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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-fourth session
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters (Room IV)
26 June – 1 July 2000

Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger and on the World Heritage List:

Reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

In accordance with paragraphs 92-93 of the Operational Guidelines, the Secretariat and advisory bodies submit herewith reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Where appropriate, the Secretariat or the advisory bodies will provide additional information during the session of the Bureau.

Decision required: The Bureau is requested to examine the attached state of conservation reports and take the appropriate decisions and recommend actions to be taken by the Committee at its twenty-fourth session.

1. Reports on the state of conservation of eighteen natural and five cultural properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger are submitted to the Bureau to facilitate the 'review at regular intervals [of] the state of property on the List of World Heritage in Danger' as foreseen in paragraph 92 of the Operational Guidelines.

2. At its twenty-third session held from 29 November to 4 December 1999 in Marrakesh, Morocco, the Committee examined the state of conservation of fifteen natural and four cultural properties included in the List of World Heritage in Danger. Furthermore, the Committee decided to include the following additional properties in the List of World Heritage in Danger: the natural sites of Iguacu National Park (Brazil), Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo), and Rwenzori Mountains National Park (Uganda) and the cultural site of Hampi (India), respectively. Recommendations and observations of the Committee on these eighteen natural and five cultural sites included in the List of World Heritage in Danger were transmitted to the concerned States Parties.

3. Responses from States Parties and new information that has become available on the state of conservation of the eighteen natural properties are presented for review by the Bureau. In addition, state of conservation reports on five World Heritage cultural properties in Danger, including those four which were reviewed by the twenty-third session of the Committee, are submitted for examination by the Bureau.

4. The Bureau is requested to examine these reports and to take the appropriate decisions and recommend actions in accordance with paragraph 93 of the Operational Guidelines, which reads as follows:

"On the basis of these regular reviews, the Committee shall decide, in consultation with the State Party concerned whether:

- (i) additional measures are required to conserve the property;*
- (ii) to delete the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger if the property is no longer under threat;*
- (iii) to consider the deletion of the property from both the List of World Heritage in Danger and the World Heritage List if the property has deteriorated to the extent that it has lost those characteristics which determined its inclusion in the World Heritage List, in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraphs 46 to 56 above."*

4. To facilitate the work of the Committee, all state of conservation reports presented herein follow a standard format that includes the following items:

- Name of property (State Party)
- Year of inscription on the World Heritage List and on the List of World Heritage in Danger
- International assistance

- Summary of previous deliberations. Reference is made to relevant paragraph numbers from the Reports of the twenty-third session of the Committee (29 November – 4 December 1999, Marrakesh, Morocco) and the twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau (5 – 10 July 1999, Paris, France). In order to limit the length of this working document to a minimum number of pages, texts from those two reports have not been repeated herein.
- New information
- Action required.

A. Natural Heritage

Iguacu National Park (Brazil)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1986; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1999.

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.20

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph – IV.27

New information

The Ministry of Environment, via its letter of 6 April 2000, has informed the Centre that the Brazilian Government has taken all possible measures to close the Colon Road. In particular: (a) a technical report prepared by the Brazilian Environment Agency (IBAMA) on the environmental impacts caused by the illegal opening of the Colon Road and its continuing use has been submitted to the Courts; and (b) the Federal Courts of Parana has ratified the Government's decision to close the road and to impose prison sentences on those who continue to refuse to comply with the Government's decision. According to IUCN, the Supreme Court of Brazil has ordered the road closed and has imposed a fine of US\$ 500 on any vehicle using the road.

IUCN is collaborating with WWF Offices in Brazil and Argentina and with several other national organisations to develop a long-term strategy for biodiversity conservation in the broader Atlantic Forest Ecoregion. IUCN will attend a workshop, to be held in Iguacu National Park of Brazil from 25 to 28 April 2000, where specialists from three countries concerned with the protection of the Atlantic Forest Ecoregion, i.e. Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay, are due to participate. IUCN will report on findings from that workshop that are relevant to the closing of the Colon Road in the Iguacu National Park of Brazil at the time of the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Bureau.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Bureau commends the State Party for its persistence to strictly enforce the legal decision to close the Colon Road. The Bureau encourages the State

Party to continue its efforts and to provide an up-to-date progress report on the impacts of the decisions of the Supreme Court and the Federal Court of Parana on the effective closure of the Colon Road by 15 September 2000. The Bureau recommends that if the State Party confirms the effective closure of the road before the next session of the Committee, then the Committee might consider initiating steps to remove the Iguacu National Park of Brazil from the List of World Heritage in Danger”.

Srebarna Nature Reserve (Bulgaria)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1983; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992.

International assistance: The site has received assistance for training and technical co-operation activities (US\$ 22,000).

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph number - X.2

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph number – IV.1

New information: On 14 December 1999, the Centre received a report on a workshop entitled - Srebarna Nature Reserve – core site of the European Ecological Network. The workshop was held from 25 to 27 September 1999 at Srebarna Nature Reserve and brought together 28 participants from Government institutions, staff of the Reserve and NGOs. It focused on linking the applications of the World Heritage Convention, Ramsar Convention, Biosphere Reserve concept and other Europe-wide initiatives, such as those of BirdLife Network, Natura 2000 and the European Habitat Directive, to the conservation of Srebarna. The workshop also explored possibilities to involve local population in the conservation of the site and to orient management to improve the living standards of the local people resident in and around the Reserve.

