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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**Bureau of the World Heritage Committee
Seventeenth Session**

UNESCO Headquarters,
21-26 June 1993, Paris, France
Room IX (Fontenoy Building)

**Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda: Monitoring the State of
Conservation of World Heritage properties and related technical
issues**

**A. State of conservation of natural and mixed properties
inscribed on the World Heritage List and the List of World
Heritage in Danger.**

A.1. At its last session held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA, from 7-14 December 1992, the Committee examined the state of conservation of the following properties in the light of reports submitted by the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and representatives of States Parties: Iguazu National Park (Argentina), Wet Tropics of Queensland (Australia), Iguazu National Park (Brazil), Srebarna Biosphere Reserve (Bulgaria), Wood Buffalo National Park (Canada), Manovo-Gounda Saint Floris (Central African Republic), Talamanca-La Amistad National Park (Costa Rica/Panama), Plitvice Lakes National Park (Croatia), Sangay National Park and Galapagos National Park (Ecuador), Mt. Nimba Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire/Guinea), Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India), Tsingy Bemaraha Nature Reserve (Madagascar), Te Wahipounamu - Southwest New Zealand (New Zealand), Aïr and Ténéré Nature Reserve (Niger), Danube Delta (Romania), Djoudj National Park (Senegal), Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal), Everglades National Park and Olympic National Park (United States of America), Durmitor National Park (Montenegro), Garamba National Park (Zaire) and Mosi-oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls (Zambia/Zimbabwe). The Committee also reviewed the state of a mixed property inscribed on the World Heritage List: Mt. Athos (Greece).

A.2. The Committee's observations and recommendations on each site were transmitted to the State Party concerned in early February 1993. Individual letters sent to States Parties will be available for consultation by the members of the Bureau during its seventeenth session from 21 to 26 June 1992.

A.3. In this document, the state of conservation of natural sites included in the List of World Heritage in Danger, i.e. Srebarna Biosphere Reserve (Bulgaria), Plitvice Lakes National Park (Croatia), Sangay National Park (Ecuador), Mt. Nimba Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire/Guinea), Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India) and Aïr and Ténéré Nature Reserve (Niger) are reviewed. Reports on the state of conservation of the following sites where progress has been made in implementing the recommendations of the Committee, made at its last session, are also provided: Iguazu National Park (Argentina); Manovo-Gounda Saint Floris (Central African Republic); Talamanca-La Amistad National Park (Costa Rica-Panama); Te Wahipounamu - Southwest New Zealand (New Zealand), Danube Delta (Romania); Durmitor National Park (Montenegro).

A.4. Natural World Heritage Properties in Danger

I) Srebarna Biosphere Reserve (Bulgaria): As requested by the Bulgarian authorities, the Committee at its last session included this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee noted that a series of upstream interferences, including the Iron Gates Dam, have permanently altered the natural hydrology of the Danube River in the region and that of Srebarna located downstream along the river. Prevention of seasonal flooding has led to a decrease in the size and productivity of Srebarna and agricultural and residential use of surrounding areas have led to decline or disappearance of water and passerine bird populations. The Committee recalled that two IUCN missions to the site in early 1992 had concluded that although Srebarna's importance as a Ramsar site could still be retained by the implementation of specific remedial measures, its World Heritage status can no longer be justified because it has deteriorated to a state where it has irretrievably lost the characteristics which merited its inclusion in the World Heritage List.

The Bureau at its sixteenth session, held in Paris in July 1992, had recommended that the Committee consider deleting this property from the World Heritage List and had requested the Bulgarian authorities to submit all observations and comments they may wish to make to the Committee. The Observer from Bulgaria who participated at the last session of the Committee, was of the view that the measures taken by the Bulgarian Government will restore the World Heritage values of Srebarna. These measures included the construction of two canals to increase and regulate water delivery to Srebarna, addition of 200ha of surrounding area to the Reserve and halting all agricultural and residential activities which impacted the lake. The Observer from Bulgaria also informed the Committee that his Government was preparing a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of Srebarna and an ecosystem restoration plan, which would be available in the first quarter of 1993.

As recommended by the Committee, the Centre has i) indicated to the Bulgarian authorities that scientific evidence available to date suggests that the site may no longer possess the natural habitat values for which it was inscribed, and that a full

restoration of a naturally functioning ecosystem appears to be highly problematic and may be impossible, and ii) invited the Bulgarian authorities to submit the results of the on-going project to prepare a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the site, including an analysis of available data to monitor biological populations and environmental quality, and a plan for ecosystem restoration, not later than 1 May 1993. The Bulgarian authorities, by their letter of 29 April 1993, transmitted a project document to the Centre entitled 'Environmental Recovery and Restoration of the Biosphere Reserve "Srebarna"'. The document mainly describes the measures that the Bulgarian authorities foresee undertaking in the future in order to ensure the 'maximal restoration of the natural conditions in the Reserve' and has been transmitted to IUCN for review. The Centre is contacting the Bulgarian authorities once again to request a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the site, including an analysis of available data to monitor biological populations and environmental quality.

