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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-eighth session
Suzhou, China
28 June – 7 July 2004

Item 15B of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

SUMMARY

This document contains information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, and is separated in two parts:

Part I lists state of conservation reports for discussion by the Committee;
Part II lists state of conservation reports for noting by the Committee;

Decision required: The Committee is requested to review the reports on the state of conservation of properties contained in this document. In certain cases, the Committee may wish to decide to discuss in detail the state of conservation report presented for noting.

The Committee may wish to adopt the draft decision presented at the end of each state of conservation report.

I. INTRODUCTION

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 properties 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. STRUCTURE OF THE DOCUMENT

The structure of the document with Part I and Part II for each region takes into account decision 27 COM 7B.106.3, which requested, ... "that the reports are categorized as follows:

- (a) reports with recommended decisions which, in the judgment of the World Heritage Centre in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, require discussion by the World Heritage Committee,
- (b) reports which, in the judgment of the World Heritage Centre in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, can be noted without discussion,

Reports in category (b) will not be discussed unless a request is made to the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee in advance of the discussion of this agenda item;

To facilitate the work of the Committee, a standard format has been used for all state of conservation reports. This format has been adapted taking into account decision 27 COM 7B 106.4:

"Invites the World Heritage Centre to present all information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List in the following manner:

- (a) the report on each property should start on a new page,
- (b) the identification number of the property allocated at the time of its nomination should be used in the document,
- (c) an index of all properties should also be included,
- (d) the decisions should have a standard layout, draft recommendation, and should be concise and operational;"

Therefore the standard format includes:

Name of the property (State Party) (ID number)

- Year of inscription on the World Heritage List and on the List of World Heritage in Danger, respectively;
- Inscription criteria;
- International Assistance received;
- Previous Bureau/Committee deliberations;
- Conservation issues;
- Draft Decision.

The information contained in this document was prepared in consultation with other UNESCO Divisions and with the Advisory Bodies.

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REPORTS ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

A. NATURAL HERITAGE

AFRICA

PART I

1. W National Park of Niger (Niger) (N 749)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1996

Criteria: N (ii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

US\$44,879, Technical Co-operation;

Previous Bureau/Committee deliberations:

27 COM 7B.5

Conservation issues:

At its 27th session the Committee noted with concern the proposed construction of the Dyondyonga electricity dam on the Mekrou River, on the border between the Republics of Niger and Benin within the W National Park World Heritage property in Niger and extending into the proposed World Heritage property in Benin, deferred by the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee (April 2002). Furthermore, the Committee noted that the construction of a dam as well as the exploitation of a phosphate mine were serious potential threats to the integrity of the property. It encouraged Niger, as well as Benin and Burkina Faso, to co-operate with IUCN, "Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine" (UEMOA), Ramsar, the regional programme "Ecosystème protégés en Afrique Sahélienne" (ECOPAS) and the Centre with the view to seeking the most appropriate solution. The Committee further requested the authorities of Benin and Niger to provide the World Heritage Centre a detailed report of the proposed construction of a dam on the Mékrou River and on the exploitation of the phosphate mine, and deferred its decision on the inscription of the "W" National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger until the 28th session of the Committee, pending the responses of the two concerned States Parties and the outcome of any missions or meetings held with the States Parties.

In April 2004, the Centre received a copy of a letter from the Minister of Niger for Water, Environment and Desertification Control, responding to the concerns on "W" raised by the Committee. In the letter the Minister assured the Centre and other concerned partners that there will be neither phosphate exploitation nor the construction of the Mékrou Dam in "W" National Park without undertaking an independent evaluation of the environmental and social impacts, in conformity with international standards, in the application of the Law No. 98-56 of 29 December 1998 and within the framework of the application of decree No 2000-397/PRN/ME/LCD of 20 October 2000 concerning environmental management laws of Niger.

The State Party informed the Centre that in correspondence dated 18 November 2000 the "Orientation Council" (C.O.) of the ECOPAS regional programme noted the renunciation from participating in the dam construction by the Republic of Benin, and proposed the formulation of a recommendation for an alternative solution, which would satisfy the energy needs of the region.

As regards phosphate mining, the State Party of Niger informed the Centre that they are aware that mine feasibility studies have revealed the presence of phosphate in the Liptako Gourma area in part of "W" Park, but that there were never any intentions to exploit it within the property. In relation to this, IUCN reiterated its position that mining should not take place in any World Heritage property.

Ramsar has informed the World Heritage Centre that the proposed training workshop, funded by the World Heritage Fund, on Wetlands Inventory Methodologies to be organized by Ramsar, IUCN and the Centre will be held in "W" from 17 to 21 May 2004. During this workshop a monitoring exercise will be undertaken by the participants in W National Park, with regards to the issues raised by the World Heritage Committee.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.1**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Notes with appreciation the assurance provided by the State Party of Niger not to go ahead with plans to construct a dam on the Mékrou River within "W" National Park, or to start exploitation of a phosphate mine within the property, without undertaking an independent evaluation on the environmental and social impacts of such projects;*
2. *Reiterates its earlier decision, and encourages the States Parties to continue cooperating with IUCN, the Centre, the "Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine" (UEMOA), Ramsar, and the regional programme "Ecosystème protégés en Afrique Sahélienne" (ECOPAS) in order to conserve this property, and, if necessary, to seek assistance from the World Heritage Fund for the coordination of meetings and studies;*
3. *Requests the State Party to provide a report on the outcomes of any environmental impact assessments carried out or decisions made on the dam and mining projects by 1 February 2005 for examination by the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee.*

PART II

2. Dja Faunal Reserve (Cameroon) (N 407)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1987

Criteria: N (ii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

US\$47,000, Technical Co-operation; US\$34,700, Training

Previous Bureau/Committee deliberations:

27 COM 7B.1

Conservation issues:

At the time of the preparation of this document, the draft management plan had not been received from the State Party. The State Party has informed the Centre that the management plan will be finalized in May 2004.

The pilot project launched with support from the Netherlands Funds in Trust amounting to US\$60,000 to demonstrate the essential role of rapid biodiversity assessment has been put in place; a process in order to integrate and to enable the local populations' participation in the preparation of the management plan of the property through the organization of 4 stakeholder workshops in Somalomo (7 April 2003), Meyomessala (14 April 2003), Djoum (5 May 2003), Lomie (11 June 2003). A site management plan has been prepared and validated at the local level; a workshop was organized in Sangmelima from 22 to 23 July 2003 to inform the stakeholders involved in the conservation and management of the property on the importance of participation at the onset of the management plan preparation process. As a result the local population's awareness has improved, which is a necessity for effective protection of the property. The draft management plan for the integrated management of resources of Dja for the next five years was adopted by the participants and submitted to the Minister for Forests and the Environment for validation; a National Seminar was held in Yaounde, Cameroon on 9 January 2004 in order to validate the management plan.

IUCN has been informed that there has been oil exploration around the Dja World Heritage property by a company called Geovic. Further details on the economic potential of the property for oil and gas will be known once the exploration is complete. IUCN noted that oil/gas exploitation, if approved, has potential for major impacts on the property. IUCN reiterated its position that no oil/gas or mining activities should take place in World Heritage properties.

The State Party has been contacted several times to provide clarification and further information on this issue, but no response has been received.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.2**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Reiterates its appreciation for the support provided under the Netherlands Funds in Trust Agreement with UNESCO to assist Cameroon to undertake actions recommended by the Committee for the conservation and protection of Dja Faunal Reserve;
2. Requests the State Party to provide a report on the state of conservation of the property, including information on the status of oil and gas exploration around the property, to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2005 for examination by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005.

3. Tai National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) (N 195)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1982

Criteria: N (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

US\$30,000, Technical Co-operation; US\$7,500: Preparatory Assistance; US\$30,154, Training Assistance

Previous Bureau/Committee deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 6

27 COM 7B.2

Conservation issues:

IUCN received a copy of the invitation from the State Party, dated 13th February 2004 to carry out a monitoring mission to the property. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN noted that the mission to Côte d'Ivoire did not occur due to the armed conflict in that country. In March 2004 the World Heritage Centre and IUCN received a report quoting the Office of the Coordinator of Safety measures of the United Nations (UNSECOORD), New York, advising that all non-essential travel to Côte d'Ivoire should be avoided with immediate effect. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN were informed that the situation will be kept under review and that agencies will be advised accordingly.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN received the State Party report dated 29 March 2004. However, this report provides little new information compared to that provided in the previous report in 2003. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN therefore could not provide an adequate assessment for the state of conservation of the property and noted that a mission to the property should take place as soon as security conditions allow.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.3**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the State Party for its invitation to receive a monitoring mission to Tai and Comoe National Parks and notes that the World Heritage Centre and IUCN are prepared to carry out that mission as soon as the security situation permits;
2. Requests the State Party to cooperate with IUCN and the World Heritage Centre to ensure that all necessary support is provided for a successful mission as soon as possible.

4. Mount Kenya National Park (Kenya) (N 800)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1997
Criteria: (ii) (iii)

Previous International Assistance:
US\$ 25,000, Technical Co-operation

Previous Bureau/Committee deliberations:
26 COM 21 (b) 14
27 COM 7B.4

Conservation issues:

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN received the State Party's report dated 10 February 2004. The report notes that the gazettelement of Mount Kenya Forest Reserve as a National Reserve in July 2000 legally accords Kenya Wildlife Service the overall mandate to manage the entire property. Any other organization operating within Mount Kenya National Park/National Reserve is answerable to the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). The Service's main objectives are:

- (a) Maintaining the integrity of the ecosystems at higher elevations - mainly the Park which comprises the afro alpine vegetation as well as nival zones, ensuring sustainable economic benefits from the area; and
- (b) Conserving Mt. Kenya National Park /National Reserve as a water catchment area by managing the natural forest as well as the industrial tree plantations.

The report also noted that a forest-coordinating unit has been formed under a memorandum of understanding between the two departments of the Ministry of Environment (Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS) and Forest Department (FD)). Under this arrangement the two institutions are co-managing Mount Kenya plantations, with KWS ensuring the overall security while the FD manages the silvicultural operations. IUCN noted from the report that KWS has very limited capacity to manage commercial plantations and is dependent on FD for expertise.

The report stated that the final draft of the 'Mount Kenya National Park Management Plan' is in place. The extent to which the plan will become fully operational or if it has been endorsed by all concerned parties is not clear. The draft plan, however, incorporates an adaptive approach with adequate flexibility to accommodate changes during the implementation period.

IUCN noted that controlled and regulated consumptive utilisation of indigenous and exotic forest products was confined and restricted in the former forest reserve, which is roughly located between 1200m and 3200m. The report noted that a total ban on tree harvesting was imposed by the Government in 2003 following the upgrading of the forest reserve to a national reserve; this ban still exists.

The report noted challenges caused by the free hold land tenure system which impede migration. There are three

important traditional elephant migration corridors around the mountain namely: Mt. Kenya-Aberdare; Mt Kenya-Samburu/Meru National Parks via Imenti Forest; and Mt Kenya-Ngare corridor via Kisima. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN noted that the State Party has made efforts to negotiate with landowners regarding the acquisition of land to enable animal migration.

IUCN noted efforts made by the State Party on surveillance and law enforcement. It is reported that the two institutions have maintained sufficient pressure on illegal activities by intensifying aerial surveillance as well as vehicle and foot patrols. In the process several poachers have been arrested and prosecuted within the last six months and generally, illegal activities are declining. The report also revealed that consultations are ongoing with local communities through the community programme of Kenya Wildlife Service.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.4**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Acknowledges the conservation efforts by the State Party as provided in the report of Kenya Wildlife Service through the Kenya National World Heritage Committee;
2. Commends the State Party for positive actions undertaken for the conservation and protection of the property, particularly in relation to surveillance, community relations and law enforcement;
3. Requests the State Party to finalize the Mt. Kenya National Park Management Plan and further requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre an indication of the time frame proposed for its completion, adoption and implementation.

5. Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park (South Africa) (N 914)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1999

Criteria: N (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

None.

Previous Bureau/Committee deliberations:

27 COM 7B.6

Conservation issues:

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN received the State Party's report in February 2004. The report noted that all decision-making within the Park takes place under the framework of the World Heritage Convention Act (WHCA), the Wetlands Park Regulations and other relevant legislation pertaining to environmental impact assessment. Further, an Integrated Management Plan (IMP), as required by the World Heritage Convention Act is in process of being refined and the public consultation process is expected to be completed in mid 2004. The Wetlands Park Regulations make provision for interim planning measures until such time as the IMP is adopted.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN noted that the Wetlands Park Authority has drafted a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). This builds on earlier processes such as the environmental impact assessment for the mining of St Lucia and the Strategic Environmental Management Framework (SEMF) developed for the Lubombo Spatial Development Initiative region, including the Wetlands Park. The status of the World Heritage property as an ecologically sensitive site, has been taken into account by relevant technical and planning assessments under the SEA.

An important principle guiding the implementation programme of the Authority is the empowerment of previously disadvantaged communities living in and around the Park.

The report noted that the Authority is working towards the settlement of land claims in the Park. This has involved an ongoing process of consultation and capacity building with local Land Claims Committees. To date, approximately 60% of the Park is now claim free, with three land claims settled and approximately 6 outstanding.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.5**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Acknowledges the efforts by the State Party to put in place administrative and juridical structures for reinforcing the conservation and the protection of the property;*

2. *Recommends that the State Party keep the World Heritage Centre informed on further progress in the implementation of these actions.*

6. Ngorongoro Conservation Area (United Republic of Tanzania) (N 39)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979

Criteria: N (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

2001: US\$10,000, Technical Co-operation for a scientific study.

Previous Bureau/Committee deliberations:

25 COM VIII.97

26 COM 21 (b) 22

Conservation issues:

No report or information on the States Party's response to the Ngorongoro Crater Ungulate Study has been received from the State Party at the time of the preparation of this document.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.6**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Urges the State Party to provide a report on the state of conservation of the property as requested by the 26th session of the Committee by 1 February 2005 for consultation by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005.

ARAB STATES

PART I

7. Banc d'Arguin National Park (Mauritania) (N 506)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1989

Criteria: N (ii) (iv)

Previous international assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 16

27 COM 7B.7

Conservation issues:

The World Heritage Centre, in close consultation and cooperation with the State Party, organised a consultant mission from 20 to 29 June to Mauritania to analyse the documents concerning the Environmental Impact Study on petroleum exploitation carried out by the Australian petroleum company Woodside, in the vicinity of Banc d'Arguin National Park. It should be noted that at the present time 60,000,000 tons of petrol are transported each year along the coast of Mauritania (400 tankers). Woodside's activities would add a further 28 tankers to this number. The legal context with regard to environmental matters, within which the proposed development of Woodside's activities is foreseen, is based upon Law N.2000/45 concerning legal environmental matters.

This law foresees that a *Technical Committee for Environment and Development (TCED)* carries out an evaluation of the environmental compatibility and approves or rejects the proposed project. However, as the decrees for the application of the Law 2000/45 have not yet been approved, this procedure has not been initiated. Furthermore, the risk of environmental damage due to industrial activity has been recognized by Law N.2000/24 with regard to the Banc d'Arguin National Park (BANP). In fact, Article 8 stipulates that all development projects or work likely to cause negative impacts on the ecosystem of the Park "[...] must undergo an impact evaluation providing all guarantees of objectivity [...]". Thus, during the workshop organized by Woodside at Nouakchott in June 2003, based on this law, the company was requested to provide an Environmental Impact Study (EIS).

The project for the exploitation of the Chinguetti field, presented by the Woodside Company, foresees:

- (a) the implementation of a Floating Production, Storage and Offloading System (FPSOS);
- (b) the creation of 5 production wells and 4 gas reinjection wells;
- (c) the installation of risers and flexible drainage pipes;

The installation of the Floating Production, Storage and Offloading System (FPSOS), permanently anchored to a

tower, will comprise a big petrol tanker converted into a tanker hull with a capacity of 1.1 million barrels. Through a system of floating offloading pipes anchored at the rear, the oil produced will be transferred to tankers for transport to the final destination.

It is foreseen that the gas produced associated with the oil will be reinjected into an adequate underwater reservoir whereas the formation water associated with the oil production, will be rejected at sea at an estimated maximum volume of 75,000 barrels per day (data provided by Woodside). The greatest risk of accident to be considered in this type of activity is, without any doubt, that of an oil spill at sea. The Woodside Company is not, however, the only petroleum company operating in Mauritanian waters. In fact, two other companies are at present carrying out oil prospecting activities in areas even closer to the Banc d'Arguin National Park boundaries: DANA (independent British company) and the International Petroleum Grouping (IPG, an Anglo-Mauritanian company).

With regard to the environmental impact requirements that all petroleum companies operating in Mauritania must abide by, it should be recalled that:

- (a) Woodside - according to information received, the company has drawn up the environment impact studies concerning the different exploitation phases carried out to date (seismic prospecting and well exploration).
- (b) IPG - according to information obtained during the meeting on 27 June 2003 with the Director General of IPG, the company has already presented, during a public meeting, its environmental impact study regarding the drilling of short-term exploration wells. The environmental impact study was, at the same time, transmitted to the Ministry of Mines and Industry and a copy was provided to the BANP.
- (c) DANA - apart from the proposal made to Woodside to drill the offshore "Thon" wells, it appears that the company, which is not represented in Nouakchott, has not respected the requirements foreseen by the law for environmental impact with regard to petroleum exploration activities carried out so far in 2000 and 2001.

The World Heritage Centre has received the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) only from Woodside. This illustrates once again the urgent need to define and approve the decrees for application of the Law N.2000/45 so as to oblige the petroleum companies to submit the petroleum exploration activities foreseen to an environmental impact evaluation by the designated authority.

The BANP Administration should, on its part, encourage the identification and involvement of a recognized scientific structure which will coordinate the environmental monitoring programme executed each year by the Woodside Company and which will evaluate the results.

Finally, administrative action should be initiated to verify the possibility of modifying the sea routes followed by the oil tankers, or any other sea transportation of dangerous materials, in the event of an accident occurring in these maritime lanes which could have negative consequences on the Park. The procedure for the recognition of the Park area as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) foresees the preparation of a technical document to be submitted to the International Maritime Organization. The State Party has not yet signed the 1992 International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution. The presentation of this documentation, which must necessarily be prepared in cooperation with the scientific staff of the Park Direction (who should provide the base document), could benefit from the availability of "Woodside" to provide the supporting material to the technical documentation. This cooperation could be part of the environmental compensation packet that the company must draw up with the Park administration.

A series of consultation meetings between the Centre, the BANP and Woodside were held during 2003-2004. The elaboration of a capacity-building strategy for national specialists should be studied during the Centre's reactive monitoring mission in June 2004, jointly with the World Bank mission.

Following the Committee's encouragement, the State Party has submitted a request for international assistance for the preparation of analysis documents and studies concerning petroleum prospecting.

With regard to the road construction between Nouakchott and Nouadhibou begun in 2003, the Centre has not received any information concerning the impact evaluation of this road on the Park, according to accepted international standards.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15B.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Calls upon the State Party to approve, as soon as possible, the decree for the application of the Law 2000/45 concerning the environment;*
2. *Requests the State Party to proceed with the establishment of an Environment and Development Technical Committee (EDTC), technical governmental body responsible for the technical evaluation and approval of the EIS as well as for verifying the application of the environmental management plan;*
3. *Urgently encourages the State Party to sign the 1992 International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution, enabling it to have access to the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds), as well as to submit a request to the Marine Environment Protection Committee of the International Maritime Organization, responsible for measures to improve*

security in international maritime transportation and avoid pollution by tankers, and to obtain the status of Particularly Sensitive Sea Area" (PSSA) for the Banc d'Arguin National Park;

4. *Invites the State Party to request technical assistance from the World Heritage Centre to elaborate the necessary documentation to obtain the status of Particularly Sensitive Sea Area;*
5. *Encourages the State Party to organize before the end of 2004, a meeting with all the actors concerned, in cooperation with interested donors to determine a capacity-building strategy for national authorities responsible for the implementation of Law 2000/45 on the environment and Law N.2000/24 concerning the Banc d'Arguin National Park (BANP);*
6. *Calls upon all the partners, especially the World Bank, to provide the State Party with all necessary assistance in establishing activities to safeguard the ecosystem of the Banc d'Arguin National Park;*
7. *Requests the State Party to transmit to the Centre the report on the environmental impact study for the road Nouakchott-Bouadhibou and to submit to the Centre the measures for the mitigation of the impact of this road on the Park;*
8. *Recommends to the State Party to oblige all petroleum companies operating on its territory to carry out environmental impact studies in conformity with international standards;*
9. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, before 1 February 2005, a progress report on the implementation of the above-mentioned measures, so that the Committee may examine the state of conservation of the property at its 29th session in 2005.*

PART II

8. Arabian Oryx Sanctuary (Oman) (N 654)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994

Criterion: N (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount: US\$ 95,000 (including US\$ 40,000 in 2003),
Training Assistance

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

24 BUR IV.19

24 COM VIII.25

Conservation issues:

The World Heritage Committee, at its 27th session, approved an International Assistance request (US\$40,000) for the “Organization of a training course on management issues for the existing staff and rangers to increase their capacity for the management of the World Natural Heritage property of the Arabian Oryx Sanctuary”. An Activity Financing Contract has been established by the Centre with the Ministry of Regional Municipalities, Environment and Water Resources and the dates for the course have been set from 11 to 15 September 2004.

In 2000 a report by IUCN mentioned that a management plan had been prepared by the State Party with revised boundaries and clearly identified management zones. The World Heritage Committee, at its 24th session, requested the State Party to finalize and adopt this management plan and submit a copy to the World Heritage Centre, including the proposed redefinition of the boundaries of the World Heritage property and of the buffer zones, for examination by the Committee. Such redefinition appeared all the more urgent taking into account the proposed oil exploitation schemes in the area. The Director of the World Heritage Centre, moreover, visited the State Party in December 2003 and reiterated such requests to the Ministry of Regional Municipalities, Environment and Water Resources. At the time of the preparation of this report, however, the World Heritage Centre had not received the above-mentioned documentation.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.8**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Requests the State Party to submit, by 1 February 2005, the new Management Plan for the property including a detailed topographic map showing the new proposed delimitation of the core and buffer zones of the World Heritage property, for examination by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005.*

ASIA AND PACIFIC

PART I

9. Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas (China) (N 1083)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2003

Criteria: N (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee deliberations:

27COM 8C.4

Conservation issues:

The site comprises fifteen protected areas in eight clusters. The evaluation of the nomination submitted by China carried out by IUCN and reviewed by the 27th session of the Committee noted: "The General Management Plan, however, was of concern because it currently has a much greater emphasis on development (especially through tourism) than on nature conservation. The Plan mentions increases in the use of hydro power which, at the micro level, can provide clean energy, but at more extensive levels could be potentially damaging to the natural values of the main rivers". Based on IUCN recommendations, the Committee's decision (27 COM 8C.4, paragraph 3) "Notes concern over the nature and extent of future tourism and hydro development that may affect the nominated property".

When IUCN visited Yunnan to evaluate the nominated site in 2002, it was not made aware of specific hydropower development proposals at the time. In 2004, reports were received by IUCN and UNESCO of proposals to construct a total of 13 dams on the Nu Jiang River, a number of which were reported to fall within the existing World Heritage area. On 24 February 2004 the Director of the Centre sent a letter to the Secretary General of the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO requesting information on the status of the proposal and the current policy regarding the protection of the World Heritage area. No response to the letter had been received at the time of the preparation of this document.

From preliminary information, IUCN reports the following on the project:

- (a) 13 dams are planned in the region, but the overall Plan is yet to be approved by the State Development and Reform Committee;
- (b) one site, the Bin Zhong Luo dam, is proposed to be located within the World Heritage property;
- (c) the remaining 12 proposed dam sites are outside, but are in close proximity to the World Heritage area;
- (d) the proposed dam directly downstream from the Bin Zhong Luo dam, i.e. the Majie dam, though outside, will directly impact the World Heritage area; and

- (e) the dam, Song Ta in Tibet, also outside, would have a major influence on the quality and periodicity of water flowing through the World Heritage area.

IUCN has reported to the Centre its grave concerns on this potential development project and wishes to bring the following to the attention of the Committee:

- (a) This World Heritage property is the epicentre of Chinese biodiversity, containing over 6,000 plant species and over 50% of China's animal species. The Nu Jiang River has been described as the "last great free flowing river" of China (as well as in South East Asia). The construction of any dam within this World Heritage property, or outside but with significant impacts on the integrity of the World Heritage property, is incompatible with its World Heritage status;
- (b) Dam construction will have both direct and indirect impacts. Direct impacts will be loss of natural flora and fauna due to construction and subsequent flooding of riparian and other ecosystems. Indirect impacts include those associated with dam construction activities, e.g. road development, inflow of construction workers and leakage of fuel/oil into riparian ecosystems etc;
- (c) The relocation of a number of local communities, mainly ethnic hill people, is also of concern; and
- (d) Significant downstream, transboundary ecological impacts are foreseen in neighbouring countries south of China;
- (e) IUCN noted that any dam construction within the World Heritage property would provide the basis for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

At the time of the preparation of this report, unconfirmed reports of the intervention of the Prime Minister of China to review the dam construction proposal and its environmental impacts have been received. Many Chinese academicians, conservationists and scientists are urging the Government to let China's last free-flowing river, the Nu Jiang, remain natural. A formal response from the State Party to the letter of 24 February 2004 the Director of the Centre is awaited.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.9**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Expresses its gravest concerns on the impacts that the proposed construction of dams could have on the outstanding universal value of this World Heritage property;*
2. *Invites the State Party to respond to the calls of its academicians, conservationists and scientists and consider letting the Nu Jiang River continue to flow naturally through and beside the World Heritage area;*
3. *Recognizes the importance of the energy sector in the development of the Yunnan Province and urges the Provincial and the Central Governments to seek*

alternatives to hydropower in order to ensure long-term protection of the Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas which harbours the richest biodiversity assemblage in China and may be the most biologically diverse temperate ecosystem in the world;

4. *Requests the State Party to provide a report to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible, but no later than 1 February 2005 on the status of dam construction in or around the World Heritage property for examination by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005.*

10. Lorentz National Park (Indonesia) (N 955)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1999

Criteria: N (i), (ii) and (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

1996: US\$15,000, Preparatory Assistance

2002: US\$30,000, Technical Co-operation

Previous Bureau/Committee deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 12

27 COM 7B.8

Conservation issues:

In January 2004 IUCN undertook a mission to the site, responding to the invitation extended by the State Party in March 2003. The State Party delegation included representatives from the Indonesian Protected Area Management Agency (PHKA) and Natural Resources Conservation Body of the Province of Papua.

In a letter dated 18 February 2004, the Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Indonesia observed that the mission team met all stakeholders and found that most of them supported the protection of Lorentz. He noted that local communities continued to have access to the site for traditional activities and highlighted the need to improve communications among stakeholders and explore ecotourism development options.

IUCN has stressed the benefits of involving Papua officials concerned with the management of Lorentz in the mission team. Many of them had returned from a training workshop held in November-December 2003 in Cairns, Australia. IUCN, however, identified several gaps and inadequacies in the management of the site: (a) absence of a co-ordinating agency and staff for site-level actions; (b) inadequate financial resources to undertake field management; (c) absence of a finalized strategic or management plan to guide management responses; (d) uncertainty and threats posed by devolution of powers from central to provincial and local levels of government; (e) absence of physically designated Park boundaries; (f) security limitations on staff and public access to parts of the Park; (g) development threats arising from local government planning for roads, urban areas and plantations; (h) alleged, intense exploitation of marine resources of the Park and the lack of staff to regulate such use and mitigate impacts; and (i) ongoing impacts of the Habbema road including disease, die back, increased fire and enhanced access for illegal logging as well as implications for future road construction projects in the Park.

Two offices established to take responsibility for Lorentz play a limited role in site management. Financial and other resource shortages prevent on-site management within a large area of the Park. PHKA plans for establishing a "Balai Taman Nasional Lorentz" as a co-ordinating authority have not progressed and there is no firm commitment to the timing of its establishment. Neither a Park Director nor supporting staff has been appointed.

Possibilities for twinning Lorentz with the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage property of Australia were explored at the recent training workshop in Cairns, Australia, but no formal agreement had been concluded. An informal association is already developing between the two properties as a consequence of the workshop. The on-going co-operative project between Australia and Indonesia financed by AusAID is on going and is helping the preparation of a strategic plan for Lorentz.

The establishment of a Foundation to assist financing and management of Lorentz had been discussed in meetings soon after the inscription of the site in 1999 but IUCN found no evidence of further action on this matter. More than ever there is a need to set up a Foundation or a similar mechanism for financing site management. Despite serious management inadequacies the values for which Lorentz was inscribed as World Heritage in 1999 remain intact. Any degradation of such values so far are limited to the local level. But all indications are that without specific and rapid interventions and application of a sufficiently robust management regime, degradation will certainly accelerate and some of the outstanding universal values may be degraded or lost in the future. IUCN expressed serious concern over potential threats arising from 'pre-existing development rights' for a number of areas in the site, most of which had been zoned and approved for urban and administrative development prior to establishment of the Park and its listing as World Heritage.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.10**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Urges early finalization and implementation of the strategic plan;
2. Recommends that the State Party establish the planned "Balai Taman Nasional Lorentz" immediately and improve community awareness of the property, particularly in the Lorentz region;
3. Invites the State Party to commission an independent review of the management of the property's coastal and marine zones and an independent environmental audit of the impacts of the Habbema Road, particularly the evidence linking impacts of the road to dieback disease in the *Nothofagus* temperate forests;
4. Recommends that the State Party review the threats arising from claims for "pre-existing development rights" and its implications for the conservation of the property and submit a report before 1 February 2005 for examination by the twenty-ninth session of the Committee in 2005;
5. Congratulates Australia and the State Party for establishing a programme of co-operation and

welcomes the partnership between the management of the Wet Tropics of Queensland (Australia) and Lorentz National Park (Indonesia);

6. Calls upon the global donor community to support the conservation of Lorentz National Park in the immediate future and over the long-term;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the Centre by 1 February 2005 a progress report on follow-up action taken into account the IUCN mission recommendations for examination by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005.

11. Royal Chitwan National Park (Nepal) (N 284)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1984

Criteria: N (ii), (iii) and (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

US\$ 80,000, Management, Equipment support and Training.

Previous deliberation:

26 COM 21(b) 18

27 COM 7B.9

Conservation issues:

The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) of Nepal, via letter dated 27 January 2004, provided a report addressing the concerns and issues raised by the IUCN mission report (2002) and the 27th session of the Committee. The report concedes that the Kasara Bridge over the Rapti River was constructed without an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). However, DNPWC has imposed restrictions on the use of the bridge and associated roads becoming fully operational. Local people have a positive attitude towards the conservation of the Park but are pressuring Park authorities to have the Kasara Bridge made fully operational. Locals believe that the Park authorities are instrumental in closing the road and are therefore increasingly hostile towards them.

DNPWC has imposed the following restrictions on the use of the Kasara bridge and associated link roads:

- (a) the right of way has been granted to local residents of Madi Valley, but transportation of commercial goods will not be allowed beyond Madi Valley;
- (b) permanent guard posts have been established and guard presence and patrolling strengthened;
- (c) a commitment to close the existing Dhurba Rapti road once the bridge comes into operation has been made;
- (d) the Department of Roads has been asked to stabilize the banks of the Rapti River prior to beginning the use of the road;
- (e) proposals for future widening of the road have been rejected;
- (f) the road that links the Tamar Tal (lake) with the link road is to be closed;
- (g) use of the road will be monitored and vehicles and passengers will be checked as they enter or leave the Park;
- (h) no resumption of any road construction work will be allowed before an EIA on the REV River is completed; and
- (i) the 13 km road that links the Bagai-Amuwa-Thori will not be upgraded.

DNPWC has reported that anti-poaching efforts are now in full operation but has noted that for these efforts to be fully effective DNPWC needs the support of all its conservation partners. Furthermore, DNPWC has committed to follow all the conditions and provisions suggested by the IUCN mission regarding the Madi transmission line project.

IUCN, while noting the measures imposed by DNPWC, remained concerned that a road and bridge construction project could have been financed by donors in the absence of an Environmental Impact Assessment. IUCN recognized that the road development may provide benefits for local people, but the project should have been planned and implemented through a rigorous, open and participatory planning process giving due consideration to the World Heritage values of Royal Chitwan.

The Centre shall use the report submitted by DNPWC, and IUCN's comments on that report, to discuss with concerned donors, as requested by the Committee (27 COM 7B.9, paragraph 2), the issue of financing a development project that did not have an EIA. A Centre staff met DNPWC officials on 4 May 2004 and requested the authorities to take corrective measures to mitigate the impact of the constructed bridge of the property. Due to time constraints, he was not able to meet representatives of the donor agencies. In this context, the Centre will write formally to the highest officials in each donor agency transmitting the concerns of the Committee (27 COM 7B.9) and explore ways by which recurrence of such poor practice could be avoided in the future in Nepal and elsewhere.

Draft decision: **28 COM 15B.11**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Commends the DNPWC for devising a system of controls on the use of the Kasara Bridge and the system of associated roads to minimize the negative impacts of the road construction project that had been undertaken without an EIA;
2. Invites the State Party to ensure that all other sectors of Government, including the Department of Roads and authorities representing local communities, fully respect and co-operate with DNPWC to ensure effective functioning of the system of controls on the road bridge and the protection of the World Heritage values of Royal Chitwan;
3. Recommends that the Centre and IUCN continue to communicate with all concerned donors to fully understand how an infrastructure project impacting World Heritage could have been financed without an EIA and how the recurrence of such practice could be prevented in Nepal and elsewhere in the future.

12. East Rennell (Solomon Islands) (N 854)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1998

Criteria: N (ii)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee deliberations:

27 COM 7B.12

Conservation issues:

On 5 April 2004 the World Heritage Centre received a letter from the National Commissioner for Culture, Solomon Islands National Commission for UNESCO providing information addressing concerns and issues raised by the Committee (27 COM 7B.12). He regretted that the four years of civil unrest in the Solomon Islands has been an impediment to prepare a Resource Management Plan for East Rennell and a National World Heritage Protection Bill. Furthermore he indicated that it is not appropriate for the National Government to prepare national legislation to regulate a property governed by customary ownership where land is protected by traditional laws recognized by the National Constitution. The security situation in the Solomon Islands has now greatly improved and the Commissioner has requested financial assistance to conduct a mission in cooperation with the Paramount Chief of East Rennell to prepare for a future UNESCO-IUCN joint mission.

On 15 April 2004 funds were decentralized to the UNESCO Office Apia, Western Samoa, to conduct a mission to East Rennell by the Commissioner and the Paramount Chief of East Rennell. A mission report and an action plan were requested by 31 May 2004 for examination by the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee.

In addition, the Centre is in close contact with Australia and New Zealand as they have offered their kind support to assist where possible in facilitating the assessment of the state of conservation of East Rennell. During a recent World Heritage Centre mission to New Zealand, the Government of New Zealand offered assistance for a UNESCO-IUCN fact-finding mission to East Rennell and indicated that they will also discuss the matter with the Government of Australia.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.12**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Thanks the Solomon Islands National Commission for UNESCO for providing up to date information and conducting a site visit to assess the state of conservation of East Rennell;*
2. *Requests IUCN and the World Heritage Centre to organize a joint UNESCO - IUCN mission to the property, utilizing expertise from the region to ensure that it is cost-effective;*

3. *Requests IUCN and the Centre during the mission to;*

- (a) *assess and report on the state of conservation of East Rennell;*
- (b) *determine the state of preparation and appropriateness of the Resource Management Plan for the property and the draft national World Heritage Protection Bill; and*
- (c) *document and assess the effectiveness of the customary protection of the property.*

4. *Requests IUCN and the Centre to present a report on the outcome of the mission for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session in 2005.*

13. Ha Long Bay (Viet Nam) (N 672 bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994; extended in 2000

Criteria: N (iii), N (i)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount: US\$87,207, Management planning support, Equipment and Training (and for the organization of a regional meeting on periodic reporting on natural and mixed sites in Asia Pacific)

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25 COM VIII.97

27 COM 7B.13

Conservation issues:

As requested by the 27th session of the Committee, the State Party submitted, in a letter dated 1 March 2004, a report addressing the main issues identified by the Committee (27 COM 7b.13, paragraph 4(a) and (b)). Fishing communities have resided in the area for generations, long before the designation of the site as World Heritage. A survey conducted in January 2003 revealed that Ha Long Bay has four fishing villages comprising 253 households or 1202 people. These numbers reflect an increase in the population due to natural factors and immigration. However, IUCN noted that the Quang Ninh Provincial authorities have issued a number of regulations governing migration to the site. Furthermore, the report noted that:

- (a) a plan is available for understanding the factors that influence the environment of Ha Long Bay and pursuing the conservation and promotion of the heritage values and is being implemented;
- (b) some floating “schools” have been established to increase fishermen’s awareness of heritage values and to better involve them in management and conservation of the property; and
- (c) activities of fishermen who live on Ha Long Bay are closely regulated, curtailing any unplanned development and ensuring proper enforcement of the Quang Ninh Province People Committee regulations on planning for fishing villages in the Bay.

The report observed that Ha Long Bay is a favoured environment for aquaculture. Some species, such as the red snapper, garrupa and several species of molluscs, have a high economic value. Development and zoning of the aquaculture areas are receiving increased attention. According to the report the development of economic and social activities in the Bay, especially aquaculture, has not had a negative impact on the integrity of the property; the quality of seawater and the sedimentary bed are still within acceptable environmental standards set by the Vietnamese Government.

The Centre and IUCN reviewed the information sent by the State Party, via a letter dated 8 April 2003, on the work plan for the environmental management of Ha Long Bay. An

impressive compendium of environmental management, awareness building and educational projects, with agendas, budgets and responsible authorities indicated for most of the planned and on-going activities, had been provided. But the information does not include specific environmental improvements that may have been brought about by the implementation of any of the projects listed and hence the overall positive impacts of the different projects and activities on the environment of Ha Long Bay remain difficult to assess. The State Party may be requested to consider identifying specific cases where successful environmental improvements, compared to the time of the inscription of the property, have been put in place. Such “success stories” may be useful communication tools for public relations, particularly for international visitors, many of whom seem to perceive a growing number of development projects in and around Ha Long Bay and interpret that growth as a threat to the World Heritage values of the property.

The Centre has been working with a number of partners including the IUCN Office in Viet Nam and the Directorate of Tourism for the Quang Ninh Province to encourage private enterprises in the tourism sector to co-operate with the Ha Long Bay Management Authority in maintaining environmental quality. Initial discussions held in late 2003 were encouraging and additional discussions between the Centre’s partners and a number of hotel and tour operator groups are foreseen during April-May 2004. The outcome of these discussions will be reported at the 28th session of the Committee.

Draft decision: **28 COM 15B.13**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Commends the State Party for its efforts to monitor immigration of fishermen into the site, setting standards for compliance by aquaculture practitioners and a number of other regulatory and legislative instruments for the management of the Ha Long Bay World Heritage area;
2. Urges the State Party to take an integrated planning approach in the interest of sustainable development and conservation of the values of the World Heritage property, giving special attention to the many threats impacting on the Site which include increasing population in the floating community, massive tourism infrastructure development, urbanization, aquaculture activities, industrialization etc.;
3. Commends the State Party and invites international support for the vigorous provincial efforts in capacity building, awareness raising and addressing challenges for sustainable development in the region;
4. Commends increased effective collaboration between Ha Long Bay Management Authority, the Provincial

Government and national government, with various international partners such as IUCN, the US Government and others in capacity-building initiative promoting integrated marine and coastal management in the Province of Quang Ninh;

5. *Notes with appreciation State Party efforts to develop a number of environmental management, awareness building and capacity building projects and programmes with international, national and provincial partners;*
6. *Invites the State Party to consider documenting the outcomes of successful projects and programme that have helped to improve environmental quality and disseminate the information internationally and nationally; and*
7. *Recommends IUCN and the Centre to co-operate with the State Party to involve tourism and other development sector enterprises in the Ha Long Bay area to contribute towards conservation and effective management of the property.*

PART II

14. The Great Barrier Reef (Australia) (N 154)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1981

Criteria: N (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25 EXT BUR III.31-36

Conservation issues:

On 22 January 2004 the World Heritage Centre received a report from an NGO, Wildlife Whitsunday, concerning a proposed project at Airlie Beach adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The proposed development project encompasses; a floating marina, residential development, commercial precinct, and connection to sewerage to allow discharge of vessels. The report highlights the potential environmental impacts associated with extensive disturbance of seagrass and mangroves as well as changes in hydrology.

The report was transmitted to IUCN and the State Party. The Centre received the response from the State Party on 12 March 2004. The State Party indicates that the proposal is being considered by the Queensland State Government and the Commonwealth (Australian) Government. Conditions will be placed, if the project is approved by the Australian Government, to ensure that it has no significant impacts on the World Heritage integrity of the Great Barrier Reef. The State Party has also indicated that Wildlife Whitsunday has also been in contact with the Australian Department of the Environment and Heritage on this matter.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.14**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Acknowledges receipt of the State Party's report with clarifications on the proposed development project at Airlie Beach adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage property;
2. Requests that the State Party keep the World Heritage Centre and IUCN informed on the status of the proposed development project at Airlie Beach and the proposed measures to avoid any potential impacts it may have on the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage property.

15. Greater Blue Mountains Area (Australia) (N 917)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2000

Criteria: N (ii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25 BUR V.113-115

Conservation issues:

On 13 October 2003 the World Heritage Centre received a report from the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd, Australia, claiming that a proposed mine will threaten the Greater Blue Mountains Area. The report draws attention to a proposal for a 27 million tonne sand and clay mine, located directly adjoining the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage property. According to the report, this will impact upon the biodiversity values, through pollution of the Wollangambe River, and damage essential elements of the integrity of the property. The report requests the Government to set up a public process to define an adequate buffer area for the property.

The Centre transmitted the report to the State Party and IUCN. The State Party, responding to the report, noted that the assessment of this mining proposal is being conducted by the New South Wales Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources and the decision is awaited. It also indicated that the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act of 1999 imposes obligations on undesirable actions not only within a World Heritage area but also outside the area.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.15**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Acknowledges receipt of the State Party's report with clarifications on the status of the proposed sand and clay mine adjacent to the Greater Blue Mountains Area;
2. Encourages the State Party to prevent any developments that could have adverse effects on the World Heritage property;
3. Requests that the State Party keep the World Heritage Centre and IUCN informed on the status of the proposed sand and clay mine adjacent to the Greater Blue Mountains Area and the proposed measures to avoid any potential impacts it may have on the World Heritage property.

16. Sagarmatha National Park (Nepal) (N 120)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979

Criteria: N (iii)

Previous International Assistance:

US\$ 71,995, Technical Co-operation for reforestation, environmental education and other conservation awareness building activities.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

23 EXT BUR III.iii

27 COM 7B.10

Conservation Issues:

The Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPWC) of Nepal, in a report attached to its letter of 27 January 2004 to the Centre, noted that the Nepal Civil Aviation Authority has confirmed in writing that it will remove equipment and other construction materials from the Syangboche airstrip inside Sagarmatha National Park. The excavator and materials will be airlifted to Kathmandu. The Civil Aviation authority was in the process of hiring an helicopter in late January 2004 to airlift the materials from Syangboche. IUCN has noted the information and has expressed satisfaction with the action taken by the State Party to implement Committee decision 27 COM 7B.10. The report of the DNPWC does not however, address other issues raised by the Committee at its last session, e.g. enhanced co-operation with local stakeholders.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.16**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Commends the State Party for taking necessary action to halt the construction of the Syangboche airstrip project and to remove the equipment and construction materials brought into the Park for the project;
2. Requests the State Party for taking necessary actions to enhance cooperation with local stakeholders.

17. Te Wahipounamu – South West New Zealand (New Zealand) (N 551)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1990

Criteria: N (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

24 EXT BUR III.1.iii

Conservation issues:

On 12 February 2004 the World Heritage Centre received a report from the State Party concerning an oil-spill accident at Te Wahipounamu – South West New Zealand. The report indicated that approximately 13,000 liters of diesel fuel had spilled into the harbour at Freshwater Basin at the head of Milford Sound, which borders the Fiordland National Park that is part of the World Heritage property.

Environment Southland, the responsible agency for the management of its oil spill response plan, indicates that the marine reserve at Milford Sound appears not to have been adversely affected by the spill. With respect to the adverse impact on wildlife, immediate and follow up action have not revealed any issues of immediate concern and it is thought that there will not be long term threats. Furthermore, a thorough clean up operation has been completed with the support of the community.

The State Party informed the Centre that the Department of Conservation of the Government of New-Zealand and Environment Southland will carry out an investigation into the spill and management action will be taken to prevent the recurrence of such an accident.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.17**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Notes the information provided by the State Party concerning a recent oil spill accident at Te Wahipounamu-South West New Zealand;
2. Requests the State Party to take all necessary measures to prevent such accidents occurring in the future.

18. Tubbataha Reef Marine Park (Philippines) (N 653)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1993

Criteria: N (ii), (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount: US\$60,000 (US\$20,000, preparatory assistance; US\$20,000, technical co-operation and US\$30,000, training).

Previous Bureau/Committee deliberations:

27 COM 7B.11

Conservation issues:

The Centre and IUCN received a draft report from the Director of the Tubbataha Reef Marine Park on 30 January 2004. The report notes that, as requested by the Committee at its 27th session, a number of assessments on the effects of illegal fishing on the marine biodiversity of the site are under way with the support of the technical assistance received from the World Heritage Fund. The Director of the Tubbataha Reef Marine Park has confirmed to the World Heritage Centre that the final version of the report will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre by 15th June 2004 at the latest, as requested in the activity financing contract.

