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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-third extraordinary session
Marrakesh, Morocco
26-27 November 1999

REPORT OF THE RAPPORTEUR

I. OPENING SESSION

I.1 The twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee was held in Marrakesh, Morocco, from 26 to 27 November 1999. The session was presided by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, Mr. Abdelaziz Touri (Morocco) and was attended by the following members of the Bureau: Australia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Mexico, Morocco, and Zimbabwe and by Ms. Anne Lammila (Finland) in her function as Rapporteur.

I.2 The following States Parties to the Convention attended as observers: Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Nepal, Netherlands, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

I.3 Representatives of the advisory bodies to the Convention: the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and the Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) attended. The following non-governmental organizations attended the session as observers: International Council on Metals and the Environment (ICME), International Fund for Animal Welfare, Natural Research Defense Council and Pro Esteros-Mexico. The meeting was also attended by staff members of the United States House of Representatives. The List of Participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

I.4 The Chairperson opened the session by welcoming the members of the Bureau, the advisory bodies, observers and all participants to the meeting.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

II.1 The Chairperson requested the Bureau to adopt the Agenda and Timetable. In view of the heavy workload facing the Bureau and the time required for the preparation of the report by the Secretariat, the Bureau accepted to reverse the order of the examination of the agenda items on nominations and state of conservation of properties. The agenda and timetable were adopted.

II.2. The Chairperson noted that press statements should not be given by delegates and observers prior to the decisions of the World Heritage Committee.

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

WORLD HERITAGE AND MINING

III.1 The Bureau recalled that, based on discussions of specific cases at its twenty-second session, the former Chairperson, Professor Francioni, recommended the establishment of an informal contact group on mining and World Heritage sites during the annual sessions of the Committee and the Bureau.

III.2 At its session in Kyoto (November 1998), the Bureau noted that a dialogue with the mining industry had commenced and that the Centre, IUCN and ICOMOS had been invited by the International Council on Metals and the Environment (ICME) to a working session on "Mining and Protected Areas and other Ecologically Sensitive Sites" on 20 October 1998 in London (UK). The Bureau also learnt that IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) had prepared a "Draft Policy on Mining and Protected Areas" which was being reviewed within the WCPA network.

III.3 The Bureau at its twenty-third session took note of the "WCPA Position Statement on Mining and Associated Activities in Relation to Protected Areas" that was provided as an Information Document. The Bureau also learnt of further initiatives, including collaboration with UNEP's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics and other units in UNESCO. The Chairperson, noting that the Bureau might wish to reflect on the relevance of WCPA's Position Statement in the light of its deliberations on mining threats to specific sites, suggested that the WCPA Position Statement be submitted as a working document to the twenty-third session of the Committee. The document was presented as WHC-99/CONF.208/7.

III.4 IUCN reported to the Bureau that the statement had been prepared by WCPA, one of the six commissions of IUCN with more than 1,400 members in 140 countries. The Position Statement on Mining was developed within the WCPA network. IUCN stated that mining is a key issue in many countries and this statement had been developed for the world's protected areas in general, rather than for World Heritage sites specifically. However, the principles in the Position Statement are equally applicable. The aims of the Statement are to: (a) provide a global framework to guide WCPA approaches; (b) provide a framework for countries to consider and adapt as needed in local circumstances; (c) establish a framework based on the IUCN protected area categories system which is focused on the objectives of protected area management. Finally, IUCN noted that mining is an issue at many World Heritage sites. IUCN is prepared to continue consultations on this issue, including with UNESCO and UNEP, as well as the mining industry and its Council on Metals and the Environment (ICME).

III.5 The Representative of ICOMOS commended WCPA for the Position Statement and fully supported it. He underlined that the exploitation of mineral resources and its impacts does not concern only natural sites, but also cultural landscapes and other cultural properties (e.g. Goslar/Rammelsberg, Germany). He highlighted the co-operation between ICOMOS and TICCIH on the identification of mining areas. He underlined that the exploitation of mineral resources and its impacts do not concern only natural sites, but also cultural landscapes and other cultural properties.

III.6 The Observer of the International Council on Metals and the Environment (ICME), an NGO representing mining companies from different regions of the world, highlighted the interest of his members in issues relating to mining and World Heritage. He welcomed the dialogue, which had commenced with IUCN and UNESCO in 1998 and the opportunity to comment on the WCPA draft Position Statement. ICME fully supports the objectives of the World Heritage Convention and believes that there are "no go" areas in which mineral exploration and extraction should not be allowed in order to protect areas of unique ecological and cultural values. At the same time, he noted that mining could contribute not only to biodiversity conservation but also economic and social development, particularly in remote

areas. He also noted the change of corporate culture in the industry, as companies are working with governments, communities and particularly the stakeholders to ensure mining contributes to sustainable development objectives of society. These considerations are important in developing countries, e.g. at the Mt. Nimba World Heritage site (Guinee/Côte d'Ivoire). Mineral development can help break the poverty cycle and significantly increase the financial resources available to properly manage a country's system of protected areas. Regarding IUCN's Position Statement, ICME is of the view that a flexible science-based management approach, including assessments of natural and mineral values, should be adopted for existing Category I – IV areas (Article 2). ICME believes that it would be important to draw on the experiences and lessons learned from case studies to develop general principles regarding mining and World Heritage sites. ICME would welcome the opportunity to participate in the technical meeting in Amman (October 2000) and contribute to the technical programme committee.

III.7 The Bureau reviewed the working document and recommended the Committee to adopt the following decision:

> "The Committee
> (a) takes note of the document in light of its deliberations on threats and potential threats from mining to specific World Heritage properties,
> (b) recognizes that there may possibly be additional issues and problems that are specific to the management of World Heritage sites facing ascertained and potential impacts from mining projects;
> (c) requests the Centre to co-operate with interested UNESCO units, the advisory bodies, UN agencies (such as the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics in Paris), other concerned agencies and representatives from interested States Parties to the Convention and representatives of the mining industry, to organize a technical meeting to analyse case studies on World Heritage and mining during global events already planned for the year 2000 (e.g. the IUCN World Conservation Congress due to be held in Amman, Jordan, in October 2000), and develop recommendations for review and discussion by the twenty-fourth session of the Committee.
> (d) asks the Chairperson to write a letter to the Director-General of IUCN concerning the organization of a technical session on World Heritage and mining at the World Conservation Congress (Amman, Jordan, in October 2000)."

WORLD HERITAGE AND OTHER ISSUES

Fire management

III.8 The Observer of Thailand informed the Bureau about the project to review the fire-management policy of Thungyai-Huay Khakhaeng. His statement is included as Annex II to this report.

III.9 The Centre informed the Bureau that the Chair of the National World Heritage Committee of Thailand, via his letter of 28 September 1999, submitted a progress report on the project for reviewing fire management policy in the conservation of Thungyai and Huay Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries and nearby areas. The report, prepared by the Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University, reviews the causes of forest fire in the World Heritage site and

nearby areas, provides an overview of historical and present states of forest fire control in Thailand and describes the current situation of fire control and prevention in the World Heritage area.

III.10 The Bureau noted with interest the results of the project to review fire management policy and that the final report of the project is due by January 2000.

III.11 IUCN reported on the implementation of a project relating to the management of fire in South-East Asia. This project (Project Firefight) is examining practical responses to the management of fire in the region, including the assessment of the environmental impact of fire and approaches to fire control. IUCN noted possible synergies between this project and the issue of fire control in the Thungyai-Huay Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries. IUCN is willing to share experience gained from the Project Firefight with the State Party in relation to the management of fire at this World Heritage site. IUCN also welcomed the forest fire management report from Thailand.

Invasive Species

III.12 The Bureau discussed the question of invasive species in relation to a number of sites. IUCN informed the Bureau about the status of the "IUCN Guidelines for the Prevention of Biodiversity Loss Caused by Alien Invasive Species". The Guidelines were approved by the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC), Invasive Species Specialist Group. Following the approval of the SSC Species Committee, the Guidelines will be submitted to the IUCN Council. A report can be made available to members of the Committee and its Bureau.

NATURAL HERITAGE

i) Natural properties which the Bureau recommended for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Iguacu National Park (Brazil)

The Bureau noted that a IUCN/UNESCO mission was carried out to this site in March 1999 and that it was reported at the July 1999 Bureau session. The mission report dealt with four issues relevant to the integrity of this World Heritage site:

(1) The Colon Road: Local people illegally reopened this road in May 1997. The Federal Public Prosecutor is presently prosecuting both the local communities of the area for reopening the road and the Federal and State agencies for not enforcing closure of the road. The majority of the local people support the continued use of the road as it shortens the distance between communities on the northern and southern sides of the Park by some 130 km. IUCN noted that the road has destroyed part of the forest and damaged other parts of the site, has interrupted wildlife movement between the eastern and western sections of the Park and most importantly, has severely impacted on the site's World Heritage values. IUCN has received information on the process to close the Colon road, as recommended by the mission to this site. Due to the political and social pressures related to this road, it is not easy to find a short-term solution for its closure because it could create negative reactions from the local people against this World Heritage site, thus potentially leading to new threats to its integrity.

(2) Helicopter flights: Commercial helicopter flights began in 1972, originating from both Brazil and Argentina. Following recommendations from the World Heritage Committee, flights from the Argentinean side ceased in 1994, but have continued on the Brazilian side. In 1996, the level of concern was such that the Presidents of Brazil and Argentina met to discuss the issue. In 1997 Brazil decided to recommence helicopter flights subject to specific flight conditions. A recent study by the Environment Institute of Paraná concentrated largely on the impact of the helicopters on the tourists' experience, noting that, for most visitors, the flights are interfering with their enjoyment of the Falls. However, this study only superficially investigated the impacts on fauna.
(3) Dams on Iguacu River: The Salto Caixas Dam was recently built on the Iguacu River. It is well upstream of the National Park and at present there is no evidence of any impact on the World Heritage values of the Park. The proposal for another dam, Capanema, has been abandoned, as it would involve a direct impact on Iguacu National Park.
(4) Management Plan: A new Management Plan for Iguacu National Park is due for completion in 1999. This management plan aims to address the above-mentioned problems. To ensure the integrity of this site it is clear that management of both the Iguacu National Park (Brazil) and the Iguazu National Park (Argentina), would benefit considerably from closer liaison and co-ordination between their respective management authorities. During the mission this was discussed with senior Brazilian and Argentinean officials and initial responses were positive.

The Bureau noted that at its twenty-third session it had requested the State Party to immediately close the Colon Road and to initiate a recovery plan to increase canopy closure and re-vegetation of ground cover and stabilise soils and control erosion. Furthermore, it had requested the State Party to: (i) immediately halt helicopter flights pending a thorough evaluation of their impact on the fauna, particularly the avifauna; and (ii) provide a copy of the new management plan to IUCN for review to enable an assessment of the effectiveness of the plan to address prevailing threats to the integrity of the site.

The Centre informed the Bureau that it received the draft management plan, which was transmitted to IUCN for review. A fax from the Ministry of Environment of 23 November 1999 stated that the States Party did not manage to close the road, mainly due to the resistance of the population. The authorities underlined their commitment to World Heritage site protection, the collaboration with Argentina and to the management of the site, in particular concerning the improvement of the waterfall visiting area and the reduction of the impact of helicopter flights. It was also informed that measures had been taken to minimize possible impact from helicopter operations and that a preliminary study had already been carried out in 1996, showing apparently negligible effect on the avifauna.

The Delegate of Zimbabwe highlighted the problem of helicopter flights at World Heritage sites, which has also been experienced at Victoria Falls, and of tourism demands and impacts that need to be reconciled. He noted the necessity to recognize needs of local people and the problem of road access for local populations. The Observer of Canada emphasized the importance of the involvement of local people in park management and asked whether the State Party accepts the proposal for Danger Listing. The Observer of Brazil informed the Bureau that his country would not oppose the possible inclusion of the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger and that the new management plan foresees the involvement of local communities in the Park management.

The Bureau decided to transmit the report to the Committee for examination and to recommend the Committee to adopt the following:

> "The Committee recognizes the efforts made by the State Party to implement the recommendations of the mission. However, in the absence of satisfactory progress with regard to the permanent closure of the road and the implementation of the recovery plan, the Committee may wish to include Iguacu National Park in the List of World Heritage in Danger."

Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC))

The Bureau was informed that the Chairperson approved in September 1999 a technical co-operation grant of US$ 20,000 to: (a) launch special anti-poaching programmes, and to provide living and motivational allowances to personnel; (b) expand Park units from two to six persons in order to enhance patrolling and surveillance efficiency; (c) organise a programme of awareness building among all stakeholders, and design and implement small-scale projects benefiting local populations and (d) purchase of uniforms, tents and communications equipment essential for basic patrolling and surveillance operations. The heightened levels of threats due to poaching and illegal encroachments continue to prevail and the conditions which led the Bureau to recommend that the Committee inscribe this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger remain unchanged.

The Bureau noted that the United Nations Foundation has approved a project submitted by UNESCO for a sum of US$4.1million dollars primarily focusing on the conservation and management needs of four other World Heritage sites of DRC (i.e. Garamba, Virunga, Kahuzi Biega and Okapi). All these sites have already been included in the List of World Heritage in Danger. A meeting to discuss the elaboration of the final document of the project on the "Biodiversity Conservation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo" was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 17 to 22 November 1999. Representatives of UNESCO, the Congo Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN), site representatives and the NGO partners and GTZ, Germany, who jointly developed the project, agreed to incorporate Salonga in equal terms with the other four sites as a beneficiary of the project. 150 staff of Salonga will receive allowances over a period of four years and basic surveillance and communication equipment would be provided. Joint surveillance training activities are also foreseen for the staff of Salonga and the other four sites included in the List of World Heritage in Danger. More details on the project will be reported at the time of the twenty-third session of the Committee under agenda item 10(a) dealing with the state of conservation reports.

IUCN noted and fully supported the funding from the World Heritage Fund allocated to date but observed that it was inadequate to really address the problems faced by the this site. In this regard, IUCN informed the Bureau that it fully supported the assistance of the United Nations Foundation as this should serve as a model for application in other sites. The Bureau agreed with IUCN that the conditions existed for the inscription of this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The Bureau adopted the following text and transmitted it to the Committee for examination and further adoption:

> "The Committee reiterates the recommendation made by the Bureau at its July 1999 session, that this site be inscribed in the List of World Heritage in Danger. In addition,

the Committee requests the Centre and IUCN to expand co-operation with the conservation NGOs, ICCN and other partners, targeted to raise international awareness and support for four other World Heritage sites in Danger in the DRC. These sites are Garamba, Virunga and Kahuzi Biega National Parks and the Okapi Faunal Reserve to address the needs of these sites too, and explore ways and means to strengthen the conservation and management of Salonga National Park".

Rwenzori Mountains (Uganda)

The Centre informed the Bureau that an email report submitted by the Chief Executive Officer of the Uganda Wildlife Authority provided information on Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and mentioned that rebels have occupied the Rwenzori Mountains World Heritage site since 1997 and no meaningful conservation activities are being implemented in the site. Furthermore, the rebels continue to use the site as a hiding place from where they occasionally launch attacks on communities and institutions in the districts of Kaesese, Kabarole and Bundibugyo. Some local people living adjacent to the Park have been displaced. The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF/USAID) Project to implement the Medium-Term Operational Plan has been suspended. The following points are also noted:

- due to lack of resources, ranger numbers have been trimmed to such a level that they are thin on the ground and ill-equipped. As a result conservation activities have almost come to a halt. Some outposts are functional manned by a few people mainly to guard property. In the absence of patrols, the levels of illegal activities such as pitsawing and encroachment cannot be properly ascertained.
- Activities related to communities are difficult to implement because people are unsettled as they are constantly under threat resulting from the insurgency of the rebels.
- Part of the Park Headquarters has temporarily moved to the Kasese town for security reasons. A contingent of 30 rangers is at Ibanda, the Park Headquarters, where they train and maintain park security with other security or personnel.

The Bureau was informed that training of rangers and wardens in combat tactics is essential in order to survive in the hostile environment. This is being arranged in collaboration with other security operations by the defence forces. The main constraint to this training is supply of equipment that cannot adequately be covered by the Uganda Wildlife Authority budget. Although there is a heavy deployment of Ugandan Security Forces and training of large numbers of community members to fight the insurgency, it is not clear when the conflict will end. The long-term negative impact of the conflict on the fauna and flora cannot be predicted since most of the Park is not monitored by Park staff.

IUCN informed the Bureau that there are serious security concerns at this site, particularly in relation to the use of the site by rebel forces and that IUCN believes there is a strong case for this site to be inscribed in List of World Heritage in Danger. IUCN supported the recommendation and noted that there is a need to work with the State Party especially the Uganda Wildlife Authority, and this should be worked into the recommendation. IUCN further reported that the State Party has indicated that they would not object to this site being inscribed in the Danger List.

The Delegate of Zimbabwe, in support of IUCN, remarked that the problems concerning this site are real and the World Heritage site is in Danger. The Delegate stated that the inscription of the site in the List of World Heritage in Danger was appropriate, and he welcomed the fact that the Ugandan authorities were not opposed to the listing.

The Bureau adopted the following text and transmitted the above report to the Committee for examination and further adoption:

> "The Committee expresses its serious concerns regarding the security situation at this site and recalls the Bureau's recommendation (July 1999), that the Committee include this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee requests the Centre and IUCN working closely with the Uganda Wildlife Authority, to communicate with conservation NGOs and other international organizations who have presence in the region to discuss ways and means to publicize the need for all parties involved in the conflict in the region to respect the site's World Heritage status and to develop projects to support site management"

ii) State of conservation reports of natural properties which the Bureau transmitted to the Committee for action

Great Barrier Reef (Australia)

The Bureau noted that at its twenty-third session (July 1999) it requested the Australian Committee for IUCN (ACIUCN) and the State Party to review the 29 recommendations listed in the March 1999 ACIUCN report "Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area: Condition, Management and Threats". The Bureau also had requested the ACIUCN and the State Party to elaborate a more focused set of recommendations and a detailed plan for their implementation and monitoring. The Commonwealth Government of Australia, in a letter dated 7 October 1999, transmitted to the Centre and IUCN a detailed plan for the implementation and monitoring of a more focused set of recommendations prepared by ACIUCN. These "Focused Recommendations" and the "Framework for management" of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA) were presented in the Information Document WHC-99/CONF.208/INF.5.

IUCN reviewed both the "Focused Recommendations" and the "Framework for management" of the GBRWHA and noted the five priority action areas of the "Focused Recommendations": Management of Land and Coastal Catchments; Management of Fisheries; Management of Shipping and Ship-Sourced Pollution; Representative Marine Protected Areas, and Resources for Research and Management. IUCN considered the "Framework for Management" as proposed by the State Party to be comprehensive and that it establishes a basis for monitoring the implementation of the "Focused Recommendations". IUCN commended the work undertaken by the State Party and the State Government of Queensland. IUCN reiterated its view that catchment issues pose the most serious threat to the GBRWHA and noted the urgency of the need for effective integrated catchment management to reduce environmental impact on the World Heritage site. IUCN however, noted and agreed with the State Party that many of these issues will require social and economic changes of a scale which will take years to achieve, such as in relation to modification of land use related impacts and the management of fisheries. This underlines the importance of developing strategic objectives and actions to ensure the long term protection of the GBRWHA and the establishment of a plan to monitor their implementation, as has been established in the "Framework for management".

The Delegate of Australia thanked IUCN and the Bureau for the consultative approach and highlighted the importance of the State Government of Queensland in the process to achieve a model for the management of a World Heritage area.

The Bureau transmitted the above report and the "Focused Recommendations" and "Framework for management" contained in WHC-99/CONF.208/INF.5 to the Committee for examination and recommended the following for adoption:

> "The Committee accepts the "Focused Recommendations", and the "Framework for management" of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA) as a basis for monitoring the implementation of those recommendations. The Committee commends the process and the product arising from the consultative approach used in developing a basis for monitoring the state of conservation of the GBRWHA and recommends its adoption for the management of other World Heritage natural properties in Australia. The Committee invites the State Party to submit progress reports on the implementation of the "Focused Recommendations" to the annual sessions of the Committee for review."

Comoe National Park (Côte d'Ivoire)

The Bureau was informed that IUCN received a copy of the report provided to the World Heritage Centre, prepared by a scientist from the Centre de Recherche en Ecologie from Côte d'Ivoire entitled "Evaluation de l'état actuel du parc national de la Comoe". The report outlines the serious threat of poaching to the wildlife of this site and sets out a series of recommendations for improved management. IUCN has received several other reports from NGOs and individuals highlighting illegal logging activities that are threatening the integrity of the site. IUCN noted and supported the recommendations of the study that this site is in urgent need of technical and financial support. A request for financial assistance from the State Party is expected to be submitted to the twenty-third session of the Committee. In view of the high level of poaching reported at this site, IUCN recommended that it be considered for inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger and that an expert mission be fielded to verify the information reported by the study quoted above and have discussions with the State Party regarding the possible inclusion of this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

IUCN informed the Bureau that it has received many reports on this site indicating major poaching impacts on wildlife of the site, and that additional threats have been noted as forestry and agricultural incursion, especially cotton. IUCN remarked that these reports, if verified, would indicate this site has potential for inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger. IUCN observed that before any action is taken, there should be a response from the State Party and an appropriate monitoring mission to review the situation and recommend appropriate action

The Bureau adopted the following text and transmitted it to the Committee for examination and further adoption:

> "The Committee requests the State Party to consider inviting a Centre/IUCN mission to the site during the year 2000 in order to review threats to the integrity of the site and plan emergency rehabilitation measures as appropriate. The Committee may wish to invite the State Party to co-operate with the Centre and IUCN in order to submit to the twenty-fourth session of the Committee, in accordance with paragraphs 86 – 90 of the

Operational Guidelines, a detailed state of conservation report and corrective measures for mitigating threats to the site, so as to enable the Committee to consider including this property in the List of World Heritage in Danger"

Whale Sanctuary of El Viscaino (Mexico)

Following the request of the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau and at the invitation of the Mexican authorities, a mission was carried out to the Whale Sanctuary of El Vizcaino from 23 to 28 August 1999. The full report and the recommendations of the mission were presented in Information Document WHC-99/CONF.208/INF.6.

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that following the assessment of the information made available to the mission team in background documentation, meetings with Government officials, representatives of non-governmental organizations, local communities and other stakeholders and through observations during a field visit of the site, the mission came to a number of conclusions and recommendations. These were presented to the Mexican authorities by the mission team. The Secretariat then introduced the report and the main findings of the mission.

The issues were found to be extremely complex and could certainly not be reduced to a concern about one species or event. In fact, the team specifically considered a variety of issues including the management structure, the integrity of the site, status of the whale population, salt production, sustainable use and tourism. The World Heritage area, composed of the two lagoons Ojo de Liebre and San Ignacio, retains its quality and significance as a largely natural habitat and fulfils the criteria and conditions of integrity for which it was inscribed in 1993. The Bureau was informed that the mission invited the Mexican Government to take fully into account the World Heritage values of the site when evaluating the proposed salt facility at San Ignacio, which would include not only the population of grey whales and other wildlife but also the integrity of the landscape and the ecosystem.

The mission team concluded that the World Heritage site under present circumstances is not in danger, and scientific data show that the whale population is not endangered and continues to increase. However, if any significant change to the present situation should occur, documented by appropriate evidence, the conclusion concerning the site's status under the World Heritage Convention should be promptly re-evaluated in co-operation and co-ordination with the State Party, and appropriate consideration should be given to all relevant Parties and the World Heritage Committee.

IUCN noted that it participated in the UNESCO mission and that the technical report is both credible and objective. IUCN supports the efforts of the Mexican Government in protecting the site, and in particular in relation to capacity building efforts and the involvement of local people. The mission focused on the existing salt works and the research indicated that these had no significant impact on the grey whale population. IUCN noted that in case of changes to the existing situation the position should be re-evaluated. Any re-evaluation should consider the population of grey whales and the integrity of the landscape and its ecosystem.

The Delegate of Mexico thanked the Committee and UNESCO making the mission possible highlighting the professionalism of the mission team working in an independent process. The Mexican Government fully endorsed the recommendations as far as they are consistent with previous reports and information it has submitted and enphasized: that the World Heritage site

is not in Danger, that the Grey Whale population has increased and the National Ecology Institute has not received a proposal by the ESSA company for salt production at San Ignacio. Finally, the Government of Mexico reaffirmed its political will to maintain and enhance its cooperation with the World Heritage Committee, in order to preserve the exceptional values of El Vizcaino.

The Observer of Germany noted that the industrial development might have side effects to the integrity of the site, through population increase and infrastructual measures. The Delegate of Mexico in responding, underlined that the National Ecology Institute is not evaluating such a proposal and therefore any judgement would be premature at this time.

