

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Bureau of the World Heritage Committee

Eleventh Session

(Unesco Headquarters, 23-26 June 1987)

Item 11 of the Provisional Agenda : Report of the World Heritage Committee
to the General Conference (24th Session)

In accordance with Article 29.3 of the Convention, the Committee shall submit a report of its activities at each of the ordinary sessions of the Unesco General Conference. The draft of document 24 C/93 "Report of the World Heritage Committee to the General Conference (24th session)" is attached hereto, covering the period October 1985 to 31 May 1987. The Bureau is requested to adopt this draft for submission to the General Conference.

REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

SUMMARY

The Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage was established by the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage adopted by the General Conference, at its seventeenth session, on 16 November 1972.

This report is submitted to the General Conference by the above-mentioned Committee in accordance with Article 29(3) of the aforesaid Convention which stipulates that 'The Committee shall submit a report on its activities at each of the ordinary sessions of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization'.

I. COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

1. The number of states having deposited an instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession in respect of the World Heritage Convention was eighty-seven at the beginning of the fifth General Assembly which met during the twenty-third session of the General Conference (Sofia 1985). This number has increased to ninety-five as at 31 May 1987. The list of these states is given in Annex I.

2. At its fifth session, the General Assembly elected seven members of the Committee in replacement of those members whose term of office was due to expire. The World Heritage Committee is at present composed as follows:

Algeria^{**/}, Australia^{**/}, Brazil^{*/}, Bulgaria^{***/}, Canada^{***/}, Cyprus^{*/}, Germany (Federal Republic of)^{*/}, Greece^{***/}, Guinea^{*/}, India^{***/}, Jordan^{*/}, Lebanon^{**/}, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya^{*/}, Malawi^{**/}, Mexico^{***/}, Norway^{**/}, Sri Lanka^{**/}, Turkey^{**/}, United Republic of Tanzania^{***/}, Yemen (Arab Republic of)^{***}, and Zaire^{*/}.

^{*/} States whose terms of office will expire at the end of the 24th session of the General Conference

^{**/} States whose terms of office will expire at the end of the 25th session of the General Conference

^{***/} States whose terms of office will expire at the end of the 26th session of the General Conference.

3. Since the previous report submitted to the twenty-third session of the General Conference (document 23 C/86), the Committee met twice in Paris, from 2-6 December 1985 and 24-28 November 1986 for its ninth and tenth ordinary sessions, respectively.

4. The Bureau of the Committee also met twice in Paris, from 16-19 June 1986 and 23-26 June 1987, for its tenth and eleventh ordinary sessions, respectively. It was composed as follows:

- From 29 October 1984 to 2 December 1985:

Chairman: Mr. J. Gazaneo (Argentina)

Vice-Chairmen: Algeria, Australia, Norway, Pakistan and Senegal

Rapporteur: Mr. L. Chabason (France)

- From 2 December 1985 to 24 November 1986

Chairman: Mr. Amini Aza Mturi (United Republic of Tanzania)

Vice-Chairmen: Algeria, Bulgaria, India, Mexico and Norway

Rapporteur: Mr. Alex T. Davidson (Canada)

- From 24 November 1986 to the beginning of the eleventh ordinary session (December 1987)

Chairman: Mr. J. D. Collinson (Canada)

Vice-Chairman: Algeria, Bulgaria, India, Mexico and Zaire

Rapporteur: Brazil

5. The functions of the World Heritage Committee as stipulated in the Convention may be briefly summarized as follows:

- (i) to identify, on the basis of nominations submitted by States Parties, cultural and natural properties of outstanding universal value which are to be protected under the Convention, and to list these properties on the 'World Heritage List';
- (ii) to decide which properties included in the World Heritage List are to be inscribed on the 'List of World Heritage in Danger';
- (iii) to determine in what way and under what conditions the resources in the World Heritage Fund can most advantageously be used to assist States Parties, as far as possible, in the protection of their properties of outstanding universal value inscribed on the World Heritage List.

II. THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST AND THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

6. During the period under review, the World Heritage Committee, on the basis of nominations put forward by States Parties in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention, has added to the World Heritage List sixty-one cultural and natural properties. It should be noted that some of these properties consist of several monuments or sites. This brings to 247 the total number of entries on the World Heritage List as at 31 December 1986; this list is to be found in Annex II.

