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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL
AND NATURAL HERITAGE

BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-fourth ordinary 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 World Heritage List.

SUMMARY

In accordance with paragraphs 48-56 and 86-93 of the Operational Guidelines, the Secretariat and advisory bodies submit herewith reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.

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

Decision required:

PART I: The Bureau is requested to examine the state of conservation reports and take the appropriate decisions thereupon.

PART II: The Bureau is requested to take note of the information provided.

INTRODUCTION

(i) This document deals with **reactive monitoring** as it is defined in the Operational Guidelines: "The reporting by the Centre, other sectors of UNESCO and the advisory bodies to the Bureau and the Committee on the state of conservation of specific World Heritage sites that are under threat". Reactive monitoring is foreseen in the procedures for the eventual deletion of properties from the World Heritage List (paragraphs 48-56 of the Operational Guidelines) and for the inclusion of properties in the List of World Heritage in Danger (paragraphs 86-93 of the Operational Guidelines).

(ii) To facilitate the work of the Bureau, state of conservation reports are presented in a standard format that includes the following information:

- Name of property (State Party)
- Year of inscription on the World Heritage List
- International assistance
- 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 in this document.)
- New information
- Action required

(iii) In addition, this document is now divided in two parts:

PART I Reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List for examination

This part of the document includes state of conservation reports on which the Bureau is requested to take action, i.e. adopt a proposed decision.

PART II Reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List for noting.

This part includes information on the state of conservation of specific properties that is transmitted to the Bureau for noting.

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**PART I REPORTS ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES
INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST FOR
EXAMINATION**

NATURAL HERITAGE

At its twenty-third session (Marrakesh, 1999), the Committee examined the state of conservation of conservation eight natural heritage properties. Of this number, the Committee decided to include three sites in the List of World Heritage in Danger. State of conservation reports on those three properties, namely Iguacu National Park (Brazil), Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) and the Rwenzori Mountains (Uganda) are included in document WHC-2000/CONF.202/4 - Reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Furthermore, the Committee also noted the decisions of the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau on the state of conservation of twenty-two additional natural heritage properties. In the case of six of the twenty-two properties, the Committee noted additional observations made by the delegates present during the session of the Committee. State of conservation reports on nineteen sites, reviewed by the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau and/or the twenty-third session of the Committee during November – December 1999, are updated in this document. In addition, new reports on the state of conservation of ten natural heritage properties are also presented.

At its twenty-third session, the Committee took note of the “WCPA Position Statement on Mining and Associated Activities in Relation to Protected Areas” in light of its deliberations on threats and potential threats from mining to specific World Heritage properties. Representatives of the Centre and IUCN attended a meeting organised by the International Council on Metals and the Environment (ICME) on “Mining and Biodiversity”, at Kew Gardens/London, UK, from 13 to 15 March 2000. UNEP’s Office for Technology, Industry and Economics, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNCTAD, and a number of NGOs, including WWF, Birdlife International and Conservation International participated in the meeting, which served as a preparatory event for the technical meeting to analyse case studies on World Heritage and mining as requested by the Committee. The technical meeting will take place in IUCN from 18 to 21 September 2000 to develop recommendations for review and discussion by the twenty-fourth session of the Committee.

I.1. World Natural Heritage Properties of Australia

At its twenty-third session (Marrakesh, November-December 1999), the Committee examined the state of conservation report on the Great Barrier Reef. In addition, it noted the observations of the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau (26-27 November 1999) on Shark Bay; the Wet Tropics of Queensland; and Heard and McDonald Islands.

The Committee welcomed the assessment process initiated by the Australian Committee for IUCN (ACIUCN) for Australian World Heritage sites. The process aims to identify key issues at each site and recommend measures to address such issues. In 1999, this process was applied to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA) and resulted in a set of “Focused Recommendations”, and a “Framework for the Management” that would enable monitoring of the implementation of those recommendations. The Committee (Marrakesh, 1999) accepted both the “Recommendations” and the “Framework” for the GBRWHA and

encouraged the Australian authorities and IUCN to develop similar recommendations and frameworks for monitoring their implementation in other sites as well. The Committee had noted that similar sets of focused recommendations and frameworks for monitoring their implementation were to be developed for Shark Bay and the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage properties during the year 2000.

The State Party is due to submit a progress report on the implementation of the focused recommendations for the GBRWHA to the twenty-fourth session of the Committee. The Committee, at its last session, had noted that the ACIUCN assessment and consultation process to develop the focused set of recommendations and a framework for their implementation in the Wet Tropics of Queensland would be submitted to the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau in November 2000. Hence, state of conservation reports of the GBRWHA and the Wet Tropics of Queensland are not submitted to this (twenty-fourth ordinary) session of the Bureau.

The ACIUCN assessment process has been applied to the Shark Bay World Heritage area and its main conclusions and recommendations are presented below. In addition, state of conservation reports on three additional sites are presented: Heard and McDonald Islands; Fraser Island; and Central Eastern Rainforests.

I.2 Shark Bay, Western Australia

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1991

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.28 and Annex VIII

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV. 22

New information: ACIUCN has completed its report on the 'Shark Bay World Heritage Area: Condition, Management and Threats' and made a total of 15 recommendations. The report was compiled over several months culminating in its adoption by ACIUCN at its 41st Ordinary Meeting, held during 30-31 March 2000. The process involved a questionnaire circulated by ACIUCN to various organisations and individuals and then a series of working group meetings to discuss and agree on the final report. There has been extensive consultation with a range of organisations, agencies, and individuals involved and interested in the Shark Bay World Heritage Area, including Commonwealth, State and Local Government authorities, conservation groups, members of the Shark Bay Community Consultative and Scientific Advisory Committees, scientists, locals and industry groups.

The overall report (included as WHC-2000/CONF.202/INF.11 to this session of the Bureau, in English only) provides a comprehensive assessment of issues at Shark Bay. To arrive at a set of more focused recommendations, IUCN undertook a cluster analysis of the 15 recommendations in consultation with members of the working group and ACIUCN. This analysis identified the following five priority action areas:

1. Overall Management Framework (*Recommendations 1 and 15 in the ACIUCN Report*)

Shark Bay was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1991; but there is still no overarching plan with a primary objective of protection of the World Heritage property and to provide an overall management framework for activities within the area. Various

planning documents available to the management apply to the property but they do not serve as a substitute for the overarching plan. In this context IUCN recognises that the draft *Shark Bay World Heritage Property Strategic Plan* is now being finalised for public comment.

ACIUCN recommends that the *Shark Bay World Heritage Property Strategic Plan* be completed and implemented as a matter of high priority. **ACIUCN further recommends** that outstanding reserve proposals identified in existing planning documents be implemented as a matter of priority and that appropriate management arrangements with adequate staff and resources be instituted to ensure that the World Heritage values of the property are maintained.

2. Minerals and Petroleum: Exploration and Extraction (*Recommendations 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 in the ACIUCN Report*)

Activities relating to exploration and extraction of mineral and petroleum resources and the production of salt have the potential to impact on the World Heritage values of the property. Issues concerning mineral exploration and extraction are contentious and it was not possible to achieve unanimous agreement with respect to the recommendations adopted in the ACIUCN report. Shell mining and salt extraction were occurring in the site at the time the site was designated World Heritage and the State Party and the Western Australian government agreement to its listing was predicated on their continuation. The Coquina Shell nevertheless is an important feature of the World Heritage area and proposals to expand salt extraction into the current boundaries of the World Heritage area are of concern. ACIUCN takes the policy position that mining and mineral exploration should not take place in IUCN Protected Area Categories I and II. In accordance with the recent position paper of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), this policy has been extended to include IUCN Protected Area Categories III and IV, despite the fact that the decision to extend the policy to the latter categories was not unanimously accepted by the membership of IUCN/WCPA. ACIUCN has suggested that the Commonwealth and the State Government report on actions taken to ensure that where such activities occur they do not cause damage to the World Heritage values of the site.

ACIUCN recommends that no such exploration, exploitation and salt production activities should take place where they are likely to cause damage to World Heritage values.

3. Biological Resource Harvest (*Recommendations 11, 12, 13 and 14 in the ACIUCN Report*)

There are grazing leases in parts of the terrestrial area, aquaculture operations, proposals for further aquaculture developments and a number of fisheries activities in the marine area. The extent to which they are ecologically sustainable and may impact individually or cumulatively on the World Heritage values of the area is not clear.

ACIUCN recommends that management plans be developed and implemented that ensure that any grazing, aquaculture and fisheries activities are ecologically sustainable and not likely, individually or cumulatively, to cause adverse impacts on World Heritage values.

4. **Invasive Species** (*Recommendations 8,10 and 14 in the ACIUCN Report*)

Pastoral activities, aquaculture and ballast discharge from ships, current and potential threats of feral animal and exotic plant introductions with consequent impacts pose considerable threats to World Heritage values.

ACIUCN recommends that strategic plans be developed and implemented to eradicate or adequately control feral and exotic species that currently occur and to prevent future entry and establishment of invasive species.

5. **Visitor Management** (*Recommendations 9 and 12 in the ACIUCN Report*)

World Heritage status requires presentation of the natural and cultural heritage whilst ensuring that the activities of visitors are not likely to impact adversely on the values of the area. The natural attractions of Shark Bay include many of the features for which the area is included in the World Heritage List. In addition, Shark Bay is considered one of the most popular recreational fishing locations in Western Australia. Proposals to facilitate and encourage visitor access are currently under consideration.

ACIUCN recommends that an overall visitor management strategy be developed as a matter of priority, with particular reference to areas of high nature conservation value, to ensure that tourism and recreational fishing are consistent with maintenance of World Heritage values.

The Australian Government, via a letter dated 4 May 2000 has, informed the centre that a detailed response to the recommendations of the ACIUCN report, presented in the document WHC-2000/CONF.202/INF.11, will be presented at the time of the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau.

Action required: The Bureau, based on additional information that will be submitted at the time of its session, may wish to take appropriate decisions thereupon.

I.3. Heard and McDonald Islands

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1997

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.28 and Annex VIII.

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.24

New information: In accordance with the information they provided to the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau (November 1999), the Australian authorities submitted to the Centre a desk-study report entitled “Conservation of Marine Habitats in the Region of Heard Island and McDonald Islands”. The Centre transmitted the report to IUCN for review. IUCN found the report complete and comprehensive in addressing integrity issues and the creation of a Marine Protected Area (MPA) surrounding the existing World Heritage site. The report stressed that Australian commercial fishing within the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ) around Heard and McDonald Islands (HMI) is subject to the Australian Fisheries Management Act (1991). Fisheries tend to be concentrated in two main areas rather than being dispersed over the whole marine plateau region, thus reducing potential impacts on the marine environment. Some illegal fishing has been reported in the north eastern parts of HMI,

targeting tooth-fish. Despite existing opportunities for recreation and tourism the level of visitation is very low due to access and climatic constraints.

The report notes that bottom trawling for Patagonian tooth-fish and mackerel ice-fish is currently the primary threat to the benthic environment of HMI, but to date no study has been undertaken to examine the effects of trawling on this area. Following a detailed assessment of biophysical and biological characteristics of the marine environment the report recommends that a Marine Protected Area (MPA) be established to protect unique features of HMI's marine environment. Five areas, encompassing 68,320km², have been identified for protection in reserves compatible to IUCN protected area category I, in addition to the existing protection given to the territorial sea.

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

“The Bureau commends the State Party for preparing and submitting a thorough report that provides a sound technical basis for the establishment of a Marine Protected Area (MPA) and to enhance conservation of the Heard and McDonald Islands World Heritage site. The Bureau invites the State Party to consider implementing the recommendations of the report and submit a progress report to the twenty-fifth ordinary session of the Bureau in 2001”.

