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REPORT BY THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE ON ITS ACTIVITIES (1998-1999)

OUTLINE

Source: Article 29.3 of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

Background: The Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage was established by the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by the General Conference at its 17th session, 16 November 1972.

Purpose: This report provides information on the increase of the World Heritage sites and their state of conservation, on the World Heritage Fund and the cooperation activities carried out under this Fund. Particular emphasis has been placed during this biennium on the representativity of the World Heritage List, the periodic reporting by States Parties on the application of the Convention and on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties and on the training of World Heritage site managers.

Decision required: No decision is required on this document.

I. COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

1. The number of States Parties having deposited an instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession in respect of the World Heritage Convention was 152 at the beginning of the eleventh General Assembly, which met during the 29th session of the General Conference of UNESCO (Paris, 1997). On 15 July 1999, the number of States Parties had increased to 157. The list of States Parties is available upon request.¹

2. At its eleventh session, the General Assembly elected seven members of the Committee to replace those members whose terms of office were due to expire. The World Heritage Committee is composed at present as follows:

Australia,**² Benin,** Brazil,* Canada,** Cuba,** Ecuador,** Finland,***
France,* Greece,*** Hungary,*** Italy,* Japan,* Lebanon,* Malta,** Mexico,***
Morocco,** Niger,* Republic of Korea,*** Thailand,*** United States* and
Zimbabwe.***

3. Since the previous report, submitted to the General Conference during its 29th session (29 C/REP.10), the Committee has met twice: the first time at the invitation of the Italian authorities from 1 to 6 December 1997 in Naples (Italy), and the second, at the invitation of the Japanese authorities, in Kyoto (Japan) from 30 November to 5 December 1998. It has also held two extraordinary sessions: one in October 1997 to elect new Bureau members following the election of new Committee members during the eleventh General Assembly of States Parties, and the other on 12 July 1999 to discuss the case of the Kakadu National Park of Australia, as approved by the Committee at its twenty-second session in December 1998.

4. The Bureau of the Committee met twice in 1998. In 1999, the first meeting was held in July and the second will be held in November. It is composed as follows:

From December 1997 to December 1998

Chairperson: Mr Francesco Francioni (Italy)
Vice-Chairpersons: Benin, Ecuador, Japan, Morocco and United States
Rapporteur: Mr Noël Fattal (Lebanon)

Since December 1998

Chairperson: Mr Koïchiro Matsuura (Japan)
Vice-Chairpersons: Benin, Cuba, Italy, Morocco and Republic of Korea
Rapporteur: Mr Janos Jelen (Hungary)

5. As stipulated in the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*, the World Heritage Committee, hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”, has five essential functions:

¹ The list of current States Parties is on the Internet at: <http://www.unesco.org/whc/wldrat.htm>

² * States whose terms of office will expire at the end of the 30th session of the General Conference.

** States whose terms of office will expire at the end of the 31st session of the General Conference.

*** States whose terms of office will expire at the end of the 32nd session of the General Conference.

- (i) to identify, on the basis of nominations submitted by States Parties, cultural and natural properties of outstanding universal value which are to be protected under the Convention, and to list these properties on the “World Heritage List” (Sections II and III of this report);
- (ii) to monitor, in liaison with the States Parties, the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List (Section IV);
- (iii) to decide which properties inscribed on the World Heritage List are to be included on the List of World Heritage in Danger (Section IV);
- (iv) to determine the most appropriate ways and conditions under which the resources of the World Heritage Fund can be used to assist States Parties, as far as possible, in the protection of their properties of outstanding universal value (Sections V and VI); and
- (v) in addition, the Committee, through the World Heritage Fund, is active in its support of States Parties’ public awareness-building and educational activities for World Heritage conservation (Section VII).

The Secretariat of the World Heritage Committee is provided by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

II. THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

6. On the basis of nominations put forward by States Parties in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention, the World Heritage Committee has, since its last report to the General Conference, inscribed 76 new properties on the World Heritage List. As of 1 January 1999 the total number of inscriptions on the World Heritage List numbered 582, distributed as follows: 445 cultural properties, 117 natural properties and 20 mixed properties. A copy of the World Heritage List is available upon request.³

7. Article 11 of the Convention asks States Parties to prepare an “inventory” of properties they intend to nominate for inscription during the following five to ten years to enable the Committee to evaluate within the widest possible context the “outstanding universal value” of each property nominated for inclusion on the List. In view of the increasing number of nominations from States Parties, the Committee determined at its twelfth session in 1988 that nominations of cultural properties would not be examined unless the State Party concerned had previously submitted such an inventory, or “tentative list”. As of 15 July 1999, 104 of the 157 States Parties had submitted tentative lists of cultural, natural and mixed properties, an increase of 44 per cent since the last General Conference. Tentative lists also assist the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) in evaluating new cultural and mixed property nominations.

