The events of the past year have clearly placed armed conflict and the wilful destruction of the common heritage of humanity - such as the Buddhas of Bamyan - at the forefront of public concern. It has equally become apparent to the international community that UNESCO can, and must, use all international legal instruments available to protect and conserve the world’s heritage.

The 25th session of the World Heritage Committee has called upon the Centre to organize a technical fact-finding and consultative mission to Afghanistan, within the framework of the UN Inter-Agency programme for the reconstruction of that country.

The mission will go to Afghanistan, as soon as the security situation permits, in order to assist the Afghan authorities in elaborating a national action plan. It will also provide assistance for assembling the documentation necessary to establish a national inventory of natural and cultural heritage properties. Above all, it will encourage the authorities in reactivating the nomination process initiated by the Afghan government in 1981.

The case of Bamyan served as a focal point for discussion on the concept of crimes against culture. The Committee recognized the need to examine possible actions it can take in the future where there are threats of deliberate destruction of listed and potential World Heritage sites.

In an entirely different part of the world, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the UNESCO/DRC/UNF-UNFIP Project is making considerable headway, not only in assessing damage caused by the civil war there, but also in working out solutions both with the Government in Kinshasa and the rebel groups in their strongholds for the protection and preservation of the natural heritage within the territories they control.

Unfortunately, in the DRC, natural disaster has now been added to the problems stemming from protracted civil war, with the eruption of the Mount Nyiragongo volcano in January. Much of the city of Goma, which borders on the Virunga National Park (one of the five World Heritage sites in the country) was destroyed. The displaced population and international aid agencies are now dealing with the enormous task of reconstruction and rehabilitation.

In addition to the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, there are several international legal instruments available for the conservation and protection of the world’s heritage in zones of armed conflict, including: the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (The Hague, 1954), and its Protocols, the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970), and the UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects (1995).

All these conventions and other relevant international legal instruments will help those involved in conservation and protection. We must encourage States Parties to the World Heritage Convention who have not yet ratified these legal instruments to do so, and thus make it easier for us to fulfil our mandate.

Francesco Bandarin, Director, World Heritage Centre
The 25th annual session of the World Heritage Committee, held in Helsinki, Finland from 11 to 16 December 2001, reviewed the state of conservation of 100 properties and inscribed 31 new sites on the World Heritage List (see attachment). The Committee also added two sites, in Egypt and the Philippines, to the List of World Heritage in Danger, and removed one site in Brazil from this List (see opposite page). The session was attended by representatives of the 21 Committee members (Belgium, China, Colombia, Egypt, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Mexico, Portugal, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Thailand, Zimbabwe, and new members, Argentina, India, Lebanon, Oman, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Santa Lucia and the United Kingdom), over 50 observers from States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, as well as representatives from ICOMOS, IUCN and ICOMROM, and nearly 20 other organizations.

One of the main priorities is a rationalization of the way we carry out our work. Therefore the finalization of the Operational Guidelines becomes imperative. We must also study what I would call the ‘structure’ of the World Heritage in Danger. Mr Matsuura stressed the importance of the creation of long-term partnerships with all sectors of society in order to develop a support network for World Heritage conservation.

The Committee discussed the repercussions of the destruction last year of the Bamyan statues in Afghanistan at the hands of the Taliban. Mr Matsuura informed the Committee that the implementation of the provisions contained in exiting international cultural heritage conventions needed to be strengthened and said that he had been asked by the General Conference to prepare a Draft Declaration Against the Intentional Destruction of Cultural Heritage.

The Committee reiterated the 13th General Assembly of States Parties’ condemnation of ‘the willful destruction of the cultural heritage of Afghanistan’. It requested the Centre to organize a fact-finding and consultative mission to Afghanistan to reactivate the implementation of the World Heritage Convention there.

