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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, Paris, Room IX (Fontenoy Building)**

**21-26 June 1993**

**Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda: Report of the World Heritage  
Committee to the General Conference (27th session)**

In accordance with Article 29.3 of the Convention, the Committee shall submit a report on its activities at each of the ordinary sessions of the UNESCO General Conference. Bureau members will find in annex, for their approval, the draft of document 27 C/5 "Report of the World Heritage Committee to the General Conference (27th session)" covering the period November 1991 to 31 May 1993.

It is furthermore recalled that, in accordance with Strategic Orientation 5 adopted at Santa Fe, this report will also be submitted by the Chairman of the Committee to the ninth session of the General Assembly of States Parties, which will be held during the General Conference.

D R A F T

Original: French/English

Item 3.5 of the provisional agenda

**REPORT BY THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION  
OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE ON ITS ACTIVITIES  
(1991-1993)**

**SUMMARY**

The Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage was established by the Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by the General Conference at its seventeenth session, on 16 November 1972.

This report is submitted to the General Conference by the above-mentioned committee in accordance with Article 29 (3) of the Convention, which stipulates that 'The Committee shall submit a report on its activities at each of the ordinary sessions of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization'.

## I. COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

1. The number of States having deposited an instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession in respect of the World Heritage Convention was 117 at the beginning of the eighth General Assembly, which met during the twenty-sixth session of the General Conference of UNESCO (Paris, 1989). The number of States parties has increased to 134 as at 30 April 1993. A list of these States is given in Annex I.

2. At its eighth session, the General Assembly elected seven members of the Committee to replace those members whose term of office was due to expire. The World Heritage Committee is composed at present as follows:

Brazil<sup>1\*</sup>, China<sup>\*\*\*</sup>, Colombia<sup>\*\*\*</sup>, Cuba\*, Cyprus<sup>\*\*\*</sup>, Egypt<sup>\*\*\*</sup>, France\*, Germany<sup>\*\*\*</sup>, Indonesia\*\*, Italy\*, Mexico<sup>\*\*\*</sup>, Oman\*\*, Pakistan\*, Peru\*\*, Philippines<sup>\*\*\*</sup>, Senegal\*\*, Spain<sup>\*\*\*</sup>, Syrian Arab Republic\*\*, Thailand\*\*, Tunisia\*, United States of America\*.

3. Since the previous report, submitted to the twenty-sixth session of the General Conference (26 C/91), the Committee has held two meetings, the first at the invitation of the Tunisian authorities from 9 to 13 December 1991 in Carthage, Tunisia, and the second, at the invitation of the authorities of the United States of America, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, from 7 to 14 December 1992.

4. The Bureau of the Committee met twice, from 6 to 10 June 1992 and from 21 to 26 June 1993, for its sixteenth and seventeenth ordinary sessions, respectively. It was composed as follows:

### From December 1991 to December 1992:

Chairman:	Mr. A. Beschaouch (Tunisia)
Vice-Chairman:	Brazil, France, Senegal, Thailand, United States of America
Rapporteur:	Mr. S. Diaz-Berrio (Mexico)

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<sup>1\*</sup> States whose terms of office will expire at the end of the twenty-seventh session of the General Conference.  
<sup>\*\*</sup> States whose terms of office will expire at the end of the twenty-eighth session of the General Conference.  
<sup>\*\*\*</sup> States whose terms of office will expire at the end of the twenty-ninth session of the General Conference.

**Since December 1992:**

Chairman: Mr. R. Milne (United States of America)  
 Vice-Chairmen: Brazil, China, Colombia, Germany and Senegal  
 Rapporteur: Mr. A. Beschaouch (Tunisia)

5. The functions of the World Heritage Committee as stipulated in the Convention may be briefly summarized as follows:

- (i) to identify, on the basis of nominations submitted by States Parties, cultural and natural properties of outstanding universal value which are to be protected under the Convention, and to list these properties on the 'World Heritage List';
- (ii) to decide which properties included in the World Heritage List are to be included in the 'List of World Heritage in Danger';
- (iii) to determine the most appropriate ways and conditions under which the resources of the World Heritage Fund can be used to assist States Parties, as far as possible, in the protection of their properties of outstanding universal value.