IUCN has informed the Centre that it will have additional information on the state of conservation of Srebarna after the conclusion of an international conference on the Ramsar Convention to be held in Kushiro, Japan, from 9-16 June 1993, and that one of its members who is presently carrying out studies in Srebarna will be present at the Bureau meeting to make a presentation on the state of conservation and the feasibility of restoring a self-sustaining wetland ecosystem in Srebarna.

II) Plitvice Lakes National Park (Croatia): The Committee, at its last session, recalled that this site has been inaccessible since the onset of armed conflict in the region in 1991 and examined the findings of a mission of three experts representing IUCN, the Federation of Nature and National Parks of Europe and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, undertaken at the invitation of the Croatian Government, from 18-27 September 1992. While the Committee was satisfied to note that the values for which this site was granted World Heritage status have not been affected by civil unrest, it deplored the damage to several Croatian villages outside the northern boundary of Park. Recognizing that the potential for a resurgence of hostilities continued to threaten the integrity of this site, the Committee, as requested by the Government of Croatia, included the Plitvice Lakes National Park in the List of World Heritage in Danger. Furthermore, the Committee also recommended that (a) the Government of Croatia, UNPROFOR and the authorities in the Krajina Region co-operate to implement the Vance Plan and its successor resolutions to stabilize the political situation in the region; (b) UNPROFOR undertake regular surveillance patrols in the Park area, particularly the old growth forest in Corkova Uvala and take necessary measures to make all parts of the Park accessible; (c) the Government of Croatia, UNPROFOR and the authorities in the Krajina Region include the conservation of Plitvice Lakes National Park as a subject to be addressed by such bodies as the Joint Commission, and bring together scientists from the two conflicting parties to undertake studies on water quality, the brown bear population and forestry and tourism practices, and (d)

the Centre organize another mission in early 1993 to assess the state of conservation of the site and examine the feasibility of organizing an international workshop to plan the future management of Plitvice.

The Centre has been in contact with UNPROFOR authorities in Zagreb in order to initiate negotiations between the authorities of the Government of Croatia and the Krajina Region. These efforts have been retarded by the resurgence of conflict in the southern parts of Krajina. From telephone communications with the UNPROFOR authorities in Zagreb, the Centre has been informed that the recent conflict was restricted to areas south of the capital of the Krajina Region, i.e. Knin, and did not affect Plitvice which is located in the northern parts of that region. UNPROFOR units continue to be stationed in Plitvice and undertake patrolling of the area to the extent possible. The Centre will continue its communications with UNPROFOR in order to expedite the implementation of the Committee's recommendations and will report any additional information that may become available at the time of the meeting of the Bureau.

III) Sangay National Park (Ecuador): The Committee, at its last session, was concerned about the information reported by the representative of IUCN regarding heavy poaching of wildlife, illegal livestock grazing and encroachment in this site. The Committee also noted that the Sub-Secretariat of Forestry and Renewable Natural Resources, which is responsible for the management of this site, has been successful in temporarily halting a proposed road construction project in order to bring together the relevant provincial and national agencies to discuss the environmental impact of the project and plan mitigating measures. However, the Committee recognized that the road construction project could recommence and that the Ecuadorean authorities have not yet undertaken an impact study and have not responded to repeated requests for information by the Centre. The Committee, while commending the Ecuadorean authorities for including substantial areas south of the World Heritage site in the National Park, took note of the fact that the values and conditions of the new areas added to the site were not known. The Committee, on the basis of reports submitted by IUCN and by the Ecuadorean Conservation Organization Fundacion Natura, concluded that the site's integrity was severely threatened, and decided, in accordance with Article 11, paragraph (4) of the Convention, to include this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

As recommended by the Committee, the Centre has requested the Ecuadorean authorities to (a) provide information on the status of the road construction project and on-going efforts to assess its impact on the integrity of the site (b) consider submitting a proposal to extend this World Heritage site to include new areas to be added to the Park, and (c) consider inviting a mission comprising regional experts in order to assess the severity of the threats faced by this site and plan remedial action. The Centre, during a meeting with the Permanent Delegation of Ecuador in UNESCO, conveyed the Committee's concern for the integrity of this site, and is awaiting a written

response to the Committee's recommendations from relevant authorities in Ecuador.

IV. Mt. Nimba Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire/Guinea): The Committee, at its fifteenth session held in Carthage, Tunisia, in December 1991, decided that the reduction in the size of this site proposed by the Government of Guinea in order to exclude areas that would be impacted by a proposed iron-ore mining project, posed a major threat to its integrity. The site is also threatened by the arrival of a large number of refugees to areas in and around the Guinean part of this World Heritage site. The Committee noted that a meeting of experts from Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, with participants from UNDP and UNESCO, held at Mt. Nimba, from 29 June to 3 July 1992, had endorsed the recommendation of the Committee, made at its fifteenth session in Carthage, Tunisia, calling upon the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea to nominate this site for inclusion in the List of World Heritage in Danger. Thus, the Committee was deeply concerned to note that the Guinean Government had issued a decree on 6 August 1992 entrusting a part of the Mt. Nimba Nature Reserve to an international mining consortium and published a brochure announcing the launching of the mining project.