The Bulgarian Academy of Sciences has informed IUCN of the following potential effects of a recent cyanide spill in the River Danube on the conservation of Srebarna:

- Cyanide levels in the Danube are being regularly monitored since 10 February 2000;
- Cyanide levels in Danube water samples near Srebarna were not higher than 0.012 mg/l; such levels are considered to be dangerous only in cases of long-term, chronic pollution;
- Srebarna Lake is linked to the River Danube via a channel with two locks which were closed at the time of the cyanide spill; at that time the water level in the Lake was also higher than that in the River, and hence the chances of cyanide seepage into the Lake were further curtailed; and
- Pollution due to heavy metals, chlorinated hydrocarbons and other pollutants originating from lands immediately surrounding the Lake are potentially of greater concern than the impact of the cyanide spill to the long-term conservation of Srebarna

IUCN has suggested that the State Party continue to monitor the impact of the cyanide spill as well as that of other major pollutants in the Lake.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Bureau recommends that the Committee retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Bureau encourages the State Party and the relevant national authorities to continue their efforts to link the different initiatives at the national, European and international level to mitigate threats to the site. The Bureau requests the State Party to submit a state of conservation report by 15 September 2000, addressing amongst others, effectiveness of the rehabilitation programme currently being implemented by the State Party. Based on a review of that report, IUCN and the Centre may propose to the twenty-fourth session of the Committee, a process and a timetable for an assessment of the results of the restoration of Srebarna and its possible removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2001”.

Manovo-Gounda-St.Floris National Park (Central African Republic (CAR))

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1988; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1997.

International assistance: None.

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph number – X.3

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph number – IV.2

New information: The President of the State Party has not yet responded to letters from the Director-General and the Chairperson, transmitting the recommendations of the twenty-second (Kyoto, Japan, 1998) and the twenty-third (Marrakesh, Morocco, 1999) sessions of the Committee, inviting the President’s urgent intervention for the preparation of a detailed state of conservation report and a rehabilitation plan for the conservation of the site. The IUCN Regional Office for Central Africa met with a group of wildlife managers from CAR on 30 March 2000; the managers reported that the impacts due to poachers entering CAR from other countries in the region continues to have serious impacts on this site. IUCN has learned that the CAR Government has sent a number of armed military personnel into the area to mitigate the poaching threat.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Bureau reiterates the Committee’s decision, taken at its twenty-second and twenty-third sessions, and invites the President to directly intervene in favour of the conservation of the site to prepare a state of conservation report and an emergency rehabilitation plan. The Bureau instructs the Centre to co-operate with the Ambassador of CAR in France and the Permanent Delegate of CAR to UNESCO so as to obtain an official response from the President of CAR to the letters sent to him by the Chairperson and the Director-General of UNESCO. The Bureau recommends that the Committee retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger”

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Virunga National Park – Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1979; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1994.

Garamba National Park - Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1980; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996.

Kahuzi Biega National Park - Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1980; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1997.

Okapi Wildlife Reserve - Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1996; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1997.

Salonga National Park: Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1984; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1999.

International assistance: **Virunga National Park:** US\$ 55,000 for equipment and staff allowances under emergency assistance and US\$ 9,500 for staff training. **Garamba National Park:** US\$ 107,845 for equipment and staff allowances under emergency assistance and US\$ 50,000 for equipment under technical co-operation. **Kahuzi Biega National Park:** US\$ 44,848 under technical co-operation and US\$ 20,000 under emergency assistance for equipment purchase. **Okapi Wildlife Reserve:** US\$ 3,000 for the preparation of the nomination dossier of the site and US\$ 20,000 for guard training and camp construction. **Salonga National Park :** US\$ 6,000 as preparatory assistance, US\$ 72,000 as technical co-operation and US\$ 7,500 for staff training.

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph number – X.4 and X.21

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph number – IV.3 and IV.30

New information: As requested by the Committee at its last session in Morocco (November – December 1999), the Director-General of UNESCO has written to the Heads of States of the DRC and of the neighbouring States implicated in the war in eastern DRC, namely Rwanda, Sudan and Uganda, drawing their attention to the need to respect the international law protecting the five World Heritage sites in DRC and soliciting their support to create an environment enabling resident site staff to effectively protect the sites. In his letters to the Heads of States mentioned above the Director-General has informed them of the UN Foundation (UNF) financed project for the conservation of biodiversity in the five World Heritage sites in the DRC. The project will pay salaries and allowances to site staff, meet their essential equipment and training needs, undertake monitoring activities to update knowledge on the state of conservation of key species in the five sites and support local community activities benefiting World Heritage site conservation. Furthermore, the Director-General has written to the UN Secretary General and the Paris-based Ambassadors of all States Parties to the Convention requesting their support to influence the leaders of DRC, and nearby States implicated in the war in eastern DRC in order to provide a safe working environment for the site staff and to strengthen conservation of the five World Heritage sites.

In accordance with another recommendation made by the twenty-third session of the Committee in Morocco (November-December 1999), the Chairperson approved a sum of US\$ 48,000 as emergency assistance in support of the following actions: (a)

organisation of an intermediary mission to DRC and neighbouring States; and (b) provide pension benefits to staff due to retire from services in the Central and Northern sectors of the Virunga National Park. The intermediary mission, costing US\$ 27,000 is due to commence its work in early May 2000 and is expected to be visiting parts of eastern DRC and the capitals of Rwanda and Uganda within the one month period foreseen for the mission. The 2-person mission team, comprising the Director of WWF-Belgium and the Senior Conservation Scientist of the WCS, USA, was chosen by the Centre and the UNESCO Division of Ecological Sciences in full consultation with ICCN and its partners, including the representatives of site staff. The mission will meet decision makers and leaders to solicit their support for enabling the site-staff to continue their work in the effective conservation of the five sites and for facilitating the timely execution of the UNF-financed project. In addition, the mission will gather information and establish necessary contacts for the planning and organisation of a high-level diplomatic mission to be financed as part of the implementation of the UNF- financed project. The Committee had already requested, at its twenty-first session held in Naples, Italy (1997), that the Director-General of UNESCO send a high-level mission to DRC to address the threats facing the World Heritage sites in Danger.

