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WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

World Heritage Committee
Fourteenth Session
Banff, Alberta, Canada, 7-12 December 1990

Item 14 of the Provisional Agenda - Global Study

Progress Report

1. The World Heritage Committee has sought to set up a global study which would assist the Committee in its task of protecting sites of outstanding universal value to humanity. The study is to cover all geo-cultural areas on earth from the earliest times which can be considered as of outstanding universal significance and is to include sites belonging to States which are not yet party to the Convention. In particular the study should :

- (1) aid the World Heritage Committee in the examination of cultural properties by providing a comparative analytical framework,
- (2) identify gaps so that action can be taken to protect all sites of outstanding universal value,
- (3) guide States Parties in the preparation of nominations and tentative lists,

2. A Study Group of the Bureau, meeting in Paris on 12-13 October 1990, decided to conduct the study in the following phases :

- (1) elaborate a draft global framework,
- (2) place the existing World Cultural Heritage Sites in that framework,
- (3) place cultural sites on tentative lists within that framework,
- (4) identify cultural properties worthy of consideration for inscription on the World Heritage List, using various means (experts, ICOMOS/ICCROM, regional meetings, submissions of States Parties etc..)

25 FEB. 1991

3. It was decided that a draft outline (Phase 1) would be presented to the subsequent meeting of the Committee at Banff, 7-12 December 1990. The aim of this outline is to provide, for the Committee's consideration, a framework which further expert studies (Phases (2)-(4)) can elaborate. The outline should look somewhat like the List of Contents of a scholarly work on significant world sites. It should use the terminology appropriate to the culture concerned.

4. It is recognized that there will necessarily be some overlapping of the categories chosen, e.g. urban sites often bear evidence of many periods. This should only underline the importance of sites which appear more than once. Chronologies may also overlap and in some areas dating may be difficult. It is also recognized that, as the work progresses, there may be differences of opinion between experts as to how certain sites are to be classified, and new information may arise as scholarship advances which will lead to changes in the outline. Its modest aim, of assisting the Committee in its orientation, should be kept in mind.

5. Since the Study Group meeting the following steps have been taken towards developing the Global Study.

6. Detailed work has been done by two experts (in history, archaeology and art history) from the Greek Ministry of Culture who were made available by the Greek Government to work on the Global Study during November. They have provided a detailed classification for three civilizations : Greek and Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine. These studies are available to the Committee and may serve as a model for Phases 2, 3 and 4 of the work for other civilizations.

7. These studies elaborate the existing documentation, that is, on the one hand the Unesco files of listed sites and monuments as well as the ICOMOS Evaluations, and on the other hand the tentative lists, and the World Heritage Map (ed. 1990). The purpose of this investigation has been the methodical arrangement both of the already listed monuments and sites and of those in the tentative lists, according to classifications which correspond to various cultures, instead of viewing them as isolated items. As a result of their study the Greek experts submitted three files, each one containing :

- (a) an introduction to the architecture of the civilization under examination, followed by chronological lists and a map showing the extent of the area studied;
- (b) a map showing the listed monuments and sites, with reference to the number of the World Heritage Map for each case;
- (c) a map showing those monuments and sites, whose inscription the authors of the study would assess to be essential, in order that the architectural achievements of each civilization could be better represented

temporally and geographically. This assessment would result from a thorough study of all sites proposed in the past by the States members which have ratified the Convention, as well as of monuments which do not figure in the tentative lists, but which are appreciated worldwide as constituting either reference points or basic contributions to the civilization in question. Cross-influences, authenticity and rarity have been given appropriate weight in all cases.

- (d) An evaluative note for each monument or site proposed by the authors for inscription.

8. A second study by a Bulgarian member of the Committee on the Middle Ages in the Balkans, also deals with Byzantine sites and has used a somewhat similar methodology. This study is also available for consideration.

