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

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

**World Heritage Committee  
Seventeenth session**

Cartagena, Colombia  
6-11 December 1993

**Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda: Monitoring of the state of  
Conservation of World Heritage Cultural and Natural Properties**

**A. Introduction**

The seventeenth session of the Bureau had detailed discussion on the question of site monitoring and methodology. It established guidelines for a technical meeting on monitoring. The meeting was scheduled for 1 to 4 November 1993 and will be the subject of a special report to be distributed as an information document.

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

B.1. At its seventeenth session held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 21-26 June 1993, the Bureau of the World Heritage 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 the Latin American, the Caribbean and Lusophone countries in Africa. Since 1991, a pilot monitoring programme for cultural World Heritage Sites has been implemented through the UNDP/UNESCO Regional Project for the Cultural, Urban and Environmental Heritage, based in Lima, Peru. An extensive progress report, including monitoring reports on 13 sites, was presented to the Committee at its 16th session in Santa Fe.

For 1993, the following 17 sites were scheduled to be monitored:

Jesuit Mission of Guaranis	Argentina/Brazil
Potosi	Bolivia
Sucre	Bolivia
Jesuit Missions of Chiquitos	Bolivia
Brasilia	Brazil
Bom Jesus de Congonhas	Brazil
Serra da Capivara National Park	Brazil
Havana	Cuba
Trinidad and Valley of Ingenios	Cuba
Santo Domingo	Dominican Republic
Quirigua	Guatemala
La Citadelle, Sans Souci & Ramiers	Haiti
Copan	Honduras
Ilha de Mozambique	Mozambique
Cusco	Peru
Chavin	Peru
Chan Chan	Peru

It should be noted that all relevant information received at the World Heritage Centre is transmitted to the Regional Project for review and, if appropriate, for discussion in the monitoring reports. At the same time, the Regional Project provides the Centre with information on the sites whenever requested so that the findings of the monitoring missions are immediately available as necessary.

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 Committee.

B.3. Representatives of ICOMOS submitted reports on the state of conservation of the following sites: Kathmandu Valley (Nepal), Kizhi Pogost (Russian Federation), St. Petersburg (Russian Federation), Santiago de Compostela (Spain), Old Rauma (Finland), Suomenlinna (Finland), Shalimar Gardens (Pakistan), Hadrian's Wall and Stonehenge (United Kingdom), and Drottningholm (Sweden). 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. UNESCO and the World Heritage Centre provided information on the state of conservation of the following sites: Angkor (Cambodia), Old City of Dubrovnik (Croatia), Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur and Islamic Cairo (Egypt), Delphi and Samos (Greece), Florence (Italy), Kathmandu Valley (Nepal), Ancient City of Damascus (Syria), Historic Areas of Istanbul (Turkey).

B.5. The Committee's observations and recommendations on sites mentioned in paragraphs B3 and B4 were transmitted in early August 1993 to the States Parties concerned. Individual letters sent to State Parties will be available for consultation by the members of the Committee during its seventeenth session from 6 to 11 December 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 Damascus (Syria), Delphi and Samos (Greece), Hanseatic City of Lubeck (Germany), and Santiago de Compostela (Spain) 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 Avila (Spain), Burgos Cathedral (Spain), Puebla (Mexico), Bahla Fort (Oman), Kathmandu Valley (Nepal) and Shibam (Yemen) is outlined later on in this report.

#### **B.7. Cultural World Heritage Properties in Danger**

##### **Angkor (Cambodia)**

In recognition of the national and global significance of the Angkor monuments and associated archaeological features as representations of the great Khmer civilization, the Supreme National Council of Cambodia ratified the 1972 World Heritage Convention in November 1991.

The World Heritage Committee at its 16th session in Santa Fe adopted by Decision of 14 December 1992 to inscribe Angkor on the World Heritage List and on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

However, the Committee placed a number of conditions which it requested the Cambodian authorities to fulfill as soon as possible, including:

- (i) to enact adequate protective legislation;
- (ii) to establish a national protection agency;
- (iii) to establish permanent boundaries;
- (iv) to establish meaningful buffer zones, both based on the ZEMP project; and
- (v) to establish monitoring and co-ordination of the international conservation effort.

With the legal assistance of UNESCO, a new and comprehensive legislation has been drafted. It was debated extensively by the Supreme National Council of Cambodia during its January 1993 meeting before its adoption by the SNC on 10 February 1993 as the "Decision on the Protection of the National Cultural Heritage". This SNC Decision is expected to be promulgated as law by the legislative body to be established by the new government.

In response to condition (ii) and in collaboration with the UNTAC Civil Administration, a supra-ministerial agency, named "the National Heritage Protection Authority of Cambodia" (NHPAC) was formally adopted by Decision of the SNC on the 10 February 1993.