The remaining US\$ 21,000 of the US\$ 48,000 approved by the Chairperson as emergency assistance, will be used for paying 70 staff members, at the rate of US\$ 300 per person, who are due to retire from services in the Central and Northern sectors of the Virunga National Park. Similar retirement benefits to staff in the Southern sector of Virunga National Park and in the other four sites will be provided by ICCN partners, namely GTZ-Germany, WWF, IRF, WCS and GIC. These partners have been paying allowances and salaries to site staff during the last 3 to 4 years when ICCN has been unable to meet such demands due to the deteriorating economic situation of the country. The UNF grant of US\$ 2,895,912 will in part be used for meeting salaries of site staff over the next 4 years and hence all the partners of ICCN will save considerable amounts of financial resources. These savings will be used by the partners to settle the problem of paying retirement benefits to staff whose departure from regular service has been long overdue. This step will not only open up new employment opportunities for youth in areas near all of the five sites; it will also increase the chances of enabling the retiring staff to effectively re-integrate into local communities and continue to support the conservation of the five sites.

The final document of the UNF-financed project is expected to be signed by the Government of DRC, UNESCO and UNFIP (United Nations Fund for International Partnerships) in May 2000. The Centre has established links with UN-based units of Humanitarian and Peace Keeping Operations in UN-New York. In the implementation of the UNF-financed project co-operation between all DRC and Africa based UN units working towards peace building and reconciliation in eastern DRC, and ICCN and its partners will be encouraged and facilitated. A meeting of ICCN and its partners, including representatives of the five World Heritage sites, for initiating field level implementation of the UNF-financed project is due to be convened in Nairobi, Kenya, in early June 2000. The Centre and the Division of Ecological Sciences of UNESCO will send representatives to participate in that meeting. The Centre has encouraged meeting organisers to invite Nairobi and DRC-based representatives of UN units for Peace Keeping and Humanitarian Operations to

participate in the meeting. The outcome of the meeting will be reported at the time of the Bureau session.

Provision of direct support to site staff is helping to build staff morale in Garamba National Park where the impacts of increased patrolling and surveillance have been monitored. The US\$ 30,000 approved by the twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau in July 1999 for paying motivational allowances for staff in Garamba National Park, has partly contributed to the staff spending a total number of 8,788 guard-days, or 796 patrol-days, in 1999. This resulted in 51 contacts with poachers and the recovery of nine automatic weapons, 226 rounds of ammunition, four grenades and numerous other items illegally possessed by the poachers. IUCN has reported that contacts between staff on patrol and armed groups in Garamba have steadily fallen since the last quarter of 1998. An aerial census of the northern white rhinoceros that is unique to this site was carried out by the IRF (International Rhino Foundation) between 14 and 21 April 2000; results showed that there are at least 24 rhinos in the area and there may be as many as 31 individuals in the Park. This number compares well with the pre-war population of about 35 individuals. The aerial census also counted seven new-born calves and hence the prospects for the continued survival of the rhino appear to be encouraging for the moment, despite the on-going war in this region.

Although there are signs of improvement in staff morale, the ability of site staff to access all parts of the five sites remains severely restricted as different warring and armed factions occupy selected sections of most sites. The situation appears to be most severe in Kahuzi Biega National Park where the staff appear to have access to only about 5% of the total area of the Park. In these accessible parts, 70 gorillas and traces of 15 elephants have been recorded. In 1996, the census data showed the presence of 258 gorillas and 350 elephants in the whole of the Kahuzi Biega National Park. There are widespread concerns that elephant populations in the Park may have been severely poached and the loss of elephants may have indirect ecological consequences for the gorillas; elephants are thought to be responsible for opening up of the forests and areas of secondary-growth, and such patches are preferred feeding habitats of gorillas. Elephants may also play a rôle in the germination of certain plant species eaten by the gorilla. The ICCN-PARCID Project in Kahuzi Biega National Park regularly issues a newsletter that amongst others, heightens awareness of the leaders and the public of the need to conserve flagship species such as the gorilla and the elephant in Kahuzi Biega. The Project also maintains an electronic mailing list for disseminating accurate information on the status of such flagship species and on the overall state of conservation and needs of the Kahuzi Biega National Park. These regular communications are having impacts on raising the interests of concerned conservation groups; for example the international Ape Alliance Group is launching an appeal to protect the gorillas of Kahuzi Biega National Park.

Salonga National Park, in the Central parts of DRC and the only one of the five sites in DRC still under the direct authority of the ICCN Office in Kinshasa, has also been experiencing increased poaching, particularly on the endemic Bonobo chimpanzees. A Centre for protecting orphaned chimpanzees is helping to protect the animal. The war in the eastern parts of DRC appears to have disrupted the flow of essential foods across the country and local people and armed factions appear to be turning increasingly towards wildlife as the main source of their protein supply. Salonga has

also recorded significant increases in elephant poaching, a trend directly resulting from increased supply of arms and ammunitions caused by the war in eastern DRC.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine new information that is expected to be available at the time of its twenty-fourth ordinary session and take the appropriate decisions thereupon.

Sangay National Park (Ecuador)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1983; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992

International assistance: Sangay National Park has received international assistance under technical co-operation for equipment and environmental awareness-raising activities among local communities (US\$ 48,500) and for training of Park staff (US\$ 10,000).

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph number – X.5

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph number – IV.4

New information: At its last session in Morocco (November – December 1999) the Committee had expressed its agreement with the State Party's proposal that the effects of the inclusion of Sangay in the List of World Heritage in Danger should be evaluated. In accordance with that recommendation, the Centre and IUCN intend to invite a paper from the Ecuadorean authorities for presentation at a workshop on the "Role of the World Heritage in Danger List in promoting international co-operation for the conservation of World Heritage sites". This workshop is due to be convened at the time of IUCN's World Conservation Congress, from 3 to 10 October 2000, in Amman, Jordan. Several other States Parties that have the experience in using the List of World Heritage in Danger as an instrument for international co-operation will also be invited to submit presentations at the workshop.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

"The Bureau recommends that the Committee retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Bureau encourages the State Party to describe in detail, as part of the paper it will be invited to present at the Amman workshop, positive and negative impacts of the inclusion of the site in the List of World Heritage in Danger and their relevance to the long-term conservation of the site. As part of the deliberations during that workshop, the Ecuadorean authorities, the Centre and IUCN may consider elaborating a plan, including the description of indicators and benchmarks, for the continuous monitoring of the state of conservation of Sangay and for the eventual removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Bureau invites the State Party to provide a summary of its presentation due to be submitted at the forthcoming workshop in Amman, and a plan for further monitoring and possible removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger to the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Committee".