The Chairperson thanked the mission team for its excellent work and the State Party for its collaboration.

The Bureau decided to transmit the report to the Committee for examination and to recommend the Committee to adopt the following:

> "The Committee takes note of the report of the mission and the full set of recommendations as indicated in WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.20. The Committee notes that the World Heritage site under present circumstances is not in danger, and scientific data show that the whale population is not endangered and continues to increase. However, if any significant change to the present situation should occur, documented by appropriate evidence, the conclusion concerning the site's status under the World Heritage Convention should be promptly re-evaluated in co-operation and co-ordination with the State Party, and appropriate consideration should be given to all relevant Parties and the World Heritage Committee."

Following the decision, the Chairperson the gave the floor to the Observers from two NGOs, Pro Esteros and the International Fund for Animal Welfare who expressed their concerns about the conservation of El Vizcaino, its natural resources and conditions of integrity according to the World Heritage Convention's Operational Guidelines.

Doñana National Park (Spain)

The Bureau noted that during 1998 and 1999 a number of actions were undertaken to mitigate the impacts of the ecological disaster following the spill in April 1998.

An *International Expert Meeting on the Regeneration of the Doñana Watershed* (Doñana 2005 Conference) took place from 4 to 8 October 1999 with the participation of the World Heritage Centre, IUCN, the Secretary-General of the Ramsar Convention, WWF and other organizations. The meeting produced a number of recommendations concerning steps that could be taken for improving the situation of the decrease in the water table, diversion of surface water flows from entering Doñana and ensuring that water entering the area is free of pollutants. In addition, discussions took place concerning the necessity for strong co-operation between various activities being initiated in the region such as the Doñana 2005 project and the Green Corridor project. Some suggestions included the construction of large artificial lagoons for the control of water flows and reducing pollution and sediment loads. These would be placed in areas outside the World Heritage site in land to be purchased or acquired from agricultural companies or farmers. This recommendation could be of concern because the lagoon

construction and operation afterwards could have serious impacts on the hydrology of the region.

IUCN welcomed the continued clean up effort of the Guadiamar Basin and affected areas, the Expert Meeting on the Regeneration of Doñana and the initiation of the Green Corridor project, but noted some concerns relating to the re-opening of the Aznalcollar mine and the impact study, which was undertaken to ensure that the toxic wastes in the old mine pit remain there and not percolate into the surrounding aquifer. IUCN noted that the mine spill has raised awareness of the fragility of the Donana ecosystem. However, issues associated with the mine need to be considered in conjunction with the issues associated with integrated water management, particularly with the decrease in the water table. This was highlighted at the Expert Meeting, as well as the need for mechanisms for an integrated management approach.

The Centre informed the Bureau that UNESCO and IUCN had not been informed of the re-opening of the mine prior to the last session of the Bureau. Following the Doñana 2005 Conference, the Centre contacted the authorities to obtain information concerning the exact dates of authorization and production of the Azlacollar mine and clarification with regard to the points raised by the World Heritage Bureau.

On 24 October and on 9 November 1999 a number of documents were submitted by the State Party, which were transmitted to IUCN for review including the Annexes concerning the results of the Doñana 2005 Conference. Furthermore, on 26 November 1999 a "Note concerning the situation of the Doñana National Park in relation to the terms of the IUCN report tabled in November 1999" was provided by the Ministry for Environment. This statement notes that most issues were discussed at the Doñana Conference. In particular, the former mine pond was made completely watertight, its utilization forbidden and it will be completely sealed when the competent legal authority grants its authorization. The mining company has not been authorized to dump any waste into the Guadiamar River and a Joint Commission by the State and Regional Administration has been established in March 1999. The Doñana 2005 project has received broad support, as can be seen by the conclusion of the Expert Meeting. The Observer of Spain thanked IUCN and UNESCO for the participation in the Conference and for the international collaboration in the follow-up. He suggested that a follow-up meeting could be convened in late 2000 or early 2001. He reiterated his Government's commitment to the safeguarding of the Doñana National Park.

The Delegate of Zimbabwe noted the impacts of the mining disaster and that a strict application of the Convention would be needed, as well as a close follow-up by IUCN and UNESCO.

The Bureau decided to transmit the report to the Committee for examination and to recommend the Committee to adopt the following:

> "The Committee commends the Spanish authorities for the continued clean up effort of the Guadiamar Basin and affected areas. However, the Committee expresses its concerns for the re-opening of the mine without taking into account the points raised by the twenty-second session of the Committee and the twenty-third session of the Bureau. The Committee suggests that a review meeting be held during the year 2000/2001 to review progress of the implementation of the Doñana 2005 project, taking into account the points raised by IUCN and that should involve all concerned parties and institutions including the international collaborators involved in the meeting on Doñana 2005 held in October 1999. The State Party should also be encouraged to take into account the

WCPA Position Statement on mining activities and protected areas to be reviewed by the twenty-third session of the Committee."

St. Kilda (United Kingdom)

The Bureau recalled that at its twenty-second session it had noted conflicting information in relation to the state of conservation of St. Kilda. Accordingly, it suggested that the State Party, in co-operation with the Centre and IUCN, initiate a round table process involving interested parties. This round table meeting was held in Edinburgh on 24 September 1999 with the participation of a representative from IUCN/WCPA and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

IUCN noted that the focus at the roundtable was whether risks to the existing World Heritage property were such that it should be included on the List of the World Heritage in Danger. The boundary of the property is at the high tide mark and, therefore, any matters of marine pollution were considered in the context of impact on the nesting sea birds of St. Kilda while at sea, feeding or roosting, or the food upon which they depended.

The strategy for exploration and possible exploitation of the Atlantic Frontier was explained in detail at the roundtable meeting, together with the procedures for the input of scientific advice by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) on environmental impacts. Information was also provided about the data on which this scientific advice was based. The evidence provided at the round table meeting covered: existing proposals to drill exploration wells; general environmental measures within licensing; preparedness and response to oil spills; environmental impact assessments for each exploration well and for development; assessment of risk of oil spills; details about the likely scale of tanker traffic; data on the probability of spills during the transfer of oil; as well as an analysis of the procedures followed in Oil Spill Risk Assessment; a breakdown of the factors influencing potential oil spill impact — taking into account the nature of the oil, wind and current direction, rate of dispersion and weathering of spilled oil, the distribution and populations of birds (species by species), shore life and sub-tidal life;

The Round Table also discussed the possibility of damage to the inter-tidal and underwater communities round the coast of St. Kilda, even though these are not included in the present property. The Round Table considered the inter-tidal communities are not considered to be at major risk from any pollutants that might reach them for a number of reasons: the dispersed nature of any pollutants by the time they reached the coast; the fact that species which are adapted to the extreme conditions of the inter-tidal zone in St. Kilda also tend to seal themselves effectively against foreign bodies; and the very rapid turn over of individuals and the large reservoir of free-swimming larval and juvenile stages. In view of the information arising from the Round Table Process, IUCN underlined that it does not recommend that this site be placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The Observer of France noted the issue of economic development at maritime sites and that a dialogue with the petroleum industry could be envisaged. The Commission on Sustainable Development started to discuss the use of the sea and its management.

The Bureau adopted the following text and transmitted the above report to the Committee for examination and further adoption:

"The Committee notes the results of the St. Kilda Round Table of September 1999. The Committee recommends (1) that the boundaries of the World Heritage area should be expanded to include the surrounding marine area and consideration be given to a buffer zone as was recommended in the IUCN's original evaluation in 1986; (2) that a revised management plan should be prepared. The Committee also recommends that until the management plan and the risk assessment of any proposed development that might affect the integrity of the site had been prepared, consideration be given to placing a moratorium on oil licensing nearer to St Kilda other than that already licensed. The Committee decides not to include the site in the List of World Heritage in Danger."

iii) State of conservation reports of natural properties which the Bureau transmitted to the Committee for noting

Shark Bay, Western Australia (Australia)

The Bureau took note of the information provided by the Centre, the Australian Government and IUCN on the consultative process involving the ACIUCN, the State Government of Western Australia and other stakeholders to prepare an up-to-date state of conservation report for this property which is under preparation. IUCN noted that the issues addressed would include potential threats of mining, tourism development and the need to finalize an overall management plan.

The Bureau urged the State Party and IUCN to finalise the consultation process as soon as possible with a view to providing a detailed and up-to-date state of conservation report for Shark Bay, including a focused set of recommendations and a plan for their implementation as have been developed for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, and submit them to the consideration of the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau in 2000.

Wet Tropics of Queensland (Australia)

The Bureau took note of the information provided by the Centre, the Australian Government and IUCN that the consultative process involving the ACIUCN, the State Government of Queensland and other stakeholders to prepare an up-to-date state of conservation report for the Wet Tropics of Queensland has yet to be finalised. IUCN informed the Bureau that issues to be considered in the report would include invasive species, fire management and tourism.

The Bureau urged the State Party and IUCN to finalise the consultation process as soon as possible with a view to providing a detailed and up-to-date state of conservation report on the Wet Tropics of Queensland, including a focused set of recommendations and a plan for their implementation as has been developed for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, and submit them by 15 September 2000 for consideration by the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau in 2000.

Heard and McDonald Islands (Australia)

The Bureau took note of the information provided by the Centre, the Australian Government and IUCN that the major component of the desktop study concerning the establishment of a marine protected area has been completed and that the report is in the process of being

finalised. IUCN welcomed this study and noted that it will protect marine biodiversity and facilitate better management of fisheries impacts. The Delegate of Australia informed the Centre that the first stage of the study will be completed before the end of 1999 and that the habitat survey will be submitted to the Centre in mid-2000.

The Bureau requested the Centre and IUCN to review the desktop study report concerning the establishment of a marine protected area surrounding the Heard and McDonald Islands, due to be completed and submitted to the Centre before the end of 1999, and report their findings by 15 April 1999 for consideration by the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau in 2000.

Belovezhskaya Pushcha/Bialowieza Forest (Belarus/Poland)

The Bureau noted that the IUCN evaluation of the extension of the Bialowieza Forest of Poland is to be reviewed under the agenda item " Nominations of cultural and natural properties to the List of World Heritage in Danger and the World Heritage List". IUCN informed the Bureau that the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources, and Forestry has launched "The Contract for Bialowieza Forest" with its major goal of enlarging national park boundaries to the whole forest complex in 2000 and to strengthen the integrity of the site. However, a final decision has not been taken yet and discussions have reached a crucial point at present with a range of opinions in relation to the desirability of extending the National Park boundaries. IUCN also notes that a management plan for Bialowieza National Park is under preparation.

The Observer of Poland informed the Bureau that the idea of the "Contract for Bialowieza Forest" was initiated by the Polish Ministry of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources and Forestry. It is aimed at enlarging the National Park to the whole area of the Bialowieza Forest (63 000 ha) and providing support for sustainable development. To this end, a multilateral commission was established, including representatives of the Park, communities, NGOs, State Forests and the Ministry. Pro-ecological investments in forest communes are foreseen and the project on the decree by the Polish Cabinet is underway.

The Bureau commended the Polish authorities for their efforts to extend the Bialowieza National Park and to complete the management plan.

Dja Faunal Reserve (Cameroon)

The Bureau recalled that its twenty-second extraordinary session, held on 28 and 29 November 1998, it requested the State Party to submit a report on the implementation of the Sangmelima Workshop recommendations before 15 September 1999. Such a report has not yet been received. A proposal prepared by the Centre to undertake a rapid biodiversity assessment to evaluate the impacts of on-going forestry activities on the contiguity of habitats and gene-pools in and around Dja was under consideration at the time the state of conservation of this site was reported to the twenty-second extraordinary session. Since then, however, the prospective donor, i.e. the Government of Netherlands, has changed its priorities for providing bilateral assistance to Cameroon and the project proposal elaborated by the Centre is no longer under consideration for financing. The Centre is currently in consultation with the NASA's (USA) Earth Studies Unit to explore possibilities for using satellite and remote-sensing images, dating from the present back to the 1970s. This will facilitate the understanding and interpreting of the land-cover changes that have occurred in and around

Dja and using the insights gained from such an analysis, in combination with field studies and ground-truthing, to assess the extent of the threat of biological isolation facing this site.

The Centre informed the Bureau that the negotiations with NASA authorities to use satellite images for monitoring land cover changes in and around Dja is progressing well but no specific agreements have been concluded so far. NASA's Earth Studies Unit is investigating the availability of satellite images for dates covering times before and after the site's inscription on the World Heritage List in 1987 as well as a series of images available for more recent years. These could be useful in detecting forest cover changes in areas immediately adjacent to the Reserve**.** The Bureau was further informed that at present Centre contacts with the NASA Unit for Earth Studies are exploratory, in order to get satellite images and interpretation and analytical expertise at NASA's expense. The results of these negotiations would be known during early 2000 and the Centre will report on the outcome to the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau in mid-2000.

IUCN informed the Bureau that there is still incomplete information about the extent of forestry activities in and around Dja, and that the IUCN Office in Cameroon notes that threats associated with forestry and roads still exist. The Bureau was further informed that IUCN supports efforts by the Centre to use remote sensing images to ascertain the extent of the problem and, like Iguacu National Park, there is a need to work with the local communities to demonstrate the benefits of World Heritage listing at the practical local level.

The Delegate of Zimbabwe expressed concern that the State Party has not so far produced the report expected by the Bureau that was long overdue. The Delegate further wondered whether there were expenses foreseen for the implementation of the Sangmelima Workshop recommendations that may be causing the delay in their implementation. The Centre informed the Bureau that some of the recommendations of the Workshop do not call for additional expenses on the part of the State Party.

The Bureau urged the Centre and IUCN, in co-operation with the State Party and other potential partners, to continue their efforts to undertake a scientific evaluation of the extent of the threat of biological isolation facing Dja and requested that a report on progress made in this regard be submitted to the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau in 2000. At the same time, the Bureau reiterated its request made at its last extraordianry session to fully implement the recommendations of the Sangmelima Workshop, held in 1998, and submit a progress report to the twenty-fourth session on the Bureau in 2000.

Los Katios National Park (Colombia)

IUCN informed the Bureau that that the Ministry of the Environment is in the process of preparing a Management Plan for the area. This new Management Plan will include participatory management arrangements for involving local communities as well as a programme to promote transboundary co-operation with the Darien National Park World Heritage site in Panama. A number of workshops involving local communities and the Special Unit for National Parks of the Ministry of the Environment have been held to discuss how to implement community management arrangements that would enhance the protection of this site. Despite the on-going armed conflict, Park authorities continue to provide some level of management and control in several sectors of the Park. In those areas controlled by Park authorities there has been a reduction in the illegal extraction of natural resources by local communities. However, there is little information provided in the report on what is

happening in those sectors of the Park controlled by armed groups. IUCN acknowledged the progress made towards the preparation of the management plan for this site and commended the State Party for these efforts despite the difficult situation facing this site. However, IUCN noted uncertainty in relation to impacts of a number of threats, including that the Park is not fully under the control of the management agency, that the impacts of the proposal to grant collective land ownership over 100,000ha outside of the World Heritage area in the buffer zone are unclear and should be assessed, and the impacts on wetlands from forest fires need to be reviewed.

The Centre informed the Bureau that a fax was received from the Permanent Delegation of Colombia on 22 November 1999. The authorities sent an official invitation for a mission to the site to the Centre and IUCN, and stated that the Bi-national Commission of Colombia and Panama during its last meeting agreed to hold a workshop to discuss the criteria, concepts, methods and strategies for the management of a bi-national park in the Darien Region.

The Bureau recommended that a monitoring mission to this site be carried out in 2000, which could address the issues noted by IUCN and welcomed the invitation by the Colombian authorities. The Bureau commended the State Party for its efforts to strengthen transfrontier co-operation and urged it to accelerate efforts towards the establishment of a single transfrontier World Heritage site linking Darien (Panama) and Los Katios (Colombia) as recommended at the time of inscription in 1994.

Morne Trois Pitons National Park (Dominica)

IUCN has noted recent correspondence of 16 September 1999 from the State Party, which covered various aspects associated with the proposed cable car. IUCN informed the Bureau that the key elements from the material submitted are the indication that the aerial tramway will terminate approximately 500 metres from the boundary of the National Park, that adjoining state lands will be maintained as a buffer zone; and that the State Party considers that the visual impact on visitors is expected to be minimal.

IUCN commended the efforts of the State Party to construct the aerial tramway outside of the Park, but notes the potential impacts to the Park associated with increased visitation related to the development of the tramway. It notes specifically that the planned linking of the top/return station to the existing nature trail to the Valley of Desolation and Boiling Lake may lead to an increased level of visitation.

The Bureau commended the State Party for actions undertaken to construct the aerial tramway outside the World Heritage area. The Bureau encouraged the authorities to closely monitor visitor use impacts associated with the development of the tramway, and that an overall tourism development planning strategy for the site be developed. The Bureau invited the State Party to provide periodic reports on the state of conservation of this site.

Galapagos Islands (Ecuador)

Information received by the Centre and IUCN from the State Party (15 September 1999) reinforced the fact that positive actions have been taken to enhance the integrity of this site. Following the approval of the Special Law for Galapagos in March 1999, the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador and the Permanent Commission for the Galapagos Islands have been preparing the general regulations by sectors, including tourism, traditional fisheries,

agriculture and environmental control. This has been done using a participatory approach to gain support and consent from local communities. The document on the general regulations has been completed and submitted to the President of the Republic where it was recently discussed and approved. It is expected to be in force in the near future. Progress is reported on the application of migratory controls considered under the Special Law for Galapagos. In relation to tourism development, there are national and international pressures to increase the number of visitors to the islands. The application of the Special Law for Galapagos is helping to control these pressures. There has been no further increase in the capacity of hotels, tourist boats and other services. The Ministry of Environment of Ecuador is implementing an Environmental Management Programme that is supporting infrastructure development for sanitation, water supply, water treatment and solid waste management in order to solve existing problems of pollution in the islands. The re-opening of the sea cucumber fisheries from April to July 1999 was carefully monitored by the personnel of the Galapagos National Park and the Charles Darwin Foundation. A joint monitoring and patrolling programme funded by the Frankfurt Zoological Society was implemented using six patrol boats and aerial techniques.

The Bureau recalled that, at its twenty-third session, it had complimented the State Party for its efforts to improve the conservation of the Galapagos Islands World Heritage site, particularly during difficult economic times. The Centre informed the Bureau about the approval of US$3,999,850 for the UNESCO Project on the Control and Eradication of Invasive Species. The UNF Project document has now been signed by the Government of Ecuador, UNFIP (United Nations Fund for International Partnerships agencies) and UNESCO. The project aims to ensure that the Galapagos retains their unique biodiversity for the benefit of future generations. Its objectives include testing of the application of the state-of-the-art scientific principles and techniques, as well as of participatory approaches in the development of a quarantine regime, capacity and other essential infrastructure for the control of the introduction and spread of invasive species in the Galapagos.

IUCN welcomed the report from the State Party on the state of conservation of the Galapagos Islands and fully acknowledged the positive steps taken by the State Party to conserve this site. The Special Law on the Galapagos provides a useful model for the management of other World Heritage sites, in particular in relation to tourism management. As for all laws and regulations, it is critical to ensure that there are adequate resources to ensure effective implementation. The results from the re-opening of the sea-cucumber fisheries indicate a low level of catch since 1994, thus raising questions about sustainability. This is the key issue for the future management of this site. The management plan has been reviewed by IUCN. It proposes an expansion of the marine reserve as an integrated management unit. It is recommended that a zoning plan be developed for this area with provisions for no-take zones. IUCN also noted that a high level management authority has been proposed, which reflects the importance given to this area within Ecuador. The management plan may provide a good basis for re-nomination of the marine reserve as an extension to the existing World Heritage site. However, IUCN noted that it is too general and more information would be needed, specifically maps indicating the zoning of the area before any recommendation could be formulated.

The Bureau commended the State Party for actions taken to conserve the site. The Bureau noted that the Management Plan for the marine reserve might provide a basis for the re-nomination of the marine reserve as an extension to the existing World Heritage site. It

requested the State Party to provide the information concerning the zoning as noted by IUCN in time for the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau.

Kaziranga National Park (India)

The Centre informed the Bureau that no information was provided by the State Party concerning a detailed report on wildlife censuses that may have been undertaken after the 1998 floods and on long-term measures which are currently being implemented to mitigate future flood damage to Kaziranga, as well as whether or not the State Party intended to propose the inclusion of the recent extension (44 sq. km) of the Park into the World Heritage site.

The Bureau reiterated its invitation to the State Party to provide a report on the results of the studies that may have been undertaken to evaluate impacts of the 1998 floods on wildlife populations in the Park and long term measures currently being implemented to mitigate future flood damage, to its twenty-fourth session of the Bureau in the year 2000. The Bureau also requested the State Party to inform the Centre whether or not it intends to nominate for inclusion the recent 44 sq.km. extension to the Park into the World Heritage area.

Komodo National Park (Indonesia)

The Bureau noted that the Permanent Delegate of Indonesia, via his letter of 4 October 1999, had responded to observations and recommendations made by the Bureau, and had informed the Centre that his Government, i.e. the Directorate General for Natural Protection and Conservation, was also greatly concerned about indications of an increase in illegal dynamite and cyanide fishing in the coastal waters of Komodo National Park. He has pointed out that a Government team is expected to visit the site soon and assess the damage.

The Bureau took note of the letter sent by the State Party on 4 October 1999 and requested the State Party to submit to the Centre, before 15 April 2000, a report on the findings of the Government mission to the Komodo National Park and an assessment of the threats posed by an increase in illegal fishing in coastal waters and possible mitigation measures that need to be undertaken. The Bureau requested the Centre and IUCN to review that report and submit their findings and recommendations, including the need for any additional Centre/IUCN mission that may still prevail, for examination by the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau in mid-2000.

Mount Kenya National Park (Kenya)

The Delegate from the United Kingdom drew the attention of the Bureau to an article recently published in The Times which reported on extensive deforestation around Mount Kenya National Park World Heritage site. The Bureau requested the Centre to investigate this matter and report thereon at the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau.

Sagarmatha National Park (Nepal)

Following the recommendation made by the Bureau in November 1998, the Centre and IUCN facilitated a meeting of the International Centre for Protected Landscapes (ICPL), the Department for International Development (DFlD, UK) and relevant authorities from His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMGN), the Ministries of Soils and Forests, and of Tourism

and Civil Aviation and the Chief Warden of Sagarmatha National Parks, in London, UK, in March 1999.

The Centre and IUCN informed the Bureau that the DFID Office in Kathmandu, Nepal approved a sum of about UK£ 157,000 for the 18-month project entitled "Ecotourism, Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) National Park and the Solu-Khumbu District of Nepal". The project is foreseen as a first phase of a long-term project for implementing the revised management plan expected to be prepared during the 18-month period and DFID may consider financing the later phases of the project.

The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) of Nepal has organized consultation among various stakeholders in and around the Park, under a separate GEF Funded project, to facilitate the revision of the management plan for Sagarmatha in conjunction with its 25th anniversary celebrations in 2001. IUCN informed the Bureau that the Department of Soils and Forest Conservation of His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the IUCN Office in Nepal are jointly hosting the South Asia session of IUCN/WCPA in Sagarmatha National Park in May 2000. The participation of the Centre and IUCN staff at the May 2000 IUCN/WCPA South Asia session is foreseen and an up-to-date state of conservation report is due to be prepared as an outcome.

One of the issues in the DFID-funded project will be to strengthen rural livelihoods through promotion of tourism and conservation at Sagarmatha. It should provide a model for how tourism at World Heritage sites can be managed to improve conservation and community development. The Observer of Germany noted the importance of the Sherpa culture and the expressed concern at tourism impact on wood supply, which leads to the devastation of forests. Support should be provided to local communities. The Observer of Nepal informed the Bureau that tourism improves the economic conditions of local people and that special forest programmes have been developed. IUCN reinforced the comments made and noted that collaboration between New Zealand and Nepal had supported the establishment of this National Park. Work continued towards reforestation with indigenous plants. The significant culture of the Sherpas is an integral part of the nature-culture continuum.

The Bureau commended His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom for their co-operation in successfully developing a project which would address the energy planning and tourism development components of the management of this site. The Bureau recognized the support provided by the International Centre for Protected Landscape of Wales, UK, to the Government of Nepal in project development and urged the continuation of that co-operation to further strengthen international support to the conservation and effective management of Sagarmatha National Park.

