

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE
FIFTEENTH SESSION

Paris, 17-21 June 1991
Room XIV

Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda: Requests for International Assistance

1. The Secretariat received requests for international assistance for an amount exceeding 20,000 dollars of the United States of America submitted for approval or recommendation to the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee by Cuba, ...

A. - Cultural Properties

Technical Co-operation

1. Trinidad and the Valley de los Ingenios (Cuba)

Background: The above site was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1988 and has so far not been the subject of any other request for assistance under the World Heritage Fund.

Description of the Request: Cuban authorities request funds for the purchase of 183 cubic metres of timber for the restoration of the frames and panelling of a group of eleven houses of XVIIIth and XIXth centuries, located in the Historic Centre of Trinidad.

National Contribution: The restoration work estimated at 440,000 Cuban pesos (approximately US\$600,000) will be financed by the Government, of which 410,000 (i.e., about US\$561,000) will be borne by the State.

Amount requested from the World Heritage Fund: A sum of US\$30,000 is requested for the purchase of timber.

Action by the Bureau : The Bureau is invited to take a decision on this request.

B. - Natural Properties

Technical Co-operation

1. La Amistad National Park (Costa Rica)

Background: The Talamanca-La Amistad Biosphere Reserve was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1983. US \$ 14,300 was provided in 1982 for in-situ training of the wardens of this biosphere reserve. After its inscription on the World Heritage List, the World Heritage Committee approved US \$ 25,000, in 1983, for the development of Park infrastructure. This project was completed in 1984. In 1985 the Committee approved US \$ 20,000 for the organization of more in-situ training workshops in the park and an additional US \$ 20,000 for improvements in Park infrastructure. The implementation of both these projects began only in 1988 and the first payments of US \$ 18,000 made under each of them have not yet been fully utilized. In 1988, the Committee approved an additional US \$ 30,000 for strengthening the protection of the Pacific Sector of this Park. A sum of US \$ 20,000 made as first payment for this Pacific Sector project has still not been fully utilized.

Description of request: The Costa Rican authorities submitted a new request in November 1990, covering a three- year period, for constructing guard posts, demarcation of boundaries in selected areas, establishment of communication facilities, prevention of forest fires, organization of environmental educational activities and research studies and training three guards in "para-taxonomy".

National contribution: A sum of US \$ 137,200 covering professional and technical services (US \$ 64,200), infrastructure and vehicles (US \$ 33,000) and travel and equipment (US \$ 40,000) is to be made available from national sources.

Amount Requested: A sum of US\$ 155,000, over a period three years, has been requested from the Fund to cover construction and operational costs of guard posts (US\$ 13,500), establishing communication facilities between Atlantic and Pacific sectors of the Park (US\$ 28,000), demarcation of boundaries (US\$ 9,000), research studies and investigations (US\$ 6,210), prevention of forest fires (US\$ 6,900), environmental educational activities (US\$ 16,140), operational assistance (US\$ 4,450), administrative and related expenses (US\$ 15,000) and the training of "para-taxonomists" (US\$ 55,000).

Additional information: The Committee, at its last session, approved an amount of US\$ 50,000 under two conditions: a) the Costa Rican authorities report on the completion of the previous projects and b) revision of the boundaries of the Park in accordance with IUCN recommendations. The Committee instructed the Bureau to determine at its next session whether these conditions had been met before deciding whether to award an appropriate amount to Costa Rica

Since the last session of the Committee the Costa Rican authorities have provided the Secretariat with information pertaining to both conditions laid down by the Committee. The proposed new boundaries have been transmitted to IUCN and a representative of the IUCN will report to the Bureau as to whether they meet the recommendations of IUCN. The report on the status of on-going projects submitted indicates that of the total sum of US\$ 70,000 obligated for the three projects during 1988-1990 about US\$ 33,000 (47%) has still not been used by the Costa Rican authorities.

The Costa Rican authorities have, however, drawn the attention of the Secretariat to the urgent need for additional financial resources to repair damage caused by a recent earthquake in the Pacific Sector of the Park. The Secretariat has suggested to the Costa Rican authorities that they may apply for emergency assistance for specific restoration work that needs to be undertaken.

Action by the Bureau: The Bureau is requested to consider deferring the award of any part of US\$ 50,000 until the forthcoming session of the Committee and subject to satisfactory progress in the implementation of on-going projects.