Simen National Park (Ethiopia)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1978; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996.

International assistance: Simen National Park has been awarded a sum of US\$ 110,307 under technical co-operation and US\$ 9,000 for staff training.

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph number – X.6

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph number – IV.5

New information: A meeting between the Permanent Delegate of Ethiopia to UNESCO and the Director and concerned staff of the Centre was convened on 16 February 2000. During that meeting, the Director recalled the decisions of the Bureau and the Committee since inscription of the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1996. In particular, the Director of the Centre referred to the recommendation of the twenty-third session of the Committee (Morocco, 1999) that the Chairperson undertake a mission to Ethiopia to meet with relevant national and regional authorities and to re-establish a basis for regular exchange of formal communications between the State Party and the Committee. In accordance with the wish of the Permanent Delegate of Ethiopia, the Director sent a letter, dated 22 February 2000, to His Excellency the Ambassador of Ethiopia to France, proposing a 4-5 day mission of the Chairperson and suggesting possible dates for the mission. In addition, the letter suggested that: (a) the Director of the Centre accompany the Chairperson on the mission to Ethiopia; (b) the Ethiopian authorities organize consultations between the mission team and national as well as regional authorities responsible for Simen National Park; (c) the mission team be given the opportunity to visit the site and learn of the conditions that may have led to Simen National Park being included in the List of World Heritage in Danger and of rehabilitation measures that are being implemented by the Ethiopian authorities; and (d) the Chairperson and the Director prepare a report for submission to the twenty-fourth session of the Committee due to be convened in Cairns, Australia from 27 November to 2 December 2000.

The Permanent Delegate of Ethiopia via a letter of 14 April 2000 has informed the Centre that his country, including the Regional authorities where the site is located, are ready to receive the visit of the Chairperson and the Director of the Centre. Possible dates for the mission are being discussed and will be reported at the time of the Bureau session.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Bureau recommends that the Committee retain this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Bureau requests that the Centre co-operate with the State Party in order to field the mission led by the Chairperson and assisted by the Director of the Centre as soon as possible and submit a detailed report on the state of conservation of the site, progress achieved in the rehabilitation efforts undertaken so far, and additional measures needed for the restoration of World Heritage values of the site, to the twenty-fourth session of the Committee”.

Mount Nimba Nature Reserve (Guinea/Côte d'Ivoire)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1981; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992

International assistance: This site has so far received: US\$ 29,082 as preparatory assistance; US\$ 30,000 as emergency assistance; US\$ 179,927 for technical co-operation; and US\$ 22,000 for training.

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph number – X.7

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph number – IV.6

New information: A representative of CEGEN (Centre for Environmental Management of Mount Nimba) visited the Centre during 17 – 21 April 2000 and discussed several initiatives currently underway to revive international co-operation for the protection of Mt. Nimba. The feasibility study phase of a GEF project has already commenced and is expected to be followed by a medium-sized GEF grant. There are negotiations between GEF and other potential donors for mobilising additional resources for the long-term conservation of Mt. Nimba. The Centre has had discussions with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) on possible collaboration to develop a project concept to address impacts and pressures caused by refugees resident in and around this site that straddles the border between Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire. The representative of the CEGEN informed the Centre staff that under the framework of the GEF project a sub-regional meeting of Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire, as well as Liberia which also has parts of the Mt. Nimba ecosystem, and all concerned stakeholders is likely to be convened in the near future and that CEGEN will invite participation of the Centre and IUCN at that meeting. The meeting will provide an opportunity for implementing the recommendation of the Committee, made at its twenty-second (Kyoto, 1998) and twenty-third (Marrakesh, 1999) sessions, that IUCN's West Africa Office undertake a mission to the site and prepare a detailed state of conservation report.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Bureau notes with satisfaction that new opportunities for strengthening conservation of this transborder World Heritage area are emerging under the GEF project. The Bureau requests the Centre to co-operate with CEGEN and GEF in order to expedite the fielding of an IUCN mission to the site and the preparation of a detailed state of conservation report. In addition, the Bureau recommends that IUCN and the Centre co-operate with the State Party and possible donors to establish a long-term financial mechanism, such as the setting up of a Foundation for Mt. Nimba as suggested by the past sessions of the Bureau and the Committee, for the conservation of Mt. Nimba. The Bureau recommends that the Committee retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger”.

Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1982; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996.

International assistance: Rio Platano has received US\$ 167,025 for technical co-operation and US\$ 11,000 for training.

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph number – X.8

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph number – IV.7

New information: At a meeting held in early 2000, the Centre staff pointed out to the Permanent Delegate of Honduras to UNESCO the recommendation of the Committee that his Government consider inviting an UNESCO/IUCN mission to the site. No official letter inviting such a mission has been received from the State Party at the time of the preparation of this document.

The former Director of the Centre, based on meetings he had with the German Technical Co-operation Agency, GTZ, informed the Centre that a GTZ project is attempting to implement participatory resettlement programmes to minimize human impacts in the core zone of the Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve. The project is supported by the GTZ and German Ministry for Economic Co-operation (BMZ) and the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) at a total cost of 14 million German Marks.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Bureau reiterates the Committee’s request that the State Party provide up-to-date information on the Patuca II project, including a copy of the EIA that has been prepared. The Bureau also encourages the State Party to respond to the recommendation of the Committee that the State Party consider inviting an UNESCO/IUCN mission to the site as soon as possible. The Bureau recommends that the Committee retain the Rio Platano National Park in the List of World Heritage in Danger”.

Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1985; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992.

International assistance: US\$ 165,000 as emergency assistance since June 1997, in two instalments of US\$ 75,000 and US\$ 90,000, respectively, for the implementation of a 3-year rehabilitation plan approved by the Bureau in June 1997.

