The meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Culture of Côte d'Ivoire with assistance from the French Mission for Cooperation and Cultural Action in Abidjan. The meeting was attended by cultural heritage professionals from nine African countries from across the continent, as well as representatives from a number of national and international institutions and development agencies. The Ministry of Environment of Norway, thanks to the Nordic World Heritage Office, has pledged 250,000 Norwegian Crones (approx. US\$33,250) towards the programme in 1998.

A regional training workshop for World Heritage site managers from French speaking African countries was organized in Sangmelima, Cameroon from 23 to 26 May 1998. The workshop titled "Participatory Management and Sustainable Development" of natural heritage sites was sponsored by the World Heritage Fund. The workshop included sixty participants consisting of country experts, NGO's, project and administrative staff, local and traditional authorities from Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Democratic Republic of Congo and Senegal. A major outcome of this meeting was the need to develop and undertake a rapid assessment of bio-diversity in order to determine the state of conservation of natural sites and to train site managers. As a follow-up to the Dja meeting recommendations, the World Heritage Centre is in contact with the Government of the Netherlands with a view to financing a small pilot project in Dja on the rapid assessment of bio-diversity.

In the **Arab States**, a request for the training of national conservators and restorers on mural paintings in Tyre and Byblos, Lebanon was approved in 1998.

Training assistance was provided to two regional training courses for **Latin American and the Caribbean** site managers: the Protected Area Course at CATIE (Centro Agronomico Tropical de Investigacion y Ensenanza), Costa Rica, and the regional course at Fort Collins, USA. A representative from the World Heritage Centre participated as resources person in the CATIE course in May 1998.

For cultural heritage training assistance was provided to the post-graduate training course CECRE in Salvador de Bolivia (Brazil) for fellowships and international professors. Co-operation continued with the University of Pernambuco in Recife (Brazil) in the implementation of the ITUC-programme for Brazil

In **Europe**, Armenia has received training assistance for the mobile training in anti-seismic technology for the preservation of monuments and sites.

In the **Asia-Pacific Region**, support was given to the Elephanta Caves in India in order to enhance management and sustainable tourism development through appropriate training. Laos is receiving support for producing audio-visual training materials in the Historic

Town of Luang Prabang. This activity is part of the continued decentralized co-operation activity between the local authorities of Luang Prabang and Chinon supported by the Governments of France and Laos, the European Union, and the World Heritage Centre, for safeguarding the urban historic fabric of this World Heritage Site. The Philippines received support for conducting a training activity to strengthen the management of two of the four World Heritage protected Baroque Churches of the Philippines. Iran was supported in conducting a sub-regional stone conservation training activity at Persepolis.

The World Heritage Fund also supported the first meeting of Regional Training Centres and selected academic institutions hosted by the Wildlife Institute of India, at Dehra Dun, India from 20-24 April 1998. Participants from selected Centres and institutions from Tanzania, South Africa, Costa Rica, USA, Australia and India, and representatives from IUCN, WCMC and the Centre discussed the Strategic Action Plan for Training Specialists in Natural Heritage, adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 19th session in 1995 (Berlin). Participants made recommendations with regard to curriculum and training materials development and networking for co-operation between these Centres, academic institutions and the World Heritage sites.

A workshop on the “Role of Local Communities in the Management of Natural World Heritage sites in Southeast Asia, West Pacific, Australia and New Zealand” was held at Thungyai Huay Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary from 19-23 January 1998. The meeting was hosted by the National Committee for the World Heritage of Thailand. Contributions from the World Heritage Fund and the Japanese Environmental Agency were provided to support Southeast Asian and Pacific participants at the workshop. Thirteen site managers, representatives of the Centre, UNESCO offices in Bangkok and Jakarta, SPREP, IUCN and CIFOR participated in the workshop. The publication of the proceedings of the workshop is being finalized.

In co-operation with Nepal National Commission for UNESCO and the Department of Wildlife and National Parks of Nepal, the **Sub-regional Meeting on the Conservation of Himalayan Biodiversity** was held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 30 August to 3 September 1998, with financial support from the World Heritage Fund and US National Parks Service. Participants from Bhutan, China, India, Nepal and Pakistan and specialists of IUCN, ICOMOS, WWF and other international NGOs based in Nepal participated in this meeting.