At its last session held in December 1992, the Committee was informed by the Guinean Observer that there had been an error in the boundary of the Mt. Nimba Nature Reserve originally nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List in 1981 and that the area proposed for the iron-ore mining project was not considered by his Government as being part of the World Heritage site. Mr. A. Beschaouch confirmed this point, recalling a meeting he had in Paris in July 1992, in his capacity as the President of the Committee, with the Minister for Environment and Mineral Resources of Guinea.

Aware of the confusion concerning the boundaries of the World Heritage site and the decision of the Government of Guinea on the one hand, and on the other the real dangers of exploitation of the mine and the arrival of large numbers of refugees, the Committee, in accordance with Article 11, paragraph (4) of the Convention, included Mt. Nimba in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee recommended that the Centre takes necessary steps to send an expert mission to (a) ascertain, in co-operation with the States Parties concerned, the boundary of the site at the time of its inscription, and if it cannot be definitely determined, to recommend an appropriate boundary and (b) assess the impact of iron-ore mining project, demographic changes and other threats to the integrity of the site and the universal values for which the site was inscribed. A team of experts, comprising Guinean, local African, and international specialists, and representatives of IUCN, UNESCO and the non-governmental consortium, CEDI, of France, will visit Mt. Nimba from 15-30 May 1993 to implement these two recommendations of the Committee. A report on the conclusions of the expert mission will be submitted to the Bureau at time of its seventeenth session in Paris.

V. Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India): At its last session, the Committee was informed that the damage caused by the invasion of this site by militants belonging to the Bodo tribe in Assam was estimated to be about US\$ 1.6 million and that although the Park infrastructure had suffered considerable damage, habitats in the inaccessible parts of the Sanctuary appeared to be intact. The Committee noted that the conditions for introducing normal management and administration regimes for the site may be improving but was nevertheless concerned by the information reported by the representative of IUCN that the area is still not completely free from encroachments by militants belonging to the Bodo tribe and that illegal cultivation was spreading into parts of the Sanctuary. Furthermore, the Committee also noted with regret that a full assessment of the damage to the site has not been made and that the Indian authorities have not yet provided a formal written report on the state of conservation of Manas, despite repeated requests from Committee since 1989. Concurring with the view of IUCN that the Sanctuary continues to be in danger of losing the values for which it was granted World Heritage status, the Committee, in accordance with Article 11, paragraph (4), of the Convention, included the Manas Wildlife Sanctuary in the List of World Heritage in Danger. As recommended by the Committee, the Centre has informed the Indian authorities of this decision and reiterated the Committee's request for a comprehensive report providing a full assessment of the damage to the site and the remedial measures being taken.

During a meeting with a representative of the Additional Director for Wildlife, in the Ministry of Environment and Forests, in New Delhi, on 8 May 1993, a member of the Centre was informed that the Ministry is doing all within its powers to obtain a report from the State authorities in Assam. In India, wildlife and parks come under the jurisdiction of State authorities and a report on the state of conservation of Manas Wildlife Sanctuary will therefore have to be compiled by the competent authorities in the State of Assam. The representative of the Additional Director for Wildlife regretted the delay in providing a report but expressed the hope that the State authorities may provide a report this year given the considerable improvement in the relationship between State authorities and representatives of the Bodo tribe, and increasing success in the negotiations to find a peaceful solution to the conflict in Assam. In the event such a report is received by the Centre before the meeting of the Bureau, its findings will be submitted to the Bureau at the time of its seventeenth session.

VI. Aïr and Ténéré Nature Reserve (Niger): At its last session, the Committee expressed concern that the region in which this site is situated has recently been affected by civil disturbance and that six members of the Reserve staff were being held hostage since February 1992. In accordance with the wish of the Government of Niger, the Committee included this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger, but decided not to support any mission to the site until such time as security conditions in the region have returned to normal.

As instructed by the Committee, the Centre has contacted the Niger authorities and requested them to take all measures possible in order to secure the release of the Reserve staff. Since the last session of the Committee there appears to be no improvement in the situation, and the Centre regrets to report to the Bureau that two of the six members of the Reserve staff who were held hostage since February 1992 had been killed. Any further information regarding the conflict in the region that may become available to the Centre will be reported to the Bureau at the time of its seventeenth session.

A.5. State of Conservation of Natural World Heritage Properties

I. Iguazu National Park (Argentina): The Committee, at its fifteenth session held in Carthage, Tunisia, in December 1991, noted that eight helicopters regularly overflow the waterfall area and that local conservation groups opposed the use of the area by helicopters since it contravened legal regulations for air traffic control over protected areas. The Bureau was informed, at its sixteenth session in July 1992, that the Argentine National Park Administration and the Air Force were making efforts to establish an agreement to regulate the use of air space over the Iguazu National Park by helicopters. Until such time as an agreement will be drafted and finalized, the existing norms for use of air space between surface level and 1.12 km will be strictly enforced. Violation of these regulations by an helicopter operator is punishable by cancellation, for six months, of the permit to use the National Park area.