9. The Secretariat has initiated work on the category of prehistory, comprising sites relating to the earliest hominids, neolithic and megalithic sites, including important rock art sites. The first outline has been referred to an expert and comment has been received on the classifications concerned which will lead to further refinement.

10. Work has begun on maps of particular cultural areas which will give orientation for the study of these cultures. So far such maps, which represent the widest area influenced by a particular culture at its apogee, have been sketched for the Phoenician world, the Greek and Hellenistic world, the Roman world, the Byzantine world, Pre-Aztec Central America (Olmec; Teotihuacan, Zapotec, Toltec and Mayan), the Aztec world, Pre-Inca South America (Huisca, Tiahuanaco, Nazca, Mochica, Chimu) and the Inca world. Work is proceeding on such a map for the Hindu world. Further work is envisaged for the Renaissance and post-Renaissance and for Baroque (this latter study will include European, South American, and other areas). These maps will serve as visual reference points and are being adapted from cultural atlases and works of art history.

11. The Secretariat has also initiated a study for the Oceanic area (Polynesian, Melanesian and Micronesian cultures) which has been referred to an expert in these cultures for a preliminary view on the classifications chosen and the sites indicated.

12. A description of the aims of the Global Study and some examples of preliminary work in other areas have been referred to an expert in oriental civilizations for his views.

13. The Secretariat has in hand a first draft of a general outline for the Islamic world, which will be further refined and then referred to experts for comment.

14. Documentary research has begun in the Secretariat towards classifications for Sub-Saharan Africa.

15. These various initiatives should result in the drafting of a broad framework within which more detailed studies can be elaborated. This structure would be completed by special thematic studies as requested from the Committee.

16. ICOMOS has prepared a list of Contemporary Architecture and a list of European and American industrial sites.

17. Other thematic studies which have been requested by the Committee such as Neolithic sites throughout the world and vernacular architecture will find their place within the future work on the global study.

18. Within the short time available it was impossible to present a world-wide framework. Examples of some possible categories are given in the Annex to illustrate the further expert work needed for the preparation of a coherent scheme.

Introductory Note

This draft gives some of the classifications which are tentatively being used. These will be refined and others added after referral, to experts. Some listed and some unlisted sites are given as examples only. The draft is presented illustrate the additional work needed to arrive at a comprehensive system of classifications (i.e. framework) suitable for the global study and corresponding to commonly accepted scientific criteria.

Listed sites are shown by underlining. Sites which have been nominated or are on a tentative list are shown by an asterisk.

The dawn of human presence

Sites relating to the earliest hominids up until the establishment of permanent human settlement (this latter date will vary between geographical areas). Sub-categories need to be developed :

Lower Valley of the Awash (Ethiopia); Ngorongoro (Tanzania); Willandra Lakes (Australia); Peking Man (China). Site of Java Man-Mojokerto (Indonesia), the Solo River* (Indonesia), site of Kosipe in Papua New Guinea; Niah Caves (Indonesia).

Rock art sites would also fall into this category :

Decorated caves of the Vézère Valley (France), Alta (Norway), Val Camonica (Italy), Kakadu (Australia), Tassili N'Ajjer (Algeria) and Altamira (Spain) are already listed. There are important rock art sites in other continents which are not yet included.

Other known early sites are those such as Stonehenge and Avebury (U.K.); New Grange and other Megalithic tombs (Ireland); Pasemah Plateau (Indonesia).

Pacific Island Cultures

Because of the development in isolation of Pacific island cultures, geographical classifications probably adequately represent distinct styles. Dates are not considered appropriate.

Ganges and Indus civilizations: outline study available.

