# HE WORLD HERITAGE

32 October-November 2001



#### The Thirteenth General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention met at UNESCO Headquarters on October 30th and 31st. Following the terrorist attack of September 11th and its implications, the Assembly discussed the need to reinforce efforts aimed at preventing possible threats facing all of the world's cultural and natural heritage.

The General Assembly adopted a Resolution on the protection of the cultural heritage of Afghanistan, which was submitted by the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee at its 25th session in Paris in June. The Resolution 'condemns the willful destruction of the cultural heritage of Afghanistan by the Taliban forces, particularly the statues of Bamyan, as a crime against the common heritage of humanity'.

In a decision with far-reaching consequences, the General Assembly approved a Resolution which invites States Parties to support the reform process of the World Heritage Convention with voluntary actions. In particular, the Resolution calls for the States Parties to voluntarily reduce their terms of office in the Committee from six to four years as well as to refrain from seeking consecutive terms of office in the World Heritage Committee.

These commitments, together with efforts towards capacity building for under-represented regions, provide concrete support for the Global Strategy for a Balanced and Representative World Heritage List.

During the General Assembly, elections were held for eight seats of the twentyone member World Heritage Committee. The following States Parties were elected: Argentina, India, Lebanon, Nigeria, Oman, the Russian Federation, Saint Lucia and the United Kingdom. Dr Henrik Lilius of Finland was elected as Chairman of the new Committee.

The upcoming 25th session of the World Heritage Committee, in Helsinki this December, has a very intense agenda. First of all it will examine the state of conservation of sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger and the reactive monitoring reports concerning sites on the World Heritage List. It is also set to discuss the Periodic Report on the State of Conservation of Natural and Cultural Heritage in Africa. This report, which follows the one on the Arab region discussed in 2000, is based on a series of workshops in French- and English-speaking Africa on periodic reporting and capacity building.

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Many assumptions and beliefs have been challenged by the events of 11 September 2001. In particular, it will be necessary to deepen and extend the concept of human security... When we consider the direction towards which people must turn if peace and security are to prosper – namely, towards universal respect for justice, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms - we can see the continuing relevance and importance of UNESCO's mission for our troubled world.

> Koïchiro Matsuura Director-General of UNESCO. at the opening of the 31st session of the UNESCO General Conference, October 2001

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The Committee will also consider forty-nine nominations for inscription on the World Heritage List, among them thirty cultural, four mixed and fifteen natural sites.

Furthermore, the first biennial (2002-2003) budget of the World Heritage Fund will be examined and approved, and an initial proposal for a new system of international assistance will be presented.

Finally, the Committee will discuss the initiatives to mark the 30th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention. The anniversary will be an occasion to renew the commitment to the conservation and protection of the world's natural and cultural heritage and to develop partnerships with local and regional governments, private foundations and enterprises, universities and the media.

Francesco Bandarin, Director, World Heritage Centre

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## **Managing** Information

As the task of preserving the world's natural and cultural heritage grows, the World Heritage Centre is seeking to help meet the challenge through an overall World Heritage Information Management Programme. In September, at both the CIPA Symposium on Surveying and Documentation of Historic Buildings, Monuments and Sites in Potsdam, Germany, and at a similar conference in Hungary, the Centre was able to present the proposed Programme and to show that its goal is to involve all those who are part of conservation in a partnership for the exchange of information.

n order to service the current 690 sites inscribed on the World Heritage List an enormous amount of information and data needs to be managed. The process covers everything from the original nomination file, to evaluation reports, monitoring, reports on the status of conservation, missions to the sites, and technical assistance.

The World Heritage Information Management Programme is set to become the central core for World Heritage data and information acquisition, management and dissemination. States Parties, advisory bodies and NGOs will be partners in this project.

'This Programme, if implemented in close co-operation with all States Parties, will create significant savings in efficiency as well as improve the effectiveness and awareness

of the Convention. We are presenting the Programme for endorsement by the World Heritage Committee next December' said Mario Hernandez, of the World Heritage Information Management Programme.

WHC Director, Francesco Bandarin, believes that a strong public image can be created through Information Management.

'To achieve this we will require help from the World Heritage Fund and extra-budgetary funding, as well as cooperation from other institutions, including the advisory bodies, the Council of Europe, the European Space Agency and national space agencies,' he said.