7. In establishing the World Heritage List, the Committee has been guided by the need to ensure that the List is as representative as possible of all cultural and natural properties which meet the requirement of outstanding universal value stipulated by the Convention as well as the criteria adopted by the Committee for the evaluation of cultural and natural properties; these criteria are set out in the 'Operational guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention' (document WHC/2 Revised, January 1987). The Committee has evaluated each nomination in terms of these criteria and, in so doing, has taken note of the comments of the appropriate non-governmental organization, the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) or the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) which, together with the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and the Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), attend the meetings of the Committee in an advisory capacity.

8. The increase in the number of nominations from States Parties has made it more than ever desirable to draw up tentative lists of properties which may be nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List, as foreseen in Article 11 of the Convention. For ICOMOS, which at the request of the World Heritage Committee must examine all cultural nominations in the light of comparative studies, it is necessary to have the tentative lists drawn up by the States Parties concerned in order to evaluate such new nominations. For IUCN, which in 1982 published an inventory of the world's greatest natural areas, such tentative lists are useful to improve and update the world inventory. As of 31 May 1987, the Secretariat had received tentative lists of cultural and natural properties from the following States Parties: Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, France, Greece, India, Italy, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Yugoslavia. Tentative lists of cultural properties only have been received from: Benin, Cyprus, Germany (Federal Republic of), Guyana, Hungary, Jordan, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Pakistan, Spain and Switzerland. Brazil and Spain have informed the Secretariat of their wish to add sites to their lists of cultural properties; Canada to add one site to its natural properties

9. At its sixth session, the Committee had adopted guidelines which had been prepared jointly by IUCN and ICOMOS for the inscription of cultural and natural properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger. This List, which enumerates properties for the conservation of which major rescue operations are urgent and for which assistance has been requested under the Convention, has grown from five to seven properties during the period under review. An updated version of the List, as at 31 December 1986 is given in Annex III. At the tenth session of the Committee held in Paris from 24-28 November 1986, the IUCN reported on some improvements and stabilisation of the situations in three natural

properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, viz. Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary (Senegal); Ngorongoro Conservation Area (United Republic of Tanzania); and Garamba National Park (Zaire).

III. THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND

(i) Contributions

10. For the period 1984-85, total contributions from States Parties to the World Heritage Fund amounted to US\$1,597,397.30 as at 31 December 1986. For the period 1986-87, total contributions from States Parties amounted to US\$817,137.71 as at 31 December 1986, of which US\$388,531.21 was in the form of mandatory contributions and the balance of US\$428,606.50, in the form of voluntary contributions. As concerns voluntary contributions and the moral obligation that they imply, it is recalled that Article 16, paragraph 4 of the Convention stipulates that these contributions "... shall be paid on a regular basis, at least every two years, and should not be less than the contributions which they (States Parties having opted for voluntary contributions) should have paid if they had been bound by the provisions of paragraph 1 of this article." (i.e. mandatory contributions amounting at present to 1% of the annual contribution of States Parties to the Regular Budget of Unesco). However, certain States Parties having opted for voluntary contributions had paid contributions which were considerably less than the equivalent of 1%. In addition, as concerns the mandatory contributions, it is to be noted that several States Parties have been in arrears with their payments.

Given this situation, the Committee, at its ninth session, requested its Chairman and the Secretariat to send out a series of letters to States Parties concerning their contributions to the World Heritage Fund, inviting them in particular to pay these contributions at as early a date as possible in each calendar year. The Chairman had also been requested to write to the United States of America enquiring about the amount of its voluntary contribution, as well as to other States Parties paying voluntary contributions, asking them to consider the possibility of withdrawing the declaration by which they had opted to pay voluntary contributions. In reply the United States had pledged \$239,000 for 1986, which was received. Brazil, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany and Norway indicated that they intended to continue to pay voluntary contributions.

The Executive Board of Unesco, during its 126th session held in September 1986, had also appealed to a) Member States which have not become parties to the World Heritage Convention to examine the possibilities of becoming parties thereto and b) States Parties, whether or not they have made the declaration foreseen in Article 16, paragraph 2, to pay promptly and regularly to the World Heritage Fund at least 1% of their contribution to the regular budget of Unesco, in order to increase the resources which are needed to ensure the safeguarding of World Heritage sites. Several States Parties did respond to these appeals and the situation of the World Heritage Fund for the period under review improved with respect to that of the previous period. There were clear indications that more Member States of Unesco would become States Parties to the Convention and those which had already done so, pay their contributions in full and without undue delays. Chances of further improvements in the situation of the World Heritage Fund remain favourable.