8. In establishing the World Heritage List, the Committee has been guided by the recent development of a “Global Strategy for a Credible and Representative World Heritage List” (see Section III). Inscribed properties must meet the requirements of outstanding universal value stipulated by the Convention, and must also satisfy specific criteria adopted by the Committee for the evaluation of cultural and natural properties, set out in the Committee’s “Operational

³ WHC.99/3, January 1999. On the Internet at: <http://www.unesco.org/whc/heritage.htm>

Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention”.⁴ The Committee considers each nomination and takes note of the evaluations by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and/or the World Conservation Union (IUCN), which, together with the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and the Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), attend the meetings of the Committee in an advisory capacity.

III. GLOBAL STRATEGY

9. Following decisions taken by the World Heritage Committee at its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions, in 1992 and 1993, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS requested in 1994 a working group to study the representativity of the World Heritage List and the methodology to use for its definition and implementation. The aim of the meeting was to identify the best ways and means to ensure a more representative World Heritage List. The report of the expert meeting on “Global Strategy” endorsed by the Committee at its eighteenth session, emphasized the geographical, chronological and spiritual imbalance of the List, identified a number of themes (to be considered in their widest possible anthropological context) aimed at improving these shortcomings, and in this respect, suggested a regional approach recommending revisions to the cultural criteria with a view to redressing these imbalances.

10. Following the expert meeting of Le Parc national de la Vanoise (1996), and the request of the Committee, at its twentieth session, that a joint meeting of cultural and natural heritage experts be held, the Government of the Netherlands hosted the “World Heritage Global Strategy Natural and Cultural Heritage Expert Meeting” in Amsterdam in March 1998. The group of experts stressed that the *Convention* should be seen as a holistic document which unifies cultural and natural heritage, and to that end proposed a unified set of evaluation criteria with integrity and authenticity provisions for the inclusion of properties on the World Heritage List. The experts also strongly urged that the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* should ensure recognition and protection of outstanding interactions between people and the “natural” environment. In addition, the experts recommended the strengthening of management, monitoring and local participation in conservation.

11. In accordance with the decisions of the Committee, regional and thematic meetings on cultural landscapes were held in the *Andean* region (Peru, May 1998) with the participation of 20 experts from six countries and in *Africa* (Kenya, March 1999) with the participation of 15 experts from eight countries. A cultural landscape meeting in *Eastern Europe* was held in Poland in September 1999. In 1998, an expert meeting on Cultural Heritage of the *Caribbean* and the World Heritage Convention was held in Martinique and attended by 12 experts from francophone, anglophone and hispanophone countries. In the same year, the fourth Global Strategy meeting for *West Africa* was held at Porto-Novo (Benin), with the participation of 30 experts from 11 countries. In late 1999, a subregional meeting on *Central Asian* heritage will be held in Turkmenistan with the participation of 16 experts from nine countries. In August, a subregional meeting on Global Strategy in the *Pacific* was held in Vanuatu, in cooperation with the Pacific Islands Museums Association (PIMA).

12. In the framework of the advisory bodies’ contributions to the Global Strategy, ICOMOS has successfully completed seven comparative studies. IUCN has produced two publications in 1997/1998: “A General Overview of Wetland and Marine Protected Areas on the World Heritage List” and “A Global Overview of Forest Protected Areas on the World Heritage List”,

⁴ WHC.99/2, March 1999. <http://www.unesco.org/whc/opgutoc.htm>

as well as two new thematic studies on “The Human Use of World Heritage Natural Sites” and “A Global Overview of Geological Features in Natural World Heritage Sites”. Furthermore, a study on “Protected Areas of Exceptional Biodiversity” is under preparation.

