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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE  
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-first session  
UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, Room X (Fontenoy)

23 - 28 June 1997

**Item 4.2 of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List:**

**Reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.**

**SUMMARY**

In accordance with paragraphs 47-50 and 83-85 of the Operational Guidelines, the Secretariat submits herewith reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Where appropriate, the Secretariat or the advisory bodies will provide additional information during the session of the Bureau.

**Decision required:** The Bureau is requested to examine the attached state of conservation reports and to take the appropriate decision.

## INTRODUCTION

1. This document deals with **reactive monitoring** as it is defined in the Operational Guidelines: "The reporting by the Centre, other sectors of UNESCO and the advisory bodies to the Bureau and the Committee on the state of conservation of specific World Heritage sites that are under threat". Reactive monitoring is foreseen in the procedures for the eventual deletion of properties from the World Heritage List (paragraphs 48-56 of the Operational Guidelines) and for the inclusion of properties in the List of World Heritage in Danger (paragraphs 82-89 of the Operational Guidelines).
2. To facilitate the work of the Bureau, each report is accompanied by a draft decision for examination and adoption by the Bureau.

## NATURAL HERITAGE

3. State of conservation reports on fifteen sites are provided in this document. In addition IUCN has informed the Centre that it will make available written reports on the following sites for the Bureau meeting: Shark Bay (Australia), Talamanca La Amistad Reserves (Costa Rica), Serengeti (Tanzania), Canaima National Park (Venezuela) and Okapi Wildlife Reserve and Kahuzi Biega National Park (Zaire).

### **Galapagos National Park (Ecuador)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1978.

The Committee, at its twentieth session (Merida, 1996), noted the findings of a mission to Galapagos, led by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, during 1-11 June, 1996. While recognizing considerable efforts made, the Committee concluded that serious problems still prevailed and immediate remedial actions were essential to safeguard the World Heritage values of Galapagos National Park and the surrounding marine areas. The Committee noted that the "special Galapagos legislation", a necessary tool for the protection of the site, had not yet been adopted.

The State Party informed the Committee of the fact that the President of Ecuador had set up a working group to prepare the 'special Galapagos legislation' and that the Government had established a Ministry of Environment to coordinate and advance policies for the preservation of the Galapagos Islands. The Delegate of Ecuador requested the twentieth session of the Committee not to include the Galapagos National Park in the List of World Heritage in Danger. However, following a lengthy debate, there was consensus among Committee Members that all requirements for including Galapagos in the List of World Heritage in Danger, as stipulated in paragraph 79 of the Operational Guidelines, were met. Hence, *"The Committee decided to include the Galapagos National Park in the List of World Heritage in Danger, effective 15 November 1997, unless a substantive written reply by Ecuador is*

*received by 1 May 1997, and the Bureau, at its twenty-first session, determine that effective actions have been taken"*(quoted from the report of the twentieth session of the Committee)

In her letter dated 13 March 1997, the new Minister for Environment, Dra. Flor de Maria Valverde B., a biologist who in the past had studied the fauna and the flora of Galapagos, has assured the Centre of her strong commitment to the conservation of Galapagos. The Minister is now directly responsible for the work of the Commission drafting the 'special Galapagos legislation', and has made representations to the Ecuadorean Congress to accelerate the Commission's work in consultation with non governmental ecological organizations and other sectors of the civil society. The work of the Commission is now coordinated by a well known conservationist and fisheries biologist, Dr. Gunther Reck, who is also a former Director of the Charles Darwin Research Station, located in Galapagos. Moreover, the Minister has indicated that she will present to the Centre, a detailed schedule for the completion of the process to be followed by the Commission in the elaboration of the 'special Galapagos legislation'. Conclusions of the 68th Ordinary Meeting of the Executive Council of the Charles Darwin Foundation, held at UNESCO during 7-11 April 1997, confirmed the statements of the new Minister for the Environment described above and identified other positive developments; for example the status of the marine areas surrounding the Galapagos National Park has been upgraded from that of a Fisheries Reserve to that of a Biological Reserve thereby providing the Galapagos National Park Service legal authority to patrol the marine areas against illegal fishing.. Nevertheless, the Centre is awaiting receipt of the substantive written reply requested by the Committee by 1 May 1997.

The new Minister for Environment has noted the pre-occupation of the international community to urge the Committee to include the Galapagos National Park in the List of World Heritage in Danger. She has acknowledged that the possibility of the inclusion of Galapagos in the List of World Heritage in Danger may be seen as an incentive to expedite her Government's efforts to draft the 'special Galapagos legislation'. She has however, pointed out that those efforts cannot be unduly hastened if the quality and the validity of the special Galapagos legislation under preparation are to be ensured.

A representative of Ecuador is expected to submit a state of conservation report on the Galapagos National Park at the World Heritage Workshop to be convened as part of the First Latin American Parks Congress, in Santa Marta, Columbia, during 21-28 May, 1997.

**Decision required:** The Bureau, based on additional information to be provided at its twenty-first session, may wish to determine whether effective actions to mitigate the threats facing the Galapagos National Park have been taken and decide whether or not to include the site in the List of World Heritage in Danger, as of 15 November 1997.

### **Kaziranga National Park (India)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1985.

A member of the Centre joined the Deputy Inspector General for Wildlife for India, during 23-25 January 1997, on a mission to Kaziranga National Park, immediately after the completion of the monitoring mission to Manas Wildlife Sanctuary, since both these World Heritage Sites are situated within the Indian State of Assam. A status report on Kaziranga

National Park was made available to the Centre by the Assam Forest Department whose salient findings are summarized below.

The Kaziranga National Park was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1985, under criteria (ii) and (iv). The Park is well known for its success in conserving the greater one-horned rhinoceros, whose population within the Park has grown from 366 in 1966 to about 1,200 at present. The success of rhino conservation in Kaziranga is primarily attributed to a dedicated staff who regularly patrol Park boundaries using minimal equipment, and unsophisticated arms and ammunition compared to those used by commercial poaching gangs. Statistics gathered since 1980, show that an average of 26 rhinos are poached every year; twice this number, i.e. 52, however die due to natural causes, most of them drowning in the annual floods of the Brahmaputra River.

The staff is stationed in 115 camps throughout the Park. Nevertheless, since the early 1990s, encounters with poachers are continuously on the rise due to the escalating international market prices for the rhino-horn and incentives for trade liberalization that appear to impact even the remotest parts of South Asia. The management of the Kaziranga National Park is planning to increase investments in order to double the number of camps, to build upland refuges where rhinos and other species could seek shelter during the annual floods and to launch educational and awareness raising campaigns among local villagers. Six new additions to the Park area, totaling more than 400 square kms are planned. While the increased level of investments needed in the future will be largely met by the Government of India and the State Government of Assam, the Park authorities have become aware of their eligibility to seek assistance from the World Heritage Fund. A technical cooperation request for meeting part of the costs associated with the construction of anti-poaching camps and upland shelters for the flooding season, and for launching environmental and educational campaigns among local villagers may be submitted to the consideration of the Committee in 1997.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following

"The Bureau commends the dedication of Kaziranga staff in controlling poaching of the greater one-horned rhinoceros and urges the Park management to pursue their plans to enlarge the area of the Park, further strengthen anti-poaching and other measures to safeguard wildlife populations, and raise awareness among local villagers of the importance of the World Heritage status of Kaziranga."