To comply with conditions (iii) and (iv), UNESCO has executed a "Zoning and Environment Plan" (ZEMP) for the Angkor Area with funds from UNDP and Sweden and with technical assistance from the United States National Parks Services, the Angkor Foundation of Hungary, the Thai Department of Fine Arts, the Ecole Française d'Extrême Orient and the World Conservation Union.

Some 25 experts of various scientific disciplines from 11 different countries, together with Cambodian technical counterparts, participated in this project undertaking extensive studies of environmental and socio-economic conditions, as well as collection of the archaeological data within a 5,000 sq km study area centred on the Angkor core monumental grounds. The spatial data was compiled into a computerized Geographical Information System (GIS) and has been set up within the Angkor Conservation Office in Siem Reap to be made available to all participants in the restoration and conservation effort and is expected to be continuously up-dated by future field surveys. From this data, it has been possible to define an "Angkor Cultural Area". Within this boundary two large protected areas were identified. One, tentatively called the "Angkor Archaeological Park" is centred on the core monumental area. The other, called the "Phnom Kulen Park" comprises the environmentally important Kulen Mountain together with more than 100 important monuments from the earliest period of the Khmer Empire. In addition, within the Angkor Cultural Area, smaller satellite parks have been defined around the monumental complexes of Banteay Srei and Phnom Krom.

Also defined are more than 500 "Special Areas of Archaeological Concerns" (SAACs) outside of the boundaries of the parks, many of which have been discovered by the ZEMP project. "Ecologically Sensitive Zones", localizing areas requiring special protection to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources were also defined.

The ZEMP project team, therefore, recommends the establishment of an Angkor Parks Agency which would be a strong and multi-disciplinary government agency dedicated to the protection and management of the World Heritage Angkor Park and potentially other national parks in the region. Recommendations for the establishment of other government entities, such as a regional development board for the co-ordination of social and physical infrastructural development activities, have also been made by the ZEMP team.

The draft Plan with the proposed zones, guidelines and options of organization and management structures was submitted

to the new Cambodian Government for its consideration and eventual adoption.

At the general level, the Director-General of UNESCO has created a special Angkor Unit within the Culture Sector and reinforced the UNESCO Office for Cambodia in Phnom Penh and its sub-office in Siem Reap.

At the field level, there is a monthly field Directors Steering Committee meeting held on the site, co-chaired by UNESCO and the Cambodian Director of the Angkor Conservation Office. In April 1993, UNESCO convoked, in Siem Reap, a consultative meeting of international experts involved in the safeguarding and development of the Angkor region which, it is hoped, could be repeated annually.

To ensure closer co-operation between the organizations involved in field-based activities at Angkor and the national authorities, UNESCO's sub-office in Siem Reap, located within the Angkor Conservation Office, was strengthened by additional national staff and is soon expected to be further reinforced by international technical experts.

The key to ensuring the success of these co-ordinating mechanisms is the training to upgrade the management capacity of the Cambodian administrators of the site of Angkor. This need is being addressed by an important project funded by the Government of Japan to upgrade the quality of instruction within the Faculty of Archaeology of the University of Fine Arts of Phnom Penh. An extension of the ZEMP project also focuses on the training of site-managers for the administration of the Angkor Park.

The Intergovernmental Conference on the Safeguarding and Development of the Historic Site of Angkor, organised at the initiative of the Governments of France and Japan, was held in Tokyo from 12-13 October 1993, gathering 29 governments, 7 international organisations, financial institutions and several non-governmental organisations. UNESCO was closely associated with the preparation of this Conference and assured its Secretariat.

The Conference, emphasising the inseparable relationship between the preservation of Angkor's cultural assets, the conservation of its natural resources and the socio-economic development of the region, adopted the "Tokyo Declaration" which created an intergovernmental committee to be established in Phnom Penh at the ambassadorial level to coordinate all activities at Angkor, both bilateral and multilateral, whether they be in the domain of cultural heritage preservation or socio-economic development. UNESCO will be the Secretariat to this Committee to be chaired by France and Japan under the hoped for Honorary Presidency of His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia.

The Conference resulted in commitments towards an international programme for the safeguarding and development of

Angkor by all participating Governments and organisations and in financial pledges of some US\$ 15 million to be disbursed over the next two years.