13. At its twenty-second session in December 1998, the Committee adopted regional plans of action (Africa, Arab States, Asia, Pacific, Europe and North America, Latin America and the Caribbean) concerning natural and cultural heritage and emphasized their indissociable character. Furthermore, in accordance with the recommendation of the Consultative Body (see also Section VI), the Committee adopted a master action plan defining the common priorities of the regional action plans. The report of the twenty-second session of the Committee reflects the richness of the debate on the question of representativity of the World Heritage List. The Committee “stressed the urgent need to establish a representative World Heritage List and considered it imperative to ensure more participation of those States Parties whose heritage is currently under-represented on the World Heritage List”. The Committee therefore decided to include this question on the agenda of the twelfth General Assembly of States Parties in October 1999. The Committee thus wished to inform all the States of the importance of the Global Strategy and the evolution of the issue. The General Assembly will therefore examine a draft resolution which will define the ways and means to ensure a more representative World Heritage List. In general, the actions undertaken have encouraged proposals for the inscription of new types of properties on the World Heritage List and the recognition of the need for it to be more balanced and representative of cultural diversity.

14. A revision of the “inscription criteria” was submitted to the twenty-third session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee in July 1999.

IV. STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

15. The World Heritage Committee, in reviewing the implementation of the World Heritage Convention on the occasion of its twentieth anniversary in 1992, recognized monitoring and reporting on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List as an essential function. Making a distinction between *periodic reporting* and *reactive monitoring*, the Committee allocated amounts of US \$240,000 in 1998 and US \$270,000 in 1999 for support to States Parties for periodic reporting activities, and amounts of US \$120,000 (1998) and US \$195,000 (1999) for reactive monitoring.

Periodic reporting

16. Following extensive discussions at the tenth and eleventh General Assemblies of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, the General Conference at its 29th session adopted a resolution in which it “invited the States Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage to submit to it in accordance with Article 29 of the Convention, through the World Heritage Committee, via its Secretariat, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, reports on the legislative and administrative provisions they have adopted and other actions which they have taken for the application of the Convention, including the state of conservation of the World Heritage properties located on their territories”. It also “requested the World Heritage Committee to define the periodicity, form, nature and extent of the periodic reporting on the application of the World Heritage Convention and on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties and to examine and respond to these reports in accordance with the principle of State sovereignty”.

17. In response to this request, the World Heritage Committee, at its twenty-second session held in December 1998, invited States Parties to submit periodic reports every six years using a Format and Explanatory Notes that the Committee adopted at the same session. It also decided to examine the States Parties' periodic reports region by region as per the following timetable:

Region	Examination of properties inscribed up to and including	Year of examination by Committee
Arab States	1992	2000
Africa	1993	2001
Asia and the Pacific	1994	2002
Latin America and the Caribbean	1995	2003
Europe and North America	1996/1997	2004/2005

The Committee will examine at its twenty-third session in December 1999 regional strategies for the implementation of the above timetable.

18. The decision-making process on the application of Article 29 of the World Heritage Convention is herewith concluded. There is no doubt that the periodic reporting will become a major challenge for the States Parties, the Secretariat, the World Heritage statutory bodies and the advisory bodies to the World Heritage Committee (IUCN, ICOMOS and ICCROM). A close coordination and cooperation between all the partners involved is a prerequisite for this process to be beneficial to all of them and to contribute to a strengthened implementation of the Convention.

Reactive monitoring

19. In 1998-1999, reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger were submitted to the Committee. On the basis of these reports, the Committee decided to remove Plitvice Lakes National Park (Croatia) (at its twenty-first session) and the Old City of Dubrovnik (Croatia) and the Wieliczka Salt Mines (Poland) (at its twenty-second session) from the List of World Heritage in Danger. At the twenty-first session, four properties were added to the List of World Heritage in Danger: Okapi Faunal Reserve and the Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo), the Manova-Gounda St Floris National Park (Central African Republic) and Butrinti (Albania).

20. Twenty-three properties are at present inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger (15 natural and eight cultural properties, see Annex) and special attention, as well as financial considerations, are accorded to them by the Committee.

21. Furthermore, each year, the Committee and its Bureau examined up to 90 reports on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties and made specific recommendations to the States Parties for corrective or preventive measures.

V. THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND

(i) Contributions

22. As at 31 July 1999, contributions received from States Parties for the period **1998-1999** amounted to **US \$5,065,300**, of which US \$3,049,193 were mandatory contributions and US \$2,016,107 voluntary contributions. Mandatory contributions still receivable as at 31 July 1999 amounted to **US \$3,092,486** taking into account the total of unpaid contributions for the years 1998-1999 and the previous years. It is recalled that paragraph 4 of Article 16 of the World Heritage Convention stipulates that “voluntary contributions shall be paid on a regular basis **at least every two years**, and should not be less than the contributions which they should have paid if they had been bound by the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article”. There was a cash balance of **US \$6,147,374** as at 31 July 1999.

(ii) Budget

23. The budgets approved by the World Heritage Committee respectively for its twenty-first (Naples, December 1997) and twenty-second (Kyoto, December 1998) sessions for 1998 and 1999 are as follows:

	1998	1999
	US \$	US \$
World Heritage Fund	4,160,750	4,676,000
Emergency Reserve Fund	500,000	600,000

Advisory services

24. To provide the necessary advisory services in accordance with the World Heritage Convention, the following amounts were allocated to the advisory bodies (as shown) during 1998 and 1999:

	1998	1999
	US \$	US \$
ICOMOS	327,000	407,000
IUCN	237,750	325,000
Others	40,000	30,000

Assistance to States Parties

25. From 1 January 1998 to 31 July 1999, various types of international assistance have been provided to States Parties from the World Heritage Fund. The detailed list of projects (in English and French) implemented in different regions of the world is available upon request.

(a) Preparatory assistance: At its twenty-first and twenty-second sessions, the World Heritage Committee granted, respectively, preparatory assistance of US \$300,000 for 1998 and US \$300,000 for 1999. As at 31 May 1999, the 1999 allocation of US \$300,000 for preparatory assistance had been completely committed for 22 activities. During the twenty-third session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee, the Secretariat stressed the need to increase this annual allocation for 19 additional requests submitted by the States Parties as of 8 July 1999. To overcome the current impasse, the Government of Japan announced a special contribution

of up to US \$300,000 from the UNESCO Japan funds-in-trust for financing preparatory assistance requests. Assistance for the preparation of tentative lists of properties suitable for inclusion on the World Heritage List, the preparation of nomination dossiers or projects was provided to the following States Parties:

1998

Natural property (N), Cultural property (C) and Mixed sites (M)

Africa: Benin (2 x C/1N), Ethiopia (C), Malawi (C), United Republic of Tanzania (C); **Arab States:** Egypt (2 x C), Syrian Arab Republic (2 x C), Oman (C); **Asia and the Pacific:** Pakistan (C), Malaysia (N/C), Philippines (N), Viet Nam (C), Bangladesh (C), Papua New Guinea (N); **Europe and North America:** Armenia (C), Azerbaijan (C), Lithuania (N/C), Slovakia (C), United Kingdom (C), **Latin America and the Caribbean:** Ecuador (C), Guyana (N), Uruguay (C), Argentina (N).

1999

Africa: Benin (2 x N), Niger (mixed), Nigeria (mixed); **Arab States:** Lebanon (2 x C and M), Oman (C); **Asia and the Pacific:** Fiji (M), Lao People's Democratic Republic (2 x C), Mongolia (C), Nepal (C), Pakistan (C), Papua New Guinea (N), Republic of Korea (C); **Europe and North America:** Georgia (2 x C), Hungary (C), Slovakia (M), Spain (C); **Latin America and the Caribbean:** Bolivia (N), Brazil (N), Mexico (C).

(b) Technical co-operation: At its twenty-first and twenty-second sessions, the World Heritage Committee approved respectively, a budget of US \$1,032,500 for 1998 and US \$1,220,471 for 1999. In 1998, an amount of US \$854,870 had been implemented as of 31 December 1998. In 1999, an amount of US \$1,077,137 was approved as at 31 July 1999.

(c) Training: At its twenty-first and twenty-second sessions, the World Heritage Committee granted, respectively, for 1998 US \$982,500 and for 1999 US \$981,000 for training activities. The Committee continued to give priority to group training rather than individual fellowships. A total amount of US \$844,865 had been implemented as of 31 December 1998. In 1999, an amount of US \$941,540 was approved as of 31 July 1999.

(d) On-site promotional activities: In 1998, an amount of US \$125,000 was allocated for on-site promotional activities of which US \$124,998 had been implemented as at 31 December 1998. In 1999, an amount of US \$100,000 was budgeted for this activity under which US \$122,000 have been approved for 25 activities.