Te Wahipounamu – South West New Zealand (New Zealand)

The Bureau was informed that a report was awaited from the State Party responding to concerns expressed by the Forest and Bird Society of New Zealand with regard to the Department of Conservation's management of the introduced thar, a mountain goat. It has been claimed that a high level of thar are maintained for recreational hunting and as a result concerns have been expressed about the effect this is having on the indigenous flora and on the integrity of this alpine ecosystem. This claim has been contested by the Department of

Conservation, which has promised a detailed report. IUCN recommended that follow up action on this await the report from the Department of Conservation.

The Bureau noted the intention of the New Zealand Department of Conservation to provide a detailed report by 15 April 2000 on the management of the introduced thar at Te Wahipounamu for examination by the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau.

Arabian Oryx Sanctuary (Oman)

In response to the request of the twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau, a letter of 11 September 1999 from the Director General of the Nature Conservation Department in the Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Environment was received acknowledging that the size of the wild Arabian Oryx population had dropped from 450 to about 100. Of the 100 remaining, only 13 are females, hence the risks of the local extinction of the species are significant. Past re-introduction projects had succeeded but, with the increase in Oryx numbers, the poachers returned once again to reduce the population size sharply. An additional 45 Oryx, rescued from the wild are in captivity and are awaiting release once security in the wild is guaranteed. Recommendations from a recent International Arabian Oryx Conference (March, 1999) held in Abu Dhabi, addressed the issue of illegal trade of oryx and suggested the creation of a co-ordinating body with a permanent secretariat in one of the range states to enhance co-operation and exchange of experience across the Arabian Peninsula. The tightening of regulations and improved regional co-operation to prevent illegal transboundary movement of and trade in Arabian Oryx were also recommended. The oryx breeds well in captivity and with careful management a healthy source of animals can be guaranteed for further re-introduction programmes. Oman intends to host a follow up conference next year and improve local community participation and environmental tourism to improve local support for site protection. The Oryx Project Management team has been strengthened by the appointment of new staff.

The Bureau was informed that, the Director-General's letter informed the Centre of the explorations undertaken by an oil company already holding a concession within a part of the Sanctuary. The letter furthermore stated that a full EIA was undertaken by internationally well-known consultants and that the scope, consultations and assessment were fully in accordance with the planning policies recommended in the management planning study (Final Report) which has been incorporated within the draft management plan. However, none of the above-mentioned documents, i.e. EIA, management planning study or draft management plan have been submitted to the Centre.

IUCN has raised serious concerns regarding the management of this site, given the fact that the boundary marking and management planning project financed in part by the World Heritage Fund is long overdue for completion. Other issues of concern include impacts of off-road vehicle use and overgrazing by domestic wildlife. A «Regional Capacity Building Training Workshop for the Promotion of Awareness in Natural Heritage Conservation in the Arab Region», for which the Committee approved a sum of US$ 40,000 at its last session in Kyoto, Japan, is due to be held in Oman in February 2000. Participants of this Regional Capacity Building activity are expected to visit the site and assess the status of conservation of the site, including progress made in the implementation of the boundary marking and management planning project.

The Centre informed the Bureau that following the approval by the last Committee of US$40,000 for the organization of a regional capacity building training workshop for the promotion of awareness in Natural Heritage conservation in the Arab Region, a letter addressed to the Centre dated 26 March 1999 from the Permanent Delegate of Oman to UNESCO, stated that it appeared to the Oman Authorities that the approved amount of US$40,000 would not cover all the expenses since the programme of the workshop will include a visit to the Arabian Oryx Sanctuary, 750 km from the venue (Muscat), and the State Party had hoped that the funds would be increased to US$60,000. A meeting to discuss this matter was held with the Ambassador and the Permanent Delegate of Oman to UNESCO on 19 October 1999 during which it was agreed to reduce the number of participants to the workshop to fifteen and for the State Party to make efforts to minimize other workshop expenses. It was agreed that the Oman would not require additional funds for the organization of this meeting. The Permanent Delegate informed the Centre that the Workshop would be held early in 2000.

In its intervention IUCN highlighted three issues: (1) the reports of the decline of the Arabian Oryx indicate serious grounds for concern, that the main impact is heavy poaching, other issues including impacts of off-road vehicle use and overgrazing by domestic wildlife; (2) IUCN noted that effective control of poaching in this area is a difficult issue and that there needs to be effective co-ordination between relevant bodies, and the allocation of adequate resources; (3) IUCN endorsed the need for a joint approach to this issue with the State Party and looked forward to co-operating in the proposed meeting in Oman in February 2000. IUCN therefore supported the recommendation as stated.

The Delegate of Zimbabwe supported the remarks of IUCN and observed as noted in the "Action required", the inadequate focus on the core problem - the real threat to the Oryx which are faced with extinction. He informed the Bureau that the issues of poaching and security are immediate and therefore needed to be addressed urgently.

The Delegate of United Kingdom while endorsing the remark made by IUCN and the Zimbabwe Delegate, stated that time is running out on the site.

The Chairperson, speaking as a citizen of Morocco, stated that the Kingdom of Morocco has close ties with the Sultanate of Oman and he will take action to draw the attention at the highest level of authorities in Oman to the international concern about the site and the Arabian Oryx. The Chairperson mentioned that the Arabian Oryx is the symbol of the Arab culture, and that the Bureau and the Committee and other consultations should lead to tangible results on this issue.

The Bureau expresses its serious concerns regarding the continuing delays in the implementation of the boundary marking and management planning project, impacts of oil exploration and of off-road vehicles use and overgrazing by domestic stock. The Bureau requests the Centre and IUCN to raise these issues with the relevant State Party officials during their participation at the Regional Capacity Building Workshop in February 2000. The Bureau suggests that the Centre and IUCN co-operate with the State Party to provide a report to the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau in mid-2000. The report should address all unresolved issues and problems threatening the integrity of this site and advise the Bureau on whether or not this site should be considered for inclusion in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Huascaran National Park (Peru)

The Bureau recalled that at its twenty-third session it encouraged the State Party to give high priority to the preparation and implementation of a restoration programme and to submit a request for technical assistance. The Bureau further encouraged the State Party to give priority attention to implement key actions as proposed by IUCN and to provide regular progress reports on its implementation, including progress achieved in the implementation of key priorities identified by the working group established on the use of the Pachacoto-Yanashallay road. The Bureau requested the State Party to submit the first of these reports by 15 September 1999 and IUCN and the Centre to prepare a mission to be carried out in 2000. IUCN commends the State Party for seeking solutions to minimize the impacts on the Park from the temporary use of the central road, but considers that further review of this issue should await the provision of information from the State Party.

The Centre informed the Bureau that two reports were received on 20 October 1999, the report on the temporary use of the central road (INRENA) and the Report of the Mountain Institute on the temporary use of the Pachacoto-Yanashallay road. IUCN commended the State Party for seeking solutions to minimize the impact on the park from the temporary use of the central road. Concerns have been raised in a recent document from the State Party (Technical Report on Monitoring Activities in Huascaran National Park) relating to opening up of new areas along the road and associated resources extraction; and also in relation to increased traffic on this road, as well as mitigation measures by the mining company. This should be taken into account by the proposed mission.

The Observer of Peru informed the Bureau that the reduction of the impacts of the mining activities is important and that mining activities, protection and development have to be seen together, as the area is one of the poorest in Peru. She stated that her Government would be pleased to invite a mission to the site.

The Bureau took note of the reports submitted by the States Party for the actions taken to monitor the temporary use of the central road at Huascaran National Park. The Bureau requested the Centre and IUCN to continue to monitor the impacts of the mining activities on the World Heritage site and its buffer zone. The Bureau welcomed the invitation by the State Party for a mission to the site in 2000 to prepare a report for the twenty-fourth session of the World Heritage Committee.

Lake Baikal (Russian Federation)

The Bureau was informed that in April 1999, the State Duma of the Russian Federation adopted the law on the Lake Baikal. It is a framework law and it requires several other legal acts to be adopted.

IUCN fully supported the Baikal law and underlined the importance of its implementation and adequate resources are made available to ensure its effective implementation. IUCN noted the on-going concerns associated with pollution of Lake Baikal from pulp mills operating in close proximity to the site. Recent reports from Greenpeace are also noted, in relation to the lawsuit by the State Bodies for Environmental Protection in relation to the "suspension of ecologically harmful activities of the Baikalsky Pulp and Paper Plant (BP&PP)". IUCN noted there has been a large number of World Heritage monitoring and training missions to Lake Baikal (1993, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999) and before recommending

another mission there is a need to carefully assess findings and recommendations from past missions.

The economic difficulties in this region are noted and it is considered that there is a need to identify and examine innovative options and solutions to this issue, specifically in relation to the legal, financial and other requirements associated with re-profiling of the Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill. Discussion of such options and solutions should address environmental, social and economic concerns and should involve donors and should ideally be addressed under the umbrella of the Baikal Commission.

The Observer of the Russian Federation informed the Bureau that the Federal "Baikal Law" was entered into force in May 1999. Some measures under this law are already under implementation. For example, the Government of the Russian Federation issued the Decree No. 1203-p, dated 2 August 1999, that confirmed the plan to prepare seven legislative documents, which will be carried out by 10 Federal State bodies in co-operation with the governments of the Baikal region. At present the administration of the Irkutsk region elaborates a proposal for the social-economical development of the city of Baikalsk, including the problem of the transformation of the Baikal Pulp and Paper Mill. After achieving an agreement with the stakeholders in the region including NGOs, it will be submitted to the Governmental Baikal Commission. In the case of adoption of this proposal, an appropriate programme will be elaborated, including fundraising and investment proposals.

The Observer of Germany insisted on the necessity to have specific regulations and stated that the framework law should be developed. To this end, international assistance should be provided to the State Party to the extent possible.

The Bureau commended the State Party for the adoption of the Baikal Law but urged that the State Party ensure its effective implementation as well as addressing pollution issues associated with the Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill. The Bureau noted the need to provide international assistance for more effective implementation of the Federal Baikal Law. The Bureau asks the State Party to prepare an application for the World Heritage Fund for a training request for a workshop on this subject. It was however noted that the State Party was not up-to-date with its contributions to the World Heritage Fund. The Bureau requests the State Party to present a state of conservation report by 15 April 2000.

Bwindi Impenetrable Forest (Uganda)

The Bureau recalled that, at its twenty-third session it recommended that the State Party submit to the Centre, before 15 September 1999, a report on measures taken to enhance security conditions in this site and to ensure the recovery of visitor numbers to pre-March 1999 levels. An email report submitted by the Chief Executive Officer of the Uganda Wildlife Authority notes the following:

A number of measures have been taken by the site-management to improve security, including: (a) the deployment of additional security personnel in and around the site; (b) joint guarding of tourist facilities by the rangers and the defence force (UPDF); (c) establishment of a mobile strike force that cordons off and searches any place suspected to be insecure; (d) regular contact with security officers on the Uganda/DRC border to share security information and co-ordinate patrol operations; (e) opening an additional trail to improve accessibility of the joint forces near the border with the DRC; (f) improving radio communication links

between security units and Bwindi site management; (g) regular briefing between the Uganda Park Authority Headquarters and the site; (h) training of relevant rangers for one month in anti-terrorism in Egypt; (i) increased publicity, nationally and internationally, of security conditions in the site by the Government; and (j) enlisting of local community support who share tourism benefits. The report also mentions that some limited donations were received to purchase walkie-talkies, sleeping bags and a 4-wheel drive vehicle. Already, as a result of the measures taken, the number of visitors has increased from 83 in April to 256 in August 1999.

There is an urgent need to train park staff to appropriately handle any security threats that may arise, given that the site borders an area of instability. Training is needed in anti-terrorism preparedness, monitoring intelligence information and community relations. Support is required to implement this training as well as to assist with the purchase of four-wheel drive vehicles.

The Bureau was informed that the Centre has received two official letters, the first dated 14 May 1999 from the Executive Director of Wildlife Authority, and a second dated 3 November 1999 from the Permanent Delegation of Uganda to UNESCO. Both letters confirm the above information provided to the Bureau concerning the site.

The IUCN informed the Bureau that a number of measures are underway by the Ugandan authorities especially regarding deployment of staff in and around the site, and capacity building for staff to enable them to deal with this site. The IUCN stated there is need for further discussions about what needs to be done, for example, what are the priorities and what role the World Heritage Centre can play. He mentioned that IUCN will continue this dialogue with the Centre and the State Party, particularly working with and through the IUCN country office in Uganda.

The Bureau requests the Centre and IUCN to verify, with the Ugandan authorities, their needs for support for purchase of vehicles and staff training and, if confirmed as reported above, facilitate efforts of the Ugandan authorities to obtain financial support from suitable sources including the World Heritage Fund. The Bureau requests that the Centre and IUCN report on measures taken to support site management at the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau in mid-2000.

Gough Island (United Kingdom)

IUCN noted several reports received, including from its Antarctic Advisory Committee (AAC) on the management of the island. There appears to be ongoing concern over long-line fishing in the waters around Gough Island, but that it is occurring outside the boundaries of the World Heritage site. The reports suggest that, even if the UK Government could enforce strict controls on all fishing within the 200 nautical mile EEZ around the islands, it would not totally prevent the problem, as the affected birds forage much further than even the 200 nautical miles, even while breeding. On the terrestrial front, Gough Island is managed according to the management plan and there are relatively few problems. In August 1999 a comprehensive report from the environmental observer to Gough Island was submitted to IUCN. The report details: preventative measures to be taken against the introduction of alien species; outlines actions to be taken to maintain the area; and lists the status and recommendations relating to the operations in the logistic zone (i.e., waste control, response to fuel spillage, management regulations on entry to the reserve and fishing, and conservation awareness).

One issue that emerged last year was the insurgence of the *weed sagina cf. procumbens* that was believed to have been transported from Marion Island where there was a problem with this plant. A specialist had visited the site this year to assess the extent of the invasion and attempt to eradicate it. Also a two-year inventory of invertebrate communities, begun in September 1999, will give better insight into this fauna, and the impact mice have had on the island. IUCN notes that the boundaries of the Gough Island Wildlife Reserve area lie three nautical miles out to sea, since this was the extent of territorial waters when the Tristan Conservation Ordinance of 1976 and the Wildlife Reserve were promulgated. Subsequently, territorial waters in the Gough-Tristan group were extended to 12nm.

The Observer of the UK confirmed to the Bureau that the weed accidentally introduced last year is an issue and that a Dutch expert had visited the island and produced a detailed report about the invasive species. This is currently being conveyed to the Centre. It is hoped that an eradication team can be sent to the Island in February 2000.

The Bureau recommended that the State Party encourages the St. Helena Government (of which Tristan and Gough are dependencies) to expand the boundaries of the Gough Island Wildlife Reserve to 12nm. Following that, the Bureau recommended that the UK Government should consider extension of the World Heritage boundary and to report on what it can do to protect the wider marine environment.

Ngorongoro Conservation Area and the Serengeti National Park (United Republic of Tanzania)

The Bureau was informed that the Ngorongoro Conservation Area was included in the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1984 due to poaching and threats posed by illegal agricultural encroachments. Continuous monitoring and technical assistance projects contributed towards improving the state of conservation leading to the removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1989.

The Bureau was informed that IUCN's East African Regional Office has been approached by a consultant firm working with the Tanzanian Ministry of Works to provide input to a feasibility study on a gravel access road to Loliondo (the administrative centre of the Ngorongoro District). Four routes are being considered for upgrading. Two of the routes proposed would pass through the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. The other route would cut across the eastern end of Olduvai Gorge. However, there are two other possible alignments that start from Monduli and Mto-wa-Mbu. The two roads would come together near Engaruka, from where the road would pass between Lake Natron and Oldonyo Lengai Volcano before ascending the Rift Valley escarpment towards Loliondo. IUCN has welcomed the consultative approach taken by the Government of Tanzania in the planning phase of this road. IUCN considers that options should be carefully considered and should take fully into account potential impacts on the values of both Ngorongoro Conservation Area and the Olduvai Gorge.

The Centre reported to the Bureau about the two vehicles which have been stored at the Kenyan port of Mombasa since 1998 and could no longer be delivered to the sites in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, their original destination. Following a recommendation of the twenty-third session of Bureau, the two vehicles are in the process of being delivered to the United Republic of Tanzania which had requested similar support for Kilimanjaro and

Serengeti National Parks, with the assistance of WWF East African Regional Office and UNESCO Office in Dar – es – Salaam. The Chairperson had approved US$20,000 to enable the WWF Office to clear customs duty and to forward the vehicles to the Tanzanian sites.

IUCN confirmed to the Bureau that IUCN's East African Regional Office has been involved with the State Party on the review of options for an access road to Ngorongoro. He stated that IUCN believes that the potential impact on the World Heritage value of the site should be a critical factor in the assessment of the options.

The Hungarian Delegation suggested that the mandate of the mission could be expanded so that it could also study the proper definition of the boundaries of the site.

The Zimbabwe Delegation applauded the enlightened approach adopted by Tanzania. He stated that the problem of access to Loliondo (the administrative centre of Ngorongoro District) were such that a drive to it, for example, from Arusha was difficult. The suggestion to have a mission to Tanzania was very welcome and that such a mission should consider the balance of the issues of both integrity of the property as well as the crucial one of access.

ICOMOS drew attention to the cultural importance of this site, which contained one of the most famous fossil hominid sites in the world, Olduvai Gorge, as well as the more recently discovered Laetoli site. ICOMOS had been in contact with the State Party which was proposing to nominate Ngorongoro under the cultural criteria in the near future.

The Bureau invited the State Party to fully extend its co-operation to involve UNESCO and IUCN and ICOMOS in the consultation process and to invite a mission to consider the various options available, with a view to minimising impacts of the road construction project to the two World Heritage sites.

The Bureau requested the Centre and IUCN and ICOMOS submit a status report on the proposed road construction project, impacts of the various options available on the two sites and recommendations which the Bureau could submit to the consideration of the State Party after the proposed mission is undertaken.

Canaima National Park (Venezuela)

The Bureau recalled that the full report of the UNESCO/IUCN mission to the site was presented to its last session which endorsed the following recommendations made by the mission team: to encourage the State Party to submit a request for technical assistance to organize and implement a national workshop on Canaima National Park; to request the Government to provide increased support to the National Park Institute (INPARQUES) and the Ministry for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (MARNR) and to explore ways to enhance the institutional capacity of these institutions; that MARNR and INPARQUES should give maximum priority to establishing a buffer zone around Canaima National Park, including Sierra de Lema; to recommend that an adequate follow-up to the implementation of the mission's Short-Term Action Plan, including the possible revision of the boundaries of the site, be implemented; to invite the State Party to submit annual progress reports on the state of conservation of this site; and to recommend that the State Party creates mechanisms to promote dialogue between all relevant stakeholders interested in the conservation and management of this area.

IUCN informed the Bureau that the Action Plan, jointly developed with the State Party, provides a useful framework for further action. IUCN noted that concerns have been raised about recent conflicts between Pemons communities and the National Guards. The Bureau was informed that an international assistance request has been submitted for a workshop aimed at various target groups with a view to raising awareness of the status of the World Heritage sites and its international significance.

The Bureau recalled the recommendation from the mission report (presented to its twenty-third session) on the need to create mechanisms to promote dialogue between all relevant stakeholders, including the Pemon communities, and on the conservation and management of this area. The Bureau invited the State Party to follow-up on the Action Plan recommended by the mission.

Ha Long Bay (Vietnam)

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The Centre informed the Bureau that the Vietnam authorities, via their letter of 18 August 1999, have transmitted the following to the Centre: Two volumes of the EIA of the Bai Chay Bridge Construction Project which has been approved by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (MOSTE) of Vietnam ; A draft report of the study on « The Environmental Management for Ha Long Bay Project » jointly prepared by the Japanese International Co-operation Agency (JICA), MOSTE and the Quang Ninh Province Government. These voluminous reports have been transmitted to IUCN for review. IUCN provided comments based on its preliminary review of these reports. In addition, the Government of Vietnam has re-nominated the Ha Long Bay under natural heritage criterion (i). The re-nomination will be evaluated by IUCN in the year 2000 and a report submitted to the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau in mid-2000. The World Bank Office in Vietnam has responded to the observations and recommendations of the twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau, via a letter dated 19 August 1999, and has indicated that it intends to implement an augmented lending programme for Hai Phong – Ha Long improvement over the next few years in accordance with the Bank's Country Assistance Strategy.

IUCN highlighted the Bank/IUCN co-operation to prepare a proposal for a GEF Block B grant to develop a marine management programme for the North Tonkin Archipelago, which included Ha Long Bay. IUCN Vietnam has recruited a marine officer from one of the local institutions to assist with the development of this proposal. The project will implement an integrated management programme for the Archipelago which will lay the foundation for a model Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) programme for the region. The project, according to the letter from the Bank Office in Vietnam will provide for pilot scale development of methods of reducing pollutants carried into the Archipelago from agriculture, forestry, industrial and urban development activities in the Hai Phong and the Quang Ninh Provinces. IUCN has informed the Centre that Environment Australia and the Embassy of the Government of the Netherlands in Hanoi have also been approached in relation to support for this project. The latter has also been approached to support other projects, such as the implementation of a project to strengthen the capacity of the Ha Long Bay Management Department. They have expressed an interest in principle to offer support for both projects should the request come directly from the Vietnam Government. The World Bank Office in Vietnam has committed itself to support and co-ordinate development and conservation activities made by UNESCO as well as by other donors in the World Heritage. The Bureau also noted standards for environmental monitoring of the Ha Long Bay used as data in the JICA/Government of Vietnam Environmental Study could be improved through obtaining

data on environmental quality standards used for Bay waters and atmospheric conditions from a number of internationally significant protected areas (e.g. Great Barrier Reef etc.) The environmental qualities would have to be improved according to those internationally acceptable standards.

The Observer of Vietnam informed that as requested by the Bureau the draft final report on the study of the Environmental Management Plan for Ha Long Bay and the Environmental Impact Assessment of Baichay Bridge have been submitted to the Centre. He said that they are comprehensive and take into account all potential and possible sources of pollution, which could have impacts on the environment and the ecosystem of Ha Long Bay. The two documents also included many effective measures and projects, to be implemented in the future for environmental protection of Ha Long Bay, especially the World Heritage area. The implementation of the two projects will constitute positive factors for the economic development as well as the environmental preservation of Ha Long Bay World Heritage site. However, their sound realization and implementation would need a lot of time, funds and efforts by all related local authorities and agencies as well as the co-operation and assistance from international institutions including UNESCO, thus making positive contributions to the preservation and environmental protection of Halong Bay and the World Heritage area in particular.

The Delegate of Australia informed the Bureau that the co-operation with Vietnam on this project has already begun.

The Observer of Japan stated that information on the JICA project could be obtained in time for the next session of the Bureau. The Delegate of Hungary underlined the importance of the UNESCO Office in Hanoi for the co-ordination between the State Party and donor agencies.

The Bureau noted that the Government of Vietnam has submitted to the Centre comprehensive reports on the EIA of the Baichay Bridge project and on the JICA/Government of Vietnam Environmental Study of Ha Long Bay. The Bureau also noted the views of the Observer of Vietnam that economic development of the region could contribute positively to the environmental protection of Ha Long Bay. The Bureau expressed its satisfaction with the commitment of the World Bank Office in Hanoi, Vietnam, in co-operation with the UNESCO Vietnam Office to support the State Party in co-ordinating conservation and development activities in the Ha Long Bay World Heritage area. The Bureau invited the State Party to use the rising donor interest to support the conservation of the Ha Long Bay World Heritage area and implement measures, in particular, to upgrade the profile, authority and the capacity of the Ha Long Bay Management Department which has the principal responsibility to manage the World Heritage area as a coastal and marine protected area located in an area of intensive economic development. The Bureau invited the State Party to submit annual reports to the extraordinary sessions of the Bureau, highlighting in particular, measures that are being taken to build capacity for the management of the site and monitor the environment of Ha Long Bay in accordance with internationally acceptable standards and norms applicable to a coastal and marine protected area.

Mosi-oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls (Zambia/Zimbabwe)

The Bureau noted that IUCN's Regional Office for Southern Africa was intending to organize a bilateral meeting for 28 July 1999 but it was not held due to lack of funding. IUCN

recommended that a formal request be submitted by the State Parties to fund this meeting in 2000.

The Centre informed the Bureau that the Zimbabwean Department of Physical Planning had informed IUCN's Regional Office for Southern Africa, i.e. IUCN/ROSA, on the status of the Victoria Falls Environmental Capacity Enhancement and Master Plan. CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) has pledged to provide financial and technical support for the implementation of this Master Plan Project. A Memorandum of Understanding between CIDA and the Government of Zimbabwe was to be signed in mid-October. The Canadian Executing Agency has been contracted and the inception phase of the project has begun. IUCN/ROSA and other agencies have been invited to a preliminary meeting, scheduled for October, to discuss project implementation arrangements and progress to date. IUCN/ROSA has been co-opted on to the Project Steering Committee for the Master Plan Project, specifically to represent interests of the Zambia/Zimbabwe Joint Commission, formed at the time of the Victoria Falls Strategic Environmental Study.

