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CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE
Twenty-third session

Marrakesh, Morocco
29 November – 4 December 1999

Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda: Report of the Secretariat on the activities undertaken since the twenty-second session of the World Heritage Committee

Summary

This document presents an overview of activities carried out by the World Heritage Centre, between December 1998 and November 1999 according to the following subject headings:

1. Introduction
2. Establishment of the World Heritage List
3. Monitoring and reporting on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger
4. Technical implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*
5. World Heritage documentation, information, education and awareness-raising strategy
6. Overall functioning of the *World Heritage Convention*

Further details may be found in the relevant working documents (WHC-99/CONF.209/1 to WHC-99/CONF.209/21) and information documents (WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.1 to WHC-99/CONF.204/INF.23), presented to the twenty-third session of the World Heritage Committee.

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- (vi) Overall management of the World Heritage Centre in 1999

1. Introduction

The year 1999 marked remarkable progress in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention with six statutory meetings, including two extraordinary sessions of the Committee in July and October. Despite the increasing workload of the Secretariat, tremendous efforts have been made by the Secretariat to ensure follow-up activities on the decisions and recommendations made by the Committee and its Bureau. Procedural progress was made on the monitoring and reporting the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger. Special achievements have been attained for a balanced and representative World Heritage List with the adoption of the resolution at the Twelfth General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention (28-29 October 1999).

This document presents an overview of the main activities carried out by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (Paris, France) in servicing the statutory organs and the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention between December 1998 and November 1999. This work was undertaken in close co-operation with the States Parties, the advisory bodies (ICCRUM, ICOMOS and IUCN), other sectors of UNESCO and external partners. This summary report will be supplemented by an oral report by the Director of the World Heritage Centre to be presented to the Committee.

Detailed information on these activities may be found in the relevant working documents (**WHC-99/CONF.209/1** to **WHC-99/CONF.209/21**) and information documents (**WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.1** to **WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.23**), presented to the twenty-third session of the World Heritage Committee.

Additional information on some of these activities is available on the World Heritage Centre's web site www.unesco.org/whc.

2. Establishment of the World Heritage List

(i) New States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention*

The total number of States Parties to the *Convention* has increased to **158** since the twenty-second session of the World Heritage Committee with **Chad** and **Israel** as new States Parties.¹

(ii) The World Heritage List

Following the inscription of 30 new sites by the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-second session in December 1998, the World Heritage List now includes a total of **582** properties (**445** cultural properties, **117** natural properties and **20** mixed properties) located in **114** States Parties.

Nominations to the World Heritage List: 1999

The Bureau at its twenty-third session examined a total of **69** new nominations (**16** natural, **48** cultural and **5** mixed cultural and natural properties). In addition, proposals for the extension of 4 cultural properties were also reviewed. Detailed information can be found in the working document **WHC-98/CONF.209/11**. The majority of new nominations received for 1999 continue to be received from Western European countries. The Committee will be examining

¹ The Convention will come into force for the 158th State Party, Israel, on 6 January 2000.

nominations from five States Parties (Bosnia and Herzegovina, South Africa, Saint Christopher & Nevis, Suriname, Turkmenistan) for the first time.

The following table shows the composition of sites being reviewed by the World Heritage Committee and Bureau this year:

Sites	Europe			America			Arab States			Asia Pacific			Africa		
	C	N	M	C	N	M	C	N	M	C	N	M	C	N	M
	28	5	3	9	7	0	0	0	0	9	3	2	3	1	0
Total 70	36			16			0			14			4		
100 %	51.4%			22.8%			0 %			20%			5.8%		

(iii) Tentative lists

As of 1 October 1999, 104 of the 157 States Parties to the *Convention* had submitted tentative lists that comply with the format specified in the *Operational Guidelines* for the Implementation of the Convention (see working document **WHC-99/CONF.209/10**).

(iv) Global Strategy for a Representative and Balanced World Heritage List

Thematic Meetings

A regional thematic expert meeting on *African Cultural Landscapes* was held in Tiwi, Kenya, from 9 to 14 March 1999. The participants illustrated with case studies the rich diversity of cultural landscapes in Africa and highlighted the links between nature, culture and spirituality. Specific notions such as ownership, the definition of boundaries, and, more particularly, the involvement of local communities at all stages of the inscription process and the management of the sites were emphasized. The participants adopted recommendations for the systematic consideration of the cultural and natural values of African sites, the recognition of traditional rights for the protection and ownership of the sites, and for their management in a perspective of sustainable development. The expert group also expressed the wish that the conditions of authenticity and integrity be defined from the African point of view. The need for an interdisciplinary approach in the evaluation of cultural landscapes was voiced, also in relation to the creation of an operational network of African experts for cultural landscapes. The field visits to the sacred Kaya Forests on the Coast led to a recommendation for their inscription on the tentative list of Kenya. The synthetic report and the recommendations are provided in information document **WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.8**.

Actions taken to improve representation in the Arab region include the commissioning of a second mission for the identification of potential natural heritage sites in the Arab region approved by the Committee at its last session. The mission visited nine countries include Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan and Yemen. It is expected that after the conclusion of these missions and the organization of a series of capacity building workshops in natural heritage conservation, States Parties of the Arab region would be in a position to identify and nominate potential natural sites to the World Heritage List.

For cultural properties in Asia and the Pacific Region, the World Heritage Centre, in co-operation with the UNESCO Field Offices have initiated reviews of the tentative lists of Central Asian and Southeast Asian States Parties in preparation of the global strategy meetings of the two sub-regions.

The global strategy meeting for Southeast Asia is being partially combined with the training strategy review of this sub-region. The World Heritage Centre, ICCROM and ICOMOS, together with representatives of several States Parties met, to define the orientations of these reviews and to identify existing training facilities and programmes in the region, in Nara (Japan) in March and in Melaka (Malaysia) in May on the occasion of international seminars held in these cities. The Nara Seminar on the Integrity and Development of Historic Cities provided an opportunity to discuss the notion of integrity as applicable to cultural sites such as historic cities. The conclusions of this meeting are presented to the Committee in **WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.23**. During 1999, the World Heritage Centre initiated preparations for a Global Strategy meeting on the Northeast Asian Civilization, utilizing the generous contribution of the Republic of Korea (US\$30,000). This meeting, which is expected to take place the year 2000, will discuss and identify sites representative of the North-East Asian civilization in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, China and the Republic of Korea.

A Second World Heritage Global Strategy meeting for the Pacific was held in association with the Pacific Island Museums Association (PIMA) and the Vanuatu Cultural Centre in Port Vila, Vanuatu from 24 to 27 August 1999. The meeting was attended by representatives from Australia, the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, the United States of America and Vanuatu, representatives from the advisory bodies of the World Heritage Committee, PIMA, the Secretariat of the Pacific Commission (SPC), the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and a number of observers.

The meeting raised awareness and reviewed progress with the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* in the Pacific and established clear priorities for the next few years. At the meeting, the representatives of Kiribati, Niue and Vanuatu gave indications that their countries may decide to become signatories to the *Convention* in the near future. The Final Recommendations of the meeting are contained in **WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.16**. Specific actions for the Pacific recommended by the meeting are reflected in the Action Plan for 2000-2002 presented in working document **WHC-99/CONF.209/8**.

The Ministry of Forestry of Indonesia, the Centre for International Forest Research (CIFOR), UNESCO and IUCN jointly organized an expert meeting to explore the use of the *World Heritage Convention* as an international mechanism for the conservation of tropical forest biodiversity. As noted by the Committee at its last session, the meeting was convened from 7 to 11 December 1998 in Brastagi, Indonesia and attracted more than 40 international, regional and national organizations dealing with tropical forest biodiversity conservation. Meeting outputs have attracted widespread international attention and is contributing to filling in gaps in the global distribution of World Heritage sites in tropical forests. State Parties with considerable extents of tropical forests, but that had not nominated any sites as World Heritage, e.g. Brazil, Malaysia, Surinam etc., have submitted tropical forest site nominations in 1999. A process similar to the preparation and organization of the Brastagi meeting is now being applied for reviewing the application of the Convention in coastal, marine and small island ecosystems and an expert meeting is planned in the year 2000. Representatives of international groups concerned with other ecosystems, e.g. mountains, deserts etc., have approached the Centre to obtain copies of the Report of the Brastagi meeting. They are investigating the adoption of the "Brastagi process" to review potential for the application of the Convention to the conservation of the respective ecosystems of concern.

As a follow-up to the recommendations of an IUCN/UNESCO monitoring mission to China in September 1998, the World Heritage Centre organized, in co-operation with the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO and other relevant authorities in China, a national

strategy workshop for natural heritage conservation at Mt. E'mei of Sichuan Province from 23 to 29 August 1999. A strategic plan for selection of natural nominations from China was prepared at the meeting and submitted to the responsible authorities for review and adoption.

In accordance with the Action Plan for the Future (Cultural Landscapes) adopted by the seventeenth session of the World Heritage Committee in December 1993, an international expert group on Management Guidelines for Cultural Landscapes met in Banská Stiavnica (Slovakia) from 1 to 4 June 1999 at the kind invitation of the Slovak authorities. The group consisted of 19 representatives from Africa, Arab States, Latin America, North America, Asia and the Pacific and Europe as well as participants from the advisory bodies, IFLA and the World Heritage Centre. The Expert Group prepared an outline for the Management Guidelines for Cultural Landscapes.

The expert meeting on "Cultural Landscapes in Eastern Europe" was held from 29 September to 3 October 1999 in Bialystok, Poland. Twenty-five experts from fourteen Eastern European States Parties and representatives from the three advisory bodies (ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN) attended this meeting which was organized by the World Heritage Centre and the Polish authorities. Case studies illustrating the diversity of the notion of cultural landscapes in Eastern Europe and current situation of these landscapes in a phase of social and economic transition were presented. Eastern Europe is a territory of transition and connects east and west and this region is a space of different influences, trade routes and cultural corridors. Both the natural environments, covering several biographical regions, and the rich cultural history, traditions and ways of life produce unique cultural landscapes. A report of the meeting is presented in information document **WHC/99/CONF.209/INF.14**.

