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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

Twenty-third session
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room X
5 - 10 July 1999

Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda: Requests for international assistance

SUMMARY

In accordance with paragraphs 94-126 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*, the Bureau examines and takes decisions concerning requests for international assistance for training and technical co-operation requests above US\$ 20,000 and up to US\$ 30,000, and makes recommendations to the Committee for the requests for international assistance above US\$ 30,000.

Action required by the Bureau: The Bureau is requested to examine and take decisions concerning requests for international assistance above US\$ 20,000 and up to US\$ 30,000, and to examine and make recommendations to the Committee concerning requests for international assistance above US \$ 30,000.

In view of the growing number of requests and amounts requested by States Parties, the Bureau may wish to recall the order of priorities in granting international assistance, as agreed upon by the Committee, as stated in paragraphs 113 – 116 of the *Operational Guidelines*. Furthermore, the Bureau may wish to recall the Committee's decisions concerning (a) the allocation of international assistance between cultural and natural heritage; (b) international assistance requests related to the state of conservation reports on the same properties; and (c) evaluation by the Advisory Bodies.

In taking decisions concerning international assistance requests, the Bureau is invited to consult **Information Document WHC-99/CONF.204/INF.15**, which provides information on international assistance granted in previous years.

Paragraphs 113-116 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*

C. Order of priorities for the granting of international assistance

113. Without prejudicing the provisions of the Convention, which shall always prevail, the Committee agreed on the following order of priorities with respect to the type of activities to be assisted under the Convention:

- emergency measures to save property included, or nominated for inclusion, in the World Heritage List;
- preparatory assistance for drawing up tentative lists of cultural and/or natural properties suitable for inclusion in the World Heritage List as well as nominations of types of properties under-represented on the List and requests for technical co-operation;
- projects which are likely to have a multiplier effect (“seed money”) because they:
 - stimulate general interest in conservation;
 - contribute to the advancement of scientific research;
 - contribute to the training of specialized personnel;
 - generate contributions from other sources.

114. The Committee also agreed that the following factors would in principle govern its decisions in granting assistance under the Convention:

- (i) the urgency of the work and of the protective measures to be taken;
- (ii) the legislative, administrative and financial commitment of the recipient State to protect and preserve the property;
- (iii) the cost of the project;
- (iv) the interest for, and exemplary value of, the project in respect of scientific research and the development of cost/effective conservation techniques;
- (v) the educational value both for the training of local experts and for the general public;
- (vi) the cultural and ecological benefits accruing from the project, and;
- (vii) the social and economic consequences.

115. Properties included in the World Heritage List are considered to be equal in value. For this reason, the criteria proposed above make no reference to the relative value of the properties. A balance will be maintained between funds allocated to projects for the preservation of the cultural heritage on the one hand and projects for the conservation of the natural heritage on the other hand.

116. Requests for emergency, training, and technical co-operation shall be referred, if deemed

necessary by the Secretariat, to the appropriate Advisory Bodies (IUCN, ICOMOS, and/or ICCROM) for professional review and evaluation, and its recommendations shall be presented to the Bureau and the Committee for action.

Decisions of the Committee

- (a) **The allocation of international assistance between cultural and natural heritage:** At its nineteenth session, the Committee decided that half of training and one third of technical co-operation would be reserved for natural sites.
- (b) **International assistance requests related to the state of conservation reports of the same properties:** At its twentieth session, the Committee decided to consider international assistance requests together with reports on the state of conservation of the same properties.
- (c) **Evaluation by the Advisory Bodies:** At its twentieth session, the Committee requested the Secretariat “to call upon the advice of the experts of the appropriate bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM)”. In order to facilitate the consultations with the advisory bodies, the Committee decided to modify the deadline for the submission of international assistance requests, which will now be 1 September.

NATURAL HERITAGE TRAINING

Requesting States Parties: Five Central Asian Republics and WWF Russia Programme Office (WWF-PRO)

Project title: “Training for Nomination of Natural and Mixed Properties as World Heritage in Central Asia”

World Heritage sites concerned: Potential natural and mixed heritage sites of the following Central Asian States Parties: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tadjikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

Previous World Heritage Fund contributions: This is the first time an activity for identification and nomination of natural and mixed sites in Central Asia has been proposed.