IUCN informed the Bureau that the priority was to move forward on the Victoria Falls Environmental Capacity Enhancement and Master Plan as quickly as possible. IUCN/ROSA has been co-opted on the Steering Committee for this Master Plan. IUC N further reiterated its willingness to work with both State Parties to help organize the bilateral meeting mentioned in the Bureau report, and hoped that support would be provided from the World Heritage Fund to convene this meeting in 2000.

The Zimbabwe Delegate remarked that there are two issues in the report of the Bureau: one relating to the development on the hotel project on the northern side (Zambia) and the other relating to IUCN/ROSA on the status of the Environmental Capacity Enhancement and Master Plan.

Following clarifications from the Centre that the meeting was in the first context, Zimbabwe supported the recommendation and the action required of the Bureau.

The Bureau invites the States Parties to expedite the organization of the bilateral meeting as soon as possible in 2000 in order to report the outcome of the meeting to the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau in mid-2000. The Bureau urges the two States Parties to submit a joint request for financial support for the organization of the meeting to be submitted to the Chairperson for approval.

MIXED HERITAGE

i) <u>Mixed properties which the Bureau recommended for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger</u>

The Bureau did not recommend any mixed sites for inclusion in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

State of conservation reports of mixed properties which the Bureau transmitted to the Committee for action

Tasmanian Wilderness (Australia)

The Bureau recalled that at its twenty-third ordinary session, in July 1999, the Australian Government was requested to inform the Centre of (i) any potential boundary extensions that may be foreseen together with a timetable for the implementation of the Regional Forestry Agreement (RFA); (ii) its assessment of the implications of the RFA on other areas identified as having World Heritage value and (iii) the potential impacts on forest catchments in the World Heritage site of other areas which may be logged under the RFA.

The Bureau noted that the State Party responded in a letter dated 14 September 1999 stating that its priority was in enhancing the management regime for the existing World Heritage property and ensuring that all World Heritage values are protected. Boundary extensions are not being actively considered at this stage. The State Party had informed the Centre of the recently completed Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan developed by the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service and the new Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, which will come into effect no later than July 2000.

The Bureau noted that IUCN has informed the Centre that the Australian Committee for IUCN (ACIUCN) proposes to undertake an assessment of the conservation status of the Tasmanian Wilderness within the next year. IUCN noted and supported, in principle, the Tasmanian Regional Forestry Agreement (RFA) process as it represents a significant step towards a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system, as well as potentially providing the basis for the ecologically sustainable management of forests in Tasmania. IUCN also noted that the RFA consolidates relationships between state and federal governments on matters affecting the World Heritage site relating to policy, management and funding. IUCN had also expressed its view that it is important that options for any future extension of the World Heritage property should not be foreclosed. IUCN thus considered that areas of the dedicated RFA reserve system which have been previously identified as having World Heritage value should be managed in a manner consistent with potential World Heritage status.

IUCN expressed its concern that the timeframe proposed for the preparation of a report for the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau may not be able to be realized, being contingent on the human and financial resources available to ACIUCN. IUCN commended the recently completed management plan for the site and reiterated that it is important that options for extension of the World Heritage property should not be foreclosed. IUCN considered that the possibilities provided by the Regional Forest Agreement to support the integrity of the property need to be realized as soon as practicable.

The Delegate of Australia also expressed concern about the time limits and the considerable commitments of ACIUCN. He informed the Bureau that his Delegation would have discussions with IUCN with a view to expediting the ACIUCN process for a state of conservation report on the Tasmanian Wilderness. He noted the importance of drawing constructively on the knowledge gained in the RFA process for the future management of the Tasmanian Wilderness.

The Bureau decided to transmit the report to the Committee for examination and to recommend the Committee to adopt the following:

> "The Committee requests the Australian Committee for IUCN (ACIUCN) to complete its review process on the state of conservation of the Tasmanian Wilderness with the aim of submitting an up-to-date report to the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau in 2000. ACIUCN's review should include reference to any continuing concerns, such as those noted at the twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau, and suggestions relating to any future extension of the World Heritage property and the management of areas of the dedicated Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) reserve system which have been previously identified as having World Heritage value.
>
> The Committee commends the State Party for the recent completion of the 1999 Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan, and recommends that its effectiveness be regularly monitored over time."

Mount Emei Shan Scenic Area, including Leshan Giant Buddha Scenic Area (China)

The Bureau recalled that at the time of its inscription at the twentieth session in 1996, the Committee recommended that the Chinese authorities carefully control tourism development at the site and encourage involvement of the Buddhist monasteries in conservation activities on the mountain. The Bureau noted that IUCN has recently been informed that the construction of the light railway for tourists between Golden Summit and the main summit of Emei Shan (Wanfoding) has resumed and is well advanced. The Bureau was informed that the World Heritage Centre has requested that the Chinese authorities provide further information on the latest progress with this development.

IUCN said that it awaits the report of the State Party with great interest because of its concern about the construction of the light railway and the implications of tourism facilities associated with it. ICOMOS noted the considerable cultural values of the property. The Bureau noted that a Tourism Development Plan had been prepared for the site in 1998. The Plan expressed deep concern about the construction of the railway and recommended the development of a detailed management plan for the site.

The Observer of China thanked the Bureau for its concern about the state of conservation of the site. He reported that the Chinese authorities and the World Heritage Centre had organized an on-site meeting to prepare a strategy for the better protection of the World Heritage property. He expressed the commitment of his authorities to protect the site and to provide the World Heritage Centre with a report by 15 April 2000.

The Bureau recommended that the Committee adopt the following decision:

> "The Committee requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, before 15 April 2000, a state of conservation report on developments at "Mount Emei Shan Scenic Area, including Leshan Giant Buddha Scenic Area"".

Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru)

The Bureau recalled that the state of conservation of the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu was discussed at several sessions of the Committee and the Bureau, particularly with reference to the management and planning for the Sanctuary as well as a proposed project for the construction of a cable car.

At the request of the Bureau at its twenty-third session, the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and ICOMOS undertook a mission to the site to assess five issues identified by the Bureau. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the mission took place from 18 to 25 October 1999, that the conclusions of the mission were presented on 25 October 1999 to the National Institute for Natural Resources (INRENA), the National Institute for Culture (INC) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and that the draft report was transmitted to the Government of Peru on 15 November 1999 for comments. The full report of the mission was presented in Information Document WHC-99/CONF.208/INF 7. The Secretariat then introduced the report, conclusions and recommendations of the mission.

The Secretariat recalled that the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1983 under cultural criteria (i) and (iii) in recognition of the testimony to the Inca civilization and under natural criteria (ii) and (iii), as they were formulated in 1983, for man's interaction with his natural environment and for the beauty of its landscape.

As to the planning and management arrangements for the site, the mission reported that the Master Plan for the Sanctuary was adopted in October 1998 and that a Management Unit was established jointly by the National Institute for Culture and the National Institute for Natural Resources in June 1999. In this respect it was noted that only the successful operation of the Management Unit and the full application of the Master Plan and the operational plans derived from it, will ensure that a situation of gradual deterioration over many years will be reversed and a process of improved management and preservation will be initiated. Important initiatives had been developed already at the time of the mission, such as a fire prevention programme, waste management and the initiation of a plan for the village of Aguas Calientes.

With regard to specific projects, the mission concluded that any proposed development or intervention could not be studied in isolation but only in the overall context of the site and considering the specific criteria applied for the inscription on the World Heritage List. Having analysed the overall state of conservation of the site, the mission noted very strong tourism and demographic pressure particularly on the area surrounding the Ciudadela. In this sense, the mission concluded that any intervention in this area would very seriously affect the World Heritage value, the integrity and authenticity of the site. At the same time, the mission concluded that decisions on means of access to the Ciudadela could only be taken in relation to the carrying capacity of the Sanctuary and its components.

The mission, therefore, recommended the preparation of detailed studies on the carrying capacity of, and the means of access to the Sanctuary and its components, the reorganization and, if possible, reduction of visitor facilities in the area surrounding the Ciudadela, and for overall planning for the village of Aguas Calientes. The mission concluded that studies and plans should be developed within the framework of the Master

Plan for the Sanctuary and in full recognition of the need to preserve the natural and cultural values of the World Heritage property, its authenticity and its integrity.

Representatives of both IUCN and ICOMOS expressed strong support for the mission's findings and recommendations that, for the first time, had analysed the state of conservation of Machu Picchu in a holistic and integrated approach. They commended the Government of Peru for the actions it had recently taken and emphasized that a key issue will be to ensure that the Management Unit has the resources and support to convert the strategic Master Plan into action and to implement the recommendations of the mission. IUCN also emphasized the desirability of extending the site, as recommended by the Committee at the time of its inscription, to enhance the property's natural values.

The Delegate of Zimbabwe commended the way in which the report, for the first time, presented the issues at stake with clarity, enabling the Bureau to make an informed opinion on a question that is complex and not just refer to the construction of a cable car. He made particular reference to recommendations 6, 7 and 8 of the mission report that would establish a period of study of issues related to tourism management. Finland also expressed support for the report and made reference to the involvement of his country in a major support programme for Machu Picchu.

The Bureau decided to transmit the report to the Committee for examination and to recommend the Committee to adopt the following:

> "The Committee, having examined the report of the World Heritage Centre-IUCN-ICOMOS mission to the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu, endorses the conclusions and recommendations contained in it.
>
> The Committee congratulates the Government of Peru on the adoption of the Master Plan and the establishment of the Management Unit. It urges the Government of Peru to ensure that all institutions, authorities and agencies involved in the Sanctuary give their full support to the Management Unit for the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu so that this unit can effectively and efficiently fulfil the tasks entrusted to it.
>
> The Committee recognizes that there is strong tourism pressure on the site and that the studies proposed in recommendations 6, 7 and 8 of the mission report would allow this matter to be addressed in an integrated manner.
>
> The Committee requests the Government of Peru to submit, by 15 April 2000 for transmission to and examination by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth session, a report that should include its response to the mission's conclusions and recommendations, as well as information on the progress made in the preparation and execution of operational plans for the implementation of the Master Plan for the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu."

The Observer of Peru commended the co-operation between her Government and the World Heritage Committee. She confirmed that her Government would transmit all available information on the application of the Master Plan to the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau. While she expressed reservations about certain parts of the mission report, there was full agreement on the need to undertake in-depth studies on

the carrying capacity of the site and the management of tourism and these will be undertaken as soon as possible within the available means. She concluded by saying that the Government is committed to preserve the integrity and authenticity of the site and that no new constructions will be undertaken unless impact studies are first approved by the competent authorities.

(iii) State of conservation reports of mixed properties which the Bureau transmitted to the Committee for noting

Kakadu National Park (Australia)

The Bureau recalled the decision of the third extraordinary session of the Committee on 12 July 1999 concerning the state of conservation of Kakadu National Park.

The Bureau noted that on 25 October 1999 the Centre received a letter from the State Party providing a report on progress made since the third extraordinary session of the Committee. The report recalled that a formal report would be submitted in April 2000 in accordance with the request of the Committee. In summary, the report from the State Party highlighted the following results:

- Drilling at Jabiluka has ceased
- Discussions have taken place on the future implementation of the Kakadu Regional Social Impact Study (KRSIS)
- Work on resolving the cultural issues has been delayed due to the withdrawal by the Mirrar Aboriginal people of their application for a declaration of protection under Section 10 of the 1984 *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act* for an area described as the "Boyweg-Almudj Sacred Site Complex".
- Stakeholders (for example, ICOMOS) have been invited to participate in the development of projects to contribute to the Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

The report from the State Party expressed concern about a delay in the commencement of the assessment of the remaining scientific issues and noted that this may make it difficult for the Independent Scientific Panel (ISP) of the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the Australian Supervising Scientist to provide the Committee with further advice by the 15 April 2000 as had been requested. This point was also made in a letter received from the Australian Supervising Scientist on 21 October 1999 in which he also outlined suggestions as to how to proceed with the assessment of scientific issues relating to the Jabiluka mine development.

The Bureau also noted that the State Party had informed the Centre that the Aboriginal traditional owners of the Koongarra mine site (located within another enclave to the south) had recently instructed the Northern [Aboriginal] Land Council (NLC) to continue negotiating an agreement with the mining company (Koongarra Ltd). These negotiations were reported by the State Party as having been on-going for the last twenty-two years.

The Bureau noted that the Centre received supplementary information from the State Party on 27 October 1999. Energy Resources of Australia Ltd (ERA) had received advice that the Northern Land Council (which negotiates on behalf of the Aboriginal Traditional Owners) would not consider any proposal in relation to trucking ore from the Jabiluka

mine to the existing Ranger mill for processing until at least 1 January 2005. ERA's remaining option would be to build a new mill at Jabiluka. The State Party reported that ERA would now focus on refining the best outcomes that could be delivered by developing a milling operation at Jabiluka. The State Party informed the Centre that ERA has resolved to work in consultation with the traditional owners, and other key stakeholders, in developing the Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP). The Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Senator Hill, wrote to the Mirrar on 25 October 1999 providing copies of studies on the potential impacts of dust and vibration on the rock art at Jabiluka and a copy of a peer review of the Interim CHMP prepared by ERA. The Senator's letter also sought the co-operation of the Mirrar in the preparation of the CHMP.

The Delegate of Australia expressed the State Party's support for the Bureau's decision. In recalling their commitment to provide a more comprehensive progress report by 15 April 2000, the Delegate of Australia stated that they would continue to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of new information concerning the state of conservation of Kakadu National Park.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

i) Cultural properties which the Bureau recommended for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Groups of Monuments at Hampi (India)

The Bureau examined the findings of the reactive monitoring mission undertaken in October 1999 in close co-operation with the State Party by a World Heritage Centre staff. The Bureau expressed extreme concern over the two cable-suspended modern bridges, which had been partially constructed within the protected archaeological area of Hampi, and the seriousness of the dismantling and reconstruction of a historic *mandapa* (pillared stone rest-house) within the World Heritage protected site. The Bureau noted that both bridges impact negatively on the World Heritage site in the following manner:

1. The large-scale two-way bridge for vehicular traffic and the second foot-bridge within the protected areas dominate the extraordinary natural environment and rural setting, threatening the integrity of the World Heritage site.
2. The dislocation and reconstruction of an important historical monument within the protected area signifies serious problems in the implementation of existing cultural heritage legislation and policies, pointing to the need for corrective measures to ensure the authenticity of the site.
3. Increased road development and vehicular traffic through the World Heritage site will hamper, if not render impossible, archaeological research and excavation in significant areas within the World Heritage site, as well as causing negative impact on the historical monuments, local inhabitants, tourists and visitors to the site.
4. Implementation of the current tourism development plan may irreversibly damage the archaeological remains for future scientific research or documentation of the sites on Virapapura Gada Island.

The Bureau reiterated the importance of elaborating a comprehensive management plan, which had been recommended by UNESCO and ICOMOS since the inscription of the site on the World Heritage List in 1986. The Bureau acknowledged that strong measures were necessary and recommended the following for adoption by the Committee:

> "The Committee examined the findings of the UNESCO reactive monitoring mission, and expressing deep concern over the partial construction of two cable-suspended bridges within the protected archaeological areas of Hampi, decides to inscribe the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.
>
> In view of the ascertained and potential dangers threatening the integrity and authenticity of the site, the Committee requests the national authorities concerned to urgently elaborate a comprehensive conservation, management and development plan, with the assistance of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre.
>
> The Committee requests the Government of India to report on the progress made in reducing the dangers facing the site, and in developing the comprehensive management plan, for examination by the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau."

ii) State of conservation reports of cultural properties which the Bureau transmitted to the Committee for action

Peking Man Site at Zhoukoudian (China)

The Bureau took note of the report and recommendations of the ICOMOS-ICCROM Joint Mission, undertaken in September 1999, which examined the state of conservation, management and factors affecting the Peking Man Site at Zhoukoudian. ICOMOS underlined the importance of the basic, systematic, low-cost monitoring regime to be instituted for the whole site, for assessing the needs for major and expensive physical site protection measures, such as the construction of shelters over various localities. ICOMOS also reiterated the Joint Mission's recommendation in preparing an overall conservation and management plan. The Observer of China expressed his Government's appreciation to the Bureau, the World Heritage Centre and the advisory bodies for organizing the Joint Mission. The Observer of China expressed his Government's wish to co-operate closely with the advisory bodies and the World Heritage Centre in seriously examining the Joint Mission findings and recommendations, and his Government's intention to propose a detailed plan of action for examination by the twenty-fourth Bureau. As to the recommendation concerning the criteria under which the site was inscribed on the World Heritage List, the Government of China agreed with the view of the Joint Mission that the justification for inscription of this site on the World Heritage List should include cultural criterion (iv).

The Bureau recommended the following for adoption by the Committee:

> "The Committee takes note of the findings of the report and recommendations of the ICOMOS-ICCROM Joint Mission, undertaken in September 1999, which examined the state of conservation, management and factors affecting the Peking

Man Site at Zhoukoudian. The Committee expresses appreciation to the Government of China, the advisory bodies and the Secretariat for the organization of the Joint Mission, which resulted with concrete recommendations for short and long term actions for enhanced management of the site. The Committee underlines the importance of putting into place a systematic low-cost monitoring system for the whole site, as well as the need for preparing an overall conservation and management plan.

The Committee welcomes the Government's intention to seriously examine the Joint Mission recommendations, and requests the advisory bodies and the World Heritage Centre to closely co-operate with the national authorities in the necessary follow-up actions. As to the Joint Mission recommendation to add criterion (iv) and remove criterion (vi) under which the site is inscribed on the World Heritage List, the Committee requests ICOMOS to examine this matter further in consultation with the State Party. The Committee requests ICOMOS to make a further recommendation for examination by the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau."

Islamic Cairo (Egypt)

The Bureau took note with satisfaction of the progress of the work begun on the project and achieved in 1999 for the revitalisation of Islamic Cairo and the excellent co-operation established with the Governor of Cairo and the Ministry of Culture – Supreme Council of Antiquities. He considered that the priority given to the co-ordination of the various actions undertaken by the national institutions and the international co-operation at the site is of major importance for the launching of the pilot projects for urban rivalization. In this framework, he acknowledged the importance of co-operation established with France with the secondment oto the project of an architect-restorer already working in Cairo. The Bureau finally took note of the decision of the Minister of Culture to allocate an additional amount of US$ 120,000 for this project.

With regard to the Al-Azhar Mosque, the Bureau was informed that an ICOMOS specialist would undertake a mission to Cairo shortly.

The Bureau recommended that the Committee approve the following text:

"The Committee thanks the national authorities and the international community for its commitment in supporting this important and complex site. The Committee wishes to remind the State Party of the need to ensure the continuity of the long-term action for the success in the safeguarding and revitalization of Islamic Cairo. It encourages the State Party to continue its direct and indirect financial contributions to the project."

City-Museum Reserve of Mtskheta (Georgia)

From 1996 to 1999 an amount of US$ 36,800 was made available under technical co-operation for expert services on a management and tourism policy. A preliminary study for a Master Plan for the heritage and tourist policy for the World Heritage site was prepared. In September 1999, the major elements of this study were presented during a World Heritage Centre mission to potential donor institutions in the form of "Terms of

Reference for 9 Actions". As a result, a project is being prepared with UNDP (to be financed by UNDP and the World Heritage Fund) for the development of a Heritage and Tourism Master Plan.

The mission team particularly noted the critical conditions of two archaeological sites: the Armaztsikhe and the Samtavros Veli sites. Furthermore, the mission took note of a plan to build a new bell tower within the enclosure of the cathedral.

The Observer of Germany inquired about the results of the previous assistance and pointed out that urgent interventions and rehabilitation works are needed in the site. These issues should be taken into account by the Committee when examining a request for technical co-operation for the preparation of the Master Plan.

The Bureau decided to transmit the report to the Committee for examination and recommended the following for adoption:

> "The Committee welcomes the initiative of the Government of Georgia and the Mtskheta Foundation to develop a Heritage and Tourism Master Plan for the City-Museum Reserve of Mtskheta. It expresses its full support for this initiative that will provide the appropriate framework for a coherent set of actions to be financed by different sources and donor institutions. The Committee recognizes that on the middle and long-term major investments will be required for the actual implementation of the Master Plan and calls upon States Parties, international institutions and organizations to collaborate in this effort.
>
> The Committee urges the Government of Georgia to take immediate measures for the protection of the Armaztsikhe archaeological site and for the recuperation of the total area of the Samtavros Veli Necropolis site. It requests the Georgian authorities to provide the plans for the bell tower at the cathedral for further study by ICOMOS."

Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin (Germany)

The fifth state of conservation report, requested by the twenty-second session of the Committee was submitted by the German authorities and evaluated by ICOMOS.

ICOMOS stated that important progress had been made in the planning for and preparation of urban planning mechanisms for the Quartier am Bahnhof and the Potsdam area in such a way that the cultural landscape values are preserved.

ICOMOS expressed concern about the so-called German Unity Project 17, a project to improve waterways in the eastern part of Germany. In Potsdam two alternatives exist, one of which goes through the World Heritage site and large vessels might be a danger for the landscape and individual monuments. The other alternative, the northern route, would use existing waterways that do not affect the World Heritage value of the cultural landscape of Potsdam.

The Bureau decided to transmit the report to the Committee for examination and recommended the adoption of the following decision:

> "The Committee commends the German authorities for their fifth report on the state of conservation of the Parks and Palaces of Potsdam and Berlin. It acknowledges the efforts made to restrict as much as possible the negative effects of the Havel project (German Unity Project 17) on the integrity of the World Heritage site. Nevertheless, it considers that considerable threats persist to the landscape and certain historic monuments, such as the Sacrow Church and the Babelsberg Engine House.
>
> The Committee wishes to know whether it would be possible to restrict passage through the World Heritage site to standard-sized vessels and to develop the Havel Canal, which lies outside the site (the northern route) so as to permit the passage of larger vessels.
>
> It requests the German authorities to continue its efforts to find a solution in conformity with the requirements of the World Heritage Convention. A report should be provided before 15 April 2000 in order that it may be examined by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth session."

Sun Temple of Konarak (India)

The Bureau examined the updated state of conservation report presented by the Secretariat, and transmitted the following for adoption by the Committee.

> "The Committee, having examined the developments at the Sun Temple of Konarak, expresses concern over its state of conservation. The Committee reiterates the Bureau's requests to the Government of India to submit information concerning the structural study implemented with the financial assistance from the World Heritage Fund emergency assistance reserve, made available in 1998. The Committee requests the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to continue its arrangements for an urgent reactive monitoring mission, in close co-operation with the national authorities concerned. The Committee requests the findings of this ICOMOS mission, and reports submitted by the Government of India, to be submitted for examination by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth session. The Committee also requests the Secretariat and ICOMOS to clarify whether or not the Government of India intends to nominate this site for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger."

Byblos (Lebanon)

The Bureau decided to transmit the state of conservation of this site to the Committee for examination and the provision of information concerning the second expert meeting that was held in Byblos in November 1999.

Tyre (Lebanon)

The Director CLT/CH and WHC, reported on the progress made in the activities relating to the archaeological site of Tyre which had suffered considerably for several years from the lack of appropriate archaeological regulations, an archaeological map and a management plan.

It is for this reason that the Lebanese authorities have requested UNESCO at every General Conference and once again during its thirtieth session, to ensure the participation of international experts in long-term missions to the site.

The Bureau adopted the following recommendation :

> "The Committee thanks the Lebanese Government for their co-operation in the preservation of the City of Tyre. In view of the serious and persistent threats to the safeguarding of the site, the Committee requests that the recommendations of the International Scientific Committee be urgently implemented, particularly the adoption of a city management plan to ensure the safeguarding of the archaeological zones as well as their protection through the creation of an appropriate landscape design. The Committee also requests the authorities to appoint a national co-ordinator and open a national account for the International Safeguarding Campaign as it was agreed with UNESCO, and recalled in the letter dated 7 July 1999 from the Director-General to the Minister of Culture".

Historic Centre of Puebla (Mexico)

In response to a request from the Bureau at its twenty-third session, the Mexican authorities submitted a detailed inventory of damages caused to the Historic Centre of Puebla and the Earliest 16th-Century Monasteries on the slopes of Popocatepetl by the earthquake of 15 June 1999. The inventory refers to 102 buildings in the State of Puebla, a great number of which are located within the two World Heritage sites. The report included immediate actions that have been taken already by the Mexican authorities, as well as an estimate of the funds needed for consolidation, restoration and repair.