The WHC is aware that not all States Parties currently have full Internet use. So the Information Management Programme will make use of the Internet as a tool to disseminate information, but it will be flexible, with all Web information also available in hard form (paper).

The new Programme takes into consideration the fantastic potential of communicating with new audiences. Easy-toread sections of the web site will illustrate the goals of the World Heritage Convention. There will be information tailored specifically to journalists, researchers, teachers, students, NGOs, school children, the general public, and what is equally important, to decision makers.

'The Convention is approaching its 30th anniversary. Through this programme the Convention is entering into the modern era of information technology. In order to become a useful and powerful tool, the proposed World Heritage Information Management Programme must have wide participation and close co-ordination with all partners,' said Mr Hernandez.

# Prehistoric Rock Art

The WARA Project (World Archives of Rock Art) and the Centro Camuno di Studi Preistorici in Italy tell the Newsletter that some of the most important sites of prehistoric rock art in the world are in danger of disappearing, because of urban encroachment, neglect and pollution. The following are extracts from a letter sent to the Newsletter by Prof. Emmanuel Anati, Director of the Centro Camuno di Studi Preistorici.

> he cultural heritage of rock art is in the process of being obliterated. Notification of prehistoric art in danger reaches us almost every day.

In different parts of the world rock-art surfaces, covered with pictures thousands of years old, are in the process of deteriorating because of exfoliation or incrustation. Colours are fading. Some surfaces are collapsing due to erosion or the infiltration of water. And in some areas rock art is being destroyed by human action.

Recently a rock-art site in the Drah Valley, Morocco, was partly destroyed by the guarrying of rocks for building purposes. In Ningxia, China, a new road was built across an area containing rock carvings. Several engraved surfaces depicting Neolithic images of up to 5,000 years old were destroyed. The construction of a dam and bridges has endangered important concentrations of prehistoric art in Spain and Portugal.

At the World Archives of Rock Art our main goal is to document these records of the past. There are already over 200,000 photographic documents in the inventory at the Centro Camuno di Studi Preistorici at Camonica Valley in Italy. The WARA Project, with help from UNESCO, CIPSI (Conseil International de la Philosophie et des Sciences Humaines) and the Cultural Relations Department of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has the world's largest library of prehistoric rock art. We need to raise consciousness and promote co-operation in order to conserve this part of human history.

For more information: Centro Camuno di Studi Preistorici, via Marconi 7, 25044 Capo di Ponte (BS), Italy. tel: + 39-0364-42091, fax: + 39-0364-42572, e-mail: ccspreist@tin.it

## AFRICA 2009: An Interview with Joseph King of ICCROM

In 1996, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICCROM (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and the Restoration of Cultural Property), and CRATerre-EAG

of Architecture of Grenoble) began the development of a comprehensive strategy for training a broad spectrum of people involved in the use and upkeep of the immovable cultural heritage found in Africa south of the Sahara. Although not always recognized at the international level, Africa's immovable cultural heritage is an important part of the heritage of humanity, as evidenced by such World Heritage sites as Great Zimbabwe, the Stone Town of Zanzibar in Tanzania, the Island of Gorée in Senegal, the Forts and Castles of Ghana, and Aksum and Fasil Ghebbi, Gondar in Ethiopia.

This considerable heritage is facing threats from a variety of sources including environmental degradation, the push for development and modernization, and the lack of adequate personnel to plan and manage its use, repair, and maintenance.

As a first step, a needs assessment was carried out in the form of a survey on the current state of conservation in the region. In addition, discussions were held with a number of African professionals. As a result, AFRICA 2009, a joint programme of the three partners and African cultural heritage organizations, has been developed as an integrated approach to immovable heritage conservation.

#### The Newsletter talks to Joseph King, Co-ordinator of AFRICA 2009.

What is the philosophy that underpins AFRICA 2009?

There are several key elements that underpin AFRICA 2009. The first is that it is a programme done in full partnership with African organizations and professionals rather than something being done by the three institutional partners for Africa. We have ensured this by the creation of a Co-ordination Committee made up of four African professionals, including the chairman, along with one member each from ICCROM, WHC, and CRATerre-EAG. We also hold a Directors' Seminar every year to present the progress of the programme to the directors of cultural heritage in the region and to get their input on the future activities and orientations. Finally we implement all of our activities in partnership with African organizations. We have just carried out an independent assessment of the pilot phase of AFRICA 2009 which has acknowledged this participatory philosophy and made suggestions for how we can go even further in this direction in the next phase.