IUCN believes that information from these studies could be useful for comparative studies on ecological conditions with those at the time of inscription of the site on the World Heritage List and for making judgements on how well conditions of site integrity are being maintained. Hence, IUCN recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit information from the studies to the Centre as soon as possible.

IUCN has noted that the State Party has provided some information on the issue of illegal fishing activities in the Sulu Sea and an analysis of the impact on the World Heritage property. IUCN believes however that more details and further clarification on this issue are needed and has suggested that the State Party consider convening national workshops, launch awareness campaigns and/or conduct studies on current legislation and its enforcement to better understand ways and means to mitigate impacts of illegal fishing.

A selected number of side-events focussing on the conservation of marine ecosystems in East Asia, convened during the 7th Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 9 to 20 February 2004, reviewed the question of illegal fishing. Most of the participants in those events were of the view that efforts to address illegal fisheries may require sub-regional and regional level co-operation if they are to be successful.

Draft decision: **28 COM 15B.18**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Commends* the State Party for providing information on the current status on actions taken to mitigate illegal fishing and for launching studies that may enable comparative analysis of current ecological conditions with those at the time of inscription of the site on the World Heritage List;
2. *Invites* the State Party to submit a report, based on a review of the findings of the final version of the state of conservation report at the time of the 28th session of the Committee, on progress achieved with follow-up action, as recommended by the Committee, by 1 February 2005 for review at the 29th session of the Committee in 2005;
3. *Recommends* that IUCN and the Centre consult with the State Party and other relevant partners to host a sub-regional or regional forum to address the issue of illegal fisheries in East Asian seas, including the Sulu Sea, and report on the result to the 29th session of the Committee in 2005, and *encourages* the State Party to request international assistance to implement this forum.

19. Phong Nha Ke Bang National Park (Viet Nam) (N 951 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2003

Criterion: N (i)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee deliberations:

27 COM 8C.8

Conservation issues:

In December 2003, the leader of the IUCN/WCPA Task Force on Karst and Cave Protection participated in a training programme on the management of Karst protected areas, organized by the ASEAN Regional Centre for Biodiversity Conservation (ARCBC), in Viet Nam. As part of the course he led the trainees to this site, newly inscribed on the World Heritage List by the Committee at its 27th session.

He reported progress in soil re-consolidation and proper drainage arrangements on the new road through the Park. Despite extremely heavy rains, sediment load in the Son River appears to have reduced compared to what the same observer noted 12 months earlier. However, the group did not visit the southern sector of the road that runs outside of the Park's boundary, which suffered greater disruption. Local officials informed the group that similar soil-reconsolidation efforts were underway in those locations as well.

WWF researchers had reported more frequent sightings of the endemic langurs in the Chai Valley. More than 30 arrests of some senior provincial officials and major business operators who had illegally felled and stolen timber from the site had been made in Tay Nguyen. There appeared to be a new determination on the part of the Government to crack down on forest crimes. A number of new staff appointments were also being made.

A representative of the World Heritage Centre participated in the ceremony to commemorate the World Heritage status of this site on 15 February 2004. Quang Binh Province displayed a high sense of pride over the site's World Heritage status. All the senior officials who spoke at the ceremony, including the Deputy Prime Minister of Viet Nam and the Chairperson of the People's Committee of the Quang Binh Province committed to fully implement the decisions of the 28th session of the Committee including the Committee's wish that Viet Nam works to build transborder co-operation with the People's Democratic Republic of Lao (Lao PDR).

The Centre, the UNESCO Office in Viet Nam and the UNESCO National Commission of Viet Nam cooperated to send a Delegation of six national and four provincial Government representatives from Lao PDR to participate at the ceremony held in the Quang Binh Province of Vietnam. Hence the dialogue between Viet Nam and Lao PDR has

now been re-launched with a view to moving towards the implementation of the Committee's decision (27 COM 8C.8, paragraph 5).

The Centre has initiated discussions with the Asia Environmental Directorate of the World Bank in Washington, D.C. and in the Lao PDR to explore possibilities to promote transborder cooperation between Lao PDR and Viet Nam. The World Bank is implementing a number of development projects in Lao PDR, along the Lao PDR-Viet Nam border, and therefore welcomes the opportunity provided by the Committee's decision to build greater collaboration between the two neighbours for biodiversity conservation.

The World Bank and the Centre had meetings in Vientiane, Lao PDR and with Viet Nam and Lao PDR Delegations in Paris, and all parties concerned have expressed their willingness to move forward to implement the Committee's wishes. Nevertheless, given the capacity constraints, particularly in Lao PDR, the building of transborder co-operation will be a slow process.

The possible nomination of a transborder World Heritage area by the two countries that includes the Phong Nha Ke Bang World Heritage property must therefore be seen as a medium-to-long term outcome, rather than an immediate result.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.19**

The World Heritage Committee

1. *Commends the Government of Viet Nam and the Provincial Government of Quang Binh for taking immediate action to implement the decisions of the 27th session of the Committee and encourages them to continue the momentum particularly with regard to the critical issue of fighting illegal logging and forest crimes;*
2. *Expresses its satisfaction and appreciation to the Governments of Viet Nam and Lao PDR for re-launching the dialogue to build trans-border co-operation that is critical for the conservation of the karst forests and their biodiversity represented in the Phong Nha Ke Bang World Heritage property and contiguous areas in Lao PDR;*
3. *Welcomes the interest of the World Bank in promoting trans-border co-operation between Viet Nam and Lao PDR and urges the Centre and IUCN to fully co-operate with the Bank and other partners to build capacity in the two countries for trans-border co-operation for ecosystem conservation and protected area management;*
4. *Requests the State Party to submit a report by 1st February 2005 on measures taken to mitigate the negative impacts of the road construction project linking the Ho Chi Minh Highway and route 20,*

information on the regulations that apply to the management of the buffer zone, and on enforcement measures and other action that will be taken to control illegal logging and forest crimes;

5. *Reiterates its request for the State Party to prepare and submit a visitor management plan for the site.*

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

PART I

20. Belovezhskaya Pushcha / Bialowieza Forest (Belarus/Poland) (N 33-627)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979;
extended in 1992

Criterion: N (iii)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25 COM VIII.97

27 COM 7B.14

Conservation issues:

A joint IUCN/UNESCO mission visited Belovezhskaya Pushcha / Bialowieza Forest in Poland and the Republic of Belarus from 15 to 20 March 2004 in response to the decision of the 27th session of the World Heritage Committee (27 COM 7B.14). The mission reviewed the state of conservation of the property, evaluated possibilities for multi and bi-lateral co-operation in the management of the site, clarified issues of zoning of the World Heritage property as well as fencing along the international border, and met with all relevant stakeholders in both Belarus and Poland. The mission concluded that the integrity and the World Heritage values of the site in both countries are not threatened directly by logging or any other kind of actions inside the boundaries of the World Heritage property.

The mission observed however a few potential common threats, which might have adverse impact on the whole territory, especially by causing a change in dominance of main tree species: a) global warming, b) long distance air pollution and c) Change of hydrological regime and groundwater levels. The mission also found that the integrity of the World Heritage property is rather vulnerable to external factors due to its relatively small size. The situation has however improved during the past eight years. The area of the Polish National Park was nearly doubled in October 1996, when the Council of Ministers approved an extension of 5,186 ha. By the year 2003, altogether 12,000 ha of the surrounding State Forests have been declared Nature Reserves. The administration of the National Park on the territory of the Republic of Belarus has also received additional territories under its jurisdiction, which will serve as additional buffer zones to the World Heritage property.

The mission noted some other issues of concern, which if not managed or controlled, could potentially evolve to become threats to the integrity of the World Heritage property: a) insufficient integration of the World Heritage property on both sides of the border into the surrounding forest and

ecological separation of the two sites due to the border fences, b) management activities in the forests surrounding the World Heritage property (mainly sanitary loggings) reducing the amount of dead and rotting wood, and c) growing impacts of tourism, concentrated in Bialowieza / Kamenuki villages adjacent to the World Heritage property.

The mission found that the States Parties, their National Park staff and partners were well aware of these threats and had identified, where possible, measures to mitigate them. The mission pointed out, that some of the threats could be minimized by handling the whole forest as one management unit, where the protection of old-growth forest ecosystem and its biodiversity would be the main goals.

The mission noted that the cooperation between the States Parties in the field of conservation and management of the World Heritage property was not yet adequate. However, the mission noted with satisfaction that the States Parties on their own initiative used the event of the mission to arrange a bi-lateral meeting and discuss ways to improve co-operation with regard to the management of the World Heritage property and the forest in general.

The report noted that, in 1992, the core zone of the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park on the territory of the Republic of Belarus was inscribed as an extension to the Polish site. The Polish part of the nominated area is well known for being the starting point for re-introduction projects of the European Bison. However, the conservation values of the forest complex are much wider.

The World Heritage property area is a portion of a larger transboundary forest complex, of about 150,000 ha. The entire forest complex has remained the largest and best-preserved unit of mixed lowland forest in Europe divided into a Belorussian (90 000 ha) and a Polish (60 000 ha) part. The report noted that while in Belarus nearly all forests of the complex have become part of the transboundary World Heritage property (92,923 ha), less than 10 % of the forests in Poland have been included into the World Heritage property.

The protection of biodiversity and natural processes in this larger forest area is of concern to local and national nature conservation NGOs particularly in relation to impacts from forestry. A number of NGOs and environmental specialists are arguing for an enlargement of the strictly protected areas as well as for an enlargement of the World Heritage property on the Polish side of the border.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.20**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Noting the information provided by the IUCN-UNESCO mission to the site and congratulating both States Parties for their conservation efforts,*

2. *Requests the States Parties to create a management body or joint structure for dealing with the whole World Heritage area on both sides of the boundary to enable coherent planning and management with the main goal to preserve the old growth forest and its natural dynamics;*
3. *Urges both States Parties to further evaluate possibilities to reduce the negative impacts of the border fence on ungulates and other mammals, In case the removal of the fence is not possible, relevant techniques should be used to allow the movements of animals along certain corridors;*
4. *Encourages both States Parties to give high priority to implement all recommendations proposed in the mission report and requests them to provide a response to these recommendations, as well as information on how they intend to implement the recommendations, by 1 February 2005 for examination by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005.*

21. Pirin National Park (Bulgaria) (N 225)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1983

Criteria: N (i) (ii) (iii)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 2

27 COM 7B.15

Conservation issues:

The joint UNESCO-IUCN mission was carried out from 3 to 6 February 2004 in close cooperation with the State Party, the site manager and the Ministry for Environment and Waters. It noted that a number of ascertained and potential threats exist, including the existing ski development and other potential development proposals, which could threaten the values and the integrity of the World Heritage property. During the mission draft reports were provided to the mission team. The mission however noted that the response from the Government to the requests of the Committee was not adequate, and that no map of the World Heritage property was provided officially by the States Party despite repeated requests.

The mission concluded with a number of specific recommendations on the following issues:

- (a) World Heritage area, zoning and buffer zones: The State Party should approve the management plan as soon as possible, but no later than by the end of 2004; provide the exact map of the World Heritage property as declared in 1983; take the decision with respect to the exclusion of the Bansko ski-zone from the World Heritage property; prepare and submit a proposal for the extension of the World Heritage property to include other areas, if appropriate; in accordance with the Operational Guidelines and with the management plan to establish and the zoning system with a buffer zone and sub-zones and manage the whole area to ensure the integrity of the property.
- (b) State of conservation of the site: The State Party should ensure effective management by securing staff and resources for the National Park Directorate; effectively control those who work under licence agreements or have other legal rights for use of resources or other activities in the World Heritage property; take effective measures to stop the violations against the laws within and around the World Heritage property.
- (c) Management: The Pirin National Park Directorate should set priorities under the management plan according to the analysis made and in particular: defining the regimes and norms and its control, optimum protection and management of habitats of high conservation value, providing opportunities for conservation education and interpretation and stimulation of scientific studies, development of

sustainable tourism and income generation for the communities; improve the management policy and the institutional development as defined by the management plan.

- (d) Improved communication: The State Party and particularly the Park Directorate should support long-term monitoring for the purposes of conservation and maintenance of the values of the World Heritage property and regularly report on the state of the property.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.21**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recalling its decision to defer the inscription of Pirin National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger until its 27th session (26 COM 21 (b) 2), with decision on this to be based on an assessment of the State Party's response to the UNESCO/IUCN mission report (27 COM 7B.15) and noting the results of the joint UNESCO/IUCN mission of February 2004,
2. Regrets that the State Party did not adopt the final management plan by the end of 2003 as requested (27 COM 7B.15) and urges the State Party to adopt this plan at least by the end of 2004;
3. Welcomes the cooperation of the State Party in addressing some of the issues, including the submission of an international assistance request for a potential extension of the World Heritage property;
4. Requests that the State Party implement the specific recommendations of the 2004 UNESCO / IUCN mission concerning the state of conservation of the site, its management, its zoning and the establishment of buffer zones and improved communication;
5. Requests the State Party to provide a detailed report on actions taken to respond to the recommendations of the 2004 mission report, as well as a clear map showing the boundaries of the site by 1 February 2005, for examination by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005.

22. Lake Baikal (Russian Federation) (N 754)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1996

Criteria: N (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

1999: US\$30,000, Training seminar

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21(b)19

27 COM 7B.19

Conservation issues:

Following the invitation by the Russian authorities, as requested by the Committee (26 COM 21(b) 19 and 27 COM 7B.19), the high-level mission took place with meetings in the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation from 11-12 November 2003. The Director General of IUCN, the Director of the Centre, the Director of the UNESCO Moscow Office, The Chief of the Europe and North America Unit of the Centre, the Head of the IUCN Moscow Office, a protected area specialist of IUCN and a programme specialist from the UNESCO Moscow Office participated in the mission. The goal of the meeting was to discuss key issues related to the conservation of the Lake Baikal World Heritage property.

During this meeting the representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation stressed the relevance of the cooperation with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and IUCN and the importance of developing it further. They presented comprehensive information on issues related to the current state of conservation of this World Heritage property and measures undertaken by Russian authorities, both at the national and local levels, to address these issues. They also confirmed their preparedness to present, according to the requests of the 26th and 27th sessions of the World Heritage Committee, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the Lake Baikal World Heritage property, and proposed to consider a joint pilot project with the participation of UNESCO and IUCN, aimed at addressing issues of concern relating to the conservation of Lake Baikal.

Following this meeting the State Party submitted, on 10 March 2004, a detailed state of conservation Report outlining key actions implemented on the following issues:

(a) Implementation of the Federal Law "On the Protection of Lake Baikal":

Eight new enactments have been adopted, including key regulations on the ecological zoning for Lake Baikal; the limits of water level in Lake Baikal under economical activities; and the protection regime for endemic species of plants and animals in Lake Baikal. Four more legislative documents have been prepared on key issues such as the boundaries of the ecological zones, the list of harmful substances which use is forbidden or regulated in Lake Baikal, and the standards of maximum allowable harmful impacts on the Lake Baikal. However, it is not clear from the report whether

or not the ecological zoning for Lake Baikal has been completed and formally approved, which is fundamental for the application of a number of these regulations.

(b) Protection regimes:

Plans for the protection and rational use of natural resources have been elaborated for the Baikal basin, the Selenga river basin, and for water treatment and sanitation of the communities and recreational areas in the Central Ecological Zone of Lake Baikal. A feasibility study has been prepared on how to minimize impacts from ships in Lake Baikal.

(c) Baikal Commission:

Key functions assumed by this commission are now under the mandate of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation, which is vested with the necessary authority to undertake this task.

(d) Ecological monitoring:

A number of programmes have been implemented for the last three years to assess the ecological conditions of Lake Baikal, including monitoring water quality and forest changes using satellite images. Results from monitoring indicate that the quality of the water in Lake Baikal has not substantially changed in the last 5-8 years and that it still remains one of the cleanest water bodies on Earth.

(e) Gas/Oil Pipelines:

The State Party report noted that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for this project, which had considered its potential impacts on Lake Baikal as well as issues of environmental safety in the course of construction and operation of the pipelines, was not approved by the Federal Commission that reviewed it. This Commission identified a number of risks associated with the development of this project in an area of high geological instability and where earthquakes are quite common. Also, the different routes proposed were passing through strictly protected areas, which are forbidden under the Federal Law for the Protection of the Environment.

(f) Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill:

A 10 year integrated programme for the re-profiling of the Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill has been designed and its first phase is under implementation. The first phase includes the development of a closed water recycling system which excludes industrial effluents from entering Lake Baikal. The total investment for the first phase is US\$33,500,000, of which US\$11,100,000 is provided by the joint-venture enterprise managing the mill. The State Party has also signed an agreement with the World Bank to obtain additional support for this long-term programme. Measures to reduce atmospheric pollution associated with the mill's emissions have also been implemented.

(g) Pollution from the Selenga River:

This continues to be a problem due to the pollution associated with the population and related socio-economic activities within the Selenga River basin. It is important to note that this basin is shared with the State Party of Mongolia, where the Selenga River basin occupies more than 20% of Mongolia's territory, and 40% of the total runoff of this river comes from this country. According to the results from hydro-chemical and hydro-biological monitoring implemented in 2001-2003 the level of pollution has not changed significantly and corresponds, according to the standards established for the Russian Federation, to Class III (moderate pollution). In some tributaries of the Selenga River there have been slight improvements in water quality. As the Selenga River is a key source of pollution for Lake Baikal and it is also of high importance for the maintenance of key fish species that breed upstream along its waters, this issue has been included as a priority activity under the Russian-Mongolian Intergovernmental Agreement signed in 1995.

(h) Baikal Seal Population:

According to the East Siberian Fishing Center the Baikal seal population in the period 1996-2000 ranged from 97,000 to 122,000, however there is indirect evidence of a slow population decrease. The State Party report stressed that there is not enough scientific evidence to relate this trend to human impacts and that this decrease could result from biological changes in the population. The State Party report does not provide information on the level of enforcement of hunting quotas and on the implementation of previous Committee's recommendations to provide training to hunters to avoid unnecessary deaths of animals that are wounded during hunting.

(i) Protected Areas:

It is reported that the main impacts on the protected areas existing within the World Heritage properties is associated with forest fires (see point below). The GEF project on the conservation of biological diversity in the Russian Federation provides support for the management of these areas, including patrolling and enforcement of protection.

(j) Forest fires:

It is reported that the number of fires in 2003 increased 1.8 times when compared with that of 2002 and the area affected by fires increased 15.8 times. The State Party provided additional funding of US\$1,228,150 in the fourth quarter of 2003; however it was insufficient to control all fires that occurred in this period. According to the Russian Committee on Hydrometeorology the high number of fires is associated with the worst dry season reported in Russia for the last 108 years. The Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry for Emergencies and the Ministry of Defence have prepared with the Government of the Buryat Republic a Fire-Prevention and Mitigation Plan for 2004 which includes reinforcing the existing capacities for forest fires at the

local level and doubled the number of fire prevention centres able to use satellite information for forest fire fighting and prevention.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.22**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recalling the recommendation of the report of the monitoring mission in 2001 to include the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger,
2. Welcomes the collaboration between the Russian authorities, IUCN and the Centre in addressing cooperation and communication issues;
3. Notes the results of the high-level mission and the detailed report provided by the Russian authorities on 10 March 2004 and acknowledges the efforts of the State Party in enhancing the conservation of this site;
4. Requests, while noting the complex environmental and socio-economic issues associated to the conservation and development of Lake Baikal, that:
 - the State Party provide further clarification on the level of implementation of the ecological zoning for Lake Baikal and its adoption under the Federal Law "On the Protection of Lake Baikal";
 - the State Party continue providing to each session of the Committee reports on the state of conservation of the site, on progress achieved on the different programmes implemented in the site, particularly on the re-profiling of the Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill, and the results of the ecological monitoring programme and the GEF project that is under implementation in the area;
 - the States Parties of the Russian Federation and Mongolia enhance their cooperation in designing and implementing a plan to reduce the sources of pollution occurring in the Selenga River Basin; the two States Parties may wish to submit a request for International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund to support the planning phase of this cooperation;
 - the State Party implement previous recommendations of the Committee to provide training to hunters to avoid unnecessary deaths of animals that are wounded during hunting; and
 - the State Party, working with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, develop a long-term project proposal oriented towards obtaining additional financial resources for the conservation and sustainable development of Lake Baikal; such a proposal may include a component to support the joint efforts of the States Parties of the Russian Federation and Mongolia to address the pollution of the Selenga River.

5. *Notes with satisfaction that the outcome of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed transportation routes for oil and gas was negative and requests that any future proposal avoids the World Heritage property and to ensure that no route is selected through the watershed of Lake Baikal without first undertaking a comprehensive Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) to guarantee the highest standards of design and implementation;*
6. *Requests the State Party to provide an up-to-date report to the World Heritage Centre including on any decisions or proposed alternative to the oil and gas transportation route by 1 February 2005, for examination by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005.*

PART II

23. Srebarna Nature Reserve (Bulgaria) (N 219)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1983

Inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992 - 2003

Criteria: N (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount: US\$56,000, Technical Cooperation and Training

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (a) 1

27 COM 7A.10

Conservation issues:

The joint UNESCO-IUCN mission to Pirin National Park, which was carried out from 3 to 6 February 2004, took the opportunity to discuss state of conservation issues of Srebarna Nature Reserve with the Ministry for Environment and Waters in Sofia. The mission noted the progress made with regard to reporting on the Srebarna Nature Reserve and received a draft report during its meetings in Sofia. The mission recommended to process the international assistance requests under way and to enhance the collaboration with Romania as requested by the World Heritage Committee.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.23**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Noting the report by the State Party and the results from the February 2004 joint UNESCO/IUCN mission to Bulgaria,
2. Welcomes that the State Party requested technical assistance from the World Heritage Fund to urgently purchase a portable electric generator to enable rapid closure of the sluice gates in a potential emergency situation;
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a calendar of activities for preparing a proposal for a transborder World Heritage area in the Danube Delta in cooperation with other concerned States Parties as requested (27 COM 7A.10);
4. Requests the State Party to enhance the implementation of the management plan and to keep the Centre informed on progress achieved in transboundary collaboration relating to the Danube Delta ecosystem.

24. Nahanni National Park (Canada) (N 24)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1978

Criteria: N (ii) (iii)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b)

27 COM 7B.16

The Centre received a report from the State Party dated 23 December 2003. IUCN reviewed the State Party's report on this site, which affirms that Parks Canada and the Deh Cho First Nations have completed their work on a new management plan for Nahanni National Park Reserve. This document is now being submitted for approval by the Minister of the Environment who is responsible for Parks Canada.

With regard to the mine proposal by Canadian Zinc Corporation at Prairie Creek, the report notes that an Environmental Assessment was completed concerning a proposed pilot plant and new underground decline in June of 2003. In September 2003 a water licence was granted by the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB). Conditions of the water licence did not fully address key mitigation measures required in the environmental assessment, including certain protective measures related to a tailings pond and consideration of the feasibility of the site proposed for a polishing pond. The requirement to develop objectives for water quality monitoring with Parks Canada was also excluded. The Deh Cho First Nations asked for a judicial review of this matter and as a result, it is now before the courts. The report notes that until this matter is settled, the project will be on hold.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.24**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Acknowledging progress achieved in the conservation of the site, in particular the development of the new management plan for the property, submitted for approval,
2. Requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed on the court's decision on the judicial review on the water licence granted to Canadian Zinc Corporation at Prairie Creek.

25. Wood Buffalo National Park (Canada) (N 256)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1983

Criteria: N (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21(b) 4

27 COM 7B.17

The Centre received the State Party's report, dated 20 January 2004. IUCN reviewed the State Party's report, which noted that the winter road proposal for Wood Buffalo National Park is unchanged since Canada last reported on this issue. IUCN noted from the report that the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) and the Mikisew Cree First Nation filed separate applications in the Federal Court of Canada, Trial Division, for a judicial review of the matter. The report noted that both applications sought to prevent construction of the winter road. The report further indicated that the Federal Court of Canada dismissed CPAWS' application for judicial review in October 2001 and CPAWS subsequently appealed to a higher court. This appeal was heard on April 30th 2003 and was subsequently dismissed.

The report noted that, in December 2001, the Federal Court of Canada allowed the application for judicial review by the Mikisew Cree First Nation and set aside the Government of Canada's decision on the basis that the winter road infringed upon the First Nation's treaty rights to hunt and trap in the park. The report stated that the government of Canada appealed this decision and the appeal was heard by the Federal Court of Appeal on September 29th 2003. The Court of Appeal has not rendered its decision yet.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.25**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Noting the report provided by the State Party, and acknowledging progress achieved on the conservation of the site,*
2. *Requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed on the Federal Court decision on the Appeal on the winter road proposal and its implications for the integrity of the site.*

26. Isole Eolie (Aeolian Islands) (Italy) (N 908)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2000

Criterion : N (i)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 13

27 COM 7B.18

Conservation issues:

The State Party informed the Centre via letter dated 2 February 2004 that the region of Sicily is looking for an adequate solution with regard to requests to enlarge or to open new pumice quarries. These would require Environmental Impact Assessments according to the legal provisions in force. The Pumex Society presented a proposal for landscaping and rehabilitating the areas.

IUCN noted that the authorities are seeking the most appropriate solutions to requests to enlarge and open new pumice quarries. Some initiatives have also been launched with the goal of creating new jobs to replace jobs lost in the extractive industry. In relation to this the State Party has sought IUCN's advice on a proposal from the Pumex Society, holder of the mining concession, which seeks to enhance the urban areas and surrounding landscapes and reorganization of mining activities. The State Party has extended an invitation to IUCN to send a mission to the site if necessary.

The objectives of the proposal of the Pumex Society are to: maintain the characteristics and values of the landscape; respect the geological and vulcanological characteristics; Conserve the historic and cultural values linked to the history of man's activity in extracting pumice stone; promote the characteristics and the use of the historic and technological heritage of pumice stone on the Island of Lipari, through cultural tourism; and preserve the exploitation activity and commercialization of pumice stone at the international level due to its important economic implications.

The proposal includes four areas of activities: environmental recuperation of areas currently being exploited; the current site of exploitation is on the north east side of the Lipari Island and is clearly visible from the sea, even from a distance. The proposal is to stop all activity in the current location – outside the crater – and to transfer it to the interior of the crater, less visible from outside. The current location would then be rehabilitated. Continued mining of pumice stone areas of Monte Pelato, following a very ancient practice specifically destined for this exploitation. Recuperation and rehabilitation of derelict or unused industrial buildings into hotels and tourist services is promoted, and the development of a Pumice Stone Museum that shows the modern system of production is planned.

IUCN has also received information from some local NGOs. It has been informed that although regional authorities (Assessorato Regionale Territorio ed Ambiente) accepted in November 2002 that the quarries should be closed, the Mining Authority of Catania (another regional office) later accepted a request to keep the quarries working on a temporary basis. As a result, at least one NGO has brought the case to court and, at the time of the preparation of this document, IUCN has no further information on a decision on this issue.

IUCN noted that the mining of pumice stone is currently authorized at Lipari by a regional law. The NGOs are in opposition to this law, considered in contradiction to the Territorial Plan. They believe that the mining activity leads to the destruction of the landscape and its outstanding universal values.

Legambiente, a national NGO, has noted its opposition to the proposal by the Pumex Society as they believe it is in contradiction with the Landscape Plan; it has not been subject to adequate environmental impact assessments; and the rehabilitation work should involve the local community. Legambiente encourages the development of appropriate ecotourism in the World Heritage property, employing local communities in the conversion of the area into a site suitable for such activities and the subsequent development of ecotourism operations.

IUCN welcomed the positive proposal from the Pumex Society towards the environmental recuperation of areas currently being exploited within the site including the rehabilitation of unused industrial buildings into hotels and tourist services. These and other activities included in this proposal would assist in replacing jobs lost in the extractive industry. IUCN also welcomed the initiative of the State Party in sharing this information with IUCN and the World Heritage Centre. However, IUCN noted that the proposal to close the existing quarries in a highly visible part of the site and open new quarries within the crater is not an acceptable solution. Thus, IUCN reiterated its previous recommendation that no mining operations should take place in any World Heritage property and urged the State Party to take measures to stop mining activities in the site which are in contradiction with the Landscape Plan for the property. IUCN believes that at this point a mission to the property is not required.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.26**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Noting the report provided by the State Party that so far no further pumice quarries have been opened and no extension to the four existing quarries within the World Heritage property has been granted,
2. Welcomes the positive proposal from the Pumex Society, and the initiative of the State Party of informing IUCN of

this proposal, for the environmental recuperation of areas currently being exploited within the site and the rehabilitation of unused industrial buildings into hotels and tourist services, thus assisting in replacing jobs lost in the extractive industry;

3. *Urges the State Party to seek long-term solutions towards a closure of the existing quarries, to stop all mining activities in the World Heritage property and to keep the World Heritage Centre and IUCN informed about further developments.*

27. Volcanoes of Kamchatka (Russian Federation) (N 765 bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1996; extended in 2001

Criteria: N (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21(b)20

27 COM 7B.20

Conservation issues:

Following the invitation for an IUCN/UNESCO mission to the site expressed by the Russian authorities during the 27th session of the Committee, the Centre and IUCN is collaborating with the State Party in preparing the mission scheduled for 25 to 30 May 2004. An update of the situation and recommendations from the mission will be provided, if possible, in at the time of the 28th session of the Committee (Suzhou, China).

IUCN received a copy of the State Party report on the state of conservation of this site submitted on 10 March 2004. The report provides information on issues that have been of concern to the Committee in relation to the integrity of the property. Key points include:

(a) Illegal salmon fishing:

Through the UNDP/GEF project on Biodiversity Conservation in the Russian Federation a number of measures have been taken to reduce illegal salmon fishing. At present this activity has been stopped within the five strictly protected areas forming the World Heritage property. Local communities are granted with special permission to catch salmon for their own consumption. Environmental education activities are also carried out in order to build awareness on the need to protect this species.

(b) Gold mining:

The report notes that this activity is occurring outside the World Heritage property but in areas adjacent to it. However, there is no indication in the report on whether this activity has impacts on the site, as have been noted before by a number of NGOs and experts. It is reported that a fall in prices of gold combined with the high cost of mining operations in this area, are halting further development of this activity in the region.

(c) Gas pipeline:

The construction of a 418 km gas pipeline, aiming to secure a stable energy supply to the Kamchatskaya region, has been the subject of a positive State Environmental Impact Assessment. The approved design of the pipeline is not passing through any of the areas that form the World Heritage property.

(d) Development of a geothermal power station:

The report notes that this development is proposed in the Mutnovsoy Volcano, at 820m in altitude, which is not included within the World Heritage property. However it is not clear from the report whether the necessary supporting infrastructure required for undertaking this major development would have any impact on the World Heritage property.

(e) Forest fires:

The report noted a substantial decrease in the extension of forests affected by fires due to the increased efforts in forest prevention and fighting at the local level which involved a substantial increase in the funding allocated to these activities.

(f) Boundary changes:

This was done in 1996, at the time of the original nomination, in order to exclude all gold fields from the World Heritage property. No further changes to the boundaries of the site have been proposed since then.

(g) Construction of the Asso-Palana road:

This project does not foresee the construction of a new road crossing the World Heritage property but to upgrade an existing winter road to be used also during the summer period. The road will be improved by the construction of bridges across watercourses that in summer tend to flood the road, making its use impossible. This feasibility study for this project has passed the Federal Environmental Supervision.

(h) Support to protected areas within the World Heritage property:

The implementation of the first phase of the UNDP/GEF project on Maintenance of Biological Diversity in Russian Federation started in April 2003 and is providing support to enhance conservation and management of 4 protected areas within the World Heritage property, namely Kronotskiy Natural Reserve, Yuzhno-Kamchatsky Wildlife Refuge (Zakasnik) and the Bystrinskiy and Nalychevo Natural Parks. This GEF project will be implemented until 2008 and also supports environmental monitoring and the development of an ecotourism programme that may generate revenues for the management of these protected areas.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.27**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Welcoming the State Party's report on the state of conservation of this property and acknowledging the efforts from the State Party to address a number of integrity issues that have been of concern to the Committee,

2. Welcomes the support provided by the UNDP/GEF project on Maintenance of Biological Diversity in the

Russian Federation to enhance the management of key protected areas within this property;

3. *Welcomes the State Party's co-operation with UNESCO and IUCN in the preparation of the mission to the site and notes that the key findings and recommendations from the mission, if implemented as scheduled, will be provided to the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee.*

28. Skocjan Caves (Slovenia) (N 390)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1986

Criteria: N (ii) (iii)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

24 COM VIII.23

Conservation issues:

The State Party provided via letter of 12 February 2004 to the Director-General of UNESCO information on the Spatial Planning Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia 10/02 and 8/03) starting the procedure for drafting a detailed spatial plan of national importance to secure drinking water supply for Slovene Istria and the hinterland Karst areas. The measures foreseen are located in the broader impact area of the Skocjan Caves. Several plans had been elaborated and evaluated in view of the sustainable use of the natural resources. To review any potential impact a study was prepared on the "Sustainable Water Supply of the Coastal and Karst Hinterland Area – Examination of Possible Water Resources with the Aim of Finding a Long-Term and Region-Specific Solution". Construction of dams at the tributaries of the Reka River are proposed with a volume of about 9 million m³ and a height of up to 40m. The final decision will be adopted during the procedure for the Detailed Spatial plan of national importance, based on national legislation and necessary Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which includes impacts on the water status of Skocjan Caves. The State Party confirmed that the project is proposed for financing by the European Union cohesion funds and will adhere to national and European legislation.

IUCN noted that while this information is most welcome, the State Party report does not expand on the technical solutions proposed to avoid impacts to the site nor is it supported by a copy of the EIA. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN have recently received a number of letters from NGOs, scientists, local community representatives and individuals who are strongly concerned about the proposed development of a series of wind generators on the Vremščica plateau, only 4 km from the World Heritage property. This plateau consists of the same type of rock associated with the development of the Skocjan Caves and is thus dynamically linked to the karstic system of the caves. The proposed development foresees the establishment of 90 wind generators. These are concrete structures 82m high with sails that reach 52m in diameter and weighing over 10 tons. The information received highlighted the impacts that such development may have on the flora and fauna of the plateau, as well as on the aesthetic values of the landscape.

While this proposed development is outside the World Heritage property, IUCN is concerned about the potential impact that the construction work required for this development may have on the caves. This construction

would imply clearing of the land surface, its compaction and the creation of deep and strong foundations for each of the pillars that sustain the wind generators. Due to the geological characteristic of the area such construction may inevitably require the use of explosives, which predictably can cause major impacts on the nearby caves and its speleothems. As noted in the *IUCN Guidelines for Cave and Karst Protection*, cave and karst systems are especially vulnerable and this sort of development may have irreversible impacts on the integrity of the site. In this case such impacts may affect the key values for which the site was inscribed in the World Heritage List. Indeed the use of explosives associated to land movements in the Vremščica plateau, only 4 km away from the World Heritage property, may result in the collapse of some of the caves.

In addition, IUCN noted in its evaluation report of this site at the time of inscription, the importance of the cultural landscape associated with the site and stressed, "an important concern relating to the integrity of the site is the possibility of inappropriate development in the zone surrounding the site. Careful planning to ensure that the cultural landscape of the site remains authentic and natural must be strengthened". However, as noted in many of the communications received, the proposed development of a series of wind generators would have an important aesthetic and visual impact on this cultural landscape.

Furthermore, IUCN has been informed that the Expert Council of the Regional Skocjanske Park, the Parks Board and the Park's Authority have all agreed that the planned turbine wind farms in the border zone with the World Heritage property and/or within the Regional Park are not acceptable and that the plans should be withdrawn. These conclusions were widely disseminated and sent to the national authorities. However, it appears that the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy has not provided a clear statement on the proposed development and the final decision lies with the local authority to approve the location under their spatial and urban plans.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.28**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Thanking the State Party for the report submitted in conformity with paragraph 56 of the *Operational Guidelines*,
2. Welcomes the information provided on the proposed *Detailed Spatial Plan of National Importance for securing freshwater supply to the Slovene Istria and requests* the State Party to expand on this information by providing a copy of the *Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)* prepared for this project for review by the *World Heritage Centre and IUCN*;
3. Notes with concern the proposed development of a series of wind generators on the Vremščica plateau and

its potential serious impact on the integrity of the Karst system of the area, as well as on the cultural landscape associated with this site;

4. *Requests the State Party to submit as soon as possible and at the latest by 1 February 2005 detailed information on the status of the proposed development of the series of wind generators including a copy of the EIA prepared for this project, for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN.*

29. Doñana National Park (Spain) (685)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994

Criteria: N (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25 COM VIII.97

26 BUR XII. 34

Conservation issues:

The site manager via a letter of 26 February 2004 informed the Centre that at the suggestion of the Ministry for the Environment, the Patronato of the Park at its session of 12 January 2004 approved the enlargement of the Park by 3500 ha. This has been approved by the Spanish Government and published in the official bulletin of 24 February 2004. The additional areas are in public ownership and guarantee the implementation of the project Doñana 2005, a long-term restoration project after the mining accident of April 1998.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.29**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Welcoming the enlargement of the National Park which enhances also the protection of the World Heritage area,*
2. *Requests the State Party to review in detail the implementation of the Doñana 2005 project, to provide a report on its implementation and on the state of conservation of the property by 1 February 2005 for examination by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005.*

30. Henderson Island (United Kingdom) (N 487)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1988

Criteria : N (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21(b) 26

27 COM 7B.22

Conservation issues:

The State Party provided in January 2004 an up-date in response to the Committee's request, and informed the Centre of progress made towards the development of the management plan. The Henderson Management Plan has been in existence for a number of years and is currently in the process of being finalised.

At the time of the preparation of this document the plan has not been published and provided to the Centre.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.30**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recalling that the State Party was to implement, as a matter of urgency, the 1995 Management Plan for this site, with provision for its on-going improvement,
2. Regrets that the plan was not published and delivered to the Centre for review by IUCN;
3. Urges the State Party to submit two copies of the approved plan by 1 February 2005 at the latest and requests IUCN to carry out a detailed review and present its findings for examination by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005.

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

PART I

31. Galapagos Islands (Ecuador) (N 1 bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1978; extended in 2001

Criteria: N (i)(ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount (up to 2003): US\$466,250

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

27 COM 7B. 25

Conservation issues:

The State Party has continued to move forward in the drafting and approval of several regulations under the 1998 Special Law for Galapagos and the legal framework for activities in Galapagos is now almost complete. Despite these encouraging developments, the Special Law of Galapagos and its regulations were seriously challenged on two occasions early in 2004 by the tourism and fishing sectors. Fortunately, initial positive reactions to the demands of these sectors were overturned at a later date, preserving the integrity of the Special Law for Galapagos and of the hard won legal framework under which management decisions are made in Galapagos.

A UNESCO mission to the site was undertaken in June 2003 to follow-up on the evaluation of the United Nations Foundation – UNESCO project to control and eradicate invasive species in Galapagos. The evaluation was largely positive, but revealed weaknesses in quarantine and fund-raising aspects of the project. In addition, the evaluation highlighted the need to finance at least one more year of activities in order to bring a few eradication activities to completion. Invasive species remain the greatest threat to Galapagos biodiversity, and an effective quarantine system is critical to the longer-term conservation of Galapagos. Despite having received significant support from international organizations to help it design and establish an operational quarantine system, the State Party continues to encounter difficulties assuming the system's basic operational costs, leading to continued risks of introduction of species harmful to both wildlife and humans. For example, 2 years ago, Dengue fever was reported in Galapagos for the first time.

Fund-raising for the endowment fund continues to be a challenge, as the actual endowment structure has not yet been created. This on-going difficulty relates partly to the requirement that the UNF endowment be linked to another endowment being created under the Global Environment Facility – United Nations Development Programme (GEF - UNDP) project. The Secretary General of the United Nations visited the Galapagos in early November 2003 and committed himself to supporting the fund-raising efforts. He has since appointed his senior adviser to design a UN fund-

raising support strategy, who was to visit the Galapagos in May 2004. The UNDP will be working closely with him, and UNESCO will be providing its full support.

Additional funding is currently being sought to help complete the eradication components of the UNF-UNESCO project. Working closely with the Charles Darwin Foundation and the Galapagos National Park Service, this project has helped build for the first time in Galapagos, a region wide understanding of the threat of introduced species, leading to greater community participation in various project activities.

The Galapagos National Park Service made a formal request to the International Maritime Organization, supported by the Centre, to have the Galapagos Marine Reserve recognized as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA). The IMO granted PSSA status to Galapagos in early April 2004. This status helps protect the islands and the marine waters surrounding it from traditional freedom of passage of international marine traffic.

The United Nations Foundation financed “Control and Eradication of Invasive Species” project managed by the Centre has been extended for an additional year. This project has helped increase local capacity and has led to a greater confidence among Galapagos institutions, notably the Charles Darwin Foundation and the Galapagos National Park Service. The project has also helped sensitize Galapagos residents towards the importance of dealing with introduced species in Galapagos. With support from the World Heritage Fund, experts from the Charles Darwin Foundation travelled to Cocos Island World Heritage property in Costa Rica in February of 2004 to help develop an introduced species management strategy for that island.

Starting this year, the Galapagos Islands are also included in a new United Nations Foundation / Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation supported project managed by the Centre. This project is focussing on the establishment and conservation of a marine corridor in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. Cocos Island World Heritage property in Costa Rica, Malpelo island National Park in Colombia, and Coiba Island National Park in Panama will also be participating in an effort to improve marine conservation and to support region wide cooperation.

IUCN notes that from 19 to 27 February, 2004 the Galapagos National Park and the Charles Darwin Research Station on the Island of Santa Cruz were held hostage by a group of 80 fishers, effectively closing down these institutions, thus stopping key management activities implemented by them.

The objective of the fishing community was to revoke the fishery quota previously established through a fully participatory process. This quota was established to maintain sustainable fisheries in areas previously delimited and to a level that does not jeopardize the integrity of the marine reserve. This unrest ceased after an agreement was

signed by the Ministry of the Environment and fishing groups. The agreement endorsed all the demands from the fishers and also opened up the possibility of reviewing 10 articles of the Fishery Regulation adopted under the Special Law for Galapagos.

According to a number of conservation organizations and experts working in the islands this agreement does not respect the outcomes of the participatory process that defined fisheries management in the marine reserve under the Fishery Regulation for Galapagos. The agreement is also seen to be in direct conflict with the conservation objectives of the marine reserve and as a direct threat to the objectives defined under the Special Law for Galapagos. Furthermore, a number of NGOs and experts noted with serious concern that violence and civil unrest is used repeatedly as a tool to influence the management of the marine reserve towards a more commercial approach. A few days after the agreement with the fishers was signed the Minister of Environment of Ecuador resigned.

IUCN also noted that the situation is improving since the designation of the new Minister for Environment. However IUCN noted that, while the PSSA declaration by IMO is basically oriented to threats to international maritime traffic, it needs to be supported by strong measures at the national level as well. This is important as the last incident occurring in the Galapagos Island was associated with an oil spill in 2001 originated by a national vessel operating in Galapagos, and not associated with international maritime traffic.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15B.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Noting with concern the events that have occurred in Galapagos and their potentially negative impact on the integrity of the Galapagos Marine Reserve. This recent development is not in line with previous efforts implemented by the State Party oriented to enhance the conservation of this site. It is also in direct contradiction with the high standards set by the State Party when implementing a truly participatory process to define the Fishery Regulation under the Special Law for Galapagos,*
2. *Notes with concern that the quarantine system in Galapagos, vital in preventing further introductions of species harmful to wildlife and humans, is not yet fully operational and that the State Party has not yet assumed full responsibility for its operation;*
3. *Requests the State Party to uphold and maintain the integrity of the Galapagos Special Law, which is critical to the orderly decision-making process relating to resource use and development in Galapagos;*
4. *Commends the State Party for taking the initiative to have the Galapagos Marine Reserve designated as a*

Particularly Sensitive Sea Area and encourages it to share this experience with other States Parties with Marine World Heritage properties;

5. *Welcomes the United Nations Foundation continued interest in Galapagos and the new support from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation;*
6. *Requests the State Party to provide a report on the state of conservation of the property and in particular to advise on what legal and institutional measures are going to be taken to ensure the full application of the Special Law for Galapagos by 1 February 2005, for examination by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005.*

PART II

32. Iguazu National Park (Brazil) (N 355)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1986

Criteria: N (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

2000: US\$30,000, Training

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

27 COM 7B.23

Conservation issues:

The Committee at its 25th session (Helsinki, 2001) removed Iguazu National Park from the List of World Heritage in Danger after the State Party had taken the necessary measures to close down an illegal road that crossed the Park. The Committee requested a UNESCO / IUCN joint mission to take place in 2002 / 2003 to prepare a status report for submission to its 27th session in 2003. Although the State Party extended an invitation in 2003, there was not enough time to organize a mission whose report could be presented to the Committee in June 2003.