I.4. Fraser Island

Year of Inscription on the World Heritage List: 1992

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations: Not applicable

New information: IUCN has informed the Centre that it has received a number of reports raising issues relevant to the state of conservation of this site. These include:

- Impacts associated with increasing tourism, particularly on fresh water environments and the unique dune lake system;
- Adequacy of the fire management programme implemented in the site; and
- Reduction in state government funding for the management of this site, which has been associated with pressures to emphasise on site revenue generation mechanisms.

Furthermore, IUCN has noted that the Fraser Island Scientific Advisory Committee has undertaken a review of the World Heritage values of the site and a report on the findings of the review is due to be completed in 2000.

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

“The Bureau invites the State Party to study the issues raised by IUCN and consider extending the application of ACIUCN's assessment and consultation process to include the Fraser Island. The Bureau requests that the State Party submit the report of the Fraser Island Scientific Advisory Committee on World Heritage values of the site to the World Heritage Centre as soon as it is ready during the course of this year (i.e. 2000). In the event that the State Party is able to submit that report to the Centre, before 15 September 2000, the Bureau requests IUCN to review the report and submit its findings to the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau in November 2000”.

I.5. Central Eastern Australian Rainforest Reserves

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1986 and 1994

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations: Not applicable

New information: IUCN has informed the World Heritage Centre that the company Naturelink has put forward plans for a 22km cableway, which will be capable of carrying 900 people/hour from Mudgeeraba (just west of the Gold Coast) across forest areas up to the very famous Purlingbrook Falls. The proposed cableway will cross many 'wilderness areas' and will run through the centre of about 3km of primary wet sclerophyll forest. Conservationists are concerned that the decision to proceed with the cableway construction is being primarily driven by commercial considerations and environmental impacts are not being adequately addressed. The proposed cableway will be clearly visible from several "wilderness" lookouts and will be very visible as it enters and cuts across the World Heritage section of the area. The presence of its final station near the falls will be obvious both from a visual and acoustic perspective. IUCN believes that the cableway represents an important threat to the integrity of this World Heritage site.

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

"The Bureau invites the State Party to consider the issues raised by IUCN and provide an up-to-date report on the proposed cableway construction project, its potential impacts on the integrity of the site and steps taken by the Government to mitigate such impacts to the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau in November 2000."

I.6. Dja Faunal Reserve (Cameroon)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1987

International assistance:
US\$ 47,000 under Technical Assistance and US\$ 34,700 for Training.

Previous deliberations
Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.28 and Annex VIII

New information: IUCN has expressed its concern over the fact that a report on the implementation of the Sangmelima (1998) workshop recommendations is yet to be received from the State Party. The IUCN Regional Office for Central Africa has been involved in assisting the efforts of the State Party to conserve this site since 1995, with financial support from the Government of the Netherlands. IUCN has informed the Centre that support from the Government of the Netherlands has been concluded in December 1999. Since then there has been no new projects to support site management. Additional resources from international donors and partners are urgently required. Illegal opening of roads for forestry activities and poaching, particularly that linked to the supply of the bush-meat trade are significant threats to this site.

The Centre has not received a response to the letter informing the State Party of the decisions of the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau. On 25 April 2000, a member of the Centre staff met and discussed with the Second Secretary of the Permanent Delegation of

Cameroon to UNESCO. It was agreed that the Delegation would do its best to ensure that the State Party communicates with the Centre as soon as possible on Dja.

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

“The Bureau reiterates its request, made at its sessions in 1998 and 1999, that the State Party submit a detailed report on the progress made to implement the recommendations of the Sangmelima Workshop held in March 1998. The Bureau requests the Centre and IUCN to co-operate with the State Party to identify alternative donors to support the development of institutional and local capacity for the management of the site”.

I.7. Los Katios National Park (Colombia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994

International Assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.28 and Annex VIII.

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV. 29

New information: Following the invitation by the Colombian Government to receive a monitoring mission to the site in 2000, security clearance was requested from the UN Resident Co-ordinator. The Centre received information dated 25 April 2000, that security clearance could only be granted for a mission to Bogota by air, and clearance for visiting Los Katios National Park could be obtained only upon arrival in the country. The Centre is in communication with the authorities concerning dates and programme for such a mission.

IUCN notes that Fundacion Natura, a Colombian NGO, is helping the government to establish co-management arrangements in Los Katios. According to Fundacion Natura and IUCN, this site is now one of the most difficult areas in Colombia due to the many conflicts prevailing in the area. Impacts of those conflicts are spilling across the international border into the Darien National Park and World Heritage site in Panama. Fundacion Natura is organizing, with the National Parks Administration, a workshop in the last week of May, 2000 to discuss the situation in Los Katios, involving representatives from local communities and indigenous people living in and around the Park. The workshop has been tentatively planned for the end of May in Bogota. The workshop will also discuss the Committee’s recommendation for establishing a Parks for Peace between Los Katios and Darien National Park.

Action required: The Bureau, based on additional information to be presented at the time of the Bureau session, may wish to take appropriate decisions thereupon.

I.8. Galapagos Islands (Ecuador)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1978

International Assistance: Preparatory assistance (US\$ 15,000); Emergency assistance (US\$ 60,500); Technical assistance (US\$ 324,500); and Training (US\$ 100,000).

Previous deliberations

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.28 and of Annex VIII

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV. 32

New information: IUCN has reported that the President of Ecuador approved, in January 2000, general regulations for the enforcement of the Special Galapagos Law. Implementation of conservation provisions under the Law is slow, and there is a need for special regulations to be developed as soon as possible for regulating tourism, fisheries, agriculture and EIAs. In relation to the regulation of immigration into the Islands, regulations are now in the preparatory stages and work is continuing. INGALA is working to complete, as soon as possible, a demographic analysis of all Galapagos residents in order to distinguish between permanent residents and others.

The fisheries calendar for use of resources in marine areas was evaluated at the end of 1999 and a new calendar established for 2000. The calendar for the year 2000 requires that a zoning scheme is put in place before the sea cucumber harvests could begin again. The zones will aim to protect the species and limit the fishing effort. It is necessary to accelerate the development of fisheries regulations and to develop integrated educational programmes targeting local fishermen. IUCN has noted that there is continuing pressure to introduce semi-industrial fishing boats and for an industrial centre to be developed. Steps are underway to define “artisanal” fishing within the context of Galapagos and distinguish it from industrial fishing. Capability of Park staff to patrol marine areas has however, been strengthened and one illegal fishing boat has been apprehended and a case filed. The case’s outcome is being closely monitored by conservationists since the court judgement on the case is likely to have direct relevance to controlling future illegal fishing activity in the marine waters of Galapagos.

IUCN notes that it is important that the Government proceeds rapidly with the reform of SESA (Ecuadorian Service of Animal Health) to facilitate the operation of the Galapagos Inspection and Quarantine system, both at ports of entry into Galapagos and at ports of embarkation on the mainland (airports and seaports). The UNF-financed project has commenced and will strengthen the ability of the Galapagos National Park Service (GNPS) and the Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS) to introduce and improve the quarantine system for eradication and control of invasive species. A UNDP/GEF project, valued at US\$ 8 million and, amongst others, focusing on the eradication of the larger mammalian introduced species such as goats in the Isabella Island, is also due to commence this year. The UNF and GEF projects include significant commitments to raise matching grants up to US\$ 5-7 million that will be used to set up an endowment for Galapagos. CDF, CDRS and GNPS, in consultation with UNESCO, UNF and GEF are in the process of recruiting a specialist who would be responsible for launching campaigns to generate the funds for setting up the endowment. In addition, a loan-project, to be financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and valued at about US\$ 20 million to address issues pertaining to marine resources protection, environmental management in the islands and institutional strengthening and capacity building, is due to be finalised before the end of 2000. The IDB is considering developing a separate project for developing ecotourism in Galapagos. UNESCO’s Unit for Co-ordinating relations with Development Banks (BER/BKS) is in contact with the IDB to seek a possible house-wide involvement of UNESCO, including the Centre and other units such as MAB, IOC etc. and partners like IUCN and CDF, in the implementation of IDB projects.

A staff member of the Centre and the Deputy Permanent Delegate of Ecuador participated in the Executive Council session of the Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF) held at IUCN

Headquarters, in Gland, Switzerland, from 4 to 7 April 2000. The role of the World Heritage Committee in facilitating the enactment of the Special Galapagos Law received widespread appreciation from members of the CDF Executive Council. The enactment of that Law has been a critical element guaranteeing the long-term prospects for the conservation of Galapagos and was a major consideration in the decisions of donors such as UNF, GEF and IDB to provide financial support to projects for enabling full implementation of the Law.

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

“The Bureau welcomes the positive developments for conservation at this site and encourages the State Party to accelerate the development of special regulations, particularly for regulating tourism, fisheries and introduction of plant and animal species and to consider extending the World Heritage Area to include the marine zone. The Bureau requests the Centre and IUCN to co-operate with the State Party to submit a progress report on the measures undertaken to enforce the Special Galapagos Law, including the zoning plan for marine areas, for consideration by the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau in November 2000”

I.9. Komodo National Park (Indonesia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1991

International assistance: US\$ 2,500 as Preparatory Assistance; US\$ 119,500 under Technical Co-operation and US\$ 13,000 for staff training.

Previous deliberations

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.28 and Annex VIII

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.34

New information: The Permanent Delegate of Indonesia has informed the Centre, via a letter dated 22 November 1999, that the UNESCO/IUCN mission to the site, recommended by the twenty-third session of the Bureau (July, 1999), could proceed if the costs of the mission could be borne by the World Heritage Fund. In addition, the proposed mission to the site that was to be undertaken by a Government team in late 1999 could not proceed due to budgetary constraints. The Centre, in co-operation with the UNESCO Office in Jakarta has contacted the Directorate of Nature Conservation and Forest Protection (PKA) and has obtained its co-operation for fielding a mission comprising an IUCN expert, the Marine Sciences specialist in UNESCO, Jakarta, and a selected number of Indonesian Government participants. Possible dates for the mission during May-June 2000 are currently under discussion.

The site manager of Komodo National Park, and the other World Heritage site of Indonesia, i.e. Ujung Kulon National Park, and a representative of PKA are due to attend a workshop for the development of a project on "Sustainable Tourism and Biodiversity Conservation of World Natural Heritage sites" on 11 and 12 May 2000. The concept for the project was jointly elaborated by the Centre, the UNEP Office for Technology, Industry and Economics (TIE) in Paris and the RARE Center for Tropical Conservation in Washington D.C., USA. The project concept has been endorsed by the UN Foundation for further development and submission for consideration for financing at the UNF Board Meeting in July 2000. Komodo National Park, chosen as one of the six pilot sites being considered for this project, could benefit from this project and sustainable tourism activities developed as an alternative for unsustainable fishing practices that has been threatening the integrity of this site and led to the recommendation of the twenty-third session of the Bureau in July 1999 that an UNESCO/IUCN mission be sent

to the site. The Centre will discuss details concerning the mission further with the Indonesian authorities due to visit UNESCO during 11 and 12 May 2000 and provide additional information at the time of the Bureau session.

Action required: The Bureau, based on additional information to be presented at the time of its session, may wish to take appropriate decisions thereupon.

I.10. Mount Kenya National Park (Kenya) :

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1997

International Assistance : Approximately US\$ 13,000 under training for Kenya including about US\$ 3,000 for the participation of a site-staff at the Kushiro (Japan) International Workshop on Multilateral Agreements for Biodiversity Conservation (1999).

Previous deliberations : N.A.