(e) Emergency assistance: Thanks to a reserve fund for emergency assistance of US \$500,000 in 1998, established from the operating reserves of the World Heritage Fund, several rapid interventions have made it possible to contribute and respond to emergency requests approved for an exceptional total amount of **US \$655,250** for both the cultural and the natural heritage. Actual implementation of 1998 approved projects amounted to **US \$323 155**. An amount of **US \$624,529** was approved for 1999 (including US \$24,529 shifted from the Technical Cooperation 1999 Budget as decided by the twenty-third session of the Bureau in July 1999) of which 10 emergency requests totalling US \$566,529 were approved as at 31 July 1999.

26. Assistance for work relating to cultural and natural properties inscribed or suitable for inscription on the World Heritage List and which had undergone or were threatened by serious

damage due to unpredictable and sudden phenomena, was provided for the period 1 January 1998 to 31 July 1999 to the following States Parties:

1998

Africa: Democratic Republic of the Congo (N); **Arab States:** Morocco (C), Mauritania (C); **Asia and the Pacific:** India (N), Viet Nam (C); **Europe and North America:** Albania (C); **Latin America and the Caribbean:** Colombia (C), El Salvador (C), Honduras (C), Nicaragua (N), Peru (C).

1999

Africa: Democratic Republic of the Congo (N); **Arab States:** Mauritania (C); **Asia and the Pacific:** China (N); **Europe and North America:** Albania (C), Armenia (C), Malta (C); **Latin America and the Caribbean:** Brazil (C), Dominican Republic (C), Ecuador (C), Honduras (C).

VI. CONSULTATIVE BODY OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Background

27. At its twentieth session in December 1996, the World Heritage Committee requested a Financial Audit of the World Heritage Fund for the year ending 31 December 1996 and a Management Review of the World Heritage Convention. Furthermore, the Committee established a Consultative Body “to take action on the proposal adopted by the Committee, to undertake a review of the way in which the World Heritage Centre has assisted the Committee in implementing the World Heritage Convention”.

28. At its twenty-first session in December 1997, the Committee had requested that the Consultative Body examine four issues and present a report to the twenty-second session of the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau:

1. technical issues;
2. communications and promotion;
3. management review and financial audit;
4. use of the World Heritage Emblem and fund-raising guidelines.

29. The Consultative Body had asked Professor Francioni (Italy) to Chair the Consultative Body in 1998. Members of the Consultative Body were Australia, Benin, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Malta, Mexico, United States and Zimbabwe. A meeting of the Consultative Body was held at UNESCO Headquarters on 29 and 30 April 1998. At the invitation of the Chairperson, representatives of Germany and Greece also attended, as did observers from Ecuador and Hungary and the Director of the World Heritage Centre. The report of the Rapporteur of the meeting of the Consultative Body was adopted on 24 June 1998 and was subsequently discussed by the twenty-second ordinary and extraordinary sessions of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee (22-27 June and 27-28 November 1998) and the twenty-second session of the World Heritage Committee (30 November-5 December 1998).

Technical issues

30. The following technical issues were examined by the Consultative Body at the request of the twenty-first session of the Committee:

- (a) the application of cultural criteria (i) and (vi);
- (b) the test of authenticity;
- (c) the imbalance of the World Heritage List; and
- (d) the implementation of the Global Strategy.

31. The Consultative Body also referred to some of the main findings of the World Heritage Global Strategy Natural and Cultural Heritage Expert Meeting, held in Amsterdam in March 1998. The Committee adopted a number of decisions, seeking to ensure more participation of those States Parties whose heritage is currently under-represented on the World Heritage List through stronger implementation of the *Global Strategy for a credible and representative World Heritage List*. The Committee also requested the World Heritage Centre to work with the advisory bodies, to further develop the revision of Section I of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* and submit them to the twenty-third session of the Bureau. The Bureau would then submit for adoption its recommendations to the twenty-third session of the World Heritage Committee. Furthermore, the Committee requested that the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the advisory bodies present a progress report on the implementation of the regional actions described in the Global Strategy Action Plan adopted by the Committee at its twenty-second session to the twenty-third session of the Committee. Finally, the Committee requested that an agenda item on “Ways and means to ensure a representative World Heritage List” be presented to the twelfth General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention in 1999. The twenty-third session of the Bureau was asked to prepare the agenda item for the General Assembly.