The Committee placed great emphasis on the reform process, which is aimed at bringing greater representivity to the World Heritage List and equitable representation to the Committee. It confirmed that at its session in 2003 the number of new nominations examined would be limited to a maximum of 50. A priority system allows States Parties with no sites on the List to submit up to three new nominations, while all other States Parties must restrict the addition of new nominations to one per year.

Henrik Lilius of Finland, Chair of the World Heritage Committee, said that the Committee itself is now more representative of all regions and cultures of the world, thanks largely to the commitment of more States Parties to make their seats available after four years of their six-year mandate.

The Committee approved the budget of the World Heritage Fund in the amount of US$105,000 for 2002 and US$9,950,000 for 2003. Mr Bandarin, WHC Director, pointed out that for the first time, the World Heritage Fund budget was being presented to the Committee for a biennial period (2002-2003).

The Director stressed the need to consider the growing inadequacy of available resources with respect to the needs posed by an ever-increasing number of sites located in countries and regions with limited technical and financial capacities. He proposed the exploration of new long-term models of partnerships with public and private institutions.

During the 25th session, the Committee adopted the proposed World Heritage Information Management Programme to be co-ordinated by the World Heritage Centre (see Newsletter N° 32).

The Committee recognized the special role that indigenous peoples have with respect to certain World Heritage properties and the importance of a network providing a forum for an exchange of information and experience. Although it did not approve the establishment of WHPOCE (World Heritage Indigenous Peoples’ Council of Experts), the Committee encouraged professional research, exchange of views on the subject, and activities undertaken by individual States Parties.

The Committee discussed Periodic Reporting activities in progress in Asia and the Pacific (report to be presented to the 26th session to be held in the Nordic region, and the first one to be co-ordinated by the World Heritage Centre, Helsinki).

The Committee decided to hold a meeting of a Drafting Group in March 2002, which will draft, in a new, more user-friendly text of the Operational Guidelines.

The Secretariat put forward a proposal for ‘Principles, Programmes and Partnerships’, which for the sake of syntheses was labelled the ‘Three Ps’.

The ‘Principles tool would serve to establish clear guidelines for World Heritage conservation, while the basic aim of the Programmes proposal is to use International Assistance strategically to provide seed money that can then be supplemented by financial and technical support from other partners. The Partnerships tool would give coherence to, and expand, activities based on co-operation with partners,’ Mr Bandarin told the Committee.

The Committee then requested the Centre, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, to further elaborate a paper on the development of these tools, considering the need to define and strengthen the ‘credibility’, the ‘conservation’ and the ‘capacity-building’ (the ‘Three Cs’) objectives of the World Heritage Convention.

The Committee also discussed the upcoming 30th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention. A number of events are scheduled to mark this anniversary. Among them are the 26th session of the World Heritage Committee in Budapest in June/July, the Conference of Parties to the World Heritage Convention on Sustainable Development in December in Johannesberg in September, a virtual, web-based Congress in October and finally, the International Congress of Experts in Venice in November. All these events will be occasions to evaluate the impact of the World Heritage Convention.
New World Heritage Sites
December 2001

The 25th session of the World Heritage Committee at its meeting in Helsinki, Finland in December 2001 inscribed 31 new sites from 24 countries on the World Heritage List.

The 31 new inscriptions correspond to 6 natural sites and 25 cultural sites. For the first time, sites in Botswana and Israel have been included. The concept of cultural landscapes has also gained currency with, notably, the wine-growing region of Alto Douro (Portugal), Tsodilo (Botswana), the Champaak Cultural Landscape (Lao People’s Democratic Republic) and the Cultural Landscape of Ferro/Neusiedlersee, which straddles Austria and Hungary.

Six sites already on the World Heritage List were also extended: China - Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa (extension to include the Norbulingka Palace); Cyprus - Painted Churches in the Troodos Region (extension to include the Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour); Ecuador - Galápagos Islands (extension to include the marine reserve); Kenya - Lake Turkana National Parks (extension of the Sibiloi/Central Island National Parks to include South Island National Park); Russian Federation - Volcanoes of Kamchatka (extension to include Klyuchevskoy Nature Park); Spain - Mudejar Architecture of Aragon (extension to the site formerly called Mudejar Architecture of Teruel).

