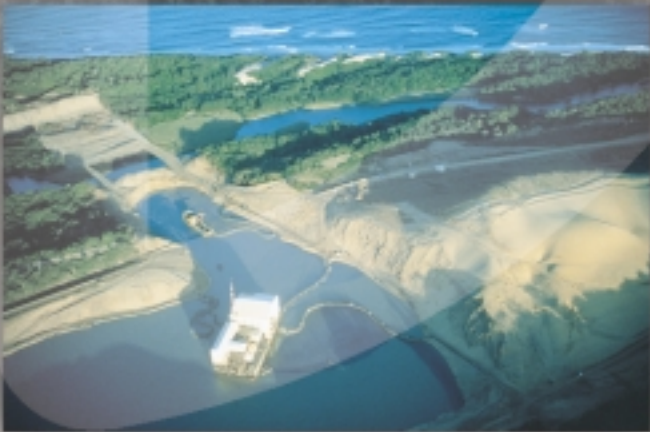




TECHNICAL WORKSHOP



World Heritage and Mining

21-23 September 2000
Gland, Switzerland



The UNESCO World Heritage Centre

The UNESCO World Heritage Centre was set up in 1992 by the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to assure the day-to-day management of the World Heritage Convention (1972). It organizes the annual sessions of the World Heritage Bureau and Committee, provides advice to States Parties in the preparation of site nominations for the World Heritage List, organizes technical assistance upon request, and coordinates both the reporting on the condition of sites and the emergency action undertaken when a site is threatened. It is also responsible for the administration of the World Heritage Fund and for developing partnerships for World Heritage conservation. Other tasks of the Centre include arranging technical seminars and training workshops, updating the World Heritage List, database and web page, developing teaching materials to raise awareness of the World Heritage concept, and keeping the public informed of World Heritage issues. It cooperates with other groups working on issues related to conservation both within UNESCO — notably the Cultural Heritage Division in the Sector for Culture and the Division of Ecological Sciences in the Science Sector — and on the outside, the three Advisory Bodies ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM, and many other international organizations.

IUCN – The World Conservation Union

IUCN – The World Conservation Union was founded in 1948 and brings together 79 states, 112 government agencies, 760 NGOs, 37 affiliates, and some 10,000 scientists and experts from 181 countries in a unique worldwide partnership. Its mission is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable. Within the framework of global conventions IUCN has helped over 75 countries to prepare and implement national conservation and biodiversity strategies. IUCN has approximately 1000 staff, most of whom are located in its 42 regional and country offices while 100 work at its Headquarters in Gland, Switzerland.

International Council on Metals and the Environment (ICME)

Founded in 1991, ICME is a non-governmental organization that promotes the development and implementation of sound environmental and health policies and practices in the production, use, recycling and disposal of non-ferrous and precious metals.

These proceedings have been published by ICME as part of a series of publications providing information on environmental and health matters relating to the metals mining and production industry. The contents of ICME publications range from general and technical information about these topics to discussions of issues relevant to environmental and/or health-related policies affecting the mining and metals sector. It is believed that the topics examined are of concern not only to the industry but also to others, including policy makers, regulators, educators and the public at large. ICME hopes that these publications provide insight into what are sometimes difficult and complex issues. In addition to its publications, ICME has an extensive information program which includes a web site and a quarterly newsletter with a worldwide distribution.

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ON WORLD HERITAGE AND MINING,
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Cover photos:

Background: *Lorentz National Park, Irian Jaya, Indonesia, was declared a World Heritage Site in 1999. It is the largest protected area in Southeast Asia and the only one to incorporate a continuous, intact transect from snow cap to tropical marine environment.*
Right: *Freeport-McMoRan's mining operation is located to the west of the Site. It is one of the largest mining operations in the world and has the largest gold deposit and third largest copper deposit of any operating mine.* Upper left: *Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park, South Africa. The site contains critical habitat for a range of species from Africa's marine, wetland and savannah environments.*
Lower left: *Richards Bay Minerals' sand mining operation, located outside the boundaries of the Park.*



Technical Workshop

World Heritage and Mining

21 – 23 September 2000
Gland, Switzerland



ICME

IUCN
The World Conservation Union

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Report of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee, Twenty-fourth session, held in Cairns, Australia, November 27 to December 2, 2000.