New Information : IUCN has received a report on 'Aerial Survey of the Destruction of Mt. Kenya, Imenti and Ngare Ndare Forest Reserves, February-June 1999' prepared by the Kenya Wildlife Service and dated August 1999. The results of the survey, which have been substantiated by other sources, have established that the whole of Mt. Kenya and Imenti forests are heavily impacted by illegal activities leading to serious destruction below the bamboo/bamboo-podocarpus belt. Results from this survey have noted severe impacts associated with:

- illegal, unsustainable logging of indigenous tree species;
- past and on-going extensive charcoal production;
- expansion of human settlements and associated crop cultivation, which have restricted elephant migration from the mountains;
- cultivation of marijuana, extending over more than 200 hectares;
- illegal hunting; and
- increased incidence of fire associated with encroachment of human settlements

These factors are contributing to significant negative long-term impacts, such as: disruption of wildlife habitat; loss of biodiversity; and deterioration of watershed services provided by the Mountain. All these impacts impair tourism development, retard poverty alleviation efforts and lead to increasing human/wildlife conflicts.

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

“The Bureau notes with concern the reported impacts on this site. The Bureau recommends that the State Party provide to the next Committee session a plan of actions to alleviate the threats identified in the August 1999 report of the Kenya Wildlife Services. The Bureau also recommends that the State Party consider inviting a UNESCO/IUCN mission to consider whether this site needs to be included in the List of World Heritage in Danger”

I.11. Whale Sanctuary of El ViZcaino (Mexico)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1993

International Assistance: None.

Previous deliberations

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph - X.25.

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph - IV. 35

New information: The President of Mexico in his statement entitled “Evaluation of the National Policy of Biodiversity Conservation” announced on 2 March 2000 that the proposed salt-works at the World Heritage site of El Vizcaino would not proceed. He underlined that the Biosphere Reserve of El Vizcaino is the largest natural protected area of Mexico and that the San Ignacio portion of the World Heritage area is one of the main breeding places of the grey whales. He acknowledged the report of the UNESCO mission, which indicates Mexico’s efforts in the conservation of grey whales. He emphasized that the site is part of a protected area which incorporates sea and desert and which is a unique place both for its biodiversity and natural beauty. For all these characteristics and taking into account the national and worldwide importance he decided “to instruct the representatives of the Mexican Government before the Board of “Exportadora de Sal” to propose a definitive cancellation of the project”. He also underlined that the “Management Program of the Vizcano reserve...specifies different possibilities of development compatible with the conservation that could be applied in the area.” In conclusion he noted that “we are generating a new culture of appreciation, respect and care of the natural resources of our nation”. The full text, both in English and Spanish were transmitted by the Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the Centre on 14 April 2000.

The Chairperson in his letter of 7 March 2000 to the President of Mexico welcomed the President’s decision on behalf of the World Heritage Committee. The Director-General of UNESCO in his letter of 14 April 2000 also congratulated the President of Mexico for the actions taken to implement the World Heritage Convention.

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

“The Bureau commends the State Party for all its efforts to ensure the conservation of the World Heritage values of the Whale Sanctuary of El Vizcaino. The Bureau suggests that the World Heritage Committee commends the Mexican Government for its actions to implement the World Heritage Convention and to encourage the authorities to collaborate with the Centre and other interested partners to design, develop and implement on-site projects for demonstrating possibilities for generating employment and income for the local communities”

I.12. Te Wahipounamu – South West New Zealand (New Zealand)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1990

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.28 and Annex VIII

New information: The Centre has not yet received the detailed report on the management of the introduced mountain “thar” the State Party was requested to submit before 15 April 2000.

Action required: The Bureau, based on new information that may be available at the time of its session, may take appropriate decisions thereupon.

I.13. Arabian Oryx Sanctuary (Oman)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994

International assistance: US\$ 27,000 under Preparatory Assistance and US\$ 40,000 for Training.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.28 and Annex VIII

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.36

New information: IUCN has informed the Centre that a Co-ordination Committee for the Conservation of the Arabian Oryx has been recently formed and that the first meeting of this Committee was held in Muscat in January 2000. This meeting agreed to the formation of a working secretariat, which will be hosted by Abu Dhabi (UAE). The Committee will address the subject of illegal trade of the Arabian Oryx. The Deputy Director of the Centre and an IUCN expert visited Oman in early May 2000. The “Regional Capacity Building Training Workshop for the Promotion of Awareness in Natural Heritage Conservation” for which the twenty-second session of the Committee approved a sum of US\$40,000, will be held from 24 to 27 September 2000 and will provide an added opportunity for discussions on the conservation of this site between the State Party, IUCN and the Centre.

Action required: The Bureau, based on new information that is likely to be available at the time of its session, may wish to take appropriate decisions thereupon.

I.14. Huascarán National Park (Peru)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1985

International Assistance: US\$ 70,000 under Technical Co-operation and US\$ 5,300 for staff training.

Previous deliberations

Twenty-second session of the Committee – paragraph VII.27 and Annex IV.

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.37

New information: The States Party invited a mission to the site during the second week of May and INRENA provided a programme for the visit. The mission aims to assess the impact of mining activities on the World Heritage values of this site and to assess the suitability of this site for a case study for presentation at a meeting on mining and World Heritage sites to be held at IUCN Headquarters in September, 2000. IUCN will present a verbal report of its mission at the time of the Bureau session.

Action required: The Bureau, based on new information likely to be available at the time of its session, may wish to take appropriate decisions thereupon.

I.15. Golden Mountains of Altai (Russian Federation)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1998

International Assistance: none

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – paragraph - VIII.3

New information: IUCN has informed the Centre that it has received various reports concerning the proposal to construct a road and gas pipeline from Russia to China through the Ukok Plateau. The Ukok Quiet Zone on the Ukok Plateau (252,904 ha) is one of three areas that together make up the Golden Mountains of Altai World Heritage site and that such a proposal, if implemented within the World Heritage site, would have major impacts on the natural values of the area.

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

“The Bureau invites the State Party to inform the Centre on the proposed road construction project, including any environmental impact studies that may be underway, before 15 September 2000”.

I.16. Lake Baikal (Russian Federation)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1996

International Assistance: US\$ 15,000 as Preparatory Assistance and US\$ 48,259 for an *in-situ* training workshop.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.28 and Annex VIII.

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.38.

New information: The Centre received on 2 May 2000 a request for a training workshop on the effective implementation of the Federal Baikal Law following the suggestion of the twenty-third extraordinary session of the World Heritage Bureau. No information was received from the States Party concerning the state of conservation report on the site due by 15 April 2000. The Centre was informed by the Director of the UNESCO Moscow Office that the Prime Minister has signed on 31 December 1999 a decree to forbid any selling of the 49% of shares owned by the Federal Government of the Baikal pulp and paper mill.

IUCN has noted that Russian Federal Laws relating to Lake Baikal are not being effectively implemented. Of particular concern are:

- Continued discharge of waste waters into Lake Baikal, particularly from the Baikalsk Pulp and Paper mill. These discharges are, according to reports, well in excess of levels permitted by Federal Standards.
- Impacts from unregulated hunting and fishing.
- Inadequate environmental monitoring of the Lake Baikal ecosystem.

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

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

“The Bureau expresses its concern that Federal Regulations related to the Baikal Law are not being effectively enforced and invited the State Party to take immediate steps to remedy this situation. The Bureau reiterates its request that the State Party provide an up-to-date report, by 15 September 2000 and in particular focusing on issues raised

by IUCN, on the state of conservation of the site and the report be submitted to the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau”

I.17. Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary (Senegal)

Year on inscription on the World Heritage List : 1981

International assistance : Djoudj has received US\$ 49,132 under technical co-operation and US\$ 30,000 under training.

Previous deliberations : Djoudj Sanctuary was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1984 (eighth session of the Committee) due to problems caused by the construction of downstream dams which interfered with the water regime of this wetland. Several interventions were made to maintain the water balance in the wetland, some supported by financial contributions from the World Heritage Fund. Due to improvements in the state of conservation of the site, the site was removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1988 (twelfth session of the Committee).

New information : The UNESCO Office in Dakar, Senegal has informed the Centre of the invasion of a species of *Hyacinth* of the waters of Djoudj Sanctuary. An urgent meeting of the “Comite national de crise” was held on 19 April 2000 at the Ministry of Environment. Discussions of this meeting focused on the advantages of the mechanical and biological options (introduction of insects) for controlling the spread of the invasive species. The meeting decided to set up two separate commissions to study the pros and the cons of the two options. The two commissions were due to meet during 26 - 27 April 2000. UNESCO and IUCN Offices in Dakar are co-operating with the representatives of the Government of the Netherlands in Senegal who have expressed an interest to mitigate the threat posed by the invasion by the water hyacinth once the Government of Senegal has made its choice among the two options. The Centre is in communication with the Ramsar Secretariat on this matter since Djoudj is also a Ramsar site. The Director of the Senegalese National Parks, via his letter of 25 April 2000 has requested that Djoudj be included in the list of World Heritage in Danger, in view of the imminent danger facing the site due to massive invasion by the water hyacinth

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

“The Bureau requests the Centre and IUCN to co-operate with the State Party to submit a detailed report on the threat posed by the water hyacinth invasion of the Djoudj Lake. The report should include an analysis of the severity of the threat posed, remedial measures planned to mitigate impacts, a financing plan for implementing the remedial measures and the donor countries providing assistance to the Senegalese Government to protect the site. The report should also recommend whether or not the Committee needs to consider including this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger”.

I.18. Doñana National Park (Spain)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.26.

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.39.

New information:

IUCN has received a copy of a report (January, 2000) from the Spanish Council for Scientific Research (CSIC) which notes an improved situation since the start of clean up operations in relation to pollution of air, soil and water. It is noted that clean up operations in affected areas of the Guadiamar Basin, and efforts associated with the Green Corridor project, have continued. IUCN notes, however, that thousands of tons of mining sludge are still widely distributed in the area and enter slowly into the trophic chain, affecting plants, invertebrates, fish and water birds. IUCN also reiterates the following concerns:

- The extent to which an impact study was undertaken to ensure that the toxic wastes, which will now be dumped into the old mine-pit will remain there and not percolate into the surrounding aquifer.
- How the various authorities at the state and regional level intend to co-ordinate the activities undertaken to ensure that the integrity of Doñana is maintained.
- How resolution of conflicts between users of the watershed will be undertaken on a regular basis, and how regular monitoring of progress of the implementation of various activities will be carried out.

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

“The Bureau notes the continuing efforts of the State Party to clean up the area, which indicate a gradual recovery of the Guadiamar River Basin. The Bureau urges the State Party to accelerate implementation of the Doñana 2005 restoration project and implement the review meeting as requested by the last session of the World Heritage Committee and to inform the Centre by 15 September 2000 on tentative dates and a programme for the review meeting”.

I.19. Gough Island (United Kingdom)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1995

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.28 and Annex VIII.

New information: IUCN has received reports indicating that the Reserve boundaries have been extended to 12 nautical miles of territorial waters thus now matching the area of the World Heritage site. The status of the Reserve has also been changed from that of a “Wilderness Reserve” to a “Nature Reserve”.

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

“The Bureau requests that the State Party and the St. Helena Government to confirm the information reported by IUCN. Furthermore, the Bureau invites the State Party to now consider extension of the World Heritage boundary and to report on what it can do to protect the wider marine environment.”

I.20. Ngorongoro Conservation Area and the Serengeti National Park (United Republic of Tanzania)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979 and 1981, respectively.

International assistance: US\$ 79,500 Technical Co-operation (Ngorongoro); US\$ 20,000 Training and US\$ 30,000 Technical Co-operation (Serengeti); US\$ 20,000 Emergency Assistance (Ngorongoro).

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.28 and Annex VIII.

New information: The Centre is in contact with the State Party to monitor progress with the process for investigating options available for the construction of an access road to Ngorongoro. No new information has been received at the time of the preparation of this document.

Action required: The Bureau, based on new information that may be available at the time of its session, may take appropriate decisions thereupon.