The World Heritage List now numbers 721 sites of outstanding universal value in 124 countries, 554 of which are cultural sites, 144 natural sites and 23 mixed sites.

AUSTRIA
Historic Centre of Vienna (C I, II, V)
Vienna developed from early Celtic and Roman settlements into a Medieval and Baroque city, the capital of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire. It played an essential role as a leading European music centre, from the great age of Viennese Classicism through the early part of the 20th century. The historic centre of Vienna is rich in architectural ensembles, including Baroque castles and gardens, as well as the late-19th-century Ringstrasse lined with grand buildings, monuments and parks.

BOTSWANA
Tsodilo (C I, III, V)
With one of the highest concentrations of rock art in the world, Tsodilo has been called the “Louvre of the Desert”. Over 4,500 paintings are preserved in an area of only 10 km² of the Kgalagadi Desert. The archaeological record of the area gives a chronological account of human activities and environmental changes over at least 100,000 years. Local communities in this hostile environment respect Tsodilo as a place of worship frequented by ancestral spirits.

BRAZIL
Brazilian Atlantic Islands: Fernando de Noronha and Atol das Rocas Reserves (N II, III, V)
Peaks of the Southern Atlantic sub-tropical marine ridge form the Fernando de Noronha Archipelago and Rocas Atoll off the coast of Brazil. They represent a large proportion of the island surface of the South Atlantic and their rich waters are extremely important for the breeding and feeding of tuna, shark, turtle and marine mammals. The islands are home to the largest concentration of tropical seabirds in the Western Atlantic. Baia de Golfinhos has an exceptional population of resident dolphins and at low tide the Rocas Atoll provides a spectacular seacoast of lagoons and tidal pools teeming with fish.

CUBA
Anandalao de Humboldt National Park (N IV, V)
Complex geology and varied topography have given rise to a diversity of ecosystems and species unmatched in the insular Caribbean and created one of the most biologically diverse tropical island sites on earth. Many of the underlying rocks are toxic to plants, so species have had to adapt to survive in these hostile conditions. This unique process of evolution has resulted in the development of many new species and the park is one of the most important sites in the Western Hemisphere for the conservation of endemic flora. Endemism of vertebrates and invertebrates is also very high.

CZECH REPUBLIC
Tynec nad Vltavou (C I, IV)
The town of Tynec nad Vltavou, designed by the architect Milés van der Rohe, is an outstanding example of the international style in the modern movement in architecture as it developed in Europe in the 1920s. Its particular value lies in the application of innovative spatial and aesthetic concepts that aim to satisfy new lifestyle needs by taking advantage of the opportunities afforded by modern industrial production.

FRANCE
Provins, Town of Medieval Fairs (C II, IV)
The fortified medieval town of Provins is situated in the former territory of the powerful Counts of Champagne. It bears witness to early developments in the organization of international trade fairs and the wool industry. The urban structure of Provins, which was built specifically to host the fairs and related activities, has been well preserved.

GERMANY
Zollverein Coal Mine Industrial Complex in Essen (C II, III, IV)
The Zollverein industrial landscape in Land Nordrhein-Westfalen consists of the complete infrastructure of an historical coal-mining site, with some 20th-century buildings of outstanding architectural merit. It constitutes remarkable material evidence of the evolution and decline of an essential industry over the past 150 years.

ISRAEL
Masada (C II, IV, V)
The site of the self-immolation of approximately a thousand Jewish patriots in the face of a large Roman army, Masada is a symbol of the ancient kingdom of Israel. Built as a palace complex and place of refuge by Herod the Great, King of Judaea (reigned 37–4 BC), Masada’s extensive remains survive on the summit of this seemingly impregnable fortress, set in a rugged natural landscape of great beauty. The siege works of the Roman army and other related sites lie unexcavated at the base of the rock.