Summary Description: The project is derived from the publication entitled “Biodiversity Conservation in Central Asia” and has been elaborated by WWF-PRO. The publication has been endorsed by all of the five Central Asian Governments and more than 300 experts from the five countries had participated in its production. Letters endorsing the project and authorising WWF-PRO to take the lead in the formulation and execution of the project have been sent to the Centre by the following: (a) The State Committee for Nature Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan; (b) the Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan; and (iii) The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The 7-month project foresees the implementation of the following activities:

- (a) elaboration and publication of the guidelines for nomination of the potential sites;
- (b) dissemination of the guidelines amongst interested and involved parties in all five countries;
- (c) preliminary selection of sites in each country and collection of information on sites for the preparation of nominations; and
- (d) organization of a training workshop to prepare draft nominations and a strategy for the submission of a selected number of nominations to the Centre before 1 July 2000.

Direct Target Beneficiaries: Government agencies, non-government organisations and research and academic institutions in the five countries under consideration.

Budget:

Total estimate cost: US\$ 59,340

Breakdown of cost:

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| (a) Organisational costs including conference hall hire, office and secretarial expenses and translation | US\$ 8,040 |
| (b) personnel costs including fees to consultants, honoraria to resource persons and trainers | US\$ 19,600 |
| (c) international, national and local travel and accommodation and meals during the training workshop | US\$ 14,600 |
| (d) publications | US\$ 6,500 |
| (e) unforeseen, miscellaneous, reception and project supervision and co-ordination expenses | US\$ 10,600 |

Amount requested from the Fund:	US\$ 29,440
(i) organizational expenses	US\$ 3,540
conference hall hire (US\$ 340), translation (US\$ 1,500) and office and secretarial expenses (US\$ 1,700)	
(ii) personnel	US\$ 10,500
consultant fees (US\$ 3,000) and honoraria for workshop resource persons (US\$ 6,000) and trainers (US\$ 1,500)	
(iii) travel, board and lodging	US\$ 11,600
travel of consultants (US\$ 1,900), travel of workshop resource persons (US\$ 1,000) and trainees (US\$ 2,400), local travel (US\$ 100) and accommodation and meals during the workshop (US\$ 6,200)	
(iv) contingency, miscellaneous, project supervision and co-ordination	US\$ 3,800

Contributions from National and other Agencies: US\$ 29,900

This balance is to be raised as cash and in-kind contributions through on-going negotiations between WWF-PRO, WWF-International, WWF-USA, participating government agencies from the five States Parties and international, regional and national non-governmental organizations.

Comments of the Advisory Body: IUCN supports this project, noting that it addresses a clear need and is a well formulated proposal. IUCN has suggested that the training activity provides clear and realistic guidelines in relation to World Heritage Listing and the obligations of States Parties towards protecting World Heritage sites. IUCN has welcomed co-operation with its Northern Eurasian Vice-Chair for WCPA in the organisation of the training and has encouraged co-operation with Greenpeace-Russia, which has learned valuable lessons in the application of the Convention in Russia that may be of relevance to Central Asia.

Remaining World Heritage Funds: As of 1 June 1999, a sum of US\$ 111,400 of the US\$ 490,500 reserved for natural heritage training in 1999 remained available.

Action by the Bureau: The Bureau may wish to approve the amount of **US\$ 29,440** from the natural heritage training funds, subject to WWF-PRO confirming before 31 October 1999 that it has been successful in raising the balance of US\$ 29,900, needed for the implementation of the project. The Bureau may wish to recommend that WWF-PRO submit to the World Heritage Centre, a list of organisations providing cash and in-kind contributions to meet the balance of US\$ 29,900 needed for the project and a full list of the Central Asian participants to be involved in the implementation of the project.

Requesting Organizations: Kushiro International Wetlands Centre (Japan) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

Project title: “Asia Pacific Training Workshop on Integrated Conservation and Development Planning: the Role of Multilateral Agreements Related to Biological Diversity”

World Heritage sites concerned: Several World Heritage sites and World Heritage sites in Danger from different parts of the world.