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph number – X.9

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph number – IV.8

New information: The Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Wildlife) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests in New Delhi, India, via his letter dated 10 April 2000, has informed the Centre that the second phase of the rehabilitation plan for Manas for which the twenty-first session of the Committee (Naples, 1997) approved a sum of US\$ 90,000 is currently being implemented. The Bureau may recall that the delay in utilising these funds for rehabilitation activities was caused by the unusually heavy rains experienced in 1998, the need to revise the rehabilitation plan to minimise

construction activities in parts of the site where security conditions were not optimal for maintaining permanent presence of staff and for executing some community support activities to improve collaboration between staff and villagers. The implementation of this second phase of the rehabilitation plan is due to be completed by early 2001. Hence, the Deputy Inspector General has suggested that the fielding of the Centre/IUCN mission to prepare a progress report, recommended by the twenty-third session of the Committee (Marrakesh, Morocco, 1999), be delayed until 2001.

IUCN has received a report of the Regional Meeting for India and Nepal of the IUCN/SSC Asian Rhino Specialist Group held from 21 to 27 February 1999. A paper presented at that meeting by the Director of Project Tiger in Manas points out that the rhino population in Manas has been reduced by more than 40 animals during the 1990s, most of them lost to poachers during 1989 – 1993 when Bodo militancy was at its peak. The Director of the site believed that the number of rhinos inside the site may be no more than 10 and the long-term viability of such a small population is a serious concern for the management. IUCN has suggested that the State Party consider the use of armed forces to counter illegal poaching.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Bureau recommends that the Committee agree to the suggestion of the State Party that the Centre/IUCN mission to review progress in the implementation of the rehabilitation plan be delayed until the year 2001. At the time when such a monitoring mission is undertaken special consideration needs to be given to assessing the impacts of the rehabilitation measures on minimising poaching threats to the rhinos in Manas. The Bureau recommends that the Committee retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger”.

Aïr and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1991; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996.

International assistance: Aïr and Ténéré Nature Reserve has benefited from a preparatory assistance grant of US\$ 10,000 and training grants amounting to US\$ 40,000. The twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau endorsed a rehabilitation plan for the site. In 1999, including at the twenty-third session of the Committee (Morocco, 1999) when the Committee approved projects to be financed by the World Heritage Fund budget for the year 2000, a total sum of US\$ 127,000 was approved for technical co-operation and training projects that are being currently executed as part of the rehabilitation plan.

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph number – X.10

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph number – IV.9

New information: As part of the implementation of the rehabilitation plan, the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife of Niger, organized a training workshop on the protection of natural heritage for Reserve staff from Forest, Wildlife and Fisheries Departments, and others from the National Museums, University of Niamey, border police, army, security services, tour operators, and other agents concerned with the

control of trade in wildlife products and artefacts. The workshop was convened from 20 - 23 March 2000 in Niamey. A detailed report on the outcome of the workshop, and an up-to-date progress report on the implementation of the rehabilitation plan are currently under preparation and will be submitted to the twenty-fourth session of the Committee to be convened in Cairns, Australia from 27 November to 2 December 2000.

IUCN has received reports from its network members that indicate progress in the implementation of the rehabilitation plan for the site. IUCN and the State Party, under the terms of an MOU signed last year, will aim to achieve the following results during the year 2000: (a) establishment of improved management mechanisms at the site; (b) strengthening operational capacity, including the reinforcement of support to partner organisations; (c) better conservation of natural and cultural values of the site; and (d) strengthening efforts to involve local communities.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Bureau notes that the implementation of the rehabilitation plan, which it endorsed at its twenty-third ordinary session, is currently in progress. The Bureau requested the Centre and IUCN to co-operate with the State Party and submit a progress report on the implementation of the rehabilitation plan, including the views of the State Party views on when the site could be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger, to the twenty-fourth session of the Committee in Cairns, Australia. The Bureau recommends that the Committee retain this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger”.

Ichkeul National Park (Tunisia)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1980; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996.

International assistance: Ichkeul National Park has so far been awarded US\$ 50,000 under technical co-operation and US\$ 15,000 under training.

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph number – X.11

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph number – IV.10

New information: A four-person team representing IUCN, Ramsar Convention and other international and regional organisations visited the site from 28 February to 4 March 2000. The team reviewed the monitoring programmes currently in place and considered additional parameters and indicators that need to be included in an expanded programme to monitor the effectiveness of the rehabilitation measures currently being implemented by the State Party. The report of the mission team has been submitted to the State Party for comments and observations.

The mission team concluded that the Ichkeul National Park would have to be retained in the List of World Heritage in Danger for a considerable number of years before a thorough assessment of the effectiveness of the rehabilitation programme currently being put in place by the Tunisian Government is feasible. There are several positive signs that indicate that the potential for the effective rehabilitation of the lakes and the

marshes still exists. For example, germination tests have been carried out on seeds of *Potamogeton* collected in the sediments of the zone occupied by beds of this plant before 1996 (western part of the lake). These laboratory tests, carried out under optimal salinity conditions for germination, were successful and proved that the lake still maintains its potential to reconstitute the beds of *Potamogeton* which have currently been replaced by beds of *Ruppia* sp. The same is true for the restoration of rushes over large areas of marsh several years after the disappearance of the plants; they reappear when marshes are flooded during the right period for germination and also in pools of rainwater in little depressions.

In respect of establishing a programme for monitoring the effectiveness of the rehabilitation programme, the mission team recommended that the National Agency for Environmental Protection (ANPE): (a) maintain the current programme for monitoring water quality and quantity; (b) introduce a new component to monitor the development of bathymetry of the lake; (c) maintain the current programme of monitoring the submerged flora, and extend it further by strengthening the monitoring team through the recruitment of specialized multidisciplinary staff; (d) initiate a monitoring programme for the flora of the marshes; (e) improve the monitoring of bird populations by targeting key-indicator species and by setting up an institution with the ability to collect, store, analyse and check the ornithological data, and by training the necessary staff; and (f) introduce a programme to monitor the flora and fauna of the mountain, particularly with a view to detecting changes in grazing pressure due to domestic stock.