Old City of Acre (C II, III, IV)
The historic townscape of the walled port city of Acre is characteristic of Islamic town planning, with narrow winding streets and fine public buildings and houses. Beneath the 18th- and 19th-century Ottoman Acre, lie almost intact the remains of its predecessor, the Crusader city, dating from 1104 to 1291. Crusader Acre is today mostly subterranean and has only recently begun to be revealed.

NETHERLANDS
(a) The Hague complex of international law institutions (C II, III, IV)

NORWAY
Flakstad Museum (N II, IV)
The museum is a fine example of traditional boat building in the Lofoten archipelago, exemplifying traditions of craftsmanship, material culture and lifestyle. It is the only museum of this kind left in Norway.

RUSSIA
(а) Turochaksky District Nature Reserve (N II, IV)

SLOVAKIA
Turiec Region Cultural Landscape (N II, V)

SPAIN
Old Town of Cadaqués (C III, IV)

UNITED KINGDOM
(a) The Historic Area of Bedouin Settlement at Masada (C I, II, V)

ZAMBIA
Kwacha Cultural Landscape (C II, III, IV)

ZIMBABWE
(а) Great Zimbabwe (N II, IV)

THE WORLD HERITAGE PROGRAMME 2001
**ITALY**

**Villa d’Este, Tivoli**
(C ii, iv, v)

The Villa d’Este in Tivoli, with its palace and garden, is one of the most remarkable and comprehensive illustrations of Renaissance culture at its most refined. Its innovative design along with the architectural components in the garden (fountains, ornamental basins, etc.) makes this a unique example of an Italian 16th-century garden. The Villa d’Este, one of the first giardini delle meraviglie, was an early model for the development of European gardens.

**KENYA**

**Ol Molo Old Town**
(C ii, iv, v)

Ol Molo Town is the oldest and best-preserved Swahili settlement in East Africa, retaining its traditional functions. Built in coral stone and mud in the 19th century, it is characterized by the simplicity of structural forms enriched by such features as intercourtyards, verandas, and elaborately carved wooden doors. Lamu has hosted major Muslim religious festivals since the 19th century, and has become a significant centre for the study of Islamic and Swahili cultures.

**LAO PEOPLE’S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

**Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape**
(C ii, iv, v)

The Champasak cultural landscape, including the Vat Phou temple complex, is a remarkably well-preserved planned landscape dating back to AD 500. It was shaped to express the Hindu vision of the relationship between nature and humanity, with a boundary wall from mountain top to river bank to lay out a geometric pattern of temples, shrines and waterworks extending over some 10 km. Two planned cities on the banks of the Mekong River are also part of the site, as well as Phou Kao mountain. The whole represents a development ranging from the 5th to 15th centuries, mainly associated with the Khmer Empire.

**MADAGASCAR**

**Royal Hill of Ambohimanga**
(C ii, iv, v)

The Royal Hill of Ambohimanga consists of a royal city and burial site, and an ensemble of sacred places. It is associated with strong feelings of national identity, and has maintained its spiritual and sacred character both in ritual practice and the popular imagination for the past 500 years. It remains a place of worship to which pilgrims come for the past 500 years. It remains a place of worship to which pilgrims come.

**MOROCCO**

**Meadow of Essaouira (formerly Mogador)**
(C ii, iv)

Essaouira is an exceptional example of a late-18th century fortified town, built according to the principles of contemporary European military architecture in a North African context. Since its foundation, it has been a major international trading seaport, linking Morocco and its Saharan hinterland with Europe and the rest of the world.

**PORTUGAL**

**Sintra Douro Wine Region**
(C ii, iv, v)

Wine has been produced by traditional landholders in the Alto Douro region for some 2,000 years. Since the 18th century, its main product, port wine, has been world famous for its quality. This long tradition of viticulture has produced a cultural landscape of outstanding beauty that reflects its technological, social and economic evolution.