### **Keoladeo National Park (India)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1985.

This site, also recognized as a wetland of international importance under the RAMSAR Convention, is a wintering ground for several important species of migratory birds, including the Siberian cranes. In the late 1980s the Committee received reports from IUCN and expressed concerns regarding the decrease in the population of wintering Siberian cranes in Keoladeo and management problems, such as the over-growth of grasses, forming a thick mat in some areas and thereby adversely affecting the breeding habitat of the Siberian cranes.

Records maintained by Park management indicated that the wintering population of Siberian cranes, estimated at about 38 in 1985-86 when the site was inscribed on the World Heritage List, had dropped to 5 in 1992-93; no Siberian cranes were seen in Keoladeo during 1993-95. Participants at the Meeting of the South Asian World Natural Heritage Sites, held in New Delhi, India, during 16-19 January 1997, undertook a field visit to Keoladeo and observed 3 Siberian cranes which have returned to this World Heritage site for the 1996-97 winter.

The Indian authorities, recognizing that the decrease in the number of Siberian cranes arriving to winter at Keoladeo is attributable to the intensity of hunting and other factors prevailing along the migratory route of the species, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) established among nine countries, i.e. Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakstan, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, whose territories constitute the range of the central and western Asian populations of the Siberian crane. The MOU has been established under the auspices of the Convention of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), to which UNEP, which hosts the Secretariat of the CMS, International Crane Foundation (ICF) and the Wild Birds Society of Japan are also signatories. Under the MOU, an action plan has been drawn up and foresees: (i) the release of captive-bred Siberian cranes to augment wild populations; and (ii) capturing of Siberian cranes and the deployment of satellite transmitters on the cranes for tracking their migratory route from their wintering areas in Keoladeo to spring breeding grounds in other countries. At the site level, the management has introduced a controlled burning and cutting regime for grasses in order to limit their growth from negatively impacting the breeding habitats of the cranes and closed the Park for grazing by cattle belonging to local villagers.

A scientific compilation on all the RAMSAR sites of India, including the Keoladeo World Heritage Area, has been recently published by the World Wide Fund (WWF) for Nature of India.

**Decision required:** The bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"The Bureau takes note of the Memorandum Of Understanding established among the range States of the central and western Asian populations of the Siberian crane and urges the Centre to maintain communications with the Secretariat of the Convention of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) in order to know the progress in, and support the implementation of the action plan."

### **Sundarbans National Park (India)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1987.

The Director of the Sundarbans 'Biosphere Reserve' of India, presented a report at the Meeting of the South Asian World Natural Heritage Site Managers held in New Delhi and Keoladeo National Park, during 16-19 January 1997. The Sundarbans National Park and World Heritage Area, comprising 1,330 sq.km., is the core area of the larger Sundarbans Project Tiger Reserve (2,585 sq.km) and the even larger 'Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve'; the 'Biosphere Reserve' extends over more than 9,000 sq.km of the inter-tidal area of the Sundarbans delta. Although India has not yet formally nominated the 'Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve' for inclusion in UNESCO's international network of biosphere reserves, the case

clearly illustrated an interesting application of the World Heritage and the Biosphere Reserve concepts of UNESCO within the same ecosystem. Several eco-development activities undertaken in the larger Biosphere Reserve, e.g. fishing, collection of honey, timber harvest etc., have enabled the management to establish a working relationship with the local people and solicit their cooperation for the protection of the biosphere reserve's core area, i.e. Sundarbans National Park and World Heritage Area. The working relationship established with the management and the local people have particularly been useful in minimizing the poaching threat to the world's largest population of the Bengal tiger in this World Heritage Site.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"The Bureau notes with interest the harmonious application of UNESCO's World Heritage and Biosphere Reserve concepts in Sundarbans and urges the Centre and IUCN to identify similar cases and bring it to the attention of States Parties to the Convention."

#### **Nanda Devi National Park (India)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1988.

The Director of the Nanda Devi National Park of India presented a report on the state of conservation of this World Heritage Area at the Meeting of the South Asian World Natural Heritage Site Managers, held in New Delhi and Keoladeo National Park, during 16-19 January, 1997. Nanda Devi National Park is located in a very remote area, and due to difficulty of access, remains well protected. There are no major threats to the Park; a certain amount of illegal collection of medicinal plants and herbs has been recorded. No visitors are allowed to the Park; some mountaineering groups have in recent times expressed an interest in organizing expeditions to the area. Allowing a certain amount of visitation may enable the presentation of this World Heritage Area to the general public and may generate income for the benefit of local people.

**Decision required:** The Bureau wish to adopt the following:

"The Bureau takes note of the high level of protection afforded to Nanda Devi National Park and requests the State Party to consider undertaking a feasibility study for specialized (mountaineering) tourism development in the Park."

#### **Komodo National Park (Indonesia)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1991.

The Bureau may recall the fact that the boat provided to this World Heritage area with financial assistance from the World Heritage Fund in 1994, was destroyed in an accident during a systematic monitoring mission to the site in July 1995, in which four Indonesians lost their lives. With a view to equipping the Park with a boat capable of undertaking open-sea travel, the Committee at its nineteenth session (Berlin, 1995) approved a sum of US\$ 30,000 and requested that the State Party provide the additional US\$ 30,000 needed to

purchase a large fiberglass catamaran. The Directorate of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation of the Ministry of Forestry, Indonesia, by a letter dated 17 February 1997, informed the Centre that they have approved the release of a sum of US\$ 30,000 as counterpart funding for the US\$ 30,000 approved by the Committee in 1995. As requested by the Committee in 1995, the Centre has requested the State Party to ensure that the fiberglass catamaran, whose purchase is currently underway, is adequately insured against accidents and other potential damages to it.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"The Bureau wishes to register its appreciation of the Indonesian Government's contribution of US\$ 30,000 to match an equal amount provided by the Committee."

### **Banc d'Arguin National Park (Mauritania)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1989.

The site manager has informed the Centre of ways and means of addressing questions of effective management and different projects carried out and provided the Centre with a copy of a plan, covering the period 1994-2003, and prepared with the assistance from the International Foundation for Banc d'Arguin (FIBA) and WWF. FIBA has informed the Centre, by a letter of 20 March 1997, that a Rally, "Trophée des Gazelles - Rallye des Sables" had traversed the area of the Park. FIBA expressed its concerns over the fact that such a Rally is incompatible with the fragility of the ecosystem and may have caused damage.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"The Bureau requests the State Party to inform the Committee on details of the Rally referred to by FIBA and its impacts on the integrity of the Park, and measures that have been taken or currently being implemented to mitigate threats to the integrity of the site. In addition, the Bureau recommends that the State Party inform the Committee of plans for entertaining any similar rallies in the future so that their potential impacts on the integrity of the site could be assessed in advance."