I.21. Ha Long Bay (Vietnam)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994

International assistance: US\$ 42,957 under Technical Co-operation and US\$ 24,250 under Training.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.28 and Annex VIII.

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV. 45

New information:

IUCN has submitted a detailed State of Conservation report on this site following a field mission to the site in February 2000. In general the quality of management has improved since the inscription of the site on the World Heritage List. However, a number of threats to the World Heritage site remain, including:

Littering - beaches, visitor paths and walkways are strewn with litter as is the surface of the Bay;

Fishing - This is one of the most important industries of the region. However, the level of catch has significantly diminished demonstrating a possible decline in productivity;

Poaching of coral and speleothems for the souvenir industry and of plants for gardening industry. This problem has been reduced but still continues. The core problem lies in the relative poverty of the fishing community;

Deposition of solid waste in the Bay - Rock waste, coal, silt and other materials have entered the Bay as a result of on-shore developmental activities;

Introduction of organic wastes or nutrients - There is a problem of discharge of human wastes from rapidly growing urban areas and the more serious issue of possible discharge of nitrates, phosphates or other nutrient substances from agricultural and industrial practices originating in the watershed area;

Discharge of water ballast or sediment from shipping - Ships are required to carry out any discharge outside the Bay but the effectiveness of the enforcement of this regulation is not known. This is potentially a very serious problem for coral and other marine biota; and

Oil or other noxious spillage from shipping - The risk of this is now much reduced but contingency plans should always be in place.

The primary recommendations of IUCN include:

- The Ha Long Bay Management Department should be commended for the progress made in ensuring continuing improvement of the environmental quality of the World Heritage Area;
- The management department should review and improve its policy and practice in litter control;
- The Government should: (a) develop education policies to reduce littering in the Bay; and (b) develop legislation and strengthen enforcement practices to control water ballast quality and discharge at all ports; and
- The Provincial Government, in conjunction with the management department should:
 - Foster the development of a locally owned and controlled aquaculture industry;
 - Continue efforts to reduce the poaching of coral, speleothems and plants;
 - Strengthen enforcement of the control of water ballast discharges;
 - Ensure that adequate equipment and trained personnel are available to contain and deal with any major water spillage; and
 - Institute a programme of monitoring and assessment of the marine environment with particular regard to: (a) deposition of silt and other solid wastes in the Bay; and (b) water quality, with special attention to organic and nutrient pollution. IUCN commends the efforts of the State Party to improve the management of this site. IUCN supports the view of the State Party that integrated development of the region surrounding Ha Long Bay is an essential requirement for protecting the natural values of this site. The IUCN Vietnam Office continues to work with the State Party to address this issue.

In February 2000, the Chairperson approved a sum of US\$ 14,508 for organising a donor roundtable for developing projects to strengthen the capacity of the Ha Long Bay Management Department. The Director of the Centre, during his visit to Vietnam was also informed of several donors, including UNDP and the World Bank, co-operating with the UNESCO and IUCN Offices in Hanoi, Vietnam, to develop projects and programmes to strengthen the conservation of the Ha Long Bay World Heritage area.

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

“The Bureau commends the State Party’s efforts to continuously improve this World Heritage area located in an area of intense economic development activities. The Bureau invites the State Party to consider implementing the recommendations of the state of conservation report of IUCN and co-operate with the Centre and IUCN to negotiate with donors to launch programmes and projects to strengthen the long-term conservation of the World Heritage area”.

I.22. Mosi-oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls (Zambia/Zimbabwe)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1989

International assistance: US\$ 7,000 as Preparatory Assistance and US\$ 20,000 as Technical Co-operation.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.28 and Annex VIII

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.46

New information: Despite several attempts by both the Centre and IUCN to have the State Parties concerned organise the national and a bilateral meeting, the Parties have not up to present requested financial support for organisation of those meetings.

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

“The Bureau reiterates its earlier request that the States Parties organise national as well as bilateral meetings as soon as possible, and submit a joint request for financial assistance for the organisation of the bilateral meeting”.

I.23. World Heritage affected by a spill from Romania

There have been four spills of cyanide and heavy metals from three mine sites in Romania since 30 January 2000. These appear to have been caused following heavy rains and snow melt. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) sent an expert assessment mission to evaluate the cyanide spill at Baia Mare (Romania) and the final report has been made available on the UNEP web site at <http://www.natural-resources.org/environment/BaiaMare/mission.htm>. The spill entered the Tisza River that flows through Hungary and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The pollution entered the Danube River system and the Black Sea. The cyanide plume was measurable at the Danube Delta, four weeks later and 2000 km from the spill source. The Centre is in contact with UNEP’s Division of Technology, Industry and Economy (Paris) and further information will be provided at the session of the Bureau.

The Centre wrote letters to all States Parties concerned and received replies from Bulgaria, Croatia and Hungary. The Bulgarian authorities indicated that currently no impact could be detected at Srebarna Nature Reserve, although assistance and expert advice may be needed for the future. For Croatia no impacts on any of the World Heritage sites have been registered. No reply has been received from Romania, where the Danube Delta may be affected. Concerning Hungary, the Centre received a preliminary report from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs via the Permanent Delegation on 6 March 2000, which concerns the cultural landscape of Hortobagy National Park. The document was transmitted to IUCN and ICOMOS for review. In addition a request for emergency assistance for the site was approved by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee.

I.24. Hortabagy National Park, Hungary

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1999 as a cultural landscape.

International assistance : US\$ 50,000 Emergency assistance approved on 12 May 2000.

Summary of previous deliberations: n.a.

New information: The Deputy Director of the Hortobágy National Park reported to IUCN that, although at present it is difficult to estimate the exact damage, there is evidence of damage to the WH site as a result of the cyanide and heavy metals spills in Romania. A comprehensive monitoring programme is required in order to know the real degree of loss and the impact on the whole ecosystem. The State Party has put forward a request for emergency assistance at this site which IUCN has strongly supported. Carcasses of 21 fish species have been found, five of which are protected by Hungarian Law, and several of which are under the protection of international conventions. Poisoned carcasses also threaten fish-eating birds, such as white-tailed eagles. Impacts have also been reported on wild ducks, cormorants and otters. The long term effects of the cyanide on the protected land alongside the River Tisza is

currently unknown but bio-accumulating heavy metals such as lead, zinc and copper could have very damaging effects. The UNEP task force, which started work after the first spill, will report on the impacts of the spill. The EU has established the Baia Mare Taskforce with the participation of representatives from the Romanian and Hungarian Governments, the Danube River Protection Convention, WWF and the UN, and this Taskforce will lead the restoration programme.

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

“The Bureau commends the efforts of the State Party and many other organisations for their quick response to this environmental disaster. The Bureau urges the State Party to set up a comprehensive monitoring programme for all areas and ecosystems likely to be affected by the spills and give priority to the implementation of a restoration programme. The Bureau requests the State Party to provide a report on the state of conservation of the site and relevant mitigating measures by 15 September 2000.”

MIXED (CULTURAL AND NATURAL) HERITAGE

I.25. Kakadu National Park (Australia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1981, 1987 and 1992

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Bureau -paragraph IV.47

Third extraordinary session of the Committee, 12 July 1999 (WHC-99/CONF.209/5)

Twenty-third session of the Committee - paragraph X.32 and Annex VIII

New information:

The following reports on the state of conservation of Kakadu National Park are made available to the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau as Information Documents:

WHC-2000/CONF.207/INF.6. Australia's Commitments: Protecting Kakadu National Park (Progress Report to the World Heritage Centre, 15 April 2000)

The report, which includes a copy of the decision of the third extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee (12 July 1999) as Attachment A, reports on Australia's progress in implementing the Committee's decision and in meeting other commitments made to the Committee by the Australian authorities in July and November/December 1999. The report includes five sections:

1. Protecting Kakadu's cultural values
2. Enhancing Social and Economic development
3. Sequential development
4. Resolving Scientific issues
5. Protecting Kakadu's World Heritage values

On receipt of the report from the Australian authorities on 18 April 2000, the World Heritage Centre transmitted a copy for review and comment to all three advisory bodies. At the time of preparation of this document no written comment had been received from the advisory bodies,

however, IUCN has indicated that if invited, it will provide a consolidated verbal response to the Bureau.

WHC-2000/CONF.207/INF.7 ISP of ICSU Report No 2 – May 2000

The ISP of ICSU submitted a report concerning remaining scientific issues relating to the mining of uranium at Jabiluka to the Centre on 9 May 2000. The Centre transmitted a copy for review and comment to the Australian authorities and to IUCN.

The ISP report provides justification for the ISP to complete its scientific review during a site visit. The Centre has sought the agreement of the Australian authorities for the site visit to take place from 3 to 7 July 2000.

In addition, the Centre has received correspondence concerning the water management system at the Jabiluka mine site. On 7 April 2000 the Director of the Centre received a letter from Ms Yvonne Margarula the Mirrar Aboriginal clan Senior Traditional Owner and Chairperson of the Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) expressing concern at an accumulation of water in the Interim Water Management Pond (IWMP) at Jabiluka. On 17 April 2000 the Australian Permanent Delegation to UNESCO provided a detailed response to the letter from the GAC in a letter to the Director of the Centre. In summary the letter stated "there is no imminent risk of overflow from the Interim Water Management Pond (IWMP)", ERA is now "reassessing the water management system" and that the "final option adopted will ensure the continued protection of the World Heritage values of Kakadu National Park."

The Centre has also received correspondence concerning a leak of tailings water contaminated with manganese at the Ranger uranium mine (a mine operated by ERA in an enclave of Kakadu National Park). Letters were received from the GAC on 5 May 2000 and from the Wilderness Society on 8 May 2000. Furthermore, on 5 May 2000 the Australian Permanent Delegation to UNESCO provided a copy of a media statement from Senator Nick Minchin (Minister for Industry, Science and Resources) concerning the leak at Ranger. The letters and the media release expressed concern at the delay by ERA in reporting the leak of contaminated water at Ranger.

On 9 May 2000 the Director of the Centre received further information on the leak of tailings water at Ranger from the World Heritage Branch of Environment Australia. The letter refers to advice from the Office of the Supervising Scientist that the leak has not had, nor is it expected to have, any significant environmental impact on Kakadu National Park. The letter reports that the leak of tailings water took place between December 1999 and 5 April 2000. The pipe from which the leak occurred has now been repaired. Water monitoring undertaken by the mining company ERA has not detected increased concentrations of manganese and water quality standards have not been exceeded. On 3 May the Australian government issued a statement which emphasised that:

- Australia treats reports of incidents of this nature very seriously
- A full explanation has been sought from ERA and the Northern Territory regulatory authorities
- No tailings escaped the tailings containment zone at the mine site
- The independent statutory authority, the Supervising Scientist, has advised that on examination of available information, there is no evidence of environmental detriment outside the project area, and water quality down stream had not been affected

- There has been no down stream impact on the World Heritage values of Kakadu National Park
- An independent assessment of the circumstances relating to the leak and of the likely environmental impact has been sought from the Supervising Scientist.

The letter concludes that the Australian Government will be examining ERA's operations at Ranger to ensure that they fully conform with new Environmental Requirements amended in January 2000 and restates their commitment to continuing to set world's best practice standards for the Ranger mine.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine the information provided above, Information Documents WHC-2000/CONF.207/INF.6 and WHC-2000/CONF.207/INF.7 and any new information that may be available at the time of its session and take the appropriate decision on the state of conservation of Kakadu National Park (Australia).

I.26. Tasmanian Wilderness (Australia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1982 and 1989

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Bureau -paragraph IV.48

Twenty-third session of the Committee - paragraph X.29 and Annex VIII

New information: At its twenty-third session (Marrakesh, November/December 1999), the Committee requested the Australian Committee for IUCN (ACIUCN) to complete its review process on the state of conservation of the Tasmanian Wilderness with the aim of submitting an up-to-date report to the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau in 2000.