Communication and Promotion

32. A discussion paper was prepared by Canada on the issue of Communication and Promotion and examined by the Consultative Body during its meeting in Paris in April 1998. Three recommendations were formulated in the proposal and adopted by the Consultative Body: the first recommendation called for the adoption of a set of principles and guidelines for future governance of the communication and promotional activities. The second called for a strategic plan and the third for a business case of the *World Heritage Review*. A strategic plan for World Heritage Documentation, Information and Education activities and a business case of the *Review* were therefore prepared by the Secretariat as requested and submitted to the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-second session in Kyoto, Japan. The Committee noted the quality of the strategic plan and agreed to continue to support the *Review* by providing funds for coordination, editing and quality control of the articles, while stressing the need to develop the specificity of the *Review* and expressing concern about its sustainability. The actions required by the Secretariat, as formulated in Recommendations II and III, were carried out and supported by the Committee. However, the principles and guidelines proposed in Recommendation I were not formally adopted by the World Heritage Committee due to lack of time. Recommendation I has therefore been brought before the twenty-third session of the World Heritage Committee in December 1999 for adoption.

Management review and financial audit

Follow-up to the “Report of the External Auditor to the Director-General of UNESCO on the Management Review of the World Heritage Convention”

33. The “Report of the External Auditor to the Director-General of UNESCO on the Management Review of the World Heritage Convention” was submitted to its twenty-first session in December 1997. The recommendations of the Management Review and Financial Audit were discussed at the April 1998 Consultative Body meeting with reference to a discussion paper prepared jointly by France and Italy. The twenty-second session of the Bureau examined the report of the Rapporteur of the Consultative Body and prepared a number of recommendations. The recommendations of the twenty-second session of the Bureau were presented to the twenty-second session of the Committee.

34. A Progress Report on Follow-up to the “Report of the External Auditor to the Director-General of UNESCO on the Management Review of the World Heritage Convention” was presented to the twenty-second session of the World Heritage Committee in December 1998. However, it could not examine the progress report in detail, due to time constraints.

35. The Committee requested the twenty-third session of the Bureau to examine the Progress Report on Follow-up to the “Report of the External Auditor to the Director-General of UNESCO on the Management Review of the World Heritage Convention” prepared by the Centre. Furthermore, the Committee asked that the twenty-third session of the Bureau present its own report and recommendations on the subject to the twenty-third session of the World Heritage Committee for adoption.

Role and functions of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre

36. At its twenty-second session in June 1998, the Bureau requested that the Director-General of UNESCO provide a report outlining “the tasks and functions of the World Heritage Centre as Secretariat to the Convention”.

37. At the request of the twenty-second session of the Committee, the “Green Note” entitled the “Preservation and Presentation of Cultural and Natural Heritage” issued by the Director-General on 23 November 1998 (DG/Note/98/53) was presented to the Committee.

38. Following considerable debate as to how best to express the vision they have for the future of the Centre, the twenty-second session of the Committee repeated the request made by the twenty-second session of the Bureau in June 1998. The Committee requested the Director-General to prepare a report to include reference to the tasks and functions of the World Heritage Centre as Secretariat to the Convention for presentation to the twenty-third session of the Bureau (5-10 July 1999). There has been another note by the Director-General on “Adjusting the structure of the Culture Sector” (DG/Note/99/9) issued on 19 March 1999 which refers to the synergy between the World Heritage Centre, the Cultural Heritage Division and the Division of Ecological Sciences.

39. The Bureau of the World Heritage Committee, at its twenty-third session in July 1999, expressed the wish that the States Parties support the need to reinforce the working capacity of the World Heritage Centre. The Bureau also requested the Director-General to request the General Conference at its 30th session, during its approval of the Programme and Budget for 2000-2001 of the Organization, to give favourable consideration to the needs and resources of

the World Heritage Centre so that it may ensure the implementation of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