I would say that the networking component as a whole is perhaps the most central. We've generated a certain amount of interest within the institutions and professionals in the region with the expectation that over the remaining eight years of the programme, people will be able to continue their participation in a variety of ways. The ability to better share information and help each other would be one of the lasting legacies of the programme. Of course, we are still quite early in the process, but I hope that we are on our way to making this happen.

(International Centre for Earth Construction – School





The Island of Mozambique and its beauty secrets

#### What would you consider to be the greatest input to date within AFRICA 2009?

It would be hard for me to isolate any single activity that we have done as being the most significant. Instead, Even with capable experts on the ground and a wide programme of training, those working on the conservation of cultural heritage in Africa face the daunting task of addressing problems that involve political upheaval, war, desertification and overall lack of funding. How optimistic are you about preserving Africa's cultural heritage?

I would agree with you that there are places in Africa that face some very daunting challenges such as those that you have mentioned. But, I would caution that there is a tendency in the international media to focus only on negative issues and not on the more positive aspects of life and culture of Africa. There are many places in the region that are stable and working day by day on development issues. Conservation of cultural heritage can be this development process. In those places facing more serious prob-

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lems, it is obvious that the focus must be on more difficult issues. But, even in these cases, conservation of cultural heritage can play a part (even if small) in improving the situation. So, overall, I'm very optimistic about the conservation of Africa's cultural heritage.

#### What are the immediate plans in the making to move conservation forward?

AFRICA 2009 is now moving into its next phase of implementation. This will mean improving those activities that we are already doing and adding some new activities such as national seminars, cross-border networking and implementation of site projects, and technical courses. In the meantime, we also have to work more closely with institutions in the region to make sure that necessary activities can continue in the region at the end of the programme. Although 2009 may seem like a long way off, we need to be planning for it now.

### **Sacred Mountains**

From the 5th to the 10th of September the Government of Japan, Agency for Cultural Affairs, the Prefectural Government of Wakayama and the World Heritage Centre held a Thematic Expert Meeting on Sacred Mountains in the Asia-Pacific Region at Wakayama City, Japan. Experts from Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, ICCROM, ICOMOS, IUCN, UNESCO's World Heritage Centre and **Division of Ecological Sciences along with international** experts from the Mountain Institute (USA) attended.

acred mountains are a part of our collective identity. This is just one of the conclusions reached at the Thematic Expert Meeting on Sacred Mountains in the Asia-Pacific Region at Wakayama, Japan. Although the meeting did not come up with a clear-cut definition of what constitutes a sacred mountain, there was wide consensus that it is a place, associated in the minds of certain communities with powerful beliefs and artistic and traditional customs, and that it embodies an exceptional spiritual relationship between people and nature.

At the same time sacred mountains sites demonstrate cultural diversity and are often centres of significant biological diversity, the meeting concluded.

Junko Taniguchi, WHC Programme Specialist for the Asia-Pacific region, who was at the meeting, says that there are many factors which determine whether a mountain is thought of as sacred. 'The mountain itself may be considered sacred, or it may have sacred associations. A mountain may have sacred areas, places or objects, or it may inspire sacred rituals and practices,' she said.

Participants said that a mountain may be considered sacred if it is deemed to be a centre of the cosmos or the world. It can represent power, a deity or several deities. It can also be part of the identity of a nation or group of people. Sacred mountains are often places of worship, where spirits or ancestors are believed to reside.

The meeting noted that the process of identifying and characterizing sacred mountains is complex, since both ecological and cultural heritage as well as tangible or intangible values may be integrated in the same site.

Since many sacred mountains are also places of pilgrimage and tourism, the experts at the Wakayama meeting insisted that stakeholders of all kinds must be involved in the conservation and management of the sites. Not only local communities, indigenous citizens, owners and custodians must share in conservation and management, they said, but also religious groups, pilgrims themselves and concerned

**Desert Landscapes** as Potential World Heritage Sites

A World Heritage Regional Thematic Expert Meeting on 'Desert Landscapes and Oasis Systems in the Arab Region' was held at the Kharga Oasis in Egypt between September 23rd and 26th. The meeting was organized by the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities (ESCA) of the Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the UNESCO Cairo Office and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. Professor Gaballa Ali Gaballa, Secretary-General of the ESCA, attended the meeting and led field visits to the oasis organized for the expert group (see background image). Experts also visited Historic Cairo, Luxor, Asswan and Abu Mena, to define World Heritage conservation problems and main lines of future co-operation.

he Kharga meeting confirmed the relevance of the cultural landscape concept in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. States Parties were encouraged to include desert sites and oasis systems on their tentative lists.