**SWITZERLAND**

**Churches of Peace in Jawor and Swidnica**
(N i, ii, iii)

The Churches of Peace in Jawor and Swidnica, the largest timber-framed religious buildings in Europe, were built in the former Silesia in the mid-17th century, at a time of religious strife following the Peace of Westphalia. Constrained by physical and political conditions, the Churches of Peace bear testimony to the quest for religious freedom and are a rare expression of Lutheran ideology in an idiom generally associated with the Catholic Church.

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**Central Sikhote-Alin**
(N i)

The Sikhote-Alin mountain range contains one of the richest and most unusual temperate forests of the world. In this mixed zone between taiga and subtropics, south- ern species such as the tiger and Himalayan bear cohabit with northern species such as the brown bear and lynx. The site stretches from the middle currents of the Ussuri River tributaries to the peaks of Sikhote-Alin and further to the Sea of Japan and is important for the survival of many endangered species such as the Amur tiger.

**SWEDEN**

**Minning Area of the Great Copper Mountain in Falun**
(C ii, iv, v)

The enormous mining excavation known as the Great Pit at Falun is the most striking feature of a landscape that illustrates the activity of copper production in this region since at least the 13th century. The 17th-century planned town of Falun with its many fine historic buildings, together with the industrial and domestic remains of a number of settlements spread over a wide area of the Dalarna region, provide a vivid picture of what was for centuries one of the world’s most important mining areas.

**SPAIN**

**Aranjuez Cultural Landscape**
(C ii, iv, v)

The Aranjuez cultural landscape is an entity of complex relationships: between nature and human activity, between sinuous watercourses and geometric landscape design, between the rural and the urban, between forest landscape and the delicately modulated architecture of its palatial buildings. Three hundred years of royal attention to the development and care of this landscape have resulted in the expression of an evolution of concepts from humanism and political centralization, to characteristics such as those found in its 18th-century French-style Baroque garden, to the urban landscape which developed alongside the sciences of plant aclimatization and stock-breeding during the Age of Enlightenment.

**UNITED KINGDOM**

**Derwent Valley Mills**
(C ii, iv)

The Derwent Valley in central England contains a series of 18th- and 19th-century cotton mills and an industrial landscape reflecting historical and technological interest. The factory town owes its origins to the mills at Cromford, where Richard Arkwright’s inventions were first put into industrial-scale production. The workers’ housing associated with this and the other mills remains intact and illustrates the socio-economic development of the area.

**UNITED STATES**

**Samarkand Crossroads of Cultures**
(C ii, iv, v)

The historic town of Samarkand is a crossroad and melting pot of the world’s cultures. Founded in the 7th century BC as ancient Afrosiab, Samarkand had its most significant development in the Timurid period from the 14th to the 15th centuries. The major monuments include the Registan Mosque and madrasahs, Bibi-Khanum Mosque, the Shah-i-Zinda compound and the Gur-Emir ensemble, as well as Ulug-Beg’s Observatory.

**UGANDA**

**Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi**
(C ii, iv, v)

The Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi constitute a site embracing almost 30 ha of hillside within Kampala district. Most of the site is agricultural, farmed by traditional methods. At its core is the former royal palace of the Kababas of Buganda, built in 1882 and converted into the royal burying ground in 1884. Royal tombs now lie within the Muzibu Azaala Mpinga, the main building, which is circular and surrounded by a mound. It is a major example of an architectural achievement of Sengi wood, principally wood, thatch, reed, wattle and daub. The site’s main significance lies, however, in its intangible values of belief, spirituality, continuity and identity.
Democratic Republic of the Congo:
Armed Conflict and Biodiversity