The World Heritage Centre followed up its participation in the First Roundtable Meeting for Pacific Islands Nature Conservation (February 1998) with attendance in the Second Meeting in September 1998 and has contributed towards the preparation of an Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region. Training activities will be undertaken to mobilize more States to ratify the Convention.

(iv) Emergency Assistance

Two requests for Emergency Assistance were approved in 1998 for the **Arab States**: protection of the city wall of Médina d'Essaouira, Morocco and for the safeguarding the minaret of the Mosquée of Ouadane, Mauritania.

In **Latin America and the Caribbean** the impact of the **El Niño** phenomenon on cultural heritage particularly in Peru, has been of great concern. Emergency Assistance from the World Heritage Fund and UNESCO has helped to prevent major damages to the sites of Chan Chan and Chavin in Peru. Emergency Assistance for the town of Santa Domingo in the Dominican Republic, seriously damaged by the Hurricane "Georges", was provided as well as for Mompox in Columbia (damage caused by fire) and to Ouro Preto (Brazil) for slope consolidation.

In **Europe**, the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-first session decided to inscribe Butrinti on the List of World Heritage in Danger and to allocate US\$100,000 as emergency assistance. Consultations have been undertaken with the Albanian authorities and the Butrinti Foundation for the implementation of this assistance and the definition of short, middle and long-term corrective measures. A management workshop was held in Butrinti in April 1998, with funding provided by the Getty Grant Programme, with the participation of national and international experts and agencies. A draft management plan for Butrinti is in preparation.

In the **Asia-Pacific Region**, India is receiving Emergency Assistance for carrying out a thorough structural survey of the Sun Temple of Konarak. Furthermore, Nepal is receiving support for repairing the roof of the ritual kitchen of Taleju Mandir within Patan Palace, Patan monument zone, Kathmandu Valley. Emergency Assistance was also granted to Vietnam for undertaking repairs to the Queen Mother's Palace within the Imperial City of Hué, part of the Complex of Hué Monuments, following the typhoon in September 1997. Further project proposals, to be proposed to overseas development aid agencies, for repairing other damaged monuments within this site was prepared by the Hué Monuments Conservation Centre under this Emergency Assistance.

(v) On-site Promotional Activities

Several on-site promotional activities were conducted in Austria, Brazil, China, Croatia, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovak Republic, Turkey, Vietnam. These activities have helped to promote the World Heritage Convention at local, regional and national levels.

6. World Heritage documentation, information, education and awareness-building strategy

(i) World Heritage information

Due to the demand for a wide range of World Heritage information and documentation particular emphasis was placed on developing an electronically based World Heritage documentation and creating distribution networks to facilitate circulation of official World Heritage documents. In 1996, the Centre initiated an Electronic Document Management programme to digitize statutory meeting reports. This was followed by the retrospective digitization of nomination dossiers that was begun in 1997.

The project for scanning World Heritage nomination dossiers, initiated in 1997 will be finalized by the end of 1998. Information on all of the 552 inscribed World Heritage sites will be made available electronically to States Parties concerned as well as for research purposes. A CD-ROM, containing copies of the nomination files of all Asian cultural, natural and mixed World Heritage sites inscribed on the World Heritage List up to the end of 1997 is available.

In 1998, the World Heritage Centre continued to produce basic information material, such as the World Heritage Information Package (World Heritage Map, brochure, information kit and posters), for distribution by the States Parties to the local authorities, policy-makers, site managers and local community. However, the impact of these information materials is limited due to relatively small number of copies produced and distributed. Therefore, greater emphasis must be placed on co-operation with the mass media to enlarge the information distribution network thus increasing support to the States Parties in their effort to implement the Convention on their territories, and to enhance public appreciation and respect for World Heritage.

As approved by the Committee at its 21st session, the World Heritage Centre's **web site** was graphically improved to make it more user-friendly and updated. This newly designed web site, in English and French, was put online in 1998 (<http://www.unesco.org/whc>). Meanwhile, six issues of the electronic WHNEWS have been distributed since the twenty-first session of the Committee. During the same period, three issues of the World Heritage Newsletter have been produced and disseminated to the responsible national authorities, site managers and experts worldwide.