### **Old City of Dubrovnik (Croatia)**

At its fifteenth session held in Carthage in December 1991, the Committee inscribed the Old City of Dubrovnik on the List of World Heritage in Danger. In July 1992, during the sixteenth session of the Bureau, it was recommended to the Croatian Authorities to create a buffer zone in order to ensure the protection of the ancient fortress and the surrounding areas. At its last session, the Bureau was informed that a plan concerning the buffer zone had been prepared by the Croatian local authorities; however, it was not yet cleared by the government. In this regard the Bureau recommended to the Croatian Authorities to extend the buffer zone and include the two fortifications outside the ramparts. It was also recommended that legislation be enforced in order to prevent the construction of high buildings along and close to the coastline which would spoil the fine view of the skyline of the old town of Dubrovnik, when approached from the sea.

The Croatian authorities, by their letter with enclosed documentation received by the Centre on 2 September 1993, requested the extension of the World Heritage Site of Dubrovnik which now has the following perimeter:

1. the agglomeration of Pila and the plateau of Brsalje, to the west;
2. the moat along the perimeter of the city intra-muros, to the north;
3. the Lazarets to the east; and
4. the island of Lokrum to the south.

Document and maps have been transmitted to ICOMOS for the necessary evaluation and a report in this regard will be presented to the Committee meeting in Cartagena, in December 1993.

With regard to the enforcement of the present legislation for the protection of the World Heritage Site, we have to report that no additional documents or information has been received.

### **B.8. State of Conservation of Cultural World Heritage Properties on World Heritage List**

#### **Delphi (Greece)**

Following the sixteenth session of the Committee, the Centre learnt that the construction of an olive-packing unit was foreseen at this World Heritage site and, by letter of 12 March 1993, requested the Greek authorities for information about this project. By letter of 25 April 1993 the Greek authorities

informed the Centre that building permission would not be granted until the prerequisite conditions for its protection had been fulfilled and that they would inform the Centre of the final decision concerning this project.

At its seventeenth session in June 1993, the Bureau took note of these assurances as well as those formulated by the Greek Observer, and the Secretariat was requested to collect complementary information on the protective measures taken, and the progress of the project.

The Centre transmitted this request to the Greek authorities by letter of 3 August 1993 and will inform the Committee in the event that they receive a reply from the authorities concerned before its seventeenth session.

#### **Samos (Greece)**

In March 1993, the Centre learnt that the construction of a road was foreseen in the immediate vicinity of the Acropolis of Samos, in front of the Tunnel of Eupalinos, and by letter of 12 March 1993 requested the Greek authorities for information on this subject. In their reply of 25 April 1993, the Greek authorities informed the Centre that the project is directly under the supervision of the Ministry of culture, which feels that the project would not endanger the site nor the Tunnel. At its seventeenth session in June 1993, the Bureau adopted the view of the Rapporteur who stressed that, considering the archaeological importance of the site, additional detailed information should be requested by the Centre about this project and its progress. The Centre requested further information from the Greek authorities by letter of 3 August 1993 and will communicate the response to the Committee at its seventeenth session if they are in a position to do so at that time.

#### **Hanseatic City of Lübeck (Germany)**

At the seventeenth session of the Bureau, the German Delegate reported on the situation of the Old City of Lübeck, and in particular the demolition of certain monuments situated in the protected zone and the discovery of mural paintings which are presently being restored. A detailed report will be presented to the seventeenth session of the World Heritage Committee by ICOMOS, which was invited by the Mayor of Lübeck to visit the City and to make an evaluation of the situation.

#### **Puebla (Mexico)**

During the month of September 1993, several letters were received at the World Heritage Centre, informing about a tourism development project to recreate the former Rio San Francisco in the historical centre of Puebla. This project would imply the demolition of a great number of colonial constructions from the XVII-XIX centuries in the areas of d'Analco la Luz, Los Remedios, La Cruz and San Francisco.

The World Heritage Centre transmitted this information to the Permanent Delegation of Mexico on 21 October 1993 requesting the competent authorities to examine the situation in Puebla and to inform the Centre as soon as possible of the outcome.

### **Kathmandu Valley (Nepal)**

The World Heritage Committee, at its sixteenth session, and subsequently the Bureau, at its seventeenth session, were informed of the alarming state of conservation of the historic building and monuments in the Kathmandu Valley. As a result, the WHC and ICOMOS were requested to undertake a global review mission to the World Heritage Site and report to the Committee of its outcome.

The mission, which is composed also of experts who participated in the preparation of the Kathmandu Valley Master Plan in 1977, is now scheduled to be fielded during the third and fourth weeks of November 1993 as confirmed by the Nepalese Authorities.

The mission, accompanied by the Nepalese counterparts, will carry out the survey and the study of the seven properties within the World Heritage Site inscribed in 1979. The following three main aspects of the mission will be considered.