In early October 2003, a group of over 300 people invaded the Park, destroyed park buildings and several hectares of forest plantations and reopened the Estrada do Colono road. The State Party was able to remove these people from the road and close it once again within a few days, but the situation in the region has since remained politically sensitive as the debate over the road and whether it should remain closed or be opened continues. For these reasons, the State Party requested that the mission that had been planned for late February 2004 be postponed. Negotiations are now taking place to set a definite date for a mission in 2004. The report of this mission will be presented in time for examination by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.32**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Noting with concern that the forced opening of the Colono Road continues to be a potential threat to Iguazu National Park,*
2. *Urges the State Party to work with local communities to resolve the on-going concerns over the re-opening of the Colono Road for local use;*
3. *Requests the State Party to provide all the necessary assistance to the Centre and IUCN to carry out a mission as soon as possible so that a detailed report can be presented in time for examination by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005.*

33. Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves / La Amistad National Park (Costa Rica / Panama) (N 205-552)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1983; extended in 1990

Criteria: N (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

1991: US\$5,000, Technical Cooperation

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

21 EXT BUR III.A

27 COM 7.B24

Conservation issues:

Road construction between the Volcan Baru National Park (VBNP) and Amistad National Park World Heritage property (LANP), both on the Panama side of this transboundary World Heritage property, remains a very sensitive issue in Panama at the time of the preparation of this document. A completion is expected within the next several weeks to months. Although the road would not run within the boundaries of the LANP, it would create an ecological barrier to the movement of some species between the VBNP and LANP, which could affect the latter's ecological integrity. A socio-economic feasibility study (*Economic Analysis of Three Road Investments Through Western Panama's Baru Volcan National Park and Surrounding Areas*) has demonstrated that greater benefits would accrue to local communities if the road were to be built along a different route, taking it out of the VBNP. The World Heritage Centre received a copy of a letter from the World Bank dated 3 January 2003 to the Minister of Public Works and to the head of the National Environmental Authority (ANAM) expressing doubts over the project and requesting a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The World Heritage Centre had sent a letter in January 2002, followed by a second letter in mid-January 2004, requesting further information on the project in line with paragraph 68 of the *Operational Guidelines*. No response to either letter has been received. A much-criticized EIA was presented for public input in January 2004, but the director of the National Environmental Authority (ANAM) resigned after having refused to validate it. The project is at a standstill and the ANAM has not yet received a revised EIA study to review.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.33**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Regretting* that no response to its request (27 COM 7B.24) for further information has been provided by the State Party of Panama,
2. *Expresses* its serious concerns regarding the possible negative impacts on the ecological integrity of Talamanca Range-La Amistad National Park World Heritage property;

3. *Urges* the State Party of Panama to take urgent measures, before the road is finalized, to avoid or mitigate the potential impacts to the integrity of the property associated to the construction of the road, such measures having to be based in the outcomes of a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA);
4. *Requests* the State Party to provide a report on the results of the EIA and on the road construction project to the Centre by 1 February 2005 for examination by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005.

34. Sian Ka'an (Mexico) (N 410)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1987

Criteria: N (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

27 COM 7B.26

Conservation issues:

The Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve (SKBR) is located just 50 km South of the world-renowned tourist destination of Cancun. Development pressures on this coastline are tremendous. Recently, a 4 lane divided highway was completed from Cancun to Tulum, at the edge of the SKBR. Over 2 million tourists visit the area just North of the SKBR annually; hotels and secondary residences are being constructed all along the coast to accommodate them. In this context, development pressure on the limited (1,500 ha total) private land holdings within the SKBR is high. To provide a planning framework under which private landowners could develop their land, the governments of Mexico and of the State of Quintana Roo adopted a Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve Coastal Zone Environmental Land Use Programme in 2002. Implementation of this programme has been under scrutiny by conservation NGO's. A concise report was received from the State Party on 16 April 2004, indicating that all new development applications were being rigorously assessed as per the criteria set out in the Land Use Programme. Of the 17 applications for construction permits made to date under the new regulations, nine have been approved, six have been turned down and two are still under revision. Densities are very low and all approved projects include alternative sewage systems to reduce environmental impacts.

The World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the United Nations Foundation (UNF), The Nature Conservancy and Gillette Company, is participating in a US \$780,000 private-public initiative to conserve Sian Ka'an wetlands. Entitled "Conservation Action in the Yucatan Coastal Environment: Sian Ka'an World Heritage property", the project will acquire a critical tract of private land for conservation and support the implementation of the Environmental Land Use Programme for this World Heritage property. Sian Ka'an continues to participate in the UNF/UNEP/UNESCO/RARE Centre for Tropical Conservation project to link sustainable tourism and biodiversity conservation.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.34**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Commending the State Party for its application of the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve Coastal Zone Environmental Land Use Programme,

2. Welcomes the new project entitled "Conservation Action in the Yucatan Coastal Environment: Sian Ka'an World Heritage property", managed by the Centre and funded by the Gillette Company, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the United Nations Foundation.

MIXED PROPERTIES

ASIA AND PACIFIC

PART I

35. Kakadu National Park (Australia) (C/N 147 bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1981; extended in 1987 and in 1992

Criteria: C (i) (vi); N (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 30-33

27 COM 7B.27-30

Conservation Issues:

On 11 September 2003 the Senior Traditional Owner of the Mirrar people, Ms Yvonne Margarula, informed the World Heritage Centre of the commencement of backfilling operations at the Jabiluka Mineral Lease. She indicated that this positive development had been publicly welcomed by the Mirrar Traditional Owners.

IUCN reiterated the previously stated position of the IUCN Council that the desired outcome at Jabiluka should be the removal of the stockpile of ore at the site and subsequent rehabilitation of the mine site to a condition appropriate for inclusion within the Kakadu National Park World Heritage property.

On 6 February 2004, the State Party provided an update of the state of conservation of Kakadu National Park. The report noted that detailed discussions have taken place between Energy Resources of Australia (ERA) and key stakeholders including the Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation (GAC), concerning the future of the proposed Jabiluka mine site. One of the main outcomes of this discussion was a commitment by ERA to the GAC that no mining would take place at Jabiluka without the agreement of the Mirrar people. In addition the ERA committed itself to the long-term care and maintenance of the Jabiluka Mine site although this agreement cannot be finalised until it has been approved by the full council of the Northern Land Council (NLC) which is expected to meet in April 2004. On 23 April 2004 the Northern Land Council endorsed the long-term care agreement for the Jabiluka mine site. It must now be approved by the Indigenous Affairs Minister before it comes into force.

The State Party report addresses a number of areas:

(a) Consultation with the Mirrar Traditional Owners on cultural heritage management planning for Mirrar land at Jabiluka: The report noted that cultural heritage management planning needs to continue in a time frame that meets the need of the Mirrar Community. The

report further noted that issues relating to the protection and management of cultural heritage of the Jabiluka site have been subsumed within the discussions between Traditional Owners and the ERA.

- (b) Alligator Rivers Region Technical Committee (ARRTC) continuing monitoring and review of water management and other environmental issues at Jabiluka and Ranger: The report noted that ARRTC was reconstituted with seven independent members and six stakeholder representatives; the decision to reconstitute the ARRTC resulted from the recommendation of the Independent Science Panel, following its review of the Jabiluka project on behalf of the World Heritage Committee. The report noted that the primary aim of ARRTC is to ensure science of an appropriately high standard is used in the research and assessment procedures underpinning the protection of the environment of the Alligator Rivers region from any potential impacts of uranium mining. IUCN noted that ARRTC has continued to review all monitoring and assessment programs being undertaken by the Supervising Scientist, the Northern Territory Government and ERA.
- (c) ARRTC NGO Representation: The report revealed that the Australian Government continues to support the appointment of an environmental NGO representative to ARRTC. It made reference to the fact that the Commonwealth Minister of the Environment and Heritage had requested on two occasions that the National Environmental Consultative Forum provide him with more than one nomination. The report noted that following the requests from the Minister, the NECF provided the name of only one nominee and further noted that, at its February 2002 meeting, the ARRTC decided not to recommend the nominee. IUCN noted that the World Heritage Committee has on several occasions asked the State Party to ensure that there is NGO representation on ARRTC. The State Party does not report any progress in this matter. There appears to be a continuing impasse between the Minister and the National Environmental Consultative Forum over who should serve in this capacity.
- (d) Compliance with ISO14001: The report noted that ERA, the operator of the Ranger and Jabiluka projects, has achieved certification under ISO 14001. The report noted ERA has developed an environmental management system that complies with international standards. IUCN also noted its disappointment with the failure to appoint an environmental NGO representative to the ARRTC, in line with its recommendation to the 25th Session of the Committee. IUCN considered this reasonable request should be addressed as a priority.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN received additional information in relation to Kakadu National Park after the State Party had submitted its report. Newspaper reports and media releases from the Australian Government's

Supervising Scientist, the Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation and the mining company ERA received at the end of March 2004 reported that the Ranger mine was shut down on 24 March 2004 because of concerns for worker safety following the discovery that drinking water had been contaminated by process water used by the Ranger mine operations. A letter dated 8 April 2004 from the Australian Conservation Foundation referred to the spillage of an estimated 150,000 litres of contaminated water with uranium levels of about 110 ppm (parts per million) (reportedly 5.5 times the maximum Australian drinking water standard) into the feeder creek system of Kakadu's wetlands.

The media releases indicated that immediately after the incident, the Government Supervising Scientist recommended the mine remain closed until he had complete confidence that there are systems in place that will not allow a similar incident to happen again and that there is no risk to the health of people and the environment. IUCN notes from the reports that the Federal Government has been considering a Senate Committee report recommending an overhaul of the regulation of uranium mines including Ranger. The Committee had found there had been more than 110 pollution incidents and numerous breaches of environmental requirements at the mine.

Following receipt of the media reports the World Heritage Centre sought a report on the incident from the Australian authorities. On 21 April 2004 information was provided by the Department of the Environment and Heritage. Their letter confirmed that on 23 March 2004 the mining company ERA identified that drinking water at the mine's processing plant had been contaminated by process water used in the mine's operations. Following this, ERA closed the mine, flushed the drinking water system, and advised the independent statutory mine site supervisor, the Supervising Scientist, and the Northern Territory Government regulatory authorities of the matter.

The Supervising Scientist commenced an immediate investigation, and announced on 26 March 2004 that the mine should remain closed until he was satisfied that worker health, safety and the environment would not be at risk. The Supervising Scientist's initial investigation showed that an inappropriate connection was made between the mine's potable and process water systems on the evening of 23 March 2004, resulting in process water entering the potable water system. This contamination was identified by ERA on the morning of 24 March 2004, following which ERA closed the mine that day.

On 26 March 2004 it also became apparent that contaminated potable water in the order of 200m³ had overflowed from a potable water tank at Jabiru East, a few hundred metres from Magela Creek. In addition to regular ongoing environmental monitoring, the Supervising Scientist undertook investigative monitoring in the vicinity of the tank, and reviewed the results of the routine creek side biological monitoring and chemical monitoring that was underway at that time in Magela Creek.

On 29 March 2004, as a result of the monitoring work, the Supervising Scientist was able to provide an assurance that the people and the environment of Kakadu National Park had not been harmed by the leak of contaminated water from the Ranger mine. The Supervising Scientist said that he was relieved to advise that the concentrations of all chemicals measured in the Magela Creek, downstream from the Ranger mine, had remained within their normal range and that no adverse effects had been observed in the animals monitored by the Supervising Scientist. The maximum concentration of uranium downstream from the mine, for example, was lower than that of the safe value for animals and plants by a factor of more than 100 and lower than the drinking water limit by a factor of about 200. As a result of the monitoring findings the Supervising Scientist was able to provide an assurance to the Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal people in the region that it was still safe to drink the waters of Magela Creek and to eat bush foods.

As indicated earlier, ERA immediately ceased operations at the mine on 24 March 2004 and entered into ongoing discussions with the Supervising Scientist and the Northern Territory Government regulatory authorities to determine an appropriate timeframe for resumption of operations. The Supervising Scientist advised the Northern Territory Government on 6 April 2004 that he considered ERA had met environmental and safety conditions for resumption of all mining and milling operations by that date.

The Australian Minister for the Environment and Heritage has asked the Supervising Scientist to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the incident. The report of this investigation is expected to be provided to him by mid-May 2004. Investigations are also being conducted by the Northern Territory Government supervising authorities and by the mining company itself.

The letter concluded by stating that the Australian Delegation to the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee would be able to provide an update on this matter and that while the incident is regrettable and further investigations are underway, it is nonetheless reassuring that initial investigations have not revealed any impact on the environment, water and bush foods remain safe to drink and eat, and there has been no significant impact on the values for which Kakadu National Park was inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15B.35

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Welcomes the news that the mining company Energy Resources of Australia has made a commitment to the Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) that no mining will take place at Jabiluka without the agreement of the Mirrar people;*

2. *Notes that in December 2003 the Jabiluka mine site was put into long-term care and maintenance;*
3. *Expresses its concern to the State Party of Australia over the continued contaminated water problems from the Ranger uranium mine and the apparent failure of internal management systems of the mining company Energy Resources of Australia (ERA) in relation to these issues;*
4. *Urges the State Party to proceed rapidly with the appointment of an environmental NGO representative of the Alligator Rivers Region Technical Committee (ARRTC);*
5. *Requests that the State Party provide a written report on the state of conservation of Kakadu National Park to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2005 for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session in 2005. The report should include information on (i) the rehabilitation of the Jabiluka mine site; (ii) the appointment of an environmental NGO representative of the Alligator Rivers Region Technical Committee (ARRTC), and (iii) measures taken to avoid any further contaminated water incidents at the Ranger mine.*

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

Festival by 1 February 2005 for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session in 2005.

PART II

36. Pyrénées – Mont Perdu (France/Spain) (C/N 773 bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1997; extended in 1999

Criteria: C (iii), (iv), (v); N (i), (iii)

Previous international assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee deliberations:

23 COM VIII.3.B.2

Conservation issues:

Since the inscription of the property, the Centre has continuously received letters of concern regarding the Festival de Gavarnie, which has been taking place every summer in the Cirque de Gavarnie, a part of the core zone on the French side of this transboundary World Heritage property. According to the information received, the festival constitutes an attraction point of tourism flows in the high season as well as a strong visual impact in an ecologically sensitive area. IUCN noted in its evaluation of the nomination dossier in 1996 that, following an agreement with the local authorities, the festival was about to be relocated. Yet, this relocation has never happened. No further information was obtained from the French authorities despite repeated requests.

Furthermore, the Centre was informed that a Management Council was being created to coordinate the management of the French part of the site and to link with the Spanish managing authorities.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.36**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Noting that the Festival de Gavarnie has not been relocated,
2. Requests that the local authorities halts the contested activities of the Festival at Gavarnie as initially announced at the time of inscription of the site;
3. Welcomes furthermore the local authorities' initiative to set up a Management Council for the French side of the World Heritage property;
4. Invites the State Party of France as well as the State Party of Spain to keep the Centre informed on the progress made for the management plan and transboundary coordination of the property;
5. Requests the State Party of France to provide a report on the implementation of the proposed relocation of the

37. Mount Athos (Greece) (C/N 454)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1988

Criteria: C (i) (ii) (iv) (v) (vi); N (iii)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

None

Conservation issues:

The Monastery of Hilandar, part of the World Heritage property of Mount Athos, has recently been seriously damaged by an accidental fire. The Director of the World Heritage Centre, in a letter of 11 March 2004 addressed to the Greek Delegation, expressed his solidarity with Greece and his concern about the state of conservation of the property, and requested the authorities to provide updated information on the current state of conservation of the site, and on the eventual measures that have been taken to mitigate the threats.

Furthermore, by letter of 28 August 2003, the World Heritage Centre requested the State Party to provide information on the restoration works that are being carried out in the World Heritage property and on the eventual preparation of an overall management plan, which includes the natural values of this mixed site.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.37**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Notes with concern damages at the property by the devastating fire at the Hilandar Monastery;
2. Expresses its solidarity with the State Party and the orthodox community of the Monastery;
3. Requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre on the current state of conservation of the site and the measures taken to minimise the damage before the 1 February 2005, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session in 2005;
4. Urges the State Party to develop an overall management plan for the World Heritage property, which includes the natural values.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

PART I

38. Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru) (C/N 274)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1983

Criteria: C (i) (iii); N (ii) (iii)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount: US\$103,825

Previous deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 32

27 COM 7B.30

Conservation Issues:

At its 27th session, the World Heritage Committee expressed, once again, its serious concerns about the management and planning arrangements of the Historic Sanctuary of Machu-Picchu and urged the State Party to take the necessary measures for the implementation of the 1999 and 2002 UNESCO-ICOMOS-IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions, as well as to submit a progress report. The Secretariat received a progress report from the State Party on 30 January 2004.

The report on the state of conservation consisted of a guiding document, which addressed the 38 points raised by former Reactive Monitoring missions. This guiding document referred to 17 additional information documents, which specified some of the questions raised by the missions. These documents addressed Committee decision *WHC-03/27.COM/7B.30* in the following way:

- a) Timeframe for the revision of the Master Plan: A one-page document stating that the updating of the Master Plan was begun in January 2004 and will be completed in June 2004. The Secretariat notes that this timeframe is very ambitious, taking into account the lengthy procedures and that no information so far has been received about the set up of a comprehensive consultation process involving all relevant stakeholders. Furthermore, in a meeting report of the Management Unit (UGM) dated 9 December 2003, the *Instituto Nacional de Cultura* (INC) suggested that international assistance be requested under the World Heritage Fund to assist in the finalization of the Master Plan. To date, the Secretariat has not received any such request.
- b) Organization and functions regulations of the Management Unit (UGM): By resolution N° 001-2003-UGM-CD of 20 October 2003 a regulation of the Organization and Functions of the UGM was approved, as published by the Official Diary "El Peruano" in its edition of 23 January 2004. The Secretariat took note of the effort in formulating the regulations according to Committee decision *WHC-03/27.COM/7B.30*. However, on 9 December 2004 the Members of the Executive

Committee of UGM convened to transfer the management and coordination of the UGM to the Regional Government of Cuzco and to ask this government to elaborate a proposal. The proposal should include the modification of the distribution of revenues of ticket sales from the Inca Trail. No further information has been received on this issue.

- c) Evaluation of transport options: This item has not been addressed in the progress report.
- d) Studies related to the carrying capacity of the Citadel and Camino Inca: The guiding document referred to a document of 1998 on the carrying capacity of the Machu-Picchu Sanctuary, which was neither received by the Secretariat nor consulted by the previous UNESCO-ICOMOS-IUCN missions. The execution of a study on "Operative Standards of Tourism Agencies and Guidelines for the Certification of the Inca Trail" has been postponed for financial reasons. Other related activities remain at the proposal stage. Despite a number of articles in the news media on limitations imposed on accessibility to the property, no national action has been implemented on this matter.
- e) Development of a Public Use Plan: The process of actualization of the Master Plan includes this component, but the Master Plan is still under revision and pending approval. However, a first action has been formalized, being a training course for tourist guides for the Inca Trail from 22 November to 4 December 2003.
- f) Implementation of the urban planning and control measures for Aguas Calientes: The Ministry of External Commerce and Tourism is implementing infrastructure works in the framework of the Urban Plan, with cooperation from the *Instituto Nacional de Recursos Naturales* (INRENA) and the *Instituto Nacional de Cultura* (INC). By Local Law N° 802-2003-INC/DC of 23 June 2003, the Urban Plan for Aguas Calientes was approved by the Provincial Government of Urubamba. A new delimitation of the Urban Limit of the Centre of Aguas Calientes has been foreseen.
- g) Implementation of geological studies and the development of a study on the impacts of buses on landslides: The State Party has set up a multidisciplinary Advisory Body on this issue. Recent activities have been undertaken by Kyoto University (Japan), Florence and Turin Universities (Italy), and Charles University (Czech Republic) to set up a registration system. Data checking for the risk of landslides that could affect the Citadel is pending verification. A preliminary conclusion drawn by Kyoto University stated that landslides, which have occurred in the past at the Citadel, are still possible in the World Heritage property. Further investigations are needed to assess landslide risks.

- h) Development in co-operation with UNESCO of a feasibility study to establish a permanent international institution for the protection of the property: The Peruvian Government firmly expressed its willingness to request UNESCO to study setting up an international institution for scientific, technical and financial support to help the Management Unit (UGM) and related institutions in the integrated conservation of Machu-Picchu.

The Secretariat commends the Peruvian Authorities for their efforts in providing for all the information. However, the reports lack detail and supporting evidence on a number of points and do not reply explicitly to the recommendations made by the previous UNESCO-ICOMOS-IUCN missions. A large number of activities have been planned for implementation in 2004, while the six months scenario for revision and finalization of the Master Plan does raise questions relating to feasibility.

ICOMOS reviewed the information documents and provided the following comments. The study submitted on the carrying capacity in July 2003 provided information only on the Inca Trail, showing how the use of the Inca Trail caused social, cultural and ecological damages. The Proposal for the Actualization of the rules for use of the Inca road network updated the regulation for the Camino Inca, but since the documents are undated, it is not known if this has already entered into force. The terms of reference to develop standards for travel agencies and guidelines for the Inca Trail and Citadel commercialization are only at the stage of a proposal. The results of its application are unknown. Concerning issues of urban planning, ICOMOS based its work on the same document as in 2000. The State Party did not provide any additional information and, inexplicably, the new law 12-2002-MPU seemed to recommend the development of a new Plan. Concerning the Management Unit (UGM), the State Party updated the by-laws of the UGM, but these continue to be a proposal without focusing on the main problems concerning the responsibilities and autonomy of the UGM to take decisions and to implement plans. The proposal for the revision of the Master Plan for Machu Picchu suggested a workshop for the review of the Plan, and so far the terms of reference to elaborate the Plan of Public Use only constitute a general guideline to elaborate the Plan.

Finally, as requested by the Committee at its 27th session, ICOMOS observes that many proposals are still awaiting implementation, and that the main problems at the World Heritage property continue to stem from a lack of proper management. It concludes, however, that the actual situation of the Historic Sanctuary does not meet the criteria for inscription on the World Heritage List in Danger.

IUCN reviewed the progress report and noted that comprehensive and detailed information on the revision of the Master Plan for Machu Picchu was provided. However, its implementation should be accompanied by detailed yearly operational plans, supported by adequate budget provisions

that can provide day-to-day guidance for management of the site. No information has been provided on the implementation of the recommendations of the 1999 Reactive Monitoring mission in relation to the assessment of the carrying capacity of the Historic Sanctuary as a whole, as well as for the Citadel. The Master Plan proposed a zoning for the site based on its environmental, historical and urban features and values. Key management and planning regulations are clearly identified and proposed for each zone. However, there is no information on the enforcement mechanisms and resources that would be in place for the implementation of these regulations.

Finally, as requested by the Committee at its 27th session, IUCN observes that although urgent measures concerning the management of the site have to be taken soon, the outstanding universal value in relation to its natural values is not significantly threatened.

A UNESCO mission to the site took place on 23 October 2003. A considerable number of actions were planned for implementation in 2003, as confirmed by the State Party during the 27th session of the Committee, such as the revision of the Master Plan, the evaluation of the access to the Sanctuary and the implementation of the Urban Ordinance Plan for the village of Aguas Calientes. During the visit, the Secretariat observed that concrete progress had been made only in the management of the Inca Trail and in works undertaken at the Citadel (new itineraries for visits, excavations and landscaping operations). These positive developments, however, were overshadowed by the grave situation of Aguas Calientes, which is a squatter settlement alongside the railroad tracks, with uncontrolled construction activities, and the starting point to visit Machu Picchu. The mission met with the Deputy Mayor of Aguas Calientes and the representatives of civil society associations, who explained that there is no authority in place. The following day, representatives began a hunger strike at the doors of Machu-Picchu to demand among others provisions for water, electricity and transportation, as the minimum for better living conditions.

Further to this, the World Heritage Centre mission attended a meeting at The World Bank in Washington DC on 18 March 2004 to discuss among others the Vilcanota Valley Rehabilitation Programme. The objective of this project is to develop the capacity of the Peruvian Government to ensure the socio-economic and environmental sustainability of the historical, ecological and cultural resources of the Vilcanota Valley (where Machu Picchu is located) through several actions: investments in tourism management capacity, urban infrastructure development, strategic planning and municipal capacity. The Vilcanota Valley Rehabilitation Programme considers the inputs of technical resources and funds needed to carry out an array of identified projects, which could remedy the current lack of proper preservation of the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu. The project foresees a resettlement plan for 60 families of Aguas Calientes and consultation with displaced families on acceptable alternatives. The project includes measures to safeguard the

cultural property involving tangible and intangible aspects of the Andean Culture. It was agreed that the World Bank and the World Heritage Centre would jointly collaborate with the Government of Peru in the implementation of this project to verify that none of the actions in progress would be incompatible with the conservation of the values for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List.

The Secretariat was informed on 12 April 2004 by The World Bank of their intention to reorient some of the priorities of the project, in light of the damages caused by the mudslides of 10 April 2004. At the time of preparation of this state of conservation report, no official information had been received from the State Party on details of the disaster. News media reported that the first mudslide washed away seven homes and killed at least six people, with five more reported missing in Aguas Calientes. A second mudslide closed the railroad leaving some 400 tourists stranded.

The Secretariat notes that the sad events of 10 April 2004 underscore the vulnerability of the property, which has no operational plan for emergencies, nor has there been a research study to mitigate the effects of natural disasters. In May 2002, the Chairperson of the Committee addressed a letter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs urging the Government to take measures for the implementation of the 1999 and 2002 mission recommendations.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15B.38

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Taking note of the documents transmitted by the State Party in July 2003 and January 2004, as well as ICOMOS and IUCN comments on these documents,*
2. *Expressing its condolences to the Government of Peru for the tragic loss of life and damage caused in the recent mudslides at the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu,*
3. *Notes with great concern that the revised Master Plan, which should include a detailed Management Plan for the property, has not yet entered into force and recommends the State Party to give the highest priority to finalizing this by June 2004;*
4. *Urges the State Party to immediately undertake a study on risk-preparedness and prevention in case of natural disaster for the core and buffer zones of the property;*
5. *Encourages the State Party to reinforce the support of the international universities in reaching an exact understanding of the slope conditions and deformation of the ground surface of the Citadel and the other areas of the Historical Sanctuary by geophysical explorations and landslide studies;*
6. *Notes further with great concern that no studies have been undertaken on alternative transportation or on the carrying capacity of the site;*
7. *While acknowledging that efforts have been made to address specific issues such as the creation of a Management Unit, the management of the Inca Trail and the works undertaken at the Citadel,*
8. *Noting, also, that some of the most relevant issues remain unaddressed, and that some of the foreseen actions have been at the stage of proposals over the past 5 years, while the state of conservation and management of the site have not improved significantly as compared to the situation referred to in the mission reports of 1999 and 2002,*
9. *Requests the Secretariat, working jointly with the Government of Peru and The World Bank, to set up a programme and action plan for scientific, technical and financial support to assist and guide the Management Unit and related institutions in the integrated conservation of the property and to facilitate implementation of the 1999 and 2002 UNESCO-ICOMOS-IUCN recommendations;*
10. *Decides to examine the state of conservation of the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu and to discuss the measures to be taken at its 29th session in 2005.*

C. CULTURAL HERITAGE

AFRICA

PART I

39. Lamu Old Town (Kenya) (C 1055)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2001

Criteria: C (ii) (iv) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee deliberations:

27 COM 7B.31

Conservation issues:

At its 27th session the Committee requested the Centre and ICOMOS to cooperate with the State Party to undertake a monitoring mission to Lamu, Kenya in order to ascertain the state of conservation of the property. The Committee further requested the State Party to cooperate with the Centre and ICOMOS in the development of a programme for the rehabilitation of Lamu and to identify needs for assistance from the World Heritage Fund and from other sources for rehabilitation activities of the property. The mission was undertaken from 22 to 27 March 2004.

The Centre and ICOMOS mission notes that three years after inscription on the World Heritage List, Lamu's state of conservation is satisfactory. There is no marked uncontrolled development that threatens Lamu's position as a World Heritage site, or serious signs of purposeful mismanagement of the Heritage. The National Museums of Kenya (NMK), the Lamu County Council and the District Commissioner have all exercised strong sense of responsibility and co-operated in the management of the site. The original major threat to the management of the heritage as reported to the 27th session of the Committee and which forced NMK to seek UNESCO's assistance has shown signs of being contained altogether.

The Centre and ICOMOS noted that Lamu needs a particular attention in its management as a World Heritage Site in order to direct it to thwart the many prospective threats to its identity, while also ensuring its perpetual capability of retaining its physical and spiritual identity over changing times.

The property needs a management plan in order to take on board the many administrative, economic, social and physical issues and mould them into one comprehensive program. The advantage of nearby Mombasa hosting regional and universal heritage preservation programs as Program for Museum Development Africa and Africa 2009 courses, may be utilised to provide the necessary logistics and some professionals for the task.

Fire is a constant threat to Lamu. Among other threats are the local building materials – particularly roofing – materials and the much needed fuel to power the hundreds of boats. As a temporary precaution, the existing laws related to fire prevention needs to be reinforced with immediate effect. The storage of fuel needs to be closely controlled as it seems the most probable cause of future fires. The selling of fuel should be moved away from the Lamu Old Town core zone. Public buildings need to have functional fire fighting equipment and the public should be made aware of fire as a threat.

The Centre and ICOMOS mission team could not examine the proposed drainage rehabilitation plan supposedly to be funded by the Japanese Government. But from the discussion with the Senior Conservator of Lamu Fort, it seems that the Project will not address the issue of sewerage. It may be because the issue of sewerage in Lamu is not considered problematic due to the traditional way of naturally dispensing it by always digging new pits when the old ones become full. It is strongly recommended that a comprehensive study to Lamu island's solid and liquid waste management be conducted, with particular concern to the sewerage situation and what the most viable way of dispensing it should be adapted.

The new Heritage Bill to be tabled before the Kenyan Parliament is a welcome news. It should not, however, be considered to be that much comprehensive and final as to solve all problems facing Lamu Old Town.

Lamu and Kenya does not possess all the resources needed to warrant the proper management of the World Heritage Site. Fortunately, the Government is aware of the matter and is doing all within its powers to seek additional resources.

Current demarcation of the Lamu core World Heritage Town needs rethinking. It ends abruptly leaving outside significant historic buildings. The mangrove screens of Manda and other islets of the archipelago, though nationally protected, are not part of the World Heritage Site, though without them – at least visually – the Lamu town would be radically changed. Then there are the unique sand dunes also nationally gazetted but outside the World Heritage Buffer zone. Ideally they should have been merged into one. But such vast expanse of nature and culture to be effectively controlled by poorly equipped and staffed Lamu Museum and the County Council may make it practically unrealistic. One possible solution is the gradual assimilation of the whole island and the archipelago into the World Heritage zone. Meanwhile, IUCN should be requested to study the natural values of the sand dunes as suggested in the mission report.

The Centre and ICOMOS mission conclude that Lamu is in a satisfactory state of conservation.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15B.39

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Commends the government of Kenya for its continued commitment to address the concerns over the physical developments on Lamu Island;*
2. *Recommends that the State Party initiate a management plan for Lamu, and request International Assistance under the World Heritage Fund to develop the plan which should seek to encourage participatory management of the property, as a base for coordinated management;*
3. *Recommends that the State Party continue exploring the possibility of gradually extending the current limits of the World Heritage Site to cover the whole Lamu Town, the town of Shela and her sand dunes, as well as taking into considerations such natural values as the mangroves;*
4. *Recommends that the State Party take all the necessary measures to protect the mangroves opposite the Lamu seafront on the shores of the neighbouring Manda Island, which are important to ensure the integrity of the World Heritage property;*
5. *Recommends that the State Party submit a request of International Assistance to undertake a study, in cooperation with IUCN, on the environmental characteristics of the dunes, which retain the fresh water despite being near the sea, and the measures to protect them, as well as on health, water and energy issues affecting the property;*
6. *Requests the State Party to submit a detailed report on the progress made on the implementation of the joint World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS mission recommendations, and particularly on the progress made on the establishment of a management plan, by 1 February 2005, for the consideration by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005.*

40. Robben Island (South Africa) (C 916)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1999

Criteria: C (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee deliberations:

27 COM 7B.34

Conservation issues:

A joint IUCN/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission visited Robben Island World Heritage site in South Africa from 6 to 12 February 2004, to assess the state of its conservation at the request of the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session held in June 2003. The mission considered the state of conservation, threats, management arrangements and follow up aspects relevant to the property programmes. The mission also investigated key aspects regarding the cultural and natural heritage, and both the impact of and quality of the tourism experience in the property.

Since its inscription as a World Heritage site in 1999, Robben Island has literally been opened to a floodgate of visitors, and the site management has found the conservation and maintenance of the over 700 structures and buildings, the many layered cultural landscapes and the management of a fragile natural environment a real challenging. The need to open and present the site as quickly as possible required the establishment of a management structure, related quite closely to that of a museum, with individual departments operating autonomously to achieve individual objectives.

Within that management framework staff have developed a diverse range of educational initiatives, responded to urgent infrastructure needs and successfully developed an extraordinary archive of oral and video history and documentation that would otherwise have been quickly dispersed and lost. Meanwhile, Robben Island has naturally emerged as a place of pilgrimage and respect in the new South Africa and its popularity has begun to out-strip the ability of its tourism management and infrastructure to provide either a satisfactory experience for the visitors and to control their impact on the property.

Site visitation rose quickly from 90,000 in 1997 to 309,000 in 2002, with an estimated 570,000 people in 2003. This trend in visitation does not show signs of declining or stabilizing, yet the Robben Island Museum management structure has not adjusted to respond to this dramatic increase.

The islands' natural heritage values have come to be more widely understood, particularly within its context as part of the Cape Floristic region, and the management of its natural values and its cultural landscape qualities are not yet reflected in the islands management structure and conservation priorities.

Several threats to the Robben Island World Heritage site are noted, which if not managed or controlled, could potentially adversely impact on the integrity of the site. Most of these threats and opportunities had already been identified in specialist studies which have been conducted on the island, and concluded that the main challenge for site management was to implement existing recommendations. The threats include: progressive invasion by alien plants; uncontrollable fires; presence of unsuitable large herbivores; presence of feral cats, European rabbits and black rats; over-harvesting and/or poaching of abalone and other marine resources; impact of vehicles and residents/tourists on endangered fauna; littering by residents and visitors; solid waste in the form of discarded vehicles, machinery, building materials and rubble; solid waste from ships/marine litter; impact of marine sewer outfall; impact of vehicles on geological features; impact of infrastructure upgrades and development; exploitation of groundwater; impact of tourism.

IUCN, ICOMOS and ICCROM note that the key factors preventing effective implementation of the recommendations made in the aforementioned existing reports and specialist studies were:

- a) Poor integration of the various management and policy documentation into a single, comprehensive Conservation Management Plan;
- b) High staff vacancy rate (approximately 25%) resulting in reduced integrated management structures;
- c) The lack of specific annual plans of operation addressing each priority management programme, with appropriate levels of accountability;
- d) Difficulties associated with the operational aspects of maintenance and conservation implementation, leading to a serious lack of certainty of preventive maintenance funding and programming; and increasing deterioration of the sites built heritage.
- e) Lack of proactive management of tourism pressure.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.40**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Noting the results of the IUCN/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission to Robben Island World Heritage site, its findings and recommendations,
2. Requests the State Party to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the IUCN/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission, and in particular to:
 - a) Review and adopt as appropriate, and implement within an agreed timeframe, recent proposals for rationalization, consolidation and integration of the

management structure of the Robben Island Museum;

- b) Study, with a view to consolidate them into a single Conservation Management Plan, the source documents for the Conservation Management Plan Summary showing medium and long-term programmes identified; ensure that Annual Action Plans of Operation are prepared for conservation and maintenance work at the site; and implement the proposals contained in the Phase 1 Robben Island Tourism Development and Management Plan;*
 - c) Conduct a comprehensive analysis of the opportunities and constraints for tourism products based on the unique natural and cultural landscape character of the property, with a view to diversifying the visitor experience and ensuring that positive impacts are enhanced and negative impacts avoided or mitigated;*
 - d) Explore linkages with other institutions and programmes such as South African National Parks and the Table Mountain National Park, the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board, the City of Cape Town and Cape Action for People and the Environment to ensure that the wealth of expertise in the region regarding management of the natural and cultural landscape environments is available to the site's management;*
 - e) Establish a Memorandum of Understanding or similar formal relationship with the Public Works Department to strengthen programs' coordination for conservation and maintenance at Robben Island;*
 - f) Set-up a statutory body for Robben Island with specific regulatory mechanisms as provided for by the World Heritage Convention Act (1999), for the managing and up keep of the property.*
4. *Requests the State Party to submit, by 1 February 2005, a detailed report on the progress on the implementation of the joint IUCN, ICOMOS, ICCROM mission recommendations for review by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005.*

41. Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (United Republic of Tanzania) (C 144)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1980

Criteria: C (iii)

Previous International Assistance:

2002: US\$24,300, Technical Co-operation for the preparation of a management plan and extension of the site

Previous Bureau/Committee deliberations:

20 BUR IV. p.19

Conservation issues:

An ICOMOS mission visited the Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins Songo Mnara, in the United Republic of Tanzania, from 23 to 27 February 2004 at the request of the State Party through letter dated 21 May 2003. The purpose of the mission was to assess the state of conservation of Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara National Monuments World Heritage site, undertake a thorough study of the problems facing the site such as beach erosion and its impact on the site; and to review the possibility of, and make the necessary recommendations concerning the inscription of the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara are historic Swahili towns founded on islands off the coast of East Africa in the present day Lindi Region, Kilwa District in the United Republic of Tanzania. The ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani comprise the vestiges of the great mosque, constructed in the 12th century of coral tiles embedded in a core of clay. There are also remains of the Palace Husuni Kubwa, built between ca. 1310 and 1333, numerous mosques, the Gereza (prison) constructed on the ruins of the Portuguese fortress, and finally an entire urban complex with houses, public squares and burial grounds.

ICOMOS confirms the information provided to the Bureau in 1999 on numerous issues requiring attention, such as the damage caused by sea erosion, collapsing monuments due to lack of maintenance, the problem of zoning or non-existent buffer zone, population pressure, non-participation of the community, unclear management systems leading to inactivity and an old legal framework that may require revision, among others.

ICOMOS notes that the population pressure could cause considerable and irreversible damage. Currently there is a proposition to have a 500-meter buffer zone, however the area in question has already been settled. There is urgent need to explore the possibility of creating a buffer zone or enact by-laws governing new settlements. ICOMOS further notes that the state of conservation of the property has worsened to such an extent that, unless some form of control is put in place, the whole listed property is likely to become a living thriving town with modern houses.

The erosion currently taking place along the beach at Kilwa Kisiwani is of great concern, posing great danger to the Gereza, as well as to the whole site. ICOMOS notes the

need for urgent attention on Gereza addressing both the erosion threat as well as the collapsing building fabric. There is an urgent need to rehabilitate the building through a conservation action that would involve strengthening the structural integrity, addressing all the cracks and the collapsing roof portions as well as urgent conservation of the doors.

As regards the nomination, which was based only on the archaeology and historical importance, ICOMOS notes that Kilwa Kisiwani has also a living part with a community that impacts on the site physically and even spiritually, which should have been taken into consideration. ICOMOS, therefore, stresses the importance of reviewing the original nomination file to include consideration of the local communities in both tangible and intangible aspects.

The Centre was informed by the Permanent Delegate of the United Republic of Tanzania, through the transmission of an article published in the Guardian newspaper on 27 October 2003, that the French Government had announced a grant worth 95,400 € (US\$ 110,000) to the Tanzanian Division of Antiquities in favour of the Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani World Heritage site. This financial assistance is aimed at improving the historical knowledge of the site of Kilwa Kisiwani and strengthening the national research capacity in history, archaeology, sociology, ethnology and culture through training, studies and inventory of existing archives. The site also benefited from a US\$ 57,032 grant in 2001 by the Government of Japan to build a jetty allowing residents and visitors to board on ships without having to wade through the water.

Despite this, the State Party, and notably the Antiquities Department, which is responsible for the conservation and protection of the site, seems overwhelmed. There seems to be no proper plans nor any foreseeable resources specifically allocated to carry out the major work required to ensure the safeguarding of the property.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.41**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Noting, with serious concern, the continuing deterioration and the serious threats affecting the property of the Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara,
2. Considering the importance of the World Heritage property of the Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara, and the need for any programme or project, local or international, to take into account the recommendations included in international documents, particularly the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines,
3. Noting with appreciation the support provided by the Governments of France and Japan to address some of the problems facing this property,

4. *Recommends that the State Party consider revisiting the criteria for listing Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara to give adequate consideration for the property as a living historical town;*
5. *Recommends that the State Party put in place a proper management structure and mechanism to protect the property;*
6. *Decides to inscribe the Runis of Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara on the list of the World Heritage in Danger.*

42. Island of Gorée (Senegal) (C 26)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1978

Criteria: C (vi)

Previous international assistance:

1981: US\$33,071, Emergency Assistance to consolidate the West Battery under threat; US\$19,529, Training of technicians responsible for the rehabilitation of the Island.

Previous Bureau/Committee discussions:

27 COM 7B.33

Conservation issues:

During its 27th session, the World Heritage Committee requested ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre to organize a joint evaluation mission to the Island of Gorée, in consultation with the national authorities. The mission was organized from 29 March to 3 April 2004. The objectives of this mission were to evaluate the state of conservation of the property, and to advise the Committee on whether or not to inscribe it on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The mission reached the following conclusions on the state of conservation of the Island of Gorée:

a) Architectural heritage

Although there are important historic buildings in a state of serious dilapidation, efforts to improve the general state of conservation of the architectural heritage have been made since 2002 by the Senegalese authorities. It was noted that, to date, many buildings have been rehabilitated, several restoration activities, financed by Senegal and destined for socio-cultural activities, are ongoing, and that urban development activities have been carried out with the aim of facilitating visitor flow throughout the Island. Furthermore, a report on the updating of the safeguard plan was prepared in 2003.

However, it is important to recall the serious threats of collapse that exist with regard to the buildings in the northern part of the Island (William Ponty School, Sisters' School, Sisters' Pavillon and annexes, Military Hospital, Guards' camp building), as well as the urgent need to resolve the matter of the eviction of squatters and the commencement of the restoration/stabilisation work of these buildings before they collapse. It is also necessary to verify the architectural interventions or improvements to ensure that the restoration/reconstruction work is being carried out according to strict rules that respect the spirit and history of the materials that had always been used on the Island. It is therefore indispensable to reflect upon the revitalisation of traditional conservation techniques in Gorée, and establish technical documents to ensure the very best interventions, both in the buildings and the development of public areas.

b) Replica of the Gorée-Almadies Memorial project erected on the Castel site

Following a fervent wish expressed by the black intellectuals, writers and artists from various continents, a construction project for a Memorial for Africa and its Diaspora was initiated by the Senegalese Government. It was planned to build this vast complex on the Almadies site, as the statute of the Island of Gorée did not permit the erection of a monument of that size. Nevertheless, the Senegalese Government foresaw the construction on the Island of a reduced replica so as to ensure "the symbolic link" between the Memorial and the Island. The orientations, structures and strategies that Senegal had elaborated for the execution of this project were approved by UNESCO during the 136th session of the Executive Board in 1991.

This replica of the Gorée-Almadies Memorial, in reinforced concrete, was constructed in 1999 on the site of the Castel, in the southern part of the Island. Since its inauguration in 1999 by H.E. President Abdou Diouf, a vast controversy has ensued with a view to its demolition. Despite this controversy, five years later the replica has not yet been demolished by the Senegalese authorities. During a meeting organized by the special team for activities related to the study of the slave trade and its implications, on 5 December 2003, the Director-General of UNESCO commented on the disputed presence of the replica and recommended that all questions linked to the integrity of the site be referred to the World Heritage Centre. Recalling the provisions contained in the World Heritage Convention, notably those concerning the preservation of the global character of the inscribed property, the World Heritage Centre wrote on 10 December 2003, to a letter the Senegalese authorities requesting them to undertake, as soon as possible, the necessary steps to demolish this monument which greatly affects the authenticity and the interpretation of the property, both by its material and its monumental size. From a technical point of view, the experts recommended insisting that the Senegalese authorities proceed with the demolition. But taking into account the time lapsed and the political sensitivities and affective links with the Gorée-Almadies Memorial project, the experts wished to have the advice of the Committee on this question.

c) State of conservation of the coastal zone

Important degradation of the coastal zone has been observed. The rocks surrounding the entire property have been considerably worn down due to sea erosion. The destruction of the West Battery, the degradation of the foundations of the buildings annexed to the Relais de l'Espadon in the north of the Island, the destruction of the enclosure of the Ecole Mariama Ba in the south of the Island, are just some of the visible examples that illustrate the urgent need to undertake actions to halt this erosion as soon as possible. On 3 February 2004, the Government of Senegal transmitted to the Director-General of UNESCO the copy of a project for the protection of the coast of the Island of Gorée, submitted for funding to the State of Qatar. It is important that

Senegal informs UNESCO of the outcome of this dossier.

d) Inscription of the Island on the List of World Heritage in Danger

In accordance with the *Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention*, (paragraphs 80 to 82), the situation of Gorée does not at present indicate a need for its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Furthermore, Senegal has undertaken since 2003, a series of activities to improve the state of conservation of the Island.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15B.42

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Taking note of the results of the evaluation mission carried out at the property, the actions undertaken by the World Heritage Centre concerning the demolition of the replica of the Gorée-Almadies Memorial, and the efforts undertaken by the Senegalese authorities to improve the state of conservation of the Island of Gorée,*
2. *Considering that the erection of the replica of the Gorée-Almadies Memorial refers to information communicated by the State Party during the 136th session of the Executive Board of UNESCO in 1991,*
3. *Recognizing the negative impact on the authenticity and interpretation of the property, as well as the political sensitivities and affective links to the Gorée-Almadies Memorial project,*
4. *Invites the State Party to respond to the World Heritage Centre's letter concerning the erection of the replica of the Gorée-Almadies Memorial, requesting it to undertake corrective measures;*
5. *Emphasizes the need to undertake urgent measures to improve the overall management of the property, especially the elaboration of administrative provisions for the nomination of a manager for the property who will be responsible for the elaboration of a management plan;*
6. *Invites the international community to support the funding of the project for the protection of the coastal zone of the Island of Gorée;*
7. *Requests the State Party to submit, before 1 February 2005, a report on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the Committee during its 29th session in 2005.*

ARAB STATES

PART I

43. Kasbah of Algiers (Algeria) (C 565)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1992

Criteria: C (ii) (v).