The meeting came up with recommendations for States Parties to identify and protect desert trade routes, by collaborating at the regional level.

The ancient routes on the border between Egypt, the Sudan and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya were identified, and it was noted that adequate conservation mechanisms and sound tourism management of these fragile sites could be ensured through the establishment of large-scale protected areas.

Participants looked at the question of tourism at desert sites. While recognizing its potential as a factor for social and economic development, it was noted that tourism is causing increasing damage to the cultural and environmental resources of desert landscapes. Under particular threat are non-protected prehistoric sites, as well as the traditions of indigenous communities living in these areas.

Cultural landscapes can encompass vast and diverse areas. The participants therefore recommended co-ordination among the various national and local authorities responsible for land-use planning, and the promotion of the concept of cultural landscapes among managers of cultural resources and protected areas in the Arab region.

'The participants considered that the concept of integrity is relevant to cultural landscapes. It is the integrity of the relationship with nature that matters, not the integrity of nature itself,' noted Mechtild Rössler, WHC, who participated in the meeting.

#### Two New Publications The World Heritage Centre is pleased to announce the publication of two new works which we hope will help in the understanding of how preservation of natural and cultural heritage can be carried out more effectively.

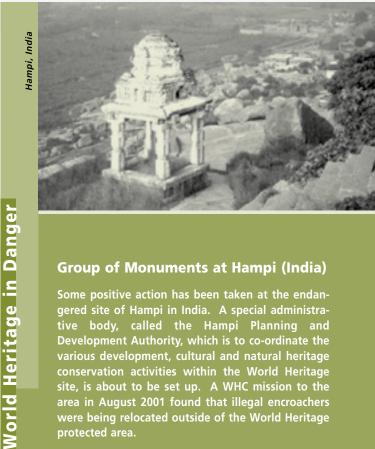
**Cultural Heritage and Development:** A Framework for Action in the Middle East and North Africa This illustrated volume, by Michael M. Cernea, Social Development Advisor in the MENA region, has just been

authorities. Younger generations must be brought into the process as well.

Mechtild Rössler, in charge of cultural landscapes at the WHC, highlighted the great challenges that concerned authorities and stakeholders face in the conservation and management of sacred

mountain areas. She pointed out that, as for many cultural and sacred landscapes around the world, appropriate steps have to be taken by the local, regional, and central authorities not only to strengthen legal and administrative mechanisms but to increase the protection of both the tangible and intangible heritage values.

The participants recommended that tour operators and guides be given guidelines for visiting sacred mountains, so that belief systems are respected. And they expressed hope that those interested would attend the Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan Global Mountain Summit, which is part of the United Nations International Year of the Mountains (2002).



#### Group of Monuments at Hampi (India)

Some positive action has been taken at the endangered site of Hampi in India. A special administrative body, called the Hampi Planning and Development Authority, which is to co-ordinate the various development, cultural and natural heritage conservation activities within the World Heritage site, is about to be set up. A WHC mission to the area in August 2001 found that illegal encroachers were being relocated outside of the World Heritage protected area.

The austere, grandiose site of Hampi, the capital of the last great Hindu Kingdom of Vijayanagara, was placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1999, after the construction of two suspension bridges dominating the extraordinary natural environment of the site. Illegal encroachment and ad-hoc tourism development activities are also negatively affecting the World Heritage values of this magical

The site, covering an area of over 30 square kilometres, includes countless archaeological ruins, fortifications, palatial complexes, active religious centres of pilgrimage, cemeteries, water reservoirs, canals,



#### World Conservation the IUCN Bulletin

A special issue on World Heritage has just been published by IUCN – The World Conservation Union – in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre. This full-colour issue highlights many of the world's natural and cultural heritage sites, and explains the role of the World Heritage Convention in designating and protecting them. It also describes some of the current threats to World Heritage sites and addresses preservation issues as IUCN and World Heritage partners grapple with old and new challenges.