1. Changes which have taken place to the World Heritage Site and on the influences which have led to those changes : special attention to be given to their boundaries, and their possible extension might be considered.
2. The environmental conditions affecting the World Heritage Site and its monuments. Factors such as encroachment, rebuilding, traffic pressures, introduction of modern services, as well as assessing the present mechanism of control, their effectiveness and whether any recommendations for change should be noted.
3. The current practices in the conservation of buildings and other structures within the World Heritage Site; suggest guidelines on conservation techniques appropriate to traditional Nepalese buildings and make recommendations for any training considered to be necessary.

### **Bahla Fort (Oman)**

Reports that the Omani Ministry of National Heritage has requested a Moroccan firm to reconstruct Bahla Fort and that extensive works are being carried out. This ensemble which is entirely built with mud brick is now being reconstructed, we are



informed, adding construction materials like cement, stone, reinforced concrete, etc. to the original substance. This undoubtedly jeopardises the integrity and authenticity of the site and its World Heritage status. It is strongly recommended that a monitoring mission should be undertaken by a mud construction specialist.

### **Avila (Spain)**

In October 1993, the Director-General of UNESCO received ample information on a project to construct a new bridge over the river Rio Adajo just outside the historic walls of the city of Avila and close to the old Roman bridge over the same river. This bridge would, together with another existing bridge and the connecting roads, form a kind of a 'roundabout' and subsequently attract additional traffic flows.

Given the fact that the new bridge might affect the view of the walled city, on 21 October 1993 the World Heritage Centre requested the Permanent Delegation of Spain to examine the situation as soon as possible. In view of the urgency of this matter the Centre requested ICOMOS also to investigate the situation and to report to the Centre within the shortest delay possible.

### **Burgos Cathedral (Spain)**

In May 1993 the World Heritage Centre received from an individual from Spain an extensive report suggesting serious problems as to the conservation of this World Heritage Site. The report pointed out that no appropriate institutional arrangements between the national, regional and local authorities were in place, that no restoration and conservation plans existed and that a serious lack of maintenance threaten the Cathedral.

On 16 June 1993, the World Heritage Centre informed the Permanent Delegation of Spain of this report and requested the Delegation to look into this matter. By letter dated 13 October 1993, the Delegation transmitted reports from the Spanish Institute for the Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Property and from the municipal authorities of Burgos. The report from the Institute clarifies that at this moment, the responsibilities for preservation are being transferred to the regional authorities but that, nonetheless, the Ministry monitors the state of conservation of the Cathedral. Both reports confirm that an Advisory Council for the Cathedral (Comision Asesora del Fabricero de la Catedral) is in place with representatives of the Ministry of Culture, the regional and local authorities (Junta de Castilla y Leon and the Cabildo Metropolitano de Burgos), the University, the Association of the Friends of the Cathedral, etc. Furthermore, the municipal authorities stress that important measures have been taken for the protection and maintenance of the monument.

**Santiago de Compostela (Spain)**

During its 17th session the Bureau was informed of the extremely negative visual impact of a new sports hall on the western slope of the hill that is crowned by the Cathedral of Santiago. Information from ICOMOS revealed that an agreement had been reached between the local and regional authorities to lower the building by 1,5 meters and to apply materials more suitable to the surroundings.

On 29 September 1993, the Permanent Delegation of Spain confirmed the agreement on the height of the building and explained that, due to a misinterpretation of indications issued by the Historical Department of the regional authority, the building was indeed too high. The project was revised and now meets all legal requirements.

**Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic)**

The situation described in the last Bureau report still stands. The Syrian authorities were informed of the recommendations of the Bureau and were requested by the Centre to respond to these by 1st October 1993. At the time of writing this report, no information has been received at WHC from the Syrian authorities and it is hoped that ICOMOS will now urgently undertake the general monitoring mission to Syria to review the reconstruction work both at the Umayyad Mosque and to other monuments in the old city of Damascus which have recently been undertaken without prior notification to the World Heritage Centre.

**Saint Sophie, Istanbul (Turkey)**

A mission to Saint Sophie, Istanbul, had been organised with a view to developing an action plan for the safeguarding of this Site. The mission should have taken place between 29 August and 5 September 1993, however, at the request of the Turkish authorities, this was postponed until 15-19 November 1993. A report will, therefore, be made available on completion of this mission.

**Shibam (Yemen)**

The Yemeni Authorities put forward a request for emergency assistance amounting to US\$ 40,000 following the floods which have seriously damaged a number of buildings within the World Heritage Site of Shibam. The Chairman of the World Heritage Committee approved an amount of US\$ 9,500, sufficient for fielding an assessment mission to Shibam and report on the damage caused by the exceptional floods which have hit this property. The mission was finally fielded at the beginning of October and is expected to report back in a few weeks so that the Committee will be able to receive detailed information on the findings.