IUCN has informed the Centre that, as with Shark Bay, ACIUCN has established a collaborative process to finalise a report on the state of conservation for the Tasmanian Wilderness. Subject to ACIUCN receiving adequate resources to carry out this assessment, the ACIUCN report will be submitted in 2001. It is anticipated that issues that will be addressed in the report will include management of areas of the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) which are outside the World Heritage site but which have been previously identified as having World Heritage value, proposals to develop helicopter tourism with the World Heritage site and impacts associated with bushwalking.

In a letter from the World Heritage Branch of Environment Australia dated 6 April the Director of the Centre was informed that the Australian government is aware of the delay in the preparation of the ACIUCN report on the state of conservation of the Tasmanian Wilderness due to resourcing and time constraints. The Australian government will be working co-operatively with ACIUCN to finalise the report. It was recalled that in his letter dated 14 September 1999, the Minister for Environment and Heritage has indicated that at present, boundary extensions are not being actively considered.

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

“The Bureau notes that due to resourcing and time constraints the Australian Committee for IUCN (ACIUCN) had not been able to complete its review process on the state of conservation of the Tasmanian Wilderness as requested. The Bureau

requests ACIUCN to complete its review with the aim of submitting an up-to-date report to the twenty-fifth ordinary session of the Bureau in 2001.”

I.27. Mount Emei and Leshan Giant Buddha (China)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1996

International assistance: US\$20,000 under Technical Co-operation (1999)

Previous deliberations

Twenty-third session of the Committee - paragraph X.30.

New information: In December 1999, the Committee adopted the decision requesting the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre before 15 April 2000, a state of conservation report on developments at Mount Emei Scenic Area, including Leshan Giant Buddha Scenic Area. On 14 April 2000, the Centre received the report requested by the Committee from the Ministry of Construction of the Government of China.

The Ministry of Construction of China stated that the Ministry paid careful attention to the construction of the tourist light monorail. In September 1997, the Ministry approved the project while taking into account environment protection and the scale of construction. The project is a non-polluting source of transportation for tourists providing views from the top of the scenic area. The structure of the monorail is simple and efficient (the width of rail is 40cm, and the width of carriage is 150cm, each car is 6 metres long and the total length of the vehicle is less than 15 metres). The total length of the monorail is 2100 meters. The Ministry of Construction is of the view that the monorail construction was preferable to building a new walk way which shall damage the existing natural environment. The project was completed and came into operation in October 1998. In March 2000, a site mission was headed by the Ministry's Vice Minister to investigate the current situation. The mission concluded that the tourist light monorail did not have significant impacts on the natural values of the site. The monorail project is considered by the Chinese authorities to have minimal impacts on the ecology of the site. With a view to better conservation of this World Heritage site, the Ministry of Construction of China is willing to invite both international and national experts to visit the site and view the operations of the monorail and undertake a scientific analysis and recommend measures to further minimise environmental impacts.

The Centre has been notified of a potential World Bank project at the site of Leshan Giant Buddha, to build a walkway close to the Giant Buddha. The report of the Ministry of Construction does not make any mention of such a project.

The report has been transmitted to the advisory bodies (IUCN and ICOMOS).

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine the views and findings of the advisory bodies that will be provided at the time of its twenty-fourth session and take the appropriate decision thereupon.

I.28. Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1983

International assistance: Between 1987 and 1992 an amount of approximately US\$ 50,000 was allocated to assist the Peruvian authorities in the preparation of a master plan for Machu Picchu.

Previous deliberations

Twenty-third session of the Bureau - paragraph number IV.50.

Twenty-third session of the Committee - paragraph number X.31

New information: As requested by the Committee at its twenty-third session, the Peruvian authorities submitted a report on Machu Picchu that includes separate information from the National Institute for Culture (INC) and the National Institute for Natural Resources (INRENA). The information provided can be summarised as follows:

Planning and management arrangements:

- The Statute on the Organization and Functions of the Management Unit for Machu Picchu was adopted by INRENA and INC on 28 March 2000. It defines the organizational and functional structure of the Management Unit and establishes that all projects and activities in the Sanctuary will be co-ordinated through the Management Unit.
- The Management Committee that will consist of all relevant institutions involved in Machu Picchu will be established in the course of the first half of this year.
- The Operational Plan for the year 2000 has been prepared and is now in the process of evaluation.
- Monitoring of the effective and timely implementation of the Master Plan is inscribed in the activities of the Management Unit.

Access to the Historic Sanctuary and to the Ciudadela:

- Cable car project: The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the cable car project was observed by the National Institute for Culture (INC) and the National Institute for Natural Resources (INRENA) and returned by them in 1998. To date, neither INRENA nor INC had received a new EIA.
- A Plan for the Public Use of the Sanctuary is presently being prepared. This plan will include the definition for the carrying capacity of the Ciudadela, the Camino Inca and the village of Aguas Calientes. INC has already prepared a detailed study on the rationalisation, routing and limits to the number of visitors to the Ciudadela.
- INRENA and INC adopted and introduced on 8 May 2000 an Ordinance for the Tourism Use of the Camino Inca. For the year 2000, the maximum number of persons that will be allowed to enter the Sanctuary via the Camino Inca has been established at 500 per day.

Works and projects with (potential) impact on the World Heritage Site:

- A Plan for the village of Aguas Calientes is being developed.

Potential extension of the World Heritage site:

- The introduction of a Geographic Information System is being considered in collaboration with Conservation International. This system will be the basis for monitoring and study that will eventually lead to the study of a possible extension of the site. INC informed that such extension would contemplate the area up to and including Ollantaytambo that is a major archaeological site.

Overall state of conservation:

Several studies are being undertaken on eco-systems, species, and disaster preparedness.

Under the UNESCO-Kyoto University Project IGCP-425 'Landslide Hazard Assessment and Mitigation for Cultural Heritage Sites and other Locations of High Societal Value', experts from the Kyoto University undertook a mission to Machu Picchu in March 2000. A preliminary conclusion is that 'various phenomena suggest that the Machupicchu citadel is in danger of landslides'. Further detailed investigations will need to be undertaken.

All information on Machu Picchu was transmitted to IUCN and ICOMOS for review. The advisory bodies will present their views during the Bureau session.

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

CULTURAL HERITAGE

At its twenty-third session (Marrakesh, 1999), The Committee examined the state of conservation fourteen cultural heritage properties. Of this number, the Committee decided to include one site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. A state of conservation report on this property (Groups of Monuments at Hampi, India) is included in document WHC-2000/CONF.202/4 - Reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Furthermore, the Committee also noted the decisions of the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau on the state of conservation of eighteen additional cultural heritage properties. In the case of four of the eighteen properties, the Committee noted additional observations made by the delegates present during the session of the Committee.

Arab States

I.29. Periodic reporting

The periodic reporting exercise has begun for the Arab States and missions are underway in a series of States Parties following a regional training seminar that took place in February 2000 in Beirut. An oral interim presentation on the state of this reporting will be made separately.

I.30. Islamic Cairo (Egypt)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979

International assistance: Technical Co-operation 1979-2000: US\$ 394,900

Previous deliberations

Twenty-third session of the Bureau: paragraph IV.55

Twenty-third session of the Committee: paragraph X.35

New information:

Since the meeting of the World Heritage Committee in Marrakesh, the work on the site has progressed at a reduced pace. Presentation of the Roman Citadel ruins in Coptic Cairo together with the Churches, Mosques and Jewish Temple has come to a standstill. At the same time, the work that was supposed to begin on the Al Muizz Street, has been delayed for internal reasons.

Meanwhile, the Technical Advisor and the Policy Advisor, working respectively with the Governor of Cairo and with the Inter-ministerial Committee have continued their coordination work. This is bringing positive results on such activities as the tunnel under the Al-Azhar square and the renovation of works around monuments being restored.

The French architect-restorer, detached to the project by the French authorities, is completing the rehabilitation of Al Sinnari House. Here again delays are reducing the pace of work :

materials and equipment are not being provided by the Supreme Council of Antiquities in a timely fashion.

ICOMOS was to field a mission to study the state of restoration of the Al-Azhar Mosque and had contacted the State Party to organize it. ICOMOS will comment on this matter during the meeting.

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

“The Bureau calls on the Egyptian authorities requesting them to facilitate the advancement of the works and the co-ordination role of the personnel present in Cairo. Delays in doing so will increase the costs of the operations and reduce the possibilities to revitalize Islamic Cairo. Furthermore, the Bureau requests ICOMOS to organize a mission to study the state of conservation of the other monuments of Islamic Cairo.”

I.31. Petra (Jordan)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List : 1985

International assistance: Technical Co-operation 1988: US\$ 50,000; 1996: US\$ 29,500

Previous deliberations: N/A

New information: At the request of the Jordanian authorities, the Deputy Director of the Centre undertook a mission to Jordan to study future co-operation prospects. He will report on the state of conservation of the site of Petra during the Bureau session.

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

Africa

No reports are presented under this section.

Asia and the Pacific

I.32. The Potala Palace, Lhasa (The People’s Republic of China)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994

International assistance: N/A

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.53

Twenty-third session of the Committee - paragraph X.46 and Annex VIII

New Information: The Secretariat received from various sources, including the press and visitors, eye-witness accounts on the demolition of traditional buildings in the Shol (administrative district of the Potala Palace) which forms part of the World Heritage protected area inscribed in 1994. According to these reports, on-going demolition is not limited to post-1959 additions to the traditional buildings but also includes original buildings that are important to the historic understanding of the Shol area in its relation to the Potala Palace. The beautification of the more prominent buildings for conversion into souvenir shops and art galleries, as well as clearing of land for a green zone within Shol are reportedly being carried

out by expelling the inhabitants and demolition of the homes in order to develop tourism facilities.

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

“The Bureau notes the efforts being made by the national and local authorities in promoting public awareness for the use of traditional building material and conservation methods to preserve the original architectural features of the site, as reported to the twenty-third session of the World Heritage Bureau. The Bureau however, expresses concern over reports on the transformation of the historic characteristics of Shol, the former administrative area whose history is inseparable from the Potala Palace. Whilst recognizing the importance of tourism and the need for adequate facilities for visitors, the Bureau requests the State Party to maintain the authenticity of the area and provide a report on the renovation plan of Shol to the Secretariat by 15 September 2000 for examination by the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau.”

I.33. Sun Temple of Konarak (India)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1984

International assistance: Emergency Assistance 1997: US\$ 39,000 for structural study due to heavy monsoon rain.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.62

Twenty-third session of the Committee - paragraph X.38

New information: At the time of the preparation of this working document, no information had been received concerning the structural study implemented with financial assistance from the World Heritage Fund emergency assistance reserve, made available in 1998 from the Government of India. Following the request of the Committee, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS arranged for a reactive monitoring mission to the site in February 2000, undertaken by an ICOMOS international expert. The mission reviewed the work carried out with the 1997 emergency assistance fund, and examined the progress made in the national actions undertaken to halt the deterioration of the stone structure and structural engineering problems, which are reportedly serious. The findings and recommendations of the ICOMOS mission will be reported at the time of the twenty-fourth session.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to formulate a decision upon examining further information to be presented by the Secretariat and ICOMOS at the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau.

I.34. Tchogha Zanbil (Iran)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979

International assistance:

Technical Co-operation US\$ 20,000: Photogrammetry equipment

Previous deliberations:

Nineteenth session of the Bureau – paragraph VI.22

Twenty-second session of the Bureau – paragraph V.46

New information:

A monitoring mission to Isfahan and Tchoga Zanbil was undertaken by an ICCROM / ICOMOS expert at the invitation of the Government of Iran and with support from the World Heritage Fund in December 1999. A brief report will be presented by the expert, who will be a member of the ICOMOS dDelegation to the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine the findings of the mission and take a decision thereafter.

