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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

World Heritage Committee

Thirteenth Session
(Paris, 11-15 December 1989)

Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda : Monitoring the state of
conservation of the cultural properties inscribed on the World
Heritage List

1. In order to be better informed of the state of preservation of the cultural properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and, furthermore, to help the States Parties on whose territory the properties concerned are situated to identify the problems of conservation of these properties as well as to be better aware of the various forms of assistance which can be provided under the World Heritage Fund to solve them, the World Heritage Committee adopted at its eleventh session in 1987 a system of monitoring the state of conservation of these properties.
2. This system is based on the use of two questionnaires which the Committee requests the States Parties concerned to complete. The first of these questionnaires, entitled "Information Update on the cultural properties inscribed on the World Heritage List" is systematically sent to the States concerned for each site monitored. The second questionnaire, which is more detailed, is only used in the case of sites whose state of conservation might give rise to some questions in the light of the responses to the first questionnaire.
3. The rate of implementation adopted by the Committee is of 50 sites to be monitored every year. The first series was subject to an experimental phase in 1988 in the course of which the state of conservation of the first fifty cultural properties inscribed on the World Heritage List was examined. In the light of the results of this first exercise, which were presented to the Committee at its twelfth session in 1988, the latter decided that the experiment should be pursued and that a second series of sites should be monitored in 1989.

4. The World Heritage Committee adopted a calendar according to which the answers to the questionnaires sent out at the beginning of 1989 should reach the Secretariat of the Committee by 31 December 1989, so as to leave enough time to the States Parties to provide more details on the state of the properties concerned. The answers received will be subject to a preliminary study by the Secretariat in January 1990, after which they will be transmitted in February 1990 to the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) for technical study. The Secretariat and ICOMOS will thus be in a position to present their conclusions to the Bureau of the Committee at its fourteenth session in June 1990.