Previous International assistance:

Total amount (up to 2004): US\$87,600

Previous Bureau/Committee deliberations:

25 COM VIII.151

27 COM 7B.35

Conservation issues:

Several actions have been undertaken by the State Party in accordance with the decision of the Committee, taken during its 27th session, in particular with regard to the need for the urgent strengthening of the conservation capacity as well as the finalization and the implementation of the Safeguard and Presentation Plan of the Kasbah.

New provisions for the application of the Law 98-04 of 15 June 1998 concerning heritage protection have been approved. On 5 October 2003, the State Party approved an executive decree in application of Article 45 of the Law, concerning modalities for the establishment of the "Permanent Safeguard and Presentation Plan of Safeguarded Sectors" (PPSMVSS). These texts are based on the notion of a Safeguarded Sector, provide the Law with a legal and financial framework, and attribute to the Ministry for Culture the responsibility for the objectives covered by the Law by designating it the sole responsible for conservation. The Commission for Cultural Properties was favourable to the inscription of the Kasbah of Algiers as a Safeguarded Sector in 2003. At present, the procedure is awaiting the reactions of the three other ministries concerned. The technical dossier regarding the Permanent Safeguard and Presentation Plan for the Kasbah of Algiers as a Safeguarded Sector (PPSMVSS) is being elaborated by the Ministry for Culture.

Furthermore, the World Heritage Centre, in close cooperation with the State Party, organized two missions in October 2003 and February-March 2004, to the Kasbah of Algiers. The missions were carried out in the framework of the implementation of the training activities, approved during the 26th session of the Committee, for the creation of a training workshop ("chantier-école") specialised in traditional construction methods in the Kasbah of Algiers.

During the synthesis meeting which was held at the Ministry for Culture on 1 March 2004, the establishment of a chronological and progressive approach for the implementation of the training workshop was elaborated. This activity would provide for:

(a) The creation of a space to house and treat archives linked to the Kasbah;

(b) The creation of a public and information centre;

(c) The establishment of a training centre for traditional crafts, notably with regard to buildings.

This area should be conceived as a place for meetings, information and awareness-raising to be used by the inhabitants to guide them in their daily lives in an area to become a Safeguarded Sector. It will facilitate meetings with experts trained for the operation - public-awareness agents - who will ensure the link between the know-how of the Public Works Department and the queries of the inhabitants. Over and above this priority, this space should house the offices necessary for the administrative management of the project. In operational terms, the national authorities are studying three possibilities: acquisition of a building in the Kasbah, rental of a building, rental with an option to buy a house.

The partnership framework can only be comprised of the two main actors of the project, the Ministry for Culture and UNESCO, in its role as an international depository organization, and facilitator of international policies for heritage protection. To these two partners could be joined the "Formation Professionnelle" a public institution concerned with the professional training of the youth, as a moral entity. The Ministry for Culture has signed a convention with this institute which would enable the establishment of a practical and theoretical training programme.

An expert mission that took place in October 2003 provided the opportunity to evaluate the state of conservation of the Kasbah and confirmed the continuous presence of a number of deterioration processes, such as natural erosion, dilapidation, and lack of maintenance.

Draft decision: **28 COM 15B.43**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Congratulates the State Party for having approved the Executive Decree containing the modalities for the establishment of the Permanent Plan for the Safeguard and Presentation of the Safeguarded Sectors (PPSMVSS) under the law relating to the protection of cultural heritage;
2. Having noted, however, the very advanced state of degradation in the Kasbah of Algiers,
3. Strongly urges the State Party to urgently undertake rehabilitation measures in the Kasbah of Algiers;
4. Calls upon the State Party to list the Kasbah of Algiers as a Safeguarded Sector and to undertake the necessary measures, in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre, for the finalization and implementation of the

Plan for the Safeguarding and Presentation of the Kasbah;

5. *Requests the State Party to present, before 1 February 2005, a progress report on the listing of the Kasbah of Algiers as a Safeguarded Sector and on the finalization of the Plan for its Safeguarding and Presentation, for examination by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005.*

44. M'Zab Valley (Algeria) (C 188)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1982

Criteria: C (ii) (iii) (v)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount (up to 2004): US\$35,000

Previous Bureau/Committee deliberations:

25 COM VIII.151

Conservation issues:

Intense development linked to socio-economic changes threatens the historic *ksour* of the M'Zab Valley. Several new houses have been built in areas that are not suitable for construction, such as the palm groves or the bed of the oued. Rain water has already caused damage. Furthermore, buildings erected on the hills surrounding the town cause a strong visual impact. No appropriate legislation exists for urban control in the non-constructible areas. Moreover, the knowledge of traditional materials for the rehabilitation of the vernacular architecture, as well as for the traditional system for the management and distribution of water, is being lost.

The World Heritage Centre, in close cooperation with the State Party, organised a reactive monitoring mission from 2 to 11 December 2003, coordinated with an expert mission, to the M'Zab Valley under technical assistance approved by the World Heritage Committee on 29 June 2002, regarding the listing of the Valley as a Safeguarded Sector. The dossier for the listing of the M'Zab Valley as a Safeguarded Sector was prepared by the Office for the Protection and Promotion of the M'Zab Valley (OPVM) in 2003, in accordance with the Law 98-04 concerning heritage protection.

On 5 April 2004, the OPVM obtained the final agreement of the concerned National Commission, for the creation of a safeguarded sector for the M'Zab Valley. The Ministry of Housing envisages the safeguarded sector as a cultural park covering also towns outside the Valley, more than 70 kms distant. The next step for the creation of the safeguarded sector requires the four ministries concerned (Environment, Interior, Finance, Housing) to reach a consensus.

The listing would permit the Algerian authorities to preserve the landscape value of the property and the contrast between the built and non-built areas. The restoration of the management of the hydraulic network, at present badly maintained, is also one of the priorities to ensure the preservation of the outstanding universal value of the World Heritage property.

The organization of an inter-ministerial meeting on the theme of safeguarded sectors is envisaged to promote collaboration between the national and local authorities in order to coordinate all the activities for the safeguarding and development of the future safeguarded section of the M'Zab Valley. Separate and apart from this step, the Algerian Government has carried out a very dynamic restoration

policy of the principal monuments and the rehabilitation of vernacular architecture of the *ksour*. This action is directed by the Office for the Protection and Promotion of the M'Zab Valley in cooperation with the population and the different State services. With regard to new operations, the creation of new areas inspired by the ancient *ksour* should be noted. These projects constitute an appreciable alternative to the lack of urban planning.

On the other hand, the OPVM constitutes and disposes of very extensive documentation which allows it to carry out ongoing awareness-raising and training activities. The OPVM is responsible for:

- a) the execution of legislation in force concerning listed heritage;
- b) the wide use of local architectural design as a source of inspiration and reference in the creation of new buildings and urban development;
- c) the exploitation of research carried out in the field of urban fabric and local building materials;
- d) the creation of a data bank for historic and natural sites, the promotion of research and exploitation of archaeological sites;
- e) the support and promotion of local artisan activities;
- f) providing technical advice concerning all new construction or development operations.

Draft Decision: **28COM 15B.44**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Requests the State Party to proceed with the listing of the M'Zab Valley as a safeguarded sector and to elaborate a Plan for the Protection and Presentation of this sector;
2. Strongly urges the State Party to restore the hydraulic network to preserve the historic value of the water management system with a view to sustainable development.
3. Calls upon the State Party to undertake appropriate measures, notably with regard to the designation of non-constructible areas, for the protection of the urban and landscape qualities of the property.

**45. Medina of Essaouira (Ancient Mogador) (Morocco)
(C 753rev)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2001

Criteria: C (ii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount (up to 2004): US\$52,500

Previous Bureau/Committee deliberations:

None

Conservation issues:

In close cooperation with the State Party, the World Heritage Centre organized a reactive monitoring mission from 7 to 17 September 2003 coordinated with an expert mission financed under the Italian Fund In Trust, to elaborate an integrated project for the safeguarding of the Medina of Essaouira.

The mission made the following observations:

Since 1996, the Medina of Essaouira has undergone numerous interventions concentrated upon rehabilitation studies of several remarkable monuments (former Danish consulate, ancient Franciscan Portuguese Church, the 'maison de bienfaisance', the Simon Attias Synagogue, ancient foundouk, former French consular..) and the restoration of the West Bastion of the wall.

With the provision of international assistance, awareness-raising efforts have been made by the State and the local community. These awareness-raising efforts for the population were based upon an informal structure, Agenda 21, that also coordinated and led several activities for the restoration of public buildings such as the monumental doors of the Medina, the Idid Souk, the Ethnological Museum and the part of the wall facing the sea.

Despite these interventions, the general state of conservation of the property is a cause for concern. The construction of two commercial centres in front of the two principal entrance doors of the Medina, at the foot of the ramparts, in the "buffer zone" of the World Heritage property, has a negative effect upon the landscape values of the Medina. The built area is slowly becoming dilapidated. The lodging quarters are dilapidated, degraded by the wind and rain, and overpopulated by the poorest inhabitants of the town unable to maintain the houses. The telephone and electric lines, television aerials, publicity signs all have a negative effect on the character of the quarters.

The buildings in the north-west sector, the Mellah area, are very damaged, numerous houses are in ruin. The quarter does not enjoy essential services: adequate lighting, paving, garbage collection, sewage maintenance. Half the population does not have running water and 15% no electricity. This quarter which houses about 6,200 inhabitants over 4 hectares is the poorest of the Medina. In the face of this situation, the State has provided land and financial aid to 264 families who have been rehoused outside the Medina. Two other programmes concerning 200, then

600 families, are in the planning stages, but no action with regard to the quarter is programmed.

The fortifications surrounding the Medina underwent restoration work on the land side. The wall and several monumental doors or bastions were reinforced. This work was funded by the State budget. Although the exterior aspect appears satisfactory, the repair of the rampart walk requires further work. The maritime zone of the North coast, exposed to weather and the effects of swell and tides, has suffered far more. The filling in of the underground excavations, the creation of an artificial protective reef offshore, and restoration work of the wall itself by the re-patching of the masonry are necessary.

A development and urban management plan for the entire agglomeration and a safeguarding plan for the Medina, recently elaborated, are being approved. However, it does not mention the "protected zone" with regard to inscription on the World Heritage List, nor the "buffer zone" which accompanies it. The Centre was not consulted during the elaboration of the plan.

The mission noted the need for a specific body competent to oversee the property and its protection. The municipal services and local representatives of the different ministries concerned (Culture and Housing) lack the means to carry out these tasks.

To respond to this situation, the World Heritage Centre has identified a general intervention programme concerning the indispensable urban developments (in particular the provision of water and sewage services, the need for which was reported in the framework of the UNESCO programme "Urban development and freshwater resources in small and medium-sized coastal cities") and on safeguarding and presentation work of outstanding buildings within the property.

A "safeguarding and presentation" project was elaborated by the Centre in November 2003 and submitted to the State Party for comment. It comprises:

- a) Repair of defective structures;
- b) Rehabilitation of 4 remarkable public buildings;
- c) A vigorous rehabilitation programme for the Mellah through the modernisation of infrastructures and the creation of a Grant Fund to encourage the rehabilitation of private property;
- d) The construction of artificial reefs at sea to protect the ramparts;
- e) The repair of the ramparts;
- f) A certain number of accompanying actions including the creation of a body responsible for the safeguarding of the Medina.

The cost of the project was provisionally estimated at US\$4,850,000. In March 2004, the World Heritage Centre transmitted this information to the World Bank, which is presently preparing an intervention project on historic cities of Morocco.

The organization of a workshop on heritage management for the Medina of Essaouira and the control of its buffer zone is envisaged to allow all the actors concerned to undertake efficient measures for the safeguarding and presentation of the property. Basically intended for local actors, it will bring together the principal players involved in the conservation of heritage: Province, Municipality, Delegations for Culture, Development, Urbanism and Housing, ONE, Morocco-Telecom, Agenda 21, the principal local associations, local personalities, representatives of the major donors (IBRD, U.E., AFD, Belgium, Italy, Germany). The workshop has as objective the elaboration of a recommendation to the authorities concerning the creation and the functioning of a specific body for the protection and presentation of the Medina.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15B.45

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Invites the State Party to take steps towards creating an administrative and technical body responsible for the property with the aim of maintaining its architectural and urban quality;*
2. *Encourages the State Party to undertake steps with the World Bank to integrate the "Safeguarding and presentation project for the Medina" in its programme for the "revitalization of the historic centres of Morocco" presently under preparation;*
3. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Committee, before 1 February 2005, a report on all the work in progress in the protected zone and the buffer zone which threaten the integrity of the property, for examination by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005.*

46. Ksar Ait Ben Haddou (Morocco) (C 444)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1987

Criteria: C (iv) (v)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21(b)61

27 COM 7B.41

Conservation issues:

The State Party sent a report to the Secretariat in January 2004 with regard to the decision taken at its 27th session, where the Committee expressed its concern with regard to the state of abandonment and degradation, the lack of legal protection and the delay in establishing an administrative and technical structure responsible for the property, as well as in the elaboration of a management plan, and the finalization of the listing at the national level.

The State Party emphasized that the procedure for the inscription of the property is almost finalized. Following examination and rectification, the decree containing the inscription of the Ksar Ait Ben Haddou as a historic monument, has been signed by the different governmental authorities. It is in the process of being published in the Official Journal.

An environmental study of the property was elaborated at the request of the State Party in order to prepare a Management Plan. In March 2004, the State Party called upon the World Heritage Centre to obtain further assistance for expertise in the elaboration of the Management Plan.

An operational intervention unit comprising CERKAS, local delegates from the Ministry of Urbanism and Housing, and representatives from the local authorities and the rural community, was established. The responsibility of this unit is to note threats to the ancient *ksar* and to the new village and to order the demolition of all constructions that threaten the integrity of the property.

A consultative workshop for the safeguarding of the property of Ksar Ait Ben Haddou was organized by the UNESCO Bureau in Rabat from 29 and 30 November 2003, with the participation of the World Heritage Centre. The objective of the Workshop was to bring together, for the first time, all parties concerned with the safeguarding of the Ksar Ait Ben Haddou, to define the expectations and examine the perspectives, taking into account the decision of the Committee. A "Pact for the Safeguarding of the Ksar Ait Ben Haddou" was signed by all the participants. The possibility for the creation of a Management Committee for the property was also foreseen.

The state of conservation of the property was evaluated during a reactive monitoring mission, organised to Ksar by

the World Heritage Centre in close cooperation with the State Party on 11 and 12 September 2003. The observations made during the reactive monitoring mission, taking into consideration the results of the mission carried out by the "Commission du Service des Etudes d'Aménagement des Forêts des Bassins Versants" (SEABV) which took place on 2 July, comprise:

- a) State of quasi total abandon of the property;
- b) Rapidly increasing infractions in the old *ksar* and its degradation;
- c) Divergence between the perimeter of the property inscribed on the World Heritage List and the perimeter proposed for the listing of the site at the national level;
- d) Delay in the establishment of a technical and administrative structure responsible for the property;
- e) Risk of erosion of the property illustrated by:
 - (i) the development of nearly 28 ravines (length 100 to 200 m)
 - (ii) the landslide of rocks which could cause the fall of large blocks of stone.

Despite the initiatives taken by the State Party to ensure the legal protection of the property, the state of conservation observed during the September 2003 mission corresponds to the conditions foreseen in the *Operational Guidelines* for the inscription of a property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, both with respect to ascertained dangers (serious deterioration of materials; serious deterioration of urban or rural space, or the natural environment; significant loss of historic authenticity) as well as potential threats (lack of conservation policy).

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.46**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having taken note of the report submitted by the State Party in January 2004 concerning the implementation of the recommendations made during the 27th session,
2. Congratulates the State Party for all the activities undertaken to coordinate the actions of the parties concerned with the safeguarding of the property;
3. Reiterates its concern in the light of the information concerning the state of degradation of the property;
4. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to create, in consultation with the Centre, an institution having a legal authority, adequate financial resources and means to ensure the preparation of a management plan of the property and its application;

5. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, before 1 February 2005, a progress report on the establishment of this institution and the preparation of the management plan so that the Committee may examine the state of conservation of the property at its 29th session in 2005;*
6. *Decides to reconsider the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 29th session in 2005.*

47. Islamic Cairo (Egypt) (C 89)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979

Criteria: C (i) (v) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

2000: US\$80,000, Technical Co-operation

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21(b) 44

27 COM 7B.36

Conservation issues:

The World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the Egyptian Ministry of Culture, organized an International Symposium on the Conservation and Restoration of Islamic Cairo (Cairo, February 2002), whose recommendations were reiterated by the World Heritage Committee at its 26th as well as 27th session. These included:

- a) Designating Historic Cairo as a Special Planning District, with buffer zones, in accordance with the prescriptions of the *Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention*;
- b) Preparing a comprehensive Urban Plan for the Conservation and Development of the Old City, whereby the conservation of historic buildings would be accompanied by appropriate development regulations to encourage the rehabilitation of the urban fabric so as to ensure its compatibility with the historic character of Islamic Cairo;
- c) Organize regular meetings among Egyptian and International experts to review and discuss current conservation issues and projects.

During 2003, within the framework of a request of assistance submitted by the State Party and in line with the recommendations of the Cairo Symposium, the Centre proposed to the responsible Egyptian authorities, by letter dated 30 May 2003, the dispatching of a technical mission to review specific projects and conservation issues. The Centre did not receive any reply from the State Party on this matter.

By letter dated 27 February 2004, however, the Secretariat received from the State Party an undated report on the state of conservation of the property. According to this report, some major axes around the historic city, such as the road along the northern walls, have been recently enlarged in order to facilitate the circulation and lower the pollution in the area, while intrusive constructions against the walls have been removed. Moreover, a new tunnel linking the Salah Salem road with the Opera Square has been executed to contribute reducing traffic jams and pollution in the historic city. Currently, the Department of the Islamic and Coptic Antiquities of the Supreme Council of Antiquities and the Historic Cairo Centre (also part of the Ministry of Culture) are coordinating their actions in order to accelerate the closing of the Al-Khiyamiya area in its southern part. As far

as the Old Cairo area (Fustat) is concerned, the works aiming at lowering the groundwater level have been implemented for 80% and their completion is foreseen for June 2004. At the same time, the overall development of the area and its environment, including the replacing of activities incompatible with the historic environment with others more appropriate for Islamic Cairo, is being implemented, in coordination among the Historic Cairo Centre, the Agency for Promotion of Tourism as well as the Supreme Council of Antiquities.

In addition, within a global rehabilitation project, 15 monuments have been restored and protected from the rising of the groundwater level. Several Islamic historic buildings (Al-Harawi House, Zainab Hatun House, Sabil Kaitbai, Bait Sehim) have been also rehabilitated in view of their adaptive re-use. The first and the second phases of the rehabilitation project for Historic Cairo, including the restoration of 73 monuments, are close to completion, while the third and fourth phases (74 monuments) started in July 2003. The report submitted by the State Party did not provide information on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its 27th session.

The Secretariat, while recognizing the efforts made by the State Party towards reducing the impact of traffic and pollution, lowering the level of the ground water as well as towards the rehabilitation of numerous monuments within the historic city, notes that no significant progress appears to have been made in the implementation of the above-recommendations, especially in respect to the preparation of a comprehensive Urban Conservation Plan. The Secretariat, furthermore, observes that uncertainties remain as to the exact boundaries of the World heritage property and its buffer zone.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.47**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Commends the State Party for the actions taken to rehabilitate the property by implementing conservations works on the historic buildings, reducing traffic and pollution and lowering the groundwater level;
2. Strongly encourages, however, the State Party to implement the recommendations made by the International Symposium held in Cairo in February 2002, and particularly to:
 - (a) Designate Historic Cairo as a Special Planning District, with buffer zones, in accordance with the prescriptions of the Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention;
 - (b) Prepare a comprehensive Urban Plan for the Conservation and Development of the Old City, whereby the conservation of historic buildings would be accompanied by appropriate development regulations to encourage the rehabilitation of the

urban fabric so as to ensure its compatibility with the historic character of Islamic Cairo;

(c) Organize regular meetings among Egyptian and International experts to review and discuss current conservation issues and projects.

3. *Requests the State Party to invite a ICOMOS mission to the property in order to review the progress made in the on-going rehabilitation programme on the monuments of the historic city and determine, in close consultation with the State Party, the necessary steps towards the implementation of the above-recommendations;*

4. *Further requests the State Party to identify the exact boundaries of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone on a detailed topographic map at the appropriate scale and to submit it, together with a report on the progress made in the implementation of the above-recommendations, by 1 February 2005, for the consideration of the Committee at its 29th session in 2005.*

48. Tyre (Lebanon) (C 299)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1984

Criteria: C (iii) (vi)

Previous international assistance:

Total amount (up to 2004): US\$25,000

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 56

27 COM 7B 39

Conservation issues:

By letter dated 3 November 2003, the State Party submitted a report on the progress achieved with respect to the recommendations made by the Committee at its 27th session. The General Directorate of Antiquities (DGA) of the Ministry of Culture has submitted to the Ministry of Transports, for approval, a proposal for the protection of the underwater heritage around Tyre. This proposal, prepared in cooperation with the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) and the team of the World Bank Project, identifies three protection zones around the coast of Tyre:

- a) Marine protection zone: would constitute a buffer zone for the other two zones, and would extend 500 metres from the coast;
- b) South Archaeological protection zone: should include the archaeological remains to the south of the peninsula, identified through the joint UNESCO-DGA-CEDRE project in the past two years;
- c) North Archaeological protection zone: should include all the archaeological remains identified by the DGA in 2001 near the northern (Sydonian) harbour.

At the time of the preparation of this report, the Centre had not received confirmation on whether this proposal has been accepted by all the competent authorities and has been applied.

Concerning the illegal construction of an Islamic Research Institute within the archaeological area of the property, the Ministry of Culture had requested its halting. However, owing to the strong interests involved at local level, the Municipality could only negotiate the lowering of one floor of the building, which is near completion.

In July 2003, moreover, the Scientific Committee for the International Safeguarding Campaign of Tyre carried out another mission to the property. After commending the national authorities for some considerable progress in the protection of the site, the members of the Scientific Committee made a number of recommendations concerning: the urgency to complete an archaeological map of the entire property, as an indispensable tool for the protection of the site; the importance of developing specific detailed Urban Conservation Plans (Plans d'Aménagement Détaillés -PAD)

for the entire historic centre; and a series of other specific issues regarding single buildings or areas within Tyre.

The Scientific Committee was informed of the work carried out at the Early Christian basilica of Tyre, restored through a joint World Monument Fund- Samuel Kress Foundation - UNESCO project. The activities included the consolidation of the main structures of the Basilica, the re-burial of some fragile exposed remains and the preparation of a study on the interpretation of the monument. Within the framework of the International Safeguarding Campaign, it is worth mentioning that a survey of Greek and Latin inscriptions found in Tyre has been carried out, in view of their study and publication. This activity provided also an opportunity to train Lebanese junior archaeologists.

In January 2004, the Centre received from an NGO some information concerning the alleged negative impact of three new development projects on the property, including works for the enlarging of the Sydonian Port; the damage caused to potential archaeological areas by the projected route of the Highway (which had been partially changed further to concerns expressed by the scientific community); and the excessive scale and scope of some tourist development schemes within the Natural Reserve to the south of the peninsula. With a view to assess the situation on the ground, and in coordination with the State Party, UNESCO carried out a mission to the site in February 2004.

On the issue of the works in the Sydonian Port, the mission found that these had been stopped by the DGA, in line with the recommendations made by the World Heritage Centre in 2002. The proposed transformation of the commercial port into a tourist harbour would not involve any new construction or major modification to the existing structures. Concerning the route of the Highway, this is a long-standing issue that had been discussed a number of times between UNESCO and the Lebanese authorities, including in the framework of the periodical missions of the Scientific Committee for the International Safeguarding Campaign for Tyre. UNESCO had in the past recommended that attention be paid, in choosing the route of the Highway, to avoid any negative impact on the archaeological remains of the property. As a result, the initial project had been revised and the route of the Highway moved further west. The DGA confirmed to the UNESCO mission that soundings carried out along the current projected route of the Highway have not revealed any significant archaeological structure. Finally, on the subject of the tourist development scheme within the Natural Reserve, the President of the Management Committee of the Reserve explained to the UNESCO mission that the proposed interventions were limited, according to the existing Law, to an area of 1700 X 220 metres destined to public use. Some 30 light pavilions, entirely in wood and completely reversible, would be installed from June to September along the beach, as well as twenty bathing huts, near a non-asphalted parking area. Seventeen underground septic tanks, all linked among them, would be also executed, to ensure the evacuation and treatment of all organic waste. In conclusion, while

recognizing that considerable damage had been caused to the property in the past by uncontrolled development, and that constant monitoring is essential to ensure the preservation of Tyre, the UNESCO mission found that the more recent developments did not provide reasons for additional concern.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.48**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Notes the information provided by the State Party and by the Secretariat on the state of conservation of the property;
2. Regrets that the illegal construction of a building within the archaeological area of the property could not be prevented;
3. Encourages the State Party to pursue its efforts towards the protection of the property, especially in establishing an archaeological marine reserve, in developing detailed Urban Conservation Plans and in finalizing the complete archaeological map of Tyre;
4. Further encourages the State Party to complete the study undertaken in 2001 concerning the Sydonian Port and, as soon as available, submit it to the Centre for the consideration of the Committee;
5. Requests the State Party to maintain close consultations with the Centre on the development of the various initiatives under way in Tyre, including the interventions in the framework of the World Bank Project;
6. Invites the international community to support the International Campaign for the Safeguarding of Tyre.

49. Archaeological site of Cyrene (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (C 190)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1989

Criteria: C (ii) (iii) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

None

Conservation issues:

Since its inscription on the World Heritage List, the site has never been the subject of a state of conservation report. In March 2003, the Centre dispatched a mission to Cyrene to assess its state of conservation and identify possible remedial measures. The findings and recommendations of the mission, which had been discussed with the State Party, were contained in an extensive report of which the main points are summarised here.

The exact perimeter of the World Heritage property is unclear, owing to the lack of a reliable map and the complex geomorphology of the site. However, it would appear that the area currently protected is confined to the main excavated monuments (Agora, Temple of Zeus, Sanctuary of Apollo) and does not include the large necropolises (over 1500 tombs) surrounding them. According to the Libyan authorities, some 50 staff work on the site, including seven technicians, all of them employees of the Department of Antiquities. However, owing to lack of resources and capacity, the site does not have a proper management system, including adequate documentation, maintenance and monitoring.

Cyrene is threatened by a number of man-made and natural factors. Among the latter, mention should be made of the very harsh climatic conditions, with cold weather in the winter, and rain from November to the end of March. Rain water seeping into the structures or standing on floors, along with variations in temperature and humidity, cause extensive deterioration. The situation is worsened by the uncontrolled growth of plants (shrubs, cacti), and trees (fig trees, palm trees, etc.), and the proliferation of micro-organisms, especially lichens, which invade the surface of the walls, and of the extant mosaic floorings.

Among the man-made factors, a particularly important issue is the development pressure from the neighbouring city of Shahat, which in recent years has been expanding considerably, partly encroaching upon the western necropolis. This has resulted in the loss of significant remains of the funerary architecture of Cyrene. A municipal Commission, including a representative from the Department of Antiquities, has managed to re-direct the expansion of the town and avoid further loss of heritage for the time being, but the lack of a proper planning instrument based on a credible map of the site is clearly undermining these efforts. Moreover, several other incompatible land-uses are

endangering the integrity of the property, including planting of trees and animal grazing. Other man-made factors affecting the property are vandalism and looting. The sheer size of the property, which is difficult to control, and the huge number of unexcavated graves have facilitated in recent times the development of an industry of illicit trafficking that the Department of Antiquities, with its current resources, cannot adequately prevent.

The above situation is aggravated by the launching of new excavations (mostly by foreign archaeological missions) in peripheral areas of the site. Other foreign scientific missions concentrated on the restoration of significant buildings, such as the Temple of Zeus, or on the study and conservation of outstanding classical statues from the site, which are currently protected and presented in a storehouse. This, unfortunately, was not open to the public in March 2003. The Mission had the impression that, while the contribution of these foreign missions is of undisputed scientific value (with the exception of some inappropriate conservation techniques, such as the use of cement in the Temple of Zeus), the scope for their involvement should be reassessed by the Libyan authorities in the light of the real priorities for the conservation of the site, namely the preparation of a cartography, the development of a permanent and long-term maintenance policy and the training of local staff in conservation and monitoring.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.49**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Urges the State Party to redefine, as a matter of urgency, the exact boundaries of the World Heritage property, as well as the necessary buffer zones, based on an up-dated topographic map of the site at the appropriate scale documenting the archaeological evidence, but also the existing infrastructure and recent constructions surrounding the property;
2. Requests the State Party to ensure, through the appropriate legal and planning instruments, and in close consultation with the responsible local authorities, the adequate protection of the property in the light of the newly designated boundaries of the World Heritage property, and that, to the extent possible, fences be installed along these boundaries and sufficient staff be appointed to ensure their guard;
3. Further requests the State Party to conduct, possibly in cooperation with the foreign scientific missions working on the site, a comprehensive and prioritised survey of the state of conservation of the property and to develop appropriate solutions for the various types of deterioration processes, including preventive conservation measures such as temporary shelters and re-burial of exposed archaeological remains;

4. *Encourages the State Party to reduce or even halt temporarily archaeological excavations and major restoration works on the site to direct all available resources towards the strengthening of the capacity of the technical staff of the Department of Antiquities, both in terms of skills and the necessary equipment and financial means, in the documentation, regular maintenance and monitoring of the site;*
5. *Further encourages the State Party to submit an international assistance request under the World Heritage Fund to support the implementation of the above-recommendations.*

PART II

50. Memphis and its Necropolis - the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur (Egypt) (C 86)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979

Criteria: C (i) (iii) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 45

27 COM 7B.37

Conservation issues:

While commending the State Party's commitment towards the preservation of the property, and particularly for having prevented the implementation of the proposed tunnel project, the Committee, at its last session had requested the Egyptian authorities to submit a report on the progress made in the development of management plans for the property. At the time of the preparation of this report, however, the Centre had not received the requested report.

In February-March 2004, a regional Workshop on the application of information technology in the protection of World Heritage sites was organized by the World Heritage Centre in Saqqara, in cooperation with the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) of the Ministry of Culture and the Centre for documentation of the Cultural and Natural Heritage (CULTNAT). The Workshop contributed to developing the capacity of staff from the property in recording and documenting the cultural heritage.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.50**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Requests the State Party to submit, by 1 February 2005, a report on the progress made in the development of management plans for the property, for the Committee's consideration at its 29th session in 2005.*

51. Saint Catherine Area (Egypt) (C 954)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2002

Criteria: C (i) (iii) (iv) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

1999: US\$19,500, Preparatory Assistance

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 23.6

Conservation issues:

The World Heritage Committee, at its 26th session, invited the State Party to submit a progress report on the preparation of a visitor-management plan for the monastery and on the implementation of the 1998 sustainable development plan (SDP) for the town of St Catherine.

On 5 March 2004, the Secretariat received from the State Party a progress report on the actions taken for the conservation of the property, dated 25 January 2004. This report provides information on the numerous and positive actions undertaken by the Saint Catherine Protectorate, Nature Conservation Sector (NCS), the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), the City Council and the Supreme Council of Antiquities for the management of the property, regarding both the landscape and archaeological values. Those actions, focused particularly on the tourist infrastructure, include the building and furnishing of a Visitor Centre at a distance of 1 km from the Monastery with an organized parking area; the establishment of a First Aid Unit and training of its staff; the building of restrooms in Gebel Musa as well as the installation of several water points; and the publication of trail guides in three languages (Arabic, English, German). On the other hand, much work has been done for the overall maintenance of the site, including the arrangement of trails to Gebel Musa and Abu Geefa; the removal of garbage at Gebel Musa as well as in several wadis; rehabilitation works as well as archaeological excavations within the Monastery.

ICOMOS congratulates the State Party for the effective actions undertaken for the presentation and conservation of the site, as well as for the creation of an Environment and Water Surfaces Police, which is essential to actively control the impact of the increased number of visitors on the natural resources. However, it strongly recommends moving the control point, presently installed at the Holy Summit, to the lower and wider Prophet Elijah plateau, together with the cafeteria, shops and accommodation facilities. ICOMOS moreover, recalling its proposal made at the time of the inscription of the property, believes that the conservation of the site would greatly benefit from designating the Holy Summit as a protected archaeological area.

As far as the Monastery is concerned, ICOMOS underlines that the works undertaken to secure good living conditions for the monks' community and contribute to the better organization of the visitors' circulation, are likely to bring to light some unexplored areas within the Monastery. ICOMOS

believes therefore that the Ministry of Culture and the Monastery Authorities should continue cooperating for the implementation of those works. It also encourages the State Party to set up a control gate to monitor the number of tourists within the Monastery. In addition, ICOMOS suggests completing and properly presenting the archaeological excavations on the outer eastern side of the monastery grounds, which are a testimony to the first phase of the monastic community, before the erection of the Monastery.

Finally, ICOMOS reiterates the need to ensure that important decisions having an impact on the conservation of the property be always taken through a process of wide consultation involving all the relevant institutions.

ICOMOS considered that the report submitted by the State Party did not provide sufficient information on the implementation of the 1998 Sustainable Development Plan (SDP) for the town of Saint Catherine, as requested by the Committee at its 26th session. In this regard, ICOMOS expresses its concern on the availability of adequate financing for the SDP and on the transfer of the Saint Catherine City to a new area.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.51**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Commends the State Party for the progress achieved in the conservation of the property;*
2. *Notes that, while a number of positive steps have been undertaken to improve the visitor management at the property, an actual Visitor Management Plan has not yet been prepared by the State Party;*
3. *Requests the State Party to formalize, in a comprehensive document, a Plan for the Visitor Management at the property and submit it to the World Heritage Centre;*
4. *Further requests the State Party to strengthen its efforts on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Plan, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, particularly concerning the rehabilitation of the old city, and the planning of the new Saint Catherine City.*

52. Medina of Fez (Morocco) (C 170)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1981

Criteria: C (ii) (v)

Previous international assistance:

Total amount (up to 2004): US\$40,581

Previous Bureau/Committee discussions:

BUR 21 IV.49

27 COM 7B.104

Conservation issues:

Following the decision taken during the 27th session of the Committee, the World Heritage Centre organized, in close cooperation with the State Party, a reactive monitoring mission to the Medina of Fez on 23 and 24 July 2003. The mission confirmed that the destruction of the concrete paving covering the Oued Boukhareb crossing the Medina of Fez, followed by the rehabilitation and re-development of the area, are urgent issues recognized by all the authorities of the city.

A sanitary improvement project for the city of Fez was commenced a year ago with financial assistance from the World Bank. According to the President of the Urban Community, this project foresees the connection of the entire city, including the Medina, to the main sewage system. Unfortunately, the World Bank project for the rehabilitation of the Medina, does not include the cleaning up the Oued.

Other interventions having a negative impact on the values of the property, such as illegal constructions near the Borj Sud, and notably on the balance between the urban tissue and its environment, demonstrate the difficulty experienced by the Inspection of Historic Monuments of Fez in controlling the activities of the different actors, and in intervening.

In January 2004, however, the Moroccan authorities informed the Centre that the removal of the paving was programmed for end April 2004. On 20 April 2004, the State Party informed the World Heritage Centre that a technical commission comprising all the partners concerned had been constituted. Meetings of the Commission were held on 18 February, 11 March and 12 April 2004 and resulted in the following recommendations:

- a) Need to elaborate two technical studies to identify adequate procedures for the demolition of the concrete cover and to identify the measures to be taken for the redevelopment of the Oued Boukhareb and its surroundings;
- b) Finalization of the waste water evacuation in the sewerages on both sides of the Oued before 15 April 2004;

- c) Designation of an appropriate consultancy firm and contractor in view of the launching of the work by 30 April 2004;
- d) All costs for the studies and demolition work to be jointly covered by the Urban Community of Fez and the Urban Agency for the Safeguarding of the City of Fez (ADER-Fez).

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.52**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Invites the State Party to urgently undertake the demolition of the cement paving and the sanitary work in the framework of a project for the redevelopment and enhancement of the Oued and its surroundings;
2. Calls upon the State Party to identify financial resources to develop the final project, in close coordination with the rehabilitation project for the City of Fez in the framework of the World Bank programme;
3. Requests the State Party to associate the Delegation for Culture of Fez with all the activities taking place in the Medina and notably those of the Urban Agency and ADER-Fez, to prepare the technical specifications which will become an integral part of the Urban Development Plan in force;
4. Reminds the State Party that the boundaries of the Medina, should be maintained as a non-aedificandi zone.

ASIA AND PACIFIC

Part I

53. Ruins of the Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur (Bangladesh) (C 322)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1985

Criteria: C (i) (ii) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

1986: US\$20,000, Technical Co-operation

2003: US\$35,000, Training Assistance

2003: 17,000 Euro, France-UNESCO Convention Agreement

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 37

27 COM 7B 42

Conservation issues:

Following the recommendation resulting from a second UNESCO mission in October 2002, the Government of Bangladesh reported in February 2004 that the moratorium regarding the conservation of the Paharpur Monastery has continued. Upon recommendation by UNESCO consultants, the photographs of terracotta plaques have already been given to the UNESCO Dhaka Office and their inventory is in progress as a precaution against theft and to facilitate future study.

With regard to the above-mentioned report of February 2004, ICOMOS commented that no reference had been made to the absence of photographic information and lack of action taken with regard to the “fragmentary terracotta plaques in the custodian’s house”, as reported by the UNESCO mission undertaken in March 2003. In these circumstances, the execution of the work foreseen by UNESCO cannot be evaluated. In addition, regarding the moratorium, ICOMOS suggested that its purpose be made clear to the authorities so that immediate measures be taken for regular inspection and remedial conservation action, as the moratorium could be used to delay or stop minor work being carried out at the property.

Additionally, within the framework of the France-UNESCO convention, the French Government approved a 17,000 Euro project for the organization of a workshop to elaborate an archaeological research strategy on a long-term basis for the Paharpur Vihara. This Workshop took place in March 2004, aiming to evaluate the heritage values, review problems of site management and discuss how to sustainably conserve, preserve and promote the site. A coherent strategy for archaeological research, safeguard, conservation and management of the site was also defined. A draft workplan concerning the conservation of the terracotta plaques and the monument, site and environmental visitor management, and long-term strategies was proposed by the participants.

On 30 March 2004, the authorities of Bangladesh submitted two International Assistance requests: one for Training and one for Technical Co-operation for the Paharpur site. The Technical Co-operation request will be included in the working document for International Assistance to be presented at the 28th session of the Committee.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.53**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined the state of conservation of the property, the progress made by the national authorities since the previous session of the World Heritage Committee, and the findings and recommendations of the two UNESCO missions in October 2002 and February 2003,*
2. *Encouraging the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to maintain efforts to plan and implement enhanced conservation measures for the property,*
3. *Decides to defer consideration for the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger until the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2005, in light of the findings and recommendations of the UNESCO missions, to enable the State Party to undertake corrective measures to reverse the negative impact of the work undertaken on the site;*
4. *Requests the World Heritage Centre, the UNESCO Dhaka Office, the Regional Advisor for Culture in Asia and the Pacific and the Advisory Bodies to provide technical support to the State Party in the implementation of the corrective measures.*

54. Imperial Palace of the Ming and the Qing Dynasties (China) (C 439)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1987

Criteria: C (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

27 COM 7B.43

Conservation issues:

In accordance with decision 27 COM 7B.43 adopted by the 27th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2003, the State Party submitted a progress report to the World Heritage Centre on 16 January 2004. With regard to urban development pressure in Beijing and renewal of the historical and traditional urban fabric of the historic city, the People's Government of the Beijing Municipality cancelled a project for renovating dilapidated housing in the buffer zone, thereby preventing massive real estate development. Cultural relics are being protected, some high-rise buildings demolished, local populations relocated from the Imperial City and efforts increased to enable inscription of the Imperial City as a cultural World Heritage property.

The State Party informed the Secretariat that the People's Government of the Beijing Municipality has developed a Plan for the Protection of Beijing. This plan calls for the overall conservation and protection of the old city of Beijing and comprises ten specific areas, including the Imperial City, historical water systems, the traditional axial line, the city and the old town's skylines and the height of buildings. A Plan for the Protection of the Imperial City has also been elaborated. This includes the gradual removal or reconstruction of buildings, which either block the landscape or are not in conformity, and provisions for strict control of building height in the Imperial City. Plans are also proposed for the maintenance of traditional courtyard housing and the gradual replacement of 'flat-top' roofs with sloping ones. Except in the Forbidden City, all buildings in the protected zone will be grey. There will be no road expansion in the protected zone, no will new roads be built in the Imperial City and there will be a gradual reduction of traffic.

The World Heritage Centre encouraged the Chinese authorities to review and update management plans for these properties. The People's Government of the Beijing Municipality has drafted Regulations on the Protection of the City and Administration of Protection Zones, which will be strictly adhered to and implemented once the reviewing process is completed during 2004. UNESCO and the World Heritage Centre were to provide technical assistance to the Chinese authorities to review and update the existing management plans including conservation and rehabilitation projects in the historic quarters of Beijing.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15B.54

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Expresses its appreciation to the State Party for the submission of a Progress Report on measures taken to enhance the conservation and presentation of the World Heritage property;*
2. *Commends the State Party for the strengthening of the legal provisions for the protection of the buffer zones;*
3. *Encourages the Chinese authorities to continue their efforts to protect the urban historic fabric of Beijing surrounding the World Heritage properties of the Imperial Palace of the Ming and Qing Dynasties, the Temple of Heaven and the Summer Palace;*
4. *Requests UNESCO and the World Heritage Centre to provide technical assistance to the Chinese authorities to review and update the existing management plans for these World Heritage properties to ensure long-term comprehensive management;*
5. *Requests the State Party to submit, by 1st February 2005, a report containing an assessment of the remaining traditional architecture in the buffer zone, together with the finalised management plan for the property, for the consideration of the Committee at its 29th session in 2005.*

55. Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa (China) (C 707 ter)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994; extended in 2000 and in 2001

Criteria: C (i) (iv) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 42

27 COM 7B.45

Conservation issues:

In accordance with Decision 27 COM 7B.45 adopted by the 27th Session of the World Heritage Committee in 2003, the State Party submitted a progress report on 12 January 2004.

Maintenance and protection of the Potala Palace and the conservation of Norbulingka began in June 2002 and are continuing as planned. A fire prevention plan and a security system for Jokhang Temple are due to be completed in 2004. Measures are in place prohibiting the destruction of ancient buildings in the Shöl area, which will maintain its key function of demonstratives of traditional Tibetan cultural society. The current conservation plan has not yet been made available to the public with periodic review mechanism in place. The recommended establishment of an agency for the management and development of Old Lhasa and the World Heritage property has not yet been carried out.

The Government of Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) plans to list cultural heritage sites in Old Lhasa for protection at the autonomous regional level. Currently there are six cultural heritage sites protected at State level, six at the autonomous regional level, six at city level and a further 93 ancient buildings listed for protection. Public participation has been encouraged in cultural heritage protection activities and programmes are being formulated by the Tibet Administration for Cultural Heritage to increase awareness and to subsequently further public involvement in heritage conservation.

Training activities on the development of tourism and guidance on sustainable tourism development have been planned. It was recommended that a study tour relating to the management of World Heritage properties and exchange programmes between site managers be organized, which is encouraged by the Chinese Government.

On reviewing the progress report, ICOMOS stated that its content is unclear regarding the progress made since the decision of the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session. The report does not mention the situation or state of conservation in the Shöl Area now that the local residents have been evacuated, nor does it comment on the recent rapid modernisation outside the buffer zone.