### **Whale Sanctuary of El Viscaïno (Mexico)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1993.

The Committee, at its twentieth session (Merida, 1996) reviewed a report on a project for industrial salt production at the site and its potential threats to the site's whale population. The Delegate of Mexico and the Director of the Whale Sanctuary of El Viscaïno informed the Committee that the project for industrial salt production has not yet been authorized and that a Scientific Committee to review the proposed project has been established by the Ministry of Environment.

In a letter dated 7 March 1997, the Mexican National Commission for UNESCO has provided the terms of reference for the work of the seven-member Scientific Committee and the environmental impact study of the proposed San Ignacio industrial salt production project.

The terms of reference established for the work of the Scientific Committee are quite rigorous and comprehensive; the Scientific Committee is expected to document the actual situation of the World Heritage area prior to the commencement of the industrial salt production project, assess the impact of the project's proposed construction and operational activities on the ecological, biological and protected area management aspects of the World Heritage area and undertake a 26-issues driven socio-economic evaluation of the proposed industrial salt production project.

The Scientific Committee has had consultations with the general public in developing the terms of reference for its work and has, in its preliminary report, indicated that the proposed industrial salt production project will only be authorized if it finds that the project will not compromise the conservation of natural resources in the region and does not pose a risk to the protection of the biological heritage of the Mexican people.

A copy of the letter dated 7 March 1997 from the Mexican National Commission for UNESCO and the attached preliminary report of the Scientific Committee, including the terms of reference for the work of that Committee, has been transmitted to IUCN for review.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"The Bureau registers its appreciation for the State Party's efforts to ensure a rigorous evaluation of the environmental impacts of the proposed industrial salt production project and requests the State party to provide a progress report on the work and findings of the Scientific Committee for the consideration of the World Heritage Committee, at its twenty-first session in December 1997."

### **Royal Chitwan National Park (Nepal)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1984.

The Director of the Royal Chitwan National Park submitted a report on the state of conservation of this site at the Meeting of the South Asian World Natural Heritage Site Managers held in New Delhi and Keoladeo National Park, during 16-19 January 1997. This Park has a population of more than 400 greater one-horned rhinoceros and is a success story similar to Kaziranga National Park (India) referred to earlier in this document. Part of this success is attributable to the fact that the Nepalese Army assists the staff of the Royal Chitwan National Park in anti-poaching activities.

Discussions during the South Asia Meeting revealed that 80 % of the total population (i.e. about 2,000) of the greater one-horned rhinoceros, a species restricted in its range to South Asian countries, are found in the World Heritage sites of Kaziranga (India; 1,200) and Royal Chitwan (Nepal; 400). Intensive poaching can quickly lead to sharp declines in Rhino populations, as in the World Heritage area of Manas (India) (please refer to document WHC-97/CONF.204/2A). Increased cooperation between the staff of these three World Heritage sites were called for by the Managers of the respective sites, with regard to sharing of intelligence information on trading routes of rhino horns and the activities of commercially motivated poaching gangs, with a view to ensuring continuity of the role which these three



World Heritage sites have played in the protection of South Asia's greater one-horned rhinoceros.

The management of Royal Chitwan has introduced several measures to reduce conflicts with local villagers, largely arising from crop damage caused by wild animals. Villagers are allowed to collect grasses for roof-thatching and for use as fodder for livestock. In addition, villages around the Park receive 50% of the revenues generated through tourism to the Park for use in rural development initiatives. In December 1996, the Royal Chitwan National Park signed a cooperative agreement with Dartmoor National Park of the United Kingdom, under the European Union Funded Partnership and Exchange Programme which enables staff exchanges, study visits and training programmes.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"The Bureau recognizes the role which Royal Chitwan of Nepal and Kaziranga of India continue to play in conserving the greater one-horned rhinoceros in South Asia, and encourages the Centre to cooperate with the States Parties and the CITES Convention for sustaining the successes achieved to-date."

### **Sagarmatha National Park (Nepal)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1979.

The Director of the Sagarmatha National Park presented a report on the state of conservation of this World Heritage area, at the Meeting of the South Asian World Natural Heritage Site Managers, held in New Delhi and Keoladeo National Park, during 16-19 January 1997. The Nepalese Army supports the Park management in law enforcement activities. About 3500 people belonging to the Sherpa community live in and around the Park and play a significant role as guides for the visitors to the Park. Tourism however, is placing an ever increasing energy demand on the sparse cover of woody vegetation left remaining in the area and introduces considerable problems of waste disposal.

The Director had proposed that the Park staff, Army personnel and the Sherpa community shift to using kerosene in order to meet their energy needs. The Director however, has been unable to raise the necessary capital, estimated to be about US\$ 50,000, for making this shift in the source of energy. The Director was critical of the fact that the results of the various scientific studies carried out on conservation issues relevant to the Park are rarely made available to the management. He called for greater involvement of scientific expertise in advising the management on resolving practical problems; e.g. meeting energy needs of the Staff, Army personnel, the Sherpa community and the tourists without having to continue to depend on the sparse woody vegetation available in the area; managing waste disposal problems caused by a large number of visitors to the area etc.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"The Bureau requests IUCN to utilize expertise available in its Nepal Office in Katmandu to undertake a field visit to Sagarmatha National Park and discuss with the

Director of the Park, ways and means by which they can provide regular advise on management issues."

### **Arabian Oryx Sanctuary (Oman)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1994.

The Committee, at its twentieth session (Merida, 1996) recalled some concerns, i.e. poaching of thirteen Oryx, and the construction of a reverse osmosis plant which has resulted in significant damage to the desert habitat, over the integrity of this site. The Committee recalled discussions held at the time of the inscription of the site in 1994 and noted that the Site's management authority had experienced delays in completing the management plan and defining the boundaries. Hence the Committee invited the State Party to keep it informed of the state of conservation of the site and progress with regard to the management planning and boundary definition project. In particular, the Committee requested clarification of the final boundaries of the Site by 15 April 1997. Furthermore, the Committee welcomed the proposal that the State Party consider hosting, in 1997, an international workshop to review the management plan and boundaries of the site, in collaboration with IUCN. Since the conclusion of the twentieth session of the Committee however, no communications have been received from Oman, up to the time of the preparation of this document. Any information that may be received by the Centre from Oman before the scheduled beginning of the Bureau's twenty-first session will be presented to the Bureau at the time of its meeting.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"Given the importance of the management planning and boundary definition project for the conservation of the site, the Bureau proposes that the State Party consider receiving representatives of IUCN and the Centre to undertake a site-visit and review the current status of the project."

### **Tubbataha Reef Marine Park (Philippines)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1993.

The Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee approved, in 1996, a sum of US\$ 20,000, for the implementation of a project entitled "Protection and Information and Education Campaign for the Conservation of Tubbataha Reef Marine Park". The Project Management Team (PMT) comprising individuals from Marine Sciences Research Institute of the Philippines, Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the UNESCO National Commission visited Palawan, where it had consultations, on 19 March 1997, with representatives of the Provincial Government of Palawan, the Provincial Environmental and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) and the Naval Forces. The UNESCO National Commission has submitted a report to the Centre where the following have been highlighted:

(i) The protection of Tubbataha Reefs directly affects the people of the Cagayancillo Municipality who have had resentment in the past for being left out conservation initiatives. The PMT is facilitating training of the local people in order to enhance their participation in

patrolling, data collection, monitoring impacts of recreational activities, and exploring possibilities for developing community based tourism ventures under alternatives livelihood programmes;

(ii) Given the remote location of this site in the Sulu Sea, Park staff frequently opt to be transferred out to other parts of the country; hence training them in protection and patrolling is of limited benefit. The creation of an inter-sectoral group comprising naval personnel and representatives of PENRO in combination with continuing education of local communities is being seen as the optimal approach to ensure protection. Funds for food, fuel and salary of members in the patrolling teams are expected to be met by the respective Government agencies. Training in role clarification is foreseen as part of the World Heritage Funded Project in order to resolve leadership conflicts between naval and civilian personnel who are expected to constitute the patrolling teams.