6. Since its previous report to the General Conference, the World Heritage Committee, on the basis of nominations put forward by States Parties in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention, has added 42 cultural, natural and mixed properties to the World Heritage List. It should be noted that some of these properties consist of several monuments or sites. This brings to 378 the total number of entries on the World Heritage List as at 14 December 1992, distributed as follows: 276 cultural properties or sites, 87 natural sites and 15 mixed sites, which are listed in Annex II.

7. In drawing up the World Heritage List, the Committee has been guided by the need to ensure that the List is as representative as possible of all cultural and natural properties which meet the requirement of outstanding universal value stipulated by the Convention and also satisfy the criteria adopted by the Committee for the evaluation of cultural and natural properties. These criteria are set out in the 'Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention' (WHC/2 Revised, December 1988). The Committee has evaluated each nomination in terms of these criteria and, in so doing has taken note of the comments of the appropriate non-governmental organization, the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) or the World Conservation Union (IUCN), which, together with the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and the Restoration of Cultural

Property (ICCROM), attend the meetings of the Committee in an advisory capacity.

8. The increase in the number of nominations from States Parties has made it more than ever desirable to draw up tentative lists of properties which may be nominated for inclusion in the World Heritage List, as provided for in Article 11 of the Convention. ICOMOS, which at the request of the World Heritage Committee must examine all cultural nominations in the light of comparative studies, needs to have the tentative lists drawn up by the States Parties concerned in order to evaluate new nominations. For IUCN, which in 1982 published an inventory of the world's greatest natural areas, such tentative lists are useful for improving and updating the world inventory. As of 1 March 1993, the Secretariat had received tentative lists from 53 States Parties, listed in Annex III.
9. At its sixteenth session, the Committee adopted the revised cultural heritage criteria to permit inscription of outstanding cultural landscapes on the World Heritage List. The Committee requested States Parties to submit indicative lists for cultural landscapes and instructed the World Heritage Centre to bring together a group of experts to examine these indicative lists and related issues. This meeting will be organized in October 1993, in Germany. It must be noted that the cultural landscapes proposed should satisfy the rigorous standards of outstanding universal significance and integrity required by the Convention.
10. During the last biennium, the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau placed greater emphasis than in the past on monitoring the state of conservation of natural and cultural properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. Reports on the state of conservation of 32 natural and mixed sites were submitted by IUCN and the Secretariat to the Committee at its fifteenth and sixteenth sessions. Monitoring of the state of conservation of cultural heritage properties has also become more systematic than in the past. However, the Committee has emphasized the need to improve co-ordination of the efforts of various agencies and organizations assisting the World Heritage Centre in monitoring the state of conservation of cultural heritage properties. The Committee endorsed the approach adopted by the UNDP/UNESCO Regional Project on Cultural Heritage to monitor the state of conservation of 17 cultural and mixed World Heritage sites in Latin America and the Caribbean. The World Heritage Centre co-operated with UNEP in monitoring the state of conservation of cultural sites in the Mediterranean region. ICOMOS reported on the state of conservation of 12 properties at the sixteenth session of the Committee, in December 1992. Recognizing its role in identifying threats to World Heritage sites and in taking remedial action, the Committee, at its sixteenth session held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, United States of America, from 7 to 14 December 1992, created a separate budget line for monitoring and set aside US\$ 189,000 for activities, including the organization of a workshop for discussing methodologies for monitoring, foreseen for 1993.

