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World Heritage Committee

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Item 9 b) of the Provisional Agenda: Monitoring the status of conservation
of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List: Report of the
representative of IUCN on natural properties

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

11th Session World Heritage Committee

7 - 11 December 1987, Paris

AGENDA ITEM 9(b): MONITORING THE STATUS OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INCLUDED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

A brief update of conditions in selected sites is given below.

A. NATURAL PROPERTIES ON THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

1. Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA), Tanzania

The prospects for removing this property from the danger list are improving. Support for equipment provided by the World Heritage Fund has arrived and put to immediate use. IUCN has also secured funds and is working with the Authority and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism to do a land use evaluation and policy study of the area. IUCN has also helped arrange a technical exchange programme between the NCA and the Countryside Commission of the UK. A workshop will be held early in 1988 at which time a recommendation on its threatened status will be made.

2. Garamba National Park, Zaire

The last northern white rhinos in the wild are holding their own and in fact have increased by three to a total of 18. Their status is still precarious, however, and support from the donors involved, including World Heritage, is scheduled to continue.

B. NATURAL PROPERTIES IDENTIFIED FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION ON THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

3. Ichkeul National Park, Tunisia

In response to studies of the drying up of this wetland, the Permanent Delegation of Tunisia has written the Tunisian authorities to suggest it be inscribed on the danger list. In response, the Minister of Agriculture noted that mitigation measures to safeguard the site are underway and that it is not therefore necessary to consider it for the Danger List. The Committee should request a monitoring report from Tunisia in 1988.

4. Selous Game Reserve, Tanzania

An aerial census has now confirmed the alarming decrease in rhino (almost exterminated) and elephant numbers (down by 50% to 55,000). A detailed recovery plan has been prepared and submitted to Government who has allocated substantial extra funds for operating costs. The Federal Republic of Germany has also approved a large grant to re-build the infrastructure of the park. The World Heritage Fund should be used to complement efforts of other donors to support management of the site on the basis of a formal proposal from the Government of Tanzania.

C. OTHER NATURAL PROPERTIES

E. Niokolo-Koba National Park, Senegal

IUCN's Regional Representative for West Africa recently conducted a field review of management of the park. A report on requirements to strengthen management and to prepare a proper plan has been forwarded to the Minister of Nature Protection. The Committee may wish to request that the Senegal Government inform the Secretariat on follow-up to this report.

6. Mt. Nimba Nature Reserves, Guinea/Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)

IUCN has sent a letter of concern to the World Bank over potential impacts of a new railway line to serve a \$300 million iron ore mine investment, that would further damage this site. The Committee should request a status report on the area from the relevant authorities.

7. Western Tasmania National Parks, Australia

At the request of the Australian Government, IUCN conducted a field review of this site in light of potential conflicts with the logging industry. A report was submitted and since then the Commonwealth Government has formed a special Commission of Inquiry to investigate the possibility of any boundary extensions. The results of this should be brought to the attention of the next meeting of the World Heritage Bureau.

8. Machu Picchu Historic Sanctuary, Peru

A field review of the site was conducted by IUCN in cooperation with the Director of National Parks. Very serious impacts on the natural resources of this park were identified. These included dam construction, power line development, wild fires, agricultural encroachment and urbanization of valley bottom habitat. Priority need is for a management plan which should be a co-operative effort of those responsible for both the natural and cultural heritage. World Heritage Funds for a park office and for training have been approved and the project has now commenced. The Government of Peru should be informed of concern of the Committee regarding management of this site and encouraged to submit a follow-up request for assistance from the World Heritage Fund if further support is required.

9. Huascarán National Park, Peru

This park is under a variety of threats. First, there is a bill in Congress to reduce the level of legal protection by giving management control to the local authorities. A new road proposal would have serious impacts on the Quilcayhuanca valley. There is also some inappropriate tourism development proposals in the Llanganuco area. Other management problems include over-grazing by domestic sheep, excessive burning and poaching by the military. The Committee should express its concern over the problems that threaten the site and request the Government of Peru to provide a progress report on the current World Heritage funded project in the park.

10. Mana Pools Complex, Zimbabwe

Rhinos continue to be poached at the rate of almost one per day and poachers killed at the rate of one per month (29 to date). Various actions are underway to contain the problem and a helicopter has been provided by WWF. As the main incursions are from across the border in Zambia, efforts at the diplomatic level have also been made. The Committee may wish to encourage the Government of Zambia to nominate the adjoining border park in Zambia to add to the existing Mana Pools site in Zimbabwe and indicate that support from the Fund could be requested to strengthen management controls in that area.

11. Poaching of Rhino

In four of the above reports the poaching of black rhino for its horn is posing the basic threat to the site. Much effort has been expended in the field protecting the wild stocks. But additional efforts also must be made to stem the demand at the consumer end. It is now documented that the world's largest

consumer of rhino horn is North Yemen. From 1980-86 some 6,700 kg of rhino horn, more than half the rhino horn on the world market, was imported into Yemen for use in making dagger handles. This is equivalent to approximately 2,000 rhinos.

Although the North Yemen Government banned rhino horn imports in 1982 the law has not been strictly enforced. Action has, however, recently been initiated to implement a series of six measures to stop the trade. The World Heritage Committee may wish to contact the authorities in Yemen expressing their concern over the illegal trade and encourage them in their efforts to undertake all measures to stop it.

12. General

IUCN has received copies of official management plans completed in 1987 for the following World Heritage sites: Argentina: Los Glaciares National Park, Australia: Lord Howe Island, Canada: Dinosaur Provincial Park. New park visitor centres with World Heritage displays were opened in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Australia), Garajonay National Park (Spain), and Skocjan Caves (Yugoslavia).