## **C. State of Conservation of Natural Properties**

### **C.1 General Information**

The Bureau examined at its seventeenth session the state of conservation of several World Heritage properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, including World Heritage properties in Danger. The Bureau's review of the state of conservation of World Heritage properties took into consideration information provided in other reports.

The observations and recommendations of the Bureau on all these sites were transmitted to the States Parties concerned in early August 1993. Follow-up action taken by the World Heritage Centre with respect to 18 natural sites are discussed here. Action taken with regard to mixed sites and six natural World Heritage sites in Danger are discussed in other sections of this document.

### **C. 2. Progress Report on the State of conservation of natural World Heritage properties**

#### **Wrangell-St. Elias-Kluane-Glacier Bay National Parks (Canada/United States of America):**

The Bureau recalled that the Committee at its sixteenth session, while approving the extension of this transfrontier site to include the Glacier Bay National Park (USA), urged the American and the Canadian authorities to incorporate additional areas to the World Heritage property.

On 30 September 1993, a nomination was received for the extension of this site by the addition of the Tashanshini-Alsek area in the province of British Columbia, Canada. The Committee may wish to welcome this addition since it responds to its request and reinforces the integrity of the entire site. IUCN has made a field visit to the site and the representative of IUCN will provide additional information.

#### **Manovo-Gounda Saint Floris (Central African Republic)**

In response to the December 1992 request of the World Heritage Committee, two meetings were held with representatives of the Central African Republic (CAR) to discuss: (a) the protection of the site; (b) participation of local people, and (c) the social-economic ramifications of a "privatized management regime". The first meeting in April determined that the issues were of an administrative and legal nature rather than ecological and thus it was decided not to carry out a field mission.

On 10 May 1993 legal representatives of the Central African Republic, UNESCO and IUCN met at the World Heritage Centre to review the above-mentioned items.

The Centre will report to the Committee when new information becomes available on the new management options which are under consideration. However, continuing instability in the area makes any implementation difficult.

#### **Talamanca-La Amistad National Park (Costa Rica-Panama)**

The Bureau was informed that the Costa Rican authorities were not in agreement with all the boundary modifications recommended by the Committee, at its fifteenth session. The Bureau noted that the Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mines, which is responsible for the management of the Talamanca-La Amistad Reserves, and the general public, as well as the indigenous people resident within the site, were not in favour of all proposed modifications of the boundary suggested by the Committee. A representative of IUCN informed the Bureau that specialists from IUCN's Regional Office in Costa Rica are discussing the boundary modifications proposed by the Committee with the Costa Rican authorities. These discussions have taken into consideration the need to accommodate the socio-economic aspirations of indigenous people in the Biosphere Reserve whilst protecting the World Heritage values of the site. The Bureau requested the World Heritage Centre to continue dialogue with the Costa Rican authorities in this important matter and report on the outcome during the forthcoming session of the Committee in December 1993.

On 10 September 1993 the Permanent Delegation of Costa Rica informed the World Heritage Centre that the observations made by the Bureau were transmitted to the competent national authorities.

According to information received by IUCN, on 8 October 1993 a tentative agreement on the La Amistad boundaries was reached through discussion with the Vice Minister who was formally responsible for the area. Following these discussions, the proposed boundaries have been transmitted to the Costa Rican authorities by IUCN. We are waiting for confirmation of these revised boundaries.

#### **Tikal National Park (Guatemala)**

The Bureau noted with satisfaction that the size of this mixed World Heritage property might be enlarged by about 50% and that the new areas earmarked for inclusion in the Park may contain natural and cultural heritage values of universal significance. The Bureau was informed that an IUCN project in the buffer zone of the Park is working with 26 villages to find alternative livelihood strategies which will minimize the dependence of the indigenous people on resources within the World Heritage site.

The Bureau commended the efforts of the Government of Denmark which is supporting this project with a contribution of US\$ 520,000 over a two-year period. As requested by the Bureau the Centre has contacted the competent authorities in Guatemala and encouraged them to extend the boundaries of this mixed World Heritage property. Full use should be made of the above-mentioned project. No new information has been received so far.

#### **Danube Delta (Romania)**

The Bureau noted that the Danube Delta World Heritage site will benefit from the Danube River Basin Environment Programme which will be financed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and implemented with technical advice from IUCN. The Representative of Romania informed the Bureau that a new research institution for the Danube Delta has been established and will undertake studies relevant to the conservation of the Danube Delta. The World Heritage Centre is still awaiting confirmation of proposed new legislation. IUCN will report in detail about new developments.