A representative of the World Heritage Centre attended a Workshop on the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (Bonn, Germany, 24 September 1999) organized by the German National Commission for UNESCO. This event offered the opportunity to disseminate information about the Global Strategy to local decision-makers and site managers.

Since 1996, the World Heritage Centre has given particular attention to the Caribbean, a region that is strongly under-represented on the World Heritage List. As a result, nominations have been coming in from countries such as Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Suriname. Nominations from Guyana are in preparation. The World Heritage Centre will continue to be proactive in this region. With financial assistance from the Fund, a workshop on "Natural Heritage in the Caribbean" will be organized in Suriname in February 2000 and thematic meetings on issues such as plantation systems and vernacular architecture will be initiated.

3. Monitoring and reporting on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger

(i) Periodic reporting

In response to the Resolution on periodic reporting adopted by the 29th General Conference of UNESCO, the World Heritage Committee, at its twenty-second session held in December 1998, established the periodicity of periodic reporting at six years and adopted the format and explanatory notes for the periodic reports. It also adopted a regional approach to the preparation and examination of the periodic reports.

The World Heritage Centre has distributed the format and explanatory notes to the States Parties through a circular letter, to the general public on its Internet web-site and through both the printed and the electronic World Heritage newsletters. A special brochure on periodic

reporting is being produced. Translations of the format and explanatory notes into Spanish and Arabic will be available in early 2000.

As requested by the Committee, the World Heritage Centre is developing strategies for periodic reporting for each of the following regions:

- Arab States 2000
- Africa 2001
- Asia and the Pacific 2002
- Latin America and the Caribbean 2003
- Europe and North America 2004 -2005

In April 1999, an international workshop on the management of Byblos (Lebanon) took place in the University of Delft with the participation of Lebanese officials and the World Heritage Centre. A second meeting to continue the work took place in November 1999.

In the year 2000, the World Heritage Centre will discuss procedure and methodologies for periodic reporting on the implementation of the Convention in Asia and the Pacific in several sub-regional workshops and seminars including: Southeast and East Asia workshop (Japan, February 2000); Southeast Asia, Pacific, Australia and New Zealand (New Zealand, March 2000); and South Asia (Nepal, May 2000). The Centre, in co-operation with IUCN and States Parties will submit a plan for the conduct of the periodic monitoring activities in Asia and the Pacific during 2001 and 2002 to the next session of the Committee.

A number of States Parties have already taken initiatives to facilitate the implementation of periodic reporting. The Republic of Korea has developed a training programme for monitoring activities of cultural World Heritage properties, involving the active and voluntary participation of members of the local communities and civil society. The Russian Federation has organized a training seminar on its application in Central and Eastern Europe; Mexico and Argentina organized national seminars; and the Czech Republic is developing a national periodic reporting strategy. The Instituto Andaluz de Patrimonio Historico (Andalucia, Spain) organized and hosted a second meeting of experts from Latin America and Spain on the identification of indicators for measuring the state of conservation of historic World Heritage cities.

On 27 March and 9 September 1999, ICCROM convened meetings respectively with representatives of the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre to further discuss ICCROM's proposal of developing a *reference manual for monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage properties*. It was concluded that there is a need for such a manual and that monitoring should be understood as a tool for effective management within a larger management process. The format and contents of a manual were discussed in detail, as well as the process that would be followed for its preparation. A proposal for this manual is included in the budget under Chapter IV.

(ii) Reactive monitoring

Twenty-three properties are at present inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger (15 natural and 8 cultural properties). Of this number, reports on 15 natural properties and 4 cultural properties inscribed on this List are presented to the Committee in working document **WHC-99/CONF.209/13**.

The reports on the state of conservation of 69 properties inscribed on the World Heritage List are included in working document **WHC-99/CONF.209/14**. This number includes the reports

on six World Heritage sites in Central America and seven cultural sites in Asia as requested by the World Heritage Committee.

The number of reactive monitoring reports examined by the Bureau and the Committee has developed over the past years as follows:

	Bureau June 1997	Bureau/ Comm. Nov./ Dec. 1997	Bureau June 1998	Bureau/ Comm. Nov./Dec. 1998	Bureau July 1999	Bureau/ Comm. 1999
DANGER LIST						
Natural	11	13	13	15	12	15
Mixed	-	-	-	-	-	
Cultural	2	7	5	7	2	4
WH LIST						
Natural	20	19	18	32	28	30
Mixed	1	3	4	7	5	4
Cultural	24	29	34	37	38	33
TOTAL	58	71	74	98	85	86

The regional distribution of the reports that will be examined by the Committee during its twenty-third session is as follows:

	Africa	Arab States	Asia and the Pacific	Latin America And the Caribbean	Europe and North America
DANGER LIST					
Natural	8	1	1	2	3
Mixed	-	-	-	-	-
Cultural	-	1	1	1	1
WH LIST					
Natural	7	1	10	7	5
Mixed	-	-	3	1	-
Cultural	2	3	13	6	9
TOTAL	17	6	28	17	18

A new format for the presentation of these reports has been produced providing clearly identifiable information on:

Name of property (State Party)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List and/or on the List of World Heritage in Danger

International assistance

Summary of previous deliberations
New information
Action required.

Some regional examples

Arab States (State of the World Heritage Report to be submitted in 2000)

As recommended at the twenty-second session of the Committee, the Arab States are invited to submit, in the year 2000, periodic reports on the application of the World Heritage Convention, including the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List up to and including 1992. The World Heritage Centre has therefore prepared a detailed workplan for Periodic Reporting in the Arab States in co-operation with the advisory bodies of the World Heritage Committee

As a follow up to the monitoring mission to Yemen in November 1998, a UNESCO mission visited the Old City of Sana'a in March 1999. The mission was alerted of two planned interventions within and next to the site which may seriously undermine the World Heritage values of the Old City of Sana'a. The first concerns a plan to extend the Great Mosque further south which will entail the demolition of some 40 old houses of significant value, both architecturally and as groups of traditional buildings. The second case is the planned construction by the Ministry of Public Works of a 400m-long fly-over bridge located just outside the ancient wall between the Old City and the Ottoman City. While the location is outside the World Heritage site, the bridge might damage its beautiful townscape and skyline.

An expert mission of a structural engineer visited Jordan and Syria in March 1999 to assess structural problems of monuments in Petra and the Ancient City of Aleppo and to provide practical advice on continuing structural studies at the sites in these States Parties. The Oman authorities provided financial assistance to the monitoring missions to Bahla Fort which aim to prepare the management plan of the site and its surrounding oasis.

In 1999, the co-operation programme for the revitalization of Islamic Cairo was initiated thanks to the approval of the Committee at its twenty-second session and to the efforts of the Egyptian authorities. A national coordinator was designated to ensure a coherence of ongoing activities and their complementarity. As a result, enhanced protection measures including regulations to control areas around the monuments have been approved by the Governor of Cairo. The first pilot project has been identified with a contribution from the Government of France for the restoration of the Beit Sinnari and its surrounding areas in the south of the site. The Beit Sinnari will be rehabilitated during 2000 and the work will start in the area with the participation of local inhabitants.

The International Scientific Committee (ISC) for the Safeguarding of Tyre met in Lebanon from 14 to 17 June 1999. The Committee expressed concerns about the risk of densification and engorgement of the city, including its archaeological zone. Should the development plans of the City of Tyre prepared by the Lebanese authorities be implemented, the World Heritage value of the site will be affected.

In co-operation with the Egyptian National Commission for UNESCO and the Egyptian National Committee for Man and Biosphere Programme, a "Regional Workshop on Developing the Capacity for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Arab Region" was held from 29 May to 1 June 1999. In addition to reviewing the potential

natural sites in the Arab region, the workshop also reviewed the state of conservation of two of the four natural sites in this Region (Ichkeul National Park in Tunisia and the Arabian Oryx Sanctuary in the Sultanate of Oman).

Africa (State of World Heritage Report to be submitted in 2001)

The World Heritage Centre, in co-operation with the advisory bodies, is placing an increasing emphasis on seeking the participation of African specialists and experts in the monitoring of the state of conservation of World Heritage sites. An expert mission to Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia and a non-State Party, i.e. Namibia, made important contributions to following up of the Committee's recommendations on the state of conservation of Mosi-oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls (Zambia/Zimbabwe), laid the foundation for initiation of the Convention's implementation in Botswana which ratified the Convention in late 1998 and explained to the Namibian authorities the advantages of ratifying the Convention. Another mission to Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) resulted in a detailed state of conservation report that has been reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN.

The World Heritage Centre, UNESCO-MAB and IUCN have maintained contacts with a core-group of international conservation NGOs. This group met with representatives of ICCN (Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature) the World Heritage sites in the Democratic Republic of Congo, including those from the four sites included in the List of World Heritage in Danger, to discuss options for providing direct support to staff who continue to reside in the sites despite the risks and insecurity arising from the on-going conflict in the eastern parts of the country. The recommendations of that meeting, held in Naivasha, Kenya during 12-16 April 1999, is presented to the Committee in working document **WHC-99/CONF.209/13**.

With regard to the monitoring of the state of conservation of properties included in the List of World Heritage in Danger, the Centre, IUCN and the Ramsar Convention Secretariat undertook a mission to assess progress in the implementation of measures to mitigate threats to the Ichkeul National Park of Tunisia. The findings of the mission were presented to the Bureau at its twenty-third session as information document **WHC-99/CONF.204/INF.11**. The State Party has submitted its threat mitigation status report via a letter dated 14 September 1999. The report, which is presented to the Committee in information document **WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.9**, is also being studied by the Centre, IUCN and the Ramsar Bureau.