I.35. Luang Prabang (Laos)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1995

International Assistance:

Preparatory Assistance: 1994 : US\$ 15,000; 1996 : US\$ 7,342;

Technical Co-operation: 1996: US\$ 39,900; 1997: US\$ 25,000;

Promotional Assistance: 1998 : US\$ 5,000.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee - paragraph X.46 and Annex VIII

New information: The World Heritage Centre, its partner the City of Chinon (France) and the State Architect-Urbanist of France participated in the plenary session of the inter-ministerial National Commission for the Protection and Development of Cultural, Historical and Natural Heritage, the highest organ responsible for heritage, which took place in Luang Prabang in January 2000 and attended by six ministers and vice-ministers. The draft conservation and development plan (plan de sauvegarde et de mise en valeur - PSMV) for Luang Prabang and draft building guidelines were presented to the National Heritage Commission. The Commission approved the draft plan in principle and agreed to receive a UNESCO expert mission to prepare revisions to the existing decree on heritage protection and urbanism for harmonization with the draft plan. A legal expert on urbanism and a transport expert, to be made available to the Centre under the France-UNESCO Co-operation Agreement for the Protection of Monumental, Urban and Natural Heritage, will be undertaking a mission in July-August 2000 for this purpose.

Illegal construction has to a large extent been curbed but the dramatic increase in tourism and the large number of souvenir shops and guest houses established over the past two years in the Historic Centre of Luang Prabang, as well as the planned widening of roads risk the loss of the town's authenticity and increase in vehicular traffic in the town centre. The French Development Agency's (AFD) 11.8 million French Francs (US\$ 1.8 million) contribution to the 2-year project (1998-2000) to develop the local authorities' capacity in managing urban heritage has, however, resulted in considerable strengthening of the Heritage House to manage urban transformation. The Centre, through the decentralized co-operation scheme between Chinon and Luang Prabang is currently negotiating a second contribution from AFD for US\$ 3.5 million for urban infrastructural development. This AFD project is expected to be carried out in close collaboration with the Asian Development Bank's US\$ 4 million infrastructure project for Luang Prabang, of which US\$ 2 million is provisionally earmarked for the historic centre.

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

“The Bureau notes with appreciation the mobilization by the World Heritage Centre and the City of Chinon of substantive international development co-operation for the

protection and sustainable development of Luang Prabang and expresses gratitude to the Government of France, the French Development Agency and the Asian Development Bank for support in the safeguarding. While noting the progress made by the national and local authorities in strengthening the legal and management framework for urban heritage protection in Luang Prabang, the Bureau expresses concern over the rapid and ill-prepared growth of tourism which risks the loss of the town's authenticity. The Bureau requests the State Party to approve the conservation and development plan of Luang Prabang as soon as possible to ensure adequate legal protection of the site and for the national tourism strategy to give greater importance to heritage protection concerns. The Bureau requests the Centre to mobilize technical support to assist the State Party in this regard."

I.36. Kathmandu Valley (Nepal)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979

International assistance: A total of US\$ 240,374 has been provided as assistance from the World Heritage Fund for safeguarding this site since its inscription in 1979.

Preparatory Assistance: 1997 US\$ 7,510;

Training Assistance: 1997 US\$ 14,000;

Technical Co-operation: 1995-1999: a total amount of US\$ 154,800 (including US\$ 35,000: UNESCO-ICOMOS-HMG of Nepal Joint Mission for state of conservation and to elaborate a plan of corrective measures)

Emergency Assistance: 1995 US\$ 24,310; 1997 US\$ 19,969

Promotional Assistance: 1998 US\$ 5,000

Monitoring: 1994 US\$ 3,356; 1996 US\$ 3,000; 1996 US\$ 6,129; 1996 US\$ 2,300.

In addition to these contributions, there have been UNESCO Funds-in-Trust projects funded by the Government of Japan and activities supported by the UNESCO Division of Cultural Heritage within the framework of the International Safeguarding Campaign. Other ear-marked voluntary contributions to the UNESCO World Heritage Fund from NGOs (US\$ 90,000) and private sector donors (US\$ 40,000) for pilot project implementation have been mobilized by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre for enhanced management of the Kathmandu Valley site.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.69

Twenty-third session of the Committee - paragraph X.42

New information: Following the request of the Committee at its twenty-third session, the World Heritage Centre has made arrangements for a High Level Mission to be undertaken by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, two eminent international experts, and a representative of the World Heritage Centre. This High Level Mission is expected to take place in September 2000.

A mission was undertaken by a World Heritage Centre staff to Kathmandu Valley in April 2000 to prepare for the High Level Mission in September 2000. The mission noted continued concern that the public resthouse in Patan Darbar Square Monument Zone, had been illegally dismantled without the approval of the Department of Archaeology in September 1999 and despite the conditions of the historic building which permitted *in-situ* repair, had been reconstructed using new building material. This public resthouse within the Patan Darbar

Square Monument Zone had been recognized by ICOMOS and international experts as being in good condition in 1998.

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

“The Bureau requests HMG of Nepal to continue making all possible efforts to protect the remaining authentic historic urban fabric within the Kathmandu Valley site. The Bureau requests the Secretariat and the advisory bodies to continue to assist the State Party as appropriate and to strengthen its capacity in controlling development, retaining historic buildings *in-situ*, and in correcting illegal construction and alteration of historic buildings within the Kathmandu Valley site. The Bureau requests the World Heritage Centre to ensure adequate preparation of the High Level Mission scheduled for September 2000 and to report on the results to the twenty-fourth session of the Committee.”

I.37. Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (Nepal)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1997

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.70

Twenty-third session of the Committee - paragraph X.46 and Annex VIII

New information: Following the request of the Bureau at its twenty-third extraordinary session, a UNESCO reactive monitoring mission was undertaken in April 2000 by two international experts. They held further consultations with the authorities concerned for the restoration of the Maya Devi Temple, and examined the management and conservation needs of the fragile archaeological site. The UNESCO reactive monitoring mission recommended that:

- (a) in light of the sensitive religious, archaeological and political nature of the property, an international technical meeting be held to discuss the conservation, restoration, and presentation of the Maya Devi Temple in order to initiate alternative draft conceptual designs based upon non-intrusive foundations, reversibility, shelter and protection of the archaeological remains, visibility, focus, controlled access, and worship;
- (b) in advance of the international technical meeting referred to in point (a), initiate conservation of the Maya Devi Temple by recording the exposed brick surfaces photographically and through EMD recordings of levels of the bricks, and by recording the daily temperature, humidity, visitor and water table fluctuations within the Temple vicinity.

At the time of the preparation of this working document, an ICOMOS expert reactive monitoring mission to follow-up on the findings of the UNESCO mission was being organized. The findings of the ICOMOS mission will also be presented to the Bureau at its twenty-fourth session.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine further information at the time of its session and adopt a decision thereafter.

I.38. Taxila (Pakistan)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1980

International Assistance:

Technical co-operation : 1995 US\$ 28,000;

Promotional assistance: 1999 US\$ 5,000

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.71

Twenty-third session of the Committee - paragraph X.46 and Annex VIII

Fort and Shalamar Gardens of Lahore (Pakistan)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1981

International assistance: Emergency Assistance: 1981

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.72

Twenty-third session of the Committee - paragraph X.43

New information: The Committee, at its twenty-third session, requested the State Party to report on the urgent corrective measures taken to restore the demolished 375-year old essential hydraulic works of the Shalamar Gardens and to redress the completed football stadium built on the archaeological remains of Bhir Mound, the most ancient citadel site dating between 6th BC – 2nd AD within Taxila. At the time of the preparation of this working document, no information had been transmitted to the Secretariat from the Government authorities. In view of the ascertained threats undermining the authenticity and integrity of these two sites, the Centre will report to the twenty-fourth session of the Bureau on any information received for their recommendation to the Committee on the inscription of these sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its twenty-fourth session

Following the request of the Committee, the World Heritage Centre and the advisory bodies are organizing a reactive monitoring mission to be undertaken before the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau, to elaborate a comprehensive management plan for both the Fort and Shalamar Gardens of Lahore.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine further information at the time of its twenty-fourth session and take decisions thereupon.

I.39. Complex of Hué Monuments (Vietnam)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1993

International Assistance:

Preparatory Assistance: 1998 US\$5,000;

Technical Co-operation: 1994 US\$ 20,000; 1995 US\$ 108,000; 1996 US\$ 12,500; 1997 US\$ 35,000; 1998 US\$ 16,811;

Emergency Assistance: 1997 US\$ 50,000; 1999 US\$ 50,000.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee - paragraph VII.43 and Annex IV

New information: To implement the Emergency Assistance grant approved by the Committee at its twenty-third session following the November 1999 floods in Central Vietnam, the worst recorded in modern times, the World Heritage Centre sent an initial assessment mission in

December 1999 to prepare the terms of reference of a technical assessment and project identification mission. As requested by the Committee at its twenty-third session, the mission elaborated extrabudgetary project proposals on emergency rehabilitation activities as well as ones for disaster mitigation. The joint UNESCO – Vietnamese expert team developed 19 project proposals for Hue and Hoi An amounting to the total amount of over US\$ 6 million.

The floods did not cause direct and immediate damage to the inscribed monuments in Hue but the experts concluded that long-term damage from humidity and timber decay would be certain if left untreated. With the exception of the Royal Arena, all major riverside monuments on the north-eastern bank and those near the Perfume River are now at risk of serious damage from future floods due to the northward shift of the course of the Perfume River and riverbank erosion.

The most evident damage was to the Minh Mang Tomb where the landscape was devastated due to the uprooting of over 20 ancient trees and erosion of a 500-metre section of the riverbank, bringing the river ten metres closer to the monument. The embankment protection alone has been estimated to cost some US\$ 670,000 while the cost of conservation and repair of the architectural complex of the Ming Mang Tombs was established at US\$ 1.8 million.

Damage has also been recorded in other monumental complexes such as the Hon Chen Temple, Tu Duc Mausoleum groups and to the important collection of textiles of the Hue Museum of Royal Fine Arts, among others. One of the consultants of this UNESCO expert team has stayed on in Hue to work with the national and local authorities as part of the joint-international emergency team. Representing the French NGO, CODEV and UNESCO, this expert who is a retired engineer of the French government agency DATAR, is drawing government and international donor attention to the urgent need for riverbank consolidation to mitigate disaster which could be caused by the next flood season in September-October this year. Meanwhile, US\$ 20,000 of the emergency assistance grant from the World Heritage Fund is being used for timber decay detection equipment and emergency rooting to prevent further deterioration.

The International Information Meeting on Urban Conservation in Hue, organized by the Vietnamese National Commission for UNESCO and the Thua Thien-Hue Province, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, took place in Hue on 17-18 April 2000. The meeting presided by the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam and the acting Assistance Director-General for Culture of UNESCO reported on the flood damage, and on the urban heritage conservation needs. The results of the 3-year Hue-Lille Metropole decentralized co-operation project under the aegis of the Centre, on the urban and legal diagnosis was very well accepted by the participants, representing all concerned national and local authorities. The team's assessment of the shortcomings of the draft conservation plan was also accepted and the national and local authorities have agreed to study the draft plan and regulations with a view to making the necessary revisions to strengthen development control and prevent further loss of urban heritage.

A proposal prepared by the French Bank, Caisse des Depots et Consignation (CDC), in cooperation with Lille and the World Heritage Centre, for a Housing Improvement Fund to finance subsidies and loans to private owners of heritage buildings located within the Hue World Heritage site was presented to the information meeting. To initiate this Fund of US\$ 775,000, initially targeted for the restoration of some 300 historic buildings, a grant aid of US\$ 224,000 from international donors is required. The Centre and the CDC are cooperating to seek funding support from international and regional financial institutions and donor agencies.