The mission team has suggested that the integrated management plan for the Park and its surrounding area be updated and improved using the Ramsar Guidelines on management planning for wetlands. Furthermore, the team has recommended the establishment of an institutional structure with the means and powers necessary for the implementation of this integrated management plan.

The mission team identified the implementation of three urgent measures: (a) restoration of the Joumine marsh; (b) studies on the siltation of the lake; and (c) consideration of water releases from the dams in the spring of 2000. Furthermore, the mission team has encouraged that the data gathered and analysed so far for the safeguarding of the Ichkeul National Park be published in an appropriate scientific journal.

Action required: The Bureau, based on the State Party's observations and comments on the mission report, due to be submitted at the time of its twenty-fourth ordinary session, may wish to make appropriate decisions thereupon.

Rwenzori Mountains (Uganda)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in: 1994; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1999

International assistance: US\$ 32,249 has so far been provided under technical co-operation.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty third session of the Committee – paragraph – X.22

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph – IV.42

New information: The Centre received a fax, dated 7 April 2000, from the IUCN Regional Councillor for Africa that reported on high risks linked to security conditions in and around this site continue to prevent the implementation of any meaningful conservation actions. The high altitudes of the mountain are occupied by the rebel group, Allied Defence Forces (ADF) and the lower elevations of the mountain are under the control of the Ugandan Government Forces (UPDF). The UPDF is believed to be combing the habitats in the lower elevations to clear them of explosives planted by the ADF. The report further mentioned that the rebel group ADF recently descended from the Rwenzori Mountain National Park and killed one Park Ranger and other persons in Queen Elizabeth National Park, a site adjacent to the World Heritage site and which is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The IUCN Regional Councillor observes that it will be some time before one can hope for peace and stability in and around this World Heritage site.

Part of the Park Headquarters continues to be located in the town of Kasese, outside of the Park, due to security considerations. Thirty rangers are in Ibanda, the Park Headquarters, where they try to cooperate with UPDF and other personnel to establish and maintain security. Ugandan Wildlife Authority has reported to IUCN that it has commenced rehabilitation work on tourist tracks in March 2000. However, there are insufficient resources and financial support for such rehabilitation work as well as for surveillance, monitoring, training, communications, personnel and other essential activities.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Bureau recommends that the Committee retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Bureau suggests that the Centre and IUCN explore possibilities to raise international awareness for the conservation of this site. Furthermore, the Bureau recommends that the Centre co-operate with the State Party and concerned UN units in the region to study ways and means to support staff responsible for the protection of the site and minimise threats posed by militant and armed groups that are occupying the site”.

Everglades National Park (United States of America)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1979; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1993

International assistance: None

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph number – X.12

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph number – IV.1

New information: IUCN has reviewed the report submitted by the State Party outlining the following: (a) the current status of the key threats to the site; (b) the mitigation measures being taken; and (c) requirements for the removal of the threat.

The report on the Everglades National Park addresses a number of threats, and in particular those posed by: (i) exotic species; and (b) hydrological impacts, including the experimental water delivery project and its impact on endangered species.

IUCN has commended the approach taken by the State Party in preparing the report and believes that the approach could serve as a useful model for the preparation of state of conservation reports by other States Parties. In particular, IUCN has highlighted the effort made by the State Party to identify measures to address threats and establish timelines for threat removal.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Bureau recommends that the Committee, in accordance with the wish of the State Party, retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Bureau however, requests the Centre and IUCN to collaborate with the State Party to prepare a schedule of actions foreseen to be taken for threat removal and for the eventual removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger and submit that schedule of actions to the twenty-fourth session of the Committee”.

Yellowstone National Park (United States of America)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1978; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1995.

International assistance: None

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph number – X.13

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – IV.1

New information: IUCN has reviewed the report submitted by the State Party outlining the following: (a) the current status of the key threats to the site; (b) the mitigation measures being taken; and (c) requirements for the removal of the threats. The report of Yellowstone National Park addresses the following threats: (i) mining activities outside the Park; (b) brucellosis infection of the bison population; (c) lake trout invasion; (d) impacts on water quality; (e) road construction; and (f) regulation of visitor use of the site.

IUCN has commended the approach taken by the State Party in preparing the report and believes that the approach could serve as a useful model for the preparation of state of conservation reports by other States Parties. In particular, IUCN has highlighted the effort made by the State Party to identify measures to address threats and establish timelines for threat removal.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Bureau recommends that the Committee, in accordance with the wish of the State Party, retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Bureau however, requests the Centre and IUCN to collaborate with the State Party to prepare a schedule of actions foreseen to be taken for threat removal

and for the eventual removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger and submit that schedule of actions to the twenty-fourth session of the Committee”.

B. Cultural Heritage

Butrint (Albania)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1992; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1997.

International assistance: US\$ 100,000 approved as emergency assistance by the World Heritage Committee in December 1997.

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph number – X.14.

New information: No official confirmation has been received from the Albanian authorities about the inclusion of a small area on the coast in the protected area in order to prevent tourism development taking place. Therefore, the extension of the site, conditionally approved by the Committee at its twenty-third session, has not yet taken effect.

As to the emergency assistance, an amount of US\$ 46,200 had already been committed at the time of the twenty-third session of the Committee. Additional proposals from the Albanian authorities for an amount of US\$ 40,800 have been accepted by the Chairperson for activities in the field of information and awareness building, coordination with regional and national planning authorities and improved security of the site.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Bureau urges the Albanian authorities to take the necessary measures for the inclusion of the area in the zone of the proposed enlargement of the site. It requests the authorities to submit by 15 September 2000 a report on this matter as well as on the implementation of the recommendations made by the UNESCO-ICOMOS-Butrint Foundation mission in 1997. The Bureau recommends that the Committee retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger”.