A press report has been received by the Secretariat expressing extreme concern about the current restoration work, taking place at the Potala Palace, Lhasa. It notes that no workers, specifically no Tibetans, with knowledge of traditional skills and restoration techniques have been employed to supervise and work on the restoration of the floors, walls and roofs of the Palace buildings and that this has led to cement and other inappropriate materials and methods being used. The report goes on to say that the use of these reportedly inappropriate restoration techniques will cause serious problems leading to the eventual disintegration of the fabric of the buildings and thus the loss of authenticity of this World Heritage property.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.55**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the State Party for the measures taken to enhance the state of conservation of the property;
2. Notes with concern that the information submitted by the Chinese authorities does not provide sufficient details on the progress achieved with respect to the recommendations made by the Committee at its 27th session, as compared to the situation referred to in the mission reports of 2002 and 2003;
3. Encourages the Chinese authorities to develop an articulated strategic programme for the conservation and rehabilitation of the historic fabric of Old Lhasa based upon an analysis of the heritage value of the historic structures. This analysis should assist the authorities in ranking the buildings according to their importance. The information should be made public;
4. Requests the State Party to provide information about all major conservation and renovation work in Lhasa to the World Heritage Committee;
5. Requests UNESCO and ICOMOS to assist the Chinese authorities in assessing and updating the comprehensive conservation plan to make the most appropriate use of the Shöl Area, which forms part of the administrative section of the Potala Palace, so as to maintain the traditional urban tissue of the area while changing the use of the traditional buildings;
6. Further encourages the State Party to elaborate design guidelines for the built heritage environment, including urban design elements, so as to increase the capacity of local urban planners, architects, and designers to follow World Heritage conservation guidelines;
7. Reiterates the request to the State Party to continue making efforts to mitigate the negative impact on the World Heritage value of this property caused by development pressure;

8. *Refers the State Party to the recommendations contained in Decision 27 COM 7B.45 of the Committee adopted at its 27th session;*
9. *Expresses its readiness to consider an international assistance request to support national and local efforts to address the aforementioned recommendations;*
10. *Further requests the State Party to take appropriate action to follow up on the findings and recommendations of the UNESCO-ICOMOS reactive monitoring missions in a concerted manner and to submit, by 1 February 2005, a report on the progress achieved in the implementation of the above recommendations for the consideration of the Committee at its 29th session in 2005.*

56. Classical Gardens of Suzhou (China) (C 813 bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1997;
extended in: 2000

Criteria: C (i) (ii) (iii) iv) (v)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

None

Conservation issues:

On 3 November 2003, the Director-General of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage of China informed the Director of the World Heritage Centre of plans to build a new Suzhou Museum within the protective buffer zone of the World Heritage property. This new Museum construction project in the immediate vicinity of the Humble Administrator's Garden in Suzhou has been a subject of concern from various sources, including the press and Chinese experts, as this project in the Centre of Suzhou city may possibly affect the World Heritage value of the Classical Gardens of Suzhou. On 17 November 2003, the Centre requested the Chinese authorities to provide further information concerning the plan and description of the project and detailed maps showing the exact location of the proposed Museum project. The State Party was informed that it is not advisable to undertake major projects of this nature without prior assessment of potential environmental impact and that the Committee should be provided with complete information for examination and approval prior to its implementation.

The Centre received the requested documents on 21 January 2004 from the State Administration of Cultural Heritage of China, which were transmitted to ICOMOS for review and comments. ICOMOS was also asked to consider the possibility of sending a reactive monitoring mission to examine the impact of the proposed project and the state of conservation of this World Heritage property.

ICOMOS provided its analysis of this project and recalled that the World Heritage Committee, when deciding on the inscription of the Classical Gardens of Suzhou on the World Heritage List in December 1997, requested the Chinese authorities to submit a nomination to extend World Heritage protection to include the entire historic town of Suzhou whose cultural value, with its canal system and hundreds of gardens, extends beyond the four nominated gardens.

ICOMOS noted that the preservation plan for the existing architecture indicates very precisely the buildings which need to be preserved (in red), improved (in yellow), or renovated (in green) and that a few red buildings are located where the new museum is planned. Moreover, the choice of Mr I.M. PEI as the architect of this museum is considered excellent.

However, ICOMOS raised several technical questions regarding the location of the new museum that could be easily answered on site. The Centre and ICOMOS are therefore organizing, in coordination with the State Party, a reactive monitoring mission to the World Heritage property in May/June 2004. The mission findings and recommendations will be reported to the Committee during its 28th session.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.56**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission findings and recommendations, which took place in May/June 2004

57. Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodhgaya (India) (C 1056 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2002

Criteria: C (i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 23.15

27 COM 7B.46

Conservation issues:

As requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session in 2003, a management document was submitted to the Secretariat on 2 February 2004. As well as covering the local stakeholders' dialogues and co-operation, it raises issues concerning the protection of the significant sacred values of this property, and addresses development pressures within and surrounding the property due to tourism and pilgrimage-related activities, including vandalism and theft.

ICCROM and ICOMOS have submitted a joint report, which commends the State Party for the useful information gathered together in the preparation of the report and for the innovative approach embodied in efforts to balance development and conservation. It draws attention, however, to a number of points which must be addressed to ensure complete, long term protection of the World Heritage values of the property. Some of the key technical, conceptual and managerial issues are highlighted below:

(a) Technical issues:

- (i) The inscribed World Heritage property is the Mahabodhi Temple complex. Whilst the attention to Bodhgaya, given its critical role in providing the setting for Mahabodhi, is important, the management document must address head-on the problems of looking after Mahabodhi and treat Bodhgaya in that context.
- (ii) The management document is not significance driven. The statement of significance, is actually a descriptive summary of the inscription criteria recognised by the Committee and consequently an understanding of significance is not used to root or ground decisions concerning the property.
- (iii) The management document does not build on the nomination dossier submitted by the State Party. The core area and buffer zone defined for the Bodhgaya territory differ substantially from the zones originally defined in the nomination dossier submitted by the State Party for inscription of the property on the World Heritage List. Expansion of the core zone and the changes proposed to strengthen the buffer zone must be clearly indicated and brought to the attention of the Committee for approval.

(b) Conceptual issues:

Bodhgaya as a centre of pilgrimage: The vision statement emphasises the need to make Bodhgaya a city preaching the doctrine of Buddhism, but the deeply rooted significance of the property as a place of pilgrimage has been overlooked. The nomination dossier, where this particular value should have been recognised only refers to tangible remains. Pilgrimage removes many barriers and reflects harmony among different religious groups and the fact that Buddha himself advocated pilgrimages to the Bodhgaya has been influential in the survival of the property to the present day. Paradoxically, in the body of the report, pilgrims are considered as important stakeholders with acknowledged needs.

(c) Managerial issues:

- (i) Focus on Mahabodhi: The report reads as if it were a planning document prepared primarily for the long-term treatment and development of Bodhgaya as a centre for Buddhist worship, paying occasional attention to Mahabodhi as a side issue within a larger project. It is the Mahabodhi Temple Complex itself, and not Bodhgaya, which should have a primary place in the management plan.
- (ii) Treatment of Bodhgaya: If the State Party wishes to extend the Mahabodhi property to include Bodhgaya, then this management document should propose a strategy to protect the specific heritage values of Bodhgaya to bring to the attention of the Committee.
- (iii) Going beyond intentions: The report is essentially a statement of good intentions. If these are not grounded in a permanent legal framework and supported by a related management structure identifying the necessary resources for sustainable management, an adequate commitment to the protection of the property cannot be ensured.
- (iv) Role of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI): Currently the ASI does not have any legal control over decisions affecting the World Heritage property so it would be useful to establish legislation to designate the Mahabodhi Temple Complex a protected monument. The ASI should also provide the national outlook for the overall conservation programme working as shared partners in conservation with the other institutions concerned and the civil society.
- (v) Treatment of the buffer zone: There are some contradictions evident in the management document, which need to be resolved. For example, the document prohibits insensitive development, whilst accepting the recent introduction of many structures.

(vi) Emphasis on process: The management plan should clarify the long-term process to be used when making decisions about the property thus ensuring the survival of the recognised heritage values.

(vii) Research Strategy: Although there is a reference to excavation and conservation, no attempt has been made to develop an overall research strategy. This is a property in which an important event took place in the 6th century BC and evolved over 2500 years. There is a need to expand knowledge of this property. Furthermore, a comprehensive research strategy should be included as an essential part of the management.

(viii) Management Structure: Empowering and restructuring individual institutions is a positive approach but it is essential for an organisation with a powerful leadership to be created, in order to co-ordinate line agencies and capture the aspirations of civil society for the site management.

(ix) Monitoring: Although there are some aspects of monitoring mentioned under maintenance, it is important to develop a chapter on monitoring. This will help for reporting purposes as required by the World Heritage Committee's Periodic Reporting process.

In conclusion, ICOMOS and ICCROM strongly recommend that the plan be subject to peer review by Indian conservation professionals and to the comments made above in this report and revised accordingly before final adoption for implementation. We would also draw the attention of the State Party to the need to demonstrate that a realistic and practical implementation strategy will actually be implemented with appropriate legal, financial and institutional support and within a management framework adequate to protect the heritage values of the property.

The Secretariat has been informed of several court cases reflecting some conflicting relationships between religious groups and local communities. In order to limit the impact of intense tourism and pilgrimage-related activities, regular monitoring and adequate conservation mechanisms need to be put in place. All such measures should be worked out with the Mahabodhi Temple Trust, in close co-operation with the State Government of Bihar, who deal with tourism and infrastructure, and with the wider involvement of the Central Government (Archaeological Survey of India) with its national outlook and technical expertise in heritage conservation.

At the Dedication Ceremony (dedicating the Mahabodhi Temple to all the Buddhists in the world) on 19 February 2004, the Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Government of India pledged Central Government support for infrastructure improvements in and around Bodhgaya (i.e. opening the airport to international flights) and for the

creation of a meditation park for pilgrims to meditate in a calm environment.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15B.57

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Recalling* the concern at the time of inscription regarding the tourism and pilgrimage pressures facing the property;
2. *Congratulates* the State Party for initiating efforts to elaborate a comprehensive document relevant to the long-term conservation and management of the property;
3. *Requests* the State Party to pursue its efforts towards the finalisation of the current management plan for peer review by the Indian conservation professionals and taking into account the suggestions made by the Advisory Bodies in the joint ICCROM-ICOMOS paper, in particular focussing on:
 - a. *Integrating a heritage values-sensitive approach to management;*
 - b. *Basing the document on protection of the inscribed Mahabodhi World Heritage property;*
 - c. *Developing a realistic implementation strategy;*
 - d. *Including a peer review process within development of the plan.*
4. *Encourages* the State Party to identify legal mechanisms to designate the Mahabodhi Temple Complex as a protected monument, to ensure maintenance of the buffer zone proposed by the State Party for Mahabodhi at the time of inscription, and to consider the possible extension of the core zone to include the Bodhgaya property;
5. *Invites* the State Party to organise a series of stakeholders' interventions in the process of improving and finalising the management plan, and to submit a request for Technical Co-operation Assistance for this purpose;
6. *Requests* the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to organise a first joint mission in order to assess the improvement of the document prepared by the State Party to protect the World Heritage values of the property, and to submit its report for examination by the 29th session of the Committee in 2005.

58. Taj Mahal (C 252), Agra Fort (C 251) and Fatehpur Sikri (C 255) (India)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: Taj Mahal and Agra Fort, 1983; Fatehpur Sikri, 1986

Criteria: C (i) for Taj Mahal; C (iii) for Agra Fort; C (ii) (iii) and (iv) for Fatehpur Sikri

Previous International Assistance:

1995: US\$17,965, Emergency Assistance

1986: US\$20,788, Technical Co-operation

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

21 COM VII.55

27 COM 7B.105

Conservation issues:

The World Heritage Committee, at its 27th session in July 2003, requested the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to undertake a Joint Reactive Monitoring Mission to hold consultations with the State Party concerning the state of conservation of these World Heritage properties. At the invitation of the Government of India, the mission was carried out from 10 to 15 January 2004 to the World Heritage properties of Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri. The mission examined the proposed "Taj Corridor Project" with the Indian authorities and assessed the potential negative impact of this project on the World Heritage property and also identified urgent conservation and management needs.

(a) The "Taj Corridor Project"

This reactive monitoring mission was undertaken to evaluate the "Taj Corridor Project". However, not much can be said about the project, since the mission members never received any project plans or details. Most of the information is either verbal or from the media. It is obvious that this project was very ambitious and if carried out would have caused serious damage to the World Heritage properties of Taj Mahal and Agra Fort. Evidently the project is not continuing; a very courageous decision by the relevant Indian authorities to stop a project on which millions of US\$ have already been spent. Located between the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort, the project would have certainly had a negative visual and cultural impact on the heritage values of these properties as they were built facing the river, which plays a very important role in the design of these sites.

What remains on site is a dry wall of local red sandstone (about ten meters wide), built into the bed of the Yamuna river. The purpose of the wall was to create a promenade which could be a place for commercial and tourism activities. There is also a sloping revetment of the river bank, made of the same red sandstone. The mission suggested that a development plan for the whole area and town should be prepared. Such a plan would prevent similar experiences such as the "Taj Corridor Project" from occurring again. It is also important to indicate that the river, although very attractive from a

distance, is extremely polluted. Cleaning the river and preventing its use as a sewage canal should become a priority, at least in this important section between the two World Heritage properties.

(b) The state of conservation of Agra Fort

The mission visited parts of the Fort and observed some very impressive gardening work being carried out following excavations and research.

The condition of the large part of the Fort still used by the army is unknown. Judging from the part which was in military use until recently however, there is cause for concern. Conservation works are being conducted in this wing. Otherwise, it seems that many of the conservation issues are basically due to deterioration over time and visitor pressure. Neither of these seem critical and the property appears well-managed. It should still be recommended that, while considerable effort is going into the gardens' development, more should go to regular maintenance and conservation (mainly plasterwork).

(c) Plans and state of conservation of the Taj Mahal

Not surprisingly, such an important and much-visited site is continually being conserved and maintained. The work being conducted is very impressive and the use of traditional workmanship is of high quality. New plans for improved visitor management have been presented, the main idea being to attract visitors to areas other than solely the main axis. The aim is to avoid the overuse of this axis, to show other parts of the monumental complex, to keep visitors on site longer and to provide better services and information using two identical visitor centres in two of the side courtyards. This will require incorporating two doors into an original wall, which does not compromise in any way the cultural and visual aspects of the property.

The contrast between the extraordinarily beautiful inner area of the compound and the immediate vicinity is striking. This is not simply a matter of funding but of planning and management. The mission recommended that the Indian authorities should clean and enhance the whole area surrounding the monument, within a defined distance, as such an important monument deserves.

(d) Fatehpur Sikri

The stone used to build this wonderful site suffers from a certain amount of natural decay, mainly erosion. This phenomenon is much more pronounced where water makes contact with the stone and evaporates through it. The evidence of erosion is particularly severe on some of the stone ceilings. It is recommended to specially monitor this and wherever possible provide improved insulation and water proofing for roofs and better drainage. Plans for the new entrance and commercial complex were presented. The location seems appropriate and will permit the relocation of commercial activities from the immediate vicinity of the site (mainly the mosque compound). It is recommended to clarify the

signage on the site. The most visited area is clearly signposted and described in guides and plans, but it would be useful to provide more information on the site as a whole.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15B.58

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the UNESCO-ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission findings and recommendations concerning the World Heritage properties of Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri;
2. Congratulates the Indian authorities for having suspended the “Taj Corridor Project”;
3. Underscores the importance of reinforcing the management and regional development planning mechanism relating to the protection of World Heritage properties in the Agra District;
4. Requests the State Party to:
 - a) *Establish a Steering Committee, to be headed by the Department of Culture, to co-ordinate and address all the conservation and development challenges of the three World Heritage properties in the Agra District by involving all the stakeholders;*
 - b) *Evaluate and possibly redefine the World Heritage protective boundaries and management guidelines pertaining to the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort. Note should be taken of recent research which indicates that the original design of the Taj monument included the Mehtab Bagh and other relocated cultural properties across the Yamuna River. These constitute an essential part of the whole area and therefore require integrated protection;*
 - c) *Integrate the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort as one protected World Heritage area to ensure better management of the property, with a possible inclusion of Fatehpur Sikri subject to a broader regional planning scheme;*
 - d) *Elaborate a comprehensive site management plan, including a specific visitor management plan, based on a regional plan for conservation and development of the World Heritage properties, and ensure its implementation;*
 - e) *Improve the on-site interpretation and visitor management at the World Heritage properties;*
 - f) *Set up on-site monitoring mechanisms, by using traditional and new technological means, to assess the impact of urban development on the World Heritage values of the properties and their*

surrounding areas so as to integrate the protection of urban landscape into the overall heritage protection mechanism;

5. Requests the State Party, as a first step, to organize a National Workshop on the Elaboration of Site Management Plans for the preparation of the World Heritage extension(s), including the upgrading of the protective boundary and buffer zones;
6. Requests the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and other international partners to support and strengthen co-operation activities with the competent national and local authorities by providing appropriate assistance.

59. Borobudur Temple Compounds (Indonesia) (C 592)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1991

Criteria: (i) (ii) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

1999: US\$5,000, Promotional Assistance (not implemented)

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

27 COM 7B.47

Conservation issues:

The State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property to the World Heritage Centre, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session.

To celebrate the first 20 years since the completion of the international campaign for Borobudur, an Experts' meeting was organized from 4 to 8 July 2003 by UNESCO in cooperation with the Indonesian Government. To follow up on the recommendations of this meeting, several activities have been undertaken, such as the collection of data by Geographic Positioning System (GPS) and comprehensive studies of the Borobudur Temple in relationship with its surroundings. New 3D laser photogrammetric equipment is being acquired to modernize the equipment of the *in situ* conservation laboratory of Borobudur. A Geographic Information System (GIS) survey was also initiated in September 2003 to assist in redefining the World Heritage protective boundaries, in view of new archaeological and historical findings concerning the structure of the temple compounds.

Training of local communities and their participation in on-site promotional activities has increased with the support of the Borobudur Studies and Conservation Institute and the Archaeological Park Ltd. To address the issues of visitor management and waste management, several concrete measures have been initiated, such as the obligation for all visitors to leave their bags at the entrance and the dissemination of numerous waste bins and boxes for empty bottles within the property's premises. A project financed by the UNESCO Japanese Funds-in-Trust entitled 'Community catchments analysis and communication of the significance of the Borobudur Temple' started in January 2004 to improve communication of the significance of the site and its surrounding landscape to local communities as well as to tourists.

The parking lot built in Zone 1 is smaller than the original planned design. Both the parking lot and the Guardian's house are camouflaged by grass and shrubbery. A study based on observation has demonstrated that the existing infrastructures in Zone 1 do not affect the microclimate (temperature, humidity, etc.) of the temple and its surroundings.

The findings and recommendations of the Joint UNESCO-ICOMOS mission of April 2003 were presented to the

Committee at its 27th session in the working document 27 COM 7B. Despite these recommendations and the request of the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session to elaborate a long-term commercial and marketing strategy for the property, starting with the organization and control of the informal commercial activities within Zone 2, the visitor is still forced to go through a labyrinth of small shops selling souvenirs and food stalls. This area is turning into a small village, as some of the vendors and their families are actually living in the stalls. At certain seasons, the amount of vendors and hawkers strolling around the site by far exceeds the number of tourists visiting the temple.

In the opinion of ICOMOS, assistance from UNESCO could be very useful if it is well targeted. This would be appropriate for the archaeological work (including GIS) and for the wider socio-economic aspects, such as development of local activities, skills, products, and performance-based attractions for visitors. Assistance is also needed for tourism management and the reworking of the existing entrance area. There should be a programme of targeted intervention assistance with the objective of reorganizing and redesigning the buildings and other facilities at the entrance area.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.59**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having been informed of the activities carried out under the extra-budgetary project funded by the Japanese Government at the property,*
2. *Thanks the State Party for its dedication in the safeguarding of the property, as well as the Government of Japan for its generous contribution towards the development of community participation at the property;*
3. *Acknowledges the renewed efforts of the State Party to improve the management of the property and to implement the recommendations of the July 2003 Experts Meeting;*
4. *Encourages the State Party to further involve local communities in the management and presentation of the property through educational and promotional activities;*
5. *Reiterates its recommendation to ban major road developments within Zones 1 to 3, although improvement of existing roads may be permitted, and to halt any construction of major commercial shopping centres near the property and within any of the protective zones;*
6. *Reaffirms its opposition to the erection of the proposed new tourist entrance and retail precinct (Jagad Jawa) in Zone 3, at the western extremity of the site;*

7. *Requests the State Party to submit, by 1 February 2005, a detailed report on the long-term management and development strategy proposed for the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session in 2005. This report should address the following issues:*
 - (a) *Detailed information on the existing or proposed co-ordination mechanisms between the different management authorities responsible for the management of the property, and between them and the national authorities;*
 - (b) *Proposed visitor management plan to mitigate the effects of high visitor pressure on the property's long-term sustainability;*
 - (c) *Proposed medium and long-term strategy for the sustainable development of the property, including consultations with the local communities and commercial activities on-site;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to consider revising, in close consultation with the Centre and the Advisory Bodies, the World Heritage boundaries of the property in view of the results of the on going research mentioned;*

60. Town of Luang Prabang (Lao Democratic People's Republic) (C 479 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1995

Criteria: (ii) (iv) (v)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount: US\$117,242

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 54

27 COM 7B.50

Conservation issues:

The State Party submitted a state of conservation report to the World Heritage Centre, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session.

Following the endorsement by the World Heritage Committee, at its 26th session, of the recommendations made by the UNESCO and ICOMOS experts during their mission in April 2002, the State Party has undertaken the following actions to comply with the 8 corrective measures identified:

- a) Measure 1 concerning illicit constructions:
The Conservation and Development Plan (PSMV) has been officially endorsed and enacted by the Central Government with the release of Decree no. 175/PM dated 6 November 2003; Ministerial and local orders have been issued concerning the demolition of any construction failing to conform to the PSMV.
- b) Measure 2 concerning enforcement of law and regulations:
The Committee of Construction Permits has admitted the Heritage House (Maison du Patrimoine) representative as a new member and has also been closely monitoring all construction works after the permits have been issued. To this date, 36 serious illegal constructions have been declared, and their permits withdrawn. Two illegal buildings have been destroyed following this monitoring activity. However, continued small-scale violations of the PSMV have been reported within the core zone of the World Heritage property of Luang Prabang.
- c) Measure 3 on awareness-raising of the PSMV by the local administration:
An extensive public information campaign on the PSMV has been carried out by the Heritage House and is still ongoing, involving heads of provincial departments and local mayors. Various national and international legal instruments for the preservation of cultural and natural heritage have been introduced by the Heritage House at a large audience meeting on 18 December 2003.
- d) Measure 4 on awareness-raising of the PSMV by enterprises:

The Heritage House has organized a three-month training session, for the Urban Development Administration Authority (UDAA), as well as for architects and engineers of the relevant construction enterprises.

- e) Measure 5 on halting public works not in line with the PSMV:
The effects of the road construction at Bua Kang Bung have been mitigated by reducing the width of the road and building one drainage canal instead of two. The construction of the retaining wall along the Mekong river has been stopped, and embankments and gabions along the river have been improved by soil filling and plantation of trees and vegetation.
- f) Measure 6 concerning the follow-up of the PSMV:
Local and National Committees for the Cultural and Natural National Heritage are meeting on a regular basis and exchanging all necessary information.
- g) Measure 7 concerning the management of public places:
The Post Office intersection has been given particular attention, and its World Heritage value has been maintained, following the successful implementation of the Asia-Urbs programme. A local management commission is in charge of implementing the regulations adopted after public consultation to ensure that cultural and ethnic diversity is preserved at this place.
- h) Measure 8 on the establishment of a Fund to assist the local population:
The supply of construction materials such as quality tiles has been successfully performed by the Fund. To ensure the financial sustainability of the Heritage House and to finance conservation projects, the Ministry of Finance authorized the provincial government to institute a heritage conservation fee.

At its 27th session in 2003, the Committee requested the State Party to take all necessary measures to further reduce vehicular traffic and noise pollution that impact on the core area of the property. As a consequence of this request, a traffic regulatory system is under study. The main road from the Post Office intersection to the Royal Palace has been transformed into a pedestrian way and night bazaar.

The Agence Française de Développement (AFD) proposed to fund the study of a coherent territorial planning scheme, to guide the extension of the town of Luang Prabang with the creation of a new town to the north of the historic area, which will accommodate the new business and Government offices, as well as the Souphanouvong University. The World Heritage protected area is being included in the perimeters of the Nam Khan River Park, which is now under study for eventual nomination as a UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) site. As regards pollution mitigation, no scientific research has been conducted in Luang Prabang.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15B.60

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Commends the State Party for the completion or ongoing implementation of the eight corrective measures recommended by the March 2002 UNESCO-ICOMOS joint mission to Luang Prabang;
2. Supports the Agence Française de Développement-funded study of the coherent territorial planning scheme to decompress the infrastructural pressure on the historic centre of the World Heritage property;
3. Notes with concern the continued violations to the PSMV and the illegal constructions, which constitute a serious threat to the World Heritage values of the property and encourages the State Party to ensure adequate legal enforcement of the PSMV;
4. Reiterates its deep concern at the insensitive public works of road upgrading along the Mekong and Nam Khan rivers, carried out by the Asian Development Bank, resulting in oversized drainage, widening of roads into the non-constructible urban wetlands protected area;
5. Urges the State Party to take immediate action for the mitigation of the negative impacts of the public works on the World Heritage values of the property;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2005, a progress report on the research and actions undertaken to mitigate air and noise pollution on-site, as well as on the legal enforcement of the PSMV, to be examined by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session in 2005.

61. Complex of Hué Monuments (Viet Nam) (C 678)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2001

Criteria: C (iii) (iv) (vi)

Previous international assistance:

Total amount: US\$307,111

Previous Bureau/Committee discussions:

None

Conservation issues:

UNESCO fielded a monitoring mission to Hué in November 2003 to evaluate the state of conservation of the World Heritage property and advise the Vietnamese authorities on the steps to be taken to improve the conservation and protection of the heritage of Hué. This mission resulted in several observations.

The following operations, planned or already carried out, contribute to rendering the citadel of Hué its original urban and landscaping aspects:

- a) Clearing the banks of the Perfume River at the level of the Kim Long Quarter;
- b) Clearing the south-east ditches, with the creation of a road lined with trees along its outer side in the Phu Hoa Quarter;
- c) The enhancement of the south-east ditch and glacis, opposite of the flag tower;
- d) The planting and replanting of alignment trees;
- e) Opening the Hau Door north-east of the citadel to public circulation;
- f) The operational project for the restoration and enhancement of the Grand Canal;
- g) The operational project for the enhancement of « garden houses » planned for the Kim Long Quarter.

The ancient domestic and commercial architecture in the citadel and suburbs is under threat due to urban pressure that produces a general congestion. The monumental component of the property does not seem to be in danger, even if the restoration and the enhancement of the monumental architecture of Hué is a task of considerable magnitude.

Certain projects have already had, or may have, a negative impact on the heritage values of the site of Hué and its surroundings. These are especially:

- a) the ominous development of road infrastructures within the inscribed property, making it vulnerable to urban sprawl of the geomantic environment by anarchic urbanisation and an increase of road traffic:

- (i) by the creation of the south-west bypass of the national Route 1 crossing the inscribed property, with the construction of a bridge across the Perfume River;
 - (ii) by the creation and widening of the roads, linked to the opening of the south-west bypass of Route 1;
 - (iii) by the widening of roads;
- b) dangerous projects for developing the road infrastructures in the property inscribed linked to the danger of the urban infrastructure passing from level 2 to level 1, notably:
 - (i) the project for the creation of a south-west ring road with a bridge cutting off the perspective of the Perfume River;
 - (ii) the project to widen Nyuyen Chi Thanh street in the Phu Cat Quarter;
 - (iii) the project for widening the Tan Da street in the Huong So Quarter, which would result in widening the roads in the citadel and an increase in the circulation and parking of vehicles;
 - c) the worrisome construction of modern buildings that do not respect the regulations with regard to height and density;
 - d) the landfill of part of a pond to the north of the Tay Loc Quarter in the vicinity of the An Hoa Door and, generally, the increase in urban pressure on the hydrographic network structure and the agricultural land situated within the citadel.

ICOMOS stresses the urgent need for a Master Plan based on the recommendations of the mission report. This plan should not be conceived on the western model, but in such a way so as to take account of the local specificities and conditions. The table of contents in the Agreement for decentralized cooperation between the urban community of Lille (France) and the province of Thua Thien Hué is considered as an excellent working basis for such a plan. Additional regulations for the use of public space and sanitary conditions are necessary to strengthen the proposed Master Plan.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.61**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recognizing the vulnerability of this World Heritage property in the context of the present economic and urban development in Vietnam,
2. Congratulates the State Party and the local authorities for the excellent restoration work carried out on the monumental heritage of the citadel and along the Perfume River, and for its initiatives as concerns the enhancement of the landscaped heritage surrounding the citadel;

3. *Strongly urges the State Party to take immediately into account the recommendations of the UNESCO mission of November 2003;*
4. *Encourages the State Party to proceed with the complete inventory of the traditional monumental and urban heritage, as well as the illegal constructions, or those having a negative impact on the property;*
5. *Expresses its grave concern regarding the development of the road infrastructure and the modern constructions in and around the citadel, and notably with regard to the potential danger of the urban infrastructure of Hué and its surroundings passing from level 2 to level 1;*
6. *Requests the State Party to urgently elaborate regulations for the management of the entire property, which, far from being simple rules for protection, should be the starting point of a project for long-term development and enhancement and should take into account all the components of the property at their different levels of understanding;*
7. *Invites the State Party to consider an eventual re-nomination of the property to take into account the unique landscape value of the environment of Hué, and to ensure reinforced protection of the monuments associated with the citadel of Hué situated along the Perfume River.*

PART II

62. Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains (China) (C 705)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994
Criteria C (i) (ii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:
None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:
27COM 7B44

Conservation issues:

In accordance with Decision 27 COM 7B.44 adopted by the 27th Session of the World Heritage Committee, the State Party submitted a progress report on 21 January 2004. According to the report, the following actions addressing disaster and fire prevention have been taken: the governments of Hubei Province, Shiyan City and Wudang Mountains Special Area invested funds for fire-fighting facilities and the protection and management of the Wudang Mountains Complex of Ancient Buildings, and helped set up the Wudang Fire Station and Fire Squad of the Wudang Mountains Special Area. The Yunlong Mobile Fire Squad has been created for inspections and forest fire prevention. An isolation belt has been set up between the complex of ancient buildings and forests. The Wudang Mountains Special Area authorities have elaborated a plan for water supply for fire prevention, to be implemented in three phases, involving the construction of 27 cisterns, which will be completed by 2005.

A network for effective protection of cultural relics through assignment of responsibilities within each management zone has been set up and efforts made to eliminate problems concerning the safety of endangered cultural relics. These include a total ban on unlawful utilization of ancient buildings, the relocation of people living in ancient buildings, electricity management inside ancient buildings, increased management of personnel, assignment of responsible persons for temples and convents and the establishment of systems for the protection and management of cultural relics.

The Government of the Wudang Mountains Special Area controls construction and has banned all building in the central and buffer zones. Buildings within the boundary without planning permission have been demolished and residents relocated. Tilled land in the zone has been returned to forest. A number of special regulations and protection plans have been formulated to promote the healthy development and protection of this World Heritage property.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15B.62

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the state of conservation of this property,
2. Expresses its appreciation to the State Party for the measures taken to enhance the state of conservation of the property;
3. Requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to strengthen co-operation with the State Party to mobilise technical assistance for enhancing preventative conservation mechanisms for timber architectural heritage.

**63. Meidan Emam, Esfahan (Islamic Republic of Iran)
(C 115)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979

Criteria: C (i) (v) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

2003: US\$2,752, Training (3 Iranian World Heritage properties)

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 53

27 COM 7B.48

Conservation Issues:

The State Party submitted a progress report on 31 January 2004, providing an update on the situation at this property.

The report stated that on 27 January 2004 a consultation meeting was organised in Isfahan between the head of the Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization (ICHO), the Governor of Isfahan, the Mayor of Isfahan, the relevant authorities of the commercial complex and a number of other concerned institutions and individuals. The following decisions were reached:

- a) All parties agreed on the necessity of reducing the height of the commercial complex in order to minimize its negative effects on the World Heritage property as recommended by the July 2002 UNESCO mission;
- b) In reducing the height of the above-mentioned building, operational and structural considerations should be taken into account;
- c) Therefore a technical committee comprising ICHO's experts and representatives of the Governorship, Municipality, and the City Islamic Council will be established. This committee should carefully study the architectural as well as the structural details of the commercial complex and propose a plan for the reduction of its height to the Technical Committee of ICHO;
- d) The required legal documents will be prepared by ICHO, the Governorship, Municipality, and the City Islamic Council to prepare the ground for the implementation of the final decision.

The Secretariat asked the ICHO to provide further information on the plan for the reduction of the height of the commercial complex.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.63**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the report presenting the developments at the site further to the ICOMOS mission of July 2002;

2. Commends the State Party for having favourably considered the recommendations of the international urban planning expert and ICOMOS joint mission of July 2002;
3. Notes with appreciation the creation of a technical committee composed of national and local authorities to reach a compromise solution, being elaborated between the national and local authorities, to reduce the height of the commercial complex in order to minimize the negative impact of this high-rise building on this World Heritage property;
4. Requests the authorities of Iran to continue their efforts to ensure the conservation of the authentic setting and integrity of the historic city of Esfahan surrounding the Meidan Emam World Heritage property;
5. Requests the Secretariat and ICOMOS to continue to co-operate closely with the Iranian authorities in the organization of a stakeholders' meeting in Esfahan, supported by the Government of France.

64. Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara (Japan) (C 870)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1998

Criteria: (ii) (iii) (iv) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

27 COM 7B.49

Conservation issues:

At its 27th session in 2003, the Committee encouraged the State Party to continue efforts to ensure the authenticity and integrity of the property, after having examined the state of conservation of the property for the first time since its inscription on the World Heritage List in 1998. The Committee suggested that the authorities concerned continue efforts to inform the local communities on the decision-making process. The Committee also requested that a report on the decision-making process and the final decision concerning the construction of the motorway be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, in order for the World Heritage Committee to examine the state of conservation of the property at its 28th session.

According to a report from the Government of Japan in February 2004, the Japanese authorities have established an “Expert Committee for Yamato-Kita Road Construction and Public Involvement”, which includes experts on Law, Cultural Properties, Traffic Engineering, Environment and Landscape, Transport Economics and the Planning Process, to examine the policy for the Yamato-Kita Road, which is part of the “Keinawa Motorway”. In October 2003, this Committee proposed recommendations, which included a new route for the construction of the road. As a result of a comprehensive evaluation of the effects of road development and its impact on the buried cultural properties and the historical landscape of ancient Nara, the Committee recommended a specific area for the construction. A proposal was made to construct a portion of the road underground and two routes were initially selected. After further comprehensive evaluation, the Committee finally selected one route as its preferred choice, which is situated at a reasonable distance from “the Heijokyu (Nara Palace) Site”.

In the report of February 2004, the Government of Japan stated that it would examine the outline of the route and its structure and give serious consideration to the proposal from the Expert Committee. The results of the Assessment will also take public opinion into account.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.64**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Noting that the Government of Japan has renewed efforts to examine the potential negative and irreversible impact that the construction of the Keinawa Motorway could have upon the World Heritage value of the property,
2. Encourages the Government of Japan to continue making efforts to ensure the conservation of the authenticity and integrity of the property;
3. Suggests that the Government of Japan continue making efforts to propose a technical solution to ensure that there will be no effect on the groundwater level during the construction process;
4. Requests the authorities concerned to continue their efforts in informing the local communities on the decision-making process.

65. Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape (Lao Democratic People's Republic) (C 481)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2001
Criteria: C (iii) (iv) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

1999: US\$13,000, Preparatory assistance for the nomination dossier of Vat Phou

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:
27 COM 7B.51

Conservation issues:

The State Party submitted a state of conservation report to the World Heritage Centre, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session.

Following decision 27 COM 7B.51, the State Party informed the Secretariat that a consultation meeting with the Ministry of Communications, Transport, Posts and Construction has been organized to decide on the road construction within the World Heritage property. Once the full documentation on the project is received by the Ministry of Information and Culture, a consultation meeting will be convened with UNESCO. The Secretariat was also informed that the transfer of the visitor centre and its parking lot was under study, and the project would be re-examined by the consultant who recommended its relocation out of the buffer zone.

To improve the management and regular monitoring of the property, the Vat Phou Site Management Authority has recruited a new site manager and qualified staff (1 architect, 1 archaeologist, 1 art historian, 1 engineer, etc.), totalling 29 people. The State Party has also reported the coexistence of two committees, the National Inter-ministerial Coordinating Committee (NIMCC) and the Champasak local Committee for Cultural and Natural Heritage, with similar roles, responsibilities and members.

As a follow-up to the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) bilateral grant to improve the state of conservation of the World Heritage property, the maintenance of the fully functioning hydraulic system is ensured by the local staff with the assistance of a Japanese expert, dispatched to the site on a regular basis.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.65**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Congratulates* the State Party on the actions undertaken to comply with the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee adopted at its 27th session in July 2003;

2. *Reiterates* the importance of adherence to the government-approved management plan for the property;
3. *Encourages* the State Party to clarify the distribution of tasks among the different national and provincial authorities involved in the protection and management of the World Heritage property, so as to avoid overlapping of their responsibilities and roles.

**66. Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (Nepal)
(C 666)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1997

Criteria: C (iii) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount from 1997 to 2003: US\$40,000

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 BUR XII.63.127

27 COM 7B.53

Conservation issues:

The report submitted by the State Party to the Secretariat on 21 January 2004 draws attention to the conflicting recommendations made by successive expert missions on whether the excavated part of the shrine should be covered or left exposed. It also mentions that the Maya Devi shrine is a living pilgrimage site with worldwide spiritual value, incessantly visited by devotees, whose religious sensibilities had been affected by the disagreeable conditions whereby the Marker Stone and the image of Maya Devi were accommodated in a temporary shelter. It was due to this situation that the decision was taken to reinstall a permanent protective structure.

The report also indicates the provision of a management plan of the holy complex which includes issues regarding entry regulation, guidance and facilities for visitors, promotional activities, access control to the main sanctum, logging of weather record and security measures of the property. It also highlights the action taken by the State Party who fully implemented the UNESCO recommendations made at the 2001 International Scientific Experts Meeting, using them as guidelines for the restoration work of the Maya Devi shrine.

A UNESCO/ICOMOS joint mission undertaken in May 2004 assessed the impact of the newly constructed Maya Devi shrine on the World Heritage value of the property as a whole. The mission findings and recommendations will be reported at the time of the 28th session of the Committee.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.66**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the UNESCO/ICOMOS joint reactive monitoring mission findings and recommendations, which took place in May 2004.

**67. State Historical and Cultural Park “Ancient Merv”
(Turkmenistan) (C 886)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2000

Criteria: C (ii) (iii)

Previous International Assistance:

2000: US\$25,300, Technical support for the monitoring of principle earthen architectural monuments within Ancient Merv;

2002: US\$ 68,814, Training for the Reinforcement of the capacities of the Department for the Protection and Restoration of Monuments, Turkmenistan

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

27 COM 7B.55

Conservation Issues:

No new information has been received from the State Party. A mission to the Sultan Sanjar Mausoleum by an international wall paintings expert is being sponsored under the Italy Funds-in-Trust agreement with the Centre. This mission, originally foreseen to take place in 2003, is now scheduled to take place in 2004.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.67**

The World heritage Committee,

1. *Recalling* decision 27 COM 7 (b) 55 taken by the Committee at its 27th session in 2003,
2. *Notes with regret* that the report on the progress made in enhancing the conservation and management of the property was not received for examination by the Committee at its 28th session in 2004,
3. *Reiterates* its request to the State Party to submit, by 1 February 2005, a report on the progress made in enhancing the conservation and management of the property, for examination by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005;
4. *Further reiterates* its request to the State Party to strengthen the legal protection and management mechanism to safeguard this extensive property, especially against looting of excavated archaeological areas.

68. Historic Centre of Shakhriyabz (Uzbekistan) (C 885)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2000

Criteria: (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

27 COM 7B.56

Conservation issues:

At the request of the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session, the State Party supplied a report on the state of conservation of this World Heritage property. The report recapitulates and updates conservation and restoration projects carried out at a number of individual monuments since 1972. No reference was made to the comprehensive conservation and management plan, which the State Party reported as being in preparation at the time of inscription on the World Heritage List in 2000 and details of which were requested during the previous session of the Committee. Reference is made however to monitoring procedures set up for the main monuments.

In December 2001, the National Commission of Uzbekistan for UNESCO alerted the World Heritage Centre the potential structural threats facing the Ak Sarai Palace and other important monuments at Shakhriyabz World Heritage site. Upon receiving this news, which included information on extensive cracks, leaning walls and humidity inside the Ak Sarai Palace, the World Heritage Centre organized, in 2002, an international expert mission to assist the national authorities in elaborating a conservation plan to stabilise the Ak Sarai Palace.

During this mission, the international expert noted that, in addition to major cracks due to past earthquakes, structural threats, human activities, the rise in ground water and weathering (rain and frost), were persistent issues threatening the structures. The combination of these issues was negatively affecting structural stability of the Ak Sarai Palace, as well as accelerating the decay of historic building materials. Furthermore, while the emerging commercial and tourism developments represent a rich, as yet unexploited, economic potential for Shakhriyabz city, such activities are uncontrolled and pose significant development pressure on the property. The UNESCO mission recommended as a priority that preventive measures to stabilize the Ak Sarai Palace, as well as systematic monitoring and management of the site, be ensured. Subsequently, an emergency assistance request for the stabilisation of the Ak Sarai building was elaborated and submitted by the Government of Uzbekistan, in close collaboration with the UNESCO expert and the World Heritage Centre.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.68**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Notes the information provided by the State Party further to the request of the of the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session;*
2. *Recalls that at the time of inscription on the World Heritage List, the State Party had assured the World Heritage Committee on its intention to elaborate a comprehensive conservation and management plan to strengthen the conservation process at this property,*
3. *Requests the State Party to submit, by 1 February 2005, a report on the progress made in the elaboration of the abovementioned management plan for the Committee's examination at its 29th session in 2005.*

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

PART I

69. City-Museum Reserve of Mtskheta (Georgia) (C 798)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994

Criteria: C (iii) (iv)

Previous international assistance:

1999: US\$19,000 (technical cooperation), Preparation of the heritage and tourism master plan for Mtskheta.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 46

27 COM 7B.62

Conservation issues:

At the request of the 27th session of the World Heritage Committee, a joint UNESCO-ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission was undertaken from 8 to 16 November 2003. Despite the political situation in Georgia at that time, which made it difficult to organise meetings with the relevant authorities, the mission evaluated the state of conservation of the property, the management of the World Heritage site and consulted local stakeholders on how best to implement the Master Plan developed by UNESCO and UNDP in 2003. Subsequently, the Georgian authorities provided a state of conservation report on 25 February 2004, which addresses a number of conservation issues.

The Church of Georgia has constructed new buildings in the vicinity of the Cathedral of Sveti Tskhoveli, which in the opinion of the mission affects the character of the World Heritage site. While the basilica of the Cathedral is in a good condition, the inappropriate method used for the restoration of mural paintings is of particular concern as the mission observed surface abrasion and general deterioration. The mission noted further conservation problems that include damages on the defence wall and uneven ground level as well as an underground concrete structure outside the defence wall of the Cathedral. The Georgian Church constructed a bishop palace within the ground, in view to demolish it later when another building is constructed outside the wall of the Cathedral. The State Party further mentioned in its report that the Church has made some inappropriate interventions for the conservation of the property. The exterior of the Samtavro Monastic Complex is in a good condition but the mission could not obtain permission to examine the interior of the building. The state of conservation of Jvari is favourable, except it is necessary to remove the scaffolding from the earlier restoration work and to define a buffer zone for the property. The State Party stated in its report that inappropriate material was used to restore the small church of the Jvari Monastery.

The mission considers that the Master Plan for the World Heritage property needs to be implemented with a more active involvement of the local, regional and national

authorities as well as the Church. The translation of the Master Plan into Georgian would further facilitate this process. Moreover, future developments should take into account the vision provided in the Master Plan and to keep the integrity of the World Heritage property by, for example, respecting the existing architectural styles and using local material. The mission explored different ways in which the Master Plan could be supported by different international and national organisations including the World Bank, Soros Foundation and UNDP.

The ICOMOS-UNESCO mission highlights an urgent need to clarify the extent of a core zone and to define buffer zones as appropriate. At the time of the inscription in 1994, ICOMOS evaluated the outstanding universal value of only three churches. The World Heritage Committee at its 18th session in 1994, therefore, suggested to the State Party to change the name of the property to the "Historic Churches of Mtskheta" but this has never been taken up. The Georgian authorities stated in their state of conservation report that they wish to extend the core zone of the property to include an area as defined by a triangle of the churches of Jvari, Samtavro and Armatsikhe. The mission of November 2003 supports the view taken by the State Party in order to ensure landscape integrity, while recognising potential problems in controlling future developments in the enlarged area.