Asia and the Pacific (State of World Heritage Report to be submitted in 2002)

The periodic state of conservation reporting exercise, together with reactive monitoring activities conducted in this year has enabled the Centre to update the information on 19 of 75 cultural World Heritage sites in Asia. Although the Regional Summary Report on the State of Conservation of World Heritage Sites in the Asia-Pacific Region is not scheduled for completion until 2002, a database covering the majority of Asian cultural properties inscribed before 1992 should be available on-line in the limited-access Website of the World Heritage Centre by the end of this year.

The World Heritage Centre's international co-operation activities in favour of cultural sites in Asia concentrated on sites under serious threat and those in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Low-Income Countries (LICs). Concerted action on the Kathmandu Valley site was continued in order to promote the implementation of the 55 Recommendations and Time-Bound Action Plan of Corrective Measures proposed by the UNESCO-ICOMOS-His

Majesty's Government of Nepal Joint Mission in March 1998 and adopted by the HMG of Nepal. During October/November 1999 missions, it was noted that further demolition and new construction had taken place since the Joint Mission. International co-operation provided under the World Heritage Fund and others mobilized by the World Heritage Centre aimed at strengthening the management capacities of both national and municipal authorities responsible for the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage site have not resulted in sufficient and sustained building control within the monument zones. The Committee, as decided at its twenty-second session, will be examining the state of conservation of the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage site, with a view to the inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Further details are presented to the Committee in information documents **WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.17 A, B and C**.

The periodic reporting exercise has also enabled the Centre to become aware of a number of on-going public and private works which are posing threats to the World Heritage value of the sites. In Pakistan, by October 1999, the construction of a football stadium began in February 1999 on the most ancient citadel site within Taxila World Heritage site had completed. By October 1999, the essential 375-year old hydraulic works of the Shalamar Gardens of Lahore was almost completely demolished to enlarge a 4-lane road to 6 lanes. In India, there is great concern regarding the construction of two bridges within the archaeological site of Hampi.

To assist Asian States Parties in protecting World Heritage sites following international conservation standards, the Centre has arranged technical expertise/ missions for the following cultural sites: Peking Man Site at Zhoukoudian (China), Luang Prabang (Laos), Shish Mahal within Lahore Fort (Pakistan), Rice Terraces of the Philippines Cordilleras (Philippines), Lumbini (Nepal) and Hue (Vietnam). Following the storms between 4-6 November in Vietnam, the World Heritage Centre is urgently organizing a reactive monitoring mission to be undertaken by an ICOMOS expert for assessing the damages at Hue and Hoi An, and to assist urgently preparing an emergency assistance request.

Follow up actions taken with regard to recommendations of the last session of the Committee (Kyoto, 1998) and the twenty-third session of the Bureau (July 1999) on the state of conservation of properties on the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger are reported in the respective working documents of the Bureau and Committee. The Committee may take particular note of the following:

As requested by the twenty-second extraordinary session of the Committee, the Centre and IUCN have co-operated with the Government of Nepal and the International Centre for Protected Landscapes (ICPL) for generating a project to review the management plan for Sagarmatha with a particular focus on tourism development. The Centre, IUCN and ICPL facilitated negotiations between the Government of Nepal and the Department of International Development (DFID) of UK in London in March 1999. As a result, the first phase (18 months) of the project entitled "Ecotourism, Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) National Park and the Solo-Khumbu District of Nepal" has been approved by DFID for a sum of UK£ 159,475. Project is foreseen as a first-stage initiative of a long-term project to increase income generation among people of the Solo Khumbu District while ensuring the conservation of the Sagarmatha National Park and World Heritage site and is due to commence in January 2000.

As per request of the twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau, the World Bank Office in Hanoi, Vietnam, in co-operation with the Provincial Governments of Hai Phong and Quang Ninh and the Vietnamese Government is actively co-operating to co-ordinate donor activities in the Ha Long Bay area. The World Bank and IUCN Offices in Hanoi are currently

discussing a project for the integrated conservation and development of the Northeast parts of the Gulf of Tonkin, including the Ha Long Bay World Heritage area. Several other donors including the Government of Netherlands have indicated an interest to support projects to strengthen the capacity of the Ha Long Bay Management Department. The Vietnamese Governments and the two Provincial Governments concerned continue to emphasise their commitment to protect Ha Long Bay's environment based on international standards and norms applicable to a coastal and marine protected area in a region of intense economic activity. The Government requires the support of UNESCO, IUCN and international donors to convert their commitment into realistic projects and programmes. The Vietnam Government has re-nominated the World Heritage Area under natural heritage criterion (i), in addition to criterion (iii) under which it is already recognized.

On 12 July 1999, the third extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee met at UNESCO Headquarters to examine the state of conservation of Kakadu National Park, Australia (see working document **WHC-99/CONF.209/5**). The extraordinary session was convened at the request of the twenty-second session of the Committee (Kyoto, 1998) "to decide whether to immediately inscribe Kakadu National Park (Australia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger". In 1998, a UNESCO mission to Kakadu had concluded that there are "severe ascertained and potential dangers to the cultural and natural values of Kakadu National Park posed primarily by the proposal for uranium mining and milling at Jabiluka. The mission therefore recommended that the proposal to mine and mill uranium at Jabiluka should not proceed". Following examination of a number of reports on cultural and scientific issues, the third extraordinary session of the Committee prepared a lengthy decision.

The decision expressed the grave concern of the Committee about the serious impacts to the living cultural values of Kakadu National Park posed by the proposal to mine and mill uranium at Jabiluka. The Committee also stated that confidence and trust building through dialogue are crucial for there to be any resolution of issues relating to the proposal to mine and mill uranium at Jabiluka. Furthermore, the Committee stated its concern about the lack of progress with the preparation of a cultural heritage management plan for Jabiluka and expressed its continuing reservations concerning the scientific uncertainties relating to mining and milling at Jabiluka. The Committee decision includes specific requests for follow-up actions and reporting by the Australian authorities (see working document **WHC-99/CONF.209/13**).

Latin America and the Caribbean (State of World Heritage Report to be submitted in 2003)

The periodic reporting activities in this region can, to a great extent, be built upon past activities, such as the regional monitoring exercise for cultural properties, undertaken by the UNDP/UNESCO Regional Project from 1991 to 1994, and regional meetings for natural properties organized in collaboration with FAO (Santa Marta, Colombia in 1997).

The World Heritage Centre is in the process of preparing an inventory of the examination of the state of conservation of specific properties by the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau, as well as technical reports on these sites. This material, together with the nomination dossier and the evaluation by the advisory bodies, will be made available to States Parties as a basis for the reporting. Argentina and Mexico have already taken the initiative to organize national seminars on periodic reports; other States Parties are encouraged to do the same. At a later stage national reports and experiences could then be brought together on a sub-regional basis, concluding the regional periodic reporting cycle with a regional event for the preparation of the Regional State of the World Heritage Report.

The World Heritage Committee at several of its sessions examined the state of conservation of the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru). At the request of the Bureau at its twenty-third session, a WHC-ICOMOS-IUCN mission was undertaken to the site. Objective of the mission was, among other things, to assess the application of the Master Plan for the site and the status of a cable car project. The mission report is presented to the Committee in an information document **WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.21**.

Following the request by the World Heritage Committee joint IUCN-UNESCO monitoring missions were carried out to Iguacu National Park (Brazil), to Canaima National Park (Venezuela) and to Sangay National Park (Ecuador). Reports have been presented to the twenty-third session of the Bureau under state of conservation reports of properties. An information document **WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.13** on the mission to Sangay National Park is presented to the Committee. An UNESCO mission has been carried out to the Whale Sanctuary of El Viscaïno (Mexico) from 23 to 28 August 1999. The full report and recommendations of the mission are contained in information document **WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.20**.

Europe and North America (State of World Heritage Report to be submitted in 2004-2005)

The great number of States Parties and World Heritage properties in this region requires even more participation of States Parties and regional institutions in bringing the periodic reporting cycle to a fruitful conclusion. The World Heritage Centre will initiate consultations with States Parties and potential partners as soon as possible.

A WHC-ICOMOS mission was undertaken in January 1999 to assess the state of conservation of the site of Angra do Heroísmo in the Azores in Portugal, particularly in reference to a project to construct a marina in the bay of the city and to revitalize the waterfront. The ICOMOS expert undertook two additional missions to Lisbon to discuss alternative solutions for the marina. A report will be submitted to the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-third session.

The UNESCO Moscow Office, in consultation with the Centre and the Division for Ecological Sciences organized on 9 March 1999 a workshop on the Baikal law. The adoption of the law had been requested by the World Heritage Committee at the time of the inscription of the site in 1996. The law passed by the Duma, has been signed by the President of the Russian Federation and entered into force with its publication beginning May 1999. The Governmental Baikal Commission held an extraordinary meeting on 13 May 1999 to decide on next steps to be taken to implement the law. An international conference on Lake Baikal with UNESCO's participation has been held at Schneverdingen from 14 to 17 November 1999. The meeting had a workshop on the implementation of the Baikal Law.

The situation at the Doñana National Park (Spain) is still of major concern following the toxic spill in southern Spain, which caused an ecological disaster affecting this site. Collaboration with the Ramsar Convention Bureau, IUCN and other partners continued and a conference on the future of Doñana – “Doñana 2005” was organized in Huelva (Spain) from 4 to 8 October 1999.

4. Technical Implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*

There has been a dramatic rise in the number of international assistance requests and the amounts requested, reflecting the growing number of sites and ever increasing threats. The training budget for cultural heritage was entirely committed at the twenty-second session of

the World Heritage Committee. By early June 1999, funds for technical co-operation for cultural heritage, preparatory and promotional assistance were also exhausted. By June 1999, 25 requests for education, information and promotional assistance had been honoured with a total obligation of US\$122,000.