The observer from Germany commended the Government of Mexico for the immediate response to the earthquake so that collapse of monuments could be prevented. ICOMOS informed the Bureau that it had also received a detailed report on damages to the site of the Historic Centre of Oaxaca and Archaeological Site of Monte Alban and that it would made this report available to the World Heritage Centre.

The Delegate of Mexico informed the Bureau that a special commission had been set up to deal with the damages caused by the earthquakes and that it had consulted with other States Parties on defining the appropriate response to this situation.

A request for emergency assistance for an amount of US$ 100,000 will be considered by the Committee at its twenty-third session. The request refers particularly to the Monastery of Tochimilco, one of the monasteries on the slopes of the Popocatepetl.

The Bureau recommended the Committee to adopt the following decision:

> "The Committee thanks the Mexican authorities for the detailed report on the damages caused by the earthquake of 15 June 1999 to the World Heritage sites of the Historic Centre of Puebla and the Earliest 16th-Century Monasteries on the slopes of Popocatepetl. It commends the authorities for the immediate response given to the earthquake and the emergency measures that have been taken to

prevent further damage and collapse.

The Committee requests the Mexican authorities to submit, by 15 September 2000, a report on the progress made in the consolidation of the monuments, for examination by the Committee at its twenty-fourth session."

Kathmandu Valley (Nepal)

Background

At its sixteenth session in 1992, the Committee, at the initiative of ICOMOS, examined the state of conservation of Kathmandu Valley, which was the subject of a UNESCO International Safeguarding Campaign, and of numerous reports written since the 1970s. ICOMOS expressed concern for the future safeguarding of this site, especially due to the absence of technical personnel and skilled labour, and to the quality of some restorations of wooden monuments with true architectural value. The Delegate of Germany, who expressed his concern at the alarming report, suggested recommending to the Nepalese Government to substantially increase the staff of at the Department of Archaeology and the funds at their disposal so that they may act effectively with regard to urban development threatening the Valley. The Delegate of Pakistan and ICCROM stressed the importance of acting in order to preserve the heritage of the Kathmandu Valley. The Committee adopted the recommendations made by ICOMOS and asked the Secretariat to contact the Nepalese authorities to study all the recommendations of ICOMOS and the Committee.

In 1993, a Joint UNESCO-ICOMOS Mission was undertaken, whose conclusions stressed the continuing urgency of the situation and defined sixteen areas in which significant improvements should be made in order to maintain the integrity of the original inscription. The Joint Mission **recommended that the site be placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger and returned to the World Heritage List within a period of one to three years, after sixteen specific matters of concern had been met**. The mission further recommended the effective delisting of parts of the Hanuman Dhoka Darbar Square and Bauddhanath Monument Zones, following a general failure to control development, but an extension of the monument zones of Swayambhunath, Patan and particularly Bhaktapur, which was considered at the time to be the only Newari city to retain its overall traditional character. At the seventeenth session of the Committee, the Observer of Nepal pledged to follow-up on the recommendations of the Joint Mission.

At its eighteenth session, the Bureau examined the 1993 Joint Mission report, and the Representative of Thailand stated that it was important to judge the degree to which the site had deteriorated and whether it was now worthy of being included in the World Heritage List. The Bureau recommended to the Committee to envisage partial delisting and redefinition of the part still intact and qualifying as World Heritage, which should be placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, to bring particular attention to the site to avoid further deterioration. The Nepalese State Party was informed of the Bureau's concerns and UNESCO was asked to work out an international assistance project.

At its eighteenth session, the Committee took note of the Secretariat's report on the Nepal/UNESCO/ICOMOS strategy meeting held in 1994 immediately following the Kathmandu Valley International Safeguarding Campaign Review Meeting. The Committee also **took note of the action plan: to be co-ordinated by an inter-ministerial task force**

which the representatives of various ministries agreed to establish and which included the establishment of a Development Control Unit in the Department of Archaeology to work closely with the municipalities and town development committees. The Committee called upon the State Party to take into consideration the recommendation for ensuring the protection of the site from uncontrolled development, especially by adopting a more stringent policy in the granting of demolition and construction permits and other land use authorization. Recognizing the limited national resources in carrying out the variety of required activities, the Committee requested UNESCO to assist the authorities in seeking international donor support, including the documentation of the site to be undertaken as a priority. In this connection, **the Committee discussed the advantages of the Kathmandu Valley being put on the List of World Heritage in Danger to draw the priority attention of the international community, and urged the Government to reconsider this option.**

In 1995 at its nineteenth session, the Committee noted that the official gazettes of the revised boundaries of the Monument Zones had not yet been issued despite repeated indication by the Department of Archaeology of its imminent publication, and expressed its concern over the continued demolition of and inappropriate alterations to historic buildings within the World Heritage protected zones.

At its twentieth session in 1996, the Committee while expressing appreciation for the progress made by the Government towards the fulfilment of the 16 Recommendations of the 1993 Joint Mission, it expressed its hope that efforts would be continued to strengthen the institutional capacities of the Department of Archaeology and the concerned municipalities by officially adopting and publicizing regulations on building control and conservation practice.

In view of the continued deterioration of the World Heritage values in the Bauddhanath and Kathmandu Monument Zones affecting the integrity and inherent characteristics of the site, the Committee at its twenty-first session in 1997, requested the Secretariat again, in collaboration with ICOMOS and the State Party, to study the possibility of deleting selected areas within some Monument Zones without jeopardizing the universal significance and value of the site as a whole. This review was to take into consideration the intention of the State Party to nominate Khokana as an additional Monument Zone. **The Committee, at its twenty-first session, decided that it could consider whether or not to inscribe the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its twenty-second session.**

Financed with US$ 35,000 authorized by the Committee, a UNESCO-ICOMOS-HMG of Nepal Joint Mission was undertaken in March 1998, resulting in 55 Recommendations and a Time-Bound Action Plan of Corrective Measures for Enhanced Management, adopted by the State Party. Recommendations to delete selected areas were not made by the Joint Mission in view of the clearly evident necessity to protect the essential setting of the monuments, and as the Hanuman Dhoka Darbar Square and Bauddhanath Monument Zones were already limited to the areas immediately surrounding the main monuments and historic buildings.

At its twenty-first session in 1998, the Committee decided to defer consideration of the inscription of the Kathmandu Valley site on the List of World Heritage in Danger until its twenty-second session. However, the Committee requested the State Party to continue implementing the 55 Recommendations, and in addition, recommended that the State Party adopt the three additional ICOMOS recommendations annexed to the 55 Recommendations. Finally, the Committee requested the State Party to take measures to ensure that adequate protection and management are put into place at Khokana, prior to its nomination as an

additional Monument Zone.

Deliberations during the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau

The Secretariat presented the findings and recommendations of the October 1999 mission undertaken by an independent international expert, who represented ICOMOS at the time of the March 1998 UNESCO-ICOMOS-HMG of Nepal Joint Mission. The report confirmed that Kathmandu Valley remained in danger. The Bureau examined this report, together with the reports of the Secretariat and His Majesty's Government of Nepal, presented as Documents WHC-99/CONF.208/INF.8A,B,C. The Observer of Nepal stated that his Government was making all efforts to implement the 55 Recommendations of the 1998 Joint Mission and the Time-Bound Action Plan of Corrective Measures for Enhanced Management, adopted by his Government.

The Bureau, although appreciating the efforts made by HMG of Nepal, expressed serious concern over the persisting problems of demolition or alteration of historic buildings within the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage site. The Bureau acknowledged that although continuous and large sums of international assistance and technical support had been provided to the Government from the World Heritage Fund, UNESCO Funds-in-Trust projects and numerous international donors over the years, the very serious degree of uncontrolled change and gradual deterioration of the historic fabric continued to threaten the authenticity and integrity of the site.

The Bureau, referring to discussions at every session of the Bureau and Committee since 1992, noted that the Committee had deferred inscription of the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger many times since the Committee's attention was drawn to the alarming situation in 1992. The Bureau underlined the importance of inscribing sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger at an early stage to mitigate the threats endangering a World Heritage site. Bureau members and observers stressed that the inscription of sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger should be utilized in a more constructive and positive manner, to mobilize the support of policy makers at the highest level and international donors.

Four Bureau members and some observers recommended that it was now the time for Kathmandu Valley to be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, especially as the important integrity of the site has gradually been undermined over a long period of time. The Delegate of Australia stated his Government was of the view that that the concerned State Party should agree before a decision is taken for inscribing a site on the List of World Heritage in Danger. ICOMOS stated that as the Committee did not inscribe the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1993, ICOMOS was reluctant to recommend inscription of the site on the List of World Heritage Danger at this time, as improvements had been made since 1993 as a result of efforts made by the State Party.

After further consideration, the Bureau recommended the following for adoption by the Committee:

> "The Committee examines the state of conservation reports presented in WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.17A,B,C and expresses deep concern over the serious degree of uncontrolled change and deterioration of the authenticity and integrity of the Monument Zones placed under the protection of the World Heritage Convention. It notes with appreciation that the State Party has made every effort to implement the 16

Recommendations of the 1993 UNESCO-ICOMOS Joint Mission, as well as the 55 Recommendations of the 1998 UNESCO-ICOMOS-HMG of Nepal Joint Mission and the Time-Bound Action Plan.

The Committee requests HMG of Nepal to continue making all possible efforts to protect the remaining authentic historic urban fabric within the Kathmandu Valley site. The Committee requests the Secretariat and the advisory bodies to continue to assist the State Party as appropriate and to the extent possible: in strengthening its capacity in controlling development, retaining historic buildings *in-situ*, and in correcting illegal construction and alteration of historic buildings within the Kathmandu Valley site.

The Committee decides to defer inscription of the Kathmandu Valley site on the List of World Heritage in Danger again, until the next session of the Committee.

Moreover, in view of the fact that the demolition and new construction or alterations of historic buildings within the Kathmandu Valley have persisted in spite of the concerted international and national efforts, resulting in the loss or continuous and gradual deterioration of materials, structure, ornamental features, and architectural coherence making the essential settings of the Monument Zones as well as in their authentic characters, the Committee requests a High Level Mission to be undertaken to hold discussions with representatives of HMG of Nepal in early 2000. This High Level Mission would be composed of the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee or a representative of the Committee members, a senior staff of the World Heritage Centre, and two eminent international experts. The findings of the mission would be reported the next sessions of the Bureau and Committee, in 2000."

Taxila (Pakistan)
Fort and Shalamar Gardens of Lahore (Pakistan)

The Secretariat reported that since the October 1999 mission undertaken during the political disturbance and change of Government, numerous discussions had taken place between the national authorities and the World Heritage Centre concerning the completed football stadium on Bhir Mound, Taxila, and the demolished hydraulic works of Shalamar Gardens. The Secretariat further reported that the former President of the UNESCO Executive Board informed the Secretariat that the Government would review the situation urgently and examine the possible measures to correct the recent developments at these sites.

Concerning the Shish Mahal Mirrored Ceiling within the Lahore Fort, ICCROM congratulated the authorities of Pakistan for preventing further water leakage during the 1999 monsoon. Underlining the importance to carefully consider proposals for constructing a temporary roof, ICCROM recommended that a follow-up mission be undertaken to discuss the protective measures with the national authorities concerned.

The Bureau examined the report of the Secretariat and recommended the following for adoption by the Committee.

"The Committee examined the report of the Secretariat. The Committee expresses concern over the demolition of the 375 year old essential hydraulic works of the

Shalamar Gardens, which has been carried out to enlarge the 4-lane Grand Trunk Road into a 6-lane motorway, as well as the completed football stadium built on the archaeological remains of Bhir Mound, the most ancient citadel site dating between 6th BC – 2nd AD within Taxila. In view of the ascertained threats undermining the authenticity and integrity of these two sites, the Committee requests the State Party to take urgent corrective measures to restore the hydraulic works at Shalamar Gardens, and to consider removing the football stadium negatively impacting upon the archaeological remains of Bhir Mound. The Committee requests the State Party to report on the actions taken for examination by the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau. Should the Bureau find that the World Heritage values have been compromised, it would recommend the Committee to consider inscription of these sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its twenty-fourth session, in view of the threats facing these sites.

Taking note of the need to elaborate a comprehensive management plan for both the Fort and Shalamar Gardens of Lahore, the Committee requests the World Heritage Centre to urgently organize a reactive monitoring mission by the advisory bodies to Lahore. The Committee requests that consultation on the proposals for protecting the Shish Mahal Mirrored Ceiling be undertaken by ICCROM with the national authorities, during this mission. The Committee requests the advisory bodies and the World Heritage Centre to report on findings and recommendations of the mission for examination by the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau."

Central Zone of Angra do Heroismo in the Azores (Portugal)

The Portuguese authorities submitted in July and September 1999 substantive documentation on the project for the marina and the rehabilitation of the waterfront of Angra do Heroismo. These reports were examined by the ICOMOS expert who undertook several missions to the site. The expert was of the opinion that the justification for the location of the marina had been provided and he was in agreement with the solution proposed for the connection of the dam to the waterfront of the city.

The expert agreed with the proposals for the revitalisation of some of the parts of the waterfront, but he made specific observations and reservations about other parts. The expert furthermore noted that a general urban development plan was still missing and that an integration of the marina/waterfront project in the city plan was not shown.

To conclude, the ICOMOS expert observed that the construction of the marina will have a visual impact on the Bay and the waterfront of the city and that this should be accompanied by a rehabilitation that should fully respect, and with minimal change, the structure and characteristics of the waterfront. Particular attention should be given to the area between the city and the proposed marina.

The Bureau decided to transmit the report to the Committee for examination and recommended the following for adoption:

"The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State Party on the marina project in the Bay of Angra do Heroismo and the opinions expressed by ICOMOS. The Committee endorses the views of ICOMOS regarding the

proposed rehabilitation of the waterfront and urges the Portuguese authorities to take these into account in reconsidering the plans for this area, more particularly for the area of the Patio da Alfandega, Jardim dos Corte-Reais and Antigo Mercado do Peixe, the Encosta do Cantagalo and the S. Sebastiao Fort.

The Committee requests the authorities to continue its collaboration with ICOMOS on the further development of the plans for the marina and the waterfront and their integration into the overall urban plan for Angra do Heroismo.

It requests the authorities to submit a report on the above matters by 15 April 2000 for consideration by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth session."

The Observer of Portugal informed the Bureau that the regional authorities of the Azores informed him that they are in full agreement with the observations made by the ICOMOS expert on the plans for the waterfront and wished to continue their co-operation with ICOMOS.

Complex of Hué Monuments (Vietnam)

The Bureau was informed that since the drafting of the state of conservation report, this site has been seriously impacted by the worst flood in 48 years that occurred in November 1999. On the basis of information received from the Hue Conservation Centre, the Secretariat reported that some 14 monumental complexes out of the 16 in the World Heritage protected area, were damaged. The Imperial City was under 1.5 metres of water, and two of the mausoleums were under 5-4 metres of water, with others under 1 metre of water, causing ground erosion and risk of structural instability. Moreover, the urban landscape of the site, characterized the lush vegetation has been seriously impacted by the uprooting of several centenarian trees. The Observer of Vietnam expressed appreciation for the Committee's support for the conservation of this site and thanked the World Heritage Centre for the international assistance it has been mobilizing. Stressing the seriousness of the damage caused by the flood, he requested the Committee to call on the world community to extend emergency assistance to Vietnam . He welcomed the reactive monitoring mission to Hue and Hoi An being organized by the Centre for December 1999.

The Bureau recommended the following for adoption by the Committee:

"The Committee examines the report of the Secretariat and expresses sympathy for the victims of the November floods and concern over the serious extent of the damage caused by the floods to the monuments and urban landscape of the Hue World Heritage site. Having examined the new information provided to the Bureau by the Vietnamese authorities and the Secretariat, the Committee allocates an initial sum of US$ 50,000 under the emergency assistance fund to support the rehabilitation of Hue and Hoi An, and the preparation of a comprehensive emergency rehabilitation programme including risk assessment and mitigation schemes. The Committee notes the deployment of an expert mission organized by the Secretariat for early December, and requests the Centre to support the State Party in preparing the emergency rehabilitation programme and in mobilizing international co-operation.

With regard to the new focus since 1997, on urban heritage conservation, the Committee noted the efforts being made by the Provincial and Municipal Authorities of Hué and the Hué Conservation Centre in mitigating the deterioration of the historic urban fabric of the World Heritage protected areas and commends Lille Metropole, UNESCO and the French Government for the support provided to the local authorities in integrating conservation concerns in the overall urban development plan. In this regard, the Committee reiterated the importance of preserving the authenticity and integrity of the Citadel of Hué marked by its urban morphology, spatial organization and vegetation which together form the « feng shui » philosophy adopted in the original construction and subsequent transformation of this imperial city. The Committee encouraged the State Party for its initiative in organizing the donors' meeting scheduled in April 2000 with technical support from the World Heritage Centre and Lille Metropole, and suggests that the emergency programme for the rehabilitation of the flood-caused damages be presented at this donors' meeting in addition to the urban conservation programme. It suggested, furthermore, that the project proposals be forwarded in advance to the members of the Committee, and that invitations be extended to the Committee and advisory bodies, as well as to the international development co-operation agencies and Vietnam-based diplomatic missions. Finally, the Committee noted that the written report that the Bureau at its twenty-second session requested the State Party to submit by 15 September 1999, had not been received to date. The Committee therefore requested the State Party to prepare an initial progress report on the rehabilitation effort, as well as on measures taken to ensure the conservation and appropriate development of the urban heritage of Hué by 1 May 2000 for review by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth session."

iii) <u>State of conservation reports of cultural properties which the Bureau transmitted to the Committee for noting</u>

Jesuit Missions of the Guaranis (Argentina and Brazil):
The Jesuit Mission of Santa Ana (Argentina)

Following the examination of the state of conservation by the Bureau in July 1999, the Secretariat received a report from the authorities of Argentina on the construction of an industrial plant in the village of Santa Ana. It is reported that the plant is at a distance of 700 meters from the ruins of the Jesuit Mission and that it is not visible from there. A new access road to the mission is being planned that will improve security for visitors, will re-introduce the historical access to the site and will avoid visitors being directly confronted with the industrial plant.

The Bureau took note of the information provided by the authorities of Argentina on the construction of an industrial plant in the village of Santa Ana. It concluded that the plant has no visual impact on the World Heritage site and that the proposed new access road to the missions will improve the presentation of the site.

Following an observation made by ICOMOS, the Bureau also requested the authorities of Argentina to define buffer zones around the Jesuit missions and to inform the Secretariat about the measures taken to this effect.

The Potala Palace, Lhasa (China)

The Secretariat reported on increased international co-operation with the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) of China for the conservation of the historic areas of Lhasa. This co-operation also involves the participation of the Lhasa Municipality in activities carried out within the framework of the World Heritage Centre's Special Programme for the Cities of Asia , and among others, exchanges through the Tibet-Norway University Network Co-operation scheme. The organization of a technical workshop with support from the Centre and NIKU (Norwegian Conservation Institute), was proposed to: (1) review the Old Lhasa Historical Map, a Norwegian-supported project carried out since 1996 by a German NGO, and (2) add to recent mural painting conservation skills through an on-the-job training workshop to restore the paintings of Lukhang Temple of the Potala Palace.

The Bureau was also informed that in anticipation of the extension of the Potala Palace World Heritage site to cover Jokhang Temple and the historic areas, to be examined by the Committee in December 2000, the Centre and the State Party are discussing measures to raise awareness and respect for conservation among the local population, in view of the continued incidents of illegal demolition and inappropriate reconstructions in the Barkhor Historic Area, mainly by private and business concerns.

An ICOMOS mission would be visiting Lhasa early in 2000 to evaluate the Jokhang Temple Monastery , which was nominated as an extension to the Potala Palace. The expert would be requested to visit the Potala Palace and provide a report on the state of conservation.

The Bureau expressed appreciation for enhanced international co-operation for the conservation of the monumental and urban heritage of the Historic Area of Barkhor, notably the long-term support offered by various international non-governmental organizations and universities. The Bureau took note of the proposed training activities in urban conservation planning and mural painting restoration with the involvement of UNESCO and the Norwegian Conservation Institute (NIKU) among others. The Bureau recalled the interest expressed by ICCROM and ICOMOS in these activities and requested the State Party to consider their involvement, especially in training activities. The Bureau expressed its readiness to consider international assistance from the World Heritage Fund to support the national and local efforts in these areas and requested the World Heritage Centre to work in close collaboration with the State Party in reviewing the conservation plan of the Historic Area of Barkhor.

City of Quito (Ecuador)

The Ecuadorian authorities provided detailed information on the disaster preparation scheme introduced to respond to the possible impact of the re-activation of the volcano La Pichincha that is at a close distance to the World Heritage site.

The Bureau requested the Ecuadorian authorities to keep the Secretariat informed on the threats posed by the volcano activities to the historic centre of Quito and on the disaster preparedness activities undertaken.

Historic Centre of Tallin (Estonia)

The Estonian authorities informed the Secretariat that, in response to the ICOMOS expert monitoring mission (1998) and the Bureau's recommendations, the national and local

governments are now looking for an alternative location for the construction of a new theatre. The historic buildings at the originally foreseen location of the theatre have been consolidated and new functions are being sought for them.

The authorities pointed out, however, that as long no development plan for the Protected Area of Tallin exists, similar cases might occur in the future.

The Bureau congratulated the authorities of Estonia for their efforts to find a more suitable location for a theatre that was planned within the Historic Centre of Tallin and to preserve the historic structures on its planned location. It urged the authorities to proceed with the preparation of a development plan for the Historic Centre of Tallin in order to provide the adequate framework for interventions and preservation in the Historic Centre. It offered its support to such effort, if requested by the State Party.

Mont-Saint-Michel and its Bay (France)

On the occasion of the Assembly of the Friends of Mont-Saint-Michel, on 24 September 1999, to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the inscription of the site on the World Heritage List, the project «Re-establishment of the Maritime character of the Mont-Saint-Michel», prepared by the Ministry for Equipment, was presented to the public. This project will greatly contribute towards the rehabilitation of the spiritual nature of Mont-Saint-Michel and will help regulate the tourist influx (more than three million per year).

The Delegate of Greece inquired about the tourism installations that affect the morphology of the monument. The Observer of France responded that this would be dealt with by relocating functions that are not appropriate to the site.

The Bureau took note of the development of the project for the re-establishment of the maritime character of the Mont-Saint-Michel prepared by the French authorities and congratulated them for their continuing commitment for the protection of the World Heritage. The Bureau appreciated the quality of the work and the aims of the project. It hoped that its implementation, which has also to respect the needs of the residents of the Mont-Saint-Michel, would be carried out as soon as possible. Finally, the Bureau requested the Secretariat to study, together with the French authorities, the possibility of organizing an exhibition on the Mont and on the project.

Roman Monuments, Cathedral and Liebfrauen Church in Trier (Germany)

The German authorities submitted a report and plans on the protection and development of the surroundings of the Roman amphitheatre. This included information on the extension of the area protected by a municipal ordinance, as well as the reduction of the number and the height of the buildings north of the theatre. The draft plan on the proposed integration of the Roman water pipes and town ramparts was not available yet.

ICOMOS observed that significant progress had been made in the extension of the protected area and in the restructuring of the buildings.

The Bureau welcomed the information provided by the German authorities on the extension of the protected area around the Roman amphitheatre and the revision of the

building plan for the area to the north. It encouraged the German authorities to develop the plan for the integration of the Roman water pipes and town ramparts and to submit this plan, if possible before 15 April 2000, for evaluation by ICOMOS.

Ashanti Traditional Buildings (Ghana)

The Bureau noted with satisfaction the progress achieved for the improvement of the state of conservation of the property, and the efforts undertaken for the development of promotional activities, and its attempts to generate revenues to achieve sustainability. However, it requested the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board to proceed with the preparation of an overall management plan as soon as possible and report to the Committee at its twenty-fifth session.

ICCROM recalled that most of the activities in this site are undertaken in the framework of the Africa 2009 programme and supported the need of an overall management plan. He suggested that AFRICA 2009 would use a meeting of its co-ordination committee, already scheduled to take place in Ghana in early 2000, to visit the site and meet with officials of the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board to discuss a proposal for drafting the management plan.

Churches and Convents of Goa (India)

The Bureau took note of the state of conservation report of the Secretariat, and while expressing its appreciation to the State Government on its plans to divert National Road No. 4 away from the Churches and Convents of Goa, it requested further information to be provided to the advisory bodies for their examination. The Bureau also requested the World Heritage Centre to provide any available reports on the management of the site to be transmitted to the advisory bodies for their comments.