In accordance with the Constitutional Agreement with the State, the Georgian Orthodox Church owns all ecclesiastic buildings in Georgia. The report by the State Party confirmed the view of the mission that the interventions made by the Georgian Church for the conservation of the property are often inappropriate and the country lacks an overall process to manage urban development and other conservation issues at the national and local level.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.69**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Noting the outcome of the joint UNESCO-ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property,*
2. *Expresses its serious concerns for the lack of management mechanism for the property as well as insufficient coordination between the Georgian Church and the national authorities in safeguarding the outstanding universal value of the property;*
3. *Urges the State Party to change the name of the property to "Historic Churches of Mtskheta" as suggested by the World Heritage Committee at its 19th session in 1994, following the original ICOMOS evaluation at the time of the inscription that refers to the Churches of Jvari, Samtavro and Armatsikhe as the components of the property, and to prepare a detailed map indicating their core and buffer zones;*

4. *Further encourages the State Party to implement the Master Plan developed by UNESCO and UNDP in 2003;*
5. *Requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre an updated report by 1 February 2005 so that the World Heritage Committee could examine the state of conservation of the property at its 29th session in 2005.*

70. Cologne Cathedral (Germany) (C 292 Rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1996

Criteria: C (ii), (iv) and (vi)

Previous international assistance:

None

Previous deliberations:

27 COM 7B.63

Conservation issues:

An expert conference on the high-rise building project of Cologne took place in November 2003, organised by the city of Cologne. As requested at the 27th session of the Committee, representatives of UNESCO and ICOMOS were invited to attend the meeting. They gave statements on the issue and were furthermore informed of the approved building plan for the Deutz area. During the panel discussion four points of concern were brought to the attention of the meeting by the UNESCO representative related to the high-rise project and the way it might adversely affect the World Heritage property: the state of conservation of the Cathedral; the need to define effective legal boundaries of the site, including the definition of a buffer zone; the need to consider the site within its environmental and cultural landscape context, wherein the visual integrity of the Cathedral of Cologne as an outstanding feature of the well-known urban skyline should be protected; and the support for urban development at a larger scale provided that adequate architectural solutions are foreseen to avoid adverse effects on the outstanding value of the site.

On 29 January 2004 the German authorities submitted an update report on the planning situation. The report addresses the four points of concern brought up by UNESCO and ICOMOS, particularly the lack of a buffer zone and the impact of the project on the visual integrity of the property. While the outline of a buffer zone incorporates the historic city centre on the left bank of the Rhine and the river Rhine itself, the master plan for Deutz still foresees five high-rise buildings with the heights of 103 to 120 m situated in the East-ward view axis of the Cathedral. The current master plan of Deutz is part of a general master plan for the city, foreseeing more high-rise projects in other parts of the City of Cologne. By letter dating 11 March 2004, UNESCO and ICOMOS were invited by the City of Cologne to further discuss the building project.

ICOMOS noted that the planned high-rise buildings, especially the group on the Deutz site if built as foreseen, would considerably change the urban scale of the whole city centre and destroy the spatial quality of the World Heritage property Cologne Cathedral. While city authorities are firmly attached to the high-rise constructions and not willing to modify the concept, local preservation bodies, official as well as non-official, raise awareness for cultural values under threat.

ICOMOS announced to act with all vigour in favour of preservation of the irreplaceable cultural values of the Cologne Cathedral and its setting. It furthermore regretted that the city authorities did not pass full information relevant to the case for debate. While discussing the planning concept, the architectural design of some of the high-rise buildings had already been done due to prior economic commitments. The economic plans for the development and expected outputs are not convincing; the feasibility of the high-rise concept therefore is questionable. ICOMOS clearly stated that the development plans are necessary for the city but the existing cultural values have to be respected. In the case of the World Heritage property of the Cologne Cathedral the height of planned new constructions in Köln-Deutz should be revised. An analytical part of the planning process, if done consequently, will show clearly the negative impact of the project on the whole city.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.70**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Thanking the German authorities for having provided the requested information,*
2. *Noting the information provided on the current situation at the site, including the announcement to continue with the implementation of the construction project,*
3. *Regrets that the State Party has not yet designated a buffer zone for the property despite the Committee's request at the time of the inscription;*
4. *Recalls paragraph 82 of the Operational Guidelines with regard to ascertained danger (including serious deterioration of architectural or town-planning coherence, serious deterioration of urban space) and potential danger (including threatening effects of town planning);*
5. *Urges the City of Cologne to reconsider the current building plans as to their visual impact on the World Heritage property of Cologne Cathedral;*
6. *Invites the City of Cologne to collaborate with the Centre and ICOMOS in the review of the building plans;*
7. *Requests the State Party to provide a detailed report on the situation by 1 February 2005 for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session in 2005.*

71. Acropolis, Athens (Greece) (C 404)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1987

Criteria: C (i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 49

27COM 7B. 67

Conservation issues:

The World Heritage Centre received three issues of the "Acropolis Restoration News" from the Greek authorities, together with a letter dated 7 February 2004. The review, published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, documents the restoration work that had been carried out at the World Heritage property from 2001 to 2003. By letter of 2 February 2004 the State Party submitted information concerning the definition of the buffer zone and the conservation and restoration projects for the Acropolis monuments as well as a report on the "Unification of the Archaeological sites of Athens", as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session in 2003. The Ministry of Culture together with the Ministry of Environment and Development have launched a general conservation and revitalisation programme for the main archaeological sites in Athens, including a conservation plan for the Acropolis. The plan foresees long-term restoration projects for the Parthenon and the Propylaea and it is also mentioned that the restoration of the Erhethion has been finalised recently.

Concerning the definition of the buffer zone north/east of the World Heritage property, the Greek authorities referred to the Presidential Decree of 25 May 1987 by which the buffer zone (zone A and B) had been defined. In this area north/east of the property (zone A and B) the construction height is limited to a maximum of 4 m in Zone A and 7 meters in zone B to ensure the visual integrity of the property. The Greek authorities further indicate that a similar zone (Zone 3) situated south of the Acropolis, which had been established in 1975, was reinforced in 2002 to regulate construction developments and to limit the construction height to the height of already existing buildings.

With regard to the proposed high-rise building in Misaraliotou Street, located in the area lying to the south/east of the existing buffer zone (Zone 3), the report indicates that construction work has been suspended to await a decision regarding the extension of the building height control to this area. ICOMOS strongly urges the competent authorities to extend the controlled area as proposed, in order to protect the visual setting of the property. On 8 March 2004 the State Party submitted a detailed map, which illustrates the buffer zone mentioned above as well as the location of the proposed high-rise building.

As requested by the World Heritage Committee, the Greek authorities have also provided a report on the project of the new Acropolis museum on 5 April 2004. The site for the new museum at the foot of the Acropolis was chosen by the Central Archaeological Council of the Ministry of Culture for several reasons, including its central position vis-à-vis the planned integration of the archaeological sites in Athens. Archaeological excavations that had been carried out previously revealed archaeological remains, with the result that a second architectural competition for the planned museum was organised. The new design incorporates the most important of these remains and makes them accessible to the general public by a complex glass construction.

ICOMOS stated, that the new design is simple and does not conflict with the classical architecture of the Acropolis and that it will have a minimal visual impact on the World Heritage property.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.71**

The World Heritage Committee

1. Thanking the Greek authorities for the report provided, concerning the conservation of the World Heritage property, including the redefinition of the buffer zone as well as information on construction developments in the immediate vicinity of the property;
2. Congratulates the State Party on its project "Unification of the Archaeological Sites of Athens," and on the long-term conservation plan, including the new museum design for the Acropolis, as this will enhance the protection and presentation of the World Heritage property;
3. Strongly urges the State Party to define a coherent buffer zone surrounding the Acropolis and to extend the existing buffer zone (Zone 3) to the area of the proposed high-rise building, in order to limit the construction height and ensure the visual integrity of the property;
4. Recalls its request to undertake a visual impact study for any construction developments;
5. Requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed on further developments, including the extension of the buffer zone and the visual impact study.

72. Archaeological Ensemble of the Bend of the Boyne (Ireland) (C 659)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1993

Criteria: C (i) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

27 COM 7B.68

Conservation issues:

Following the request by the World Heritage Committee, a joint UNESCO-ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the site took place from 17 to 21 February 2004. The main aim of the mission was to evaluate the impact of a proposed municipal waste incinerator approximately 1.5 km from the buffer zone and 3.5 km away from the edge of the inscribed area.

The planning application has proved to be very controversial as demonstrated by a large number of objections following receipt of the application by the Meath County Council, the planning authority in January 2001. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) carried out by the applicant, Indaver Ireland, accompanied the application. The national appeal board's decision, which granted permission in March 2003, is currently subject to a judicial review. Parallel to the planning process, the Irish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has also been assessing the application for a Waste License since December 2001. EPA has advised the Meath County Council in March 2004 to increase the height of the stack from 40m to 65m in order to facilitate further dispersal of potential emissions. This recommendation overrides the existing planning consent according to the Irish legislation.

Having visited the site as well as examined the available planning documents and the EIA, the mission concluded:

- (a) Direct possible impacts: The application site has been subject to an archaeological assessment which concluded that there was no evidence for the existence of any archaeological material on the site and certainly nothing to suggest any cultural remains from the megalithic period.
- (b) Visual impacts: The application area for the waste incinerator is separated from the core zone by a ridge of high ground with Red Mountain at its western end and Donore Hill at its eastern end. Between the two hills there is a saddle on which lies the village of Donore. From the core zone there are protected views from Knowth, Newgrange and Dowth. The views from Newgrange and Dowth are somewhat compromised by two factory chimneys belonging to the 30 years old cement factory which are clearly visible on the eastern side of the Donore saddle. The applicant provided photomontages and lines of sight information which indicated that the stack at its height of 65 m will be

visible from Dowth but not from Newgrange. While the construction of the incinerator stack will be a visual intrusion the mission considered that it would have a minimum impact on the World Heritage site compared with the existing cement factory nearby.

- (c) Polluting emissions: The estimated chemical composition of the emissions is provided in the EIA and the Centre is seeking scientific advice from appropriate experts such as the ICSU. According to the assessment commissioned by the applicant the emission of pollutant such as SO₂ and NO_x are well within the regulatory limit set by the EU and other European Bodies while there is no defined standard relating to the effects of ambient air pollutants on stonework or historical monuments.
- (d) Management Plan: Brú na Bóinne World Heritage site Management Plan was published in December 2002 by the former national heritage service, Dúchas. The Management Plan had not been submitted to the Centre and ICOMOS prior to the mission.

The mission also considered a number of other issues concerning the state of conservation of the World Heritage property such as future infrastructure development and the definition of the buffer zone.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.72**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Noting the outcome of the joint UNESCO-ICOMOS mission to the property and that the requested Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed waste incinerator has been provided to the Centre and the Advisory Body, ICOMOS,*
2. *Urges the State Party to consider all recommendations made by the UNESCO-ICOMOS monitoring mission of February 2004, in particular concerning visual and polluting impacts as well as buffer zone definition;*
3. *Requests that the Centre be kept informed of any further changes in the design of the incinerator as well as the completion of the project in order to confirm that the visual impacts are as minor as anticipated.*

73. Rock Drawings in Valcamonica (Italy) (C 94)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979

Criteria: C (iii) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

None

Conservation issues:

Archaeologists and concerned citizens alerted the World Heritage Centre of a number of conservation issues at the property. The wooden walkway at rock No. 57 has been removed in 2003 to be replaced by a galvanized steel walkway drilled directly into the rock. The installation of steel walkways might be extended to other rock art areas. ICOMOS strongly advised against such a construction using metal, as it is a heavy intrusion into the rock panel even if the structure may be removable.

Furthermore, the construction of a road immediately adjacent to the site has been reported to the World Heritage Centre. Although the project has apparently been stopped due to financial constraints, the completed section of the road has impacted the rock art site of Paspardo. The landscape around the property seems to have been further compromised by a newly built power line in the vicinity of the property. The State Party has not informed the World Heritage Centre of any of these infrastructure developments.

Since the inscription of the property in 1979, the State Party has not clearly defined the boundaries of the property nor elaborated a management and conservation plan. ICOMOS regretted the lack of adequate boundaries and a comprehensive management plan, which means that no mechanism exists to consider the above-mentioned infrastructure developments against the responsibilities of the State Party under the *World Heritage Convention*. While an annual number of visitors of 60,000 is reported, impacts of tourism are not addressed nor monitored, and the on-site presentation of the rock art is inappropriate without the indication of its World Heritage status. While ICOMOS acknowledged the achievements made in the fields of rock art research and public education, it also noted with concern that available funding from the national authorities for such activities continue to decrease over the years.

At the time of the preparation of the document, the Italian authorities have not responded to the requests by the World Heritage Centre to provide comments on the state of conservation of the site. ICOMOS was concerned about the state of conservation of the property and it encouraged the State Party to invite a mission in order to evaluate the situation and to respond to the conservation problems as soon as possible.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15B.73

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recalling paragraph 56 of the Operational Guidelines in force at the time of the preparation of this document;
2. Urges the State Party to develop a management plan that addresses conservation issues, development control, tourism management and future rock art research;
3. Requests the State Party to clarify the boundaries of the property;
4. Encourages the State Party to improve the presentation of the site, by clearly indicating its World Heritage status on-site and by providing more information on the site and its rock art;
5. Requests the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO-ICOMOS mission to the site to review the state of conservation of the site;
6. Further requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre an updated report by 1 February 2005 for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session in 2005. This report should include: (a) clarification of the status of the infrastructure development in the vicinity of the site, (b) an update on the construction of metal walkway, particularly on Rock No 57, (c) progress made towards developing a management plan and (d) detailed maps indicating the boundaries of the World Heritage property.

74. Historic Centre of Riga (Latvia) (C 852)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1997

Criteria: C (i) (ii)

Previous international assistance:

1996-2003: US\$7,500, Preparatory assistance; US\$144,800: Technical Cooperation; US\$5,543: Promotional Assistance

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

27 COM 7B.69

Conservation issues:

The Latvian authorities have provided a report with update information on the implementation of the law adopted in 2003 and the construction project "Saules akmens" as requested by the Committee at its 27th session, including the:

- (a) Draft preservation and development plan: To date the draft preservation and development plan for the Historic Centre of Riga has not been finalised. The Riga City Council, which is working on the completion of the plan is taking into account the proposal "Vision 2020" which was developed in 2002 by the State Inspection for Heritage Preservation.
- (b) Law on "On Preservation and Protection of the Historic Centre of Riga": In order to comply with the obligations under the *World Heritage Convention*, a new law was prepared "On Preservation and Protection of the Historic Centre of Riga" and adopted in June 2003. The new law determines the precise area of the World Heritage site and its buffer zone. By letter of 3 February 2004, the State Inspection for Heritage Protection has informed the Centre that the Constitutional Court of Latvia has recognised the Law "On Preservation and Protection of the Historic Centre of Riga" in response to the appeal of the Municipality of Riga to annul some of the essential norms. A Council of Preservation and Development of the Historic Centre of Riga has been set up under this law, which meets twice a month to review issues concerning the preservation and development of the site. It is a consultative institution with members from state and municipality authorities. Draft regulations for the protection, preservation, utilisation and transformation of the cultural historical environment as well as for the implementation of development projects has been submitted to the Government for adoption in February 2004. Changes to the General Construction regulations have also been introduced which determine that building permission for any construction within a state protected monument or its protection zone will only be issued after the State Inspection has granted permission. According to these regulations the State Inspection also has the authority to halt construction works if normative enactments are violated. The State Inspection of Heritage Protection has drafted proposals for the preservation and development plan of the Historic Centre of Riga - "Vision 2020". The document serves as

basis for developing preservation and development model for the Historic Centre of Riga drafted by the Riga City Council.

- (c) The "Saules akmens" project: Despite the concentrated efforts of the Ministry for Culture, the State Inspection and the National Commission the project could not be stopped due to eventual economic loss. However an improvement of the architectural volume and the preservation of public space have been achieved. The following revisions have been made: The building height has been reduced and the silhouette of building has been narrowed, to improve visibility of the city panorama of the right bank; building area has been reduced and the green space has been expanded, reducing parking to 100 places; entrance drive has been transformed to underground parking place, thus widening the view of Old Riga; construction of extra elevator in the height of 8 storeys with glass walls for public use to allow visitor to view Old Riga and surroundings; expanded green area with lawn and pool for sightseeing of right bank of River Daugava.

ICOMOS acknowledged the adoption of the Law on the Preservation and Protection of Riga's Historical centre in April 2003 and suggests speedy implementation. The Law on the Preservation and Protection of Riga's Historical Centre gives the legal framework for co-operation between different actors (national and local authorities, decision makers and experts) to preserve and develop Historic Centre of Riga as a World Heritage Site. An instrument for management of the Riga World Heritage site is the "Riga Historic Centre preservation and development plan", which is to be adopted in 2004. The management plan shall be in full accordance with the guidelines set up by the World Heritage Committee.

ICOMOS requested that the construction project be reviewed and to fully guarantee the respect of the approved detailed plan of Kipsala in order to protect the World Heritage property and its visual integrity. ICOMOS stated that the project has been reviewed according to the building volume but not to the number of storeys. This was ICOMOS' main concern in its report in June 2003. The completed building would be 26 storeys high while the Kipsala area detail plan adopted in 2001 accepts only 15 storeys. ICOMOS expresses its concern that the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee have not been respected.

According to the report other proposed development activities that could degrade culture historical environment in Kipsala are stopped and will not be implemented. In ICOMOS's understanding this includes the plans to build a marina at Kipsala.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15B.74

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Noting the information provided by the Latvian authorities on the construction project within the buffer zone,*
2. *Acknowledges the efforts undertaken by national authorities to implement the Law on the Preservation and Protection of Riga's Historical Centre 2003;*
3. *Encourages the State Party to finalize and implement the preservation and development plan for the Historic Centre of Riga, in close cooperation with the City authorities, and to ensure an overall vision for the site, including the town planning strategy and a comprehensive urban management;*
4. *Requests the State Party to carefully review all projects foreseen in the area and its buffer zone, and to provide an up-date report to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2005 including a confirmation of the reduced building height and that the project for the building of a marina at Kipsala has been stopped.*

**75. Curonian Spit (Lithuania/Russian Federation)
(C 994)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2000

Criteria: C (ii) (iv)

Previous international assistance:

Total amount (up to 2002): US\$85,000 (including US\$20,000 for Technical co-operation in 2002, on site information centre)

Previous deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 57

27 COM 7B.70

Conservation issues:

The UNESCO mission to the Curonian Spit took place from 2 to 6 November 2003 as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session. At the time of the mission the oil production had not started but the platform and a pipeline had already been built about 22 km from the Curonian Spit and 3 km from the border of two States Parties.

While relevant international legal instruments exist, including the Convention on the Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (ESPOO 1991) and the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (Helsinki 1992), the Russian Federation has not ratified either of these conventions. UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies were not made aware of the D-6 oil exploration project at the time of the evaluation of the property.

The mission learnt that the Russian Federation has followed its national procedure concerning the conservation measures against possible pollution from the Lukoil D-6 oil exploration. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has not, however, been undertaken jointly with Lithuania and the risk assessment and emergency plans do not cover the Lithuanian part of the Curonian Spit. Lukoil invited a Lithuanian working group formed by the order of the Lithuanian Prime Minister on "the safety of the project for the development of the D-6 oil field" in Kaliningrad from 13 to 14 October 2003 and the working group could examine technical details of the project as well as the 17 volumes of the EIA carried out by the Russian Federation. This working group came to the conclusion that the Russian Federation employs the latest technology, which aims at zero discharge of oil pollutants. The authorities of Lithuania, nevertheless considered, as outlined in their submission of 31 October 2003, that they do not possess the necessary expertise to fully judge the quality and the impacts of the D-6 oil production project and therefore they requested to involve an independent international expert in undertaking the EIA in a transboundary context.

The mission considered that the possibility of oil pollution is of particular concern to Lithuania, as ocean currents and prevailing winds would carry oil spills towards the Lithuanian part of the coast within 1/2 to 7 days after an

accident. The EIA, risk assessment measures and emergency plans are a fundamental principle guiding transboundary co-operation under the *World Heritage Convention* and they need to cover the whole of the Curonian Spit and not only the territory of the Russian Federation.

Furthermore, the mission found that excellent communication and co-operation exist between the two States Parties at the site management level particularly when dealing with conservation problems related to storm damage, minor oil pollution, tourism pressure and deforestation. There have been several joint conservation projects including the preparation of an atlas of the area that classifies the sensitive environmental zones of the Curonian Spit. On 5 November 2003, the mission convened a round table discussion where representatives of both States Parties agreed to hold an intergovernmental commission for bilateral cooperation in the area of environmental protection.

The Lithuanian Permanent Delegation informed the World Heritage Centre on 11 February 2004 that the oil production by the Russian Federation might begin during the first half of 2004 in the D-6 oil field in the vicinity of the World Heritage property.

The state of conservation report provided on 10 March 2004 by the Ministry of the Natural Resources of the Russian Federation highlights conservation efforts taken for the safeguarding the site including monitoring, public environmental education as well as scientific research. The report argued that satisfactory measures have been undertaken to ensure the safeguarding of the World Heritage property by outlining the EIA exercise carried out by the Russian Federation in 2003 as well as a series of past bilateral cooperation and contact with Lithuania concerning the preparation of the D-6 project. The authorities of Russian Federation however, raised their concerns about the oil exploration in Klaipeda port also in the Baltic Sea by Lithuania and its possible impact on the World Heritage property. The report did not refer to the commencement of the D-6 oil production by the Russian Federation.

The World Heritage Committee may interpret that Article 6.3 of the *Convention* ("each State Party to this *Convention* undertakes not to take any deliberate measures which might damage directly or indirectly the cultural and natural heritage situated on the territory of other States Parties of this *Convention*"), was violated by the Russian Federation if a joint EIA could not be completed with both States Parties before the commencement of the planned oil exploitation.

In the opinion of ICOMOS, the management of the property by the Russian Federation seems to concentrate almost entirely on the natural attributes and on the National Park with only a brief mention of traditional boats and archaeological sites. It would be therefore desirable if the State Party could acknowledge the cultural attributes more clearly in their management process and consider the threat of oil spills to relevant cultural aspects of the property.

IUCN reiterated its policy that no oil/gas operations should take place in any World Heritage site.

In accordance with the recommendation of the UNESCO mission of November 2003, the Advisory Bodies stressed the importance of organising an inter-governmental meeting between the States Parties in order to discuss how to carry out a joint EIA that covers the territory of both States Parties which shall lead to the preparation of a joint work plan for project implementation and prevention/mitigation measures to ensure the conservation of the World Heritage property. If both States Parties agreed with the procedure, an independent organisation may be consulted to assess the EIA carried out by the Russian Federation and to extend the assessment in a transboundary context.

The States Parties informed the World Heritage Centre that the inter-governmental meeting was held on 16 April 2004 in Vilnius, Lithuania, and that the report of the meeting was being finalised at the time of the preparation of this document.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15B.75

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Recalling the decisions taken at its 26th (26 COM 21 (b) 57) and 27th (27 COM 7B.70) sessions concerning the Curonian Spit as well as Article 6.3 of the Convention,*
2. *Expresses its serious concern that the Russian Federation is planning to commence oil exploitation of the D-6 oil field in the vicinity of the World Heritage property before a joint Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) could be undertaken between both States Parties;*
3. *Requests both States Parties to report to the World Heritage Centre the outcomes of the inter-governmental meeting between the States Parties;*
4. *Encourages both States Parties to involve an independent expert organisation in order to carry out an EIA in a trans-boundary context which shall lead to the preparation of a joint work plan for prevention/mitigation measures such as risk assessment measures and emergency plans, in order to ensure the conservation of the World Heritage property and requests the World Heritage Centre to assist the States Parties in this process;*
5. *Further requests both States Parties to provide to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2005 a report on the state of conservation of the property, including information on the co-operation between the States Parties, in order that the World Heritage Committee can examine the state of conservation of the property at its 29th session in 2005.*

76. The Megalithic Temples of Malta (Malta) (C 132 bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1980;
extended in 1992

Criterion: C (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25 EX BUR III.261

25 COM VIII.110-151

Conservation issues:

In 2003 an exchange of letters took place between the World Heritage Centre and the Maltese authorities on several issues related to the Megalithic Temples of Malta, in particular on the proposal for interim landfills for domestic waste near the temples of Hagar Qim and Mnajdra in Qrendi. The State Party also requested UNESCO's involvement in a EU-funded project for a Heritage Park for these two temples. Furthermore, a letter of complaint was received on the illegal construction of houses close to the Ggatija temple, on Gozo Island, which resulted in the destruction of ancient remains. The Centre also received information about continued vandalism and illegal bird-catching structures, including trappers' huts, in the area of the temples.

The State Party provided the Centre with an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which includes a section dedicated to the impact of the landfills on the World Heritage property. In the conclusions of the EIA, the temples are being identified as the most vulnerable receptors of permanent impacts resulting from vibration and chemical emissions, and will also be affected by temporary impacts resulting from developments activities (noise, dust, odour, artificial light, traffic). The EIA foresees in appropriate thresholds on vibration and chemical emission to prevent damage to the cultural heritage. The EIA was transmitted to ICOMOS and ICCROM for comments.

Furthermore, the World Heritage Centre has been informed that the Ministry for Youth and the Arts, in consultation with Heritage Malta, the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, the Malta Environment and Planning Authority, and the Malta Tourism Authority, has prepared a draft brief for an International Competition for a *Hagar Qim and Mnajdra Heritage Park*.

ICOMOS stated that whilst the report is a thorough piece of work, ICOMOS continues to have grave reservations about the impact on the two monuments. Although landfill operations are estimated to last only 2–3 years, they will require during that period the construction of new roads and other facilities will seriously degrade the setting of the monuments, both visually and audibly. Noxious emissions may also be anticipated, given the nature of the refuse likely to be dumped here, which would be unacceptable to the many tourists and other visitors to the sites. Heavy traffic is to be expected, and this could have a deleterious impact on

the structural stability of the megalithic monuments, which have suffered in the past from operations at the now-disused quarries.

ICOMOS is conscious of the socio-economic pressures on the State Party that have occasioned this proposal. In its opinion, however, the cultural significance of the two megalithic monuments, as acknowledged by their inscription on the World Heritage List, and the adhesion of the Government of Malta to the World Heritage Convention, should be seen as reasons for abandoning the current project and finding an alternative site elsewhere.

The jury for the planned international competition for a heritage park in Malta mainly consists of architects. ICOMOS suggests that representatives from different disciplines, such as archaeology, conservation sciences, and structural engineering should be considered as members of the jury.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.76**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Acknowledges with appreciation the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the landfills for domestic waste near the property submitted by the State Party;
2. Regrets that few improvements have taken place to increase the protection and interpretation of the site, which is still affected by illegal constructions and vandalism;
3. Expresses its concern about the potential negative impact of the proposed landfills on the outstanding universal value of the World Heritage property;
4. Urges the State Party to seek another location for the landfills, the utility of which is not disputed;
5. Recommends that a management plan be developed for all the seven temples that form the property, and not only for the two being affected by the plans of the Heritage Park;
6. Requests the State Party to provide an updated report to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2005 on the situation of the landfill and the project for a Heritage Park and the development of a management plan, in order that the World Heritage Committee can examine the state of conservation of the property at its 29th session in 2005.

77. Cultural Landscape of Sintra (Portugal) (C 723)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1995

Criteria: C (ii) (iv) (v)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 66

27 COM 7B.72

Conservation issues:

The Centre received the following documentation: (a) A management plan prepared for the Cultural Landscape of Sintra (phase I) and a study on the state of conservation of several parts of the property that are administered by the Agency Parques de Sintra-Monte da Lua. Both documents were prepared at the request of the municipality of Sintra; (b) The annual report of the Parques de Sintra-Monte da Lua, in which several restoration works are presented; (c) A copy of the *Diario da Republica* of 8 January 2004, in which new regulation is included for the National Park of Sintra. These documents were presented during a meeting at the World Heritage Centre in January 2004. Furthermore, the municipality of Sintra informed that the Mayor had appointed a site coordinator. Despite the improvements in the field of research and planning, and some of the conservation works carried out by the society Parques de Sintra-Monte da Lua, it seems that the efficient implementation of measures to improve the deteriorating state of conservation of the property is still lacking. This may be due to the lack of clarity concerning management responsibility for the whole World Heritage property, which seems to be divided under the municipality of Sintra (the old town), the society Parques de Sintra-Monte da Lua (in charge of conservation works of some plots and buildings of the cultural landscape) and the national authorities in charge of the National Park of Sintra. However, the status of the management plan, its approval and its implementation as well as the status of the management coordinating body remain unclear.

ICOMOS noted that at the time of inscription there was neither a management plan nor an overall management regime. Being situated close to the capital Lisbon the World Heritage site is under considerable urban development pressure. At the same time it provides a beneficial green lung for the city of Lisbon but tourism also brings considerable visitor pressure. In 2000 a joint ICOMOS/IUCN mission visited the site to discuss conservation and progress with management. The mission produced nine recommendations, which were accepted by the Bureau and the Committee at its 25th sessions and reiterated at the Committee's 26th and 27th sessions. The mission highlighted the serious condition of some structures and the urgent need for a management plan that could begin to address conservation needs and prioritise repairs, restoration and maintenance. The State Party was requested to submit a management plan to the Centre since 2001. In January 2004, the State Party

submitted a Conservation Inspection Report of the site together with Phase I of a Management Plan. ICOMOS also commented on these two documents. Concerning the Conservation Inspection Report, it noted that this interdisciplinary and inter-institutional report was carried out in May 2003. It provided an extensive assessment of the state of conservation of the site and the threats to both its cultural and natural qualities. It covered assessments of key sites, such as the Monserrat Palace and Park, the Moorish Castle, the Pena Park and the Capuchos Convent; of archaeological resources, of the 'natural' park, of inappropriate interventions; and of visitor facilities. It then recommended actions, responsibilities and measures to restructure the management arrangements for the World Heritage property. ICOMOS noted that this is an extremely useful baseline for the preparation of a management plan. It gives an overview of the conservation problems affecting the site, the parlous conservation state of some of the key buildings, the extent of the conservation work necessary merely to keep the structures from deteriorating further and the threats to the authenticity of the site. It also lists work that should be given high priority. The list of high priority work is very extensive with detailed recommendations and the problems are stressed. The report illustrated some of the key issues.

Concerning the Phase I of the Management Plan ICOMOS noted that it consists of Part A with objectives, the qualities of the site, a description of the site, its buffer zone and transition zone, restructuring of the management responsibilities and the creation of advisory committees. Part B contains work carried out at each of the main zones of the site between 1995 and 2002 in both positive and negative terms; and within the buffer and transition zones; and in some instances priorities for future action; presentation and promotion of the site and cultural activities; economic constraints, impacts and opportunities.

The final section 4 sets out priorities for future action. The priority actions and interventions are set out as to: Put in place a structure for the delivery of necessary resources to put together phase I of the plan, suggest ways of addressing the recommendations made by the combined ICOMOS/IUCN missions of 2000, Translate Phase I into Portuguese and use it to consult with the local population on objectives.

Concerning the next stage, ICOMOS noted that the conservation challenges facing the site are considerable will need large amounts of resources, both technical and financial. The joint ICOMOS/IUCN mission suggested that what was needed was short, medium and long-term action plans to address the overall conservation of the site and its long-term maintenance and repair. The Conservation Inspection Report and the Phase I of the Management Plan have started this process. Phase II of the Management Plan is needed to quantify resources and to make choices about detailed proprieties for the overall site and also for individual components within it and thus to begin to prioritise what can and cannot be achieved over the next five years both in terms

of restoration and repair and on-going maintenance. ICOMOS suggested that Phase II should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2005.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15B.77

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Taking note of the information provided by the State Party,*
2. *Recalls the recommendations of the joint ICOMOS/IUCN mission and its request (25 EXT BUR III.306) that a management plan be provided by 31 December 2001;*
3. *Further recalls the information given by the State Party at the Committee's 24th session, indicating that the "Monte da Lua" Agency had been created to strengthen the integrated management of the site;*
4. *Regrets that an efficient coordination is lacking between the different authorities involved in the conservation and management of the property;*
5. *Further regrets that little progress has been made regarding the implementation of management plan and conservation programmes, despite the repeated requests by its 25th, 26th and 27th sessions;*
6. *Decides to consider the possibility of inscribing the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its next session if no efficient financial, administrative and technical measures are taken to improve the property's state of conservation and no management planning process for the whole cultural landscape is being adopted;*
7. *Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a detailed report by 1 February 2005 in which the above-mentioned measures are being clarified, in order that the World Heritage Committee can examine the state of conservation of the property at its 29th session in 2005.*

78. Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor (Serbia and Montenegro) (C 125)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979

Criteria: C (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

Inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1979-2003

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (a) 17

27 COM 7A.27

Conservation issues:

The World Heritage Committee, at its 27th session, decided to remove the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and endorsed the proposal for a Round Table in order to involve all stakeholders in the preparation of a management plan for the property.

The organisation of the Round Table was made possible with the financial support of the German World Heritage Foundation. The meeting gathered some forty national specialists and was organised by the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments in Kotor and its staff. The participants in the Round Table concluded that, given the natural and cultural components of the World Heritage site of Kotor, a concept of integrated conservation and protection is recommended. Full attention should be paid to the entire geographic extension of the site, its cultural landscape, as well as consideration of its intangible values. Particular attention should be paid to the threats to its environmental and aesthetic values by uncontrolled urbanisation and infrastructure development. In the field of restoration, revitalisation and re-use of cultural monuments, international standards should be observed concerning authenticity and integrated conservation and protection.

On 16 February 2004 the World Heritage Centre received a detailed progress report as requested by the Committee.

ICOMOS expressed its appreciation for the fact that the Institute for the Protection of Monuments in Kotor has been requested to coordinate the working group for the development of the management plan, and remarks that the competent authorities provide the Institute with the necessary human resources for carrying out this task. It also recalled that the State Party provides a legal framework for the management plan. Furthermore, ICOMOS stated that the programme and timeframe for the development of the management plan are appropriate, as is the proposal to organise round tables for each of the development phases. The plan should take into account appropriate measures of territorial and urban planning such as conservation plans for urban areas, guidelines for architectural and landscape restoration, thematic guidelines for developing cultural tourism and revalorise the area (such as data collection on

the intangible heritage values of the property, civil and religious traditions).

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.78**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Commends the State Party and the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage in Kotor for the excellent organisation of the Round Table on the development of a management plan;*
2. *Takes note with appreciation of the progress report submitted by the State Party;*
3. *Encourages the State Party to follow the phases indicated in the progress report for the development of an integrated management plan that takes into account the built heritage, the cultural landscape and the intangible heritage values of the property;*
4. *Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a detailed report on the development of an integrated management plan and time table for its preparation, adoption and implementation by 1 February 2005 in order that the World Heritage Committee can examine the state of conservation of the property at its 29th session in 2005.*

79. Route of Santiago de Compostela (Spain) (C 669)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1993

Criteria: C (ii) (iv) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25 EXT BUR III.205-206

27 COM 7B.77

Conservation issues:

The World Heritage Centre received information about the enlargement of the barrage of Yesa, which will flood a stretch of the World Heritage property. On 1 February 2004, the State Party submitted a report on the importance to supply irrigation water to the region, and remarks that permission has been given by the State Administration to relocate the affected protected buildings, which is allowed, according to article 18 of the Law on Spanish Historical Heritage, in cases of “major force or social interest”. The report also stressed that the current route is not the original one travelled by pilgrims, and that the World Heritage declaration “only affects landmarks, or locations on the route rather than a specific route in itself.”

This argument questions the original nomination. In the 1993 identification of the site, the whole length of the route, and a 30-metre strip on either side of the Route, is protected. Moreover, the nomination file not only includes an inventory of protected monuments along the Route, but also a list of areas of special natural value and villages of particular interest, such as Artieda.

ICOMOS stressed that a continuous linear cultural landscape from the Pyrenees to Santiago de Compostela was nominated by the Spanish Government and inscribed by the World Heritage Committee. This included both the “landmarks” referred to in the January 2004 document and clearly defined linking routes, the latter being defined on a series of maps, along with a buffer zone on either side. In the opinion of ICOMOS the State Party should reconsider its case. If it can cite overwhelming socio-economic reasons for the extension of the Yesa reservoir these should be advanced in a request to the World Heritage Committee for the removal of this stretch of the Route on these grounds alone. Should the Committee consent to this proposal, the suggested rerouted stretch should not be included within the World Heritage property.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.79**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Acknowledges with appreciation the extensive information received from the State Party;
2. Recalls that in the nomination file, the World Heritage boundaries of the property are identified as the lands

occupied by the Route itself and a stretch of 30 metres at each side, which is enlarged in towns and villages;

3. Further recalls that the nomination file included an inventory of protected monuments, areas of special natural value and villages, such as Artieda, which will be flooded if the barrage is enlarged;
4. Expresses its concern about the way the enlargement of the barrage will affect the authenticity of the World Heritage property, as it would physically destroy part of it as it was identified at the time of its inscription;
5. Notes that provisions have been taken to preserve, by re-location, specific monuments listed in the inventory;
6. Further recalls Article 11 of the Convention and paragraphs 81-82 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Urges the State Party to reconsider the enlargement of the barrage, and that if it decides that there are overwhelming socio-economic reasons for its enlargement, to submit a request for a change of boundaries to the Committee for removal of this stretch of the Route for this reason only and recalls that if the State Party decides to propose a change of the boundaries of the World Heritage property, an evaluation of the proposal has to be carried out;
8. Requests a report on the situation to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2005 in order that the World Heritage Committee can examine the state of conservation of the property at its 29th session in 2005.

80. Historic Areas of Istanbul (Turkey) (C 356)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1985

Criteria: C (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

1987-1999: US\$316,149, Total International Assistance

2004: US\$19,775, Restoration of a single timber house in Zeyrek

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

23 COM X.46

27 COM 7B.79

Conservation Issues:

At its 27th Session in 2003, the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to submit a report on the state of conservation of the property in order to consider its eventual inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger. This request was provoked by the continued degradation of the civil architecture within the protected areas and uncontrolled development owing to the absence of an urban development and conservation plan since its abrogation in 1996. The State Party provided the Centre with a comprehensive report: "Istanbul Progress Report 2004" prepared by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Upon reviewing the report, ICOMOS and UNESCO provided the following comments:

The Historic Areas of Istanbul consist of four separate urban and archaeological sites within the walled city, which is called "The Historic Peninsula".

The first area includes Hagia Sophia and the Archaeological Park. This site is mostly under the control of the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Every year the Ministry allocates funds for regular maintenance and urgent repairs of the Topkapi Palace, Hagia Sophia, Hagia Eirene and other monuments like the Monastery Church of Chora. For Hagia Sophia, international donations from organizations such as the World Monuments Fund have helped to improve the situation of the dome mosaics. An advisory body of international and national experts which had been supported by UNESCO and the WH Fund in the past continues to meet regularly to discuss the structural and other problems related to preserving this important monument. Conservators from the Central Conservation and Restoration Laboratory collaborate with international teams in the restoration of the dome mosaics.

The pressure of tourism is evident in the area surrounding the Hagia Sophia, but planning control is exercised by decisions of the Board for the Protection of Cultural Heritage. The new 1/5000 scaled Urban Conservation and Development Plan provides the necessary measures to preserve the underground properties.

The Theodosian Walls and the adjoining area are also part of the Historic Areas of Istanbul. The Metropolitan Municipality of Istanbul is the body responsible for the maintenance of the Walls. The Walls have suffered from

some over-restorations in the 1980's. The Municipality has two separate offices responsible for cultural heritage. One office includes experts who select projects, whilst the other office contracts firms for their implementation. It is recommended that the State Party ensures that the two offices work together in order to achieve proper surveillance of projects and works. It also recommends that the Municipality establishes a team of trained craftsmen attached to the Cultural Heritage office, in order to take care of the Wall and its environs properly: controlling undesired occupation, removing vegetation and maintaining the masonry regularly.

After the earthquake of 1999, some towers, which had cracks from the 1894 earthquake, collapsed. Two towers, Towers 89 and 90, near the Adrianople Gate were affected seriously. Tower 89 has been badly reconstructed. However, consolidation of Tower 90 being carried out at present is of better quality. The areas adjoining the Walls, especially on the western side, are designated as archaeological parks. Nevertheless, near the Tekfur Saray a parking lot for tourist buses has recently been established. The State Party should be requested to remove it and to propose a new location. The state of conservation of Zeyrek and Süleymaniye districts is very critical due to serious losses to the timber houses making up the urban fabric. The population living within these districts is not aware of the value of the architectural environment thus involving them in conservation activity has been very difficult particularly the poor who are unable to invest in rehabilitation work. Despite the aggressive renovations and alterations which have been carried out, there are some recent attempts to stop further losses and to promote conservation action. The report by the Turkish Ministry of Culture outlines some of these initiatives or accomplishments:

- a) The establishment of a UNESCO World Heritage Project Coordination Unit at the Ministry of Culture and Tourism is an important step. This Unit is mandated to coordinate projects, monitor and follow-up on problems of neglect and destruction. As it is not possible to monitor the Historic Areas of Istanbul from Ankara, the Ministry has also established a liaison office in Istanbul based at Topkapi Palace;
- b) The completion of the 1/5000 scaled Urban Conservation and Development Plan for the historic town is also a positive step. The Board for Protection of Cultural Property is currently reviewing the plan and it will probably enter into force within this year. It is recommended that the Municipality provides the funds for the implementation of the Plan;
- c) The allocation of significant funds by the Prime Minister for the cultural property within the Historic Peninsula of Istanbul is a positive sign and will provide a substantial support for improving the dilapidated state of several areas. On this issue, the main drawback is the legal barrier preventing public funds being invested in private property. The houses in Süleymaniye and Zeyrek

are properties of individuals and the government can not invest money in these buildings. Some attempts are being made to overcome this problem by changing the law in favor of listed cultural property. In this regard, UNESCO recalls that the 7 million euro European Union-funded project designed by UNESCO for the rehabilitation of Fener and Balat of Fatih district, through housing improvement activities is particularly important, in view of the support pledged by TOKI, the government social housing agency. Having completed its first year of operation, some 200 historic buildings in private or communal ownership and inhabited by the poor have been identified for rehabilitation under this project. But TOKI has yet to make the promised counterpart funding to the EU input. It is hoped that experience gained through this project will promote similar actions in the future in Zeyrek and Süleymaniye

- d) In order to encourage sponsorship, the government has recently developed a new tax relief for donations for the preservation of cultural heritage to serve as an incentive for individuals and corporations;
- e) Several NGOs, deeply concerned about the state of conservation of Historic Istanbul have become increasingly active. The Turkish Timber Association, among the most dynamic, launched a public campaign to appeal for donations to save the timber houses in Zeyrek and Süleymaniye. A widely publicized event in December 2003 marked the launch in the presence of the Minister of Culture and Tourism, Governor of Istanbul, municipal district mayors and the Assistant Director-General for Culture of UNESCO. Several firms have pledged support. The conservation experts of the association are training architects to address the particular problems of timber houses. Repair schedules for several houses in need of urgent intervention have already been prepared.

ICOMOS and UNESCO commend the State Party for the recent steps taken in favour of the conservation of the Historic Areas of Istanbul. Both central and local government should be encouraged to adopt a substantial strategy to save the Historic Areas of Istanbul, involving more experts in the field of conservation and providing more resources for heritage conservation.

UNESCO experts who have been provided with draft copies of the 1/5000 and 1/1000 scale plans for the Historic Peninsula and the Fatih District, noted that the Conservation and Development Plan as it stands is merely a zoning plan with no pro-active programmes. The UNESCO expert team which carried out a study on the impact of the Marmaray Rail and Bosphorus Tunnel project to connect the existing railway to improve urban mobility, stressed the importance of the opportunity this project will provide for a well-planned preventive archaeology operation and new urban projects in areas that would be affected by cut-and-cover works near the stations, three of which are planned within

the Historic Peninsula. It is recommended that the Government finances the preventive archaeology operation estimated at US\$2.5 million, which is a reasonable sum given the overall cost of the Marmaray project of some US\$2.5 billion, or to seek additional soft loans from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) which is co-financing the rail and tunnel project. It is also recommended to integrate new opportunities this project will provide in the Urban Conservation and Development Plan.

Draft decision: 28 COM 15B.80

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Noting with appreciation the conservation efforts made by the national authorities and the Istanbul municipality as presented in the report submitted by the State Party, notably in establishing a World Heritage Unit within the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and an office in Istanbul for project coordination and monitoring, and the allocation of additional funds for the protection and conservation of the Historic Areas of Istanbul; and the completion of the draft 1/5000 scale Urban Conservation and Development Plan by the Istanbul Municipality currently being studied by the Board for Protection of Cultural Property;
2. Further noting, the recommendations of the UNESCO expert team regarding the importance of carrying out the preventive archaeology operation and planning for new urban projects in areas to be affected by the Marmaray Rail and Bosphorus Tunnel project;
3. Expressing appreciation for the launch of the public awareness raising campaign by the Turkish Timber Association and other NGOs for the protection and enhancement of the timber civil architecture of Istanbul that forms part of the World Heritage value of the property, and for the progress being made in the EU-funded urban rehabilitation project in Balat and Fener of Fatih District;
4. Bearing in mind the delays in the adoption of the Urban Conservation and Development Plan and the absence since 1996 of urban regulations,
5. Requests of the State Party the following:
 - a) urgent completion and enforcement of the Urban Conservation and Development Plan;
 - b) strengthening of the Istanbul Board of Protection of Cultural Property and the special project design and monitoring unit to ensure compliance with the conservation plan;
 - c) develop a more proactive urban management plan to maximize the opportunities presented by major urban infrastructure projects such as the Marmaray-Bosphorus Rail Tunnel to carry out

- archaeological surveys and develop the urban archaeological itineraries and new urban projects;*
- d) greater national and local authority participation in the on-going EU-funded urban conservation and renewal project, especially by honouring the pledge made by TOKI, the government social housing development agency, to co-finance part of the project, hence paving the way for government subsidies to protected privately-owned listed buildings;*
 - e) greater care in the conservation techniques applied in the consolidation of the Theodosian Walls in order not to undermine any further the authenticity;*
6. *Decides to defer consideration of the eventual inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger until 2006, hence allowing time for the new dispositions taken by the national and municipal authorities to become effective.*
7. *Further requests the State Party to submit, by 1 February 2005, a report on the progress achieved in the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005.*

PART II

81. Historic Centre of Salzburg (Austria) (C 784)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1996

Criteria: C (ii) (iv) (vi)

Previous international assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

27 COM 7B.58

Conservation issues:

From July 2003 onwards, letters of concern have also been received regarding the permission of several festivals taking place on the squares of the historic city centre. No new information has been received on the current planning process for the area around the main train station. In August 2003 individuals informed the Centre about the discovery of probably the largest Roman fresco north of the Alps. The fresco was located in the basement of the building site of the 'New Residence', currently being rehabilitated into a Museum for the Land of Salzburg. Despite its historical value, the wall of over 6 m length was removed and is supposed to be relocated to a different place.