FOREWORD

As populations grow and the pressure of development increases around the globe, it is not surprising that resource sectors such as the mining industry are coming more and more into contact with protected areas, including those with international recognition, such as World Heritage sites.

The World Heritage Committee has a long history of grappling with issues related to mining and World Heritage sites, both existing and proposed. A string of well-publicized and controversial interactions between mining and World Heritage sites in places such as Yellowstone (USA), Doñana (Spain) and Kakadu (Australia) has heightened the need to address co-existence issues and provide guidance.

At its 23rd session in 1999 in Marrakesh, the World Heritage Committee discussed the threats or potential threats of mining to World Heritage sites. At the same time, however, it was recognized that poverty within local communities could result in significant impacts on World Heritage sites and that one way to address poverty alleviation and conservation objectives would be for mining and World Heritage to work together in the context of sustainable development. Such cooperation would seek to balance both the need to conserve the outstanding values for which World Heritage sites are dedicated and the socio-economic needs of local people. To help guide future decision-making, it was agreed that an appropriate approach would be to organize a workshop with the objective of developing general principles for World Heritage and mining based on an analysis of case studies.

The Workshop on World Heritage and Mining, organized by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the International Council of Metals and the Environment (ICME), in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, was held in September 2000 in Gland, Switzerland. Six diverse case studies from Latin America, Africa, Asia, the Pacific and Europe were reviewed at the meeting to draw lessons learned and to develop guiding principles and recommendations. The workshop included representatives from the mining and conservation sectors as

well as World Heritage site managers and protected area agencies from State Parties. The Workshop could be seen as part of a longer process of collaboration that may deliver a substantial outcome at the next once-in-a-decade World Parks Congress (WPC), to be held in 2003 in South Africa.

The Workshop was conducted in a constructive manner. Notwithstanding divergence of opinions on some issues (mining-related activities within existing sites), there was agreement that opportunities for cooperation and partnership between the mining industry and protected area agencies should be strongly encouraged. Importantly, the workshop agreed on a set of 10 principles that should underpin the relationship between mining and World Heritage interests. In addition, a series of recommendations were specifically targeted at three stakeholder groupings: the World Heritage Committee and State Parties; World Heritage Management Agencies; and the Mining Industry. A key recommendation of the workshop was the establishment of a joint Working Group on World Heritage and Mining.

At its 24th session in Cairns, Australia, in November 2000, the World Heritage Committee fully embraced the conclusions and recommendations of the technical workshop and agreed to establish the above-mentioned Working Group. This decision acknowledges the increasing levels of cooperation between conservation interests and the mining industry. It is hoped that such cooperation will continue in the years ahead.

Francesco Bandarin,
Director,
UNESCO World Heritage Centre

Achim Steiner,
Director General,
IUCN

Gary Nash,
Secretary General,
ICME

WORLD HERITAGE AND MINING

REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP HELD AT IUCN HEADQUARTERS, 21–23 SEPTEMBER 2000

i) INTRODUCTION

The 1999 World Heritage Committee (Marrakesh, Morocco, November 1999) considered the issue of mining and protected areas. It decided, *inter alia*, to request that a technical meeting be held to analyze case studies on World Heritage and mining and to develop recommendations for review and discussion by the 24th session of the Committee.

Following from this direction, IUCN and the International Council on Metals and the Environment (ICME) jointly organized a workshop on World Heritage and Mining, which was held in Gland, Switzerland (at the IUCN Headquarters) from 21 to 23 September 2000. This workshop involved representatives from UN agencies (UNEP and UN/DESA), the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the mining sector, several institutes working in this field, ICOMOS, IUCN/WCPA and site managers and protected area agencies from State Parties. It discussed a range of case studies illustrating issues associated with mining and World Heritage sites (the list of participants and the agenda of the meeting are in Annexes A and B).