(ii) Co-operation with the media

The German public producer and broadcaster, Südwestrundfunk (SWR), successor of Südwestfunk, has now completed the first 104 episodes of the television film series entitled "Treasures of the World – Heritage of Mankind". Production will continue next year and will reach an average of 25 new films per year in the year 2000 to contribute towards the coverage of all sites. This series, broadcast weekly on the channel 3 SAT is viewed by 500,000 television spectators in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

At the end of July 1998, the Tokyo Broadcasting System (TBS), in co-operation with the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan, had completed and aired 112 films of 30 minutes each. This weekly programme reaches between 3 and 5 million television viewers per week in Japan.

“The Common Heritage of Mankind”, a 26-minute weekly television series produced by China Beijing Television (BTV), was initiated in co-operation with the Centre in 1996. The series attracts an average of 110 million viewers in Beijing and its surrounding area. A total of 80 films will be complete by the end of 1998.

A six-part programme on World Heritage shown within the “Outlook” series of BBC Radio World Service reached over 40 million people around the world. The Centre subsequently received numerous telephone calls and letters from all over the World requesting further information about World Heritage.

Considerable time was devoted to assisting the Consultative Body on issues related to communication, such as the use of the World Heritage emblem. Attempts were made to apply the newly proposed draft Guidelines on the use of the World Heritage emblem and fund-raising for specific project proposals. Considerable difficulties were encountered in getting the media partners to accept the obligation for quality-control by the concerned States Parties and requirement for translation into English and French of all texts to enable clearance by the States Parties concerned. The Centre therefore had to deny the use of the emblem in many project proposals related to World Heritage. The new Guidelines on these issues should rather enhance co-operation with the mass media and achieve quality products of high educational value.

(iii) Special Project: “*Young People’s Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion*”

The UNESCO Special Project "**Young People's Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion**" continues to be implemented by the World Heritage Centre in very close co-operation with the Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet), UNESCO Education Sector. The Project aims to develop new educational approaches to provide young people with the necessary knowledge, skills and commitment to protect the world's natural and cultural heritage.

After several years of preparation, an innovative educational resource Kit for teachers entitled "**World Heritage in Young Hands**" has now been produced and is available for testing in Associated Schools and other secondary schools (especially those near World Heritage sites) throughout the world. The Kit has been prepared with the financial support from the Rhône-Poulenc Foundation. Distribution of the Kit to schools via National Commissions for UNESCO will start prior to the end of 1998. Numerous requests for the translation and publication in national language versions of the World Heritage Education Kit have already been received by the World Heritage Centre. With funds to be made available by the Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation (NORAD), an international programme of sub-regional teacher-training courses in World Heritage Education will be initiated in 1999.

A series of activities have been conducted in support of the World Heritage Education in different parts of the world. For example, a co-ordination meeting of European World

Heritage Education teachers took place in Croatia with financial support from the World Heritage Fund in July 1998. A World Heritage Education Training Course was held at Yerevan of the Republic of Armenia in September 1998. The World Heritage Study Camp of the Baltic Sea Region was organized at the Suomenlinna Fortress in Helsinki, Finland in September 1998. Meanwhile, several of the UNESCO field offices launched sub-regional or regional training courses within the framework of the UNESCO Special Project: “Young People’s Participation in World Heritage Protection and Promotion”.

The Osaka Junior Chamber Inc. of Japan organized the international World Heritage Youth Forum from November 22 to 29, 1998 in Japan. This was made possible thanks to the generous support of the Osaka Junior Chamber Inc. Japan and the close collaboration between the Centre and the Education Sector of UNESCO. At the Youth Forum, students and teachers from more than 15 countries from different regions of the world discussed ways and means for young people to participate in the conservation of World Heritage

A brochure describing the Young People's World Heritage Education Project was produced in English and French in September 1998. More than 2,000 copies were distributed to Associated Schools worldwide. In co-operation with the Office of Public Information of UNESCO and Cable Network News (CNN), a documentary video on this World Heritage Youth Project will be finalized in early 1999.