At the time of the twenty-third session, the Bureau noted with concern that the Preparatory Assistance budget had been entirely committed while 20 new requests could not be honoured. To overcome this 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 from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Low Income Countries (LICs) States Parties especially with underrepresented categories of sites inscribed on the World Heritage List.

The World Heritage Centre undertook a review of international assistance requests approved in previous years up to 1999. An evaluation is presented in information document **WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.10**, indicating trends in the allocation of World Heritage Fund and recommendations of the twenty-third session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee concerning prioritization in granting international assistance to States Parties. Through this exercise it was noted that a significant amount (some 9%) of the 1999 international assistance budget had to be used to finance activities approved in prior years, thereby decreasing the amount available to support new requests. Furthermore, to ensure that LDCs and LICs have the priority in receiving limited World Heritage funds to protect their sites, especially those on the List of World Heritage in Danger, the non-LDCs/LICs States Parties are more than ever, encouraged to utilize limited World Heritage funds in a catalytic manner to raise funds for large-scale projects from other sources, in accordance with paragraph 113 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

The Bureau, at its twenty-third session, approved the use of US\$50,000 for undertaking a full evaluation of the impact and use of international assistance. Progress on this evaluation being undertaken through the UNESCO Central Coordination Unit, and an action plan for the year 2000 is presented in working document **WHC-99/CONF.209/16**.

Implementation of international assistance requests approved by the World Heritage Committee, the Bureau and the Chairperson for 1999 has been undertaken by the World Heritage Centre, in close co-operation with the States Parties, advisory bodies, UNESCO field offices and relevant units within UNESCO. Of the four categories of assistance for which the Committee allocates annual amounts under Chapter III – technical implementation of the Convention – requests for preparatory and promotional assistance are submitted for approval in the order they are received and screened by the Centre.

Of the total amount of US\$300,000 approved by the Committee at its last session for preparatory assistance, US\$124,300 or approximately 40% was allocated to projects benefiting natural heritage. Pacific States Parties such as Fiji and Papua New Guinea were provided with grants for organizing meetings and dialogues needed to lay the foundations for policy-making, establishment of legislative and other measures necessary for the preparation of tentative lists and nominations of properties. Other countries like Benin, Bolivia, Brazil and Nepal received funds for preparation of nomination dossiers of specific natural and mixed properties. Of the US\$ 100,000 approved for the year 1999 for assistance to educational, information and promotional activities, no funds were specifically targeted to natural heritage. However, of the funds approved for projects under this assistance category, more than 40% were spent on activities addressing natural as well as cultural heritage issues.

In the case of the other two assistance categories, i.e. technical co-operation and training, the Committee earmarks at least 33% and 50% respectively, of the total annual allocations for natural heritage. Of the US\$415,000 set aside for technical co-operation activities for natural heritage, approximately 40% benefited natural World Heritage sites in Africa. The World Heritage sites of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (US\$74, 527) and the Air and Tenere and W National Parks of Niger (US\$57,000) were the leading beneficiaries. Another 60% was distributed, in decreasing percentages, for Latin American, Global, Asia-Pacific, Eastern European and Arab projects. The implementation rate under technical co-operation for natural heritage was approximately 98%.

The US\$490,500 made available by the Committee for natural heritage training activities was distributed rather evenly throughout the regions and for global activities. Africa received almost 25% of the funds and about 18% was spent on global activities to implement the Strategic Action Plan for Training Natural Heritage, as adopted by the Committee in 1995. Each of the other regions, i.e. the Arab, Asia-Pacific, East European and Latin American, received approximately 10-15% of the total allocation for training activities. Implementation rate under this budget line for natural heritage was also 98%.

In 1999, only two natural heritage sites received emergency assistance: namely Wulingyuan Scenic Area of China (US\$60,000) and the World Heritage sites in Danger of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (US\$50,471).

New emphasis was laid for training of natural heritage site managers in Eastern Europe, with the training seminar at Lake Baikal, held from 5 to 10 July 1999 in Ulan Ude. Site managers from four natural sites and a number of potential World Heritage sites in the Russian Federation, including transfrontier sites with Mongolia and Lithuania, participated at the meeting.

IUCN is assisting the World Heritage Centre in implementing a Strategic Action Plan for training natural heritage specialists. The project development workshop for integrating biodiversity information management into the Regional Training Centre was successfully concluded in March 1999 at the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) in Cambridge, UK. This seminar, financed through the training budget of the Fund, resulted in the development of project proposals which are now being refined for submission to interested donors.

Small-scale technical co-operation projects are currently being carried out in Southeastern Europe at Plitvice Lakes National Park (Croatia) and Srebarna Nature Reserve (Bulgaria).

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, a relatively new State Party to the Convention, was supported through the Fund to hold a first training seminar for national and regional authorities and site-managers of both natural and cultural heritage from 4 to 8 October 1999. The meeting, at which IUCN and ICOMOS/ICCROM expert participated, increased public awareness of the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* and conservation process for natural and cultural sites.

In 1999, 60% of the preparatory assistance benefited cultural and mixed sites mostly to Eastern and Central European (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Hungary and the Slovakia) States Parties. Latin American / Caribbean (Brazil, Bolivia, Mexico) States Parties. Western European (Spain), Africa (Niger, Nigeria), Arab (Lebanon, Oman) Asia-Pacific (Fiji, Laos, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea) States Parties also benefited from preparatory assistance. With the exceptional contribution of the Japanese Government, preparatory

assistance will also be granted to 12 States Parties plus 1 regional project for Asia (ICCROM).

For the African region, efforts have been concentrated on establishing contacts with countries which have expressed interest in identifying and presenting nominations to the World Heritage List, namely: Benin, Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Niger, Senegal, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe. Information concerning categories of African heritage defined by the Global Strategy was disseminated: the reports of the 4th Global Strategy meeting held in Porto-Novo in 1998, as well as the synthetic report of the Expert meeting on African Cultural Landscapes (Tiwi, Kenya, 9-14 March 1999). Discussions have once again stressed the importance of the link between nature, culture and spirituality, the need to define the conditions of authenticity and integrity in an African context, and to take into consideration traditional rights which govern ownership and protection of cultural landscapes. Support was provided to formulate international assistance requests and to reinforce an operational network amongst African professionals.

Meanwhile, for capacity building in Africa, the *Africa 2009 Programme*, implemented by ICCROM and the World Heritage Centre, has developed with the establishment of a Co-ordination Committee composed of 4 African experts some challenging activities for 1999. These included a seminar held in November 1999 in Benin on the topic of Preventive Conservation and Maintenance of Immovable Cultural Heritage, a site project to create a documentation centre for the Forts & Castles World Heritage site in Ghana, a national seminar in Ethiopia on the topic of International Standards for Conservation of Immovable Cultural Heritage and the publication of a newsletter and worldwide web site to allow for better communication and exchange of information. A training course for African immovable cultural heritage professions was organized between 5 July and 3 September 1999 in Mombasa, Kenya. The course covered topics such as the establishment of site management, documentation and inventory, and sustainable development and conservation plans as well as enhancing better communication and networking at the level of directorates responsible for the conservation of cultural heritage.

A large proportion of the 66% of the budget for technical co-operation earmarked for cultural heritage was granted to Arab (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia) and European (Bulgaria, Georgia, Lithuania, Malta, Portugal, Turkey, Ukraine) States Parties. Latin America and the Caribbean (Brazil, Cuba, Peru) States Parties also benefited from this assistance. These grants have mostly been used to rehabilitate sites, to prepare master plans, or to purchase of equipment.

Arab (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon), Asian (China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea), Latin American and the Caribbean (Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba), East European (Russian Federation) States Parties benefited from the training budget for cultural heritage.

ICCROM has played an important role in implementing the World Heritage Convention through its training activities in close co-operation with the Centre and States Parties. In particular, ICCROM has been developing a training strategy in Southeast Asia for enhancing conservation in urban areas, preserving earthen architectural and archaeological heritage in Latin America, building capacity for heritage management in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The follow-up to damages caused by natural disasters, particularly in the Caribbean and Central America has been an important activity in 1999. Emergency assistance was delivered to and implemented in El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua, Dominican Republic and also in

Ecuador. Emergency assistance requests for sites in Mexico and Guatemala are being processed. Upon request by the World Heritage Committee, ICOMOS and IUCN submitted to the twenty-third session of the Bureau a substantive state of conservation reports on World Heritage sites in Central America. The World Heritage Centre and the advisory bodies are looking into the possibilities to develop disaster preparedness activities for the Caribbean and Central America.

In Latin America and the Caribbean region, major progress has been made in the preparation of planning instruments for World Heritage sites. In Peru, Master Plans for the Archaeological Zone of Chan Chan, the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu and the historic centre of Lima have been concluded. A plan for the city of Cusco is about to be initiated. For natural World Heritage properties, the National Strategy for Protected Areas, adopted in April 1999, will provide the framework for their planning and management.

The Getty Conservation Institute is assisting the authorities of El Salvador in the detailed monitoring of the conditions of the site of Joya de Ceren and the preparation of a management plan.

In 1999 a series of activities for the World Heritage in Europe have been achieved, including training, technical cooperation activities.

From 11 to 18 September 1999, the International Training Workshop for World Heritage Cultural Site Managers from Eastern and Central Europe was held in Veliky Novgorod, Russian Federation, with financial support from the World Heritage Fund.

Representatives of the World Heritage Centre participated in the Donors Meeting for the World Heritage site - City-Museum Reserve of Mtskheta (Georgia) at Tbilisi from 17 to 21 September 1999 in order to discuss means and ways for the protection and further development of this site. A consultant had already undertaken preliminary studies, which were requested by the Government of Georgia and supported from the World Heritage Fund. The preparation of a Heritage and Tourist Master Plan for the Mtskheta area will be undertaken in co-operation with UNDP. The Master Plan will provide the framework for the future development of the site and its different components, such as archaeological sites, monuments, urban context and the landscape.