The deliberations covered mining and mining exploration both within and adjacent to World Heritage sites, as well as mining activities which may be geographically distant from a site but have potential to impact on the cultural or natural values of such a site in the short or long-term.

Examination of case studies was valuable, demonstrating that the mining and conservation communities can reach mutually beneficial arrangements in a range of different circumstances in relation to mining developments near World Heritage sites.

The case studies also highlighted the following key points:

- where there is no dialogue, there is no progress;
- common ground can be found where there is a willingness by the parties to seek it out;
- benefits can flow to all parties from finding common ground; and

- sharing information, building trust and goodwill and continuing to talk are essential.

The workshop agreed on the importance of dialogue and consultation among key stakeholders. Participants recognized the important contribution that the mining industry can play in relation to World Heritage values: in particular, it could support conservation, contribute to scientific understanding of ecosystems, bring economic and social benefits, help alleviate poverty and assist ecotourism. Participants also agreed that opportunities for cooperation and partnership between the mining industry and protected area agencies should be strongly encouraged. The workshop agreed on a set of principles, recommendations and follow-up activities, which are set out below.

ii) MINING, AND EXISTING AND FUTURE WORLD HERITAGE SITES

There was, however, a divergence of opinion over the possibility of new and expanded mining operations and exploration activities within existing World Heritage sites. The workshop agreed that the positions of IUCN, ICOMOS, UNESCO and industry participants should be set out for the record in relation to this matter.

The IUCN position is that World Heritage Natural and Mixed Sites are sites of outstanding universal value, which are identified for their unique features and according to strict criteria and conditions of integrity as defined under the World Heritage Operational Guidelines. Such areas (128 natural sites and 22 mixed sites as at 1999) cover less than 1% of the earth's surface and represent a commitment to future generations to ensure that some areas on earth are left in their natural state in recognition of their outstanding natural values. This is embodied in Article 4 of the World Heritage Convention, which states that: "Each State Party to the Convention recognizes the duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage referred to in (the Convention)". Article 6(1) of the Convention also

states that: "Whilst fully respecting the sovereignty of States, State Parties recognize that such heritage constitutes a world heritage for whose protection it is the duty of the international community as a whole to cooperate." Thus, IUCN considers that the exploration and extraction of mineral resources and associated activities are incompatible with the values for which World Heritage sites were established and managed, and in principle should not be permitted.

The ICOMOS position is that World Heritage cultural sites (and more particularly cultural landscapes) and mixed sites (those inscribed under both cultural and natural criteria) are by definition of outstanding value. They contain tangible and intangible manifestations of human cultural heritage of global significance, and it is therefore imperative that the integrity of these sites be protected and preserved for the benefit of all humankind. For these reasons, ICOMOS considers the exploration or exploitation of mineral resources within World Heritage sites may jeopardize the values for which they have been inscribed on the World Heritage List.

The UNESCO position is to emphasize the fundamental principles of the Convention to protect and conserve sites of outstanding universal value. Guidance on the conservation process is given by the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention. As a result, UNESCO believes that it is essential to uphold the integrity of sites on the World Heritage List and thus ensure that the values for which they are inscribed are maintained.

From the standpoint of industry participants, there is growing recognition that conservation goals cannot be divorced from economic development. Responsible mining can contribute to biodiversity conservation and broader sustainable development objectives, including poverty alleviation. Industry respects legally designated protected areas and acknowledges that exploration and mining activities should not put at risk the characteristics and values forming the basis of the listing of an area as a World Heritage site. However, it is believed that as technology and societal priorities change, the option of re-evaluating existing boundaries should be preserved.