A Presidential Task Force for Tubbataha Reefs has brought together all actors interested in the conservation of the World Heritage site and a national symposium for the finalisation of a Master Plan for Tubbataha Reefs is scheduled for 31 March, 1997. A local NGO is supporting the information and education component of the World Heritage Funded Project and the Marine Parks Centre and the Environment Agency of Japan have contributed to the production of a brochure on Tubbataha in English; the brochure will be translated into three local languages as part of the activities supported by the World Heritage Fund.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"The Bureau takes note of the information provided and encourages the Project Management Team (PMT) to provided the Centre with a copy of the Master Plan for Tubbataha Reefs and submit periodical reports on the progress made by the Project and the status of conservation of Tubataha Reef Marine Park."

### **Sinharaja Forest Reserve (Sri Lanka)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1988.

A report on the state of conservation of this site was prepared in connection with the Meeting of the South Asian World Natural Heritage Site Managers, held in New Delhi, and Keoladeo National Park, during 16-19 January 1997. The total area of Sinharaja recognized as World Heritage is about 8,860 ha; The Sri Lankan authorities have extended the area of the Sinharaja National Heritage Wilderness Area to 11,187 ha to incorporate some fragments of 'pristine' habitats in the vicinity of the World Heritage Area. Sinharaja continues to receive assistance from NORAD for the implementation of the Sinharaja Conservation Project, with technical support from IUCN. Under the first two phases of the implementation of the management plan for Sinharaja, a range of activities, such as redefinition of the boundary, strengthening protection, increasing awareness, improving visitor facilities, buffer zone management projects, research studies and supporting community based organizations have been undertaken.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"The Bureau requests IUCN and the Centre to contact Sri Lankan authorities to obtain information on areas outside of the World Heritage Site, but within the 11,187 ha of the Sinharaja National Wilderness Heritage Area, to determine whether or not the State Party should be invited to consider increasing the total area of the World Heritage Site."

### **Ha Long Bay (Vietnam)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1994.

The Committee at its nineteenth session (Berlin, 1995) noted potential threats to the integrity of this Site due to the proposed development of a new port, and the proposal to issue a license for the establishment of a large floating hotel. The Committee was informed of the fact that Japanese aid agencies were considering supporting the projects to an amount of US\$ 100 million and called the attention of the Japanese authorities to their obligation under Article 6.3 of the Convention which commits them "not to undertake any deliberate measures which might damage directly or indirectly the cultural and natural heritage.....situated on the territory of other States Parties to the Convention".

At its twentieth session (Merida, 1996) the Committee learned that the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) was planning to draft an environmental management programme for Ha Long Bay and that JICA had completed its project formulation study, conducted in order to clarify the contents and background of the request for aid from Vietnamese authorities.

The ambassador and Permanent delegate of Japan to UNESCO, via letter of 10 April 1997, has informed the Centre that the report of JICA's project formulation study is for 'internal use' only and has expressed his regrets for not being able to make it available to the Centre. At the time of the preparation of this document Vietnam had not yet responded to the Committee's request for information. The Vietnamese authorities however, have informed the Centre that they have scheduled the training workshop for developing a strategic plan for Ha Long Bay, for the organization of which the Committee approved a sum of US\$ 24,250 at its last session, for the first two weeks of June 1997, and have invited both the Centre and the IUCN to participate in the workshop. It is expected that participation of the Centre and/or IUCN in that workshop will provide additional information that could be made available at the time of the meeting of the Bureau.

**Decision required:** The Bureau, may request the Japanese authorities to assure the Committee, in writing, that the development projects they intend to finance in the Ha Long Bay area would not adversely impact the integrity of the World Heritage Area. Furthermore, based on additional information expected to be available at the time of its meeting The Bureau may consider recommending other appropriate actions to the consideration of the Vietnamese and Japanese authorities, and of the Committee.

### **Durmitor National Park (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro))**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1980.

A mission in 1996, reviewed the state of conservation of the site and the damage to the Park headquarters building in Zabljak, caused by a fire in 1995 which destroyed library and reference collections. At its twentieth session (Merida, 1996), the Committee commended the Park authorities for rapidly reconstructing and completely refurbishing the building to make it operational. The Committee however was concerned about the unplanned and uncontrolled expansion of the village of Zabljak and adjacent developments and requested clarification regarding the boundary adjustments under consideration. With regard to international assistance provided from the Fund to mitigate the mine tailings threat to the Tara River Canyon portion of the World Heritage site, the Committee considered an engineering evaluation of the earthen containment structures built within the earthquake prone flood plains. The Committee also invited the State Party to encourage the Director of the Park to participate in network and training efforts with other World Heritage site managers in the region. At the time of the preparation of this document a response from the State Party to the Committee's concerns and suggestions is awaited.

**Decision required:** The Bureau, based on additional information that may be available at the time of its meeting may recommend appropriate actions to the consideration of the State Party and of the Committee.

## **MIXED (NATURAL AND CULTURAL) HERITAGE**

### **Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1983.

The Committee at its twentieth session (Merida, 1996) requested the State Party a full report on the state of conservation and the management mechanisms of Machu Picchu by 15 April 1997. At the time of the preparation of this document, no report had been received.

**Decision required:** The Bureau, based on additional information that may be available at the time of the twenty-first session of the Bureau may recommend appropriate actions to the consideration of the State Party and the Committee.

## **CULTURAL HERITAGE**

### **Arab States**

#### **Memphis and its Necropolis - the Pyramid fields from Giza to Dahshur; Nubian Monuments from Abu Simbel to Philae; Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis (Arab Republic of Egypt)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1979

A preparatory study on the ventilation of the tombs of Saqqara in the Valley of the Kings and at Abu Simbel was carried out by INERIS (National Institute for Natural Environment and Risks,

France), the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) and the University of Cairo, in October 1996. It was financed by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with support from the World Heritage Centre, and organized at site by the Cairo Office which will follow up on the recommendations. The study evaluated the negative effects of tourism on the conservation of mural paintings, with particular attention to heat, carbonic gas and water condensation. The expert made several recommendations, notably with regard to the advantage of air-conditioning systems as opposed to more simple ventilation, and concerning provisional preventive measures to undertake at Abu Simbel. The study will continue through spring 1997 and concrete solutions will be forthcoming.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"After having taken note of the report of the Secretariat regarding the studies carried out in several tombs at Saqqara in the Necropolis of Thebes and at Abu Simbel, by INERIS, the Supreme Council of Antiquities and the University of Cairo, the Bureau thanked the Egyptian authorities for their cooperation and invited them to implement the recommendations of the experts concerning the ventilation of these monuments, which would ensure the long-term conservation of their mural paintings."