Angkor (Cambodia)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1992; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992.

International assistance: Angkor has so far received US\$ 15,000 as preparatory assistance, US\$ 10,000 for training and US\$ 98,595 as emergency assistance.

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph number – X.15

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph number – IV.12

New information: The technical session of the International Coordination Committee for the Safeguarding and the Development of the Historic Area of Angkor (CIC), for which UNESCO ensures the Secretariat, was held on 18 and 19 December 1999.

1. Action Plan and Implementation of APSARA Activities

- In the framework of the specific management project of Angkor Vat, pilot project initiated on 1 July 1999 to establish the Conservation of Angkor Vat, numerous measures have been implemented: increased protection of the temple through the recruitment of about twenty guards who ensure the cleanliness of the temple as well as respect for the surroundings (to avoid interference with religious practices, commercial activities are forbidden inside the monument); an educational activity was carried out in the form of a dozen explanatory panels of the bas-reliefs and four leaflets destined for Khmers and foreign visitors. APSARA participated technically and financially in the restoration project of the access road west of Angkor Vat, implemented jointly with Sophia University (Japan).
- APSARA participated financially in finalizing the restoration of the Eastern Gate of the Royal Palace of Angkor Thom, headed by the Indonesian team ITASA, and seconded three archaeologists to this work site.
- The “Institutional Support to the APSARA Authority” programme of the Assistance and Cooperation Fund, implemented and financed by the French Government, is undergoing approval. This programme concerns four principal actions: measures for heritage protection, the regular maintenance of the monuments, fight against looting and illicit traffic of cultural heritage, and training.
- With regard to tourism development, APSARA works, in the framework of the above-mentioned agreement, for the establishment of a control of the modes of occupation of the site, as well as for the establishment of an observatory of the public whose first task will be to carry out a survey entitled “Know Your Public”.

- 2. Training:** Thanks to the financial support of the Japanese Government, and in close cooperation with ICCROM, SPAFA and UNESCO, the first technical training cycle for conservation specialists of sites and monuments was organised by APSARA at Angkor on the site of Ta Nei from November 1999 to April 2000. This intensive training in architectural and archaeological conservation was given to twenty national students already qualified in archaeology, architecture or civil engineering. At the end of this training, eighteen students were recruited in May 2000 by APSARA to work for the most part in the Conservation of Angkor Thom project. Financial support is being sought for the next training cycles in 2000/2001 and 2001/2002.

3. **Illicit traffic:** The CIC was informed that the request for the restriction of exportation to the United States of Cambodian cultural heritage, prepared at the behest of the Cambodian authorities by the Division of Cultural Heritage of UNESCO, was approved by the American authorities in December 1999. For the protection of the Angkor site, APSARA provides financial support to the Special Heritage Police Commissariat and organises with the latter information and public awareness campaigns for inhabitants of the Park. In the framework of the aforementioned agreement the French Government also foresees the provision of major assistance in the reorganisation and functioning of the Heritage Police. In the frame of the Interministerial Committee, composed of APSARA and the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, and responsible for taking the necessary measures to ensure the protection of the Banteay Chmar Temple, victim of large-scale looting in November 1998, objects seized by the Thai authorities in January 1999, were returned by the latter to the Royal Government of Cambodia on 3 April last.
4. **International Centre for Scientific and Technical Documentation of Angkor (CID):** The CID, which has now become the reference documentation centre and the memory of the international safeguarding and development programme of the site of Angkor, has benefited from numerous purchases, donations of works and transfer of all technical reports retained until now by UNESCO at Phnom Penh. A data bank of bibliographic information is being elaborated using a programme developed by UNESCO for CDS/ISIS libraries. Since May 2000, a member of the APSARA staff is designated to work full time with the UNESCO expert.

The next session of the CIC will be held on 20 June 2000 in Phnom Penh.

French and English copies of the 1999 Activity Report prepared by the International Coordination Committee for the Safeguarding and Development of the Historic Site of Angkor (CIC) have been transmitted to the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

“After having examined the report on the state of conservation of the site, the Bureau congratulated the Royal Government of Cambodia for the significant progress made in the field of training to ensure the conservation work and regular maintenance of the monuments and encourages it to continue in its efforts. In the framework of the Conservation of Angkor Vat Project, the Bureau invites APSARA to follow up on the progress of the work undertaken for the massive central porch and the collapsed tiers of the western moat of the Temple. It also invites APSARA and UNESCO to strengthen the development of activities and collections of the International Centre for Scientific and Technical Documentation for Angkor, which should eventually regroup all the documentation produced by the safeguarding and development projects on the site. Finally, the Bureau wishes to obtain additional information on tourism development of the site and the development of the infrastructure in this respect. The Bureau recommends that the Committee retains the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.”

Group of Monuments at Hampi (India)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1996; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1999.

International assistance: None

Summary of previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph number – X.33.

New information: No official response has been received concerning the actions taken by the State Party to remove the threats facing the site since its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger. A Joint ICOMOS-UNESCO Mission in February 2000 witnessed on-going construction of the large vehicular bridge and near-completion of the small footbridge over the Tungabhadra River. Following this Joint Mission, Corrective Measures were recommended to the State Government of Karnataka and the concerned Central Government authorities. The Corrective Measures consisted of the following four points:

1. Removal of threats caused by the two bridges

- 1.1 Supply a safer transportation means between Anegundi and Hampi, and Virapapura Gada and Hampi, as an interim measure.
- 1.2 Carry out careful needs assessment studies of the local communities, site managers, local industries (agriculture, tourism, etc.) with regard to the necessity for transportation over the Tungabhadra River.
- 1.3 Carry out scientific impact assessment studies on the World Heritage site caused by such bridges.
- 1.4 Determine whether or not it is appropriate to construct (a) bridge(s) connecting Anegundi and Hampi, and Virapapura Gada and Hampi, after careful examination of points 1.2 and 1.3.
- 1.5 If Point 1.4 results in the confirmation of the need to construct either or both bridges, determine the appropriate scale (footbridge, vehicular bridge, etc.) of such (a) bridge(s).
- 1.6 Once Point 1.5 is decided, study alternative locations and designs for such (a) bridge(s), which do not impact negatively upon the World Heritage site (i.e. do not threaten the integrity and authenticity of the World Heritage site).
- 1.7 Until the needs assessment and impact assessment studies have been carried out and subsequent decisions have been taken, halt further construction of the large-scale vehicular bridge connecting Anegundi and Hampi, and suspend any further construction on the footbridge connecting Virapapura Gada and Hampi.