Progress has been made in the Vilnius Old Town Revitalisation Programme for the World Heritage site *Vilnius Historic Centre*, Lithuania. Upon the request of the Government of Lithuania and with financial assistance from UNDP and the World Heritage Fund, the comprehensive project for the revitalization of the Old Town of Vilnius continued. The programme for 1999 covered activities related to policy formulation, good governance, citizen's participation, accountability, and relations with potential investors, urban rehabilitation and heritage protection.

5. World Heritage documentation, information, education and awareness-raising strategy

(i) Overview

At its twenty-second session, the World Heritage Committee adopted a new Strategic Plan for World Heritage Documentation, Information and Education. This plan, essentially targeting States Parties in support of their efforts to implement the Convention, and the international community, stressed the need to prepare concise, well-documented and professionally-written

information on the World Heritage Convention and the actions taken to protect listed sites and diffuse it to carefully identified target audiences. The 1999 work plan for Information, Documentation and Education, elaborated to reflect the new strategy, has been implemented according to the objectives outlined as part of a long-term three-year plan.

As a follow-up action, the Centre and IUCN have consulted on the subject with several conservation NGOs, e.g. WWF, Conservation International (CI), the Nature Conservancy), Foundations (UN Foundation, MacArthur Foundation) and Funds (Better World Fund). These consultations have revealed a widespread interest for using the prestige of World Natural Heritage sites to globally promote information, communications and educational programmes to raise awareness of the role of protected areas and biodiversity in sustainable development. UN agencies like UNEP are also showing a similar interest. The Centre and IUCN have therefore proposed the Organisation of a Task Force meeting to elaborate an action plan for building “Capacity to serve Outreach, Promotional and Educational (COPE) aspects of World Natural Heritage conservation and management” in working document **WHC-99/CONF.209/15**. If the US\$ 40,000 requested for the meeting is approved by the Committee, it would be convened in the first half of 2000 to elaborate a 5-year action plan within the framework of the Strategic Plan as approved by the Committee.

The year 1999 was an exceptional one for the World Heritage Convention with six statutory meetings, including two extraordinary sessions of the Committee. Sites under threat, whether real or perceived (for example the Kakadu National Park, El Vizcaino, Machu Picchu), and the Convention’s mechanisms to protect them, were the focus of much public interest. They were illustrated by thousands of e-mail messages received this year and more than 50,000 letters for one site, as well as by news stories and other articles published in the press. The fact has confirmed the necessity of having concise, well-documented and professionally-written information on actions taken to protect sites, which can serve both as answers to questions frequently asked by the press and/or public, as well as information designed to inspire the media’s interest.

(ii) Documentation

The Centre's documentation function being to archive and distribute official World Heritage documents, highest priority has been given to the development of electronic-based documentation in order to satisfy the rapidly increasing demand for these documents, which include reports of statutory and expert meetings, nomination dossiers, state of conservation reports, mission reports, studies and other publications on the World Heritage Convention and the listed sites. The contributions from three States Parties and the World Heritage Fund made possible the initiation of a contract in 1999 with the European Space Agency to assist the World Heritage Centre in developing a modern Information Management System. The first phase of this project has been accomplished and includes the Document Management System, a consolidated World Heritage site database, and an upgrade to the current International Assistance database. In 1999, an estimated 115 Statutory Meeting Working Documents in two languages and two file formats were made available to Committee members (460 files in total) and 30 nomination dossiers for sites inscribed in 1998 were scanned and made available to the Advisory Bodies on two CD-ROMs. Statutory working documents on state of conservation 1985-1998 were also scanned and indexed.

A consequence of the growing popularity and visibility of the Convention has been a significant expansion in the physical size of nomination dossiers being received. Both the Secretariat and the advisory bodies, with limited staffs, are encountering greater difficulty in managing the information.

(iii) Information

In 1999 the **World Heritage Information Package** was produced and distributed, with several elements of the Package improved and new ones added in an effort to offer extensive information on all steps in the protection and conservation process: a) The World Heritage List was produced with a new design; b) The Brief Descriptions of World Heritage sites were sent to relevant authorities in State Parties for checking and approval; c) The 1999 version of the World Heritage Map was printed and the World Heritage brochure was updated and reprinted; d) Three new sheets were added to the Information Kit on the following themes: Tentative Lists, Benefits of ratification of the World Heritage Convention and the rationale and procedure for the inscription of sites in the List of World Heritage in Danger; in addition to these, separate sheets on each site inscribed in the List of World Heritage in Danger were prepared and printed after verification by the relevant State Party authority; e) After the diffusion to the anglophone States Parties of the English version of the World Heritage slide kit, the 50 slides illustrating the various aspects of the Convention and their accompanying text, were produced in a French version and dispatched to francophone State Parties.

Four issues (10-13) of the *World Heritage Review* were published. The specificity of the *Review*, as a means for promoting the Convention and increasing public awareness of the conservation needs of the sites under its protection, has been significantly developed, as requested by the Committee at its 22nd session. Six bimonthly issues of the *World Heritage Newsletter* have been published in English and French (5,000 copies each) and a total of eighteen issues of **WHNEWS**, the electronic mail version, have been circulated. The 2000 issue of the *World Heritage Desk Diary* was prepared and produced in 10,000 copies. A four-page colour brochure on the implementation of Article 29 of the World Heritage Convention, *Periodic reporting*, has been prepared for print and will be available by the end of the year in English (6000 copies), French (4000) and Spanish (2000).

The **World Heritage travelling exhibition** on the World Heritage conservation process was presented to the public at the site of Gèdre (Pyrénées/ Mont-Perdu); in the Philippines, at the site of the Baroque Churches, and a CD-ROM version of it has been sent to the Australian site of Lord Howe Island for an on-site preparation of an exhibit – a new form of co-operation in this field. A Spanish version of the exhibit was prepared and produced on lightweight easily transportable scrolls. A new travelling photo exhibition was produced with extra-budgetary funds generated through the Self-financing Programme. This small exhibition, designed for use during special events and meetings on World Heritage in other countries is being displayed during the twenty-third session of the World Heritage Committee in Marrakesh.

In conformity with the **Radio Strategy** proposed to the Committee in 1998, the Centre has worked closely with UNESCO's Office of Public Information for the development of scenarios and radio programmes on World Heritage. When finalized, these scenarios and programmes will be made available to States Parties wishing to develop this activity.

(iv) Internet and WHIN

In September 1999, for the first time, the World Heritage web site received over one million "hits" for the month, more than double the number recorded at the same time in 1998. The highest number of hits in July was set on the day following the Extraordinary Session of the Committee with 46,826 hits. The considerable public interest in World Heritage information is evident in the rapid increase in requests to the World Heritage public web site and in the growing number of individual requests to the Secretariat for detailed information about sites.

In 1999 links to the 1998 state of conservation reports were established from the specific site web pages concerned. The World Heritage Information Network was re-launched to better identify partner organizations and the benefits of adhesion to WHIN. Separate web pages were established for each of the States Parties to the Convention, highlighting World Heritage activities of each. Simplified regional and State-Party maps showing the approximate location of each World Heritage site were developed for use on the web site

(v) Self-financing Programme on partnerships with the media and publishers

Existing partnerships were reviewed, in co-operation with UNESCO's Office of Public Information in order to devise a new distribution strategy for all materials produced by outside partners. The results of this internal evaluation showed that there was a need to amend some of the agreements to include a shared ownership clause thus ensuring increased dissemination of the final product. The Centre also focused on selecting new partners with the ability to reach people around the world. The establishment of new partnerships has greatly improved since the adoption of *the Guidelines for the Use of the World Heritage Emblem* and quality control measures by the World Heritage Committee in 1998.

According to the terms of the new agreement signed in October 1998 between the Centre and **Südwestrundfunk (SWR)** for the continued production of the television series entitled "Treasures of the World", SWR has produced another 25 episodes for the series. **Tokyo Broadcasting System (TBS)** celebrated its third consecutive year of production of the World Heritage television special broadcast weekly in Japan. To commemorate this special event TBS produced "The Colour of Memories": a non-commercial CD-ROM / DVD package designed to promote the television series. It was produced by TBS and sponsored by Sony and includes interviews, photo illustrations of World Heritage sites and brief descriptions in Japanese and English. The World Heritage Centre and **Arts & Entertainment Television Networks/The History Channel** have agreed to develop a partnership for the production of a series of public service announcements (PSA) on sites inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Three PSAs have already been completed on Angkor, Jerusalem and Timbuktu.

In response to a growing demand for a **non-site specific documentary film** on World Heritage, the Centre, with the co-operation of its film production partners, initiated the production of a film on the World Heritage conservation process. The film was produced in French and English.

In 1999, a partnership was established **with Walk Associates Ltd. and Nihon Tushinkyoku Renmei Co. Ltd.** of Japan for the publication of a three-volume set of books on a selection of World Heritage sites, planned for the beginning of 2000. The already six-year long co-operation with **Panasonic** has led to the publishing of a Youth and a Corporate Calendar for the year 2000. A partnership was developed between the Italian daily newspaper **Corriere della Sera** and UNESCO, for an effective information campaign, launched in August 1999, on World Heritage.

In 1999, the Regional Council of Poitou-Charentes hosted a conference on the theme of networking and mediation of World Heritage as a part of the Council's Year of Heritage celebrations focussing on existing networks of World Heritage sites and offering prospects for the establishment of new networks.

(vi) The UNESCO Special Project: *Young People's Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion*

The UNESCO Special Project “*Young People’s Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion*” continues to be jointly implemented by the World Heritage Centre with the Associated Schools Project Co-ordination Unit (ASPnet) of the Education Sector. The Project aims to develop new educational approaches to provide young people with the necessary knowledge, skills and commitment to become involved in the protection and promotion of the world’s outstanding natural and cultural heritage.