The workshop agreed, however, in relation to the issue of the identification of future World Heritage sites. In this situation, a comprehensive approach to planning should be adopted within a commitment to economic, social and environmental considerations. This should recognize the complex relationship between economic development, biodiversity and

cultural heritage considerations and the role of protected areas, including World Heritage sites. All protected areas should be established as part of an adequate and representative system, set within the broader landscape, and assessment should be based on the principles of sustainable development and sound scientific assessment of natural and mineral values. This is particularly relevant to the establishment of new World Heritage sites.

iii) PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WORLD HERITAGE AND MINING

The workshop agreed on 10 principles that should underpin the relationship between mining and World Heritage interests, as follows:

Protection of World Heritage Integrity: All parties should be committed to the maintenance of World Heritage values and of the integrity of the sites concerned.

Maximizing Benefits and Minimizing Adverse Impacts: Mining activities should be designed to maximize economic, social and environmental benefits and reduce to the minimum negative consequences or side effects within or beyond national boundaries and also be committed to the equitable sharing of benefits. Activities associated with the establishment and management of World Heritage sites should also aim to maximize social and ecological benefits and minimize adverse ecological and social impacts.

Respect for Different Value Systems: It is important that commercial interests respect the value systems of conservation and World Heritage interests, and vice versa, and that both parties respect cross-cultural values (such as those of indigenous peoples and other traditional communities).

Openness: Relations between the sectors should be based on transparency, trust, timeliness and honesty, and should include early warning of proposals for new nominations as well as for mining operations.

Inclusiveness: All relevant local, national and international stakeholders should be consulted and involved from the earliest possible stage in plans for mining operations and in any plans to nominate World Heritage sites; partnerships should be built at various levels to help secure ongoing involvement.

Whole-of-Life Consideration: All aspects of mining operations, from preliminary exploration to closure and after care, should be covered by these principles.

Robust, Adequately Resourced Institutions and Processes:

There should be clear processes and responsibilities in respect of areas of possible conflict. This requires appropriate regulations, security of tenure, effective World Heritage management capacity, enforcement, conflict resolution procedures and the timely sharing of information. Where needed, systems should be established to build capacity within all stakeholder groups (industry, institutions, NGOs, etc).

Best Practice: All relevant activities should be characterized by the use and sharing of best practice in respect of: science and technology, adaptive management, transboundary cooperation, assessment of societal benefits, stakeholder consultation, comprehensive risk assessment and thorough emergency preparedness—all reflecting local environmental and social circumstances.

Independent Review: All activities involving the parties should be open to independent review and to reporting on performance without fear or favour.

Acknowledgement of Uniqueness: Notwithstanding the above, every World Heritage site and every mining operation is different, and specific arrangements must be sensitive to this.

iv) RECOMMENDATIONS

The meeting put forward the following recommendations to various key actors.

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE AND STATE PARTIES are invited to note these findings:

- Mining and conservation specialists are encouraged to work together, taking into account the unique aspects of mining (e.g. mineral potential, deposits) and the unique values and conditions of World Heritage sites; each case needs to be carefully considered, taking account of the conditions and integrity under the World Heritage Convention.
- Early in the nomination process, relevant national and local government ministries and agencies, all affected stakeholders and independent third parties should be identified and an open, transparent and effective communication mechanism established, including conflict resolution mechanisms.
- An open and transparent multi-disciplinary/science-based approach should be adopted for determining boundaries for World Heritage sites—one that protects World Heritage values and takes into account ecological, cultural and

mineral and other economic values, as well as socio-economic factors.

- Tentative lists of potential World Heritage sites should be made public to all stakeholders to encourage input of views and information.
- An effective flow of information should be assured between the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, IUCN and ICOMOS regarding mining-related activities and World Heritage sites prior to designation, in compiling state of conservation reports and during/after emergency situations.
- Regarding the evaluation of new nominations, the Advisory Bodies should ask State Parties to confirm that all affected stakeholders, including the mining industry, have been consulted.
- Given that World Heritage and mining issues are often polarized, there is a need to protect the process of World Heritage nomination and the state of conservation evaluations.
- If a mine is operating near a World Heritage site, facilities should be designed, operated and closed in consideration of World Heritage values and should contribute to the conservation of those values.
- Education and awareness programs are required so that local communities understand the importance and the values of World Heritage sites and can benefit from the presence of such areas.

