

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

World Heritage Committee

Thirteenth Session

Paris, 11-15 December 1989

ITEM 12 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA Global study.

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

1. Progress has been made in drawing up a global indicative list of geological and fossil sites which have the potential to meet World Heritage criteria.
2. 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 by Greece: the Bureau appreciated that IUCN needed specialist advice to evaluate properties nominated under natural criterion (i) (the earth's evolutionary history) or criterion (ii) (ongoing geological processes).
3. The Secretariat has contacted Unesco's International Geological Correlation Programme (IGCP) and the International Union for the Geological Sciences (IUGS, an affiliate of International Council of Scientific Unions) to study this matter in depth. A high level consultant (Dr. J. W. Cowie, Chairman of the IUGS Commission on Stratigraphy) was engaged in January 1989. Dr. Cowie has drawn up a preliminary indicative list paying special attention to the need to meet the conditions of integrity. This preliminary list is currently being circulated to more than 150 experts in the field of geology around the world. The list will be finalized on the basis of the comments of these experts during the meeting of a Special Committee for the IGCP on 1 February 1990 at Unesco HQ (at which IUCN will take part), and thereafter the indicative list will be adopted by the IGCP Board and the Executive Committee of the IUGS at their respective meetings in February 1990.
4. In this manner, the global indicative list of geological (including fossil) sites, as drawn up by the geological scientist community, will be presented to the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee at its 14th session in June 1990. On the basis of this list, States Parties will be invited to nominate sites thereon and IUCN will have the possibility of consulting with IGCP and the IUGS for their evaluation.