The major achievement of 1999 was the publication of the UNESCO World Heritage Educational Resource Kit for Teachers ‘*World Heritage in young hands*’ in English (2500 copies) and French (1500 copies). The Kit was distributed and is being tested in about 600 Associated Schools in more than 110 Member States of UNESCO. In co-operation with UNESCO Field Offices and States Parties, the Kit has been translated and published in Arabic and Spanish language versions and distributed in October 1999. UNESCO has received 55 requests for translation of the Kit into national language versions. The Kit was also presented at an international press conference held at UNESCO Headquarters in June 1999, with the presence of the former Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Federico Mayor, and the President Director-General of the Rhône-Poulenc Foundation of France, Mr Jean-René Fourtou.

In a series of steps to facilitate the introduction of the Kit and promote the concept of World Heritage Education in classroom teaching, an International Workshop on World Heritage Education was held at Chartres, France, in February 1999 to introduce the Kit to Directors of UNESCO Regional Offices, education experts and international experts from the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee. Following recommendations of the meeting, sub-regional workshops for national teams of teacher-trainers were held in Ecuador, India, Belize, Jordan, Malawi, Oman, the Russian Federation, Thailand, Uzbekistan and Fiji in 1999 with support from the World Heritage Fund, extra-budgetary funding received from the NORAD and the Rhône-Poulenc Foundation of France. More than 75 countries have expressed their interest in organizing national workshops for teachers on the use of the Kit.

Following the success of five international and regional World Heritage Youth Fora held in Norway (1995), Croatia (1996), Zimbabwe (1996), China (1997) and Japan (1998), the Second African World Heritage Youth Forum was held in Dakar and at the Island of Gorée, Senegal from 22 to 26 August 1999. Also, the First Arab States World Heritage Youth Forum was organized in Ifrane, Morocco from 23 to 28 November 1999. The outcome of this Youth Forum will be presented to you by a student delegation.

An information video (14 minutes) presenting the history and the activities of the Special Project was produced and distributed (550 copies in Arabic, English, French and Spanish) to Member States in October 1999. The Project brochure was reprinted and distributed in March (3000 copies in English and 1000 copies in French) and with the support from NORAD, the same brochure was reprinted and distributed in Arabic (2000 copies) and Spanish (2000 copies) in October 1999. A bilingual (English and French) information flyer (6000 copies) presenting the Kit was produced and distributed in May 1999. A “Patrimonto’s Newsletter” was published in November 1999 and distributed to teachers participating in the Special Project. With extra-budgetary support from NORAD, consultant services and equipment support was secured to ensure the implementation of Project activities. A folder of the Special Project (1000 copies) was also produced with NORAD funds.

6. Overall functioning of the *World Heritage Convention*

(i) Co-operation with the advisory bodies

The World Heritage Centre continues to develop co-operation with IUCN, ICOMOS and ICCROM to ensure the follow-up to the contracts for advisory services, monitoring, specific international assistance activities, etc.

Regular co-ordination activities refer to the whole nomination and inscription process, reactive monitoring (examination of dossiers, fielding of expert missions) and international assistance (advice from the advisory bodies on requests for international assistance). In February 1999, the advisory bodies were also invited to participate in formulating a strategy for the implementation of the UNESCO Special Project: “*Young People’s Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion*”.

Meetings with the advisory bodies and the World Heritage Centre were held at IUCN Headquarters on 15 February 1999 and UNESCO on 29 September 1999 with the participation of staff members of the Centre, relevant sectors of UNESCO (Division of Cultural Heritage, Sector for Culture and Division of Ecological Sciences, Natural Sciences Sector) and experts from the advisory bodies (ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN).

Co-operation between the Centre and IUCN has been constructive, leading to negotiations with donors for the generation of extra-budgetary resources for World heritage activities in the Pacific, and selected sites such as the Sagarmatha National Park of Nepal and Ha Long Bay of Vietnam. Discussions are underway to ensure that World Heritage issues and experience are taken up for discussions during several up-coming events sponsored by IUCN- the most important ones being the World Conservation Congress (Amman, Jordan, October 2000) and the Fifth World Parks Congress (Durban, South Africa, September 2002). The Centre and IUCN have suggested the organization of specific activities in this regard as part of the Centre’s proposals for World Heritage Fund and Budget for the year 2000. Joint efforts of the Centre and IUCN/WCPA’s Vice-Chairman for World Heritage has led to the New Zealand Government awarding a NZ\$75,000 (US\$39,000) grant for placing a consultant for World Heritage implementation at the UNESCO Office in Apia, Samoa.

Co-operation with the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) was enhanced with the Centre’s participation in the IUCN/WCPA meeting on Mediterranean Protected Areas held at the World Heritage site of Cilento National Park (Italy) from 4 to 9 November 1999.

The WCPA’s Position Statement on Mining and Associated Activities in Relation to Protected Areas, which was welcomed by the IUCN Council on 27 April 1999 was presented to the twenty-third session of the Bureau in July 1999. The Chairperson requested the World Heritage Centre to submit the Position Statement as a working document to the twenty-third session of the World Heritage Committee. A working document **WHC/99/CONF.209/20** is presented to the Committee. This document provides a summary of past discussions and suggests a process for the development of general principles relating to World Heritage and mining.

In addition to the country-specific project-based co-operation between the Centre and ICOMOS and ICCROM, notably for the deployment on mission of ICOMOS and ICCROM experts, the Centre’s co-operation with these two advisory bodies have been particularly strengthened in developing a strategic approach that combines monitoring, reporting and training for the protection and conservation of urban heritage sites.

(ii) Co-operation with other sectors of UNESCO

Following the recommendation made by the External Auditor on the *Management Review of the World Heritage Convention* in 1997, particularly on the co-operation with other sectors of UNESCO, the World Heritage Centre was able to take follow-up actions in this domain.

Co-operation with UNESCO's Science Sector units, particularly the MAB Programme in the Division of Ecological Sciences, has progressed smoothly. The Director of MAB participated in the meeting of the Centre and the Advisory Bodies held in September 1999 and has reviewed and provided inputs to the preparation of document **WHC-99/CONF.209/20**. In addition, staff of the Centre and the MAB Secretariat co-operated with the UNDP/GEF's Small Grants Programme to develop a proposal for supporting community-based conservation in and around sites that are World Heritage sites and/or Biosphere Reserves. This proposal is now being reviewed for funding by the UN Foundation. A member of the MAB Secretariat also represented the UNESCO at the first meeting of the Task Force of NGOs, bilateral organizations and ICCN of the DRC on the conservation of the World Heritage sites of DRC. Following this meeting the Centre has co-operated with the Task Force to develop a project for supporting the conservation of the five World Heritage sites of the DRC. The project has been approved for funding by the United Nations Foundation (UNF).

The level of co-operation with UNESCO Division of Earth Sciences (SC/GEO) and Unit on Coastal Areas and Small Islands (SC/CSI) continue to be regular with regard to information exchange and launching joint actions. The Centre attended the meeting of the International Geological Correlation Programme (IGCP) on 3 February 1999 and made a presentation of World Heritage and geological heritage. Following the collaboration with IGCP and IUGS, regional co-operation to identify potential geological World Heritage sites has been evolved.

Similar arrangements were made to reinforce the co-operation with other sectors, notably the Sector for Culture on the information exchange and monitoring the state of conservation of the cultural heritage. To promote methodological coherence and exchange of technical knowledge relevant to the protection and conservation of the numerous urban heritage on the World Heritage List, the working group on historic cities established in 1998 within the World Heritage Centre is also attended by colleagues of the Division of Cultural Heritage and the Sector of Social and Human Sciences' Division of Modern Social Transformation, as well as by outside international experts.

In addition, the World Heritage Centre co-operates closely with the Education Sector, particularly the Associated Schools Project Co-ordination Unit (ASPnet) for the implementation of the UNESCO Special Project: "*Young People's Participation in the World Heritage Preservation and Promotion*".

In further developing co-operation with different sectors of UNESCO, the advisory bodies, States Parties and other partners involved in World Heritage conservation, priority is being given to the monitoring of properties, especially those on the List of World Heritage in Danger and the development of bi-lateral and multi-lateral approaches to providing assistance to these properties.

Finally, the World Heritage Centre co-operates with UNESCO Field Offices in implementing the *World Heritage Convention*, to promote maximum benefit from on-going UNESCO activities.

(iii) Co-operation with other Convention Secretariats

The project on the «Feasibility Study for Harmonized Information Management among International Conventions dealing with Biodiversity Convention» implemented by WCMC with financial support from Biodiversity, Ramsar, CITES, CMS and World Heritage Conventions has resulted in the Biodiversity Convention hosting a closed non-modulated list server and a common web page for the five Conventions at www.biodiv.org/rioconv/sedsites.html/.

The Centre has established a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat to strengthen co-operation between the two Conventions. The MOU was signed during the Ramsar Conference of Parties held in Costa Rica in March 1999. The Centre is also in the process of entering into a MOU for strengthening co-operation with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).

(iv) Co-operation with other organizations

Considerable progress has been made regarding the co-operation with external partners:

World Bank, UNDP, UNEP and other agencies

The World Heritage Centre participated in the Workshop on the «Options for the Comprehensive Development of the Quang Ninh-Hai Phong Coastal Zone Vietnam» organized by the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) and the **World Bank** Office of Vietnam in April 1999. The meeting has opened up negotiations between IUCN, Hanoi and donors for biodiversity studies of the Ha Long Bay World Heritage Area and its environs and capacity building for the Ha Long Bay Management Department.