The Centre, in its letter dated 14 August 1992 to the Argentine authorities suggested that they provide information on progress achieved in the joint efforts of the Argentine National Park Administration and the Air Force to establish the aforementioned agreement for submission to the seventeenth session of the Bureau and received information (letter of 15 February 1993) that satisfactory progress was being made and endorsement and support of influential persons, including the President of Argentina, and the Chief State Mayor of the Iguazu Falls area had been forthcoming. Existing regulations continue to be strictly enforced while the agreement is being drafted and finalized.

II. Manovo-Gounda Saint Floris (Central African Republic): At its last session in December 1992, the Committee recalled the fact that when this site was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1988, several members of the Committee had registered their reservations as to its state of conservation and several threats to its integrity. The Committee was concerned that despite assurances given to the Committee at the time of its inscription and the US\$ 27 million EEC (European Economic Community) project which had been implemented in the region, the deterioration of the property had continued and that the site still does not have a management plan. The Committee noted the intention of the President of the Central African Republic to transfer management of the site to a private foundation, and of the invitation made to UNESCO to participate, as a scientific body, in the management

of the site by this foundation. The Committee expressed satisfaction with the fact that the State Secretary to the Ministry of Scientific Research and Technology, in accordance with a recommendation of the Bureau made at its last session, had invited a mission to review the state of conservation of the Park and evaluate the proposal to transfer the management of this site to a private foundation.

The Committee requested the Centre to organize such a mission, building upon a recent project audit carried out by the EEC and to evaluate the proposal to transfer the management of the site to a private foundation particularly in relation to the following: (a) protection of the site; (b) participation of local people in the management of the site, and (c) the social and economic impacts which the setting up of a private management regime will bring to the region and the nation.

The Centre made a preliminary assessment of the report on the Technical and Financial Audit of the Development Programme of the Northern Region (Programme de Developpement de la Region Nord (PDRN)), prepared jointly by the Ministry of Water, Forests, Game, Fish and Tourism of the Central African Republic and the International Foundation for the Protection of Game (IGF) and noted the following important issues:

a) The EEC Project addressed the development of a whole region, including the Manovo-Gounda Saint Floris site and surrounding areas. At present, ecosystem and habitat conditions inside the Park may be somewhat better than in areas outside. However, there appears to be an overall breakdown in the socio-economic situation in the whole region, and poaching and grazing by livestock belonging to nomadic tribes seem to be rampant.

b) The equipment available in the Park, e.g. radio-equipment used for surveillance operations, is obsolete. Infrastructure in the region, i.e. roads, bridges, vehicles, etc., are poorly maintained and appear to be breaking down.

c) Staff is inadequately trained and field reports submitted by staff returning from patrols included major errors in mapping and numbers of wildlife species reported. Faunal and floral inventories are lacking and the number of persons employed in the Park is inadequate to effectively patrol the site.

d) There seems to be a general lack of understanding of the objectives of protected areas and their role in enhancing regional socio-economic development. Project design and implementation seem not to have included adequate participation of locals resulting in tensions between 'expatriates' and 'nationals' and reducing the efficiency of the implementation of the programme.

The legal and institutional basis for the establishment of the private foundation, which will manage the Free Ecological Zone that includes the Park, on the basis of a 30-year concession offered by the Government of the Central African Republic, also

appear to be unclear. The Centre had a meeting, on 23 April 1993, with the Advisor to the President of the Central African Republic, to discuss these and other matters regarding the establishment of the private foundation. The Centre will co-operate with IUCN's Commission on Environmental Law to further study the legal implications of setting up a private foundation and is scheduled to have additional consultations, in mid-May 1993, with the Advisor to the President of the Central African Republic and a selected number of senior Government officials dealing with environmental and legal affairs.

The outcome of these consultations will be reported to the Bureau during its seventeenth session. The Bureau is requested to consider postponing a mission to this site until such time as the legal and institutional basis for the establishment of the private foundation and its operations are better understood.

III. Talamanca-La Amistad National Park (Costa Rica-Panama): The Committee, at its last session, noted that the Costa Rican authorities have not yet informed the Centre of their views on the recommendation of the Committee, made at its fifteenth session in Carthage in December 1991, to consider revising the boundaries of the Talamanca-La Amistad Reserves by deleting four Indian Reserves in the northeastern Atlantic sector and submit a map showing the new boundaries of the site. The Committee also learnt of a proposal to construct a road through the Talamanca-La Amistad Reserves and that the Costa Rican authorities have not yet responded to the Centre's request for information on the proposal and its potential impact on the state of conservation of the site.

The Costa Rican authorities, by letter dated 2 April 1993, have expressed their disagreement regarding the modification of the boundaries of the Talamanca-La Amistad Reserves recommended by IUCN. The Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mines, has informed the Centre that regardless of the opinion expressed by IUCN, his Ministry, public opinion in Costa Rica and the position of the indigenous people in the Indian Reserves favour maintaining the current boundaries of the Talamanca-La Amistad Reserves. He has also drawn the attention of the Centre to the need for technical advice to improve the people's situation in the Indian Reserves of the Talamanca-La Amistad, while giving adequate consideration to the protection of natural resources. The letter from the Vice-Minister has been transmitted to IUCN for review. A representative of IUCN will address this issue at the time of the seventeenth session of the Bureau.