The Bureau requested the World Heritage Centre to continue assisting the relevant authorities in addressing the conservation needs of the monuments and historic urban fabric composing the World Heritage site. The Bureau encouraged the local, regional and national authorities concerned to continue to follow-up on the decision of the Bureau at its twenty-third session, and to submit a report on the actions taken by 15 April 2000 for examination by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth session.

Luang Prabang (Laos)

The Secretariat reported that catalytic funds provided to this site from the World Heritage Fund since its inscription in 1995, amounting to a total of approximately US$ 70,000 have raised some US$ 4.5 million in projects designed by the Centre and the Luang Prabang-Chinon (France) joint team under the decentralized co-operation scheme supported by the Government of France and the European Union, among other donors. The draft conservation and development plan for the core historic centre within the World Heritage site of the Historic Town of Luang Prabang is due for completion by the end of 1999. Upon approval by the Inter-ministerial Commission for the Protection of Cultural, Natural and Historic Properties of Laos, the plan is to be enforced provisionally for a period of one year prior to finalization. The Secretariat reported on concerns over a number of large-scale public works and the rapid growth in tourism. The Bureau was informed that an international donors meeting is scheduled for late-January 2000 for the Luang Prabang Provincial Government to

present the conservation and development plan to sensitize the donors on the need to design infrastructural development projects will not undermine the World Heritage value of the site.

The Bureau congratulated the national and local authorities for the progress made in strengthening the legal and administrative structure for the protection of the Luang Prabang World Heritage site, as well as in the elaboration of the conservation and development plan of the site. However, the Bureau expressed concern about the delay in the official enactment by the National Assembly of the law for the protection of national cultural, natural and historic properties, as well as over the absence in the decree of reference to the financing of conservation. Noting the important financial and technical assistance mobilized by UNESCO from bilateral and multilateral sources over the past four years for the conservation of this site, the Bureau requested the State Party to consider the ways and means to ensure the long-term sustainability of conservation and maintenance activities of this World Heritage site.

Moreover, the Bureau expressed concern over the potential negative impact of a number of public works projects financed by international development co-operation agencies, as well as over the rapid tourism development works at the site. Commending the initiative of the Governor of Luang Prabang in organizing a donors' meeting, the State Party was requested to submit a written report to the Secretariat by 10 May 2000 on the outcome of this meeting and on the concerns raised over the riverbank consolidation, drainage and sewage works, electricity transmission poles, and the proposed bridge construction, as well as the results of the tourism study. In the preparation of this report, the Bureau requested the international development co-operation agencies concerned and the World Heritage Centre to support the national and local authorities of Laos. The Bureau, moreover, requested the Secretariat to discuss with the State Party on the feasibility of establishing an international co-ordinating committee composed of donor governments for the safeguarding and development of Luang Prabang, modelled on the committee established for Angkor in Cambodia.

Island of Mozambique (Mozambique)

The Bureau congratulated the Mozambican authorities for their efforts to preserve the Ilha de Mozambique by taking into account the social and economic aspects of the site and the successful donors' meeting, and called upon the donors' community to provide a wide support to this endeavour, by making contributions to the UNDP-UNESCO Trust Fund, or by implementing projects on a bilateral basis, or by taking into account the Programme for Sustainable Human Development and Integral Conservation in order to achieve better synergy with the projects that have already been funded.

Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (Nepal)

The Bureau examined the undated report of the Secretariat concerning the announcement by the Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture that the construction of the Maya Devi Temple would start by mid-November 1999. The Observer of Nepal stated that the Government had been seeking international contribution for the rehabilitation of the Maya Devi Temple for many years, but regrettably without response. HMG of Nepal is therefore determined to undertake work at the Maya Devi Temple site, regardless of the availability of financial support from international donors. The Observer, however, assured the Bureau that his Government was fully prepared to accept international expert advice and assistance from the World Heritage Committee, the advisory bodies and the World Heritage Centre, during the construction of the Maya Devi Temple. The Bureau

requested the World Heritage Centre to organize a reactive monitoring mission in co-operation with the advisory bodies and the State Party, for further consultations with the authorities concerned, and to examine the management and conservation needs of the fragile archaeological site. The Bureau decided to examine the findings of this report at its twenty-fourth session.

Archaeological Site of Chavin (Peru)

An ICOMOS expert undertook a mission to Chavin in September/October 1999 to update the 1993 state of conservation report and advise on future actions for the management and preservation of the site.

ICOMOS reported that the site is in a very fragile state and that urgent interventions are needed. ICOMOS pointed out, however, that there had been a lack of financial and human resources for a long time. Future planning for the site should consider the rational use of tourism and the re-definition of the boundaries of the site, particularly in view of the vicinity of the village of Chavin. In ICOMOS's view, no excavations should be undertaken until a Master Plan is adopted and financial means are available for preservation.

The Observer of Peru then informed the Bureau that she had just transmitted information to the Secretariat that a special commission had been established with the participation of recognized experts to: 1) define and implement emergency measures at the site; 2) prepare an emergency intervention plan, and 3) to prepare a Master Plan. She informed the Bureau that considerable funding was being negotiated with the Government of Japan and a private mining company for these activities. She expressed the wish of her Government to continue the collaboration with ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre in this endeavour.

The Bureau commended ICOMOS for its report and the Government of Peru for the decisions taken for emergency intervention and future planning for the archaeological site of Chavin. It welcomed the wish of the Government of Peru to continue to collaborate with ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre and requested the Peruvian authorities to submit a report on the progress made by 15 September 2000 for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-fourth session.

City of Cuzco (Peru)

Technical co-operation for an amount of US$ 20,000 for the preparation of a Master Plan was provided in 1997. This assistance was provided under the condition that adequate arrangements be made between the National Institute for Culture and the Municipality of Cusco for the joint preparation of the Master Plan. There is now a joint committee and a contract has been signed between UNESCO and both the INC and Municipality of the city. The Secretariat is awaiting the work plan for its implementation.

The Bureau encouraged the National Institute for Culture and the Municipality of Cusco to collaborate in the preparation of the Master Plan for the city and to inform the Secretariat, by 15 April 2000, on the progress made. This information will be transmitted to the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-fourth session.

The Observer of Peru informed the Bureau that a report on the situation had been prepared and would be submitted to the Secretariat shortly.

Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines)

The Bureau examined the state of conservation report of the site. The Bureau was informed that additional reports from the national authorities had been transmitted to the Secretariat before the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau, but due to time constraints, the World Heritage Centre had not been able to transmit the information to ICOMOS, but would do so immediately. In response to the report submitted by the Banaue Rice Terraces Task Force (BRTTF), ICOMOS considered that it answers the points raised by ICOMOS Germany in December 1998. However, ICOMOS expressed its view that the conservation process and enhanced management of this fragile site should be a continuing project. It recommended that the Bureau thank the State Party for its report and at the same time request periodic reports for examination by the Bureau.

The Observer of the Philippines expressed appreciation to the Committee and the World Heritage Centre for the attention given to the state of conservation of this site. He reported that the GIS activity supported with the World Heritage Fund would commence in December 1999, utilizing the financial assistance in a catalytic manner to generate further assistance from other funding sources. The Observer informed the Bureau that the Philippines National Commission for UNESCO was joining forces with the Banaue Rice Terraces Task Force to reinforce co-operation with the local communities through heritage education programmes and by carrying out hydrological studies aimed to reinforce the cultural identity, revive and update traditional agricultural skills.

The Delegate of Zimbabwe noted that the maintenance of the ecosytem of this site, being intimately linked to the traditional ways of life of the local communities provides a good case study for sustainable management of the site, particularly for the protection of World Heritage cultural landscape sites. The Observer of Germany added that this site was one of the first cultural landscapes to be protected under the World Heritage Convention, inscribed with the full awareness by the Committee of the great challenges the conservation process would pose. Underlining the importance of the participation of the local communities, he expressed appreciation for the interdisciplinary approach adopted by the State Party.

The Bureau expressed its appreciation for the informative report of the Banaue Rice Terraces Task Force (BRTTF) dated 30 August 1999 on the on-going activities for the protection of the Rice Terraces of the Philippines Cordilleras. The Bureau stressed the importance of these activities, notably the watershed management of the site and its buffer zone as well as those to mitigate the negative impact of infrastructural development works on the site. The Bureau recommended the State Party to update the existing development plan to ensure that the socio-economic development needs of the local inhabitants are met while maintaining the authenticity and sustainable conservation of this fragile site. In this connection, the Bureau expressed concern over the impact of increasing tourism to the site and requested the State Party to inform the Bureau through the Secretariat by 15 September 2000 on whether or not the integrated development strategy including a tourism development plan for this site which were reportedly under preparation at the time of the site's inscription had been completed. Should the State Party require international expertise in completing this, the Bureau expressed its

readiness to support the national effort through technical co-operation under the World Heritage Fund.

Auschwitz Concentration Camp (Poland)

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that major progress had been made in the implementation of the Strategic Governmental Programme for Auschwitz and of the Act for the Protection of Former Nazi Extermination Camps. The Bureau at its twenty-third session requested the Government of Poland to submit a further progress report by 15 April 2000 for examination by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth session. The Observer of Poland confirmed that the Spacial Management Plan would be completed shortly for submission to the local authorities and to the International Expert Group. A request for assistance for this meeting from the World Heritage Fund is forthcoming.

As to the request from the Polish National Commission for UNESCO for the Committee's views on the matter of the restitution to the author of portraits made while she was imprisoned in the camp, the Director of the World Heritage Centre stated that this is probably more a matter of national than of international law. The Observer of Poland made a statement explaining the background and implications of this request. Several delegates and observers supported the view expressed by the Director of the Centre. Subsequently, the Bureau concluded that legal advice is required before this matter can be further examined by the Bureau or the Committee.

The Sokkuram Grotto and Pulguksa Temple (Republic of Korea)

The Bureau was informed of the written report submitted by the State Party as requested by the Bureau at its twenty-third session in June 1999. It was noted that the construction of the incinerator has not yet been approved by the Kyongju City Council and that no scientific study exists on the effect of dioxin on construction material. ICOMOS confirmed the latter point and stressed the urgent need of such a study.

The Bureau, upon examining the report presented by the State Party and the Secretariat thanked the State Party for its commitment to monitor the planning and eventual construction process of the incinerator, if and when the project is approved in order to ensure that international standards based on scientific research are respected. Negative impacts on the inhabitants or on the environment of the Sokkuron Grotto and the Pulguksa Temple will also be monitored. The Bureau requested the State Party to keep the Bureau informed through the Secretariat of future developments regarding the incinerator construction and of any other works which may impact upon this World Heritage site.

Alhambra, Generalife and Albaycin, Grenada (Spain)

The Bureau took note of progress in the revision of the Special Plan of the monumental part of the site (Alhambra and Generalife) as well as the substantial improvement made in the co-ordination of the management of the two components of the site (monumental part and urban part).

Consequently, the Bureau congratulated the Spanish authorities for the progress made in the revision of the special plan of the monumental site and for the co-ordination of the

different protection and management plans. It also congratulated the responsible authorities for the work in progress in the Albaycin and especially for the role of the Albaycin Foundation and encouraged them to deal with the remaining problems concerning the respect of the Convention and the characteristics of the site. However the Bureau remains concerned about the possible extension of the municipal cementry which could affect the site.

Historic Areas of Istanbul (Turkey)

The Bureau was informed that the State Party submitted a written report on the state of conservation of the site as requested by the Bureau at its twenty-third session and the Committee at its twenty-second session. It noted that the Ministry of Culture had allocated an important sum (US$250,000) to Fatih Municipality for the conservation of Zeyrek and that the conservation plan of the historic peninsula of Istanbul was under preparation by the Greater Istanbul authorities and the concerned municipalities. The Bureau was informed that the August 1999 earthquake in Turkey had caused only minor damage to the rampart and not to any other part of the World Heritage protected zones. The Delegate of Greece however indicated that the impact of earthquakes are only evident over time and therefore requires continued surveillance. With regard to Zeyrek, she recalled the statement of ICOMOS at the twenty-third session of the Bureau that the degraded condition of the timber buildings of Zeyrek and the poverty of the inhabitants, makes the on-going conservation effort a utopian cause, and suggested the need to set priorities for assistance, especially in view of the many monumental and urban heritage of importance within the World Heritage site. The Bureau noted the concern raised by the Secretariat that the revoking, after the August 1999 earthquake, of all construction plans and permits by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, pending completion of the urban conservation and development plan, may result in an even greater number of illegal constructions. The Bureau also noted the on-going efforts to support Greater Istanbul and the municipalities in expediting the finalization of the urban conservation and development plan (at 1/5000 and 1/1000) which are being undertaken by the Istanbul Technical Univerity and French technical experts seconded to the Centre under the France-UNESCO Agreement.

The Bureau expressed its sympathies to the victims of the tragic earthquake of 17 August 1999. Noting that the impact of earthquakes on monuments and sites are only evident over time, the Bureau requested the World Heritage Centre to support the national rehabilitation effort and to monitor the effects of the earthquake. The Bureau noted its appreciation for the significant allocation of funds to the Fatih Municipality by the Government to prepare the conservation plan and to undertake rehabilitation activities in Zeyrek. In this regard, the Bureau suggested that the feasibility of conserving the timber buildings of Zeyrek should be considered within the context of the overall conservation needs of the World Heritage areas of Istanbul, and on the basis of prioritizing such needs. The Bureau encouraged the continued efforts of the Centre in mobilizing international technical support, particularly to expedite the elaboration of the 1/5000 scale urban development and conservation plan by Greater Istanbul and the 1/1000 scale detailed conservation plan by the municipal authorities of Fatih and Eminonu. Finally, it requested the State Party to submit a report to the Bureau through the Secretariat by 15 September 2000 of progress in corrective measures being carried out in Zeyrek and in the adoption of the conservation and development plan if the historic peninsula of Istanbul.

IV. EXAMINATION OF NOMINATIONS OF CULTURAL AND NATURAL PROPERTIES TO THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER AND THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

IV.1 At its twenty-third extraordinary session, the Bureau reviewed nominations of eight natural properties, five mixed sites and sixteen cultural properties.

IV.2 The Centre informed the Bureau that changes to the names of two properties included on the World Heritage List had been requested by States Parties concerned:

The Republic of Korea requested that "Sokkuram Grotto" be changed to "Sokkuram Grotto and Pulguska Temple".

Germany asked that "Roman Monuments, Cathedral and Liebfrauen-Church in Trier" be changed to “Roman Monuments, Cathedral Saint Peter and St. Mary’s Church in Trier".

A. NATURAL PROPERTIES

A.1 Natural properties which the Bureau recommended for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Following the examination of the state of conservation of properties, the Bureau recommended the Committee inscribe the following sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

Iguacu National Park (Brazil)

The Bureau recalled that at its twenty-third session it had already recommended inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger for the following properties:

Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC))
Rwenzori Mountains (Uganda)

A.2 Natural Properties which the Bureau recommended for inscription on the World Heritage List

Name of Property	Identification number	State Party having submitted the nomination (in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention)	Criteria
Discovery Coast Atlantic Forest Reserves	**892Rev**	**Brazil**	**N (ii), (iv)**

IUCN informed the Bureau that the evaluation of this property has been undertaken based on the revised nomination submitted by the State Party in April 1999.

The Brazilian Discovery Coast includes a number of areas containing the best and largest remaining examples of Atlantic forest in the northeast region of Brazil and contains high numbers of rare and endemic species. The site displays the biological richness and evolutionary history of the few remaining areas of Atlantic forest of northeast Brazil. The site reveals a pattern of evolution of great interest to science and importance for conservation. The fact that only these few scattered remnants of a once vast forest remain, make them an irreplaceable part of the world's forest heritage.

The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe the site under natural *criteria (ii)* and *(iv)*. It also recommended that the State Party should be encouraged to complete the "Plan of Action for the Atlantic Forest Region" and other initiatives indicated in the IUCN evaluation.

Atlantic Forest Southeast Reserves **893-894Rev** **Brazil** **N (ii), (iii), (iv)**

IUCN informed the Bureau that the evaluation of this property has been undertaken based on the revised nomination submitted by the State Party in April 1999.

The Atlantic Forests (Southeast) contain the best and largest remaining examples of Atlantic forest in the southeast region of Brazil. The 25 protected areas that make up the site display the biological richness and evolutionary history of the few remaining areas of Atlantic forest of southeast Brazil. The area is also exceptionally diverse with high numbers of rare and endemic species. With its "mountains to the sea" attitudinal gradient, its estuary, wild rivers, karst and numerous waterfalls, the site also has exceptional scenic values.

The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe the site under natural *criteria (ii), (iii)* and *(iv)*. It also recommended that the State Party should be encouraged to restore natural conditions in the Serra do Mar State Park, which could eventually be incorporated in the site.

Miguasha Park **686Rev** **Canada** **N(i)**

In its representation of vertebrate life, Miguasha is the most outstanding fossil site in the world for illustrating the Devonian as the "Age of Fishes". The area is of paramount importance in having the greatest number and best preserved fossil specimens found anywhere in the world of the lobe-finned fishes that gave rise to the first four-legged, air-breathing terrestrial vertebrates - the tetrapodes.

The Bureau recommended the Committee inscribe the site under natural *criterion (i)*. The Bureau commended the Government of Canada for the rigorous comparative assessment applied to this nomination and described it as a model for future fossil nominations. The Delegate of Zimbabwe noted that criterion (ii) could also be applied in view of the evidence for the evolution and development of terrestrial and marine ecosystems. IUCN noted that the States Party had nominated the site under natural criterion (i) and that this was the appropriate criterion for this site.

Desembarco del Granma National Park **889** **Cuba** **N (i) (iii)**

The Bureau recalled that it had noted at its last session that the site meets natural *criteria (i) and (iii).* The Bureau however decided to refer the nomination, System of Marine Terraces of Cabo Cruz and Maisi, back to the State Party seeking their concurrence to the adjusted boundaries, including the need for a marine extension and detailed maps focusing on the Desembarco del Granma National Park. A revised proposal for the System of Marine Terraces of Cabo Cruz, was received by the World Heritage Centre on 23 August 1999.

The uplifted marine terraces of the Marine Terraces of Cabo Cruz and associated ongoing development of karst topography and features, represent a globally significant example of geomorphologic and physiographic features and ongoing geological processes. The area includes spectacular stair-step terraces and cliffs and the ecosystems that have evolved on them, as well as some of the most pristine and impressive coastal cliffs bordering the Western Atlantic between the Canadian Maritimes and southern South America.

The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe the site under natural *criteria (i)* and *(iii)*. It also commended the Government of Cuba for the efforts to conserve this site. The Bureau suggested that the State Party submit a request to the World Heritage Fund for technical assistance to produce a tourism management plan as an integral element of the overall management plan for this site.

Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park **652Rev** **Philippines** **N (iii) (iv)**

The Bureau recalled that at its last session it noted that the site meets natural *criteria (iii) and (iv)* and that it decided to refer the nomination back to the State Party for amendment and legal definition of boundaries, to include the area most important for the protection of the catchment of the underground river and for biodiversity conservation. A revised proposal was received by the World Heritage Centre on 30 September 1999.

The Bureau noted that in a letter received on 8 October 1999, the State Party requested that the site be renamed "**Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park**."

This site features a spectacular limestone karst landscape with its underground river. A distinguishing feature of the river is that it flows directly into the sea, and the lower portion of the river is subject to tidal influences. The area also represents a significant habitat for biodiversity conservation. The site contains a full mountain to the sea ecosystem and protects forests, which are among the most significant in Asia.

The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe the site under natural *criteria (iii)* and *(iv).* It also commended the Government of the Philippines for the consultative process undertaken with relevant authorities, specially with the affected Barangays and for their approaches to integrated regional land use planning which aim to ensure that the World Heritage values of the site are maintained.

A.3 Natural Property which the Bureau decided to refer to the Committee

Western Caucasus 900 Russian Federation

IUCN informed the Bureau that the following clearly defined areas within the site have a potential for inscription on the World Heritage List under criteria (ii) and (iv): The territory of the Caucasus State Biosphere Reserve (CSBR) with the exception of the Khosta Yew-Box Grove as well as areas in the buffer zone of the CSBR. IUCN furthermore recommended that advice would be needed on mechanisms proposed for ensuring the integrated management of this area including the preparation of a management plan. IUCN also requested clarification of the status of the Lagonaki-Dragomys road in relation to this site.

The Western Caucasus has a remarkable diversity of geology, ecosystems and species. It is of global significance as a centre of plant diversity. Along with the Virgin Komi World Heritage site, it is the only large mountain area in Europe that has not experienced significant human impact, containing extensive tracts of undisturbed mountain forests unique on the European scale.

IUCN informed the Bureau that the Observer of the Delegation of the Russian Federation provided a revised nomination during the Bureau session, which addresses the suggestions made by the IUCN evaluation. The Delegate of Hungary proposed that the recommendation of deferral be amended to referral.

The Bureau referred examination of this nomination to the Committee.

A.4 Natural Property which the Bureau deferred

The High Coast 898 Sweden

IUCN informed the Bureau that the distinctiveness of the site is its geological values and the extent of the total isostatic uplift of about 294 meters. The isostatic rebound is well illustrated at the site and the scenic values with its harmonic rural farmland have to be noted.

Following comments of IUCN concerning the need for better documentation of the values of the marine portion of the area, the relation to the proposed Quark World Heritage nomination and integrity issues, the Bureau decided to defer this nomination. The Bureau noted that the State Party might also wish to consider nominating the area as a cultural landscape.

A.5 Extension of a natural property which the Bureau did not recommend for approval

Belovezhskaya Pushcha/Bialowieza Forest – Extension 33-627 Bis Belarus / Poland

IUCN informed the Bureau that the proposed extension would provide an important contribution to the biodiversity of the Polish part of the existing World Heritage site, in particular through the oligothrophic pinewoods. However, they are not significant for the existing World Heritage site as a whole. The Bureau recommended not to include the extension into the existing World Heritage site.

The Bureau commended the Polish Government for its initiative for expanding the existing National Park and to give legal protection to the whole unit.

B. MIXED PROPERTIES

B.1 The Bureau noted that the Government of Australia provided the Centre with complementary information concerning the mixed cultural and natural nomination of the **Greater Blue Mountains Area (Australia)** on 7 October 1999. The State Party has commenced preparation of additional detailed complementary material addressing issues raised by the Bureau at its twenty-third ordinary session in July 1999. The Bureau had recommended deferral for the natural part of the nomination and did not recommend inscription according to cultural values. The State Party has informed the Centre of its intention to submit new information by 30 January 2000 to enable the Bureau to fully consider the nomination at its twenty-fourth session in Paris in June/July 2000, and to prepare recommendations for the World Heritage Committee's twenty-fourth session in December 2000. Both ICOMOS and IUCN have agreed to this suggested timetable.

B.2 Mixed properties which the Bureau recommended for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger

The Bureau did not recommend any properties for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

B.3 Mixed property which the Bureau recommended for inscription on the World Heritage List

Mount Wuyi	**911**	**China**	**N (iii) (iv)** **C(iii) (vi)**

In July the Bureau recommended inscription on the World Heritage List on the basis of natural criteria (iii) and (iv).

Mount Wuyi is one of the most outstanding subtropical forests in the world. It is the largest, most representative example of a largely intact forest encompassing the diversity of the Chinese Subtropical Forest and the South Chinese Rainforest. It acts as a refuge for a large number of ancient, relict plant species, many of them endemic to China and contains large numbers of reptile, amphibian and insect species. The riverine landscape of Nine-Bend Stream (lower gorge) is also of exceptional scenic quality in its juxtaposition of smooth rock cliffs with clear, deep water.

In July, the Bureau referred the cultural part back to the State Party for re-examination. ICOMOS informed the Bureau that information on the revised boundary of the site had been provided by the State Party and that ICOMOS had revised its evaluation on the spiritual values of the site. Concerning cultural values the Bureau recommended inscription on the World Heritage List on the basis of cultural criteria (iii) and (vi):

> ***Criterion (iii)*** Mount Wuyi is a landscape of great beauty that has been protected for more than twelve centuries. It contains a series of exceptional archaeological sites, including the Han City established in the 1st century BC and a number of temples and study centres associated with the birth of Neo-Confucianism in the 11th century AD.

Criterion (vi) Mount Wuyi was the cradle of Neo-Confucianism, a doctrine that played a dominant role in the countries of eastern and south-eastern Asia for many centuries and influenced philosophy and government over much of the world.

Ibiza, Biodiversity and Culture	**417Rev**	**Spain**	**N(ii)(iv) C(ii)(iii)(iv)**

In July, the Bureau discussed the potential of the site to meet natural criteria (ii) and (iv). The Bureau decided to refer the nomination back to the State Party to provide clear evidence on the continuation of the Nature Reserve's legal status under autonomic law, as well as clarification of plans for a submarine pipeline and their impact on the site. These issues were clarified by the State Party to the satisfaction of IUCN.