#### **Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal)**

The Bureau recalled that at its sixteenth session in July 1992 it had requested IUCN to provide a report on the progress in the implementation of measures to mitigate environmental impacts of a road construction project in this Park. The Representative of IUCN informed the Bureau that the University of Dakar, Senegal, had undertaken an independent assessment of the implementation of mitigation measures and that the findings of this study had been validated by the Regional Representative of IUCN for West Africa. The Bureau was pleased to note that the study had found the implementation of mitigation measures to be satisfactory and the impacts on the Park to be minimal. However, the Bureau noted that the implementation of the road construction project had caused a number of concerns, particularly the wider impacts due to the presence of a new transportation corridor traversing the region, which were not originally foreseen. The Bureau commended the Senegalese National Park authorities to report on the long-term future of the Park, and to elaborate strategies which would become part of a major project for ensuring the future of the Park. A donors' meeting, co-sponsored by the Senegalese National Park authorities and IUCN's Regional Office for West Africa was scheduled for 28 June 1993.

At this point in time we have not received a report on the results of this meeting. IUCN will provide a report on the progress of the state of conservation and the implementation of projects concerning the Niokolo-Koba National Park.

**Ngorongoro Conservation Area (Tanzania)**

The Bureau recalled that this site was removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1988, and was deeply concerned to learn that the Prime Minister of Tanzania had announced that the residents of the area will be allowed to grow crops inside this World Heritage site, in contradiction to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Law. The Bureau recommended that the Committee, at its seventeenth session in December 1993, include once again, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area in the List of World Heritage in Danger and requested the Centre to communicate its concerns to the Minister of Tourism, Natural Resources and Environment of Tanzania. The Bureau's concerns have been communicated to the authorities in Tanzania.

A copy of a letter to IUCN dated the 22 September 1993 indicates that agricultural pressure on the area is continuing and IUCN will provide a report on the state of conservation.

**Everglades National Park (United States of America)**

The Bureau noted that the damage caused by Hurricane Andrew has had a wide range of impacts on the ecology of Everglades and that the site has been entered on the "Montreux Record", the equivalent of a 'danger list' under the Ramsar Convention. A monitoring report on Everglades, which was submitted at the Ramsar Conference in Japan, from 9 to 16 June 1993, should provide directions for preparing a future detailed state of conservation report on the Everglades, however at this point the World Heritage Centre has not yet received this report.

**Virunga National Park (Zaire)**

The Bureau was deeply concerned to learn that due to recent political uncertainties in the country all donors, except WWF, have withdrawn their support to this Park. This has resulted in destruction of vegetation, poaching, agricultural encroachment and over-exploitation of fish populations in Lake Idi Amin. Since November 1992, the Park staff has not received salaries, and funds for operations and maintenance are not available. Several new settlements have appeared in the Park, particularly around Lake Idi Amin, and some gold mining and livestock grazing have also been reported. IUCN will report on an October 1993 field visit to this World Heritage site to assess current damage and suggest long-term options for conservation of the site.

The Bureau recommended that the Committee include the Virunga National Park in the List of World Heritage in Danger, unless this IUCN/WWF site visit in October 1993 provides sufficient evidence to the contrary. A formal and acceptable request for emergency assistance from the competent national authorities responsible for the management of this property has been received and the project has been executed.

### **Durmitor National Park (Montenegro)**

The Bureau recalled that 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 had minimal impacts on the conservation of Durmitor National Park. The Bureau acknowledged the fact that the Montenegro authorities had invited a UNESCO/IUCN mission to the site and that this mission should be undertaken as early as possible in order to ensure the conservation of this World Heritage site. In view of Resolution 757 of the UN Security Council, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre is still unable to proceed with the organization of the UNESCO/IUCN mission to Durmitor National Park.

### **D. State of Conservation of Natural World Heritage Properties in Danger**

#### **Srebarna Biosphere Reserve (Bulgaria)**

The Bureau recalled that the Committee at its sixteenth session included this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger. 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 migratory and passerine bird populations. The Bureau recalled that IUCN, on the basis of two missions to the site in 1992, had concluded that Srebarna's World Heritage status may no longer be justified because it has deteriorated to a state where it may have 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 invited the Bulgarian authorities to submit their observations and comments to the Committee. At its last session, the Committee was informed by the Representative of Bulgaria that the Bulgarian Government, in order to restore the World Heritage values of Srebarna, was preparing a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of Srebarna and an ecosystem restoration plan. The Committee had indicated to the Bulgarian authorities that available scientific evidence suggested 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 might be impossible. However, the Committee invited the Bulgarian authorities to submit, before 1 May 1993, to the World Heritage Centre, 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.