WORLD HERITAGE MANAGEMENT AGENCIES should

- clarify and communicate roles and responsibilities regarding World Heritage sites
- put monitoring programs in place, as well as emergency preparedness and response plans, all with effective indicators, to ensure that the integrity of World Heritage values is not threatened by mining, agricultural, tourism or other activities, and to deal with incidents
- endeavour to link protected areas planning with broader regional land use planning, so that protected areas are seen as an integral element of their region
- increase awareness about mining and recognize that mining companies may be key stakeholders
- establish communication mechanisms with all affected stakeholders

- work with mining companies in order to integrate their environmental management and community development programs into the overall management objectives of World Heritage sites

MINING INDUSTRY

The mining industry has the potential to make significant contributions as follows:

a) In respect of World Heritage Protection/Conservation, it can:

- undertake assessments of unique biodiversity, increase scientific understanding of ecosystems and contribute to the conservation of flora and fauna affected by exploration, extraction and processing activities
- support research to expand scientific knowledge and develop improved technologies to protect the environment, and promote the international transfer of technologies that mitigate adverse environmental effects
- assist in the development of ecotourism
- contribute to government capacity in World Heritage management and support site management programs
- contribute to the promotion of the World Heritage Convention and sites through building awareness

b) In respect of Environmental Management and Protection, it can:

- encourage all those involved in the mining industry to better understand ecosystem management and adopt these principles
- work with governments and other relevant parties in developing sound, economic and equitable environmental standards and clear decision-making procedures, based on reliable and predictable criteria
- comply with all applicable environmental laws and regulations and, in jurisdictions where these are absent or inadequate, apply cost-effective technologies and management practices to ensure the protection of the environment and worker and community welfare
- conduct environmental assessments of exploration, infrastructure development, mining or processing activities, including secondary effects, and plan and conduct the design,

development, operation, remediation and closure of any facility in a manner that optimizes the economic use of resources while reducing adverse environmental and community impacts to acceptable levels

- employ risk management strategies and best practices that take account of local cultures and economic and environmental circumstances in the design, construction, operation and decommissioning (of mines), including the handling and disposal of hazardous materials and waste
- ensure that adequate financial resources or surety instruments are in place to meet the requirements of remediation and closure plans
- implement effective management systems, conduct regular reviews and act on the results
- develop, maintain and test emergency plans and response procedures in conjunction with the provider of emergency services, relevant authorities and local authorities to deal adequately with any emergency
- at the initial phases of mining projects, develop closure concepts and/or plans that address environmental and community-related issues as well as World Heritage values, in consultation with appropriate stakeholders
- encourage governments to establish communication mechanisms that will promote dialogue among local communities and other affected organizations, facilitate the provision of expert advice and serve in a regular planning and/or oversight capacity and establish effective processes for conflict resolution

c) In respect of Community Development, it can:

- assess the social, cultural, environmental and economic impacts of proposed activities and engage with local communities and other affected organizations in the design of community development strategies, including such a strategy for mine closure
- contribute to, and participate in, the social, economic and institutional development of communities, and encourage the establishment of sustainable local and regional economic activities

- in cooperation with international agencies, public interest groups and national governments, contribute to the development of local government capacity as well as to plans to address secondary impacts created by mining activity
- mitigate, to the greatest practical extent, adverse effects on communities by activities related to exploration, extraction and closure of mining and processing facilities
- provide adequate resources and build requisite capabilities so that employees at all levels are able to fulfill their environmental and community responsibilities
- develop relevant sustainable development monitoring indicators on a site-by-site basis
- respect the authority of national and regional governments, take into account their development objectives and support the sharing of the economic benefits generated by operations

Granting of Exploration Licenses

Finally, in respect of granting of exploration licenses, the mining industry should work with stakeholders to create clarity by defining the decision-making process, roles and responsibilities. It is expected that the granting of permits would carry a reasonable assurance of the right to develop, subject to appropriate approval mechanisms based on a clear decision-making process set out in advance.

v) FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The conclusion of the workshop was that a Working Group on World Heritage and Mining should be formed to carry forward the work in this important field.