The marine component of this site is characterised by the presence of dense and very well preserved prairies of oceanic Posidonia (seagrass) and coral reefs. Oceanic Posidonia only occurs in the Mediterranean basin and this site is the best preserved example within this region. The area also contains the most diverse community of *Cladocora caespitosa*, supporting 220 species, in the Mediterranean basin and habitat for three globally endangered species, including the Monk Seal. The area also contains an important community of *Ecteinascidia turbinata*, a marine species with recognised value to prevent and combat different types of cancer. Parts of the site are included in the List of Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention) for migratory birds.

Since the last session of the Bureau IUCN was informed about an EC-funded proposal to modify the port of Ibiza. IUCN has reviewed the EIA for this project and notes that it will not impact on the natural values of the site. IUCN recommended inscription under natural criteria (ii) and (iv).

Concerning cultural values, ICOMOS informed the Bureau that new information had been received from the State Party and that it recommended inscription on the basis of cultural *criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv)*:

Criterion(ii): The intact 16th century fortifications of Ibiza bear unique witness to the military architecture and engineering and the aesthetics of the Renaissance. This Italian-Spanish model was very influential, especially in the construction and fortification of towns in the New World.

Criterion (iii): The Phoenician ruins of Sa Caleta and the Phoenician-Punic cemetery of Puig des Molins are exceptional evidence of urbanization and social life in the Phoenician colonies of the western Mediterranean. They constitute a unique resource, in terms of volume and importance, of material from the Phoenician and Carthaginian tombs.

Criterion (iv): The Upper Town of Ibiza is an excellent example of a fortified acropolis which preserves in an exceptional way in its walls and in its urban fabric successive imprints of the earliest Phoenician settlements and the Arab and Catalan periods through to the Renaissance bastions. The long process of building the defensive walls has not destroyed the earlier phases or the street pattern, but has incorporated them in the ultimate phase.

The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe the site under natural *criteria (ii)* and *(iv)* and on the basis of cultural *criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv).*

B.4 Mixed Properties which the Bureau deferred

Isole Eolie (Aeolian Islands) 908 Italy

In July the Bureau discussed the potential of this site to meet natural criterion (i), but noted that additional information, in particular to address the exclusion of human use areas and to propose more sharply defined boundaries for the Nature Reserves and buffer zones, would be needed. These issues were clarified by the State Party to the satisfaction of IUCN.

IUCN noted that the volcanic landforms of the site represent classic features in the continuing study of volcanology worldwide. With scientific studies on the site from at least the 18th century, the islands have provided two of the types of eruptions (Vulcanian and Strombolian) to vulcanology and geology textbooks and so have featured prominently in the education of all geoscientists for over 200 years. They continue to provide a rich field for volcanological studies of on-going geological processes in the development of landforms. The area also has a long history of land use, and subsequent abandonment, which has lead to an on-going processe of maquis recovery. IUCN recommended inscription under natural criterion (i).

The Bureau noted the ICOMOS recommendation that this property does not meet any cultural criteria and that the nominated area had no integrity as it was made up of fragmented components.

The Observer of Germany commented that the site should have a management plan according to paragraph 44(v). When a site does not have a management plan at the time of the nomination, the States Party should indicate when such a plan would become available.

IUCN informed the Bureau that there had been a lengthy discussion on the deficiencies in legal protection and the lack of a management plan in the IUCN Council. IUCN then agreed on deferring this nomination.

The Observer of Italy informed the Bureau that a management plan is difficult to be established for a whole territory and that landscape protection regulations exist.

The Bureau decided to *defer* this nomination and to review it at a forthcoming Bureau session as a natural site. The Bureau encouraged the State Party to prepare a management plan for the property.

Uvs Nuur Basin 769Rev Mongolia / Russian Federation

In July the Bureau was informed by ICOMOS that the nomination provided little information on the cultural aspects of the site and requested the State Parties may wish to provide additional material.

ICOMOS noted that no management plan was available and that the site should be deferred to await an adequate dossier on cultural values and a management plan.

IUCN noted that the site has the potential to meet natural criteria (ii) and (iv). However, the authorities should revise the boundaries from the 7.5 million hectares proposed in the nomination.

The Bureau decided to defer the nomination to allow the States Parties to revise the boundaries and to prepare a joint management plan in a framework of transboundary co-operation. The Bureau commended both State Parties for their conservation efforts in this region.

B.5 Extension of a mixed property which the Bureau recommended for approval

Pyrénées - Mont Perdu 773 Bis France / Spain

ICOMOS noted that the small extension proposed by France is a valuable contribution to the overall cultural landscape. IUCN informed the Bureau that the existing Pyrénées – Mount Perdu (France/Spain) World Heritage site was inscribed under natural criteria (i) and (iii). The proposed extension would not meet any natural criteria on its own. However, the extension has comparable scenic and geomorphological values to the existing site. IUCN noted concerns as to whether the legal basis is sufficient for long term protection, as indicated in the original IUCN evaluation. IUCN noted that the value of the area lies in its significance as a cultural landscape.

The Observer of Spain informed the Bureau that his Government is in agreement with the proposed extension.

The Bureau decided to recommend the Committee to extend the existing World Heritage site to include the area of 550 ha (1.8 % of the World Heritage area) in the upper Valley of Héas.

C. CULTURAL HERITAGE

C. 1 Cultural properties which the Bureau recommended for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Following the examination of the state of conservation of properties, the Bureau recommended the inscription of **Hampi (India)** on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

C.2 Cultural properties which the Bureau recommended for inscription on the World Heritage List

The Belfries of Flanders and Wallonia 943 Belgium C (ii) (iv)

In July 1999 the Bureau *referred* the nomination back to the State Party requesting the expansion of the nomination to include properties of the same typology in the Walloon Region.

ICOMOS informed the Bureau that information had been received from the State Party, and that an on-site evaluation of the Walloon belfries had taken place just prior to the Bureau session. However, the ICOMOS expert was hospitalized following a car accident during the mission. Under these exceptional circumstances, for which the Bureau expressed concern and sympathy, the Bureau decided to recommend to the Committee inscription of the Flemish belfries, with the conditional addition of the Walloon belfries, under criteria (ii) and (iv). ICOMOS informed the Bureau that the report of the mission to the Walloon belfries would be

available in time for the twenty-third session of the Committee to decide on the inscription of this property. ICOMOS suggested that if both the Flemish and Walloon belfries were inscribed, the name of the property should be changed to **"The Belfries of Flanders and Wallonia"**.

Criterion (ii) The belfries of Belgium are exceptional examples of a form of urban architecture adapted to the political and spiritual requirements of their age.

Criterion (iv) The Middle Ages saw the emergence of towns that were independent of the prevalent feudal system. The belfries in the historic County of Flanders symbolize this new-found independence, and also the links within them between the secular and religious powers.

The Observer of France referred to the originality and creativity of the nomination noting that such a nomination was an expression of the evolving notion of heritage and of an understanding of spatial relationships between sites.

Viñales Valley 840Rev Cuba (iv)

In July 1999 the Bureau recalled that the site was originally nominated under natural criteria. The Bureau at its twenty-first session in 1997 did not recommend inscription of this site on the List under natural criteria and "noted that the Cuban authorities may wish to consider nominating the area as a cultural landscape."

In July 1999 the Bureau recommended that the nomination be *referred back* to the State Party to enable it to provide additional information for review by ICOMOS.

ICOMOS informed the Bureau that following receipt of additional information from the State Party concerning the protection of the valley, and after extensive consultation, it recommended inscription under criterion (iv):

Criterion (iv) The Viñales Valley is an outstanding karst landscape in which traditional methods of agriculture (notably tobacco growing) have survived unchanged for several centuries. The region also preserves a rich vernacular tradition in its architecture, its crafts, and its music.

The Observer of Germany asked whether this nomination was a cultural landscape, and if so, why both IUCN and ICOMOS had not conducted a joint mission. He stated that according to the Operational Guidelines when inscribing a site as a cultural landscape evaluations were needed from both ICOMOS and IUCN. ICOMOS informed the Bureau that the property could be considered as an organically evolved continuing landscape. IUCN said that it had evaluated the site and endorsed the recommendation of ICOMOS and noted that it would be valuable for the State Party to also manage the natural values of the area.

The Delegate of Greece noted that during the recent UNESCO General Conference, the Viñales Valley was awarded the Melina Mercouri Prize for Cultural Landscapes by the Director-General of UNESCO.

The Loire Valley between Maine and Sully-sur-Loire **933** **France** **C (ii) (iv)**

In July 1999 the Bureau decided that the nomination be *referred back* to the State Party requesting adjustment of the boundaries of the nominated property, as recommended by ICOMOS, and assurances that action will be taken without delay to prepare an overall management plan for the proposed World Heritage site.

ICOMOS informed the Bureau that the State Party had satisfactorily adjusted the boundaries of the nominated area and provided information on management planning. The information refers to a demonstrated network of protective regulations and ordinances, and the existence of Steering Committee to co-ordinate all actions relevant to the management of the property. Unfortunately, the complete map of the site could not be presented to the Bureau as the area proposed for inscription is very large. The Observer of the United Kingdom expressed his acceptance of the information provided by ICOMOS concerning the protection of the site. He referred to the need for assurances that the management planning would be robust enough to protect this complex property. The Delegate of Morocco suggested that a comparative study be made on similar sites.

Following the recommendation of ICOMOS the Bureau recommended to the Committee inscription of the site under *criteria (ii) and (iv)* :

Criterion (ii) : The Loire Valley is an outstanding cultural landscape along a major river which bears witness to an interchange of human values and to a harmonious development of interactions between human beings and their environment over two millenia.

Criterion (iv) : The landscape of the Loire Valley, and more particularly its many cultural monuments, illustrate to an exceptional degree the ideals of the Renaissance and the Age of the Enlightenment on western European thought and design.

The Historic Town of Vigan **502Rev** **Philippines** **C (ii) (iv)**

In July 1999 the Bureau decided to *refer* this nomination requesting modifications to the boundaries of the nominated area and its buffer zone, as suggested by ICOMOS.

ICOMOS informed the Bureau that the State Party had modified the boundaries as requested and had provided additional details of protection for the property.

The Bureau recommended to the Committee that the property be inscribed on the basis of *criteria(ii) and (iv)*:

Criterion (ii): Vigan represents a unique fusion of Asian building design and construction with European colonial architecture and planning.

Criterion (iv): Vigan is an exceptionally intact and well preserved example of a European trading town in East and South-East Asia.

Kalwaria Zebrzydowska: the Mannerist architectural and park landscape complex and pilgrimage park **905** **Poland** **C (ii) (iv)**

In July 1999 the Bureau decided that the nomination be *referred back* to the State Party, requesting that a draft management plan for the property be prepared for evaluation before the December 1999 meeting of the World Heritage Committee.

ICOMOS informed the Bureau that a detailed spatial management plan had been provided by the State Party. The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe the property on the basis of *criteria (ii) and (iv) :*

Criterion (ii): Kalwaria Zebrzydowska is an exceptional cultural monument in which the natural landscape was used as the setting for a symbolic representation in the form of chapels and avenues of the events of the Passion of Christ. The result is a cultural landscape of great beauty and spiritual quality in which natural and man-made elements combine in a harmonious manner.

Criterion (iv): The Counter Reformation in the late 16th century led to a flowering in the creation of Calvaries in Europe. Kalwaria Zebrzydowska is an outstanding example of this type of large-scale landscape design, which incorporates natural beauty with spiritual objectives and the principles of Baroque park design.

Historic Centre of Sighisoara **902** **Romania** **C (iii) (v)**

In July 1999 the Bureau decided that the nomination be *referred back* to the State Party to provide supplementary information as requested by ICOMOS.

ICOMOS informed the Bureau that new information on the protection, including legal protection, of the property had been received from the State Party.

The Delegate of Hungary read the following statement to the Bureau :

"Hungary registers its strong support to the inscription of the Historic Centre of Sighisoara/Segesvar (902), and The Wooden Churches of Maramures/Maramaros (904), as well as the extention of the Villages with fortified churches in Transylvania (extension of Biertan and its Fortified Church) (596 bis) of Romania, since Hungary considers Segesvar, Maramaros, in particular, and Transylviania/Erdely, in general, to be an integral part of the joint Hungarian/Magyar, German/Saxon and Romanian heritage, to mention only a few of its major components. Segesvar and Maramaros together with a good part of the Carpathian Mountains belonging to Romania since 1920 are all to be found in an area that is particularly rich in cultural remains of thousands of years when dozens of civilizations have settled in this area. The contribution of the Hungarians and Saxons, and certainly the Romanians to the creation of the cultural and architectural heritage we are to qualify as of "outstanding universal value", is well reflected by the nominations. "The apparently unstoppable process

of emigration", of those who "had formed and upheld the cultural traditions of the region", is of the utmost concern to Romania and Hungary. Hungary is willing, and actually already co-operating closely with the Romanian authorities to protect and safeguard the remaining evidence of these cultures, and invites others to join us in this noble endeavour."

The Bureau recommended that this property be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (iii) and (v)*:

Criterion (iii): Sighisoara is an outstanding testimony to the culture of the Transylvanian Saxons, a culture that is coming to a close after 850 years and will continue to exist only through its architectural and urban monuments.

Criterion (v): Sighisoara is an outstanding example of a small fortified city in the border region between the Latin-oriented culture of central Europe and the Byzantine-Orthodox culture of south-eastern Europe. The apparently unstoppable process of emigration by the Saxons, the social stratum that had formed and upheld the cultural traditions of the region, threatens the survival of their architectural heritage as well.

The Wooden Churches of Maramures	**904**	**Romania**	**C (iv)**

In July 1999 the Bureau decided that the nomination be *referred back* to the State Party requesting the preparation of management plans for the nominated properties.

ICOMOS informed the Bureau that satisfactory information concerning the management of the property had been provided by the State Party.

The Bureau recommended the Committee inscribe the property on the basis of *criterion (iv*):

Criterion (iv): The Maramures wooden churches are outstanding examples of vernacular religious wooden architecture resulting from the interchange of Orthodox religious traditions with Gothic influences in a specific vernacular interpretation of timber construction traditions, showing a high level of artistic maturity and craft skills.

Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park	**910**	**Saint Christopher & Nevis**	**C (iii) (iv)**

In July 1999 the Bureau decided that the nomination be *referred back* to the State Party, requesting information on the progress of the draft National Development and Planning Act.

ICOMOS informed the Bureau that the State Party had provided written assurances that the Act would be implemented early in 2000.

The Bureau recommended the Committee inscribe this property on the basis of *criteria (iii) and (iv)*:

Criterion (iii): Brimstone Hill is an outstanding British fortress, built by slave labour to exact standards during a peak period of European colonial expansion in the Caribbean.

Criterion (iv): Because of its strategic layout and construction, Brimstone Hill Fortress is an exceptional and well preserved example of 17th and 18th century British military architecture.

State Historical and Cultural Park "Ancient Merv" **886** **Turkmenistan** **C (ii) (iii)**

In July 1999 the Bureau decided that the nomination be *referred back* to the State Party, requesting the following additional information: a) a map showing precise boundary of the site and b) assurances that the Five-Year Management Plan should be fully implemented.

ICOMOS informed the Bureau that the State Party had provided more exact details of the extent of the nominated property and had provided assurances that the Plan would be implemented before the end of 1999.

The Bureau recommended the Committee inscribe the property on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (ii) and (iii)*:

Criterion (ii): The cities of the Merv oasis have exerted considerable influence over the cultures of Central Asia and Iran for four millennia. The Seljuk City in particular influenced architecture and architectural decoration and scientific and cultural development.

Criterion (iii): The sequence of the cities of the Merv oasis, their fortifications, and their urban lay-outs bear exceptional testimony to the civilizations of Central Asia over several millennia.

My Son Sanctuary **949** **Viet Nam** **C (ii) (iii)**

In July the Bureau decided that the nomination be *referred back* to the State Party**.** The State Party was requested to supply information on the implementation of the management plan for the property and provide assurances that the necessary funding in this regard would be forthcoming. The Bureau also requested the State Party to reflect on the natural and historical links between Hoi An and this nomination expressed in the river connecting them, including its source at the Ngoc Vinh Natural Reserve.

ICOMOS informed the Bureau that extensive supplementary information had been received from the State Party. The management plan was being implemented and some limited funding had been made available for site recording.

The Delegate of Hungary commended the Government of Vietnam, the Italian Fondazione Lerici and other partners for their work in mapping and conserving this site. He recommended a revised text for the statement of significance for the site that would refer to the landscape of My Son Holy Land. He also recommended that the Bureau encourage the State Party to define the outstanding importance of landscape and nature at the site and to prepare an extension of the nominated area within two years.

The Delegate of Australia expressed his Delegation's strong support for the nomination and noted the proposal from Hungary with interest. He applauded the efforts of the Government of Vietnam in providing information and documentation of the management and conservation of the site and offered support to ensure protection of the nominated area.

In referring to a slide presented by ICOMOS, the Delegate of Greece noted vegetation growth on the stone monuments of this site. She suggested removal of this vegetation to halt deterioration of the stone work. The Delegate of Zimbabwe had also had some fears concerning the long-term conservation of the site but he felt reassured by the explanations given by the State Party.

The Observer of Vietnam expressed his sincere thanks to the Bureau for their support of this nomination. With reference to the landscape of My Son Holy Land made by the Delegate of Hungary, he stated that the site had been submitted by the State Party as the My Son Sanctuary. He noted with thanks the interesting proposals for future research linking My Son and Hoi An and the significance of their landscape. He informed the Bureau that these proposals will be communicated to his Government.

The Bureau recommended the Committee inscribe this property on the basis of *criteria (ii) and (iii)*:

Criterion (ii): The My Son Sanctuary is an exceptional example of cultural interchange, with the introduction the Hindu architecture of the Indian sub-continent into South-East Asia.

Criterion (iii): The Champa Kingdom was an important phenomenon in the political and cultural history of South-East Asia, vividly illustrated by the ruins of My Son.

C.3 Cultural properties which the Bureau deferred

The Mir Castle (The Radzivills Castle) **625** **Belarus**

In July 1999 the Bureau decided that this nomination be *referred back* to the State Party, requesting the provision of an up-to-date report on the property, covering current legal status, ownership, management, and conservation history, with appropriate plans, photographs, and slides.

ICOMOS informed the Bureau that the requested information had not been received from the State Party. The Bureau decided to *defer* examination of this nomination.

The Old City of Mostar **946** **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

In July 1999, the Bureau decided that the nomination, for "The Old Mostar: a Bridge of the Worlds", be *referred back* to the State Party, requesting further information about the management plan for the Old Town.

ICOMOS informed the Bureau that no information had been received from the State Party by 1 October 1999. The Bureau decided to *defer* examination of this nomination.

The Palmeral of Elche: A cultural landscape inherited from Al-Andalus **930** **Spain**

At the request of the State Party, the Bureau at its twenty-third ordinary session did not examine the nomination for El Palmeral de Elche y sus tradiciones (Misteri). A revised nomination, for **The Palmeral of Elche: A cultural landscape inherited from Al-Andalus,** was submitted on 9 July 1999 simultaneously to the World Heritage Centre and to ICOMOS and IUCN for their evaluation.

ICOMOS expressed concern about the heterogeneous character of this nomination - scattered, small areas in many locations. ICOMOS recommended that the State Party submit a more coherent nomination of a smaller contiguous area.

The Observer of Spain thanked ICOMOS for their report. He stated that Spain would revise the nomination file according to the recommendations of the Bureau and the advisory bodies. He also requested the co-operation of the Centre to better define the site and the nomination. Co-operation with other countries will also be sought.

The Bureau decided to *defer* examination of this property.

Three Castles, defensive wall and ramparts of the Market-Town of Bellinzone **884** **Switzerland**

In July the Bureau decided that the nomination be *referred back* to the State Party requesting further details of the nature of the restoration work affecting the monument (independent of any development work) and of the limits to the property proposed for inscription.

ICOMOS noted that additional information had been received from the State Party only on 19 November 1999. ICOMOS expressed continuing concerns as to the authenticity of the site following reconstruction works. The Observer of Switzerland questioned the basis for the recommendation of ICOMOS, as she had understood that her authorities had provided all the requested information.

The Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee decided to convene a discussion concerning the proposal for the inscription of the three castles and ramparts of the Market Town of Bellinzone, and attended by the Observer of Switzerland, ICOMOS and the Director of the World Heritage Centre. Following in-depth discussions, and taking into account the importance of the information provided on 19 November 1999 by the Secretary of the Swiss National Commission for UNESCO, it was agreed that :

a) the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee send a letter to the Swiss authorities informing them of the very positive spirit of ICOMOS in the examination of this property;

b) at the initiative of the Observer of Switzerland, the Swiss authorities invite the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee to undertake a mission to the site with a representatives of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre;
c) this nomination be submitted to the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee at its next session.

C.4 Extension of cultural properties which the Bureau recommended for approval

Butrint **570 Bis** **Albania** **C (iii)**

As a follow-up to the UNESCO/ICOMOS/Butrint Foundation mission to Butrint in October 1997 and the inscription of Butrint on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1997, the Albanian authorities submitted a proposal to extend the site of Butrint to include the surrounding landscape that comprises a great number of related archaeological remains and historical structures.

ICOMOS informed the Bureau that it had studied the proposed extension and that it recommended approval of the extension subject to an undertaking from the State Party that a small area on the coast excluded from the extension be included in the protected area. ICOMOS had noted that this area is essential to the setting of the site. ICOMOS questioned whether the site should be known as Butrinti or **Butrint**.

The Observer of the United Kingdom referred to the importance of properly delimiting the boundaries for the site extension and the need to ensure that there would not be any development within the site boundaries. He recommended that the Government of Albania be encouraged to implement the management plan for the site. He also referred to the proposal to build a road between Greece and Albania and noted that it was important to ensure that the protection of the setting of the site was considered when deciding on the routing of the road.

The Bureau recommended the Committee *extend* the property.

The Villages with fortified churches in Transylvania (extension of Biertan and its fortified church) **596 Bis** **Romania** **C (iv)**

In July 1999 the Bureau decided that the nomination be *referred back* to the State Party requesting that management plans be prepared for each of the nominated properties.

ICOMOS informed the Bureau that satisfactory information had been received from the State Party. The Bureau recommended to the Committee *extension* of this property on the basis of *criterion (iv).*

D. OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO NOMINATIONS

The Minister for Culture of Uzbekistan expressed his concern about the status of the nomination of the **Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz (Uzbekistan)**. The Bureau recalled that

it had *deferred* examination of this property at its session in July 1999. At that time, the Bureau requested the State Party "to furnish precise details of the area proposed for inscription, the limits to the buffer zone and the regulations governing its use, and further material relating to the merits of Shakhrisyabz in comparision with other central Asian cities (Samarkand, Bukhara, Herat, etc.)".

Following discussion on the need to maintain the principles and procedures for the examination of nominations, the Bureau recommended that the Chairperson send a letter to the Minister of Culture in Uzbekistan. The letter would express the in-principle support of the Bureau for the nomination of the Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz and propose that it be examined by the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau in 2000. As a sign of respect for Uzbekistan, it was recommended that the Centre continue its efforts to assist Uzbekistan in providing the additional information on this nomination requested by the Bureau in July 1999.

The Delegate of Australia referred to the proliferation of sites on the List and recalled the discussions of the twelfth Session of the General Assembly concerning ways and means to ensure a representative World Heritage List. As a matter of principle he stated that sites that do not meet the criteria should not be recommended for inscription.

During the Bureau's consideration of the agenda item on nominations, the Delegate of Finland, questioned the **numbering system used for properties** inscribed on the World Heritage List. He noted that for serial sites, such as some of those examined by the Bureau, they appeared misleadingly as one property on the List when in fact they represented several or many sites.

A number of delegates referred to the **difficulty in examining nominations** of properties for inscription on the List, one by one, rather than in typological groups. The Observer of France referred to the evolution of the application of the *Convention* but noted that the criteria are not obsolete. He recalled the request by the Bureau in July for the Secretariat to prepare proposed revisions to the *Operational Guidelines* to combine the natural and cultural heritage criteria.

The Bureau decided to request the Centre and the advisory bodies to review (i) the procedures for the presentation of evaluations of nominations for inscription on the World Heritage List to the Bureau and Committee to ensure a more logical approach, and (ii) the way in which serial nominations are presented on the World Heritage List.