The Hindu world :

Ellora Caves, Sun Temple at Konarak, Monuments at Mahabalipuram, Khajuharo monuments, Pattadakal monuments, Elephanta Caves, Brihadiswara Temple (Thanjavur), Hampi (India)

Kathmandu Valley (Nepal)

Dieng Plateau (Indonesia)

The Buddhist world :

Mogao caves (China); Annuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Sigiriya (Sri Lanka); Ruins of Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur (Bangladesh); Takht-i-Bahi (Pakistan); Kathmandu Valley (Nepal); Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves, Sanchi (India)

Civilization of the Nile i.e. Pharaonic Egypt (outline study available)

Mesopotamia (outline study available)

The world of Islam

The Phoenician World

Carthage , Kerkouane (Tunisia); Tyre, Byblos (Lebanon); Tipasa (Algeria); Sabratha (Libya)

The Greek and Hellenistic world and correlated cultures (detailed study available)

The Roman world and correlated cultures (study available)

The Byzantine world and correlated cultures (two studies available)

Mediaeval Europe

Romanesque

Arles, Vézelay, Cisterican Abbey of Fontenay, Church of Saint-Savin-sur-Gartempe, (France); Aachen, St. Mary's Cathedral and St. Michael's Church Hildesheim, Cathedral of Speyer (Germany); Castles of Edward I in Gwynedd (U.K.) Urnes Stave Church (Norway)

Gothic

Chartres Cathedral, Amiens Cathedral, Strasbourg Cathedral (included in the listing of Grande Ile, Strasbourg) (France); Burgos Cathedral (Spain)

Renaissance

Fontainebleau (France); Vatican City (Holy See), Historic centres of Rome and Florence (Italy); Escorial (Spain)

Baroque - Rococo

Europe

Wurzburg Residence with Court Gardens and Residence Square, Castles of Augustusburg and Falkenlust at Brühl, Pilgrimage Church of Wies (Germany); Old City of Salamanca (Spain)

Other Continents

Ouro Preto, Olinda, Congonhas (Brazil), Potosi (Bolivia),
Antigua Guatemala (Guatemala), Jesuit Missions of the
Guaranis (Argentina, Brazil)

Pre-Columbian cultures

North America

- Anasazi and Pueblo cultures - Mesa Verde, Chaco culture site (U.S.A.); Casas Grandes in Paquime Chihuahua* (Mexico)
- Cahokia Mounds (U.S.A.)
- Haida Indian - Anthony Island (Canada)
- Hunting communities - Head-Smashed-In-Bison-Jump (Canada)

Pre-Aztec Central America

Olmec	- 800	++800	
Teotihuacan	- 300	+1000	<u>Teotihuacan</u> (Mexico)
Zapotec	- 650	+1521	
Toltec	+ 850	+1250	
Maya	-1000	++1700	<u>Copan</u> (Honduras)
(Classic period +300		++900)	<u>Tikal, Quirigua</u> (Guatemala)

Pre-Inca South America

Mus	-500	++1400	
Tiahuanac	+600	++1000	
Nazca		+600	
Mochica		+600	
Chimu	+600		<u>Chan Chan</u> (Peru)

The Inca world

The Aztec world

Teotihuacan (Mexico)

Art Nouveau

Architectural works of Gaudi (Spain)

Contemporary architecture

Brasilia (Brazil)

ANNEX II

Report of the Working Group on the Global Study

Paris, 12-13 October 1990

Present: Mr. Azedine Beschouch, Chairman (Tunisia); Mrs. Christina Cameron, Rapporteur (Canada); Mrs. Magdalene Stantscheva (Bulgaria); Mrs. Liliane Bonilla (Columbia); Mr. François Enaud (France); Mrs. Androniki Miltiadou (Greece); Mr. Adul Wichiencharoen (Thailand); Miss Mounira Baccar (Tunisia); Mrs. Ann Raidl, Mrs. Lyndel V. Prott, Miss Chantal Lyard, Mr. A. Sunnan (Unesco Secretariat, Cultural Heritage Division).

The Chairman welcomed participants to the Working Group on the Global Study, set up by the Bureau at its June 1990 session. In establishing this group, the Bureau was mindful that the need for a global study had been repeatedly expressed by the World Heritage Committee since 1983 and wished to show concrete action at the meeting in Banff in December 1990.