### **Islamic Cairo (Arab Republic of Egypt)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1979.

#### **a) Al-Azhar Mosque**

The Centre was informed that major works concerning the foundations of the Al-Azhar Mosque had been undertaken. Accordingly, in November 1996, a letter was written to the Supreme Council of Antiquities to propose the services of experts to ensure that the authenticity of the monument would be preserved. In March 1997 no response had been received from the Supreme Council of Antiquities. The Centre is in contact with the Cairo Office with regard to all developments regarding this matter.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"After having taken note of the report of the Secretariat concerning the ongoing works at the Al-Azhar Mosque at the site of Islamic Cairo, the Bureau requested the Egyptian authorities to ensure that the authenticity of the monument is respected and recalled that the World Heritage Centre is available to provide expert advice to this end".

#### **b) Al-Sinnari House**

In 1996 and 1997, two technical cooperation requests of US\$ 30,000 and US\$ 20,000 were approved from the World Heritage Fund to contribute towards the restoration of this exceptional Mameluke house. The major financial contribution for this work was provided by the Supreme Council of Antiquities, the French Ministry for Cooperation and Development which supervises the work, and the patronage of important French societies in Egypt.

The protection of the building from water infiltration was completed, as well as the restoration, reinforcing and water-proofing of the foundations and structure, in spite of some problems related to the quality of the local workmanship available.

The present stage of restoration concerns work on the floors, the wooden structures, carved panelling and the sculptured stone elements of the facades. The work is being carried out satisfactorily and should be finished in 1998.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"After having taken note of the Secretariat's report concerning the ongoing work at the Al-Sinnari House in Islamic Cairo, the Bureau thanked the Egyptian authorities for their efforts in the restoration of this exceptional monument and requested them to ensure that highly qualified artisans be made available for this project".

### **Petra (Jordan)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1985.

In December 1996, the Centre received a report from the Director of Antiquities of Jordan providing information concerning the preservation of the site. However, it appears that, at site, a lack of coordination of everyone's actions dissipates efforts and creates problems which jeopardise the good conservation of the site.

It is for this reason that the Petra Regional Council and the Coordination Group of the Ministry of Antiquities and Tourism are not yet able to function satisfactorily, whilst the Municipality of Wadi Musa has lost the control of building permits. This has allowed the anarchic construction of hotels, buildings and houses at the entrance of the site and on the Taybeh road, and the uncontrolled addition of extra storeys or extensions to already existing houses, often to accommodate tourists. Another cause for concern is the widening of the Taybeh road and the present widening of the road from Beida, crossing through the oak forest of Hishe, to facilitate the circulation of tourist coaches. A project for the construction of a souk outside the site where a pine forest exists is regrettable, as well as a project to give the houses surrounding the site a coat of pink paint which clashes with the natural colours of the environment.

On the other hand, in spite of the difficulties experienced due to heavy flooding in November 1996, the construction of gabions financed by the World Heritage Fund (US\$ 29,500, approved by the Committee in December 1995), to control the flash floods within the site continues satisfactorily. Furthermore, links have been established with the World Bank to try to coordinate with the Jordanian authorities the different initiatives undertaken on site and to establish priorities for intervention and rules for the preservation of the site.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"After having noted the report of the Secretariat on Petra and the report of the Director of the Department of Antiquities dated December 1996, the Bureau thanked the Jordanian authorities for their efforts to protect the site, but again insisted that preservation measures be urgently undertaken and that the coordination of on-site

activities be reinforced with the support of UNESCO. Amongst these measures, it would be appropriate to provide the Petra Regional Council and the Coordination Group of the Ministry of Antiquities and Tourism with the means to function; to urgently regulate and limit the construction of hotels, buildings and the extensions to houses in the vicinity of the site and on the Taybeh road; to closely study the negative impacts of measures encouraging uncontrolled influx of tourists, such as the widening of roads; and to preserve the natural environment through the conservation of all wooded areas (oak forest of Hishe and the pine forest close to the entrance of the site), and to avoid the inappropriate painting of houses. They also requested the authorities to refrain from undertaking restoration work within the site until the condition of the monuments has been carefully recorded."

### **Quseir Amra (Jordan)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1985.

In 1995, the Chairperson of the Committee approved an emergency request for US\$ 20,000 for protective work against flooding. This work, carried out in close collaboration with the Directorate of Antiquities of Jordan and the French Archaeological Institute for the Near East (IFAPO), has now been completed. It involved diverse cleaning operations, drainage, construction of embankments and canals to divert the water, as well as reinforcement and excavations in the nouria area where archaeological vestiges were found. Subsequent to this project, the French Embassy in Amman, the Directorate of Antiquities and the IFAPO completed a restoration project last December for the manege, wells, cistern and water supply system (saqiyya) in the Omayyades Baths.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"After having taken note of the report of the Secretariat on the site of Quseir Amra, the Bureau thanked the Jordanian authorities for their efforts, jointly with UNESCO and the Cultural Service of the French Embassy, to protect the site from flooding and to restore the manege and the cistern of the Omayyades Baths."

### **Tyre (Lebanon)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1984.

Last January, the Centre sent a consultant to Tyre to evaluate the possible negative consequences of two projects: the construction of a large fish market in the northern part of the old port and the construction of a coastal motorway linking Beirut to Nakoura in the immediate vicinity of Tyre.

#### **1) The port**

The negative consequences of the construction of a fish market would be considerable:

- a) the character of the old part of the port would be spoilt, if not totally destroyed;



b) the old town and the port would be completely separated by a huge modern building, thus destroying the historical cohesion;

c) the oldest archaeological vestiges of Tyre, notably underwater, would be destroyed and the World Heritage site cut in two between the peninsula and the continental part to the east.

## 2) The motorway project

This project directly threatens three archaeological sites of major importance:

a) a large interchange is planned on the Ramayel Necropolis which contains many funeral caves, certain of which are decorated with frescoes;

b) the present layout of the motorway would destroy a part of the Roman aqueduct in an area where it is perfectly conserved;

c) the motorway would also destroy, in two places, extensive portions of a vast wall, most probably dating back to Hellenistic times, and named "Alexander's Rampart".

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"After having taken note of the report of the Secretariat concerning the site of Tyre, the Bureau expressed to the Lebanese authorities its strong concern regarding the different threats to the site and requested them to undertake all measures to protect it.

With regard to the project concerning the construction of the large fish market in the north part of the old port, which would disfigure the old town, cut the site in two and destroy numerous archaeological vestiges, the need to find a more appropriate location was indicated, for example to the north of the World Heritage site, at a reasonable distance.

With regard to the coastal motorway linking Beirut to Nakoura and passing in the immediate vicinity of Tyre, its layout should be revised so that it circumvents the Ramayel Necropolis, the Roman Aqueduct and Alexander's Rampart.