V. REQUESTS FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

V.1 The Bureau's attention was drawn to the Working Document WHC-99/CONF/208/6 concerning International Assistance Requests, which included fourteen requests to be examined by the Bureau to recommend decisions by the Committee.

V.2 The Secretariat pointed out the difficulties it faced in preparing the working document, due to the ever increasing number of international assistance requests submitted, many of which were received after the prescribed deadline of 1 September indicated in the *Operational Guidelines,* paragraph 112. The Secretariat noted that 54 international assistance requests were considered by the World Heritage Centre Regional Desks to have sufficient information to permit examination and decision by the Committee, Bureau or Chairperson under the 2000 budget.

V.3 In order to allow sufficient time for the Secretariat, advisory bodies, and Committee to examine individual requests, and in view of the limited funds available under the World Heritage Fund's technical assistance budget, the Bureau recommended the following for adoption by the Committee:

"The Committee urges States Parties to respect the deadline for submission of international assistance requests, as indicated in the *Operational Guidelines*, paragraph 112, to ensure that the Secretariat, advisory bodies, and Committee have adequate time to evaluate and examine requests. Taking note of the growing number of international assistance requests submitted by States Parties and the increasing amounts being requested, the Committee encourages States Parties, to the extent possible, to plan activities well in advance and in close co-operation with the advisory bodies and the Secretariat, in order to plan projects which have a "catalytic effect" and are likely to generate contributions from sources other than the World Heritage Fund, as per *Operational Guidelines* paragraph 113."

V.4 The Observers of Canada and Thailand stated that, as a matter of principle, international assistance requests should not be examined before the budget for the forthcoming year is decided upon by the Committee. The Bureau decided that as the budget for the technical co-operation for 2000 had not yet been decided, it would meet during the twenty-third session of the Committee after the adoption of the budget by the Committee, in order to examine international assistance requests to be funded under the 2000 budget.

F. OTHER BUSINESS

VI.1 There was no discussion under this agenda item.

VII. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

VII.1 The Chairperson thanked the members of the Bureau, representatives of the advisory bodies and the observers for co-operating in the efficient conduct of the deliberations of the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau. He also thanked the interpreters for their hard work during the two-day meeting of the Bureau and the Secretariat for its efficient support in the preparation and realization of the session. The Bureau thanked the Chairperson by acclamation. The Chairperson then declared the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau closed.

ANNEXE I / ANNEX I

BUREAU DU COMITE DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL
BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Vingt-troisième session extraordinaire / Twenty-third extraordinary session /

Marrakech, Maroc / Marrakesh, Morocco

26-27 novembre 1999 / 26-27 November 1999

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS / LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

I. ETATS MEMBRES DU BUREAU / STATES MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU

AUSTRALIE/AUSTRALIA

Mr Bruce LEAVER
First Assistant Secretary
Head of the Australian Heritage Commission
Department of the Environment and Heritage
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Mr Matthew PEEK
Permanent Delegate to UNESCO
Permanent Delegation of Australia to UNESCO
1, rue Miollis
75732 PARIS Cedex 15

Mr Kevin KEEFFE
Assistant Secretary
World Heritage Branch
Department of the Environment and Heritage
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Mr David WALKER
Director, International Section
World Heritage Branch
Department of the Environment and Heritage
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Mr Jon DAY
Director Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
PO BOX 1379
TOWNSVILLE, Queensland

FINLANDE/FINLAND

Mr Henrik LILIUS
State Archaeologist
Director General of the National Board of Antiquities
BOX 13
HELSINKI 00100

Ms Anne LAMMILA
Rapporteur of the World Heritage Committee
Deputy Permanent Delegate
Permanent Delegation of Finland to UNESCO
1, rue Miollis
75732 PARIS Cedex 15

GRECE/GREECE

Mme Hélène METHODIOU
Conseiller pour la culture
Délégation permanente de la Grèce auprès de l'UNESCO
1, rue Miollis
75732 PARIS Cedex 15

HONGRIE/HUNGARY

M. Zsolt VISY
Secrétaire d'Etat adjoint
Ministère du patrimoine culturel national
Wesselenyi SSr 20-22
H-1077 BUDAPEST

M. János JELEN
Ambassadeur
Conseiller à la Commission nationale hongroise pour l'UNESCO
Ministère des Affaires étrangères
Magyar UNESCO Bizottsag Titkarsaga
Szalay u. 10 - 14
H – 1055 BUDAPEST

MAROC/MOROCCO

M. Abdelaziz TOURI
Président du Comité du patrimoine mondial
Directeur,
Direction du Patrimoine culturel
Ministère des Affaires Culturelles
17, rue Michlifen, Agdal
RABAT

M. Faissal CHERRADI
Inspecteur des monuments historiques et sites de Marrakech
Direction du patrimoine culturel
Inspection des monuments historiques
MARRAKECH

M. Abdallah SALIH
Directeur du Parc national du patrimoine rupestre
Direction du patrimoine culturel
Rue Fatima-Zohra, Rmila
MARRAKECH

M. Ahmed SKOUNTI
Chargé de recherches
Parc national du patrimoine rupestre
Direction du patrimoine culturel
Rue Fatima-Zohra, Rmila
MARRAKECH

MEXIQUE/MEXICO

Mr Oscar RAMIREZ FLORES
Director-General,
SEMARNAP-INP Mexico
Pitagoras # 1320
Col. Sta. Cruz Atoyac
03310 MEXICO DF

Mr Francisco J. LOPEZ MORALES
National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH)
Correo Mayor 11, Centro Historico
MEXICO DF

Mr Damaso LUNA
Director General, Environment
MEXICO DF
M. Javier MEDINA
Directeur général, Liaison avec le Congrès
SECOFI
MEXICO DF

ZIMBABWE

Mr Dawson MUNJERI
Executive Director
The National Museums and Monuments
P.O.Box CY 1485, Causeway
HARARE

Mr Albert KUMIRAI
Director, Natural History Museum
The National Museums and Monuments
P.O.Box CY 1485, Causeway
HARARE

II. ORGANISATIONS PARTICIPANT A TITRE CONSULTATIF/ ORGANIZATIONS ATTENDING IN ADVISORY CAPACITY

CENTRE INTERNATIONAL D'ETUDES POUR LA CONSERVATION ET LA RESTAURATION DES BIENS CULTURELS (ICCROM) / INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THE PRESERVATION AND THE RESTORATION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY (ICCROM)

Mr Joseph KING
Coordination,
Africa 2009
via di San Michele, 13
00153 ROME, Italy

CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES (ICOMOS) / INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES (ICOMOS)

M. Henry CLEERE
Coordinateur du Patrimoine Mondial
49-51, rue de la Fédération
75015 PARIS

Mme Regina DURIGHELLO
Assistante du Coordinateur
49-51, rue de la Fédération
75015 PARIS

UNION MONDIALE POUR LA NATURE (UICN) / THE WORLD CONSERVATION UNION (IUCN)

Mr David SHEPPARD
Head, Programme on Protected Areas
IUCN Headquarters
rue Mauverney, 28
CH- 1196 GLAND, Switzerland

Mr Jim THORSELL
Senior Advisor
c/o IUCN Headquarters
rue Mauverney, 28
CH- 1196 GLAND, Switzerland

Mr P.H.C. (Bing) LUCAS
Vice-Chair World Heritage
World Commission for Protected Areas
1/268 Main Road, Tawa
WELLINGTON 6006, New Zealand

Ms Pam EISER
Executive Officer
Australian Committee for IUCN
Level 1, York Street
P.O. Box 528
SYDNEY, NSW 2001, Australia

III. OBSERVATEURS / OBSERVERS

(i) ETATS PARTIES A LA CONVENTION DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL / STATES PARTIES TO THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

ALLEMAGNE/GERMANY

Mr Friedrich CATOIR
Ministre conseiller
Chargé d'Affaires
Ambassade d'Allemagne au Maroc
B.P. 235
10000 RABAT
Royaume du Maroc

M. Hans CASPARY
Conservateur du Service des Monuments Historiques
Schillerstr. 44
55116 MAINZ

Mr Harald PLACHTER
University of Marburg
Faculty of Biology
D-35032 MARBURG

AUTRICHE/AUSTRIA

M. Hans HORCICKA
Directeur
Ministère Fédéral de l'Education et des Affaires Culturelles
Abt. IV/3
Schreyvogelgasse 2/304
A-1014 WIEN

M. Ernst BACHER
Office fédéral du patrimoine
Bundesdenkmalamt
Hofburg, Schweizerhof
A-1010 WIEN

BELGIQUE/BELGIUM

S. Exc. M. Hubert VAN HOUTTE
Ambassadeur
Délégué permanent
Délégation permanente de la Belgique auprès de l'UNESCO
1, rue Miollis
75732 PARIS Cedex 15

M. André MATTHYS
Inspecteur général
Direction générale de l'Aménagement du Territoire, du Logement et du Patrimoine
Division du patrimoine
Ministère de la Région Wallone
1, rue des Brigades d'Irlande
5100 NAMUR/JAMBES

Mme Bénédicte SELFSLAGH
Conseiller, Relations internationales
Direction générale de l'Aménagement du Territoire, du Logement et du Patrimoine
Division du Patrimoine
Ministère de la Région Wallone
c/o 12-14 rue d'Aumale,
F-75009 PARIS

M. Edgard GOEDLEVEN
Directeur de la Division des Monuments et des Sites
Administration de l'Aménagement du Territoire, du Logement et des Monuments et Sites
Ministère de la Communauté Flamande
Bâtiment Graaf de Ferraris,
Koning Albert II Laan 20
Boîte 7
1000 BRUXELLES

Mme Suzanne VAN AERSCHOT-VAN HAEVERBEECK
Adjoint du Directeur
Coordination Inventaire du patrimoine architectural
Waaistraat 1
3000 B LOUVAIN

BRESIL/BRAZIL

M. Otavio MAIH CHELOTTI
Troisième Secrétaire
Assesseur, Division des Affaires culturelles multilatérales
Ministère des Affaires étrangères
Esplanade des ministères
Annexe I, S.407
BRASILIA

M. José Pedro DE OLIVEIRA COSTA
Secrétaire d'Etat pour la biodiversité et les forêts
Ministère de l'Environnement
Rue Flavio Queiros Moraes 82
SAO PAULO, 01249-030

CANADA

Dr Christina CAMERON
Director General
National Historic Sites
Parks Canada
25 Eddy Str.
HULL Québec, KIA OM 5
Mr Murray McCOMB
Manager, Special projects
National Parks Directorate
Parks Canada
25 Eddy Str.
HULL Québec, KIA OM 5

Mme Gisèle CANTIN
Affaires internationales
Parcs Canada
25 rue Eddy
HULL Québec, KIA OM 5

M. Marius ARSENAULT
Directeur du Parc de Miguasha
Parcs Québec
CPI 183, NOUVELLE, QUEBEC
GOC 2E0

CHINE/CHINA

Mr Xuezhong ZHANG
Secretary-General
Chinese National Commission for UNESCO
37, Damucanghutong, Xidan
BEIJING 1008 16

Mr Zhan GUO
Director of Division
National Administration of Cultural Heritage
BEIJING

Mr Zhe LI
Deputy Director of Division
Department of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Construction
7, Sanlihelu
BEIJING

Mr Jianhua YANG
Director
Overseas Liaison Department
Wuyishan Scenic Area
1 Yingbin Rd. Wuyishan
FUJIAN

Mr Qishan ZOU
First Secretary
Permanent Delegation of China to UNESCO
1, rue Miollis
75732 PARIS Cedex 15

Mr Enhua XU
Deputy Mayor
Wuyishan
18, Zhongshan Lu
Wuyishan City
FUJIAN 354300

Mr Xiangying GUO
Curator
Dazu Art Museum of Rock Carvings
7, Beishanlu, Longgan Town
CHONGGING Municipality 402360

Ms Xiaoping YU
Program Officer
Chinese National Commission for UNESCO
37, Damucanghutong, Xidan
BEIJING 1008 16

ESPAGNE / SPAIN

S. Exc. M. Jésus EZQUERRA
Ambassadeur
Délégué permanent
Délégation pemanente de l'Espagne auprès de l'UNESCO
1, rue Miollis
75732 PARIS Cedex 15

M. Antonio NUÑEZ
Directeur général des Relations culturelles
Ministère des Affaires étrangères

M. Jésus CASAS GRANDE
Directeur
Parcs nationaux
Ministère de l'Environnement
Gran via de San Franciso N° 4
MADRID

M. Albert RUIZ DE LARRAMENDI
Directeur du Parc national de Doñana
21700 AIMONTE-HUELVA

Dr Elena BORREGON CARRETERO
Chef,
Service de la conservation des parcs nationaux
Ministère de l'Environnement
Gran via de San Franciso N° 4
MADRID

Mme Josefa COSTA
Mairie d'Ibiza
Plaza Constitución
IBIZA
Iles Baléares

ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE/
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Observateurs de la Délégation des Etats-Unis d'Amérique/Observers from the United States of America Delegation

Mr Kurt CHRISTENSEN
Professional staff
US House of Representatives
1324 LHOB
WASHINGTON DC
United States of America

Mr John RISHEL
Legislative staff
US House of Representatives
1413 A, LHOB
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
United States of America

FEDERATION DE RUSSIE/
RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr Vladimir PISHCHELEV
Deputy Head
Department for management of nature protected areas
State Committee of the Russian Federation for Environment Protection
Kedrova str., 8-1
MOSCOW

Mr Alexei BOUTORINE
Greenpeace Russia
Russian Committee for World Heritage Affairs
World Heritage Project Co-ordinator
Viborgskaya 8-3
125212 MOSCOU

FRANCE

M. Alain MEGRET
Directeur adjoint de la Nature et des Paysages
Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire et de l'Environnement
20, avenue de Ségur
75302 PARIS Cedex 07

Mme Catherine CARO
Administrateur civil
Adjointe au Sous-Directeur des sites et paysages
Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire et de l'Environnement
20, avenue de Ségur
75302 PARIS Cedex 07

Mme Eva CAILLART
Chargée de mission
Direction de l'architecture et du patrimoine
Ministère de la Culture
8, rue Vivienne
75002 PARIS

Mme Catherine DUMESNIL
Conseillère technique
Commission nationale française pour l'UNESCO
57, boulevard des Invalides
75700 PARIS SP

ITALIE/ITALY

M. Pasquale Bruno MALARA
Expert, Surintendant au Patrimoine architectural de la Région de Turin
Ministère des Biens et des Activités culturelles
Piazza S. Giovanni, 2
10122 TURIN

JAPON/JAPAN

Ms Akiko YAMADA
Official, Multilateral Cultural Co-operation Division
Cultural Affairs Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2-1-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
TOKYO 100-0013

Mr Atsuhiro YOSHINAKA
Senior Planning Officer
Planning Division
Nature Conservation Bureau
Environment Agency
1-2-2, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
TOKYO 100-8975

Dr Makoto MOTONAKA
Chief Senior Specialist for Cultural Properties
Monuments and Sites Division
Cultural Properties Protection Department,
Agency for Cultural Affairs (Bunkacho)
3-2-2, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
TOKYO, 100-0013

Dr Nobuko INABA
Senior Specialist for Cultural Properties
Architecture Division
Cultural Properties Protection Department,
Agency for Cultural Affairs (Bunkacho)
3-2-2, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
TOKYO, 100-0013

Ms Kumiko YONEDA
Senior Research Scientist
Japan Wildlife Research Center
2-29-3 Yushima, Bunkyo-ku
TOKYO, 113-0034

NEPAL

H.E. Mr Indra Bahadur SINGH
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Nepal to France
Permanent Delegate
Permanent Delegation of Nepal to UNESCO
1, rue Miollis
75732 PARIS Cedex 15

Ms Riddhi PRADHAN
Director General
Department of Archaeology
Ram Shah Path
KATHMANDU

OUZBEKISTAN/UZBEKISTAN

Mr Bakhodir ABDURAKHIMOV
Deputy-Minister
Ministry of Cultural Affairs
Navoi Str. 30
TASHKENT

Mr Sagdullayev DJAKHANGIR
Deputy Chief of International Relations
Ministry for Cultural Affairs
Navoi Str. 30
TASHKENT

PAYS-BAS/NETHERLANDS

Mr Robert DE JONG
Senior Staff Member/Coordinator for World Heritage
Netherlands State Department for Conservation
P.O. Box 1001
Broederplein 41
3700 BA ZEIST

Mr Fred F.J. SCHOORL
Head of Immovable Heritage
Ministry of Education, Culture and Science
P.O. Box 25000
2700 LZ ZOETERMEER

PEROU/PERU

S. Exc. Mme Marìa Luisa FEDERICI
Ambassadeur
Délégué permanent
Délégation permanente du Pérou auprès de l'UNESCO
1, rue Miollis
75732 PARIS Cedex 15

PHILIPPINES

Mr Augusto VILLALON
Architect
UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines
107 Wilson Circle, San Juan
1500 M. MANILLE

POLOGNE/POLAND

Prof. Andrzej TOMASZEWSKI
Expert, Professeur d'Université
Ministère de la culture et du patrimoine national
Ksamerov 13
00656 VARSOVIE

M. Waclaw DLUGOBORSKI
Président du Conseil scientifique auprès du Musée Auschwitz-Birkenau
Ul. PCK 6/11
KATONIE

PORTUGAL

H.E. Mr Jorge RITTO
Ambassador
Permanent Delegate
Permanent Delegation of Portugal to UNESCO
1, rue Miollis
75732 PARIS Cedex 15

REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE/
CZECH REPUBLIC

Dr Josef STULC
Director of the State Institute for Heritage Preservation
Statni ustav pamatkové péce
Valdstejnske 3
PRAGUE 1, 11800

ROUMANIE/ROMANIA

M. Constantin Aurelian TRISCU
Architecte, Professeur d'université
Vice-Président de la Commission nationale des monuments historiques
Ministère de la Culture
Str. Sf. Stefan 1
BUCAREST 70306

ROYAUME-UNI/UNITED KINGDOM

Mr Nigel PITTMAN
Head of Buildings, Monuments and Sites Division
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
2-4 Cockspur Street
LONDON SW1Y 5DH

Dr Christopher YOUNG
Head of World Heritage and International Policy
English Heritage
23, Savile Row
LONDON WIX 1AB

SUEDE/SWEDEN

Mr Rolf LOFGREN
National Environment Protection Agency
106 48 STOCKHOLM

Mr Jan TURTINEN
Researcher,
Score Research-centre
Score Stockholm University
SCORE SE-109-691 STOCKHOLM

Mr Mats HENRIKSSON
County architect
County Administration of Västernorrland
SE-87186 HÄRNÖSAND

SUISSE/SWITZERLAND

Madame Doris MORF
ancienne Présidente de la Commission nationale suisse pour l'UNESCO
Walchestr. 27
8006 ZURICH

THAILANDE/THAILAND

Prof. Dr. Adul WICHIENCHAROEN
Chairman
National Committee on the Protection of the World Heritage
Office of Environmental Policy and Planning
60/1 Rama 6 Road
10400 BANGKOK

Mr Manit SIRIWAM
Secretary
National Committee on the Protection of the World Heritage
Office of Environmental Policy and Planning
60/1 Rama 6 Road
10400 BANGKOK

Mrs SIRIPORN NANTA
National Committee on the Protection of the World Heritage
Office of Environmental Policy and Planning
60/1 Rama 6 Road
10400 BANGKOK

Mr CHUMPHON SUCKASEAM
National Park
Royal Forest Department
National Park Division
10900 BANGKOK

Mrs Janya MANAVID
Government Service
Fine Arts Department
Office of Archaeology and National Museums
Sri-Ayuthaya Road
10300 BANGKOK

VIETNAM

Mr Pham Quang Tho
Deputy Secretary-General
Vietnam National Commission for UNESCO
8, Khuc Hao Str.
HANOI

Mr Nguyen Van Tuan
Director
Halong Bay Management Department
HALONG CITY – Quangninh Province

(ii) ORGANISATIONS NON-GOUVERNEMENTALES/ NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON METALS AND THE ENVIRONMENT (ICME)

Mr Scott HOUSTON
U.P. Public Policy
294 Albert Street, Suite 506
OTTAWA, KIP 6E6

NRDC INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME

Mr Joel REYNOLDS
1200 New York Avenue
N.W. Suite 400
WASHINGTON, DC 20005
United Sates of America

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR ANIMAL WELFARE (IFAW)

Mr Jared BLUMENFELD
Director
Habitat for Animals Program
411 Main Street
YARMOUTHPORT, MA 02675
United Sates of America

Mr Mark J. SPALDING
Baja Campaign Advisor
Habitat for Animals Program
University of California
140, 12th St. Del Mar
CA 92014-2315
SAN DIEGO
United Sates of America

PRO ESTEROS MEXICO

Ms Laura MARTINEZ RIOS DEL RIO
Director
PMB-122, PO Box 189003 Coronado
CA- 92178-9003
United States of America

Ms Patricia MARTINEZ RIOS
Vice-President
PMB-122, PO Box 189003 Coronado
CA- 92178-9003
United States of America

IV. SECRETARIAT DE L'UNESCO/ UNESCO SECRETARIAT

M. Mounir BOUCHENAKI
Directeur
Centre du patrimoine mondial

M. Georges S. ZOUAIN
Directeur adjoint
Centre du patrimoine mondial

Mme Minja YANG
Directeur, Région Asie-Pacifique
Centre du patrimoine mondial

Mme Elizabeth WANGARI
Centre du patrimoine mondial

M. Herman van HOOFF
Centre du patrimoine mondial

Mme Mireille JARDIN
Division des Sciences écologiques

Mme Mechtild RÖSSLER
Centre du patrimoine mondial

Mme Sarah TITCHEN
Centre du patrimoine mondial

Mlle Junko TANIGUCHI
Centre du patrimoine mondial

Mlle Johanna SULLIVAN
Centre du patrimoine mondial

Mme Jane DEGEORGES
Centre du patrimoine mondial

Mme Jocelyne POUTEAU
Centre du patrimoine mondial

Mlle Marianne RAABE
Centre du patrimoine mondial

M. David MARTEL
Centre du patrimoine mondial

M. Mourad BOULARES
Division de l'interprétation

Mr Bernd VON DROSTE
Special advisor for World Heritage

Annex II

Statement by Professor Dr Adul Wichiencharoen
Representative of Thailand
On Thungyai-Huay Khakhaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries
World Heritage Bureau, Friday, 26 November 1999

Mr Chairman,

With your permission, I wish to point out the fact that for the past year, two entirely different things have been mixed up by placing the funded project to review the fire-management policy of Thungyai-Huay Khakhaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries in this document, which deals with the state of conservation of specific World Heritage sites that are under threat. At the Kyoto Committee meeting last year, I made a statement to this effect, by indicating that the forest fires that occur periodically in the eastern portion of Huay Khakhang Wildlife sanctuary is a function of the ecosystem of dry dipterocarp forests. The forest fires during the hot season are ground fires that burn the dry leaves and branches accumulated on the forest grounds, thereby getting rid of diseases and insects. With the arrival of the rain not long after the fire, there come the young juicy grass, the sprouting of the seeds, and the growth of buds on the branches of the fire-resistant trees. Hence the return of animals and birds. I also mentioned that, taking cognisance of the dynamics of the ecosystem of deciduous forests, I have been advocating prescribed burning in rotation of forest plots as a tool of fire-management.

For the reasons as stated, forest fires in Huay Khakhaeng, especially if properly managed, constitute a blessing, and not a threat to the Thungyai-Huay Khakhaeng World Heritage site.

Although this property has never under threat, it has been, for the past year, included by mistake in the reports of the state of conservation of specific World Heritage sites that are under threat. The subject matter of the state of conservation of a property under threat is entirely different from that of activity project to review the fire-management policy of a specific site. They should not and must not be mixed up.

To clarify the matter further, allow me to point out how the project to review the fire-management policy of Huay Khakhaeng got started. At the request of the World Heritage Centre, Thailand paid for the domestic cost of hosting the second network meeting for Asia-Pacific World Heritage managers at a resort near Huay Khakhaeng Wildlife Sanctuary. After the briefing and the visit inside the sanctuary, it was suggested by the participants that a project to review the fire - management policy of the site should be undertaken in view of the unprecedented forest fires that had occurred in Indonesia and the widespread air pollution affecting the neighbouring countries. With the assistance of Mr Natarajan Ishwaran, the project proposal was prepared and financed from the World Heritage Fund. In a way not understood or known, the project was included, from the very beginning, in the reports on the state of conservation of World Heritage sites under threat.

Mr Chairman, for the past year in my statements twice on this subject, I indicated in an indirect manner this incongruity in the hope that the Secretariat would take it up. I feel obliged now to request that the mistake that has been made be corrected.

I thank you for your understanding.