11. The increased emphasis placed by the Committee on monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage properties enabled the Committee to recognize dangers to the conservation of World Heritage sites and alert the international community to the need for taking emergency actions. For the first time since the adoption of the Convention by UNESCO in 1972, the Committee used its authority, in accordance with Article 11, paragraph 4 of the Convention, to include a selected number of sites in the List of World Heritage in Danger, even though a formal request was not submitted by the States Parties concerned. At its fifteenth session, held in Carthage, Tunisia, in December 1991, the Committee included the Old City of Dubrovnik (Croatia) in the List of World Heritage in Danger and called upon the parties involved in the conflict in the former territory of Yugoslavia to respect the universal values for which this site had been given World Heritage status. Similarly at its sixteenth session the Committee decided to include the following natural heritage properties in the List of World Heritage in Danger owing to serious threats to their integrity: Mt. Nimba Nature Reserve (Guinea/Côte d'Ivoire), Sangay National Park (Ecuador) and Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India). The Committee concluded, on the basis of reports submitted by IUCN, that the integrity of these three sites was under specific and identified threats and their inclusion in the List of World Heritage in Danger was necessary in order to call the attention of the international community to their conservation needs.
12. The Committee, at its sixteenth session, included another Croatian site, i.e. Plitvice Lakes National Park, in the List of World Heritage in Danger, in accordance with a request made by the Croatian authorities. In the case of Plitvice Lakes, the Committee was satisfied to learn that the war which erupted in the Krajina Region of Croatia, in mid-1991, had not affected the World Heritage values of the site, but was nevertheless concerned that any resurgence of armed conflict there could irreversibly damage this natural property. Civil unrest and armed conflict also threatened other World Heritage sites, namely Aïr and Ténéré Reserve (Niger) and Angkor (Cambodia), and the Committee included these two sites in the List of World Heritage in Danger in accordance with the wish of competent authorities in the respective States Parties.
13. The Committee included the Srebarna Biosphere Reserve (Bulgaria) in the List of World Heritage in Danger, as requested by the State Party, and invited the Bulgarian authorities to submit a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of Srebarna and a plan for its ecological restoration. The Committee, however indicated to the Bulgarian authorities that if it finds the ecological restoration of Srebarna technically not feasible, it would be compelled to delete this site from the World Heritage List.
14. The Committee approved funds for specific activities designed for planning and implementing actions to mitigate threats to sites included in the List of World Heritage in Danger; e.g. the Committee set aside US\$ 35,000 for organizing

an interdisciplinary mission to Mt. Nimba Nature Reserve (Guinea/Côte d'Ivoire) to ascertain the exact boundaries of this World Heritage site and undertake a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of this site whose integrity continues to be threatened by a proposed iron-ore mining project and demographic changes in the region. The Committee was pleased to note that remedial measures taken with financial assistance from the World Heritage Fund, and in co-operation with other organizations such as World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the Frankfurt Zoological Society, had improved the state of conservation of Garamba National Park and hence, decided to remove this site from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

### III. THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND

#### (i) Contributions

15. for the period 1990-1991, contributions from States Parties to the World Heritage Fund totalled US\$3,050,429 as at 30 april 1993. For the period 1992-1993, contributions from States Parties totalled US\$2,353,807 as at 30 april 1993, of which US\$1,001,096 was in the form of mandatory contributions and the balance of US\$1,352,722 in the form of voluntary contributions. It is recalled that Article 16, paragraph 4 of the Convention stipulates that voluntary contributions 'shall be paid on a regular basis, at least every two years, and should not be less than the contributions which they [States Parties having opted for voluntary contributions] should have paid if they had been bound by the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article' (the mandatory contributions amounting at present to 1 per cent of the annual contribution of States Parties to the regular budget of UNESCO).

16. At its fifteenth session, in December 1991, the Committee recalled that the twentieth anniversary of the Convention should be an occasion to remind States Parties of their obligations, particularly with regard to the payment of their contributions to the World Heritage Fund. The Committee also wished that an appeal be launched to large private foundations to contribute to the World Heritage Fund.

17. At its sixteenth session, in December 1992, the Committee showed concern that a number of States Parties had not yet paid their mandatory contributions and that some unpaid contributions covered several bienniums. Accordingly, the Committee addressed a reminder to the States concerned to pay their dues to the Fund. At this same session the Committee decided to allocate from the budget a special item for monitoring, in accordance with the new strategic orientations and another item for the participation of experts (LDC and DC) to statutory meetings of the Committee.

#### (ii) Assistance to States Parties

18. During the period 1 September 1991 to 31 May 1993, several types of international assistance, as described below, were made

available to States Parties under the World Heritage Fund:

- (a) Preparatory assistance (assistance for the preparation of tentative lists of cultural and/or natural properties suitable for inclusion on the World Heritage List, of nominations for the List, and of requests for technical co-operation) was made available to the following States Parties:

**Algeria, Belize, Cambodia, Chile, Congo, El Salvador, France, Italy, Kenya, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Turkey, Vietnam and Zaire** at an estimated total cost of US\$ 166,900

Preparatory assistance was also provided to the International Union for Geological Sciences for work related to the revision of natural heritage criteria and to the organization of an experts meeting in Parc de Vosges, France, from 23 to 26 October 1992 for developing a criterion on cultural landscapes at an estimated total cost of US\$ 10,050