The letter from the Costa Rican authorities does not make any reference to the proposed road construction project which was brought to the attention of the Committee by IUCN. Centre will contact the Costa Rican authorities once again to request detailed information regarding this proposal, including an assessment of the potential impact of this project on the state of conservation of the site.

IV. Te Wahipounamu - Southwest New Zealand (New Zealand): At its last session the Committee was informed that the Government of New Zealand had approved an application from a private company for a license to export water from this World Heritage site. The exportation of freshwater would require the construction of a dam, a buried pipeline and four large reservoirs at Jackson's Bay. The Committee noted that the visual and ecological impacts of the proposed development project were not clearly known and that the legal and economic considerations which guided the decision to approve the project are being actively debated in New Zealand.

The Centre contacted the New Zealand authorities and requested them to keep the Committee informed of the environmental impacts of the water export project. The New Zealand authorities, in their letter dated 29 April 1993, have informed the Centre that the Minister of Conservation has indicated to the private company (Okuru Enterprises Ltd.) that he would not approve locating the pipeline inside the Mt. Aspiring National Park located within this World Heritage site. Authorities of the Okuru Enterprises Ltd. are now modifying their application to obtain water from a creek situated outside the boundaries of the National Park. The changes which the Okuru Enterprises Ltd. will introduce to the original proposal will be advertized for public comment and have to be agreed upon on a consensual basis. Following this procedure, a new report on the modified proposal will be submitted to the Minister of Conservation in order to re-assess all relevant information.

Hence, the New Zealand authorities indicate that it will be some time before a final decision at ministerial level is taken on the acceptability of the modified proposal. They have also assured the Centre that the environmental impact of the modified proposal will be carefully considered and that decisions will not be made in haste. The New Zealand authorities have reassured the Centre that the maintenance of the values of the World Heritage area will be an important consideration in reviewing any project for water export.

IV. Delta Danube (Romania): The Committee, at its last session, recalled that when this site was inscribed on the World Heritage List, it requested IUCN and the Secretariat to submit a progress report at its sixteenth session. The Committee was concerned that despite assurances given at its fifteenth session by the Representative of Romania, the final steps in the process to establish a legislative framework for this site have not yet been completed. As instructed by the Committee, the Centre reminded the Romanian authorities of the assurances they gave the Committee, at its fifteenth session, and urged them to finalize the process to establish a legal framework for the protection of the site. The Secretary of State of the Ministry of Waters, Forests and Environmental Protection, by letter of 5 March 1993, informed the Centre that the draft of the law concerning the establishment of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve has already been prepared and included as part of the working agenda of the Parliament. He hoped that the draft will be approved soon and has

assured that he will inform the Centre once this law has been passed.

The Danube Delta World Heritage site will also benefit from the Danube River Basin Environment Programme which is expected to be financed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. IUCN has been assigned the task of implementing the technical assistance component of the Programme and a representative of IUCN will provide detailed information on the Programme at the time of the seventeenth session of the Bureau.

V. Durmitor National Park (Montenegro): The Committee, at its last session, noted that the authorities responsible for the management of this site are of the view that the proposed construction of a hydroelectric dam on the Tara River and the pollution of the River by an asphalt dam situated upstream along that River had minimal impacts on the conservation of Durmitor National Park. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Montenegro authorities, in accordance with a recommendation made by the Bureau at its sixteenth session, had invited a UNESCO/IUCN mission to the site and had agreed to provide on-site briefing on the status of the dam construction proposal and pollution problems. The Committee was also concerned about recent reports regarding the threat due to a dam adjacent to the Tara River which, if breached, could spill large volumes of toxic materials into the River. As instructed by the Committee, the Centre has been in contact with the UNDP Resident Representative in Austria who is also the Co-ordinator for Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia and Montenegro, with a view to making arrangements for a mission to this site in May-June 1993, when climatic conditions are suitable for field visits. Progress made in organizing this mission will be reported at the time of the seventeenth session of the Bureau.

A.6. The responses of competent authorities in States Parties to the recommendations of the Committee and up-to-date progress reports on the state of conservation of sites are expected to be received for the following sites : Iguazu National Park (Brazil); Wood Buffalo National Park (Canada); and Tsingy Bemarha Nature Reserve (Madagascar). The Centre will contact the States Parties once again to solicit the information requested by the Committee at its last session.

A.7. Representatives of IUCN will, at the time of the seventeenth session, provide supplementary information on the state of conservation of some of the sites which have been reviewed in this document. In addition, IUCN has informed the Centre that its representatives also expect to be able to report on the following sites: Tikal National Park (Guatemala); Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal); Ngorongoro Conservation Area (Tanzania) and Mosi-oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls (Zambia/Zimbabwe).

B. State of conservation of cultural properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and List of World Heritage in Danger.

B.1. At its last session held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA, from 7-14 December 1992, the Committee examined the state of conservation of several cultural heritage properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.