Use of the World Heritage Emblem and fund-raising guidelines

40. After many years of debate on the issue of the use of the World Heritage Emblem and fund-raising for world heritage, the twenty-first session of the Committee decided to entrust these matters to the Consultative Body for further examination. Japan and the United States undertook to prepare a proposal for new guidelines on these issues. At its meeting in April 1998, the Consultative Body discussed the proposed guidelines and decided that these should be amended, in cooperation with the Secretariat, to reflect the discussions of the group. The amended proposal was examined by the twenty-second ordinary and extraordinary sessions of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee (22-27 June and 27-28 November 1998) and then submitted for approval to the twenty-second session of the World Heritage Committee (30 November to 5 December 1998). The Committee adopted new Guidelines and Principles for the use of the World Heritage Emblem which were included in the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the Convention* as Annex 3. Furthermore, the Committee directed the World Heritage Centre to work in accordance with the "Internal Guidelines for Private Sector Fund-raising in Favour of UNESCO" for matters related to fund-raising for the World Heritage Fund.

VII. WORLD HERITAGE PROMOTION AND EDUCATION

41. Public awareness-building being fundamental to the transmission of values and knowledge, and sense of individual responsibility for the protection of world heritage, as clearly indicated in the World Heritage Convention, information and promotional activities over the past two years have focused on the dissemination of world heritage information to as wide a sector of the general public as possible. In 1998, a strategic plan for World Heritage Information, Documentation and Education Activities was developed, as recommended by the Consultative Body of the World Heritage Committee, and presented to the twenty-second session of the World Heritage Committee. This strategic plan, essentially targeting the States Parties, in support of their efforts to implement the Convention, and the international community, was elaborated to help respond to the growing need for information about the Convention and the sites under its protection. It focuses primarily on the creation of new partnerships and addresses some of the problems such as limited distribution of information materials produced by UNESCO owing to insufficient print-runs and distribution capacity. The strategy plan emphasizes the need for cooperation from States Parties and stresses the importance of international mass media involvement to guarantee maximum information dissemination.

42. The proposed annual work plan includes the following activities: the improvement of the information management of the World Heritage Centre through electronic conversion of documents to strengthen the Centre's capacity to handle a growing number of documents (see below); the continued production of the World Heritage Information Package; support to the publication of the World Heritage Review; the duplication of a French-language slide pack and the translation into Spanish of the travelling exhibit on the World Heritage conservation process. This work plan also includes the Internet and World Heritage Information Network activities such as: the annual update of the website; the introduction of geographic information and maps to the website and a website expansion. It also focuses on existing partnerships with the media and publishers and plans to expand the network of current partners by introducing

new participants specialized in other methods of communication, such as radio, to reach different target groups.

43. A three-year work plan offering opportunities for periodic review by the Committee was proposed for the first time. This three-year work plan will be reduced to a two-year plan after the year 2001 to coincide with the UNESCO biennium cycle.

Statutory documentation

44. The World Heritage Centre has placed particular emphasis on establishing a modern document and information management system to enable better decision- and policy-making. Statutory documentation includes the reports of statutory and expert meetings, site nomination dossiers, state of conservation reports and mission reports. To facilitate access and utilization, the highest priority was given to converting these documents into electronic formats, allowing search capability and rapid access to information. These electronic files now include the texts and graphic material from the nomination dossiers of all sites inscribed on the World Heritage List.

45. As approved by the twenty-first session of the Committee, a group of international experts met with staff of the World Heritage Centre in March 1998 to review the information management of the Centre's operations. It recommended the introduction of a new management information system to integrate existing information sources within the Centre, making the resulting information available for the first time to Centre staff, advisory bodies, Committee members and other units in UNESCO. This would provide with real-time access to the digitized nomination dossiers and mission reports, state of conservation files, and the most current international assistance decisions. With assistance from the World Heritage Committee, Finland, United Kingdom and the United States, the first stage of this system will become a reality by late 1999.

46. The UNESCO special project: "Young people's participation in world heritage preservation and promotion" continues to be implemented jointly by the World Heritage Centre and the Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) of UNESCO's Education Sector. The project aims to develop new educational approaches to raise young people's awareness about world heritage, and promote attitudes and competence in favour of the protection of the world's outstanding natural and cultural heritage. The project received wide acclaim and support from the World Heritage Committee.

