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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Bureau of the World Heritage Committee
Fourteenth Session

Unesco Headquarters, Paris, 11-14 June 1990
Room XVI

Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda: Global Study

PREPARATION OF A GLOBAL INDICATIVE LIST OF GEOLOGICAL SITES
(INCLUDING FOSSIL SITES)

1. This thematic study was requested by the Bureau at its 12th session in June 1988 in connection with the nomination of the Lesbos Petrified Forest submitted by Greece. The Bureau appreciated the fact that IUCN needed specialist advice to evaluate properties nominated under natural criterion (i) (the earth's evolutionary history) or criterion (ii) (ongoing geological processes).

2. The Secretariat contacted Unesco's International Geological Correlation Programme (IGCP) and the International Union for Geological Sciences (IUGS, an affiliate of the International Council of Scientific Unions) to study this matter in depth. Using the services of a consultant (Dr. J.W.Cowie, Chairman of the IUGS Commission on Stratigraphy), a preliminary indicative list was drawn up and circulated among more than 150 experts in geology, during the latter half of 1989.

3. The preliminary list was submitted to the Scientific Committee for the IGCP on 1 February 1990 at Unesco Headquarters, in which a representative of IUCN (Mr. J. Thorsell), participated. The Scientific Committee for the IGCP agreed with the principle of the preliminary list of geological and fossil sites which have the potential to meet World Heritage Criteria. However, the Committee did not have the time to examine the list in detail. Furthermore, the draft list was also relatively unbalanced geographically since more information is available on European and Australian sites than for sites in other parts of the World. In addition, not all of the 150 geologists who had been contacted had responded with comments and suggestions. (1) (2)

check
dates igcp
scientific committee
Dudich

4. In order to redress this imbalance and finalize the list for use by the World Heritage Committee, as an open indicative global list, the consultant (Dr. J.W. Cowie) has suggested to the Secretariat that a consultative meeting be held at Unesco Headquarters during 10-13 October 1990. This meeting would bring together geologists and specialists, particularly from Africa, Asia and Latin America as well as representatives from IUCN and the Secretariat. A sum of US\$10,000 would be required to cover travel and subsistence costs of 3 or 4 specialists. The recommendations of the meeting and the revised indicative list could then be submitted to the Committee at its forthcoming session scheduled for 10-14 December 1990.

*Healey
Kenya
+ specialist
from China*

5. The Bureau is requested to authorize the Secretariat to organize this meeting and to allocate US\$ 10,000 for the preparation of the indicative list of potential geological and fossil sites.

*busy schedules of
these people ...
propose rather to
have meeting for
1 day before
IGCP Scientific
Committee end Jan 1991*

*Hope ... to have
list to Bureau for next
year.*