World Conservation is published in English, French and Spanish three times a year by IUCN. To receive copies of this issue or subscription details, contact Cindy Craker, IUCN Publications Division, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland, telephone: +44 22 999 0116, fax: +44 22 999 0010, e-mail: Cindy.Craker@iucn.org

published by the World Bank. It gives a first-ever synthesis of projects, credits, studies and forms of lending and technical assistance supported by the World Bank for the preservation of cultural heritage in the MENA region. The book argues that the cultural heritage of each country should be regarded as integral to the mainstream development strategy of that country. The author shows that investment in heritage preservation and management can have a substantial impact on creating employment, alleviating poverty and improving living standards.

'Development endures when it is culturally supported and fails when it is insensitive to culture. This strategy publication embodies a key message from the World Bank about the links between culture and development, and about the Bank's readiness to provide, on demand, institutional support and financial investment for the preservation and management of historic, cultural heritage. To promote broad partnerships in this effort, it is essential that this strategy message reach the world's cultural community, which works so hard to protect humanity's cultural heritage treasures,' Mr Cernea told the Newsletter.

Order on-line at: http://www.worldbank.org/publications; by e-mail: books@worldbank.org

#### and agricultural land.

At the time of inscription on the World Heritage List in 1986, the Committee asked the Indian authorities to develop, adopt and implement a comprehensive management plan that would address both the her-itage conservation and development needs of the rural community. The Bureau was informed in June that consultations have taken place between national, state and local authorities and local NGOs to that effect.

While the Bureau in June expressed its appreciation that the Indian authorities intend to establish the Hampi Planning and Development Authority to ensure integrated development and conservation, it also requested that a comprehensive management plan for the site be prepared for examination by the Committee at its twenty-fifth session. It called for careful examination of a plan to relocate the two bridges to an area outside the World Heritage site.



During a mission to Mexico, Francesco Bandarin, Director of World Heritage Centre, met with Sara Guadalupe Bermudez, President of the National Council for Culture and Arts, and Fransisco Lopez Morales, Director of World Heritage at the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH), among other officials, to discuss developing joint initiatives and partnerships. He also met with Raul Sergio Arroyo-Garcia, Director of INAH, on developing programmes in support of site-management strategies.

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A Capacity Building and Institutional Development Workshop for Southern Africa was organized in September in Windhoek, Namibia jointly by the WHC and the Namibian authorities. The courses were planned in partnership with the National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe. One of the main goals was the drafting of National Action Plans for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. A manual illustrating the Convention, specially designed for the workshop by the team of trainers, was adopted and will be sent throughout Africa as a case study.

The third AFRICA 2009 Regional Course on Conservation and Management of Immovable **Cultural Heritage** came to a close on September 28th. The course was attended by 21 participants from 17 English-speaking countries in the region. A Directors Seminar was also held to discuss an independent assessment of the pilot phase of the programme and to approve a programme for the next four-year phase (2002 -2005). For the first time directors were invited from national heritage organizations in both English- and French speaking countries. The seminar was attended by 26 directors, the Director General of ICCROM, representatives of UNESCO, CRATerre-EAG, and bilateral development agencies.

A Regional Training Course on the Application of the World Heritage Convention and its Role in Sustainable Development and Tourism in the Caribbean was jointly organized from September 24th to October 3rd by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the UNESCO Kingston office and the Dominican authorities in collaboration with the Italian government. Participants approved the Dominica Document 2001 which calls for urgent action to be taken to integrate the preservation of heritage in national policies and development strategies and to ensure co-operation with cultural, natural, tourist and developmental entities, as well as with private and public sectors.

At the **10th World Heritage Youth Forum**, held in Karlskrona, Sweden in September, students and teachers from 29 countries gathered to discuss 'the dark and bright sides of World Heritage'. They prepared a series of useful and practical recommendations to continue to mobilize young people in favour of World Heritage Conservation and to provide them with concrete opportunities to make meaningful contributions for the future of World Heritage and the continuation of the UNESCO World Heritage Education Project. The goal is long-term commitment at the national level in order to raise awareness of our common World Heritage and the need for action.

The Nordic World Heritage Site Managers Meeting at Jelling, Denmark in August, focused on new developments and specific aspects of the World Heritage Convention, such as periodic reporting and World Heritage Education. Updated information was also provided on activities such as the Røros Summer Camp. The Norwegian authorities called for the next Site Managers Meeting to be held in Bryggen, Bergen in June 2002 with a focus on cultural landscapes.