- (b) Emergency assistance (assistance for the preservation work in connection with cultural and natural properties included, or suitable for inclusion, in the World Heritage List and which have suffered, or are threatened with, serious damage as a result of unexpected events) was provided to:

	US\$
<b>China</b> for restoration work at Mt. Huangshan following storms in July 1991	20,000
<b>Costa Rica</b> for repairing staff quarters damaged by earthquake	10,000
<b>Croatia</b> for	
(i) an expert mission to assess the status of Plitvice Lakes National Park	30,000
(ii) organizing a consultation of experts for safeguarding Dubrovnik, and	19,000
(iii) purchase of materials and preparation of Master Plan for restoration of Dubrovnik	30,000
<b>Senegal</b> for purchasing redwood and other materials for repairing sluice gates at the Djoudj National Park	10,000
<b>Yemen</b> to undertake preliminary consolidation works on historic buildings and monuments in the Old City of Shibam following flooding	20,000

- (c) Training

Individual fellowships: Individual fellowships were granted to persons from the following States Parties:

Argentina, Congo, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mali, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Romania and Senegal at an estimated cost of:

US\$34,984

Group training: The Committee has given priority to training of specialists rather than to providing individual fellowships. Thus a substantial part of the financial resources available for training from the World Heritage Fund are provided to group training exercises.

As regards cultural heritage, group training is encouraged through financial support to (i) annual courses on stone conservation technology, conservation of murals, architectural conservation, and scientific principles of conservation, organized by ICCROM in Rome; (ii) inter-regional course on conservation of monuments and historical sites, in Bahia, Brazil and (iii) international course on wood conservation technology in Trondheim, Norway. Other courses in Argentina, Angkor (Cambodia) and Machu Picchu (Peru) were also supported. Specialists from the following countries participated in these courses:

Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Mozambique, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Romania, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam, Yemen and Zambia.

In the case of natural heritage, regional or sub-regional training courses in natural heritage protection and/or protected area management in the different regions as follows: Africa (6), Arab States (2), Asia-Pacific (3), Europe (1), and Latin America (9). Examples include a training course on National Park Management in Francophone Africa in Niger (January-February 1992), a mobile training seminar for protected area managers in South-Central Asia, in India and Nepal (March-April 1993) and a training course on ecotourism and protected areas organized in Quito and the Galapagos National Park, in Ecuador (July 1992).

Group training activities in cultural and natural heritage were supported at a total cost of: US\$ 795,813

(d) Technical co-operation (for work to safeguard properties included in the World Heritage List):

At its fifteenth session, held in Paris during 17-21 June 1991, the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee approved a contribution for the purchase of timber for the restoration of houses in the Historic Centre of Trinidad up to an amount of:

US\$ 30,000

Furthermore, projects not exceeding US\$ 20,000 were approved by the Chairperson for the following countries: Bolivia (expert mission to Potosi), China (international symposium at Mt.

Huangshan), **Egypt** (preparation of a Master Plan for Giza Pyramid Plateau), and **Turkey** (restoration of mosaics at St. Sophia); contribution for the monitoring of cultural heritage properties in **Brazil** (Ouro Preto), **Colombia** (Cartagena), **Ecuador** (Quito), **Guatemala** (Antigua) and **Peru** (Machu Picchu); and four travel grants to **Cameroon**, **Côte d'Ivoire**, **Guinea** and **Madagascar** for an international seminar on Tropical Forests, at an estimated total cost of

US\$ 72,500

At its fifteenth session, held in Carthage, Tunisia, from 9 to 13 December 1991, the World Heritage Committee approved the following projects:

**Bulgaria:**

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| (i) Purchase of equipment for Madara Rider                | US\$ 35,000 |
| (ii) Restoration of mural paintings of St. Stephen Church | US\$ 15,000 |

**Egypt:** Consultants for elaborating a Master Plan for the Pyramid Plateau at Giza US\$ 30,000

**Ethiopia:** Rehabilitation of Simien National Park US\$ 50,000

**Peru:** Contribution for the preparation of a Master Plan for Machu Picchu Historic Sanctuary US\$ 40,000

**Senegal:** Purchase of two vehicles for Niokolo-Koba National Park US\$ 45,000

**Tunisia:** Consultancy and equipment for visitor centre at Ichkeul National Park US\$ 40,000

**Zaire:**

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| (i) Purchase of three motor-cycles for Garamba National Park              | US\$ 15,000 |
| (ii) Purchase of one motor boat and spare parts for Virunga National Park | US\$ 40,000 |