Also, the **World Bank** visited the World Heritage Centre to discuss contents and co-operation for cultural and development projects in Turkey, Yemen, Lebanon and Ethiopia. The Centre is requesting that such projects be designed in such way that the World Heritage Convention is properly applied. A video conference on site management took place in April 1999 between the World Bank, Technical University of Delft (Netherlands) and the Centre

UNDP has allocated US\$40,000 to the World Heritage Centre to study the role of World Heritage sites in the overall development of the country of Egypt.

The World Heritage Centre's efforts to ensure that sites are protected against the growing number of visitors has led to the preparation of a draft of the tourism management training manual for Asian site-managers, supported with a financial contribution from TEMA, a Swedish tourism agency. In co-operation with **UNEP**, the draft manual will be edited and published by January 2000, and will be distributed to Asian site-managers and relevant authorities. The World Heritage Centre intends to adapt this manual for use in other regions at a later stage. Furthermore, in order to encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use of traditional buildings within World Heritage areas, the Centre is implementing three pilot projects to restore and convert historic buildings into quality tourism accommodations at Bhaktapur and Patan in Kathmandu Valley (Nepal), with extrabudgetary contributions from TEMA and NFUAJ, a Japanese NGO. Moreover, to sensitize the tourism industry and tourists visiting World Heritage sites concerning issues related to their protection, the Centre has entered into dialogue with UNEP, the World Tourism Organization (**WTO**) and representatives of tour operators.

UNESCO has also entered into close collaboration with the **UNEP** Office in Paris, France, not only in the fields of tourism development issues in World Heritage sites, but also for

questions pertaining to mining and World Heritage sites. The UNEP Office in Paris is responsible for global negotiations and discussions regarding environmental issues relevant to industrial development. The Centre is in the process of establishing a MOU with the UNEP Office in Paris in order to strengthen co-operation in selected areas of work relevant to the implementation of the Convention.

The newly established **UN Foundation** (1998) is viewing natural World Heritage as a strategic focus for its programme operations in biodiversity and the Centre and IUCN are in regular dialogue with the Foundation in order to promote that interest. UNF's Programme Framework Group (PFG) for ecosystems and biodiversity met in New York, from 14-15 June 1999. In the natural heritage field, a major partnership has been established with the UNF, established in 1998, with the donation of US\$ 1 billion provided by CNN's Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Ted Turner to support activities benefiting UN sponsored causes. The Centre has been successful in working with several partner organizations in successfully designing and developing the following two projects in 1999 which have been approved for funding by the UNF:

Control and eradication of invasive species: a necessary condition for conserving the endemic biodiversity of the Galapagos Islands World Heritage site. This 4-year project developed jointly by the Centre and the Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF) for a sum of US\$ 3,999,850 and was by the UNF Board of Governors in May 1999. Of the total sum approved, a sum of US\$ 1,999,850 is an outright grant and the balance of US\$ 2,000,000 is considered a challenge grant; i.e. the UNF will provide US\$ 1 million subject to the Centre and CDF raising the other million. The Government of Ecuador, UNESCO and **UNFIP** (United Nations Fund for International Partnerships, the New York based UN unit responsible for managing UNF grants) have signed the Project document. The Centre is awaiting the transfer of funds from UNF/UNFIP to UNESCO to begin project execution.

Biodiversity conservation in regions of armed conflict: protecting the World Natural Heritage sites in the Democratic Republic of the Congo". The 4-year project was developed, in response to the twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau in July 1999, by the Centre in co-operation with the UNESCO Division of Ecological Sciences, and the Task Force comprising ICCN (DRC), GTZ (Germany) and a consortium of conservation NGOs including WWF, International Rhino Foundation (IRF), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Gilman International Conservation (GIC). On 3 November 1999 the UNF approved a sum of US\$ 4,186,600 of which US\$ 2,895,912 is an outright grant and US\$ 1,290,688 is to be raised from alternative sources. The Centre is awaiting written confirmation of the approval to finalize the project document and its signing by the State Party, UNFIP and UNESCO and initiate project execution as soon as possible in the year 2000.

In both of the above projects, issues to be addressed are those which were identified in the various state of conservation reports of the sites submitted to the Bureau and the Committee sessions over the last few years. The UNF Board of Governor's Meeting during the first week of November 1999 also approved a Biodiversity Programme Framework Strategy that will benefit designated and potential World Heritage sites that are of critical value to the conservation of globally significant biodiversity. Within the framework of the operations of the Convention, all sites that have or have the potential to satisfy natural heritage criteria (ii) and (iv) are therefore of interest to the implementation of the UNF Biodiversity Programme Framework Strategy. The Centre, in close co-operation with MAB, and the UNESCO Office of the Co-ordinator for the Environment and IUCN participated in several teleconferences and meetings with the UNF, UNFIP and several UN agencies to ensure that World Natural Heritage was chosen and retained as the principal focus in the elaboration of the UNF's

Biodiversity Programme Framework Strategy. With the approval of the Strategy by the UNF Board of Governors in November 1999, the Strategy's implementation will be co-ordinated via the actions of several UN agencies including UNESCO and is expected to generate as much as US\$ 30-40 million for the benefit of States Parties willing to conserve natural and mixed properties that have met, or have the potential to meet natural heritage criteria (ii) and (iv) over the next 3-5 years. The implementation of UNF's Biodiversity Programme Framework Strategy would also significantly enhance the co-operation between UNESCO and the Centre and various UN agencies and Multi-lateral donor institution for the benefit of natural World Heritage.

The Centre has increased its frequency of contacts, particularly with the Global Environment Fund (GEF) Secretariats of the World Bank and UNDP and is preparing a list of on-going and pipeline projects on World Natural and Mixed Heritage sites receiving financial support from the GEF. The potential for linking outcomes of the Centre/IUCN monitoring missions to project development activities of the GEF Programmes is also expanding.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN is also in the process of discussing with the International Financing Corporation (IFC) on the feasibility for pilot testing IFC/GEF's loan programme to support Small and Medium-Scale Enterprises (SME) that GEF's operational objectives relevant to biodiversity conservation and mitigating global climate change. Currently, IUCN's Protected Area Economics Unit has expressed an interest to manage a loan package that could benefit SME activity in and around natural World Heritage sites.

In a letter dated 4 November 1999, the Permanent Delegation for France to UNESCO informed the Centre that the French Minister for Environment wishes to assist the Centre in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the African continent, particularly for the organization in Africa during the year 2000 a meeting for planning the strategy for establishing management plans for transboundary sites already designated or with potential World Heritage values. The French Ministry for Environment will provide initial support of 280,000 French Francs to enable the Centre to proceed with the preparation of this meeting. A project proposal together with budget breakdown and a signed Memorandum of Agreement for counter signature have been submitted to the French authorities.

Co-operation among States Parties

The catalytic use of the World Heritage Fund has enabled the World Heritage Centre to continue supporting States Parties to mobilize expert services from European local authorities for the benefit of World Heritage cities in Asia. A new bilateral aid agreement for US\$ 2 million from the French Development Agency was signed in December 1998 for a project developed by the City of Chinon (France) and the World Heritage Centre. This bilateral project is to support the urban heritage protection activities of the Luang Prabang Heritage House established in 1996 under the decentralized cooperation scheme between Luang Prabang and Chinon (France), under the aegis of UNESCO. A similar decentralized co-operation between Hué (Vietnam) and Lille Metropolis (France) established in 1997 with the Centre's support has also resulted in the establishment of a Hué Heritage House and pilot conservation works. In 1998-99, the Centre has brokered partnership agreements between the cities of Manila (Philippines), Barcelona (Spain) and Marseilles (France); between Vigan (Philippines), Valencia (Spain) and Macclesfield (UK); between Goa (India), Guimaraes (Portugal) and Brighton & Hove (UK); between several municipalities of the Kathmandu Valley, Bath and North East Somerset (UK) and the Province of Treviso (Italy); between Patan and Kokhana (Nepal), Chester (UK) and Feltre (Italy). The Centre provided technical assistance to these seven different groups of partners to prepare project proposals for funding

consideration under the European Union's Asia-Urbs Programme. The Centre is currently developing partnerships between Lahore (Pakistan), Manchester (UK), Strasbourg (France), and Brandenburg (Germany) as well as with other Asian local authorities with World Heritage sites.

The Agreement of Co-operation between France and UNESCO for the Protection and Development of Monumental and Urban Heritage signed in October 1997 between the Director-General of UNESCO and the French Minister of Culture and Communications has become operational. A series of 16 activities agreed upon by the two parties includes the deployment of expert missions to support States Parties in the preparation of World Heritage nomination files. These activities are aimed to support the World Heritage Global Strategy by focusing on countries under-represented on the World Heritage List.

To commemorate the World Heritage inscription of the Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara, a *Nara Seminar for the Integrity and Development of Historic Cities* was organized by the City of Nara and the World Heritage Centre between 5-7 March 1999 and supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Agency for Cultural Affairs of the Government of Japan, ICOMOS and ICCROM, amongst others. Governors, mayors and experts from fifteen local authorities and conservation organizations from eleven historic cities addressed the particularly difficult issues of urban heritage preservation. The Seminar was followed by a one-day public meeting to debate on the challenges of safeguarding the living historic city of Nara and the role of the citizens which was attended by over 200 Japanese experts and local inhabitants of Nara and widely covered by the national and local media.

In May 1999, an international conference and workshop on the "Economics of Heritage" was organized by the UNESCO Regional Office in Bangkok and the States of Penang and Melaka of Malaysia. Attended by over 300 participants, this meeting also provided an important forum of exchange in urban conservation and adaptive re-use of historic buildings. Furthermore, this conference enabled the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to advise the national and local authorities in their preparation of a World Heritage nomination dossier, grouping several settlements of the Strait of Malacca.

In co-operation with IUCN, the International Centre for Protected Landscapes (ICPL), UK, and Ministry of Soil and Forest Conservation, the Department of Wildlife and National Parks and the Ministry of Tourism of Nepal, the World Heritage Centre also participated in donor negotiations with the Department of International Development (DFID), UK, to develop a project on sustainable tourism development in and around the Sagarmatha National Park of Nepal. Project development and donor negotiations, with DFID as well as other potential donors, are continuing.