The Bureau noted that the Bulgarian authorities have submitted to the World Heritage Centre, a project document

entitled 'Environmental Recovery and Restoration of the Biosphere Reserve "Srebarna"' and had indicated that a report on the comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of Srebarna will be sent to the Centre as soon as its translation into French is finalized. A representative of IUCN made a detailed presentation on the state of conservation of Srebarna and the Bulgarian plan for its restoration, and emphasized the fact that most small wetlands like Srebarna (600 ha) are inherently unstable and their ecological integrity is easily threatened by changes occurring outside their boundaries. The Bureau noted that the restoration plans currently being implemented by the Bulgarian authorities could restore the hydraulic regime of Srebarna, and hence have the potential to restore the ecosystem which existed at the time of Srebarna's inscription on the World Heritage List. Furthermore, the Bureau learnt that the Bulgarian authorities were introducing a system to issue permits to local people for hunting wild boar and foxes which threaten the population of Dalmatian Pelicans in Srebarna. The Bureau, however, noted that the Pelican population of Srebarna comprised only about 10% of the global population of the species, and continued to breed in sites outside of Srebarna, including some sites in Romania, where they were hunted.

The Bureau recommended to the Committee to: (a) retain Srebarna on the List of World Heritage in Danger; (b) defer its decision on whether or not to delete Srebarna from the World Heritage List for a period of two years and (c) request IUCN, in co-operation with the Ramsar Convention, to monitor the extent to which the project(s) implemented by the Bulgarian authorities are restoring the ecological integrity of Srebarna. Furthermore, the Bureau requested that the proposal for the restoration of Srebarna, and the comprehensive assessment of its state of conservation be made available to members of the Committee for review, and that the Bulgarian and Romanian authorities co-operate in protecting the populations of Dalmatian Pelicans in the region. The Bureau requested IUCN and the Centre to co-operate with the Ramsar Convention and the Bulgarian authorities.

#### **Plitvice Lakes National Park (Croatia)**

At its sixteenth session, the Committee was informed of a mission carried out in September 1992. This mission found the natural values of Plitvice National Park largely undisturbed. The mission noted however, considerable damage to buildings and structures, particularly in the area surrounding the park.

Recognizing that the potential for a resurgence of hostilities continued to threaten the integrity of this site, the Committee, at its last session included the Plitvice Lakes National Park in the List of World Heritage in Danger and called upon the Government of Croatia, UNPROFOR and the authorities in the Krajina Region to co-operate to implement the Vance Plan and its successor resolutions to stabilize the political situation in the region.



The Bureau requested the Centre to continue its dialogue with UNPROFOR to explore the possibilities for organizing an international mission and report on the outcome to the seventeenth session of the Committee.

As requested by the Bureau a mission to the area was carried out by the World Heritage Centre with the cooperation of IUCN from 21 to 24 September 1993. The mission found, the Croatian border closed to civilian traffic, thus, the site is inaccessible without UNPROFOR permission. Meetings were held with officials in Zagreb, KNIN and at Plitvice National Park. Cooperation with the United Nations protection forces (UNPROFOR) was excellent. The state of conservation in the Park remains good. However, the Corko-Uvala virgin forest remains inaccessible. In addition, social tension in the region is high and while one hotel in the Park is now open (Jereza), another outside the Park has been shelled and damaged. The UNPROFOR forces plan to remove the mines on the access road to the Corko-Uvala forest and when this has been done, a further mission (if necessary) should review the conservation situation in this sector of the Park.

#### **Mt. Nimba Nature Reserve (Ivory Coast/Guinea)**

In 1981 the World Heritage Committee inscribed Mt. Nimba on the World Heritage List. In 1992 Mt Nimba was placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger by the Committee which requested the Centre to send an expert mission to: (a) ascertain the boundaries of the site at the time of inscription and recommend an appropriate boundary; (b) assess the impact of the iron-ore mine and other threats to the integrity of the site; (c) work towards an integrated rural development project.

The mission was carried out between 15 to 30 May 1993. It included representatives from the Centre, UNDP, UNEP, the Government of Guinea, NIMCO (the mining company), IUCN, CEDI (an international NGO in France), Guinea Ecology (local NGO) and two consultants as well as local specialists.

A comprehensive review of the part of Mt. Nimba situated in Guinea was carried out with extensive site and village visits and reviews of specific issues such as: the original nomination, the mineral body, the boundaries, and the socio-economic situation relating to local communities.