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

“The Bureau notes with deep concern, reports on the gravity of the damage caused to the monuments and the urban heritage of the Hue World Heritage site by the November 1999 floods. The Bureau expresses appreciation for the efficient manner in which the Vietnamese authorities have handled emergency actions to prevent further damage to the site and for their efforts in preparing the project proposals, despite priorities for relief to the inhabitants. The Bureau requests UNESCO, notably its Bureau for Extrabudgetary Funding (BER) to co-operate with the World Heritage Centre in seeking donors for these projects. In view of the damage and the important funding support required to redress the situation and to mitigate risks of future seasonal floods, the Bureau requests the State Party to consider the inscription of this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger and to report to the Centre by 15 September on their decision.”

Latin America and the Caribbean

No reports are presented under this Section.

Europe and North America

I.40. Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg (Austria)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1996

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations: None

New information: The Secretariat has been informed on several occasions of a project to construct a huge sport-stadium near the Baroque Castle of Klessheim close to the World Heritage site. The Secretariat has repeatedly asked the Austrian authorities for a report on the possible impact of this project on the World Heritage site of the Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg. To date, the requested report has not been submitted to the Secretariat.

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

“The Bureau requests the Austrian authorities to submit a report on the possible impact of the project of a sports stadium adjacent to the Baroque Castle of Klessheim on the World Heritage site of the Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg before 15 September 2000, in order that it may be examined by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth extraordinary session.”

I.41. Cathedral of Notre-Dame, Former Abbey of Saint-Remi and Palace of Tau, Reims (France)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1991

International assistance: N/A

Previous deliberations

Twenty-third session of the Bureau, paragraph IV.58.

New Information: The Secretariat has requested the French authorities and ICOMOS to provide information on the progress made in the preparation of the project for the surroundings of the Cathedral (the Parvis). Information that may be available at the time of the Bureau session will be provided during this session.

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

I.42. World Heritage properties in France

- **Palace and Park of Fontainebleau** *Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1981*
- **Chateau and Estate of Chambord** *Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1981*
- **Amiens Cathedral** *Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1981*
- **Chartres Cathedral** *Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1979*
- **Strasbourg- Grande Ile** *Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1988*
- **Cathedral of Notre-Dame, Former Abbey of Saint-Rémi and Palace of Tau Reims** *Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1991*
- **Paris, Banks of the Seine** *Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1991*
- **Mont-Saint-Michel and its Bay** *Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1979*
- **Palace and Park of Versailles** *Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1979*

International assistance: N/A

Previous deliberations: N/A

New Information: Following the December 1999 storm, the above-mentioned French sites inscribed on the World Heritage List were seriously damaged. The French authorities provided the Secretariat with information about the major damage and estimated costs of repair. The damage was particularly severe at the following World Heritage sites:

- Fontainebleau: material damages to the roofing, 800 trees uprooted in the English garden. Damage was assessed at an amount of FF 4 Million.

- Notre Dame de Paris: collapse of a number of outside sculptures. Damage was assessed at an amount of FF 22.2 Million.

-Palace and Park of Versailles: material damage to the roof of the Palace and severe damage in the Park. Damage was assessed at an amount of FF 250 Million.

The report was transmitted to ICOMOS for further advice.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine information that will be provided at the time of its session and may wish to recommend the French authorities to submit a request for international assistance in this regard.

I.43. Roman Monuments, Cathedral St. Peter and Liebfrauen-Church in Trier (Germany)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1986

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.59

Twenty-third session of the Committee - paragraph X.45 and Annex VIII

New information: The Bureau of the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-third extraordinary session, encouraged the German authorities to develop the building plan for the integration of the Roman water pipes and town ramparts. It requested the Government of Germany to submit this plan, if possible before 15 April 2000, for examination by ICOMOS. To date, the requested report has not been submitted to the Secretariat.

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

I.44. Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin (Germany)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1990/1992

International assistance: None

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee - paragraph VII.34

Twenty-third session of the Committee - paragraph X.37

New information: The Committee at its twenty-third session acknowledged the efforts made to restrict as much as possible the negative effects of the Havel Project (German Unity Project 17) on the integrity of the World Heritage site. It requested the German authorities to continue its efforts to find a solution in conformity with the requirements of the World Heritage Convention. A report should be provided before 15 April 2000 in order that it may be examined by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth session.

To date, the requested report has not been submitted to the Secretariat. By letter dated 19 April 2000, the State Party asked the Secretariat to extend the deadline of submission of the requested report. In the event that the report is not submitted to the forthcoming session of the Bureau, it requested to postpone the discussion until the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau.

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

I.45. Hortabagy National Park (Hungary)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1999 as a cultural landscape.

Please refer to section above (*World Heritage affected by a spill from Romania*).

I.46. Auschwitz Concentration Camp (Poland)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979

International assistance: In 1998 an amount of US\$ 20,000 was provided under technical cooperation for the organization of an international expert meeting on the planning and protection of the surroundings of the site. In December 1999 a request for an amount of US\$ 15,000 (Technical Co-operation) for the organization of further expert meetings for the Strategic Governmental Programme for Auschwitz was submitted to the Secretariat for consideration.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee - paragraph VII.38

Twenty-third session of the Bureau, paragraph IV.75

Twenty-third session of the Committee, paragraph X.46 and Annex VII

New information: The Bureau of the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-third session requested the Government of Poland to submit a further progress report by 15 April 2000 for examination by the Bureau at its twenty-fourth session. During a mission to Poland, a staff member of the World Heritage Centre was informed that a draft spatial plan for the surroundings of the Camps had been prepared and would be discussed with the International Expert Group. This group will tentatively meet during the first week of July 2000.

With regard to the request from the Polish National Commission for UNESCO for the Committee's views on the matter of the restitution to the author of portraits made while she was imprisoned in the Camp, the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-third extraordinary session concluded that legal advice from the Secretariat is required before this matter can further examined by the Bureau or the Committee.

Concerning the restitution, the Office of the International Standards and Legal Affairs has provided the following observations:

“As you are aware, it is the States Parties to the Convention, whether acting in the Assembly of States Parties, in the Committee or in its Bureau, which are competent to decide on matters of interpretation of the Convention. We note that the World Heritage Centre acting in its Secretariat function appropriately transmitted this matter, without taking a position thereon, to the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee at the request of a State Party.

However, since the Bureau has now specifically requested legal advice, please be informed that it is the view of this Office, after having examined the file, that this matter involves a dispute of a private nature and that it does not come within the framework of the World Heritage Convention. Consequently, we are of the opinion that it is not within the competence of any of the organs created under the Convention to take a position or any action on this matter.”

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine this matter at its session.

I.47. Angra do Heroismo (Portugal)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1983

International assistance: N.A.

Previous deliberations

Twenty-third session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.76.

Twenty-third session of the Committee - paragraph X.44.

New information: The Secretariat received two reports from the Permanent Delegation of Portugal: (1) report of meeting on the marina project (13-14 January 2000, attended by the ICOMOS-designated expert), and (2) a Periodic Report on the State of Angra and its Sea Front (dated 10 April 2000).

The Periodic Report provides information on:

- The adoption of a plan for the Urban Involvement of the Angra Bay;
- Models developed for the marina dam, its connection to the city and support services;
- Status of development of the areas along the Bay, including the eighteenth century staircase and the remains of the Porta do Mar.

The reports have been transmitted to ICOMOS for review and advice.

Action required: The Bureau may wish to examine ICOMOS's advice that will be presented at the time of its session and take the appropriate decision thereupon.

I.48. Cultural Landscape of Sintra (Portugal)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1995

International assistance: N.A.

Previous deliberations: None

New information: The Permanent Delegation of Portugal submitted to the Secretariat on 5 May 2000 a report concerning the state of conservation of Sintra. The report was transmitted to ICOMOS and IUCN for review.

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

I.49. Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites (United Kingdom)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1986

International assistance: N/A

Summary of previous deliberations: Twenty-second session of the Bureau - paragraph V.70.

New Information: A Management Plan for the Stonehenge World Heritage site, prepared under the direction of the Stonehenge World Heritage Site Management Group (comprising national and local organizations) and chaired by an English Heritage Commissioner was received. This management plan emphasizes that all relevant bodies recognise the importance of the World Heritage site inscription and are committed to maintaining a co-ordinated approach to the site's management. The plan identifies all the constituent parts of the site, the responsible bodies, the protective mechanisms and administrative arrangements in place and the key issues which need to be addressed.

Furthermore, The Department for Culture, Media and Sport provided a detailed response to letters of concern that had been received at the Secretariat with regard to the planning for the site, particularly the solution proposed for the A303 road (cut-and-cover tunnel of two kilometers long).

Both the Management Plan and the above-mentioned response have been transmitted to ICOMOS for review and advice.

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.

PART II REPORTS ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST FOR NOTING

NATURAL HERITAGE

II.1. Comoe National Park (Côte d'Ivoire)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1983

International assistance: US\$ 97,000 under Technical Co-operation, including the US\$50,000 approved by the twenty-third session of the Committee (Marrakesh, 1999).

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X. 24, and page 46, (under “1.Africa(d).II”)

New information: Activities financed by the US\$50,000 approved by the twenty-third session of the Committee (Marrakesh, 1999) are currently under implementation. The delivery of equipment, including vehicles, is in progress. Baseline studies on biodiversity status and measures to mitigate the threats of poaching and population encroachment around the site are expected to begin soon. The Centre is in contact with the State Party to determine a suitable time and the Terms of Reference for a mission, as recommended by the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau (Marrakesh, 1999), to review prevailing threats to the integrity of the site and plan emergency rehabilitation measures. The Centre for Ecological Research (CER), authorised by the Government as the institution responsible for environmental research in the country, had proposed in 1999 that the site be inscribed in the List of World Heritage in Danger. CER has reiterated that the conditions for inscribing the site on the World Heritage List in Danger continue to prevail.

The Centre and IUCN will continue their dialogue with the State Party to organise a field mission to the site and submit to the twenty-fourth session of the Committee a detailed state of conservation report and corrective measures for mitigating threats to the site to enable the Committee to consider including Comoe National Park in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

II.2. Caves of the Aggtelek and Slovak Karst (Hungary/Slovakia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1995

International Assistance: none

Previous deliberations: Not applicable.

New information: IUCN, based on information provided in “Karst Conduit”, the newsletter of the International Geographical Union Commission on Man and Karst, has reported to the Centre that while the main caves have been inscribed on the World Heritage List, the land above them, including the allogenic catchments of the caves, are not protected. Agricultural activity in the catchments has resulted in soil erosion and the sediment is being delivered into the caves. There have been reports of impacts on the karst environment from communal sewage and from the quarry previously in operation at Estramos Hill. This is an issue of concern for IUCN, as the impact of activities in upstream catchment areas can significantly impact on the quality of the karst environment of the World Heritage site. IUCN suggests that the State Party facilitate co-operative management planning with the owners of the land above

the caves and in associated catchment areas, to minimise impacts on the World Heritage values of the caves.

The Secretariat will transmit IUCN's observations and concerns to the State Party and request the State Party to initiate a management planning process, in co-operation with the owners of the land above the caves and in associated catchment areas, in order to minimise impacts on the caves. The State Party will be requested to provide a response to the issues raised, and the proposals of IUCN before 15 September 2000 in order to enable the Centre to report to the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau in November 2000.