2. Removal of threats caused by dismantling and dislocating historic monuments within the World Heritage site

- 2.1 Restore the dislocated historic Mandapa at Anegundi to its original location, to ensure retention of the original morphology and authenticity of the ancient citadel of Anegundi.
- 2.2 Ensure that no further destruction, dismantling, relocation and defacement of historic monuments within the World Heritage site takes place, to preserve the original morphology and authenticity of site.
- 2.3 Implement existing cultural heritage legislation and policies.
3. Removal of threats caused by illegal encroachment within the World Heritage site
 - 3.1 Undertake necessary legal action to remove illegal encroachment within the World Heritage site, particularly in the State Government protected areas surrounding Virupaksha Temple and the Hampi Bazaar Mandapas.
 - 3.2 Prevent any further illegal encroachment within the World Heritage site.
 - 3.3 Closely control building within the World Heritage site.
4. Removal of potential threats caused by ad-hoc development plans within the World Heritage site, including tourism development plans within Virapapura Gada.
 - 4.1 Develop a comprehensive management and integrated development plan for the entire World Heritage site and its surrounding environment, in close-co-operation with UNESCO and ICOMOS.
 - 4.2 In order to develop the plan referred to in point 4.1, establish a geographic information system, incorporating existing data and surveys collected by the relevant authorities or experts (e.g. Revenue Department, Department of Archaeology, Deputy Commissioner, ASI, international experts, etc.), appropriately advised by UNESCO and ICOMOS.
 - 4.3 In order to implement the plan referred to in point 4.1, establish an appropriate legal and institutional framework, with sufficient authority on-site. Legal expertise and advice could be provided through assistance from UNESCO and ICOMOS.
 - 4.4 The legal and institutional framework referred to in 4.3 should be supported and advised by an appropriate professional group with representatives of organizations or individuals active in the field of heritage conservation and management.
 - 4.5 Following the gazette notification of 1988 issued by the State Government of Karnataka, the core areas composing the Hampi World Heritage site (Anegundi, Virapapura Gada, cemetery island, south, east and west borders of Hampi), and the buffer zones including the greater Vijayanagara / Hampi area should be demarcated.
 - 4.6 Awareness raising activities involving all stakeholders (private landowners, tourism and local industries, etc.) and authorities (Public Works Department, Rural Development Department, District Commissioners of Koppal and Hospet, Grand Panchayats, Police, amongst others) concerned should be carried out. The World

Heritage Education Programme should be incorporated into the existing education programme to the extent possible.

4.7 Implement the plan referred to in point 4.1.

At the time of preparation of this working document in early May 2000, information was received by the World Heritage Centre that construction was being accelerated to complete the vehicular bridge, and that the State Government had announced its intention to inaugurate the two bridges in August 2000.

With regard to the provision of international assistance to develop a comprehensive management plan which has been requested by the Committee, the World Heritage Centre, in consultation with the State Party, is organizing a mission by an international rural development expert and a cultural heritage management expert.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Bureau, deeply concerned with the continued construction of the two bridges within the World Heritage site, requests the Indian authorities to implement the ICOMOS-UNESCO Recommended Corrective Measures to remove the threats facing the site, as identified by the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-third session. The Bureau requests the World Heritage Centre to continue to assist the State Party in developing a comprehensive management plan, in close co-operation with the authorities concerned. The Bureau requests the authorities to submit by 15 September 2000 a report on progress made in removing the threats facing the site, as well as on the implementation of the recommendations made by UNESCO-ICOMOS Mission in February 2000. The Bureau recommends that the Committee retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger”.

Bahla Fort (Oman)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1987; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1988.

International assistance: Since 1988, US\$ 67,772 has been provided under technical cooperation. Past monitoring missions were undertaken on a cost-sharing basis. In 1999, the Omani authorities increased their financial contribution to cover all costs of such missions. The entire restoration programme is funded by the Omani authorities.

Summary of previous deliberations

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph number – X.16.

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – IV.13.

New information: The Deputy Director of the World Heritage Centre will report on the results of his mission to Oman, foreseen in the first-half of May 2000, at the time of the Bureau session.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine information that will be provided at the time of its session and take the appropriate decision thereupon.

Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1986; and on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1986.

International assistance: US\$ 50,000 emergency assistance in 1997 for the protection of the site against the El Nino phenomenon. US\$ 28,700 during 1997-1999 under technical cooperation for the preparation of a Master Plan for the site.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee - paragraph number - X.17

New information: In April 2000, the Secretariat was informed by the authorities of Peru that the very extensive Master Plan for the site was officially adopted by a Presidential Decree. The plan had been prepared by an interdisciplinary group of experts with assistance from the World Heritage Fund. As requested by the Committee at its twenty-third session, ICOMOS and ICCROM are currently evaluating the Plan. These two advisory bodies will present their report at the time of the Bureau session.

With aid from the World Heritage Fund, the Second Pan-America Course on the Conservation and Management of Earthen Architectural and Archaeological Heritage (Government of Peru, ICCROM, CRATerre EAG, Getty Conservation Institute) took place in Chan Chan in 1999. The Secretariat has received a full report on this course.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

“The Bureau congratulates the Government of Peru for the adoption of the Master Plan and encourages the State Party to implement it. It requests the State Party to submit a progress report on the implementation of the Master Plan by 15 September 2000 for examination by the Committee at its twenty-fourth session. The Bureau recommends that the Committee retain this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger”.