It is important that the World Heritage Committee give its support to such a group. The group's membership should be drawn from various UN agencies, the advisory bodies, ICME and other interested par-

ties. It could be co-chaired by IUCN and ICME. The group should work closely with other consultative mechanisms such as MMSD and other initiatives.

If established, the group would be able to assist the World Heritage Committee in this area, and in particular it could:

- if invited, assist the Committee in any review of criteria used for assessing potential World Heritage sites
- arrange for the case studies presented at this meeting and the recommendations arising from the discussions to be widely publicized, possibly in the form of a best practice guidelines volume
- explore the interest in preparing a guidance document on World Heritage and mining
- plan a workshop and other activities on mining and World Heritage at the World Parks Congress in 2003
- investigate the development of databases of existing and potential World Heritage sites and other protected areas, along with mineral occurrences and public domain exploration information. This may involve the use of existing map databases of protected areas maintained by UNEP-WCMC.
- increase awareness, through all possible means, of the issues raised by the interaction of World Heritage sites and mining, involving World Heritage managers as appropriate
- investigate sources of funding for the group's program of work

In addition to its collaboration with ICME on World Heritage and mining, IUCN should consider how best to establish linkages with the wider mining sector on a broad range of issues concerning sustainable development, working with appropriate established initiatives.

ANNEX A: WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS*

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**See CD version of List of Participants for full contact details*

ANNEX B: WORKSHOP PROGRAM

September 21, 2000 – Chair David Sheppard IUCN

- 9:00 to 9:10 Welcome and Introductions — Maritta Koch-Weser, Director-General, IUCN and Dr. Irwin Itzkovitch, ICME
- 9:10 to 9:20 The relationship between sustainable development, protected areas, biodiversity conservation, economic development and cultural heritage conservation — David Sheppard, IUCN
- 9:20 to 9:40 World Heritage Convention: Goals, Objectives, Criteria, Issues and Challenges with Respect to WH and Mining — Mechtild Rössler, UNESCO
- 9:40 to 10:00 Overview by the mining industry of the nature of mining/metals and how it relates to the sustainable development objectives of society, including biodiversity protection and cultural heritage conservation — Dr. John Groom, Anglo American
- 10:00 to 10:20 Break
- 10:20 to 11:00 Perspectives from other international bodies on WH and mining
Béatrice Labonne, UN/DESA
Henry Cleere, ICOMOS
Javier Beltrán, UNEP-WCMC
Wanda Hoskin, UNEP
- 11:00 to 11:20 Perspectives from mining industry representatives on mining and WH
J. D. Robertson, Placer Dome Inc.
Bob Muth, ICME
Steven Botts, Compañía Minera Antamina SA
- 11:20 to 12:30 Facilitated discussion on issues and challenges identified by participants
- 12:30 to 13:30 Lunch
- CASE STUDIES
- 13:30 to 14:30 Lorentz National Park/Grasberg Mine, Indonesia
I.G.N.N. Sutedja (site manager) and Bruce E. Marsh (Freeport representative)
- 14:30 to 15:30 Ranger Mine and the Kakadu National Park, Australia
Peter Cochrane (park management) and Greg Sinclair (North Ltd.)
- 15:30 to 16:00 Break
- 16:00 to 17:00 Doñana National Park/Aznalcollar Mine, Spain
Lars-Ake Lindhal (Boliden AB) and Blanca Ramos (Doñana site manager)
- 17:00 to 18:00 Camp Caiman Gold Project, French Guiana
Frederick T. Graybeal (ASARCO Ltd.)
- 19:30 Cocktails and Dinner