Finally, on a general note, and at a time when UNESCO is concentrating its efforts on the preparation of an international safeguarding campaign for this site, it would be appropriate to proceed with all excavations and conservation work and the necessary archaeological presentation, redevelopment and conservation of the historical areas in order to give them their cultural and historical vocation, regulate urbanism and construction and also to redefine precisely the eastern limits of the World Heritage site, which should include all the areas of archaeological remains."

## Medina of Fez (Morocco)

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1981

In spite of the international seminar on "Heritage and Urbanism" which UNESCO had organized from 16 to 20 January 1995, in Fez, in close collaboration with the Moroccan Ministry of Culture, and which brought together about forty national and international experts, UNESCO was informed in June 1995 that almost a hectare of gardens and buildings had been destroyed in Ain Azliten, in the northern part of the classified perimeter of the Medina of Fez, in order to construct a tar road.

Informed about this project, the experts expressed deep concern and affirmed their strong opposition to all such projects for new motorways which would involve the irremediable destruction of the social and urban tissue, and they requested that innovative and global solutions be studied for urban development.

These recommendations were endorsed by the Executive Board and by the Director-General of UNESCO during the 146th session, held in Fez on 3 and 4 June 1995. The Executive Board had also adopted the "Declaration of Fez", which particularly underlined the necessity to conserve the cohesion of the historical urban tissue of the towns inscribed on the World Heritage List, and notably referred to Fez as a model.

By letter of 22 December 1995, the Centre informed the Moroccan authorities of the concern of the World Heritage Committee with regard to these road construction projects and requested them to provide information on the measures undertaken to remedy the situation.

By letter of 15 February 1997, Mr Abdallah Azmani, Minister of Cultural Affairs, indicated to the Centre that the central government authorities, as well as the provincial and local authorities, had been contacted and informed of the Committee's concern "in order that the principles for the preservation as defined by the World Heritage Convention be respected". By letter of 28 March, the Director of Cultural Heritage of Morocco transmitted to the Centre a report confirming the wish of the national authorities to preserve the site and indicating that the new plans for access to the Medina were completely different from the initial projects and did not include the construction of motorways.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"The Bureau took note of the information provided by the Moroccan authorities according to which the road construction projects through the Medina had been abandoned and congratulated them for the measures undertaken to preserve the site."

### **Ancient City of Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1979.

#### **a) Mosque of the Omayyades**

During its twentieth session, the Committee was informed of the results of the expert mission sent by UNESCO from 29 November to 5 December 1996, and thanked the Syrian authorities for having subsequently halted the work which threatened the authenticity of the monument. The General Directorate of Antiquities and Museums has since confirmed that all new

interventions had been abandoned and that a Committee would examine what should be done in the future.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"After having taken note of the report of the Secretariat on the Mosque of the Omayyades in the Ancient City of Damascus, the Bureau thanked the Syrian authorities for having halted the work which was threatening the authenticity of the monument and renewed the invitation which had been made by the Committee at its twentieth session to provide all possible advice of national and international experts to decide upon future action to be undertaken."

**b) Tekiya Souleymaniah**

The General Directorate of Antiquities and Museums had requested UNESCO to send an expert mission to advise the authorities on the problems of structural consolidation of this mosque dating back to the 16th century, and built on the remains of a Mameluke palace. This mission, comprising two experts, visited the site from 7 to 11 February 1997 and reported the following conclusions:

- 1) The construction did not appear to be in any imminent danger. Certain damage indicated had even been the subject of official correspondence about thirty years ago.

However, consolidation work would be required. The experts feel this work should be preceded by studies taking into account the whole structure and the specificities of the building and not just the decrease in groundwater level.

The scientific observation of the damage to the building which was carried out recently is very useful and should be continued, even if its results can only be interpreted and exploited at a later date. It would also be appropriate to envisage the use of even more refined observation techniques, with possible outside assistance.

- 2) On the other hand, the imminent launching of an international call for tenders for the foundation work is causing them great concern, as they feel that this is premature and that fundamental and secondary technical options would be delegated to private enterprises. Rather than a hasty choice based on economical concerns, they advise waiting until a decision based on scientific conclusions can be made.

The three technical interventions proposed (injection, compression or micro-post underpinning) are delicate and it would be wiser to first make sure that their inevitable lengthy and progressive installation is truly without risk to the stability and security of this precious monument.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"After having taken note of the report of the Secretariat concerning the situation at Tekiya Souleymaniah in the Ancient City of Damascus, the Bureau requested the Syrian authorities to postpone the call for tenders until the necessary additional information in

order to take a well-informed decision on the nature and exact extent of the work to be carried out is available. It strongly advised against making a hasty and purely technical decision which would put endanger rather than preserve the monument, and cause serious and irreversible damage."

As soon as the Syrian authorities confirm that all parties concerned are in agreement to postpone the call for tenders, and to take the time for an additional scientific study to determine the best intervention possible, the World Heritage Centre will be ready to examine with them the most appropriate means for its implementation."

### **Ancient City of Bosra (Syrian Arab Republic)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1980.

During its nineteenth session, the Bureau approved US\$ 20,000 for the restoration of the Baths south of Bosra, to be undertaken by the General Directorate of Antiquities and Museums and the French Archaeological Mission in southern Syria. The first phase of this work, recording, studies, specimens, analyses and proposals for technical solutions, has now been satisfactorily completed, and the second phase, major works and restoration, has begun. The main part will be the restoration of the Cupola of the U Room and the consolidation of the entire construction. Here, in spite of certain difficulties at the end of 1996 related to the use of funds at the end of the financial year, which caused a certain acceleration in the choice of building enterprises, work is progressing satisfactorily.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"After having taken note of the report of the Secretariat on the Ancient City of Bosra, the Bureau thanked the Syrian authorities for their efforts in the conservation of the restoration of the southern Baths, and invited them to continue collaboration with the French Mission to continue the restoration of these monuments with all necessary precautions and with the most competent enterprises."

### **Site of Palmyra (Syrian Arab Republic)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1980.

The General Directorate of Antiquities informed the Centre that a decision of principle had been taken concerning the deviation of a busy road which presently crossed the World Heritage site. Furthermore, the Syrian authorities would be willing to undertake studies for a global conservation plan for the site, including a land use plan and building regulations, in accordance with the recommendations made by UNESCO experts in November 1993.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"After having taken note of the report of the Secretariat on Palmyra, the Bureau warmly encouraged the Syrian authorities to proceed with the deviation of the busy road which crossed the World Heritage site and to initiate, without delay, the study on a global plan

for its conservation. It recalled that the Centre was always available to provide expert assistance for such projects".

## Asia

### **Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves and Elephanta Caves (India)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1983, 1983 and 1987 respectively.

Currently, no buffer zones exist for Ajanta and Ellora. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has suggested that a radius of 5 km surrounding Ajanta be designated as a *Green Belt* to be administered by the Ministry of Forestry and ASI. A radius of 1 km of the Elephanta island and its surrounding waters is a protected zone under the Ministry of Environment and ASI is the site custodian of 300 m<sup>2</sup> surrounding the caves.