Previous World Heritage Fund contributions: The first KIWC-UNITAR workshop, held between 13-19 September 1998, was supported by a contribution of US\$ 20,000 from the 1998 World Heritage Fund, and with the participation of six Asia-Pacific representatives (India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam), one resource person from Australia and a representative from the Centre. IUCN while recommending World Heritage Fund support for the workshop in 1998, had pointed out that efforts should be made to bring the benefits of the workshop to participants from other parts of the world.

Summary description: The second KIWC-UNITAR workshop is to be convened from 28 August to 2 September 1999 in Kushiro, Japan. The Kushiro Wetlands are recognised as a site under the Ramsar Convention. The course organizers are of the view that the theme of the workshop, i.e. *Integrated Conservation and Development Planning (ICDP) - the Role of Multilateral Agreements Related to Biological Diversity*, will benefit from participation of site managers from natural World Heritage sites, particularly from those sites which are also recognised as UNESCO Biosphere Reserves. Examples include Yellowstone (USA), Galapagos (Ecuador), Serengeti and Ngorongoro (Tanzania) and Sinharaja (Sri Lanka).

UNESCO's Biosphere Reserve concept is recognised as one of the earliest international tools that promoted ICDP. However, in recent times, in sites such as Yellowstone and Galapagos, the World Heritage Convention played a major role in mitigating threats that originated from buffer and transition zones of sites whose core areas are designated as World Heritage. Hence, the workshop organizers have proposed that a combination of site managers and representatives of the Centre, UNESCO-MAB and IUCN Secretariats be invited to present their experience in a 4-hour panel session, as well as towards the discussions during other workshop sessions.

The workshop organizers have chosen two themes to respond to information needs: (a) a selected number of case studies illustrating the application of the Convention to mitigate threats originating from areas outside the core zones of protected areas and (b) how lessons learnt from that experience could enhance understanding of ICDP needs. Participants other than the site-managers will be trainees, who are senior bureaucrats and administrators of Asia-Pacific ministries dealing with environment, foreign affairs, nature protection, etc. They are eager to find best ways to use international conventions to resolve policy conflicts between conservation and development within their own countries.

Budget:

Total estimate cost: US\$ 259,500

Breakdown of cost:

(a) Organizational US\$ 95,000

(b) Personnel fees and honoraria of 10–15 international and Japanese resource persons US\$ 17,500

(c) international and national travel and daily subsistence allowances for 40 – 50 Asia Pacific trainee participants	US\$ 136,000	
(d) proceedings	US\$ 5,000	
(e) hospitality, study tour to the Kushiro marshes	US\$ 6,000	
Amount requested from the Fund:		US\$ 30,000
(i) International and national travel and allowances of about ten site-managers comprising 3 from Latin America (US\$ 7,000), 2 from Africa (6,000), 3 from Asia (US\$ 4,000) and 2 from Europe and/or North America (US\$ 4,000)	US\$ 21,000	
(ii) One representative each from IUCN, World Heritage Centre and UNESCO's MAB Secretariat	US\$ 5,000	
(iii) email, fax, telephone, other communications	US\$ 2,000	
(iv) miscellaneous and unforeseen expenses due to fluctuations in exchange rates and air fares	US\$ 2,000	
Contributions from National and other Agencies:		US\$ 229,500
▪ Government of Japan (in kind and cash contributions)	US\$ 150,000	
▪ City of Kushiro	US\$ 70,000	
▪ Other collaborating agencies (Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL)) (staff time and in kind contributions)	US\$ 9,500	

Comments of the Advisory Bodies: IUCN supports this request. IUCN has suggested that the World Heritage Centre and UNITAR clarify the objectives of the participation of the site-managers in the workshop, given the short time remaining for the preparation of case studies by the site managers. IUCN has encouraged that possible links between this activity and other IUCN/WCPA events in East Asia (Seoul; September, 1999) and Southeast Asia (Laos; December 1999) be explored.