II.3. Kaziranga National Park (India)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1985

International assistance: US\$ 50,000 under Technical Co-operation

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph X.28 and Annex VIII

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV.33

New Information: IUCN has informed the Centre that the State Party has developed a 5-year Action Plan including a calendar for its implementation for the site and focusing on anti-poaching activities and habitat management. The twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau (Marrakesh, 1999) requested the State Party to inform the Centre whether it intends to include a recent extension of 44 square kilometres into the World Heritage site. The Director of the Park in a report to the Chief Conservator of Forests dated 17 February 2000 and transmitted to the Centre by UNESCO, New Delhi, has noted that the decision concerning the extension is yet to be ratified by the legislature of the Assam State. Hence, a formal proposal for the extension of the World Heritage site would have to await the approval by the State legislature. The report of the Director notes that erosion damage caused by the 1998 floods has to be studied and suggested that UNESCO be contacted for funds for financing such studies. The Centre has been offered a sum of DM 10,000 by a German Tour Operator (Windrose), with the support and encouragement of the UNESCO National Commission of Germany, for use in the protection of Kaziranga National Park. The Centre is in contact with the UNESCO Office in New Delhi and the Director of the Kaziranga National Park in order to mobilise the DM 10,000 for undertaking studies on erosion damage caused by the 1998 floods.

The Secretariat will commend the State Party for elaborating a 5-year action plan and encourage the setting aside of adequate resources for its implementation. The State Party will be requested to keep the Centre informed of progress in the approval of the proposed extension to the Park by the legislature of the Assam State of India. The Centre will facilitate the transfer of the donation of DM 10,000 offered by a German Tour Operator for undertaking studies on damage caused by soil erosion in Kaziranga and report the findings of the study to the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau in 2001.

II.4. Lorentz National Park (Indonesia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1999

International assistance: Preparatory assistance: US\$ 15,000

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – paragraph - VIII.3, Section A.1, page 9.

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph – V.3, Section A, page 38

New information:

A member of the Centre staff participated in a meeting to discuss the recommendations of the twenty-third session of the Committee, hosted by the UNESCO Office in Jakarta on 18 February 2000. The representatives of the UNESCO National Commission of Indonesia, Ministry of Forestry and Estate Crops, Ministry of Environment, Freeport-Moran Mining Company, Conoco (oil and gas exploration), WWF-International and WWF-Indonesia and the Indonesian Branch of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) attended the meeting. The site manager as well as the provincial staff of WWF and TNC were present.

All participants agreed to present to the UNESCO National Commission of Indonesia detailed statements on the human resources and financial commitments they are willing to make for the conservation of this site. The industrial concerns, namely Freeport Moran and Conoco, confirmed their interest to contribute to site conservation; Freeport Moran and WWF-Indonesia have already initiated negotiations to set up an Irian Jaya Conservation Trust and will further explore the specific financial commitment they would consider making to the conservation of Lorentz. The statements from the Government, NGOs and the Industrial enterprises outlining the specific contributions they are willing to make for the conservation of Lorentz are expected to be finalized before mid-2000. These contributions will be used to elaborate a three-year action plan, including definitions of expected outputs and indicators of success. The monitoring mission to the site foreseen in 2002, in accordance with the recommendation of the twenty-third session of the Committee (Marrakesh, 1999), will base its evaluation of the state of conservation of the site and the achievements of the three-year action plan.

The Secretariat will encourage the State Party and UNESCO, Jakarta to work with all stakeholders concerned to develop the three-year action plan and submit it for review by the Centre and IUCN before 15 September 2000. The Centre, in consultation with UNESCO, Jakarta, and IUCN will report to the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Bureau on the progress made in finalizing the three year action plan.

II.5. Kamchatka Volcanoes (Russian Federation)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1996

International Assistance: none

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-second session of the Committee – paragraph VII.27 and Annex IV

New information: IUCN has informed the Centre that on the 12 December 1999, the Governor of Kamchatka announced the establishment of the new Kluchevskoy Nature Park of 375,981 ha., which includes the largest group of volcanoes in Eurasia. An extension to the existing World Heritage site has been proposed and IUCN has recommended that this be evaluated in 2001. IUCN has also received a report from Project Kamchatka '98, which presents the results of the 1998 joint expedition of the Kamchatka Institute of Ecology and Natural Resource Management, Russian Academy of Sciences (KIEP) and Cambridge University. This report records a number of socio-economic difficulties in this region and emphasises the need to link planning of the World Heritage site with development opportunities for local populations. The report notes that: "without constructive collaboration between the Bystrinsky District Administration, the Kamchatka Parks Directorate and the

local communities, it is impossible to achieve effective development of the Park, the population and the district as a whole". To address these issues the Project Kamchatka report proposes a number of practical suggestions to regulators and decision-makers relating to options for conservation, sustainable development and research.

IUCN has received a copy of a proposal of a GEF, Block B Grant entitled: "Demonstrating sustainable conservation of biological diversity in four protected areas on Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula". The proposal was due to be examined by the GEF Council in April 2000. IUCN notes that this World Heritage site faces significant management challenges and urges the World Heritage Bureau and Committee and the international community to support conservation efforts at this site.

The Secretariat will encourage the State Party and the Kamchatka Regional Authorities to proceed with the proposal to extend the site, for possible evaluation by IUCN in 2001, and to mobilise GEF funding to conserve biological diversity. The State Party will be encouraged to consider implementing the findings of the Report of the "Project Kamchatka 98" and study the feasibility for linking biodiversity conservation and regional socio-economic development.

II.6. Sinharaja Forest Reserve (Sri Lanka)

Year of Inscription on the World Heritage List: 1988

International assistance: US\$ 5,000 under technical co-operation

Previous deliberations: Not applicable

New information: The Centre and IUCN received reports in early 2000 from the Environmental Law Foundation of Sri Lanka that raised concerns over possible threats to the integrity of this site due to proposals for organic tea cultivation in a 62 hectares plot of land within the eastern border of the site. These reports were transmitted to the Permanent Delegate of Sri Lanka to UNESCO for verification and comment. No response has been received at the time of the preparation of this document.

IUCN has informed the Centre that the ownership of this area is not formally vested with the Forest Department by a gazette notification, which should have been published by the Land Reform Commission (LRC). The Provincial Council of Sabaragamuwa has opposed the proposal strongly and now the LRC has informed the Forestry Department (FD) that the leasing out of a block of land from the buffer zone of Sinharaja for the above project has been stopped. In the meantime action has been initiated requesting LRC to vest this area under FD formally by a gazette notification. Furthermore, IUCN has noted that the boundary re-survey of Sinharaja has been completed and visible permanent boundary posts are being fixed by the Forest Department, so that the protection of Sinharaja is further secured. IUCN, Sri Lanka, will also be working with the Forest Department to implement a proposed GEF financed project to conserve Sinharaja, particularly through a programme of buffer zone development activities along the southern boundary.

The Secretariat will request the State Party to provide a detailed report on the steps being taken to stop the release of land within the site for organic tea farming and for preventing the recurrence of similar claims of land in the future. The State Party will be invited to provide a full description of the buffer zone development project along the southern borders of the site for which the State Party is applying for a GEF grant.

II.7. Bwindi Impenetrable Forest (Uganda)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994

International assistance: US\$ 2,600 as Preparatory Assistance.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – pages 92/93 as part of Annex VIII.

Twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau – paragraph IV. 41

New information: IUCN has informed the Centre that since the conclusion of the twenty-third session of the Committee (Marrakesh, 1999) the following information has been received:

- Park management has continued to be strengthened by equipping Park Warden and rangers with additional facilities;
- Combined security force comprising the Park Staff and Uganda Peoples Defence Force has been consolidated;
- Road network to Bwindi and within the surrounding area has been improved;
- Publicity on the improving security situation in the Park for visitors received a tremendous boost from the visit of His Excellency the President of Uganda in late February 2000;
- The number of visitors /tourists has steadily increased to over 200 visitors per month; and
- The Uganda Tourism Board, the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry, and local travel agents have sustained a publicity campaign about the site.

The Secretariat will commend the State Party for the actions taken to improve the security situation in the area and run a campaign to attract an increasing number of visitors back to the area. The Centre and IUCN will continuously monitor improvements in the protection and management of the area and provide an up-to-date progress report to the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau in 2001.

MIXED (CULTURAL AND NATURAL) HERITAGE

No reports are submitted under this Section.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Arab States

No reports are submitted under this Section.

Africa

II.8. Rock-hewn Churches, Lalibela (Ethiopia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1983

International assistance: No international assistance received since 1986.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-first session of the Committee - paragraph VII.46

New information: The Committee recommended “that the Competition File of the European Union for temporary shelters for the Five Churches be reviewed to integrate the points of

view of the UNESCO consultant with a view to preserving the World Heritage value of the site". The European Union took into account this decision in the preparation of the call for tender for the "International Architecture Competition for shelters for the Five Churches". It convened the members of the Jury from 27 November to 2 December 1999 in Ethiopia. The project was selected unanimously by the members, including a UNESCO representative. Furthermore, it was announced that half of the contribution of the European Union, e.g. 25 Million Birr, would cover the costs of the different studies for the restoration of the churches, and strengthen the capacity of the national agency responsible for conservation of cultural heritage in Ethiopia. It is also foreseen to designate an expert who will be made available to the national authorities for a 2-year period, to facilitate contacts between the different partners and seek additional funding.

Asia and the Pacific

No reports are presented under this Section.

Latin America and the Caribbean

II.9. City of Cuzco (Peru)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1983

International assistance:

The World Heritage Fund co-operated in the conservation of the site and the preparation of its Master Plan with a total of US\$ 72,000. Of this sum US\$ 20,000 were allocated in 1997 for the preparation of the Master Plan.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Bureau - paragraph IV.73)

Twenty-third session of the Committee - paragraph number X.46 and Annex VIII

New information: The Secretariat was informed by the State Party in April 2000 that the Provincial Municipality of Cusco and the National Institute of Culture-Cusco (INC-Cusco) formed the "Commission for the Elaboration of the Master Plan for the Historic Centre of Cusco" and that the implementation of the previously drafted Action Plan is now commencing aided by a contribution of US\$ 20,000 from the World Heritage Fund.

II.10. Chavin (Archaeological Site) (Peru)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1985

International assistance: Emergency Assistance of US\$ 37,250 in 1998 in response to the El Nino phenomenon. An additional request for emergency assistance of US\$ 30,000 was received in February 2000. The Secretariat requested complementary information on the purpose and budget of the request.

Previous deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee - paragraph X.46 and Annex VIII.

New information: The Peruvian Delegation informed the Secretariat that:

- protective measures against the impact of rain have been undertaken;
- a Commission for the Elaboration of a Master Plan for Chavin has been set up under the direction of a distinguished Peruvian archaeologist;

- a detailed request for emergency assistance from the World Heritage Fund for the conservation of the internal galleries is under preparation.

II.11. Lines and Geoglyphs of Nasca and Pampas de Jumana (Peru)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994

International assistance: Technical cooperation US\$ 50,000 in 1999.

Previous deliberations: N.A.

New information: The implementation of the technical cooperation from the World Heritage Fund is now underway with the preparation of the outline for a Master Plan for the site.

Europe and North America

II.12. Vilnius Historic Centre (Lithuania)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994

International assistance: (reference made only to 1999 and 2000)

1999: US\$ 20,000 for the Academy of Cultural Heritage, Vilnius

US\$ 23,000 for OTRA

US\$ 30,00 for two international consultants

2000: US\$ 10,000 for an international consultant

US\$ 5,000 for computers for the OTRA Information Centre

Previous deliberation:

Twenty-second session of the Committee - paragraph IV.43 and Annex IV

New information: In 2000, further progress on the implementation for the revitalization of the Old Town of Vilnius will be achieved. The contract of the international consultant was extended for a further six months under technical co-operation from the World Heritage Fund. In March and April the course “*Training and Consulting for OTRA Staff*” was successfully organized in Edinburgh, UK. US\$ 5,000 from the World Heritage Fund will be contributed for the purchase of computer equipment for the planned *OTRA Information Centre* in Vilnius. The *Nordic World Heritage Office* expressed its support for the creation of that Information Centre.