The major findings were as follows:

- i) the site met World Heritage criteria at the time of the original nomination in 1981. It continues to meet these criteria;
- ii) the site should remain on the List of World Heritage in Danger primarily because of the high risk of agricultural intrusions due to the lack of an established administrative structure and effective protection. At the present time, the Mt. Nimba Pilot Project provides a management presence, but this is not assured;

- iii) when the site was nominated in 1981, the Government of Guinea was fully aware of the mineral potential. Over \$25 million had been spent on prospecting and a potential ore body of 500 million tonnes had been identified. As the Government has stated, it was not their intention to include the mineral body in the World Heritage nomination. It is recommended that this perspective be accepted;
- iv) the revised nomination submitted in 1991 should be considered as withdrawn, as it was not accepted by the Committee;
- v) a revised boundary was been accepted by the mission. It will include a revised area of 17,740 ha. which is 610 ha larger than the 1981 nomination of 17,130 ha. It is, however, 1,550 ha less than the true size of the 1981 nomination which was 19,290 ha, including the Côte d'Ivoire section of 5,200 ha. The area required for mineral operations (1,500 ha.) is not included in the World Heritage nomination;
- vi) there are 18 recommendations in the mission report which is available from the World Heritage Centre. The recommendations include a commitment by the Government and the mining company to an "Environmental Convention" in which NGOs will be invited to participate. In addition, the mining company agrees, once the mine becomes operational, to contribute \$500,000 per year towards conservation projects;
- vii) until the war and the political situation in Liberia stabilises, it is unlikely that the mine will become operational;
- viii) continued surveillance through a management presence is essential for the conservation of the site - primarily to prevent agricultural incursions into the World Heritage site.

The integrity of this site will require technical and financial support from the Committee until an adequate on-site management regime is established. The Bureau approved \$30,000 in emergency assistance for the express purpose of maintaining a management presence on the site.

The Bureau accepted the findings of the Task Force and concurred with the revised boundaries and the retention of the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger. IUCN underlined its concern about the long term impact of the potential mining operation adjacent to the World Heritage site. The Bureau was in agreement with the findings of the mission and was pleased that the mission was able to respond to the questions placed before them and to clarify the current status of the site.

Bureau members underlined their long-term concern for the protection of the site and asked for the participation of the

Centre in future environmental studies. The Government of Guinea agreed to take all measures to ensure that any impact of the mining operations would be subject to detailed environmental assessment and all measures would be taken to minimize potential damage.

The latest information as of 18 October 1993 indicates that the UNDP pilot project will terminate at the end of December 1993. The management situation will thus once again become very sensitive. Therefore, the Committee may wish to draw the attention of the Guinean authorities once again to the recommendations of the May 1993 mission.

#### **Sangay National Park (Ecuador)**

The Bureau requested the Centre to contact the Ecuadorian authorities to obtain information on the status of the road construction project and on-going efforts to assess its impact on the integrity of the site. This information was received shortly after the Bureau meeting. In accordance with the recommendations of the Committee, the Bureau also invited the Ecuadorean authorities to consider (a) submitting a proposal to extend this World Heritage site to include new areas that have been added to the Park, and (b) inviting a mission comprising regional experts to assess the severity of the threats faced by this site and plan remedial action.

A technical assistance request has been received to strengthen the surveillance of the park and a representative of IUCN will report on recent field inspections.

#### **Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India)**

The Bureau recalled that the Committee, at its sixteenth session, 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's infrastructure had suffered considerable damage, habitats in the inaccessible parts of the Sanctuary appeared to be intact. 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, the Committee at its last session, in accordance with Article 11, paragraph (4), of the Convention, included the Manas Wildlife Sanctuary in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Bureau was informed that the Centre had drawn the attention of the Indian authorities to the fact that they have not yet provided a formal written report on the state of conservation of Manas, despite repeated requests from the Committee since 1989, and had reiterated the Committee's request for a comprehensive report providing full assessment of the damage to the site and remedial measures that are being taken. Noting that the Indian authorities have not yet provided the report requested by the Committee, the

Bureau asked the Centre to continue its efforts to obtain such a report for submission to the seventeenth session of the Committee.

A formal written response to these inquiries has not been provided, however, IUCN will report on further information it has received.

#### **Aïr and Ténéré Nature Reserve (Niger)**

The Bureau recalled that the Committee, at its sixteenth session, included this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger because it was concerned that the region in which it is situated has been affected by civil unrest and that six members of the Reserve staff were being held hostage since February 1992. The Bureau deeply regretted that two of the six Reserve staff who had been held hostage died during their captivity. The Centre transmitted the Committee's condolences. The Bureau noted that the Government of Niger has initiated informal negotiations with armed opposition and encouraged the authorities to continue the dialogue with a view to finding an early solution to the conflict in the region. The World Heritage Centre has not received any additional information on the situation.

#### **Tai and Comoe National Parks (Ivory Coast) and Dja Faunal Reserve (Cameroon)**

At the time of the preparation of this document a mission to these sites is being undertaken. A report will be made to the Committee on this monitoring mission.