Remaining World Heritage Funds: As of 1 June 1999, a sum of US\$ 111,400 of the US\$ 490,500 reserved for natural heritage training in 1999 remained available.

Action by the Bureau: The Bureau may wish to approve a sum of **US\$ 30,000** and request the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to negotiate with developed States Parties in Europe and North America to support the participation of their site managers and use the savings thus obtained to support as many site managers as possible from developing countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America. The Bureau may wish to recommend that preference be given to choosing managers of sites that have the twin designation of World Heritage and Biosphere Reserves, to the extent possible.

CULTURAL HERITAGE TRAINING

Requesting State Party: Cuba

Project title: “Training in Preventive Conservation”

World Heritage sites concerned: All World Heritage cultural sites in Cuba

Previous World Heritage Fund contributions: US\$ 30,000

Training assistance 1997 Course on the integrated rehabilitation of historic cities (US\$ 30,000)

Summary Description: On 1 September 1998, Cuba submitted a request for training assistance in preventive conservation for an amount of US\$ 30,000. This request was evaluated by ICCROM and examined by the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-second extraordinary session (November 1998). The Bureau decided to set aside the US\$ 30,000 under the training assistance budget, in anticipation of the submission by the Cuban authorities of a reformulated request, until the 23rd session of the Bureau. The Cuban authorities and ICCROM agreed to co-operate to reformulate the request, following the decision of the Bureau. On 26 May 1999, the World Heritage Centre received the reformulated request that had been prepared in consultation with ICCROM. The request was transmitted to ICCROM for final review.

The National Centre for Conservation, Restoration and Museology (CENCREM) is an entity with research and scientific capacity and teaching facilities, originally created by a UNDP/UNESCO project. It offers a wide variety of courses for national and regional participants alike. CENCREM is located in the Convent of Santa Clara, within the World Heritage site of Old Havana and its Fortifications. CENCREM proposes to organize a regional course for upgrading the knowledge of conservation specialists in the region in preventive conservation of movable properties and historical buildings.

This request is for a 3-4 week course, which will be divided into theoretical and practical aspects of conservation, including field components. Professors and participants will be from different disciplines: curators, restorers, architects, physicists, chemists, biologists, and others.

Direct Target Beneficiaries: Curators, restorers, architects, archaeologists, physicists, chemists, biologists, and other specialists in the field of cultural heritage protection from the region. 25 participants are foreseen.

Budget:

Total estimate cost: US\$ 30,000

Breakdown of cost:

(a) Organisational expenditures	US\$ 6,000
(b) National and international experts fees	US\$ 6,930
(c) Travel (international, local, fuel and maintenance expenses of government and/or other vehicles used for field exercises)	US\$ 4,160
(d) Miscellaneous	US\$ 460
(e) Fellowships	US\$ 12,450

Contributions from National and Other Agencies: in kind

Amount requested from the Fund: US\$ 30,000

Comments of the Advisory Body: ICCROM will transmit its views on the request during the session of the Bureau.

Remaining World Heritage Funds: The Bureau reserved US\$ 30,000 during its twenty-second extraordinary session under the 1999 training budget for cultural heritage.

Action by the Bureau: The Bureau may wish to examine the reformulated request and ICCROM's comments, and take a decision accordingly.

CULTURAL HERITAGE
TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION

Requesting State Party: Lithuania

Project title: "Vilnius Old Town Revitalization Programme"

World Heritage site concerned: Vilnius Old Town

Status of dues to the World Heritage Fund: Paid up to 1998.