No comments have yet been received from the Austrian authorities on any of the aforementioned issues at the time of the preparation of this document.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.81**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Regretting that the Austrian authorities did not submit the progress report requested (27 COM 7B.58),*
2. *Requests the City of Salzburg and the Austrian authorities to collaborate with the Centre and ICOMOS in the review and development of the project at the train station;*
3. *Urges the State Party to provide an up-date report by 1 February 2005 to the World Heritage Centre in order that the World Heritage Committee can examine the state of conservation of the property at its 29th session in 2005.*

82. City of Graz - Historic Centre (Austria) (C 931)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1999

Criteria: C (iii) (iv)

Previous international assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

None

Conservation issues:

In April 2003 the Centre was informed about a construction project of the Thalia Centre in the Historic Centre of Graz. In October 2003 the Centre's attention was drawn to the demolition of the 'Kommod-Haus', a protected building from 1839 in the Historic Centre of Graz. By letter of 14 October 2003 the State Party of Austria was requested to comment on the issues raised; however, no information had been received at the time of the preparation of this document.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.82**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recalling paragraph 56 of the Operational Guidelines,
2. Deplores the destruction of the 'Kommod-Haus' as a loss for the historic fabric of the property and its harmonious integration of architectural styles from successive periods;
3. Regrets that the Austrian authorities did not provide information on any of the issues raised in the letter of dated 14 October 2003;
4. Requests the State Party to work closely with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS on the review of the state of conservation of the World Heritage property with special focus on the current construction plans and the protection of listed buildings;
5. Further requests the State Party to submit a report on the state of conservation by 1 February 2005 to the World Heritage Centre in order that the World Heritage Committee can examine the state of conservation of the property at its 29th session in 2005.

83. Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria) (C 1033)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2001

Criteria: C (ii) (iv) vi)

Previous international assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 35

27 COM 7B.57

Conservation issues:

Following the requests made by the World Heritage Committee at its 26th and 27th sessions to review the 'Wien-Mitte' project as to its height and visual impact on the World Heritage property, another urban design competition was launched by the City of Vienna to establish new architectural proposals complying with the request to reduce the building height at the site of 'Wien-Mitte'.

In October 2003 the final project proposal was selected and presented to the public as well as to the Director of the World Heritage Centre during his visit to Vienna for the inscription ceremony of the property. The reduced height and volume of the overall project has been regarded as being compatible with World Heritage protection.

On 27 January 2004, the Austrian authorities submitted the progress report requested by the Committee, explaining the procedure adopted in order to renew the architectural competition. The revised project consists of a main building with a maximum height of 35 metres, and an oblong, slim building measuring 70 metres at its highest point. The Austrian authorities furthermore informed the Centre that the land-use designation process, based on the revised project, has been initiated and is to be concluded in late 2004.

ICOMOS has taken note of the progress report provided by the Chief Executive Office of the City of Vienna. It announced that it will follow closely the future development of the 'Wien-Mitte' project as well as the general state of conservation of the World Heritage property.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.83**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Thanking the Austrian authorities for their commitment to the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and the considerable efforts in finding a suitable solution in close collaboration with ICOMOS and the Centre,*
2. *Acknowledges the establishment of a management plan for the Historic Centre of Vienna and notes the progress report provided on 27 January 2004;*

3. *Considers the positive outcome concerning the 'Wien-Mitte' project to be a notable success of the World Heritage Convention;*
4. *Requests the State Party to keep the Centre informed of the development of the 'Wien-Mitte' project.*

84. Fertő/Neusiedlersee Cultural Landscape (Austria / Hungary) (C 772 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2001

Criteria: C (v)

Previous international assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25 COM–X.I.A

27 COM 8C.2

Conservation issues:

At the inscription of the property, the Committee encouraged the States Parties to provide within two years of inscription a revised management plan for the enlarged area resulting from the revised boundaries of the cultural landscape. This Management Plan was to reflect the need for management structures to sustain the qualities of the cultural landscape, in particular the settlements around the edge of the lake that were included in the recommendations of ICOMOS. Based on the results of the revised Management Plan an international workshop for the managers of World Heritage properties in the countries of Central-Eastern Europe was held on site from 27 to 30 November 2003, which aimed at exchanging experience and best practice in the preparation and implementation of management plans for these properties.

On 12 January 2004 the two States Parties jointly submitted the revised Management Plan to the Centre, which was transmitted to ICOMOS and IUCN for review.

ICOMOS reviewed Volume A of the Management Plan that consists of two parts: “Volume A: The Cultural Landscape Management Plan” and “Volume B: The Natural Protection Management Plan”.

ICOMOS found that the structure of the plan follows the recommendations, considering the significance and description of the property, its legal and property owner contexts and the vulnerabilities and threats. It furthermore sets out a vision for the future followed by long-term and short and medium-term objectives. These objectives are embedded in terms of the dynamics of the property and refer to processes as much as to cultural assets, which is much to be commended. The social and dynamic nature of the landscape is brought out as a key element of its significance with the objectives covering sustainable approaches to landscape, agriculture, wine production, transport and development as well as addressing public awareness and education. As one of the main opportunities for development is cultural tourism is given detailed attention in the plan.

A detailed Action Plan addresses each of the main objectives and specifies the deliverer and the time-frame. Actions cover improvements as well as ways of mitigating former undesirable interventions. Overall the need for public participation and involvement in the plan is stressed.

ICOMOS concluded that the overall plan is much to be commended.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.84**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Thanking both States Parties for the timely submission of the revised management plan,*
2. *Commends the Austrian and Hungarian management authorities as well as States Parties for the quality of the revised management plan and the good cooperation process;*
3. *Encourages the Austrian and Hungarian authorities to continue their cooperation in the implementation of the management plan for this trans-boundary cultural landscape.*

85. Historic District of Québec (Canada) (C 300)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1985

Criteria: C (iv) (vi)

Previous international assistance:

1991: US\$26.000, Technical cooperation in (Québec Acts)

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 39

27 COM 7B.60

Conservation issues:

The requested progress report on the implementation of the recommended actions in the World Heritage property had not been received at the time of the preparation of this document. By letter of 26 February 2004, the Centre reminded the State Party of the requested submission of a progress report.

On 4 September 2003 the State Party informed the Centre about the reasons why it wishes to maintain postponing the nomination of an Extension of the World Heritage property. The planned extension would also have contributed to an enhanced protection of the property as currently inscribed. By letter of 23 January 2004, the Centre was informed by the municipal fire brigade of Québec City about its incapacity to assure a proper fire protection for the historic city centre, especially because of a lack of staff. The State Party has been asked for comments.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.85**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Noting that the State Party has postponed the nomination of an extension of the World Heritage property,
2. Regrets that the requested progress report was not submitted on time;
3. Requests the State Party to submit in due course a report on the World Heritage property's state of conservation and the implementation of the actions foreseen;
4. Recommends the State Party to continue working in close consultation with ICOMOS and the Centre for the implementation of the actions foreseen in the framework of the Point-à-Carcy harbour project;
5. Further requests the State Party to provide a progress report on this matter by 1 February 2005 for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session in 2005.

86. Paphos (Cyprus) (C 79)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1980

Criteria: C (iii) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

None

Conservation issues:

On 11 March 2003, the World Heritage Centre received a development plan by the State Party related to the lighthouse at Paphos and the refurbishment of the area surrounding it, located within the core zone of the World Heritage property.

ICOMOS stressed that this area has been almost entirely expropriated for archaeological research, and that the Lighthouse is built on the summit of what is generally believed to be the Acropolis of an ancient city. Although this has never been investigated, outcrops of ancient walls and considerable cuttings on the rock can be observed all around the more recent structures. The proposed development plan foresees the refurbishment of the lighthouse, the construction of restaurants and exhibition space as well as an access road to the lighthouse and parking space.

ICOMOS expressed its serious concerns regarding this project, as it will impede future archaeological investigation and seriously affect the already known archaeological remains. Furthermore, ICOMOS considered that it would alter the original character of the site and have significant negative impact on the integrity of the property, as the lighthouse is the highest landmark within the perimeter of the site.

The Department of Antiquities, as part of the Ministry of Communication and Works, informed the World Heritage Centre by a letter of 22 March 2004, that the permission for the proposed refurbishment and construction development had been declined. The authorities also mentioned, however, that the Municipality of Paphos still wishes to implement the proposal.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.86**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the information provided by the State Party concerning the development project of the lighthouse;
2. Congratulates the State Party for having declined the permission for the proposed development project, considered to have an adverse effect on the outstanding universal value of the property;

3. Recalls the importance of the area of the lighthouse for its possible archaeological remains and encourages the State Party to undertake comprehensive archaeological investigations;
4. Urges the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre should there be any construction developments, including a new proposal for the refurbishment of the lighthouse and its surroundings.

**87. Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery (Georgia)
(C 710)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994

Criteria: C (iv)

Previous international assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

None

Conservation issues:

During a joint UNESCO-ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to City-Museum Reserve of Mtskheta (Georgia) from 8 to 16 November 2003, observations were also made on the state of conservation of Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery. The mission observed that the exterior of the buildings of Gelati Monastery is in good condition. The windows, however, need to be conserved to keep out the wind and rainwater as damages have been caused to the mural paintings particularly on the southern wall.

In Bagrati Cathedral scaffolding from the previous conservation work still stands against the wall of the fortress, and open trenches indicate that archaeological excavation have been left incomplete. Conservation work on the chapel in the fortress and the walls of the cathedral also need to be concluded. The authorities of Georgia intend to undertake a major reconstruction of the structure, either by using artificial stones to recreate the original form of the building or to use glazed steel to build a transparent dome, which can be illuminated. ICOMOS, however, took a view that any reconstruction must be carried out in keeping with the outstanding universal value of the property and its authenticity and therefore it would be more appropriate to retain the site as a ruin.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.87**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Acknowledging the outcomes of the joint UNESCO-ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property,
2. Takes note with concern of the conservation problems affecting the property and encourages the State Party to respond to them taking into account the recommendations made by the mission;
3. Urges the State Party not to carry out any reconstruction work which may adversely affect the outstanding universal value and its authenticity;
4. Requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre an updated report by 1 February 2005 so that the World Heritage Committee may examine the state of conservation of the property at its 29th session in 2005.

88. Hanseatic City of Lübeck (Germany) (C 272 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1987

Criteria: C (iv)

Previous international assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 48

27 COM 7B.64

Conservation issues:

A working group of German urban planning and architecture experts established by the City of Lübeck met during the last year to evaluate and advise on the construction plans of the new post office building. The status report prepared by the Mayor's Office Municipal Planning Division on 26 January 2004 states that the main construction of the new post office building is being finalized and the final decision on the façade and roofscape is foreseen in summer 2004. The report does not provide any documentation on the current shape of the building. The City authorities of Lübeck intend to invite an ICOMOS/UNESCO mission to assess the final results of the construction, once it is finished.

Concerning the council office site (city-house property) no new development planning was taken up due to a lack of investors and tenants. The City authorities of Lübeck declare being very interested in developing this lot and assure to involve experts from ICOMOS and UNESCO as soon as planning will be resumed. The State Party informed the Centre that a comprehensive management plan for the Old Town of Lübeck would be provided upon completion.

ICOMOS noted that, in principle, it is in favour of the building project replacing the old post office building and a secondary building by the construction of a commercial centre with an annex, as it underlines the functional continuity at this place of the historic city centre. The outline of the new buildings respects the historic ground plan of the city; the height and volume are also regarded as being acceptable. Yet the high complexity of the building is to be revised in respect to the roof: the form should be simplified and the material carefully reconsidered. ICOMOS accepts the glass façade of the building, yet reminding that the question of commercial signs has to be dealt with special attention in order to avoid negative impacts on the public space. Furthermore, ICOMOS considered the secondary building as too obtrusive in comparison to its function and therefore asks for a more restrained architectural expression.

ICOMOS took note of the modifications made to the initial building project and advises to integrate changes recommended by the expert group in 2002, especially those concerning the façade and roof. ICOMOS supported the State Party's proposal to invite UNESCO/ICOMOS representatives to the site in order to study the revised building project once it is advanced. ICOMOS suggested to

be kept informed on the progress of the constructions as well as on the new project for the secondary building.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.88**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Thanking the German authorities for the timely submission of the report requested,*
2. *Welcomes the German authorities' and the City of Lübeck's offer to collaborate with the Centre and ICOMOS in the development of the plans for the buildings;*
3. *Requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Committee informed of any new development plans likely to affect the property's integrity.*

**89. Parks and Palaces of Potsdam and Berlin (Germany)
(C 532 ter)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1990;
extended in 1992 and in 1999

Criteria: C (i) (ii) (iv)

Previous international assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25 EXT BUR III.171-172

27 COM 7B.65

Conservation issues:

By letter of 25 July 2003 the German authorities informed the Centre of the extent of the damages caused by the fire at the "Jagdschloss Glienicke" of March 2003, of the first protection measures and the planned procedure for restoration works. The Centre was furthermore informed that the work has not yet been commenced due to the on-going competition process to appoint an architect and technical conservation companies to be commissioned with the implementation of the restoration.

The State Party furthermore reported that the "Havel Waterway Improvement Project" is still suspended.

In November 2003 the Centre was also informed about a project to enlarge a road, which crosses the World Heritage property in the Western part of the Park of Sanssouci bordering the 'Neues Palais'. The enlargement of the road would represent a significant increase in traffic along the Western part of the World Heritage property, likely to affect the stability of the buildings as well as the visual and functional coherence of the site and its immediate surroundings. The road is part of the national road network plan and will also include broadening a bridge over one of the adjacent lakes (Templiner See).

Concerning the road project, ICOMOS noted that a plan for a western bypass road was adopted by the city of Potsdam in 2001 including a connection along the existing railway dam across Lake Templin. The traffic in the northern direction would be channelled through the existing streets of Forststraße - Am Neuen Palais - Amundsenstraße. Yet, it cannot be excluded that the Federal Roads Administration upgrades and expands these two-lane-streets at a later stage. ICOMOS would strictly reject such an expansion, because the street Am Neuen Palais, in close proximity of the Neues Palais and the Commun leads through the core zone of the World Heritage property. Even if the city authorities intend to "essentially maintain the actual street formation" the connection of national roads along the railway dam will in any case lead to additional 50% of traffic on these streets, meaning additional emissions and optical impairments.

ICOMOS stated that the planned connection of two national roads via the railway dam across Lake Templin is placed outside of the World Heritage property core zone. As the

railway dam, dating from 1950, would be considerably broadened by the road connection, ICOMOS considers it a disturbing element in the Potsdam cultural landscape. Therefore a suggestion has been made that in the course of the road connection project the dam should be replaced by a bridge construction. Because of the necessary area planning operation (Raumordnungsplanverfahren), the realization of a B2 and B1 connection along the railway dam will probably take several years.

An additional road planning in that area is the construction of a new national road 1, apparently accepted in the Federal Traffic Route Plan, using a route leading through the Wildpark. The deer park (Wildpark) has to be considered as part of the Lenné landscape design west of the Neues Palais; yet, it does not belong to the core zone of the World Heritage property.

ICOMOS suggested that any further expansion of the streets Forststraße - Am Neuen Palais - Amundsenstraße must be strictly rejected, as these would endanger the World Heritage property of Potsdam.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.89**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Thanking the German authorities for the information on the restoration plans for Glienicke Castle,*
2. *Invites the German authorities to implement the restoration works in due course;*
3. *Requests the State Party to keep the Committee informed of the restoration work undertaken at the Jagdschloss Glienicke and to provide up dated information to the Centre;*
4. *Notes that the "Havel Waterway Improvement Project" is suspended and requests the State Party to keep the Committee informed of any future development of the "Havel Waterway Improvement Project" by providing up dated information to the Centre as appropriate;*
5. *Expresses its concern about the plans to expand the roads in and in close proximity to the World Heritage property and further requests the State Party to provide the Centre with an up-date report on the road project and its potential impacts on the World Heritage property.*

**90. Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz (Germany) (C
534 rev)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2000

Criteria: C (ii) (iv)

Previous international assistance:

None

Previous deliberations:

27 COM 7B.66

Conservation issues:

Concerning the floods, the requested update report on the rehabilitation works in the World Heritage property had not been received by 1 February 2004. By letter of 13 April 2004, the German authorities informed the Centre that the situation at the site is basically unchanged since the last report to the Committee in April 2003. The removal of the overall damages has been estimated at about 13,7m Euro with one third of the damages being already fixed. Yet, the remaining two thirds of the damages concern sensitive building fabric so that the appropriate rehabilitation works are foreseen to take until 2006, among others due to financial constraints. The State Party is confident that by 2006 the original state of the Garden Kingdom before the floods will be restored.

No new information has been received on the Elbe Waterway Improvement Project. In April 2003 the German authorities reported that the "Elbe Waterway Improvement Project " had been suspended and that the resumption of the planning process is generally favoured but cannot be predicted. Before the suspension of the Elbe Waterway project, IUCN pointed out the lack of an overall evaluation (Environmental Impact Assessment) of the construction work on the river Elbe. This assessment remains valid in case of a resumption of the project.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.90**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Regretting that the German authorities did not provide the up-date information requested,
2. Requests the State Party to provide information on the current conditions and the rehabilitation works on the World Heritage site to the Centre in due course;
3. Further requests the State Party to provide information to the Centre in case the authorities of Saxony-Anhalt take up any steps towards the Elbe construction projects.

91. City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto (Italy) (C 712 bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994; extended in 1996

Criteria: C (i),(ii)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

None

Conservation issues:

Since December 2002 the World Heritage Centre has received letters from non-governmental organisations and concerned citizens informing about the construction of a partly elevated highway extension of about 54 km (Valdastico Sud) in the vicinity of several Palladian villas. The project provoked a national and international debate as the first Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) disapproved the project, but was then renewed due to political pressure. Despite serious concerns the project was finally approved on 18 December 2002 and will be completed by the end of 2004. As indicated in the nomination dossier and following the criteria under which the property was inscribed, in particular *C (ii)*, the villas are inseparably linked to the Veneto landscape, defining the integrity of the site. The Centre notes that the planning phase for the construction of the highway extension started already in 1970, but unfortunately this was not mentioned in the nomination dossier as one of the factors affecting the property.

Furthermore, the World Heritage Centre was informed about uncontrolled construction development in the Veneto region. The State Party was requested to provide their review and comments on the problems related to the state of conservation of the property, but to date, the World Heritage Centre did not receive any response.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.91**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recalling paragraph 56 of the Operational Guidelines,
2. Notes that the highway construction of Valdastico Sud is expected to be completed by the end of 2004;
3. Regrets that the States Party did not inform the World Heritage Centre about any construction plans during the nomination process as well as after inscription and did not answer any requests for information;
4. Expresses its serious concern about the adverse effects the construction of the highway extension and the uncontrolled development may have on the outstanding

universal value of the Palladian villas and the authenticity of the site;

5. Requests the State Party to prepare a management and conservation plan including measures foreseen to minimize the impact of any development on the integrity of the site;
6. Urges the State Party to submit a detailed technical report on planned or completed projects in the vicinity of the World Heritage property as well as their impact on the universal value of the site to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2005 in order that the World Heritage Committee can examine its state of conservation at its 29th session in 2005.

92. Rock Drawings of Alta (Norway) (C 352)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1985

Criteria: C (iii)

Previous international assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

None

Conservation issues:

In June 2003, the Centre was informed about vandalism at some of the rock engravings at Amtmannsnes caused by motorbikes with spiked tires and four-wheel drive cars, scarring the ancient carvings. ICOMOS Norway commented at the time that this area had long been a cause for concern since it is located close to a recreation area where paths are frequently used for motor cross training.

At the time of the preparation of this document no report from the State Party had been received.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.92**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Noting with concern the information provided on the vandalism caused to some of the rock carvings at Alta,
2. Requests the State Party to review the level of protection of the site and to take the appropriate measures to prevent further damages to the carvings;
3. Further requests the State Party to provide a report to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2005 in order that the World Heritage Committee can examine its state of conservation at its 29th session in 2005.

93. Auschwitz Concentration Camp (Poland) (C 31)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979

Criteria: C (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

1998: US\$20,000, Technical Co-operation, Organisation of international expert meeting on the planning and protections of the surroundings of the World Heritage property of Auschwitz Concentration Camp

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 65

27 COM 7B.71

Conservation issues:

As requested by the Committee, a report was submitted by the State Party on 23 February 2004, which outlined the progress made in the implementation of the 2nd phase of the Strategic Programme for the Oświęcim Area (OSPR) for the years 2002-2006. Within the framework of the strategic programme, public infrastructure such as roads, bridges and car parks continues to improve in and around the World Heritage property. A number of buildings have also been renovated and restored in 2002 and 2003.

Concerning education and awareness raising, the Polish authorities organised an International Conference on education in Krakow from 16 to 17 June 2003 in order to disseminate information about what happened in the past and to promote tolerance and international understanding among young generations. The conference was also an opportunity to promote the creation of the International Education Centre in Oświęcim, as foreseen as part of the Second stage of the OSPR. The creation of such a Centre is the first of its kind to educate the public on the complex history associated with Auschwitz.

The management of the gravel pit area Zwirowisko was transferred to the Ministry of Culture on 12 December 2003. The gravel pit area will be used by the State Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau for a range of educational activities and this will reduce the tensions, which existed over its use.

Furthermore, the Polish authorities submitted a comprehensive study on the protection of the Auschwitz-Birkenau area, "Marek Rawecki. 2003. Auschwitz-Birkenau Zone, Wydawnictwo Politechniki Slaskiej". The aims of the study are to analyse past efforts in safeguarding the site and to make recommendations concerning urban planning and management of the area. The publication includes a colour map indicating the inscribed area of the World Heritage site and its buffer zone, along with infrastructure such as traffic routes, car parks and pedestrian routes. The International Conference "Preserving for the Future" from 23 to 25 June 2003 in Oświęcim, discussed the technical aspects, particularly the presentation and conservation of objects in the museum.

In December 2003, the Polish authorities started a process in order to prepare a management plan and to clarify boundaries of the property, with the financial assistance from the State of Israel. Within this framework an expert meeting will be held from 13 to 15 May 2004, followed by the visit of Polish experts to the Documentation Centre at Yad Vashem (Jerusalem, Israel).

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.93**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the State Party for the progress made with regard to efforts in order to enhance the state of conservation of the property and to raise awareness of the outstanding universal value of the property;
2. Takes note that the State Party organised an expert meeting scheduled for May 2004 in order to prepare a management plan for the property;
3. Requests that the management plan together with an updated report on the Strategic Programme for the Oświęcim Area be submitted to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2005 in order that the World Heritage Committee can examine the state of conservation of the property at its 29th session in 2005.

94. Historic Centre of Sighisoara (Romania) (C 902)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1999

Criteria: C (iii) (v)

Previous International Assistance:

2003-2004: US\$20,000, Technical Co-operation, Revitalisation of the Historic Centre of Sighisoara (in process)

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 67

27 COM 7B.73

Conservation Issues:

The representatives of the Romanian Ministry of Culture confirmed during a meeting with the World Heritage Centre on 11 October 2003 the official decision of the national authorities to relocate the proposed Dracula theme park, which was planned in the immediate vicinity of the World Heritage site, to the city of Snagov, 40 km away from Bucharest.

On 13 October 2003 the State Party submitted a brief report that outlines a number of urban development projects and conservation activities being carried out within the property. Examples of major restoration work include Biserica din Deal Church and Casa cu Cerb house, Building at Piața Cetății No 6 and 13, Scolii Street No 4-6 as well as Turnul cu ceas History Museum and Turnul Fierarilor Tower. Future conservation plans include infrastructure development such as natural gas supply, water and sewage network as well as underground cable network for electricity and television services. It is not clear, however, from this short report whether the conservation efforts undertaken have taken into account the comments made by ICOMOS on the restoration and conservation of the property as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session.

Although the State Party submitted an International Assistance (technical co-operation) request for the revitalization of the Historic Centre of Sighisoara in 2003, the World Heritage Centre could only begin to process this request in March 2004 when the State Party settled its dues to the World Heritage Fund for 2003.

At the time of the preparation of the document the State Party had not started the preparation of a conservation and management plan that includes a tourism management plan, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 27th Session in 2003.

The World Heritage Centre has been informed that a meeting foreseen by the Mihai Eminescu Trust in conjunction with the World Bank, to include all the stakeholders of the site, is scheduled to take place by the end of 2004.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15B.94

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Taking note of the progress made with regard to restoration projects and protection measures for the World Heritage property,*
2. *Regrets that the State Party has not been able to provide an overall management plan, including management of tourism for the property and urges that the preparation of such plan be undertaken as soon as possible;*
3. *Urges the State Party to implement the activities foreseen under the International Assistance granted through the World Heritage Fund in order to enhance the state of conservation of the property;*
4. *Requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2005 a report on the state of conservation of the property in order that the World Heritage Committee can examine the state of conservation of the property at its 29th session in 2005.*

95. Kizhi Pogost (Russian Federation) (C 544)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1990
Criteria: C (i) (iv) (v)

Previous international assistance:
2003: US\$29,540, Emergency Assistance

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:
25 EXT BUR III. 198-202
27 COM 7B.74

Conservation issues:
From 18 to 20 December 2003, a workshop on the conservation of the Church of the Transfiguration was held in St. Petersburg at which participants were informed of the progress made for the preparatory works for the conservation project as well as follow-up actions to the recommendations made by the Committee and the International workshop of August 2002 were discussed.

The main steps of the restoration project have been approved as well as the workplan for the creation of the infrastructure for the works to be carried out (moorage for boats, construction site, energy structure, wood storage and procurement, fire protection, lodging for workers, etc). The financial plan of the restoration project has been submitted and approved by the Ministry of Culture. However, the participants mentioned insufficient and irregular funding for the conservation project.

The Russian National Committee for World Heritage together with the Ministry of Culture will be preparing a proposal concerning the approval of the buffer zone taking into account the possible enlargement of the site. Monitoring of the state of the Church of the Transfiguration is ensured by the site manager together with architects and restorers.

The workshop participants reiterated the request that the ICCROM Guidelines for management of cultural sites be translated into Russian.

The Centre has asked for more detailed information regarding some of the issues discussed during this second workshop. In particular, details on the overall budget of the project, information on the current state of conservation of the church and the follow-up to the recommendations made by the first workshop. At the time of the preparation of this document, no information was received from the State Party.

ICOMOS and ICCROM commented that national level financing is unpredictable and insufficient and that no matter how much care and study is given to analysis of conservation problems, without commitment of necessary funding in a timely manner, the threats to this site remain severe and unimpaired.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.95**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Thanking the authorities of the Russian Federation for their continued commitment to analyze conservation problems of the Church of the Transfiguration through the holding of workshops,
2. Notes with concern the lack of funding and hereby lack of commitment by the Russian Federation for the conservation project without which the threats to this site remain severe and unimpaired;
3. Regrets that the State Party did not provide a progress report as requested by the Committee;
4. Urges the authorities of the Russian Federation to collaborate closely with the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre regarding the developments of the conservation works;
5. Requests the State Party to submit, by 1 February 2005, a report on the commitment of the necessary funds to carry out the work plan for 2004 and 2005 as well as on the progress made in the conservation works with information on the impact of interventions of the conservation works, in order that the World Heritage Committee can examine the state of conservation of the property at its 29th session in 2005.

96. Spišský Hrad and its Associated Cultural Monuments (Slovakia) (C 390)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1993

Criteria: C (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

1996: US\$23.333, Technical Co-operation

2002: US\$20,000, Technical Co-operation, Acquisition of measuring apparatus for safeguarding of Mural Paintings in the Church of the Holy Spirit in Zehra.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 68

27 COM 7B.75

Conservation issues:

The World Heritage Centre received a brief report on the state of conservation of the property on 31 January 2004. Conservation projects are continuing to be undertaken at Spišský Hrad, Zehra, and Spišský Kapitula. Exterior lighting has been installed at Spis Castle and the interior of the chapel has also been restored. At Spišská Kapitula, roofs of the complex of the Cathedral were upgraded with state support. The activity to stabilise the microclimate of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Zehra was completed in 2003 with International Assistance.

The mining of travertine has come to an end within the protected natural reserve at Dreveník. It will continue outside the protected area, using a minimum-intervention technique of re-cultivation mining, developed under the supervision of the State Nature Protection Office.

Construction of a new section of the motorway between Jablonov and Behárovce, near Spišský Podhradý, which was reported when the property was nominated in 1993, is now in progress. The Monuments Board and the Commission of the Ministry of Culture for the Preservation of World Heritage Sites in Slovakia are closely monitoring its implementation.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.96**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Taking note of the state of conservation report provided by the State Party,
2. Congratulates the State Party for the conservation efforts undertaken at the property in particular in halting the mining of travertine in the protected area;
3. Encourages the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS informed of any future projects, particularly on mining, that may have an impact on the property.

97. Old Town of Avila with its Extra-Muros Churches (Spain) (C 348 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1985

Criteria: C (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

27 COM 7B 78

Conservation issues:

On 1 February 2004, the World Heritage Centre received a report from the State Party, in which it is stressed that all local legal requirements have been followed in order to carry out the project for the refurbishment of the square, the demolition of buildings and their replacement by new ones. It also gives a justification for each of the interventions made, and underlines that the monumental value of the square has been preserved.

According to the report, the original project was submitted in 1993, and revised several times until its final adoption in 2000. In 1996 the local regulations on urban planning and on heritage protection (*Plan General de Ordenación Urbana* and *Plan Especial de Protección del Conjunto Histórico-Artístico*) were revised in order to allow the refurbishment and construction project on the Square of Santa Teresa. The report specifies that this project had been categorised as of “singular interest”, which means that the regulations in the law concerning the aesthetic criteria established for the whole protected monumental area and the requirements concerning the type of construction materials to be used do not apply.

ICOMOS stressed that the biggest new building seems to invade the square and is too high. When considering the volumes of this new building, the design of its facade and the materials used, it seems that the outstanding universal value of the World Heritage property were not taken into due account.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.97**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the recent report submitted by the State Party on the current state of conservation of the property;
2. Recalls that the Plaza de Santa Teresa was included in the original nomination as a main square linking the city walls and the extra-muros church of St Pedro;
3. Further recalls that the State Party did not inform the World Heritage Centre on time on the construction plans in order to allow an early assessment on the way

these plans would eventually affect the universal value of the property;

4. Notes that the project to refurbish the square and demolish the existing buildings were labeled as a “singular project” under the existing law of heritage protection, which allowed not to comply with the aesthetic criteria established for the whole protected monumental area, nor with the requirements concerning the type of construction materials to be used;
5. Regrets that this kind of “singular project” affecting a World Heritage property can be adopted without informing the Centre and without taking into account the outstanding universal value of the property;
6. Urges the State Party to elaborate an integrated management plan for the World Heritage site as a whole, which should be developed and endorsed by a wide range of stakeholders;
7. Requests that the State Party invites an ICOMOS mission to assess the way the refurbishment of the square and the new construction may affect the universal value of the World Heritage property and further requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2005 a report on the state of conservation of the property in order that the World Heritage Committee can examine the state of conservation of the property at its 29th session in 2005.

98. Old City of Salamanca (Spain) (C 381 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1988

Criteria: C (i) (ii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 69

27 COM 7B 76

Conservation issues:

On 1 February 2004, the World Heritage Centre received a report by the State Party, in which it is stressed that the regional authorities had not received any information nor construction proposals concerning the *Huerto de las Adoratrices*, a walled plot in the core area of the World Heritage property formerly occupied by a convent and its garden. The report remarks that the municipal law on the protection of the historic city centre is being strictly applied and that minor modifications of the law are allowed, subject to the approval of a cultural heritage commission of the regional government of Castile and Leon. One of these modifications took place on 15 September 2000, opening the plot of the *Adoratrices* to construction.

The report also indicates that the preservation of open places is guaranteed in the municipal law, depending on whether the building on the plot is classified as a protected monument or not. As the convent of the *Adoratrices* is not a protected building, the walled garden is also not protected.

Despite the clarification that no project for construction has been received, the report failed to confirm that no construction will take place. Therefore, the extent of guarantees submitted by the State Party for the implementation of the *Convention* is greatly weakened by the facility with which the document for urban protection has been modified. Furthermore, the legal measures taken to avoid urban encroachment are not effective, as open spaces like the garden of the *Adoratrices* are not considered in their own value, but determined by the value of the constructed heritage.

This situation creates uncertainty about the effective protection of the World Heritage property. It also raises the question of what is effectively the subject of World Heritage protection, as the modifications of the municipal law that served as the basis for inscription on the World Heritage List allow the exclusion of parts of the site from the protection of the *Convention*. Without questioning the development needs of a living monumental city centre, the modifications may however put into question the authenticity and universal value of the site.

Concerning the new revision of the urban plan, ICOMOS expressed its wish to comment on it, before it is adopted. This is also the case for the draft of the revised local legislation, which is in progress.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.98**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note with appreciation that the Spanish authorities have provided a report as requested;
2. Recalls that the plot of the *Huerto de las Adoratrices* was included in the original nomination file as an integral part of the core area of the World Heritage property;
3. Regrets that the *Huerto de las Adoratrices* has been excluded from the protection of the municipal law on heritage protection;
4. Further regrets the recent changes to the law, which do not only affect the “*Huerto de las Adoratrices*” but also other monuments and plots within the boundaries of the area protected under the *Convention*;
5. Urges the State Party to elaborate an integrated management plan for the World Heritage site as a whole, which should be developed and endorsed by a wide range of stakeholders;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2005, the draft revisions of the municipal legislation on heritage protection as well as the urban development plan in order to transmit them to ICOMOS for its comments and review so that the World Heritage Committee can examine the state of conservation of the property at its 29th session in 2005.

99. Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastery Buildings, Kiev-Pechersk Lavra (Ukraine) (C 527)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1990

Criteria: C (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

1998: US\$19,750, Technical Co-operation to purchase equipment to preserve ancient wall paintings of the Saint-Sophia Cathedral

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

27 COM7B.80

Conservation issues:

The State Party reported to the World Heritage Centre on 9 September 2003 that an inter-Ministerial meeting had taken place on 27 July 2003 to follow up the Presidential Order of 3 February 2003 stopping the construction of the underground swimming pool. This construction, situated immediately outside the boundary of the property, caused cracks on the walls of the Cathedral and Belfry. The meeting discussed a number of issues to fulfil the international legal obligations of Ukraine regarding the protection of cultural and natural heritage of the country. The State Construction Committee took conservation measures to minimise the impact caused by the swimming pool construction and adopted a comprehensive programme (2003-2010) for the conservation of the World Heritage property, which received 578.22 million hryvnias for the first two years. In addition, the Committee deals with other issues such as development control, definition of boundaries and national legislation as regard to the protection of the World Heritage property.

The Ukrainian authorities informed the World Heritage Centre on 9 February 2004 that the Parliament had adopted the Decree on the preservation of cultural heritage in November 2003. This Decree recommends that the Government of Ukraine elaborate a draft law concerning the amendments to the Criminal and Administrative Codes that envisage the penalties and sanctions against those who violate the national legislation on cultural heritage in Ukraine.

As requested by the last session of the World Heritage Committee, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report on 28 January 2004 outlining the measures taken by the national authorities to respond to the cracks that had been apparent on the wall of the property. The report emphasised that the formation of cracks is inevitable to a certain extent given the age of the property and its location on an uneven foundation. In order to directly respond to the damage caused by the underground swimming pool construction, a hydrological zone has been developed around the site, regulating the water flow to the foundations of the Cathedral. Technical and restoration works at the St. Sophia Cathedral were carried out as part of comprehensive conservation programme (2002-2010). The research programme also includes a geodetic and photogrammetric survey to prepare detailed maps, which will become the basis for future

monitoring and documentation of the state of conservation of the property. Apart from the damage observed on the decorative elements of the central cupola of the Cathedral, the general state of conservation of the property is in good condition.

According to the report, a cafe in the vicinity of Kiev-Pechersk Lavra was constructed in order to improve the area immediately outside the World Heritage property and to respond to the needs of tourists. The authorities of Ukraine consider that it does not pose any threat to the conservation of the site. Furthermore, the Government of Ukraine has allocated 1 million hryvnias for the restoration and reconstruction of Kiev-Pechersk Lavra.

As the report was very brief, the World Heritage Centre requested the authorities of Ukraine by letter on 10 February 2004 to provide further information concerning the details of the comprehensive programme with its outcomes and future plan. The State Party was also requested to clarify to what extent the swimming pool had already been constructed before it was halted and what is going to happen to the construction site in the future. The State Party responded to this request by submitting an additional report including detailed maps and illustrations on 9 April 2004, which were transmitted to ICOMOS for review. The National Commission informed the World Heritage Centre on 20 April 2004 that the relevant authorities are defining the boundaries of the property.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.99**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Acknowledging that the Ukrainian authorities have provided the report on the research on planned or completed conservation projects in the vicinity of the World Heritage property,
2. Expresses its appreciation to the State Party for the progress made with regard to measures taken to respond to the damage caused by the construction of the underground swimming pool and to define the boundaries of the property;
3. Requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS informed of any future projects, which may have an impact on the property.

100. L'viv - the Ensemble of the Historic Centre (Ukraine) (C 865)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1998

Criteria: C (ii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

None

Conservation issues:

At the invitation of the State Party, a joint ICOMOS-German World Heritage Foundation reactive monitoring mission was undertaken from 23 to 30 January 2004. According to the mission report the poor condition of buildings is caused by creating additional floors onto the original medieval structures in response to increased population. Continuous interventions on the interior by different owners further weakened the internal structure.

The mission observed that a significant rise in estate prices in L'viv in recent years has given incentives for property owners not to invest in restoration of buildings - this is because once an existing property collapses, a new building can be erected free from the requirements of the heritage legislation.

Leakages from the sewage system are causing additional problems particularly in the historic core area where the public sewage may be situated under the buildings. The city administration has started to implement a strategy for the next 10 years in order to manage the problem.

Concerning the management structure for the property, the City Heritage Preservation Office, established in 2002, is responsible for the day-to-day management of the World Heritage property. The mission noted that while its line of activities is being further defined, the master plan for the urban development is being revised in view of its adoption by the end of 2004. Moreover, lack of valid detailed planning documents is a major reason for causing the conflict for the construction of new properties and the restoration of existing buildings. The mission also made specific recommendations for certain construction projects such as the Soz-Bank Mickiewicz square 4, Sevchenko/Drahonova Street, Valova Street 15, Korolenko Street, Shevs'ka Street 6 and 12 as well as Halytskaj Street 10.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.100**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Taking note of the findings of the international reactive monitoring mission to the property,

2. Congratulates the State Party for having instigated an international reactive monitoring mission in order to discuss ways of enhancing the state of conservation of the property and expresses its appreciation to the German World Heritage Foundation for providing assistance for carrying out the mission;
3. Encourages the State Party to take into account the recommendations made by the mission in January 2004 in particular to improve the management structure and planning process;
4. Requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2005 a report on the situation, particularly as regards the development of the construction projects and other issues discussed by the mission in order that the World Heritage Committee could examine the state of conservation of the property at its 29th session in 2005.

101. Old and New Towns of Edinburgh (United Kingdom) (C 728)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1995

Criteria: C (ii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

27 COM 7B.81

Conservation Issues:

A blaze affected parts of the Old Town area of Edinburgh (Cowgate) on 7 December 2002. Regarding the World Heritage property the damage was limited to less than 1% of the whole area, that is, 13 out of nearly 4,500 registered historic buildings. Historic Scotland submitted a reactive monitoring report on 20 January 2004 on behalf of the State Party as requested by the Committee.

The State Party informed that the Edinburgh City Council is committed to ensuring that any redevelopment of the area will take full account of the character and the surviving medieval street pattern of this part of the World Heritage property. Edinburgh City Council carried out a public consultation exercise on the redevelopment of the site, after which the Council approved a planning brief on 2 October 2003. This planning brief focuses on the redevelopment of Cowgate/South Bridge area, situated in the core zone of the World Heritage property. The planning brief foresees that the redevelopment be carried out respecting the protection of the outstanding universal value of the property. The plan also seeks to secure a significant amount of new housing to strengthen the city centre and inner city community as well as to improve pedestrian movement through the property. Furthermore, a data structure report, including background historical research was carried out by the Council's archaeology service as a scientific basis for the redevelopment of the area.

From September 2003 onwards, the Centre has received letters of concern from citizens regarding the trial placement of large communal refuse bins in the streets of the Historic Centre of Edinburgh. While introduced since 1997 in other areas of the city, the refuse bins recently installed in the World Heritage property are particularly criticized for their negative visual impact on the architectural ensemble.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.101**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Noting the report received from the authorities,
2. Requests the State Party to provide a conservation plan and to ensure a coherent redevelopment of the World Heritage property;

3. Further requests the State Party to keep the Centre informed about the progress made in the reconstruction of the property as well as about the impact of the waste bins on the visual integrity of the property.

102. Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites (United Kingdom) (C373)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1986

Criteria: C (i), (ii) (iii)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 70

27 COM 7B.82

Conservation issues:

The State Party did not provide a progress report by the deadline of 1 February 2004 as the Public Inquiry on the road improvement at Stonehenge finished on 11 May 2004. Subsequently, the World Heritage Centre received a progress report from the State Party on 7 May 2004 and its revised version on 28 May 2004:

Stonehenge: As has been previously reported to the World Heritage Committee there are proposed infrastructure projects relating to the roads and visitor facilities at the World Heritage property. The A303 Stonehenge Improvement scheme aims to upgrade the A303 trunk road as well as to remove the A344 road. In July 2003 the Highway Agency with the support from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and English Heritage, submitted a proposal which involves 2.1 km of bored tunnel and 3.6 km of four-lane dual carriageway, which mainly replaces existing dual carriageway, that runs through the World Heritage property. The bored tunnel scheme for A303 will (1) put trunk road traffic underground and therefore out of sight of the Stonehenge monument, (2) be less damaging to the underground archaeological deposit compared to the earlier proposal of "cut and cover tunnel scheme", and (3) be in line with the objectives of the Stonehenge World Heritage site Management Plan (English Heritage 2000). This is the result of continuous effort undertaken by the State Party which examined over 50 alternative routes with a significant amount of public consultations over twenty years since the inscription of the property in 1986. On 13 June 2003 a representative of the World Heritage Centre attended the Public Exhibition on the A303 Stonehenge Improvement at Amesbury.

The proposed scheme was subject to a Public Inquiry from 17 February to 11 May 2004. Details of the Public Inquiry, including daily transcripts, can be seen at www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk/stonehenge and www.highways.gov.uk.

According to the State Party, the Public Inquiry focused on the obligation of the State Party under the Convention, the justification for the inscription of the site on the World Heritage List and whether the proposed scheme was in accordance with the Management Plan. The proposal is controversial and a wide range of views and alternative proposals were placed before the Inspector. Concerns raised by ICOMOS-United Kingdom, the National Trust, the

Council of British Archaeology include possible damage that road cutting would have on underground archaeological deposit and on access across large parts of the site as well as increase in traffic and noise pollution. Some of the opponents to the current scheme prefer options with an extended tunnel up to 4.5 km or alternative road routes. ICOMOS United Kingdom in particular stated in their closing statement to the Public Inquiry that they do not support the proposed scheme, any of the alternative routes including a 4.5 km tunnel, nor the alternative suggestion by the National Trust of an addition of 200 m at the eastern end of the tunnel and 600 m at the western end.

The total cost of the proposed project is over US\$450 million, the estimated cost of the road scheme is over US\$350 million and the visitor centre with access scheme is some US\$100 million. The Government of the United Kingdom acknowledges that a longer tunnel would provide additional cultural benefits but there are other environmental issues and additional costs of some US\$ 300 million.

ICOMOS as well as other organisations and individuals have written to the World Heritage Centre to express their concern on the impact of the A303 scheme on the World Heritage site. The decision on whether to proceed with the scheme is expected by early 2005.

The planning application for the visitor centre and revised access arrangements are being finalised by the English Heritage that manages the monument on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom, in conjunction with the National Trust which has a large land holding within the World Heritage property.

The schemes for the reversion to chalk grassland, sponsored by the Department for Food and Rural Affairs are proceeding and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has reached agreement with local farmers concerning a reserved area for Stone Curlews which are extremely rare in the United Kingdom. This is one of the objectives of the Management Plan for the World Heritage site.

Avebury Circle: There is a research proposal made by a former Curator of Avebury Museum for Avebury stone circle. While most of the work would carry forward agreed research priorities, the research also includes re-erection of a megalith which fell in the 18th century and is currently lying on the ground. In the first half of the 20th century, the stone circle was altered by the archaeological work of Alexander Keiller who re-erected many stones, mainly in the western half of the Circle. The current proposal relates to a megalith in the south-east sector which was the least altered by previous archaeological work. The proposal will be subject to the statutory processes which will address issues including policy on the restoration of archaeological monuments as well as its potential impact on the World Heritage site.