Entrances to Ajanta cave have sun-screen curtains to prevent direct sunlight from damaging their wall paintings. Fumigation for insect eradication within all Ajanta caves and PVA treatment on the wall paintings are being conducted. New grid doors and windows are being installed as preventive measures against entry of bats and birds. ASI is investigating sources of water seepage at Ajanta and an expert meeting will be held in 1998. Currently cracks are being filled with cement but other options need to be found. Regulations permit entry to 40 visitors in each wall-painting cave at a time. However, in reality, there is no visitor-control and approximately 100 people enter each caves at once. Removal of bats, vegetation and fungus was completed in one of the 34 Ellora caves recently and programmes for carrying out similar work in other caves are being developed. ASI is awaiting a geological survey report of Elephanta for considering future conservation measures.

Factors that affect all three sites are; (i) tree roots above the caves create cracks and increase water seepage into the caves, which leads to wall painting and sculpture damage and eventual structural instability; (ii) humidity increase within the caves caused by uncontrolled numbers of visitors which leads to fungus growth, attracting insects and eventually bats; (iii) inadequate security encourages vandalism and theft.

Inadequate illumination at Ajanta could lead to irreversible long-term damage of wall paintings. Phase I of the *Ajanta-Ellora Development Plan*, supported by a Japanese OECF loan, will be completed within 1997, upon which evaluation will be conducted before Phase II is implemented. Reforestation of the Ajanta area within this plan could lead to ecological changes and possible insect population increase.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"In view of the information provided by the Secretariat regarding the state of conservation of the Ajanta, Elephanta and Ellora Caves, the Bureau recommended a study be made on the means of vegetation control and selection of species to be planted to prevent soil erosion. The Bureau also requested the concerned authorities to implement visitor control measures and to keep the Committee informed of the

developments of the *OECF Ajanta-Ellora Development Plan* and conservation plans at Elephanta."

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

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1979.

The World Heritage Committee at its seventeenth session (1993), expressed deep concern over the state of conservation of the Kathmandu Valley and considered the possibility of placing this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger following discussions on the findings of the November 1993 Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Review Mission. Since then, His Majesty's Government of Nepal has given priority to responding to the sixteen points of concern raised by this mission.

A state of conservation report prepared by the Department of Archaeology of His Majesty's Government was made available to the Committee during its twentieth session. Since this report was submitted, boundaries of the Monument Zones of Bhaktapur and Patan have been redefined and gazetted. The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture has taken the decision that the Development Control Unit of the Department of Archaeology be a permanent unit from 15 July 1997. The Department of Archaeology is planning to prepare a guideline for private homeowners within the 7 Monument Zones to explain the legal obligations and rules they must follow.

The traditional architectural structures on the circular street surrounding the Bauddha Stupa within its Monument Zone are being demolished and new structures are being constructed. The Department of Archaeology has continued discussions with local residents to control development. However, this essential setting is losing its integrity, and furthermore is currently threatened by construction plans of a new Buddhist temple which do not conform to the regulations set forth by the Department of Archaeology.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"The Bureau took note of the state of conservation report provided by His Majesty's Government of Nepal and expressed its appreciation for the progress made towards fulfilling the sixteen recommendations of the UNESCO/ICOMOS mission of 1993. In view of the information provided by the Secretariat regarding the state of conservation of the Monument Zone of Bauddhanath, the Bureau requested His Majesty's Government of Nepal to ensure the maintenance of the integrity of the Bauddhanath setting by implementing development control by the Department of Archaeology. Finally, it requested the concerned authorities to keep the Committee informed of any progress made in further fulfilling the 1993 recommendations."

### **North and South America and the Caribbean**

#### **Pre-Hispanic City of Teotihuacan (Mexico)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1987.

A UNESCO consultant undertook a mission to Teotihuacan in February 1997 in order to examine the state of conservation and management of the site. The report analyses the objectives and results of the 'Proyecto Especial Teotihuacan', implemented between 1992 and 1994 with a budget of US\$ 12 million and six programmes: maintenance, enhancement of the Temple of Quetzalcoatl, the establishment of a Centre for Teotihuacan Studies, the creation of a new site-museum, the relocation of vendors and archaeological excavations.

The mission evaluated the results of all but one of the programmes as extremely positive and observed a spectacular improvement in the conservation and 'mise en valeur' of the core area controlled by the National Institute for Anthropology and History (INAH) and an enormous progress in the scientific knowledge about Teotihuacan. As to the relocation of the vendors, the report recalls that the works on three new accesses to the core area, which would include commercial facilities for the vendors, were interrupted in 1994 due to the discovery of important archaeological remains in La Ventanilla and disagreement expressed by various interest groups (archaeologists, environmentalists, vendors, local municipalities....). Specific recommendations are made for the revision of two of the accesses and the abolishment of the third access at La Ventanilla.

Severe concerns are expressed with regards to the application of the legal protection of the greater area of Teotihuacan as defined in the Presidential Decree of 30 August 1988. The consultant noted numerous constructions of commercial and residential nature in the immediate surroundings of the core area and along the road ('periferique') around it, serious demographic growth and urbanisation in the buffer zones and the threat posed by the expansion of Mexico City to the environment of the valley of Teotihuacan. It was recommended that the national, state and local authorities undertake the necessary studies for an extension of the legal protection of the Teotihuacan area, the sustainable development of the Valley of Teotihuacan and solutions compatible with the protection of the site and a harmonious development for the already urbanised areas.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"The Bureau takes note of the results of the expert mission to the Pre-Hispanic City of Teotihuacan and commends the National Institute for Anthropology and History (INAH) for the exemplary management and conservation of the site. The Bureau requests the national authorities to examine the consultants report with great attention and to transmit its views on, and follow-up actions foreseen in response to the conclusions and recommendations contained in it to the Secretariat by 15 September 1997 for examination by the Bureau at its next session."

### **City of Cusco (Peru)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1983.

The Committee at its twentieth session (Merida, 1996) urged the Peruvian authorities to establish appropriate planning mechanisms for the historical city of Cusco and decided that a request for technical cooperation for Cusco, submitted by the Government of Peru, would be

approved upon receipt, by 15 April 1997, of a state of conservation report. At the time of the preparation of this document, no report had been received.

**Decision required:** The Bureau, based on additional information that may be available at the time of the twenty-first session of the Bureau may recommend appropriate actions to the consideration of the State Party and the Committee.



## Europe

### **Butrinti (Albania)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1992.

The Secretariat took note of a press report from Agence France Presse (AFP) dated 28 March 1997 according to which the site of Butrinti and its museum were looted during the civil disturbances in Albania. This information was confirmed by the Butrint Foundation and in a meeting with the Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Albania to UNESCO on 16 April 1997.

At this meeting, which was also attended by the Bureau for External Relations (BRX/EUR-PROCEED) and the Sector for Culture of UNESCO as well as by ICOMOS, it was agreed that the World Heritage Centre would make the necessary arrangements for a UNESCO-ICOMOS-Butrint Foundation rapid assessment mission to Butrinti, and, if possible to the four properties included in the Tentative List of Albania, as soon as the security situation in the country permits.

The Secretariat will provide an updated report to the Bureau during its session.

**Decision required:** The Bureau, based on additional information that will be available at the time of the twenty-first session of the Bureau may recommend appropriate actions to the Secretariat, the State Party and the Committee, including the possible inscription of Butrinti on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

### **Roman Monuments, Cathedral and Liebfrauen Church in Trier (Germany)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1986.