Previous World Heritage Fund contributions:			Total US\$ 88,180
Preparatory assistance	1995	Restoration strategy for Vilnius (US\$ 15,000)	
Technical Co-operation	1996	Programme for revitalization, organization of conference of investors (US\$ 25,000)	
	1998	Old Town of Vilnius (US\$ 19,550)	
	1999	Old Town Revitalization Agency – OTRA (US\$ 20,000)	
Training assistance	1997	Exchange training Vilnius – Edinburgh (US\$ 8,630)	

Summary Description: Vilnius Old Town is a site in need of rehabilitation. In February 1997 in Vilnius the Government of Lithuania and UNESCO convened an International Conference of Potential Donors and Investors for the Revitalisation of Vilnius Old Town. During the conference, a revitalization strategy, developed by an international team of consultants and funded by the World Bank, World Heritage Fund, Denmark and the Nordic World Heritage Office, was adopted by the Government of Lithuania, the City Council of Vilnius and the Conference participants. This strategy contained a multi-faceted approach for revitalizing the Old Town of Vilnius, including the creation of a management and co-ordination structure. The structure was created in September 1998 and comprises a Supervision Council, an Agency (OTRA) and the Old Town Revitalization Fund. The present programme is in response to this positive development. The Technical Assistance Programme to OTRA is a seven-month effort, starting in June 1999. If successful, it may be prolonged for two additional years.

Within this request, the following activities are foreseen:

a) Seminar for small businessmen - This seminar deals with economic opportunities for small businessmen doing or wishing to do business in the Old Town. "Small businessmen" refer to small real estate developers, shop owners, small construction companies, small investors, etc. These businessmen, more numerous than large investors, are in need of guidance. The idea of this seminar is to invite these business people in order to discuss the business potential of the Old Town. At the same meeting, relevant city and government officials, bankers, investment organizations would also be invited. The basic material for this meeting will be provided by a seminar on personal security in the Old Town that may be organized by ICCROM. This activity is to be co-ordinated with another "expert seminar" to be organized by the Lithuanian Academy of Cultural Heritage, in collaboration with ICCROM. This activity is entitled "Enhancement of Functional Capability of Public Organizations" which is funded by the 1999 World Heritage Fund under a separate technical co-operation project for an amount of US\$ 20,000.

b) Fee for International Consultants for small project implementation - This activity will be carried out in close co-operation with OTRA. Issues: e.g. small projects in European countries in transition and assisting OTRA in quality control of the Old Town Rehabilitation Investment Programme will be raised in this regard.

Both activities are planned to be implemented in July - December 1999.

Budget:

Total estimate cost of the Revitalization of Vilnius Old Town:	US\$ 123,000
Total budget of this request:	US\$ 30,000

Breakdown of cost:

<u>Activity 1: Seminar for small businessmen</u>	<u>US\$ 15,000</u>
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| ▪ Drafting and printing of working documents for the seminar | US\$ 3,000 |
| ▪ Promotion and publicity | US\$ 3,000 |
| ▪ Support for organizers | US\$ 4,000 |
| ▪ Drafting, printing and dissemination of the outcome of the seminar | US\$ 5,000 |

<u>Activity 2: Fee for International Consultants for small project implementation</u>	<u>US\$ 15,000</u>
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| ▪ Fee contracts for consultants | US\$ 9,000 |
| ▪ Costs of 3 missions | US\$ 6,000 |

Contributions from National and Other Agencies:	not mentioned
Amount requested from the Fund:	US\$ 30,000

Comments of the Advisory Bodies: ICOMOS and IUCN were asked for advice on 28 May 1999.

Remaining World Heritage Funds: There remains US\$ 0 under the 1999 technical co-operation budget for cultural heritage. Therefore, should the Bureau decide to approve this request, the activity will be funded in year 2000, under the 2000 technical co-operation budget for cultural heritage.

Action by the Bureau: The Bureau may wish to consider the evaluation of ICOMOS and IUCN and take a decision accordingly.

Requesting State Party: Syrian Arab Republic

Project title: “Establishing an overall management plan of Palmyra - 2nd phase”

World Heritage site concerned: Site of Palmyra

Status of dues to the World Heritage Fund: Paid up to 1998.

Previous World Heritage Fund contributions:		Total US\$ 50,000
Preparatory assistance	1998	Preparing a request for Technical Co-operation for preparing a Management Plan for Palmyra (US\$ 15,000)
Technical co-operation	1989	Palmyra (US\$ 15,000)
	1999	Establishing a Management Plan of Palmyra - 1st phase (US\$ 20,000)

Summary Description: At the request of the Syrian authorities, a monitoring mission visited the site of Palmyra in December 1997. The mission considered the establishment of an overall management plan to be urgent, for controlling the urbanization threatening the site and to resolve the problems of protection of the site including the diversion of the main road running through the centre of the archaeological area.