Last July, former Committee Chair, Peter King, together with an international expert team, visited the Auschwitz Concentration Camp World Heritage site in Poland. The mission's task was to determine the need to extend the buffer zone in order to prevent inappropriate construction and use (including a discotheque) in the immediate vicinity of the camp. The buffer zone would guarantee the preservation of the sacred, associative and symbolic character of both Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration camps.

The **Expert Meeting on Vineyard Cultural Landscapes** in Tokay, Hungary in July, brought together 25 participants from States Parties which have vineyard landscapes on the World Heritage List, on their tentative lists, or in the process of nomination. The meeting particularly noted that the interaction of people and their environment must be taken into consideration when preparing and evaluating nominations.

### What Are They Doing ?

Apart from participating in the Regional Thematic Expert Meeting on Desert Landscapes in Egypt in September, Francesco Bandarin, WHC Director, went to Germany to review with German officials the possibility of support for the World Heritage programme: **Herman van** Hooff has left the WHC as Chief of the Latin America Unit, and taken up the post of Advisor for World Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean and Advisor for Culture in MERCOSUR at the UNESCO Montevideo Office; Carmen Negrin is the new Chief of the Latin America and Caribbean Unit, moving from the Division of Cultural Policies in UNESCO's Sector for Culture. Her main responsibilities are related to cultural heritage in the region and co-operation with ICOMOS; Mechtild Rössler, in addition to her responsibilities at the WHC in the Natural Heritage and Cultural Landscapes sector, has now become Chief of the European Unit; Giovanni Fontana Antonelli, Associate Expert for Cultural and Natural Heritage in Africa is on interim assignment, coordinating activities concerning Africa 2009; Associate expert Silvia Gasparetto, who has been working in the Africa Unit since

November 1999, will leave the Centre in November after a two-year stay; Rosemarie Oei has come to the WHC to work on the World Heritage Education Project, after five years in Bali, Indonesia where she was a museology consultant and curator at the Puri Lukisan Museum; Lynne Patchett started working at the WHC in October on a secondment from the United Kingdom (Dept. of Media, Culture and Sports). She is part of a three-person team preparing the forthcoming WH International Congress (November 2002) on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Convention. The Congress will help to identify mechanisms to ensure long-term conservation of World Heritage.



#### 5 to 9 November

2nd Regional Seminar on 'Conservation of Immovable Cultural Heritage in Sub-Saharan Africa' Segou, Mali. Information: jk@iccrom.org

#### 6 to 8 November

WHIPCOE (World Heritage Indigenous Peoples Council of Experts) Workshop Winnipeg, Canada. Information: s.titchen@unesco.org

#### 7 to 9 November

3rd International Seminar on Structural Analysis of Historical Constructions (University of Minho, Azurém, Guimarães, Portugal). Information: http://www.civil.uminho.pt/congress/historic.html

#### 22 November

European Landscape Convention Meeting Strasbourg (Council of Europe), France. Information: http://conventions.coe.int

#### 28 to 30 November

'Wetlands in the Tropical Urban Environment: A Symposium on Issues and Management in Luang Prabang' (Lao PDR Government; La Maison du Patrimoine - Water and Environment Service; UNESCO). Information: http://www.ambafrance-laos.org/laobas/co-operation/patrimoine/zones\_humides/colloque.htm, guedant@laotel.com

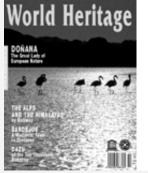
4 to 9 December Forum UNESCO Students' Workshop for Heritage Protection (Cultural Heritage Centre for Asia and the Pacific at Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia). Information: http://www.arts.deakin.edu.au/culturalheritage\_ centre/events/default.asp

7 to 8 December 25th Extraordinary Session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee Helsinki, Finland.

#### 11 to 16 December

25th Session of the World Heritage Committee Helsinki, Finland. Information: http://www.minedu.fi/minedu/whmeeting

**news** etter The World Heritage



World Heritage Review No. 22 has been available since October in bookshops in Spain, France, Canada and the United States (and by subscription elsewhere). The leader article in this issue focuses on World Heritage Railways, notably the Semmering Railway in Austria and the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway in India. Other articles feature: Doñana National Park, Spain, threatened in 1998 by toxic waste from a nearby mine; Cuenca de los Andes in Ecuador, a colonial city whose architecture is a faithful reflection of the fusion of its Indian and Spanish population; Bardejov, an exceptionally well-preserved medieval trading town in Slovakia; Dazu Grottoes in China, an extraordinary series of rock carvings dating from the ninth to the thirteenth centuries.

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