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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Bureau of the World Heritage Committee
Fourteenth Session

Unesco Headquarters, Paris, 11-14 June 1990
Room XVI

Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda: Monitoring of the state of
conservation of natural World Heritage properties and related
technical problems

1. At its thirteenth session the Committee received reports from the Secretariat and IUCN on the status of conservation of several natural properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. The Committee requested the Secretariat and IUCN to undertake specific actions in respect of the following sites: Wood Buffalo National Park (Canada), Tai National Park (Côte d'Ivoire), Mount Nimba (Côte d'Ivoire/Guinea), Sangay National Park (Ecuador), Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras), Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India), Fiordland National Park (New Zealand), Nikolo-Koba National Park (Senegal), Ichkeul National Park (Tunisia), Everglades National Park (USA) and Mana Pools, Sapi and Chewore Reserves (Zimbabwe). Progress reports for some of these sites are given below. 13

2. Tai National Park (Côte d'Ivoire): Following continuous cooperation between the Secretariat and the Ivoirian authorities a preparatory assistance project for the preparation of an integrated project for safeguarding this site, taking into consideration the needs of people living in the vicinity of the site, has been launched. The project document, which would be prepared as an output of the preparatory assistance project, is expected to be finalized by the end of 1990 and would then be submitted to multilateral donors, such as UNDP, for consideration for funding. see IUCN report.

3. Mt. Nimba (Côte d'Ivoire/Guinea): An integrated project, prepared as follow up to a preparatory assistance project financed by the World Heritage Fund in 1988 is now being implemented in Mt. Nimba (Côte d'Ivoire/Guinea) with financial assistance from UNDP. The project includes a survey of the

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natural resources of the site which will provide a basis for assessing the potential impacts of the proposed iron-ore mining project.

4. Nikolo Koba National Park (Senegal): Following the Committee's request, the Secretariat has again contacted the Senegalese authorities to remind them of their responsibility to maintain the integrity of the site and offering the Committee's cooperation to find a suitable solution. The Senegalese authorities have since passed a decree creating a national technical committee to undertake a study of the Dialakoto-Kedougou route. The Secretariat has also requested IUCN to continue to work with the Senegalese authorities and to report to the Bureau on the terms of reference of the technical committee, its membership and the timetable of its work.

5. Ichkeul National Park (Tunisia): The Committee's decision to encourage the undertaking of activities, such as the building of the Tindja sluice and two other drainage canals to ensure the maintenance of the integrity of wetlands in the Ichkeul National Park, was communicated to the Tunisian authorities by a member of the Secretariat at an international seminar on the protection of the Ichkeul National Park, held in Tunis during 16-18 February 1990. This meeting was held under the patronage of the President of Tunisia, His Excellency Mr. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. More than 200 expatriate specialists, including 48 from international agencies such as UNDP and FAO and countries like Algeria, Belgium, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Spain, UK and USSR, participated in the seminar, demonstrating an international commitment to safeguard this World Heritage Site. A technical cooperation request, for consideration for funding from the World Heritage Fund, to meet expenses related to expert services in the construction of the Tindja Sluice and for launching a public education campaign on the significance of Ichkeul, is expected to be received before the fourteenth session of the World Heritage Committee, scheduled for 10-14 December 1990.

6. The Committee's words of encouragement on the work undertaken by State Parties to mitigate specific threats faced by the Fiordland National Park (New Zealand), Everglades National Park (USA) and the Mana Pools, Sapi and Chewore Reserves (Zimbabwe) were communicated to the respective national authorities. Upon a request prepared jointly by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife, Zimbabwe and Unesco's Regional Office for Science and Technology in Nairobi, Kenya, the Chairman of the World Heritage Committee had approved US\$ 20,000 for the organization of a technical workshop for the preparation of conservation and resource management guidelines for the Zambezi Valley, with particular emphasis on the conservation of the Mana Pools, Sapi and Chewore Reserves of Zimbabwe. This meeting is expected to take place in July 1990.

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7. The concerns expressed by the Committee at its last session in respect of the conservation of the Sangay National Park (Ecuador), Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India) and Manu National Park (Peru) were communicated to the respective national authorities. So far, the Secretariat has received no response from any of the above State Parties and is continuing its efforts to obtain up-to-date information on the status of conservation of these World Heritage Sites.

8. As requested by the Committee at its last session, IUCN will provide further information on the integrity of the Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras) and the Wood Buffalo National Park (Canada). IUCN is also invited to report on the status of conservation of several other natural and mixed World Heritage Sites.

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