In September 1998, based on the terms of reference for the management plan described in the mission report of December 1997, the following outline of an action plan was formulated as a preliminary study for the management plan.

1st phase (January – June 1999) - Expert mission (4 week-mission to Syria by one expert in March – April 1999) to collect information/data and make necessary contacts for the preparation of a detailed action programme.

2nd phase (July 1999– March 2000) - To finalise the management plan and the detailed action programme (including necessary data and regulations, identification of responsible institutions, training plans for national and local authorities, etc.), workshops in Damascus and on-site will be organized which will be initiated by one international expert in co-operation with the national and local authorities. Through the workshops, the expert will provide training to the counterparts.

In March 1999, the World Heritage Centre organized an expert mission to assist the Department Antiquities and Museums in completing information and data concerning the site, to discuss elements of a future action programme. This mission was within the 1st phase for preparing an overall management plan, and was funded under the 1999 World Heritage Fund technical co-operation budget (US\$ 20,000). This mission collected all relevant information and subsequently prepared a draft action programme for the safeguarding and the enhancement of the site and its environment.

This current request is for financing the 2nd phase of the preparation of the management plan. The Syrian authorities have requested additional assistance from the World Heritage Fund Technical Co-operation budget, in order to finalize the management plan and the overall action programme, and to provide co-ordination for its implementation.

Budget:

Total project budget for 1999-2001:	US\$ 100,000
Contributions from National and Other Agencies:	US\$ 50,000

Breakdown:

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| a. 1 st phase Expert mission | US\$ 20,000 | |
| Collection of information and necessary data,
preparation of draft action programme (carried out by
one expert between March and May 1999) | | |
| b. 2 nd phase Expert mission | US\$ 20,000 | |
| Initiating workshops for the implementation of the
detailed action programme to be carried out by one
expert (July-December 1999) | | |
| c. 2 nd phase Workshops | US\$ 10,000 | |
| (Organization and providing necessary facilities and
equipment for the workshops, July-December 1999) | | |
| d. Holding yearly co-ordination meetings to follow up
the draft management plan once/year (2000-2001) | US\$ 20,000 | |
| e. Designing and executing priority actions
(preservation works, training, etc) (2000-2001) | US\$ 30,000 | |
| Amount requested from the Fund under this request (for b. and c.): | | US\$ 30,000 |
| (US\$ 20,000 already approved in 1999 for a. 1 st phase Expert mission) | | |

Comments of the Advisory Body: ICOMOS has studied the request from the Syrian authorities, which is in line with the recommendation of the World Heritage Committee at its meeting in Kyoto in December 1999. The request completes the project, the first phase of which has already been completed, and will in the opinion of ICOMOS make a profound contribution to the conservation and management of this important site.

Comments of the Secretariat: This current request is to finance the second phase of the preparation of a management plan, for which US\$ 50,000 is being requested in total. The Secretariat supports the request but has requested a detailed budget breakdown, especially for points b. and c. Provided adequate information on the budget is submitted by the State Party, and in view of the limited funds available under the World Heritage Fund, the Secretariat recommends the approval of an additional US\$ 20,000 to be financed under the year 2000 Technical Co-operation budget for cultural heritage, for the organization of the workshops, subject to the Syrian authorities agreeing to cover the costs of the annual co-ordination meetings, and to follow-up on the priority actions set out within the action programme.

The Bureau is requested to make a recommendation to the World Heritage Committee for decision, as this request is for additional funding for a project for which a total of US\$ 50,000 is being requested from the World Heritage Fund.

Action by the Bureau: The Bureau may wish to recommend the approval by the Committee of **an additional US\$ 20,000** for the preparation of a management plan for the site of Palmyra, provided the State Party provides the Secretariat with a detailed budget breakdown for points b. and c, and subject to the State Party agreeing to cover the costs of the annual co-ordination meetings, and to follow-up on the priority actions set out within the action programme.