(ii) Assistance to States Parties

11. During the period 15 April 1985 to 31 May 1987, several types of international assistance, as described below, have been made available to States Parties, under the World Heritage Fund.

(a) Preparatory assistance (assistance for the preparation of tentative lists of cultural and/or natural properties suitable for inclusion in the World Heritage List, of nominations to the List and of requests for technical co-operation).

Preparatory assistance has been made available to the following States Parties: China, Ecuador, Madagascar, Malawi, Nepal, Oman, Panama, Turkey, Zambia and, through ICOMOS missions, to Jordan, Madagascar and Syria, at an estimated cost of ...US\$81,482

(b) Emergency assistance (assistance for preservation work in connection with cultural and natural properties included or suitable for inclusion in the World Heritage List and which are in immediate danger of destruction or serious deterioration). Emergency assistance has been made to:

- Peru (contribution to urgent consolidation work at Cuzco).	US\$25,000
- Tanzania (Equipment to strengthen protection of Ngorongoro Conservation Area)	US\$20,000
- Zaïre (equipment for the rescue programme for the white rhinoceros population in Garamba National Park)	US\$20,000
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	US\$65,000
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(c) Training:

(i) Individual fellowships. Individual fellowships have been granted to nationals of the following States Parties: Brazil, Cameroon, China, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Egypt, Ethiopia, Honduras, Madagascar, Malawi, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Senegal, Tanzania, Tunisia, Zaire and Zambia, at an estimated cost of US\$252,800

(ii) Training Courses:

- Training activities for personnel responsible for the implementation of the management plan for Talamanca-La Amistad, Costa Rica	US\$ 20,000
- Central American training course for wildlife guards in CATIE, Costa Rica	US\$ 5,000
- Financial contribution to support five participants at CATIE/Costa Rica training course on Wildlands planning and management course	US\$10,000

- Financial support to study tour in Cameroon for students following course on protected areas and wildlife management in Montpellier, France	US\$20,000
- Support to training activities in Huascarán National Park, Peru	US\$ 5,300
- Support to training activities in Macchu Picchu Historical Sanctuary, Peru	US\$ 8,000
- Contribution made to ICCROM for assisting in the organization of a training course on restoration of mosaics to be held in 1988 in Tunisia	US\$15,000
- Financial support to a regional training workshop on the ecology and conservation of tropical humid forests of the Indo-Malayan Realm held in Sri Lanka, March 1987	US\$20,000
- Financial support to the Stone Conservation Course to be held in Venice from 28 April to 26 June 1987	US\$37,500
- Financial support to regional meeting on protected areas organized by IUCN, Niamey, Niger, March 1987	US\$10,000
- Training course for specialists in taxonomy, Manu National Park, Peru	US\$20,000
- Financial support to Central American environment action training course, CATIE, Costa Rica, May 1987	US\$1,500
- Financial support to conference and symposium on utilisation of wildlife in Sub-Saharan Africa, Harare, Zimbabwe, October 1987	US\$20,000
- Financial support to training workshop on conservation and management of natural heritage, Wolong Reserve, China, September 1987	US\$20,000
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	US\$212,300
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- (d) Technical Cooperation (for safeguarding work on properties included in the World Heritage List).

At its ninth session, held from 2-6 December 1985 in Paris, the Committee granted technical cooperation to the following States Parties:

<u>Benin:</u> Financial contribution to restoration works concerning the Royal Palaces of Abomey	US\$20,000
<u>Costa Rica:</u> Financial contribution to strengthen the implementation of the management plan in the Talamanca-La Amistad Reserve	US\$20,000
<u>Panama:</u> Financial contribution towards protective measures in Darien National Park	US\$27,000
<u>Sri Lanka:</u> Basic equipment for the archaeological laboratory of Annuradhapura	US\$34,000
<u>Zaire:</u> Financial contribution towards the development of a management plan for Salonga National Park	US\$28,000
Total	<u>US\$129,000</u>

At its ninth session, the Committee also allocated a sum of US\$250,000 for technical cooperation projects, which apart from those mentioned above, were also used to finance the following small-scale (less than US\$20,000) projects approved by the Chairman during the period between 2 December 1985-24 November 1986:

<u>Ecuador:</u> Financial support to the environmental education and interpretation programme in Galapagos National Park	US\$20,000
<u>Guinea:</u> Equipment for the Mount Nimba Reserve	US\$ 5,000
<u>India:</u>	
. Consultants to advise the authorities on the preservation of the Sun Temple of Konrak	US\$10,500
. Consultants to advise the authorities on the preservation of the Taj Mahal	US\$15,000
	<u>US\$25,500</u>
<u>Iran:</u> Purchase of photogrammetric equipment for the Iranian sites included on the World Heritage List	US\$20,000
<u>Malawi:</u> Purchase of a boat, radio and tents to improve the protection of Lake Malawi National Park	US\$19,800
<u>Tanzania:</u> Equipment for Ngorongoro Conservation Area	US\$20,000
<u>Yugoslavia:</u> Equipment for the preservation of the monuments of Stari Ras and Sopocani	US\$5,800
<u>Zaire:</u> Equipment for the project to protect the rhinoceros population in Garamba National Park	US\$20,000
Total	<u>US\$136,100</u>

At its tenth session, held from 24-28 November 1986 in Paris, the Committee granted technical cooperation for the following States Parties:

Bulgaria: Provision of a tacheometer with accessories and two additional items for the photometer already supplied for the surveying of World Heritage sites US\$34,000

Turkey: For safeguarding of Istanbul:

. Training in wood and stone conservation	US\$12,000	
. Creation of a laboratory for wood conservation	US\$10,000	
. Provision of a photogrammetric camera	US\$25,000	
		US\$47,000

Yugoslavia: Provision of equipment for the control of microclimatic conditions and for the conservation of paintings in the monuments of Ohrid US\$20,000

US\$101,000

In accordance with the revised procedure for reviewing technical cooperation requests (paragraphs 78-87 of document WHC/2 Revised January 1987) adopted by the Committee during its tenth session, the Committee also approved the following requests from States Parties concerning the conservation of natural properties on the World Heritage List and which had been kept in abeyance either due to lack of funds under the 1986 budget or to receipt of requests after the deadline:

Algeria: equipment for conservation measures in Tassili N'Ajjer National Park US\$ 3,000

Seychelles: Consultant services to advise on the eradication of feral goats in Aldabra Atoll and equipment US\$ 7,200

Peru:

. Financial support for the implementation of the management plan for Huascarán National Park	US\$30,100
. Financial support for the implementation of the management plan for the Macchu Picchu Historical Sanctuary	US\$26,500

The following projects have been approved by the Chairman of the World Heritage Committee during the time period 28 November 1986 to 31 May 1987:

<u>Ethiopia</u> : contribution to publication of management plan for Simen National Park (financed under World Heritage)	US\$3,500
<u>Tanzania</u> : Financial supplement to cover purchase of equipment for Ngorongoro Conservation Area under a technical cooperation project in 1986	US\$2,000
<u>Zaire</u> : Equipment for Salonga National Park	US\$12,000
	<hr/> US\$83,000 <hr/>
<u>Bangladesh</u> : Installation of a drainage system at Paharpur	US\$20,000
<u>Ecuador</u> : Financial assistance to pursue the preservation works of the Monastery of Sta. Clara in Quito	US\$10,000
<u>ICCROM</u> : Supply of technical documentation and small equipment to States Parties to the Convention	US\$20,000
<u>Peru</u> : Consultancy and equipment for the safeguarding of Chan Chan	US\$20,000
	<hr/> US\$70,000 <hr/>

IV. PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

12. As stated in earlier reports to the General Conference, the Unesco Secretariat has made a special effort to make the World Heritage Convention better known to the public. The World Heritage Committee has emphasized that public information and promotional activities are of fundamental importance to the future of the World Heritage Convention. These activities have two complementary objectives. One is to make World Heritage properties better known to the public and heighten the public's awareness of the need to safeguard them; the other is to obtain additional support for the World Heritage Fund through the sales of books, audio-visual material, brochures, stamps, etc. and particularly through donations from institutions and individual people.