From November 24th to December 3rd 2001 representatives of the UNESCO/DRC/UNF-UNFIP Project on ‘Biodiversity Conservation in Regions of Armed Conflict: Protecting World Natural Heritage in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)’ travelled to the DRC to meet and work with partners working in Virunga, Garamba, Kahuzi Biega and Selenga National Parks and Okapi Wildlife Reserve in a war-ravaged country. All five sites are on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The team, which included WHC Director Francesco Bandarin, Chief of Natural Heritage Department of Architectural Design in the State Centre of Monument Restoration at the National Monument Protection Authority in Budapest in the 1990s. In 1995 Mr Németh was assigned by the Royal Angkor Foundation to work on the protection of the Angkor World Heritage site in Cambodia. He also served as Head of the Department of Serial Properties in the State Centre of Monument Restoration at the National Monument Protection Authority in Budapest in the 1980s. Mr Németh, in his long career, won many awards, including the Chamber of Hungarian Architects’ Award and the Pro Artibus Award. He also contributed to many business publications.

A Study of the Lists

The 25th session of the World Heritage Centre requested that the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies proceed with an analysis of sites inscribed on the World Heritage List and the States Parties’ tentative lists. Final results of this comprehensive study are set to be presented to the States Parties by the end of 2003.

In Memoriam: Ferenc Németh

The tragic and untimely death of Ferenc Németh in an automobile accident in Hungary, saddened the opening of the 25th session of the World Heritage Centre. Since 1991 Mr Németh had served as Head of the Secretariat of the Hungarian World Heritage Committee, and had worked in the Hungarian Ministry of Cultural Heritage. From 1986 to 1990 he was Head of the Department of Monuments Protection in the Hungarian Ministry of Cultural Heritage. Before that, he worked on independent projects.

In 1993 Mr Németh was assigned by the Royal Angkor Foundation to work on the protection of the Angkor World Heritage site in Cambodia. He also served as Head of the Department of Serial Properties in the State Centre of Monument Restoration at the National Monument Protection Authority in Budapest in the 1980s. Mr Németh, in his long career, won many awards, including the Chamber of Hungarian Architects’ Award and the Pro Artibus Award. He also contributed to many business publications. Németh was a very gentle and humble person, who performed his role with great discretion and style, always keeping how to anticipate problems and find appropriate solutions. On 29 October 2001 Ferenc Németh, head of the UNESCO/DRC/UNF-UNFIP Project, was awarded the ‘badge of honour’ to a guard at Virunga National Park.

The Rice Terraces of the Philippines Cordilleras and the city of Abu Mena in Egypt were inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger at the 25th session of the World Heritage Centre’s Brazil’s Iguaçu National Park (inscribed in 1989) was removed from this List. The List of World Heritage in Danger now includes 31 sites around the world.

The Rice Terraces of the Philippines Cordilleras, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1995, represent a very delicate, evolving cultural landscape. In the absence of a systematic monitoring programme and comprehensive management plan, the future of this site is uncertain, impossible to guarantee the preservation and sustainable development of this landscape. The State Party considers the inscription of the Rice Terraces of the Philippines Cordilleras on the List of World Heritage in Danger as an essential tool for mobilizing effective, decisive and rapid intervention to address the threats facing this site.

The early Christian holy city of Abu Mena (Egypt), built over the tomb of the martyr Menas of Alexandria, has retained its church, baptistery, basilicas and monasteries, as well as houses and workshops. While the dry soilcape was capable of sustaining building, a land-reclamation programme for agricultural development has caused a dramatic rise of the water table. Excess water is posing a serious threat of collapse to numerous buildings and they have had to be closed to the public for the time being. UNESO/DRC/UNF-UNFIP expressed its agreement for the inscription of Abu Mena on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Abu Mena was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1979.

Iguaçu National Park (Brazil) was removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger on which it was inscribed in 1989. Since the In-Danger listing, the State Party conducted a lengthy operation to cut the Brazilian part of the World Heritage site in two (see Newsletter No 31).

Preparatory assistance is available from the Centre upon request as regional and thematic categories may be updated at any time. In recent years, the number of States Parties presenting tentative lists has grown exponentially, from 26 percent in June 1995 to 75 percent in January 2001. The World Heritage List itself will be the target of the first phase of the analysis. Short- and medium-term trends will be examined on the basis of regional, chronological, geographical and thematic categories. This phase should be completed by June 2002. The analysis of the tentative lists, based on the same categories, should be completed by June 2003.