47. After four years of preparation by a UNESCO team, with the inputs from several international experts, an innovative educational resource Kit for teachers entitled "World Heritage in Young Hands" has been produced (2,500 copies in English and 1,500 copies in French). The Kit is now available for testing in Associated Schools and other secondary schools (especially those near world heritage properties) throughout the world. The Kit was prepared with financial support from the Rhône-Poulenc Foundation of France. More than 1,300 copies of the Kit were distributed to schools via National Commissions for UNESCO at the beginning of 1999. Another 600 copies were sent to UNESCO field offices. UNESCO has received 45 requests for the translation and publication of the Kit in national language versions.

48. With support from the World Heritage Committee, the World Heritage Centre, the Education Sector of UNESCO and the Osaka Junior Chamber Inc. of Japan, a second International World Heritage Youth Forum was held in Japan in November 1998. A World Heritage Youth Forum was organized on the Island of Gorée, Senegal from 21 to 27 August 1999. This event brought together students and teachers from English-speaking Africa, as well

as from the Caribbean, to talk about world heritage preservation at a site with powerful associations with the slave trade. Also, the first Arab States World Heritage Youth Forum will be held in Morocco from 23 to 28 November 1999 in co-operation with the Moroccan National Commission for UNESCO. The aim is to follow up the Committee's request for greater implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Arab States. Thirteen States Parties in the region have been invited to participate in this Youth Forum.

49. With a view to examining the overall development of this special project, an International Workshop on World Heritage Education was organized by the World Heritage Centre and UNESCO's Education Sector in Chartres, France in February 1999. Participants from UNESCO field offices of different regions of the world, experts from the advisory bodies to the World Heritage Committee (ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN) discussed and prepared an Action Plan for the future implementation of the project (1999-2001) and guidelines for subregional teacher-training courses in favour of world heritage education.

50. A new brochure describing the project was produced in English and French in September 1998 and reprinted in April 1999. More than 2,000 copies were distributed to Associated Schools worldwide and as a result UNESCO received numerous requests for further cooperation. Also, a bilingual flyer (English and French) introducing the Kit was produced in six thousand copies. A 14-minute video presenting the special project has been produced in 1999 for distribution to all Member States of UNESCO.

ANNEX

**PROPERTIES WHICH THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE
DECIDED TO INCLUDE IN THE LIST OF
WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER**

Contracting State having submitted the nomination in accordance with the Convention	Name of property	Date of inscription
Albania	Butrinti	6/12/1997 Naples, 21st session of the Committee
Benin	Royal Palaces of Abomey	6/12/1985 Paris, 9th session of the Committee
Bulgaria	Srebarna Nature Reserve	14/12/1992 Santa Fe, 16th session of the Committee
Cambodia	Angkor	14/12/1992 Santa Fe, 16th session of the Committee
Central African Republic	Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park	6/12/1997 Naples, 21st session of the Committee
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Virunga National Park	17/12/1994 Phuket, 18th session of the Committee
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Garamba National Park	7/12/1996 Merida, 20th session of the Committee
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Kahuzi-Biega National Park	6/12/1997 Naples, 21st session of the Committee
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Okapi Wildlife Reserve	6/12/1997 Naples, 21st session of the Committee
Ecuador	Sangay National Park	14/12/1992 Santa Fe, 16th session of the Committee

Ethiopia	Simien National Park	7/12/1996 Merida, 20th session of the Committee
Guinea/Côte d'Ivoire	Mount Nimba Nature Reserve	14/12/1992 Santa Fe, 16th session of the Committee
Honduras	Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve	7/12/1996 Merida, 20th session of the Committee
India	Manas Wildlife Sanctuary	14/12/1992 Santa Fe, 16th session of the Committee
Jerusalem (site proposed by Jordan)	Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls	17/12/1982 Paris, 6th session of the Committee
Mali	Timbuktu	12/12/1990 Banff, 14th session of the Committee
Niger	Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves	14/12/1992 Santa Fe, 16th session of the Committee
Oman	Bahla Fort	9/12/1988 Brasilia, 12th session of the Committee
Peru	Chan Chan Archaeological Zone	28/11/1986 Paris, 10th session of the Committee
Tunisia	Ichkeul National Park	7/12/1996 Merida, 20th session of the Committee
United States	Everglades National Park	11/12/1993 Cartagena, 17th session of the Committee
United States	Yellowstone	9/12/1995 Berlin, 19th session of the Committee
Yugoslavia	Natural and Cultural/Historical Region of Kotor	26/10/1979 Luxor, 3rd session of the Committee

see also: <http://www.unesco.org/whc/danglist.htm>