B.2. The Co-ordinator of the Regional UNDP/UNESCO Project on Cultural Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean provided an overview of the state of conservation of properties in Latin America, the Caribbean and Lusophone countries in Africa. He outlined the methodology used in monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage sites, focusing attention on the outcome of monitoring missions undertaken to the following sites: City of Potosi (Bolivia), Ouro Preto, Historic Centre of the Town of Olinda and Salvador Bahia (Brazil), Cartagena (Colombia), City of Quito (Ecuador), Antigua and Tikal National Park (Guatemala), The Fortification of Portobelo-San Lorenzo (Panama), Machu Picchu and San Francisco de Lima (Peru), La Fortaleza and San Juan Historic Site in Puerto Rico (United States of America). The Committee recommended that the methodology used be continued for monitoring the state of conservation of cultural World Heritage properties in Latin America, the Caribbean and Lusophone countries in 1993. The Co-ordinator of the Regional UNDP/UNESCO Project on Cultural Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean will report on the results of the monitoring exercises undertaken by him and his staff at the time of the seventeenth session of the Bureau.

B.3. Representatives of ICOMOS submitted reports on the state of conservation of the following sites: Rila Monastery (Bulgaria), Quebec Historic Area (Canada), Paris, Banks of the Seine (France), Budapest, the Banks of the Danube (Hungary), Historic Centre of Rome (Italy), Kathmandu Valley (Nepal), Kizhi Pogost (Russian Federation), Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated sites, Hadrian's Wall and the City of Bath (United Kingdom), and Chaco Canyon (United States of America). Furthermore, Mr. Beschaouch, as the former (1992) Chairman of the Committee provided information on the state of conservation of the following sites in the Arab Region: Tipasa (Algeria), Tyr (Lebanon) and Ksar of Ait-Ben-Haddou (Morocco). Representatives of ICOMOS will provide information concerning the follow-up action taken to implement recommendations and suggestions of the Committee, made at its sixteenth session, for a selected number of sites mentioned above.

B.4. The World Heritage Centre provided information on the state of conservation of the following sites: Old City of Dubrovnik (Croatia), Abou Mena (Egypt), Delos and Delphi (Greece), Vatican (Holy See), Ggantija Temples (Malta), Ancient City of Damascus (Syria), El Jem (Tunisia), and Goreme National Park and the Rock Sites (Turkey).

B.5. The Committee's observations and recommendations on sites mentioned in paragraphs B2, B3 and B4 were transmitted to the States Parties concerned in February 1993. Individual letters sent to State Parties will be available for consultation by the members of the Bureau during its seventeenth session from 21 to 26 June 1993.

B.6. In this document, the state of conservation of two cultural sites included in the List of World Heritage in Danger, i.e. Old City of Dubrovnik (Croatia) and Angkor (Cambodia) are reviewed. Reports on the state of conservation of Delphi (Greece) and the Historic Areas of Istanbul (Turkey), which were examined by the Committee at its last session, are updated on the basis of information provided by the respective States Parties. New information on the state of conservation of Pyramid Plateau and the Old City of Cairo (Egypt), Postdam-Sanssouci (Germany) and Samos (Greece) are outlined.

B.7. Cultural World Heritage Properties in Danger

Angkor (Cambodia): The Committee, at its sixteenth session, inscribed the Angkor site, together with its monuments and its archaeological zones as described in the "Perimetre de Protection" accompanying the ICOMOS report, on the World Heritage List. The Committee, however, noted that Cambodia has been placed under the temporary administration of the United Nations, in accordance with the Paris Accords, since July 1991. In order to deal with the urgent problems of conservation facing this site quickly and effectively, the Committee decided to include Angkor in the List of World Heritage in Danger and requested that the competent UN and Cambodian authorities take the necessary steps to meet the following conditions:

- i) enact adequate protective legislation;
- ii) establish an adequately staffed national protection agency;
- iii) establish permanent boundaries based on the UNDP project;
- iv) define meaningful buffer zones, and
- v) establish monitoring and co-ordination of the international conservation effort.

Since the conclusion of the last session of the Committee, a strong and regulatory institutional framework had been put into place in Cambodia, by the decisions of the Supreme National Council of 10 February 1993 relating to the National Heritage Protection Authority of Cambodia. With regard to establishing permanent boundaries and defining meaningful buffer zones, a draft Angkor Zoning and Environmental Management Plan has been elaborated. The draft Plan was developed by a team of international and Cambodian experts, which undertook three missions between the period December 1992 and April 1993. The team built on past projects, took into consideration the latest thinking on the conservation and management of protected sites and landscapes and designed the draft plan using a Geographic Information System (GIS) and computer mapping system. The draft plan defines the Angkor World Heritage Area (AWHA), within which are the Angkor Archaeological Parks (AAP), Core Monument Sectors,

and Special Areas of Archaeological Concerns (SAACs); the plan also identifies Ecologically Sensitive Zones (ESZs) and Urban Development Zones (UDZs). Some of the above mentioned parts of the AWWHA also include sub-zones; e.g. UDZs have an urban conservation zone, urban expansion zone and a tourism development zone.

A discussion draft of the initial executive summary of the Angkor World Heritage Area Zoning and Environmental Management Plan, dated 1993, has been prepared for discussion with the Supreme National Council. A copy of this discussion draft is available with the Centre; the information has been transmitted to ICOMOS for review.