The total of US\$ 55,000 approved for Zaire was later used, with the approval of the Chairman, for purchasing two vehicles, since the State Party had been able to obtain the motor cycles, and boats and spare parts through a donation from the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

**ICCRUM:** Contribution to purchase technical documentation, equipment and materials US\$ 25,000

During 1992, the Chairman approved the projects not exceeding US\$ 20,000 for the following countries: **Algeria** (Master Plan for Tipasa); **Bulgaria** (equipment for the Church of Boyana); **Guinea** (technical meeting on Mt. Nimba Nature Reserve);

**Madagascar** (equipment for Tsingy-Bemaraha); **Turkey** (seminar on management problems in Göreme); elaboration of a plan for the integration of the Historic Centre of Salvador de Bahia (**Brazil**) in the economic and social life of the City; purchase and dissemination of IUCN publications to managers of natural and mixed World Heritage sites, at an estimated cost of:

US\$ 101,200

At its sixteenth session, held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, United States of America, from 7 to 14 December 1992, the Committee approved the following projects:

<b>Ecuador:</b> Revision of management plan of Galapagos National Park	US\$ 29,000
<b>Egypt:</b> Restoration of monuments in the Old City of Cairo	US\$ 50,000
<b>Guinea/Côte d'Ivoire:</b> Interdisciplinary mission to assess boundaries in the Guinean part and assess state of conservation of site.	US\$ 35,000
<b>World Heritage Cities Organization:</b> Support for the preparation of the General Assembly and colloquium of the World Heritage Cities Network, mid-1993, Fez, Morocco	US\$ 50,000
<b>Turkey:</b> Materials and equipment for restoration of mosaics in St. Sophia	US\$ 30,000

Since the sixteenth session of the Committee, the Chairman has approved: US\$ 7,000 as a contribution for conservation activities in **Egypt** (Pyramid Plateau); US\$14,000 for the restoration of Portobello San Lorenzo (**Panama**), and US\$19,500 for the purchase of equipment to protect the Citadel of the Old City of Damascus (**Syrian Arab Republic**).

#### IV. EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION AND GUIDELINES FOR THE FUTURE

19. On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption, by the General Conference, of the World Heritage Convention, the World Heritage Committee undertook an evaluation of the implementation of the Convention since it came into force. On the basis of the results of this evaluation, the Committee, at its sixteenth session held in Santa Fe, United States of America, adopted the strategic orientations designed to improve implementation in the future.

20. The Committee defined the following five main goals:

1. Complete the identification of world heritage;
2. Ensure the representativity and the credibility of the World Heritage List;
3. Promote the adequate protection and management of the World Heritage sites;
4. Pursue more systematic monitoring of World Heritage sites;
5. Increase awareness, involvement and support from the public.

21. To attain these goals, the Committee had adopted a series of recommendations destined for the different partners responsible for implementing the Convention. Some of these recommendations specifically aim to improve the functioning of the Committee, particularly through the establishment of specialized working groups during the sessions of the Committee. Another recommendation stipulated that this report be submitted by the Chairperson of the Committee to the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention.

#### V. PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

22. The Secretariat continued to implement the promotion policy of the Committee, particularly:

- \* production and dissemination of information material on the Convention, folding-posters, brochures, publications, World Heritage Diary etc.;
- \* production of reports for television and co-production of films and videos;
- \* organization of exhibitions on World Heritage in States Parties and at UNESCO Headquarters;
- \* publication of a widely distributed newsletter on the Convention.

23. To celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the Convention, a series of promotional activities were organized at UNESCO Headquarters in co-operation with Permanent Delegations of States Parties. As part of these activities, and within the overall framework of World Heritage, thirty national exhibitions and twenty-three conferences and film projections were presented from July to September 1992. About fifteen evenings of music or traditional dances were also organized by States Parties as part of these celebrations, which were broadly publicized by the press. These activities drew a large public and visits for schoolchildren were also organized by the Secretariat.