September 22, 2000 – Chair Maxine Wiber, Rio Algom

- 9:30 to 10:30 Huascarán National Park/Antamina, Peru
Frida Caballero (park director), Jorge Recharte (The Mountain Institute) and
Steven Botts (Antamina representative)
- 10:30 to 11:00 Break
- 11:00 to 12:00 Greater St. Lucia Wetlands Park, South Africa
R.N. Porter (site manager) and Mike King (Richards Bay Minerals)
- 12:00 to 13:30 Lunch
- 13:30 to 14:30 General facilitated discussion on lessons learned, specific issues and considerations
identified in the case studies
- 14:30 to 15:00 Break
- 15:00 to 16:30 Facilitated discussion on general principles and considerations with respect to
exploration, design, operation and closure to be incorporated in the presentation
to the 24th Session of the WH Committee
- 16:30 to 17:00 Synopsis of conclusions, issues and challenges and direction to the Drafting Committee
on preparation of first draft — Chair

September 23, 2000 – Chair Adrian Phillips, WCPA/IUCN

- 10:00 to 12:00 Plenary Review and Initial Reactions on First Draft Principles and Considerations
- 12:00 to 12:30 Next Steps, Process and Schedule to Develop and Achieve Consensus on Final Draft –
Chair
- 12:30 Adjournment

EXCERPTS FROM THE CAIRNS REPORT RELATING TO WORLD HERITAGE AND MINING*

* Report of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee, Twenty-fourth session, held in Cairns, Australia, November 27 to December 2, 2000, which is reproduced on the accompanying CD-ROM.

VIII.44

The Committee recalled that in accordance with its request at its 23rd session, IUCN and the World Heritage Centre planned and organized, in consultation with the International Council on Metals and the Environment (ICME), a technical meeting which analyzed case studies on World Heritage and mining. This meeting was held at the IUCN Headquarters (Gland, Switzerland) from 21 to 23 September 2000 and reviewed practical case studies from the following sites: Lorentz National Park, Indonesia; Huascarán National Park, Peru; Doñana National Park, Spain; Camp Caiman Gold Project, French Guyana (adjacent to a Ramsar site); Kakadu National Park, Australia; and Greater St. Lucia Wetlands Park, South Africa.

VIII.45

The Committee noted the deliberations of the 24th extraordinary session of the Bureau on this matter included in working document WHC-2000/204/4.

VIII.46

The Observer of the United States stated that the discussions at the Bureau session on mining and World Heritage were helpful. This partially stems from the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) position statement on mining and World Heritage that had been discussed at past meetings of the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau. The Rapporteur's report of the 24th session cited IUCN's view "that this issue has been characterized by a lack of dialogue between conservation and mining interests." He agreed, and applauded IUCN, ICME and the Centre for holding a technical meeting in Gland (Switzerland) that included representatives of mining and conservation interests. He believed that there remained a need for more dialogue on this

issue to resolve outstanding issues. As a result, he requested that the Centre and IUCN consider holding a follow-up workshop on this issue to build on the progress made at the Gland meeting. Finally, he informed the Committee that the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Resources held a hearing on this subject in October 1999. The report of this hearing is available at <http://www.house.gov/resources>, listed as document 106-80.

VIII.47

The Delegate of Canada supported the comments by the United States of America and recommended that the proceedings of the workshop be published. Concerning the specific recommendations of the workshop, his country would see the preparation of guidelines on World Heritage and mining and the dissemination of the results of the workshop as a priority. The Delegate of Hungary noted that this issue is a breakthrough in terms of a strategic policy development and requested that progress made in this matter be brought back to the next Committee session and that possibly similar strategic issues, such as World Heritage and tourism, be raised.

VIII.48

In summing up the discussion, the Chairperson said that the Committee agreed to the establishment of a Working Group on World Heritage and Mining to carry forward the work in this important field.

VIII.49

The Committee noted the recommendations of the report for transmission to the various key actors. The recommendations of the Workshop are contained in Annex XV (of the full report, included on the CD-ROM).

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ICOMOS – International Council of Monuments and Sites

MMSD – Mining Minerals and Sustainable Development project

UN/DESA – United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs

UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme

UNEP-WCMC – United Nations Environment Programme - World Conservation Monitoring Centre

UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

WCPA – World Commission on Protected Areas

WPC – World Parks Congress