Silbury Hill: Following the temporary conservation work in 2001 to stabilize a collapsed exploratory shaft in the hill, the English Heritage has recently carried out investigative work.

Two further cores were drilled from the top of the hill, one through the central shaft and the second to test the results of the seismic survey. These confirmed that overall the hill is stable, but that there are localised areas of weakness and voiding caused by previous investigations. The English Heritage will organise a seminar in 2005 to discuss how to secure the long-term preservation of the Silbury Hill.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15B.102

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Noting that the State Party did not provide a progress report by the deadline of 1 February 2004 as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session in 2003, but it was only provided on 7th of May and its revised version on 28 May 2004,*
2. *Notes the progress with the A303 Stonehenge Improvement and the proposals for a new visitor centre;*
3. *Welcomes opportunity given to the public to make their views known in the decisions making process concerning the A303 road construction through a Public Inquiry;*
4. *Requests that the Inspector's Report of the A303 Stonehenge Improvement Inquiry and details of the Visitor Centre planning application be provided to the Centre;*
5. *Further requests the State Party to provide an update report by 1 February 2005 to the World Heritage Centre in order that the World Heritage Committee can examine the state of conservation of the property at its 29th session in 2005.*

103. Tower of London (United Kingdom) (C 488)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1988

Criteria: C (ii) (iv)

Previous international assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

27 COM 7B.83

Conservation issues:

The requested update report on the construction projects for the Minerva Tower (216m) and the London Bridge Tower (303m) in the vicinity of the World Heritage property had not been received at the time of the preparation of this document.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.103**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Regretting that the requested report on the building projects was not provided on time by the State Party,
2. Recommends that the State Party avoid any construction in the immediate vicinity of the site that could harm the setting and integrity of the property;
3. Further requests the State Party to provide an up-date report on this matter including an in-depth study of the possible impacts, to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2005 in order that the World Heritage Committee can examine the state of conservation of the property at its 29th session in 2005.

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

PART I

104. Archaeological Site of Chavín (Peru) (C 330)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1985

Criteria: C (iii)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount: US\$75,550

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21(b) 63

27 COM 7B.97

Conservation Issues:

The Secretariat received a progress report from the State Party on 30 January 2004. It presented the efforts in documenting and registering the structures and archaeological material, domestic and burial, discovered during the construction of the new road as part of the Special Project "Provias Departamental". Between June and September 2003, an emergency plan for the area of "La Banda" was established. The Government is preparing the development of a feasibility study for Cultural Tourism (Plan Copesco), as well as a call for tender to build a site museum in due time. Furthermore, the report stated, as was done in earlier reports, that the finalization of the Master Plan is foreseen in 2004.

ICOMOS commented that the State Party reported, in response to a request from the World Heritage Committee at its 27th Session in 2003, that it had set up an expert working group to prepare a Technical Plan for Chavín, to serve as the basis for the eventual Master Plan for the site. A number of reports on the causes of its deterioration have been produced, covering the topography of the site and its surroundings, water erosion, the chemical and biological characteristics of the materials used in the structures, their foundations, and decay due to micro-organisms. As a result the main causes of damage and degradation have been identified, which will enable technical solutions to be developed that will reduce or prevent the impact of external influences. The Technical Plan is being modified so as to give priority to certain studies to be carried out during 2004 into the stability of the slopes of the Cochas Mountains and the underground water in the region of the site. Emergency works, planned to last four months, began in the second half of June 2003, but they were delayed because of the need to carry out rescue archaeological investigation and conservation works necessitated by the construction of a road on the right bank of the Rio Mosna.

At the present time a topographical survey of the entire site and the architectural survey of all the structures have been completed. Work is proceeding on the eradication of a particularly tenacious weed, known as *kikoyu*, and the cleaning of the surfaces of certain monuments. Other

projects that are currently in progress are the Chavín Cultural Tourism Project, training courses and workshops in archaeological conservation, which involve the local population, and preliminary planning for the future Chavín National Museum.

ICOMOS, as well as the Secretariat, are conscious of the magnitude of the task involved in preparing a management plan for the Chavín archaeological site, but it remains regrettable that no archaeological surveys were conducted prior to the road construction. The Committee may wish to invite the State Party to request a joint ICOMOS-UNESCO Reactive Monitoring mission to Chavín to assess damages and discuss the timetable for the preparation of the Management Plan.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.104**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Taking note of the report transmitted by the State Party,
2. Regretting that the construction of a new road through the World Heritage property caused damages, which should have been assessed through archaeological surveys prior to the construction activities,
3. Recalls paragraph 56 of the Operational Guidelines;
4. Requests the State Party to submit, by 1 February 2005, a detailed report containing an assessment of the damage to the property, for consideration by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005.

105. Historic Quarter of the City of Colonia del Sacramento (Uruguay) (C 747)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1995

Criteria: C (iv)

Previous international assistance:

None

Previous deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 71

27 COM 7B.101

Conservation Issues:

On 7 October 2003, the National Cultural Heritage Commission of Uruguay informed the Director of the World Heritage Centre that the Municipality of Colonia had decided to establish a Commission for a Management Plan of Colonia del Sacramento. This Commission would be in charge of the preparation of a management plan for the World Heritage area and would be integrated by representatives of local community organizations, the Society of Architects of Uruguay, the Honorary Executive Council for the Preservation of Colonia, the Municipality and the National Cultural Heritage Commission. To the knowledge of UNESCO, this Commission has not yet become operational.

Regarding the Hotel-Casino project, and on the basis of the recommendations of the ICOMOS expert mission to Colonia in April 2002, a joint working group of the National Cultural Heritage Commission of Uruguay and the Honorary Executive Council for the Preservation of Colonia reviewed a series of project revisions elaborated by the architect of the project. Following this process, the National Cultural Heritage Commission transmitted by letter dated 20 February 2004 several reports as well as the most recent architectural designs, dated December 2003, requesting an expert mission for their evaluation.

As these reports and architectural designs could not be evaluated before the time of preparation of the state of conservation report, review and comments by ICOMOS will be presented separately. As a follow-up to the 2002 Reactive Monitoring mission, the requested ICOMOS mission is scheduled for May 2004 to review and discuss the hotel-casino project.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.105**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Taking note of the information transmitted by the State Party,
2. Having heard as well the comments of ICOMOS on additional reports and architectural designs for the hotel-casino project, which were discussed with the relevant authorities in Uruguay,

3. Commends the State Party for following up on the ICOMOS and Committee recommendations with regard to the need for the preparation of a management plan for the area and the revision of the hotel-casino project;
4. Requests the State Party to consider the results of the ICOMOS mission and to elaborate the project for the hotel-casino project accordingly;
5. Urges the State Party to make operational the Commission for the Management Plan of Colonia del Sacramento;
6. Requests the State Part to submit, by 1 February 2005, a report on the progress of the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for consideration by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005.

106. Coro and its Port (Venezuela) (C 658)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1993

Criteria: C (iv) (v)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous deliberations:

27 COM 7B.102

Conservation Issues:

The Secretariat received a progress report from the State Party, drafted by the *Instituto del Patrimonio Cultural* (IPC), the national agency responsible for cultural heritage in Venezuela, on 19 February 2004. The report contained information structured in three main sections:

- a) Actions to be taken by the Venezuelan authorities concerning the Management Plan of Coro and its Port that is shown in an accompanying document *Ideas para los lineamientos de un plan integral de Conservación e Desarrollo para Coro, el Puerto de la Vela y sus Areas de Influencia* (Ideas for an outline of an integral plan for the Conservation and Development of Coro, its Port La Vela and its Areas of Influence). This document, presented in a draft version, illustrated the strategic approach at the base of the management plan. This approach consists of a revision of current legislation, creation of integrated and interdisciplinary management, participatory process, and coordination of liaisons between sociological and economical factors affecting the site.
- b) Creation of a Presidential Commission for the protection of Coro and its surrounding area. This section addressed the issues related to how this Commission intends to operate with regard to the decision-making process, involvement and integration of civil society, institutions and all relevant stakeholders.
- c) Mechanism to strengthen the influence of the *Instituto del Patrimonio Cultural* (IPC) at the site via a participatory process, educational programmes and coordination between the concerned authorities.

The Secretariat notes that the report of the Government of Venezuela lacks substantial information. No information is provided on the Presidential Commission's structure, there is no mention on definition of responsibilities or on how it intends to protect and manage the site, to strengthen the presence of the *Instituto del Patrimonio Cultural* (IPC) or to raise awareness on the values of the site. No information is provided on the deterioration of the architectural and urban coherence and integrity of the property and no efforts or interest are shown to consolidate and protect the earthen constructions.

On 8 and 9 December 2003 the *Comision Nacional para Cooperacion con UNESCO* (CNCU), with support from the

Netherlands Funds-in-Trust at UNESCO, organized a roundtable discussion on the Conservation and Management of the World Heritage site of Coro and its Port, held in Coro, Venezuela. A total of 14 Venezuelan resource persons participated in the roundtable discussion, which included representatives from the Ministry of Planning and Regional Development, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Environment, the Municipality of Miranda, the State of Falcón, the University of Francisco de Miranda, the National Commission for UNESCO, and the World Heritage Centre. Unfortunately, little time was devoted to discuss the bad state of conservation and ways and means for improvement; instead only some broad outlines for economic and social development on a regional and national level were proposed by IPC, similar to the information in the progress report.

The mission concluded that the current political situation, with increasing polarization of Venezuelan society into groups supporting or opposing the plans for national restructuring, is paralyzing any constructive discussion with regard to improved conservation and management of Coro and its Port. While it remains questionable whether the Venezuelan authorities will be able to develop an effective short-term plan of action that will reverse the situation, on the other hand, the overall situation in the country is of such nature that a careful approach seems necessary, to not force or polarize things further. Even though Danger listing has to be regarded as a positive, pro-active approach, allowing for increased international assistance, it seems that perhaps more time is needed for the political process to unfold, for the national Government to determine its strategies and priorities, and for the municipalities and conservation agencies to develop effective means for cooperation and coordination.

ICOMOS examined the progress report of the State Party as well as the World Heritage Centre mission report of December 2003 and, while it recognized the complexity and seriousness of the situation, commented that it supports the viewpoints of the Secretariat. It recommended that the Secretariat prepare several short-term programmes in order to enable the State Party to address the serious problems of Coro and its Port.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.106**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Taking note of the progress report transmitted by the State Party,
2. Expressing its serious concerns about the state of conservation of the property and lack of adequate management, planning and conservation mechanisms,
3. Urges the State Party, once again, to consider and implement the recommendations of the 2002 UNESCO/ICOMOS mission and to submit a request for

International Assistance under the World Heritage Fund to this end;

4. *Requests the Secretariat to develop, in close consultation with ICOMOS and the Venezuelan authorities, a programme of action, including assistance in changing the current political scope into a more technical one, in creating awareness of the cultural-historic importance of the property, in establishing a community-based participatory conservation process, and in seeking additional funding for conservation activities;*
5. *Requests the State Party to submit, by 1 February 2005, a report on the progress made in the implementation of recommendations for consideration by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005.*

PART II

107. Jesuit Missions of the Guaranies: San Ignacio Mini, Santa Ana, Nuestra Senora de Loreto and Santa Maria Mayor (Argentina), Ruins of Sao Miguel das Missoes (Brazil) (C 275-291)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1983;
extended in 1984

Criteria: C (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount: US\$92,350

Previous deliberations:

23 COM X.46

27 COM 7B.84

Conservation Issues:

Following an interdisciplinary expert team mission organised in October 2002, UNESCO and the World Monuments Fund proposed a three-year capacity building programme for the ensemble of the Jesuit Missions. As a first key-component of this programme, a one-week training-workshop was held at the Jesuit Mission of Sao Miguel in Brazil in November 2003. The workshop was attended by more than fifty representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay and a great number of experts that had been identified by the participating States Parties. The workshop was funded from the World Heritage Fund, the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust and contribution through the World Monuments Fund.

The workshop was interdisciplinary and addressed the following issues: research and documentation, archaeology, conservation, environment and landscape, public use and management. For each of the issues, the participants exchanged experiences and drafted action plans for implementation. Immediately after the workshop, a special training session took place, for a limited number of participants on the conservation of stone, which is a key-issue at all Jesuit Missions sites.

The second year of the programme will culminate in a training-workshop in Argentina, scheduled to take place in October-November 2004. This training-workshop will build upon the previous experiences and the work undertaken in the course of the year.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.107**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Takes note of the report on the implementation and results of the sub-regional capacity building programme for the conservation, management and sustainable development of the Jesuit Missions of the Guaranies (2003- 2005).*

108. Brasilia (Brazil) (C 445)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1987

Criteria: C (i) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount: US\$42,000

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25 COM V.244-5

27 COM 7B.85

Conservation Issues:

On 3 February 2004, the Secretariat received progress reports from the *Instituto do Patrimônio Histórico e Artístico Nacional* (IPHAN) and the Under-Secretariat for Urban Planning and Preservation of the Government of the Federal District, on the design and implementation of the Master Plan for the protected area of Brasília. During 2002, on the basis of the November 2001 joint UNESCO-ICOMOS monitoring mission, a methodological basis for the design of a Master Plan had been set up. The process of elaborating the Master Plan is being supervised by the Secretariat for Urban Development and Housing, through its Under-Secretariat for Urban Planning and Heritage Preservation, coordinated by the Brasília's Preservation Board.

The Plan is characterized by a participatory process that involves integration between government and society, whose organizational structure includes: Management Council for Brasília's Preservation Area (*Conselho Gestor da Área de Preservação de Brasília* - CONPRESB), the Executive Group composed of, among others, 21 members from government organizations, teaching and research institutes, the civil society, the productive sector, non-governmental institutions and from member communities that are directly associated with the plan's target areas, a Technical Team composed of specialists from the State Secretariats and from Regional Administration Units, and finally the City Forum, whose members meet during specific stages of the process to discuss proposals made by the society as a whole.

Over the course of several meetings, a need for preliminary studies and documents was established in order to guide the Technical Teams. The priority technical studies, which were started in 2002 and continued throughout 2003, included:

- a) "Characterization of Lake Paranoá's Shore and its Model for Development", which was completed in 2003 and consists of a full diagnosis of the parts of Lake Paranoá's shore that are part of Brasília's Area of Preservation with the objective of evaluating the degree to which Lúcio Costa's principles for this specific area contrast with the current demands to facilitate the establishment of general guidelines to be considered in the Master Plan.
- b) The partially concluded study "Superquadra: Time and Space" (*superquadra* is the name given to each set of residential buildings that are part of the *Plano Piloto*).

The first phase of this study includes research of and reflection upon Brasília's *superquadras* and the main result is of which of the suggested guidelines for regulating the use and occupation of the penthouses and stilts of residential buildings.

- c) The study "Criteria for Preservation", in conjunction with the results obtained from work carried out by another group (the Scales Group), will yield legal proposals that will integrate the corresponding law ruling over general guidelines and legislation pertaining to territorial planning, fundamental rules for land use and occupation, legal instruments for urban policies, in addition to the institutional means that are necessary for the implementation, approval, continuity and review of such tools.

The perspectives for 2004 include the implementation of the results of the work groups to establish partnerships to financially subsidize the elaboration of the Master Plan (*Plano Diretor*), to execute various socio-economic surveys, monitor and elaborate directed public questionnaires, study and compose the City's Forum, and host the First Seminar of the Master Plan for Brasília's Preservation Area.

ICOMOS commended the Brazilian authorities because the progress reports show how both IPHAN (Institute for the National Historic and Artistic Heritage) and GDF (Federal District Government) are concerned with the conservation of the World Heritage property and its environs, and to what extent the recommendations from the 2001 monitoring mission have been taken into account. Both reports described in detail actions undertaken and currently in progress. The two organisms started working together in 2002 through the Inter-Institutional Technical Group (GTI) and further efforts should be made to strengthen common work and to reach a common understanding. It is evident that IPHAN has a critical view on some actions developed by the local government. Both IPHAN and GDF should be encouraged to continue with the task in the framework of a close mutual co-operation.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15B.108

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Taking note of the reports transmitted by the State Party containing information on the design and elaboration of the Master Plan for the protected area of Brasília,
2. Encourages a continued and strengthened cooperation between IPHAN and GDF;
3. Requests the State Party to keep the Committee informed on the further elaboration of Brasília's Master Plan.

109. Historic Centre of the Town of Goiás (Brazil) (C 993 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2001
Criteria: C (ii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:
2002: US\$57,288, Emergency Assistance

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:
26 COM 21 (b) 38
27 COM 7B.86

Conservation Issues:

The Secretariat received the ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring report on Goiás on 15 January 2004 and a report from the *Instituto do Patrimônio Histórico e Artístico Nacional* (IPHAN) on 3 February 2004.

As a result of the December 2001 floods and in order to protect the city centre in the future from the intensity of rains, during 2002 an integrated urban and environmental preservation scheme was executed by the local government, which caused intense controversy between local authorities and governmental and non-governmental organisations since it involved major new constructions, among which an avenue along one of the river banks.

In order to assess results of the restoration works carried out and the impact of the integrated treatment, among which the road construction, an ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission was carried out from 5 to 9 January 2004. The report commended the good state of conservation of buildings and public spaces in the historic centre in general and the results of the reconstruction and restoration works. While the revitalization of urban spaces was appreciated as an opportunity to generate new poles of attraction out of the historic city centre, with regard to the construction of the avenue along the riverbank, however, the ICOMOS mission concluded that this was not considered necessary from a functional point of view. Moreover, it could cause direct or indirect damage to the historic centre or other areas of historic and landscape interest and therefore put the Outstanding Universal Value of Goiás in jeopardy.

The report of the *Instituto do Patrimônio Histórico e Artístico Nacional* (IPHAN's 14th Regional Office) provided a detailed overview of the mission, with sites visited, persons consulted and reports presented. It further stated that the project to build the avenue was administratively embargoed and brought to court by IPHAN and the Federal Public Ministry (a branch of the Ministry of Justice).

ICOMOS acknowledged receipt of the IPHAN report and commented that it was a well prepared and detailed chronicle of the mission. It further commended the 14th Regional Office of IPHAN for playing a relevant role before and after the mission, since it was the organism in charge of the organization and follow-up of the arranged programme.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.109**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Taking note of the reports transmitted by ICOMOS and the State Party,
2. Commending the Brazilian authorities for their concerted effort in restoring and revitalizing the Historic Centre of the Town of Goiás and for inviting the ICOMOS monitoring mission,
3. Requests the State Party to keep the Committee informed on the outcome of the judicial process regarding the construction of the avenue as part of the integrated preservation scheme.

110. Historic Town of Ouro Preto (Brazil) (C 124)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1980

Criteria: C (i) (iii)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount: US\$108,625

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

27 COM 7B.87

Conservation Issues:

The Secretariat received a progress report from the *Instituto do Patrimônio Histórico e Artístico Nacional* (IPHAN) on 3 February 2004 with information on the property's preserved area and description of the perimeter.

The report described in detail delimitations of a Preserved Central Zone, which coincides with the Special Protection Zone as defined in the 1996 Master Plan for Ouro Preto, and Transition and Buffer Zones. The Preserved Central Zone is being monitored by the *Instituto do Patrimônio Histórico e Artístico Nacional* (IPHAN), which has established Guidelines on Urban and Architectonic Intervention in the Special Protection Zone. IPHAN further expressed the need for monitoring in the Transition and Buffer Zones as well. However, no particular mention is made of risk preparedness measures being considered in the revision of the Master Plan.

The report further included a letter from the Public Works Secretary of the City of Ouro Preto to the *Instituto do Patrimônio Histórico e Artístico Nacional* (IPHAN), dated 25 November 2003, indicating that Ouro Preto has an approved Master Plan in force since 1996, which is in the process of review and upgrading to match it with the City Statute Law N° 10257, 10 July 2001, with a deadline of February 2004. Since May 2003 a participatory process is under execution involving regional workshops and information meetings, either to discuss the referred plan or to vote on proposals and modifications prepared by a consultants team.

ICOMOS has studied the response of the State Party to the World Heritage Committee's decision at its 27th session in 2003 to define a core and buffer zone of the inscribed World Heritage property and concludes that the definitions in the report perfectly match the request of the Committee.

ICOMOS considered that the Special Protection Zone (*Zona de Protección Especial*, ZPE-1) of the Master Plan, prepared in 1996 and under revision, could correspond to the delimitation of the area inscribed as World Heritage; the buffer zone is also adequate, as it covers a protection zone around the historic centre of Ouro Preto. However, ICOMOS considers that the archaeological zone of Ouro Preto, which contains important remnants of the origins of the town, would merit a better protection.

The next phase after delimitation would consist of a finalization of the revision of the Master Plan and to have it approved and implemented by all the authorities concerned with the historic central area and its buffer zone.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.110**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Taking note of the report transmitted by the State Party containing information on the delimitation and description of Core and Buffer Zones to be included in a revised version of the 1996 Master Plan for Ouro Preto,
2. Requests the State Party to keep the Committee informed on the finalization, approval and implementation of the revised Master Plan.

111. Churches of Chiloé (Chile) (C 971)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2000

Criteria: C (ii) (iii)

Previous International Assistance:

2001: US\$50,000, Emergency Assistance

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 40

27 COM 7B.88

Conservation Issues:

The Secretariat received two progress reports from the *Consejo de Monumentos Nacionales* (National Monuments Council) of the Ministry of Education on the restoration activities on the Churches of Chiloé, including the latest information concerning an Inter-American Development Bank loan, on 14 April 2004.

The first report focused on the general activities plan for the period 2004-2006, while the second one summarized the restoration activities carried out from 2001 until 2003, including a budget breakdown. The churches of Castro and Dalcahue were restored in 2001, while in 2002 a feasibility study was carried out on the churches of Colo and Chonci (seriously damaged by heavy rains), for which the Chilean Government had allocated US\$52,000. In that same year UNESCO provided financial assistance (US\$50,000) in order to restore the Church of San Juan and to elaborate an emergency restoration plan for the complete site, while the World Monuments Fund allocated US\$350,000 for the restoration of Tenaún. Thanks to a loan of US\$ three millions provided through the Inter-American Development Bank planning is underway to restore all 16 churches, being for 2004: Tenaún, Vilupulli, Quinchao, Aldachildo, Ichuac; for 2005: Nercón, Rilán, Chelín and for 2006: Caguach, Achao, Detif, Dalcahue.

Among the activities foreseen in the action plan particular emphasis is given to the *proyectos transversals* (cross-cutting projects), among which capacity building programmes like seminars for training carpenters, for the site guides, and international symposia on restoration techniques. The report underlined that all the activities are implemented via the *Fundación Amigos de las Iglesias de Chiloé* (Friends of the Chiloé Churches Foundation), which is a non-profit organisation.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.111**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Taking note of the progress reports transmitted by the State Party,
2. Commends the authorities for their comprehensive programme of restoration and training activities, ongoing as well as foreseen, and for having generated

significant additional funding to the Emergency Assistance, which was provided under the World Heritage Fund;

3. Thanks the World Monuments Fund and the *Fundación Amigos de las Iglesias de Chiloé* for their contribution to the implementation of the restoration activities.

112. Port, Fortresses and Group of Monuments, Cartagena (Colombia) (C 285)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1984

Criteria: C (iv) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount: US\$135,500

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

17 COM X p. 22

27 COM 7B.89

Conservation Issues:

Upon request of the Colombian national authorities an ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission took place from 29 November to 5 December 2003 to assess the state of conservation of the Church of Santo Domingo in Cartagena de Indias. The ICOMOS mission report was received at the Secretariat on 10 March 2004. A progress report from the *Dirección de Patrimonio* (Heritage Department) of the Ministry of Culture of Colombia was received on 9 March 2004.

In accordance with the recommendations of the May-June 2003 UNESCO-ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to Cartagena de Indias, the Ministry of Culture has initiated a series of activities involving: a) a proper delimitation of the site; b) elaboration of a Management Plan; c) strengthening of community participation in this process; d) the restoration and conservation of the Church of Santo Domingo; and e) the execution of detailed investigations and inventories of the walled cordon around the inscribed property.

A study was executed that described typologies of structures and spaces of historic and architectonic interest to provide for a detailed delimitation of the historic urban landscape of the property. The elaboration of a Management Plan is taking place in the framework of a Special Protection Plan (*Plan Especial de Protección - PEP*), which aims to formulate a planning instrument for the integrated protection and development of cultural properties under Law 397 of 1997. In the elaboration and implementation of these activities community participation constituted a central element of the methodology employed.

Concerning the Church of Santo Domingo, the objectives were to assess the overall state of the building's fabric and to advise the Colombian representatives of the Ministry of Culture, and the architects and engineers working on the building site, on the current repair of the masonry construction. The conclusions of the mission were that the repair works on the Church are being executed in a very professional manner, and both the choice of materials and the execution of the work by the craftsmen proved to be of excellent quality. The building's fabric, which has been improved and consolidated over the last 400 years, was considered to be stable with no need for extra reinforcement, and the walls and vaults showed after intense investigation and in spite of their age no serious damage that could be related to earthquakes.

ICOMOS received the report of the State Party and congratulates the authorities for having taken note of the recommendations of the joint UNESCO-ICOMOS mission of 2003, in particular for the preparation of the Management Plan for the property. The first part of the report included a very detailed study of the delimitation of the historic urban landscape of Cartagena. It identified zones for protection and conservation of historic, cultural, architectural and archaeological heritage of the historic centre of Cartagena, its perimeter of influence into the historic urban landscape, including visual axes and the historic sections of urban and rural expansion. This inventory has been completed by a typology of architectural/historic structures and spaces for each of the zones. The second part of the report contained a civil engineering study concerning the different elements of the fortification system of the property (walls, bastions and ditches), an analysis of their capacity aiming at the installation of cultural infrastructures and an evaluation of their state of conservation.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.112**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Taking note of the reports provided by ICOMOS and the State Party on the state of conservation of the property,
2. Congratulates the authorities for thoroughly implementing the recommendations of the UNESCO-ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission of 2003.

113. Colonial City of Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic) (C 526)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1990

Criteria: C (ii) (iv) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount: US\$82,207

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 43

27 COM 7B.90

Conservation Issues:

In 2003, the Committee requested the State Party to provide a report on the progress made in the adoption of the new law on monumental heritage. At the time of the preparation of this report, however, the Secretariat had not received such report from the State Party.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.113**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Regrets that the State Party did not provide the requested report on the progress made in the adoption of the new law on monumental heritage;*
2. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to provide the above-mentioned report by 1 February 2005 for consideration of the Committee at its 29th session in 2005.*

114. Antigua Guatemala (Guatemala) (C 65)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979

Criteria: C (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount: US\$80,926

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25 EXT BUR V 246-247

27 COM 7B.92

Conservation Issues:

In accordance with Committee decision *WHC-03/27.COM/7B.92*, a second ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission took place from 9 to 13 February 2004 with the objective to gather information on current factors that threaten the property, related to urban development and tourism pressures, lack of management and updated legislation and inadequate institutional coordination. In particular the construction of a new large shopping centre in the Old Town had raised concerns, for which an earlier ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission was sent in 2001. The mission served also to verify the results of the reconstruction works of the Cathedral and the Third Cloister of the Compañía de Jesús.

A progress report from the Ministry of Culture and Sports was received at the Secretariat on 30 January 2004 containing information on:

- a) The plan to develop a former plantation in the surroundings of Antigua, the *Finca Retana Project*, as part of the Urban Development Plan for La Antigua Guatemala, for which the local authorities are currently dealing with an impact study. However, no project plans or details have been received by the Secretariat, while the ICOMOS expert was not allowed to consult the proposal.
- b) The partial reconstruction of the ruins of the Cathedral, which is now completed. This intervention aimed at consolidating the structure.
- c) The successful intervention by the Spanish Agency for International Co-operation (AECI) at the Third Cloister of the Compañía de Jesús, which had the objective to revitalize the building by establishing a school for heritage training and capacity building activities.
- d) Legal changes in process to update the draft law for La Antigua Guatemala. The Law is in Congress for a consultative process.

The ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission report was received at the Secretariat on 26 March 2004 and clearly recognized the urgent need for updating and approval of the Protection Law for Antigua, as well as the finalization and legal approval of Antigua's new Regulations and Master Plan, including a territorial approach.

The ICOMOS report confirmed that all the relevant authorities and decision makers now agree on not building the projected shopping centre in the Old Town. The discussion is now focused on the development of the twenty-two hectares of the *Finca Retana*, a former plantation in the surroundings of Antigua. Over the last year, the plan for a large commercial centre was rejected and, instead, a convention centre and related facilities were proposed for *Finca Retana*. In the opinion of the ICOMOS expert the development of Antigua, under the current growth rate of its population and related demands, cannot be avoided, but should be guided through necessary control and proper regulations according to the obligation to preserve the World Heritage site and its surrounding natural landscape. New building projects should only be authorized, if they do not interfere with the preservation of cultural-historic values of the property and if the design is of high quality.

The ICOMOS report further stated that the reconstruction of the Third Cloister of the Compañía de Jesús, which was turned into a very modern information centre for conservation and restoration training as part of the Spanish Program for the Americas, does not present major problems regarding authenticity and integrity.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.114**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Taking note of the reports provided by ICOMOS and the State Party concerning the process of revision and updating of legislation for the protection of Antigua Guatemala and the reconstruction and revitalization projects of the Cathedral and the Third Cloister of the Compañía de Jesús, which have not negatively affected the values of the property,
2. Thanking the Spanish Agency for International Co-operation (AECI) for their valuable contribution to revitalizing Antigua Guatemala, while respecting its cultural heritage,
3. Invites the State Party to further cooperate with the Spanish Agency for International Co-operation (AECI) as well as with ICOMOS to finalize and implement a Master Plan for Antigua, including clear delimitation of the property's buffer zone, detailed management plan, risk preparedness programmes, traffic regulation studies and tourism revenue policy for conservation;
4. Requests the State Party to keep the Committee informed on further developments with regard to the Master Plan for Antigua Guatemala.

115. Maya Site of Copán (Honduras) (C 129)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1980

Criteria: C (iv) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount: US\$162,825

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

23 BUR IV.15 p.9

27 COM 7B.93

Conservation Issues:

In 2003, the Committee requested the State Party to provide a report on the state of conservation of the property with particular reference to its decision concerning the development of a commercial airport to operate at the archaeological site of Copan. At the time of the preparation of this report, however, the Secretariat had not received such report from the State Party.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.115**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Regrets that the State Party did not provide the requested report on the state of conservation of the property with particular reference to its decision concerning the development of a commercial airport to operate at the archaeological site of Copan;*
2. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to provide the above-mentioned report by 1 February 2005 for consideration of the Committee at its 29th session in 2005.*

116. Historic Centre of Puebla (Mexico) (C 416)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1987
Criteria: C (ii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:
Total amount: US\$120,000

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:
26 COM 21. (b) 60
27 COM 7B.94

Conservation Issues:

Since 2002 the Secretariat has been receiving information from the civil society of Puebla expressing public concern regarding the construction of underground parking facilities as elaborated by the Mayor of the city over the past one and a half year. Disregarding the ICOMOS recommendations of the May 2002 Reactive Monitoring mission, the Municipality of Puebla had begun the construction of the first parking in September 2003, without having conducted a traffic regulation study or an archaeological survey, and without the authorization of INAH Puebla (*Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia*). For this reason a second ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission took place from 30 October to 4 November 2003 to verify the state of implementation of construction of the underground parking facilities, which were located in the core and buffer zones of the World Heritage property.

The report of the second ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission established a priority in urgently undertaking a transportation and traffic study, thoroughly adjusted to the current process of urban rehabilitation. Furthermore, the eight recommendations that were formulated by ICOMOS after the first Reactive Monitoring mission (12-14 May 2002) remain valid, as the Municipality of Puebla has unfortunately not addressed them. All the foreseen works were formulated without a careful analysis on how to improve the existing parking facilities in the historic centre and its immediate periphery (since most of them were not used to full capacity).

The Secretariat was informed by letter dated 20 January 2004 through the Permanent Delegation of Mexico to UNESCO on the suspension of construction works: on 9 September 2003 INAH (*Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia*) had stopped the illegal works and on 23 October it had refused a permit for the project. In this letter the Directorate of World Heritage in Mexico further informed on the elaboration of a special "Declaration" to ensure a better protection and preservation of the Historical Centre of Puebla, which was in the process of finalization. The Secretariat has not received any information on progress in the finalization of the Integral Plan for the Rehabilitation of the Historic Centre of Puebla.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15B.116

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Taking note of the ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring report and information transmitted by the State Party concerning the construction of underground parking facilities in the World Heritage core and buffer zones of Puebla,
2. Commending the State Party for having taken the proper measures to stop the construction activities,
3. Requests the State Party to keep the Committee informed on the implementation of the ICOMOS recommendations as well as on the finalization of the Integral Plan for the Rehabilitation of the Historic Centre of Puebla.

117. Historic Centre of Mexico City and Xochimilco (Mexico) (C 412)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1987

Criteria: C (ii) (iii) (iv) (v)

Previous International Assistance:

1999: US\$5,000

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

11 COM VIII.A p.7

27 COM 7B.95

Conservation Issues:

On 2 February 2004 the Secretariat received a progress report on the "Project for the Participatory Identification of an Integral Rehabilitation Plan for the Cultural Heritage of Xochimilco," which was prepared by the UNESCO Mexico Office for the Delegation of Xochimilco.

In September 2003, the UNESCO Office in Mexico signed an agreement with the Delegation of Xochimilco concerning the realisation of a *Study in Preparation of the Participatory Elaboration of an Integral Management Plan for the Heritage of Xochimilco*. As stipulated by the agreement, the government of Xochimilco financed this project with US\$175,000 for the first year. A working group, made up of experts on social issues as well as on natural and cultural heritage, had started to outline the steps leading to a management plan and was assessing their political and social viability. The aim of the project is to generate a participatory working methodology that would fit the circumstances of Xochimilco and that will produce a consensual definition of values as well as a vision for the future of the site. The first phase of the project was concluded on 19 January 2004 with the elaboration of a review of the actual situation, based on the available documentation, and an outline of further steps. A document containing this information was submitted to the Delegation of Xochimilco on 23 January 2004.

ICOMOS commented on the report that this document was described as the first phase of the preparation of the Master Plan. Its starting points were the recommendations of the November 2002 ICOMOS mission and subsequent seminar. The Project adopts a realistic approach to the management and conservation challenges confronting this part of the World Heritage property, which involved seeking solutions to a complex interacting network of grave social, political, administrative, and conservation management problems. It sets out a programme of consultations and research designed to produce solutions that will conform to the requirements of the World Heritage Committee.

ICOMOS fully supports the Project, which needs to be implemented with the minimum of delay and the utmost diligence, so as to avoid further deterioration of a unique and severely degraded cultural landscape. Consideration should be given to the dispatch of further ICOMOS missions in the coming years in order to provide the Committee with an independent professional evaluation of the implementation

and efficacy of the Rehabilitation Plan and the eventual Master Plan.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.117**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Taking note of the UNESCO Mexico Office report concerning the Project for the Participatory Identification of an Integral Rehabilitation Plan for the Cultural Heritage of Xochimilco,
2. Congratulates all parties involved in the preparation of the Project and invites the State Party to consult ICOMOS and IUCN in the process of the elaboration and implementation of the Rehabilitation Plan and the eventual Master Plan;
3. Requests the State Party to keep the Committee informed on the further elaboration of the Project for the Participatory Identification of an Integral Rehabilitation Plan for the Cultural Heritage of Xochimilco.

**118. Fortifications on the Caribbean side of Panama:
Portobelo-San Lorenzo (Panama) (C 135)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1980

Criteria: C (i) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount: US\$73,888

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25 COM VIII

27 COM 7B.96

Conservation Issues:

At the time of the preparation of this document, the Secretariat had not received from the State Party the requested report on the design and further measures taken for the conservation of the property.

From 13 to 16 March 2004 the World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the World Monuments Fund and INAH Mexico (*Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia*), organized a regional expert meeting on Fortifications in the Americas, which took place in Campeche (Mexico). During the meeting, twenty case studies on the conservation and restoration of historic fortifications were discussed, including the state of conservation of Portobelo-San Lorenzo. The Secretariat noted the very poor state, in particular of San Jeronimo Fortress, and the person responsible for the restoration project of San Juan de Ulua in Mexico (supported by American Express) expressed an interest in assisting the relevant authorities in Panama to define an action plan for intervention at San Jeronimo Fortress in Portobelo.

Due to the partial loss of the original fabric of San Jeronimo, the World Monuments Fund (WMF) included the property in the programme of World Monuments Watch and began an evaluation project to identify the threats to the sites of Portobelo and San Lorenzo. The WMF is currently implementing the last phase of the project devoted to consolidation works for San Jeronimo and Santiago Fortresses.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.118**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Taking note of the information on the meeting on Fortifications in the Americas, which took place in March 2004 in Campeche (Mexico), which discussed the poor state of conservation of the property of Portobelo-San Lorenzo,
2. Thanking the World Monuments Fund and American Express, once again, for their support in the follow-up of the restoration project in San Jeronimo and Santiago Fortresses,

3. Invites the State Party to submit a request for International Assistance to further support conservation works at the property;
4. Requests the State Party to submit by 1 February 2005 a progress report on the state of conservation of the property to the World Heritage Committee for examination of at its 29th session in 2005.

119. City of Cuzco (Peru) (C 273)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1983

Criteria: C (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount: US\$72,000

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

24 BUR IV 78

27 COM 7B.98

Conservation Issues:

The Secretariat received a progress report by the State Party on 30 January 2004 comprising a copy of the Master Plan, a report on the "Emergency Evaluation of Buildings in the Historic Centre" and a copy of section II of the Periodic Report of 2004 for this property.

The Master Plan suggests a redefinition of the limits of the property, a modification of the land uses related to certain services provided and an improvement of the housing policy within the centre of Cuzco. A public awareness campaign has been foreseen aimed to improve the knowledge of the historical values of the city. The Master Plan has not yet been approved.

A World Heritage Centre mission to Cuzco, which took place from 23 to 27 October 2003, discussed the decision of the Committee at its 27th session in which the Cuzco authorities were requested to finalize the Master Plan. In spite of the measures taken by the municipality to control the development of tourism, it continued to produce high levels of "noise and visual pollution", as a clear consequence of this development. The mission, after having visited the place of Sacsahuamán, suggested that the authorities submit an extension of the inscribed area, providing protection measures to safeguard this site against the current problems of tourist invasions. This archaeological site is cultural-historically connected to the city of Cuzco.

ICOMOS reviewed the "Report on the Emergency Evaluation of Buildings in the Historic Centre" and commented that the document was an account of the emergency survey carried out following the heavy rains in February 2003, which were overseen by a Multisectoral Committee composed of representatives of the National Institute of Culture, the Provincial Municipality of Cuzco, the group responsible for preparing the Master Plan, the National Institute for Civil Defence, and the National University "San Antonio Abad" of Cuzco.

The evaluation, which was considered to be a provisional study, consisted of visits to properties that concentrated on emergency measures such as shoring, roofs, drains, temporary covers, etc. It resulted in the preparation of technical recommendations for emergency action, which were widely distributed locally. Standard recording forms were prepared, with a numerical grading system for damage.

A total of 1275 properties were assessed, of which the majority (700) were graded as being moderately at risk, 275 as being seriously endangered, and 60 in an emergency condition. Forms were prepared for the last group with recommendations for action, including cost estimates.

In its conclusions the report identified the main problem as being lack of maintenance, either because of lack of resources on the part of owners or because of legal problems relating to ownership. Deliberate neglect of historic properties was discovered in some cases. The effect of heavy traffic was also seen as a cause of deterioration. The report recommended the programmed monitoring of maintenance work and the banning of vehicular traffic from certain streets. A strong recommendation was made that the use of reinforced concrete should be prohibited in the historic centre of the town.

ICOMOS strongly supports the immediate implementation of the report's recommendations. The methodology used should form the basis for a risk-preparedness programme for incorporation into the eventual Master Plan, which should also include other aspects such as the restriction of vehicular traffic and the prohibition of reinforced concrete. The Secretariat shares the opinion of ICOMOS concerning the report on the Emergency Evaluation of Buildings in the Historic Centre.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.119**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Taking note of the progress report transmitted by the State Party,
2. Commending the State Party for the report on the Emergency Evaluation of Buildings in the Historic Centre and recommending immediate implementation of its recommendations,
3. Requests the State Party to finalize the Master Plan and to create provisions for it to be put into action with specific regulations for a risk-preparedness programme, traffic restriction studies and regulations for construction materials prohibiting the use of reinforced concrete;
4. Calls the attention of the State Party to consider the possibility of including the archaeological site of Sacsahuaman as an extension of the Cuzco property that is already inscribed;
5. Requests the State Party to submit by 1 February 2005 a report on the progress made in the above recommendations for consideration of the Committee at its 29th session in 2005.

120. Historic Centre of Lima (Peru) (C 500 bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1988; extended in 1991

Criteria: C (iv)

Previous international assistance:

Total amount: US\$74,500

Previous deliberations:

26 COM 21(b) 64

27 COM 7B.99

Conservation Issues:

The Secretariat received on 30 January 2004 the following information from the State Party: a Report on the Historical Centre of Lima, Section II of the 2004 Periodic Report of that property, current regulations and laws, a diagnosis and draft Management Plan (2004-2010) for the Historic Centre, and the Strategic Plan (2003-2006).

The Strategic Plan is articulated in actions focused on different kinds of intervention, such as integrated approaches towards municipal policy, accessibility, public spaces, recovery of heritage buildings, urban renovation and eco-social sustainability (private investment, promotion, citizenship participation and institutional empowerment). A total of 18,087 houses (25% of the total stock) are in a bad or ruinous state. By Decree n° 161 of September 2003 the Municipality has selected micro-zones for urban renovation and some projects are currently in progress. However, no specific information for private investment, World Bank or Inter-American Development Bank investment in the process has been provided. The draft Management Plan (2004-2010) encompassed a greater integrated vision, although it has to be noted that both the Strategic Plan and the Management Plan (2004-2010) have not yet been institutionalised.

A UNESCO mission visited Lima from 20 to 22 October 2003. In discussions with the Mayor of Lima, the mission urged him to undertake a full revision of the management plan of the city. Over the past two years, the competent authorities of the city have received recommendations by ICOMOS and French experts concerning the proper measures to improve the management of the historic centre. The main action the Mayor has undertaken is prohibiting political events or demonstrations in the historic centre, improving the lighting system at the Plaza de Armas, and launching the *Lima Linda* campaign (which consisted of repainting facades). The municipal plan for the centre focused on the restoration of several churches and the reorganization of squares and the banks of the Rimac River, while no housing project was supported by private entrepreneurs. The *Patronato of Lima* requested the Secretariat to organize an expert meeting on how to coordinate input and efforts of the private sector and civil society within the above mentioned Plans.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15B.120

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Taking note of the reports transmitted by the State Party,
2. Requests the State Party to formalize the current procedures to set up a Management Coordination Unit to implement the Strategic Plan with full responsibility for implementing the projects, composed of all the relevant institutions for the protection and development of the Historical Centre of Lima;
3. Draws the attention of the State Party to the possibility of organizing an international expert meeting to improve civil participation and private investment in the management project;
4. Requests the State Party to keep the Committee informed of the further implementation of the Strategic Plan and Management Plan for the Historical Centre of Lima.

121. Historical Centre of the City of Arequipa (Peru) (C 1016)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2000

Criteria: C (i) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

Total: US\$75,000

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25 EXT BUR V 250-253

27 COM 7B.100

Conservation Issues:

The Secretariat received a progress report from the State Party on 30 January 2004 explaining that an Emergency and Risk Preparedness Plan is being prepared by the *Instituto Nacional de Cultura* (INC) in co-operation with the Municipality of Arequipa, the Spanish Agency for International Co-operation and the Institute of Civil Defence. The Plan will include a study of the soil, geotechnical studies, plan for seismic zoning, regulations for inter-institutional and multisectoral participation by a Civil Defence System, research on prevention measures, a monitoring system, a large public awareness campaign and post earthquake emergency measures to evaluate damages and to coordinate efforts.

The State Party also informed the Secretariat of the state of implementation of the Revitalization Plan for the Historical Centre of Arequipa during 2003 as a result of a Covenant (2002-2005) signed by the Municipality of Arequipa and the Spanish Agency for International Co-operation (AECI) to implement the Plan by the Technical Office of the Historical Centre (OTCHA). A Unit for coordination and administration of the revitalization plan coordinated the programme for risk-preparedness, while the Unit of Project execution concentrated its work on the restoration of the Cloister and Pinacoteca of the Convent of La Recoleta and the Church of the Franciscan Order, The Church of San Antonio Abad and the Rehabilitation of the Tambo of Matadero, among other interventions.

Furthermore, the UNESCO Office in Lima sent information to the Secretariat on 26 November 2003 concerning the demolition of some protected constructions (405; 405A; 405B; 405D and 405E) to build a market, which was authorized by the Regional Directorate of Arequipa by Resolution 073-2003-INC-DA.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15B.121**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Taking note of the progress report submitted by the State Party with information on the implementation of the Master Plan,

2. Commending the State Party for the outline programme for Emergencies and Reduction of Disasters, which is under preparation, and thanking the Spanish Agency for International Co-operation for the support provided,
3. Requests information on the demolition of the immovable heritage in the Historical Centre of Arequipa by the Resolution 073-2003-INC-DA;
4. Further requests the State Party to submit, by 1 February 2005, a report on the progress achieved in the implementation of the Emergency and Risk Preparedness Plan, for consideration of the Committee at its 29th session in 2005.