13. In cooperation with the Spanish publishing house, the Institute of Wildlife Photography and Natural Sciences (INCAFO), a number of initiatives have been taken to produce multi-language publications:

- volumes 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of a 10-volume Spanish book series entitled "El Patrimonio del Mundo" have now been published. Each volume describes, with photographic documentation, about 30 properties inscribed on the World Heritage List (Volume 1 describing 28 properties on the World Heritage List was published in 1984). INCAFO has made a contract with a Yugoslavian publishing house, SPEKTAR, for the publication of these books in four other languages and distribution in ten countries, and other publishing houses in Brazil and Egypt are negotiating with INCAFO to publish non-European language versions of the same books;
- the Spanish version of a World Heritage Guidebook (Guía del Patrimonio Mundial) was also published in 1985 and will be updated regularly;
- the folding poster on the Convention was revised to include sites inscribed on the World Heritage List during the ninth session of the Committee in December 1985 and was published and distributed in 1986. This folding poster was again updated to include sites inscribed on the World Heritage List by the Committee during its tenth session in November 1986;
- the Unesco Office of Publications, in cooperation with INCAFO and with the agreement of the Chairman of the World Heritage Committee, published a 1987 diary on World Heritage. Produced on an experimental basis, this diary has been well received, and the Committee recommended that a 1988 version be published in consultation with the States Parties.

14. The National Geographic Society, based in Washington D.C., USA, is to publish a book entitled "Our World's Heritage", which is expected to be ready by the latter part of 1987. The book will include most World Heritage sites inscribed on the List as at December 1986 and will serve to provide information on the Convention among an estimated 10 million readers around the world. The World Heritage Secretariat in Unesco has permission to use the photographic material prepared in the production of this book for non-commercial purposes.

15. The Secretariat has continued to sell posters and badges at various events; e.g., 2,000 each of posters and badges were sent to Bangkok to be sold during a ceremony held by Unesco's National Commission for Thailand.

16. Several ceremonies to unveil World Heritage plaques have been held since the ninth session of the World Heritage Committee in December 1985. During March 1986 a ceremony was held in Santiago de Compostella in Spain. Two other plaquing ceremonies, one in Cyprus, to commemorate the inscription of the Painted Churches in Troodos region in April 1986 and the other in Quebec, Canada during July 1986 were also conducted.

17. As recommended by the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee during its tenth session in June 1986, the Secretariat prepared a

promotion plan focussing on how States Parties could promote the Convention and describing possible methods of collaboration between the Secretariat and the States Parties. The Committee, during its tenth session in November 1986 endorsed the conclusions of this plan and suggested the creation of national associations, as per Article 17 of the Convention, for promotional activities. The Unesco National Commissions of States Parties will be expected to play an important role in stimulating national incentives to promote the World Heritage Convention.

18. In order to meet the increasing expenses that would be incurred in promoting the Convention through national organizations, as well as the publication of several language versions of available information and promotional material on the Convention, the Committee, during its tenth session in December 1986, increased the budget allocation for promotional activities to US\$142,000.

V. OTHER MATTERS

19. The Committee has on several occasions expressed its gratitude to ICOMOS and IUCN for the excellent work that they undertake in evaluating the cultural and natural nominations to the World Heritage List, in advising States Parties on the preparation of their tentative lists and nomination dossiers, in cooperating closely with the Secretariat in the implementation of projects financed under the World Heritage Fund and in generally promoting the Convention. In addition, ICOMOS and IUCN, through their own memberships and networks of field personnel, have also advised States Parties on appropriate conservation measures for certain cultural and natural properties and have provided the Committee with useful information on their state of conservation. With the increase in the number of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and in the number of nominations to be evaluated each year, the Committee decided to increase the level of support provided to ICOMOS and IUCN from the World Heritage Fund in order to allow these advisory non-governmental organizations to continue their highly appreciated services to the Convention.

20. The Committee noted that during the period under concern (April 1985 to mid-1987), the workload of the Secretariat had increased considerably while the number of staff members working for the implementation of the Convention had remained the same since the Convention had become operational. To help the Secretariat face this situation, the Canadian authorities had seconded a specialist to work at Unesco for a two-year period ending August 1985; the Committee had thanked Canada for this gesture. Recognizing that the situation was still difficult for the Secretariat, the Committee decided to increase the allocation from the World Heritage Fund for "Temporary assistance to the Secretariat", not only to strengthen the Secretariat's capacity to handle operational matters, but also to provide better support for the increasingly important promotional activities.