The Working Group examined documents and minutes from previous World Heritage Committee meetings, in particular the Report of the Working Group set up by the Committee at its eleventh session discussed at Brasilia, December 1988 (SC-88/CONF.001/2). In addition, the Working Group examined three proposals prepared by the Secretariat (on the Nile, Mesopotamia and Indus/Ganges), which demonstrated a possible methodology based on chronology and geo-cultural areas. Copies of these documents are attached to this report.

There followed broad-ranging discussion on a number of topics including the need for an overview approach, the inadequacy of a functional typology (rejected by the Committee in 1988), the challenge of dividing world cultural properties into groups or areas, the dynamic nature of any such framework, the respective roles of States Parties and experts in the elaboration of a global study, and the need for a pragmatic, focussed approach.

The Working Group appreciated the Secretariat's effort to further the development of the global study. It shared the Secretariat's view that the proposed approach (e.g., Nile, Mesopotamia, Indus/Ganges) properly belonged to a later stage of the project. Further, the Working Group reiterated previous requests from the World Heritage Committee for a broad framework that would define the scope and methodology for a global approach. It was noted that such a framework does not presently exist.

In order to give further direction, the Working Group discussed the objectives, definition, scope, methodology and implementation of the global study for consideration by the World Heritage Committee.

Objectives

The objectives have been discussed at previous Committee meetings. The global study is intended to support the Convention's purpose to protect sites of outstanding universal value to mankind. Specifically, the global study should:

- . identify gaps so that all sites of outstanding universal value may be protected.
- . guide States Parties in the preparation of nominations and tentative lists.
- . aid the World Heritage Committee in the examination of cultural properties by providing a comparative analytical framework of the world's cultural heritage.

Definition

The global study is meant to be a working tool for the Committee and is seen as a dynamic and flexible overview that will be developed over time.

Scope

The global study should cover all cultural properties throughout the world and throughout time, which can be considered to be of outstanding universal value. It should include those properties belonging to States Parties not currently parties to the Convention.

Methodology

There was a clear consensus among the Working Group that chronology must be one axis or dimension of the global study. For the other axis, however, considerable debate ensued on the limitations of a strict geo-cultural approach which might restrict the inclusion of significant properties (e.g. archaeological, industrial, aboriginal). In particular, the Working Group discussed the approach used in the 19th edition of Banister Fletcher, A History of Architecture. While clearly inadequate for purposes of a global framework, due to its Eurocentricity and colonial bias, it nevertheless offers an example of a more flexible approach. The Working Group therefore supported such a mixed approach to the second axis which would include spatial/thematic/cultural aspects, in the spirit of the criteria for inscribing cultural properties on the World Heritage List.

Implementation

Conscious of the need to be pragmatic, the Working Group suggest the following work plan.

Phase I

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|--|-----------------------------|
| Elaboration of a first draft of a global framework | Dec. 90
Secretariat |
| Selection of 30-40 World Heritage Sites and, based on the ICOMOS evaluations of the outstanding universal value of these cultural properties, an analysis of them in a framework context | Dec. 90
Secretariat |
| Detailed geo-cultural analysis of Nile, Mesopotamia and Indus/Ganges | Dec. 90
Secretariat |
| Analysis of current situation for Balkan States in the medieval period, using tentative lists and listed World Heritage Sites | Dec. 90
Mrs. Stantscheva |
| Available for consultation, two copies of functional typology study (1983) | Dec. 90
Secretariat |

Cristina Cameron
rapporteur
October 1990

Documents available

- Brasilia, 1988 Report (SC-88/CONF.001/2)
- Report - 1989 CONF.004
- Bureau Minutes - 1990 on Global Study
- Minutes from December 1988 Meetings on Global Study
- Minutes from December 1989 Meetings on Global Study
- Attempts at Chronological Typologies (Civilizations of the Nile, Mesopotamia and Ganges/Indus presented to the Study Group on the Global Study which met at Unesco Headquarters, 12-13 October 1990)
- General Typological