Old City of Dubrovnik (Croatia):

At its sixteenth session the Committee took note of the report on the state of conservation of Dubrovnik, which was included in the List of World Heritage in Danger, in Carthage in 1991. At its sixteenth session, in July 1992, the Bureau recommended that the Croatian authorities create a buffer zone which would ensure the protection of the ancient fortress and the surrounding areas. The Croatian authorities, by their letter dated 2 December 1992, transmitted a map and some notes to the Centre which described their intention to create a buffer zone for this site. The map and the notes have been transmitted to ICOMOS for review and comments.

Since the last session of the Committee, two brochures on Dubrovnik have been published, in order to publicize the plan to safeguard the Fortress as well as the Ancient City which were damaged by bombardment and to seek funds. Funds for the implementation of some specific projects have been forthcoming from private and public associations. Certain countries, such as Austria, France, Germany and Italy have shown interest in funding projects for safeguarding the Ancient City.

B.8. State of Conservation of Cultural World Heritage Properties

Pyramid Plateau (Egypt)

A staff member of the Centre visited this site, together with two consultants who are assigned to prepare a site management plan with partial financial support from the World Heritage Fund. The mission team included the Director of Archeology, Egyptian Antiquities Organization (EAO). Proposals to divert vehicular traffic - mostly tourist buses - within this World Heritage site were reviewed and were acceptable to the EAO. Architects from the Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University, are designing a ring road around the plateau to which all traffic will eventually be channelled. No vehicles will be permitted to enter the site.

Visitation rates to the Kefren Pyramid (the second pyramid) were more extensive than in the case of other Pyramids. Physical conditions in the vicinity of the Kefren Pyramid are deteriorating rapidly. Stones are disintegrating and in certain parts have been reduced to rubble. It appears that the blocks of stone used for its construction came from a quarry different from that exploited for obtaining stones for the other two pyramids, which are in better condition. The President of the EAO requested UNESCO to draw up a conservation programme for the Kefren Pyramid and the consultants have accordingly drafted the terms of reference for a large-scale project, to develop such a conservation programme; the project will need to be funded from extra-budgetary sources.

It is preferable to suggest to the EAO to convene a meeting of specialists in stone conservation to examine the state of conservation of the Kefren Pyramid and others included in the World Heritage site (including the Sakkara Pyramids which are also in an advanced state of decay). The Bureau may wish to recommend that the Egyptian authorities convene such a meeting of specialists in stone conservation.

Historic City of Cairo (Egypt)

The World Heritage Committee, at its sixteenth session held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA, during December 1992, approved a sum of US\$ 50,000 for the restoration of monuments damaged by the earthquake which occurred in Cairo and elsewhere in October 1992. A representative of the Centre undertook a mission to Egypt, and surveyed the damage caused to some of the important monuments in the old City by the earthquake. The Egyptian Government has allocated about US\$ 20 million for restoration projects and several foreign missions were already undertaking individual projects with their own funds. There appeared to be lack of coordination between the endeavours undertaken by Egyptian and international teams; the quality of the works being executed also seem to suffer from the lack of standardized norms. In order to meet the deadline (30 June 1993) for committing the US\$ 20 million provided by the Egyptian Government, the Egyptian Antiquities Organization (EAO) had called for tenders for projects related to 80 damaged monuments but had received offers for only 20 monuments. None of the bidding firms were specialized in historic restoration. The President of the EAO was of the view that the funds provided by the Committee at Santa Fe, (US\$50.000), should be used for technical assistance for coordinating and monitoring the different efforts being undertaken in the historic city in order to ensure that appropriate conservation norms and techniques are applied.

The representative of the Centre met with the Resident Representative of UNDP to examine the possibility for obtaining financial assistance from UNDP for a technical assistance project. The UNDP Resident Representative appeared to favour the launching of such a technical assistance project as long as the Centre took the initiative in preparing a project proposal. A

UNESCO consultant is scheduled to go to Cairo in May to prepare a draft Project Document.

Several monuments visited showed signs of degradation. The recent earthquake seems to have made the prevailing situation worse. Increasing dampness caused by an inordinately high ground water table appears to be the main cause of degradation. The rise in the level of groundwater seems to have exacerbated during the last 15 to 20 years, a phenomenon common to other parts of Egypt and is probably a combined effect of the construction of the Aswan Damm, the introduction of running water in all households in the Old City, and the lack of an adequate sewage system. Water seeps into the foundations of the historic buildings, both from below surface and from ground levels. Most of these buildings were constructed around 700-1200 years ago, and their ground level is well below the present street level.

The Bureau may wish to discuss the state of conservation of the Historic City of Cairo, in the light of information provided here and in other reports that may be submitted by ICOMOS, in order to make recommendations for the conservation of the City's monuments.

Potsdam-Sanssouci (Germany)

The World Heritage Centre was informed that the old historic mill (1739) located in this site has been completely restored and was reopened to the public on 27 April 1993 at the occasion of the 1000 year anniversary of Potsdam. A space has been set up in the site of the historic mill for a permanent exhibit on the mill landscape of Brandenburg. The restoration work (DM 1.2 Million) has been funded by the Land Brandenburg and the Foundation "Schlösser und Gärten Potsdam-Sanssouci".