In order to identify under-represented categories, the study will look at the diversity and particularities of heritage properties in each region. It will also draw on the results of regional Periodic Reporting, and take into account the recommendations of the regional and thematic meetings on the harmonization of tentative lists held since 1984 and those on the Global Strategy organized since 1994.

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A Co-operation Agreement has been approved with the Government of the Netherlands to improve the implementation of the World Heritage Convention through an additional contribution of 1.8 million Euros made available to the World Heritage Centre over the period 2001-2004. The contribution is aimed at undertaking site-specific field work to support activities for the implementation of the Global Strategy, technical co-operation, education and periodic reporting.

Salvina molesta: a damaging floating aquatic weed has been eradicated from the Puno National Reserve, Peru, through the introduction of beetles (Cyrtobagous salvini) into the area, made pos-

Within the framework of the UNESCO Special Project ‘Young People’s Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion’ an International World Heritage Education Workshop was held in Helsinki, Finland, in December to coincide with the 25th session of the World Heritage Committee. The work-

In tribute to the International Year of Mountains 2002, UNESCO has produced a CD Rom in collabora-

What Are They Doing?

Minja Yang, WHC Deputy-Director, went to Myanmar in late December, where she met with the Minister of Culture, U Tin Win, to discuss the Bagan cultural landscape nomination and management plan, being prepared with input from the Japan Funds-in-Trust; before his mission undertaken in December with the WHC Director to Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chief of Natural Heritage Natarajan Ishaunaran went to Washington for a meeting, organized by the World Bank and Shell International B.V., on Protected Areas and Extractive Industries. While in the United States, Mr Ishwaran also participated in the Steering Committee meeting to initiate initiatives for the protection and management of the nominating process of Georgetown and to review current official and site management authorities; Peter Stott, WHC Consultant, was in Guyana to discuss future action to be taken in the one for new nominations of Iranian cultural heritage properties. She discussed international co-operation for building capacity for the conservation of cultural heritage in the Central Asian sub-region, including Afghanistan, Pakistan and the five Central Asian republics; Art Pedersen, World Heritage Consultant on tourism and visitor management, was at the El Vizcaino Whale Sanctuary, Mexico in November to participate in site assessment workshops, organized under the UNEP project, ‘Linking Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism at World Heritage Sites’. Site assessment work-

Left to right, Mr Chandra Khilang, Director of Patola Palace, WHC Consultant Peter Stott, Gho Zhan, Department for Preservation of Cultural Properties in Beijing, and other representatives of the Potala Palace on the roof of the Jokhang Temple Monastery.

Lhasa, China, and reported that the southwestern wall of the palace, which partially collapsed in August 2001 due to heavy rainfall, is being repaired. Mr Stott also went to Siachen, Shansui province and the Beijing region at the request of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage of China to examine World Heritage sites and to meet local officials and site management authorities; Rom van Oers, Consultant for Urban Conservation & Management, was in Guyana to discuss future action to be taken in the nominating process of Georgetown and to review current initiatives for the protection and management of the cultural-historic parts of the city.

The World Heritage Centre
Publisher: UNESCO World Heritage Centre 7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SR France Fax: +33 01 45 88 92 70 http://www.unesco.org/whc/ e-mail: whedit@unesco.org Editor: Barbara Giudice Co-coordinator Maria Negron-Legasy (e-mail: masign@unesco.org) English-French translation: Sabine de Valencia Graphic Design: Nadia Gibson / Grace Hodeir Print: UNESCO ISBN 92-00-05614-2 This newsletter is available on request in three versions: Print: Write to the World Heritage Centre E-mail: send “subscribe whnews” to majordomo@world.std.com Web Site: http://www.unesco.org/whc/news/index_en.htm