At the invitation of the Institute for Responsible Tourism and the University of La Laguna (Tenerife, Spain), the Centre participated together with a number of intergovernmental organizations and partners from the tourism industry at the International Seminar on Sustainable Tourism which took place from 19 to 23 April 1999.

Co-operation has been established with the *Instituto Andaluz de Patrimonio Historico* (IAPH) of the Junta de Andalucia, Spain, for the reflection on the matter of indicators for evaluating the state of conservation of historic cities in Latin America and Spain. A first meeting of experts took place in March 1998 in Colonia del Sacramento in Uruguay; a second meeting was organized by the IAPH in Ubeda-Baeza, Spain in April 1999.

Other institutions

At the invitation of the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP), a representative of the World Heritage Centre attended the Third Roundtable for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region in Suva, Fiji from 17 to 19 February 1999. The Roundtable discussed possibilities for collaboration in the implementation of the *1999-2002 Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands region*. Following the Centre's representation at the first two Roundtables, the conservation of properties of outstanding cultural and/or natural value has become an integral part of the *Action Strategy*. The primary mandate of the Roundtable is to increase effective conservation action in the Pacific Islands by (i) fostering collaboration among regional and international organizations; (ii) providing feedback on the effectiveness of conservation activities through monitoring and evaluation of the *Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region*; (iii) identifying and addressing critical gaps in regional conservation activities; and (iv) recruiting new partners for Pacific Island conservation.

The Centre is also working closely with the Pacific Islands Museums Association (PIMA) to ensure enhanced awareness and implementation of the *Convention* in the Pacific. PIMA is a regional, multilingual, non-profit organization that assists Pacific Island museums, cultural centres and peoples to preserve Pacific island heritage. It provides and encourages regional and global linkages, in support of Pacific islands heritage preservation. PIMA is now functioning as the key cultural heritage organization in the Pacific Islands region and is becoming a valuable partner for World Heritage conservation in the region. A representative of the Centre participated in the PIMA Director's Workshop on "Museum Management and the Community" held at the Vanuatu Cultural Centre from 17-20 August 1999 and attended the Board Meeting and Annual General Meeting of PIMA in August 1999.

The World Heritage Centre actively participated in the review and selection of the nominations for the World Monuments Watch programme of the *World Monuments Fund*.

Co-ordination and collaboration has continued with the *Butrinti Foundation* (based in London) on matters related to the World Heritage site of Butrinti, Albania, that was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in December 1997.

The Henry Ford European Conservation Award-launched in 1983- is a major programme for the recognition of achievements in the protection of the natural and cultural environment. As in previous years, a representative of the World Heritage Centre participated in the jury of the Award and attended the Awards Ceremony in June 1999 at Aachen, Germany.

The *ROTONDI* Award 1999 for the section "World", an initiative of the Community of Sassocorvaro in Italy, was dedicated to the UNESCO World Heritage Programme in recognition of the successful safeguarding measures with respect to the world's most significant cultural sites. The Award was handed over to a member of the World Heritage Centre on 19 June 1999 during a ceremony in the Castle of Sassocorvaro, Italy.

World Heritage Offices and Focal Points

Nordic World Heritage Office

The Nordic World Heritage Office (NWHO) was established by the Government of Norway in 1995 as a three-year pilot project under an agreement with UNESCO. This agreement was signed on 27 June 1995. An evaluation of the operation and achievements of the Office was undertaken in 1998, and reported upon to the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-second session. Following the recommendation of the evaluation, the mandate of the Office is being extended for another three-year period.

The Nordic World Heritage Office has continued to promote the application of the Convention in the Nordic countries, particularly by supporting networks of site managers and introducing monitoring and reporting mechanisms. In the international field the Nordic World Heritage Office successfully completed a project on "Sustainable Historic Cities" which was developed and carried-out in close collaboration with the cities of Riga (Latvia), Tallinn (Estonia), Visby (Sweden) and Ålesund (Norway). This activity has greatly furthered the co-operation between local and national and municipal authorities in the Nordic and the Baltic region.

World Heritage Office in Japan

The Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU), a well-established regional body based in Tokyo has established a new programme for regional cooperation on cultural heritage protection. This programme has set up a national World Heritage office in Nara (Japan) supported by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Nara Prefecture and Municipal authorities. This office was officially opened in August 1999 and an international meeting of experts is being planned for March 2000. The programme will be carried out with the co-operation of National Commissions for UNESCO and institutions/organization in the field of cultural heritage conservation in UNESCO Member States in Asia and the Pacific with a focus on training.

Asia/Pacific Focal Point for World Heritage Managers

In 1996, Australia hosted the first meeting of the Regional Network for the Management of World Heritage in South East Asia, the Pacific, Australia and New Zealand (Ravenshoe, North Queensland). The meeting recommended the establishment of a regional focal point for managers of World Heritage properties. This recommendation was repeated at the second Network in 1998 (Thailand). At the twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau in July 1999, the Australian Government announced its intention to establish an Asia-Pacific Focal Point for World Heritage Managers. The APFP can be contacted at the following E-mail address: <apfp@ea.gov.au>.

(v) Follow-up to the work of the Consultative Body of the World Heritage Committee

A status report on follow-up to the work of the Consultative Body of the World Heritage Committee is presented in working document **WHC-99/CONF.209/9**. The document includes an update on the implementation of the Financial and Administrative Audit and Management Review performed in 1997. The document suggests actions as follow-up to recommendations of the twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau (July 1999) on (i) Creation of a strategic task force, (ii) Update on the integrated Information Management System for World Heritage, and (iii) Roles and functions of the World Heritage Centre.

The twenty-second session of the Committee (Kyoto, 1998) asked the twenty-third session of the Bureau (July 1999) to examine *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"*. The report prepared by the World Heritage Centre and presented to the Bureau in July 1999 is contained in Annex I of an information document **WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.15**.

In 1998, at their twenty-second sessions, the Bureau and the World Heritage Committee 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". The Report from the Director-General of UNESCO concerning the roles and functions of the World Heritage Centre, as requested by the twenty-second session of the World Heritage Committee was presented to the Bureau at its twenty-third ordinary session and is included as Annex II of an information document **WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.15**.

(vi) Overall management of the World Heritage Centre in 1999

Changes in the staffing of the World Heritage Centre during 1999 were as follows:

In February 1999, following the retirement of the former Director, Mr Bernd von Droste, Mr Mounir Bouchenaki was entrusted by the former Director-General of UNESCO to be responsible for the work of the World Heritage Centre. The post for the Director of the Centre is currently advertised.

The funding of two Associate Experts posts terminated by June 1999. These are: the post for cultural heritage in Europe and the post for cultural heritage in the Arab States. However, a new Japanese Associate Expert took over the duties at the Centre on 1 July for the Arab States; a German Associate Expert was appointed on 1 October 1999 for cultural heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean, an Italian Associate Expert arrived on 8 November for cultural heritage in the African region. The contract for an Austrian Associate Expert who has been working for the European cultural heritage has been extended.

The Administrative Assistant was transferred to Haïti in early May 1999. This post was vacant for six months and has been filled as of 16 November 1999.

In the proposed Programme and Budget for 2000/2001 (30 C/5) of the World Heritage Centre, five additional posts were requested: for relations with the Media, information networks, Arab States, a secretary for the Africa culture desk and a clerk for Administration. Unfortunately, none of those posts were accepted.

The Regular Budget of the World Heritage Centre has been severely cut, as for all sectors and units of UNESCO, decreasing for 1999 from an approved amount of US\$ 534,318 to US\$ 251,719. Together with the balance due to settle expenditures for prior year statutory meetings, this budgetary reduction greatly reduces the ability of the Centre to exercise its function as Secretariat of the World Heritage Convention. To enable the Centre to fulfill its minimal role, i.e. the organization of the statutory meetings, all other activities foreseen under the Regular Budget have been cancelled and all decentralized funds returned to the Centre, except those allocated for the Special Project: *Young People's Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion*.

However, requests for financial contributions from the World Heritage Fund have increased steadily. As of 30 September 1999, the financial situation of the World Heritage Fund was the following:

Chapter	Budget	Approved requests	Implementation at 30 September 1999
Chapter I. Implementation of the WH Convention	225,000	N/A.	62%
Chapter II. Establishment of the World Heritage List	975,000	N/A.	88%
Chapter III. Technical Implementation of the WH Convention			
- Preparatory Assistance	300,000	300,000	89%
- Technical Cooperation	1,22,000 ²	1,213,402	59%
- Training	981,000	972,540	73%
-On-site promotional activities	100,000	125,000	93%
Chapter IV. Monitoring the State of Conservation of the sites	465,000	N/A.	81%
Chapter V. Documentation, Information and Education	385,000	N/A.	71%
Emergency Assistance Reserve	625,000*	604,529	78%

These figures, clearly indicate that, on the one hand the Fund's limits are being reached, while on the other, the capacity of the Centre to implement the increasing numbers of requests for cooperation is stretched to the limit. One should also bear in mind that more extra-budgetary resources are becoming available for joint activities through co-operation with international development banks and institutions, global funds and national agencies. These opportunities however require additional human and financial resources to ensure proper execution of activities and project management.

As of 22 October 1999, **91%** of the contributions due to the World Heritage Fund for 1999 had been received, amounting to **US\$1,810,718**. The cash balance in the Reserve amounting to some US\$5 million. The Fund is however healthy. But a total amount of **US\$1,891,274** is still unpaid for the previous years contributions, efforts will be continued to encourage States Parties to settle their arrears payments to the Fund so that the growing need for the protection of World Heritage sites can be met through the catalytic use of the international assistance funds.

^{2*} As decided by the World Heritage Bureau at its twenty-third session in July 1999.