Delphi (Greece)

The Committee at its last session, was informed by the Greek Observer of the protective measures taken, as well as the restoration activities implemented, in connection with the one-hundredth anniversary of the excavation works of the Ecole Française d'Athens which was celebrated in 1992. Since the conclusion of the sixteenth session of the Committee, the Centre learnt of the possibility of the construction of an olive-packing unit within this World Heritage site. The Centre requested the Greek authorities, by letter dated 12 March 1993, for information on the proposal to install an olive-packing unit in this site. The Greek authorities (their letter of 25 April 1993) informed the Centre that permission to construct the olive-packing unit will not be granted until all prerequisite conditions are satisfied. The Greek authorities will inform the Centre of the final decision in this regard.

Samos (Greece)

The Centre was informed, in March 1993, about the possibility of a road construction project in the immediate vicinity of the Acropolis of Samos, in front of the tunnel Eupalinos. The Centre, by letter dated 12 March 1993, requested information from the Greek authorities pertaining to the road construction project. The Greek authorities, in their reply dated 25 April 1993, informed the Centre that the road construction project is directly under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture which is of the view that the project does not endanger the site nor the tunnel of Eupalinos.

Historic Areas of Istanbul (Turkey)

At its sixteenth session held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA during December 1992, the Committee felt it necessary to send a mission to obtain detailed information on plans accompanying the master plan which has been elaborated for this site. Two UNESCO missions to Turkey, undertaken in early 1993, discussed conservation priorities for this World Heritage site, particularly the Museum of Saint Sophia, with the national authorities. It has been decided that the national authorities will constitute a small group to collate all available information and data pertaining to the conservation of the Historic Areas of Istanbul and prepare a plan of action which will be submitted to the consideration of bi- and multilateral donors.

Kathmandu Valley (Nepal)

At its sixteenth session, the World Heritage Committee endorsed an ICOMOS report, which was based on the recommendations of the 7th International Wood Committee Symposium and Conference which took place in Kathmandu, in November 1992. The Committee also adopted the recommendations made by ICOMOS and requested the Nepalese authorities to study them with a view to implementing them. In accordance with this Committee recommendation, a technical review of all conservation projects carried out in the valley over the past 20 years is to be organized in 1993. The objectives of the review are: to draw up broad guidelines for the preservation of the whole valley and re-examine the boundaries of the protected zone under the Convention.

It is recalled that the Division of Physical Heritage of UNESCO is executing a Japan Trust Fund Project for Patan Durbar Square (one of the seven sites in the Valley which is included in the ensemble inscribed on the World Heritage List), aimed at establishing scientific documentation of the historical buildings. The total cost of this project is about US\$ 375,000, to be spent over a three-year period. Additional assistance is being sought from UNDP to strengthen the institutional capacity of the national and municipal agencies responsible for safeguarding monuments and historical urban quarters in the Valley.

Santiago de Compostella (Spain)

The Director-General of UNESCO has been informed of the construction of a modern sports facility in this World Heritage site. A report on this subject, and several newspaper articles which were received by the Director-General, have been transmitted by the Centre to ICOMOS for verification and review.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

The Bureau of the World Heritage Committee, at its Seventeenth Session, June 21-26, 1993;

Expresses its unanimous position that the Convention Concerning Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage is dramatically increasing its effectiveness in global conservation programmes, as reflected in the continuing increases in its membership, and has become one of the most visible and well regarded initiatives of UNESCO;

Agrees that the Convention's effectiveness will depend on the ability of its Secretariat to faithfully implement its programs and work toward the fulfillment of its important objectives;

Congratulates the Director General on his decision to establish the World Heritage Center as the Secretariat of the Convention;

Refers to the management and staffing situation of the Center, and the situation foreseen for the Center's operations in the 1994-95 biennium;

Notes the resources provided to Secretariats of other related conservation instruments, including a staff of twenty for the Ramsar Convention and twenty two for CITES; and

Expresses its deep concern at the limited staffing and budgetary resources made available to the Center by UNESCO.

Invites the Director General to take the following actions:

Make every effort to staff the Center with at least nine permanent professional and eight general service posts funded under the Regular Programme of UNESCO from the beginning of the biennium 1994-1995 onwards;

Increase Regular Programme funds of the Center for the execution of its programme and activities at Headquarters by US\$200,000 over those currently proposed in order to reflect the increased responsibilities placed on the Center by requests of the Committee and by the more active involvement of the Convention in assuring the preservation of World Heritage Sites;

Facilitate co-ordination between the Center and other related sectoral staff as a means of further increasing the organization's support of the Center's mandated role;

Ease internal administrative and fiscal procedures in order to expedite disbursements from the World Heritage Fund already approved by the Chairman, the Bureau, and the Committee;

Prepare a Charter for the World Heritage Center, specifically outlining its role and functions, and place the Charter before the 142nd session of the Executive Board and the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention in October of this year.