With regards to the construction of urban villas and a proposed urban development scheme in the immediate vicinity of the Roman amphitheatre, the Bureau at its twentieth extra-ordinary session (Merida, 1996) requested the State Party a full report concerning the entire area surrounding the amphitheatre.

The report submitted by the minister of Culture, Youth , Family and Women of the Land Rheinland-Pfalz regarding the Roman Monuments in Trier provides the following information:

The competition for the area north of the amphitheatre has been evaluated and a winner has been selected. The selected plan would permit the northern access to the theatre to be opened and maintains the green area of the 'Biergarten'. Five apartment buildings of 3 to 4 stories are foreseen in this area facing the Bergstrasse.

As to the villas east of the Bergstrasse, that were already under construction at the time of the Bureau session, the Minister informs that the building permit for these villas was given in 1995 by the Municipality of Trier and that it no longer has the possibility to intervene.

Furthermore attached to the report, is a declaration by the Municipal Council, dated 16 December 1996, which notifies that part of the Petrisberg (a hill located adjacent to the amphitheatre) will be considered as an area for urbanisation. This decision was necessary to provide the framework for the re-development of the military basis on the Petrisberg (70 ha) that will become available in 1999.

The report has been transmitted to ICOMOS for examination.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to examine the report and the advice of ICOMOS and make the appropriate recommendation.

### **Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin (Germany)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1990/1992.

The Committee at its twentieth session (Merida, 1996) examined in detail the state of conservation of the cultural landscape of Potsdam and urban development projects in its surroundings. The Committee requested the State Party to provide a full state of conservation report by 15 April 1997 for examination by the Bureau at its twenty-first session, and decided that if, at the time of the twenty-first session of the Committee the threats to the World Heritage site as mentioned in the report of its session persist, the Committee will consider the inscription of the World Heritage site of Potsdam on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The Minister for Science, Research and Culture of Land Brandenburg has provided a 'Second Report on the state of conservation of the World Heritage Site Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin'. This report will be made available to the Bureau as an information document. The report deals with the following:

In response to the World Heritage Committee's concerns and recommendations the German authorities will present a proposal to the World Heritage Centre for the extension of the World Heritage site "Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin" by the middle of 1997.

Furthermore, the Ministry in Brandenburg has initiated a comprehensive 'Urban Development Master Plan for the Development of the Potsdam Cultural Landscape' (Leitplanung zur Entwicklung der Potsdamer Kulturlandschaft im Rahmen der Stadtentwicklung). This plan aims at a better coordination of all development projects for the area surrounding the World Heritage site and a harmonious town planning and management. The first phase of this plan will be determined in the second half of 1997 and completed and put into operation in 1998.

In response to the Committee's recommendation, development guidelines for the *Quartier am Bahnhof/Alter Markt/Lustgarten* have been drawn up which are to serve as the basis for three competitions. The competition for the *Quartier am Bahnhof* (Railway Station area including the site of the Hotel Project) was launched and the jury for this competition will meet on 30 September 1997. Parallel to this, a competition is under way for the *Alte Markt/Lustgarten*; the jury will meet on 29 August 1997. A third competition will be held for the *Alter Markt*.

As regards the "German Unity Transport Project No.17" an analysis of the impact is being prepared. However, there will be no dredging work along the river sides of the Babelsberg, Neuen Garten, castle parks of Glienicke and Sacrow. The Glienicke Bridge will not be changed. There will be no negative impact on the World Heritage Site.

With regards to several other individual construction projects in the vicinity of the World Heritage site, 'the aim of the city and the Land is to retain the historic structure of the area and to allow new building and resulting greater density only in so far as it is not harmful to the World Heritage Site's appearance'. The proposed master plan mentioned above will contribute to the development of more reliable criteria and reaching agreements at an early stage in the planning process. Several projects have been reviewed already in the light of their impact on the World Heritage site.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to examine the report submitted by the German authorities and review whether threats identified by the World Heritage Committee still persist and whether additional measures have to be taken.

### **Vilnius Historic Centre (Lithuania)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1994

As foreseen, the International Donors' Conference, jointly organized by the Government of Lithuania and UNESCO, was held in Vilnius from 24 to 26 February last. This Conference was considered to be most successful both by participants and the Lithuanian authorities. The strategy for the enhancement of Old Vilnius, developed by international experts and the Lithuanians, was adopted by the Municipal Council of Vilnius and the Government of Lithuania, and endorsed by the Conference. The Agency for the Revitalization of Old Vilnius (OTRA) was created, as well as the Development Fund for Old Vilnius. An agreement was concluded between, on the one hand, UNDP and UNESCO and, on the other, the City of Vilnius and the Lithuanian Government, to support the establishment of OTRA, the elaboration of a programme of small projects involving the participation of citizens of the old City, and the institution of an operational framework to channel international technical assistance. Financial measures for the rehabilitation of the infrastructures of Old Vilnius were foreseen, such as the inclusion of a programme for Old Vilnius in the national investment budget and the issuance of municipal obligations.

A training programme for the safeguarding and presentation of Old Vilnius was initiated with the participation of ICCROM and the Edinburgh Old Town Renewal Trust.

With regard to bilateral assistance for Vilnius, Denmark and Canada have pledged to continue their cooperation. Furthermore, the World Bank, the European Investment Bank, the European Commission and private investment banks have offered their assistance to support the programme for the enhancement of Old Vilnius.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"The Bureau commended the State Party and the cooperating governments, institutions and agencies for their joint effort to conserve and rehabilitate the Vilnius Historic Centre, and requested to be kept informed on the progress made. The Bureau also recommended to the State Party to accelerate the operationalization of the OTRA as a key element for the revitalization of the Historic Centre. It called upon international and bilateral donors to further discussions with the Lithuanian authorities with a view to initiating cooperative agreements along the lines endorsed at the donors' meeting in February in Vilnius".

### **Auschwitz Concentration Camp (Poland)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1978.

The Observer-Delegate of Poland to the twentieth session of the Committee (Merida, 1996) informed the Committee that a report on the tobacco factory in the immediate vicinity of the site would be provided by the Polish authorities before the twenty-first session of the Bureau.

At the time of the preparation of this document, no report had been received.

**Decision required:** The Bureau, based on additional information that may be available at the time of the twenty-first session of the Bureau may recommend appropriate actions to the consideration of the State Party and the Committee.

### **Churches of Moldavia (Romania)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List: 1993

The UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust project 'International Support for the Restoration and Preservation of the Probota Monastery' is the first large-scale UNESCO cultural heritage project funded by the Japanese authorities. The project has a budget of US\$ 515,280 and has a duration of two years. It is implemented by the Division for Cultural Heritage in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture of Romania and with the full support of the Romanian Orthodox Church. The first phase began in October 1996 and will be concluded in September 1997. The first progress report will be published in April 1997.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"The Bureau takes note of the initiation of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust project 'International Support for the Restoration and Preservation of the Probota Monastery' and commends the authorities of Romania and Japan as well as UNESCO for their joint collaboration in this respect."

### **Alhambra, Generalife and Albayzin, Grenada (Spain)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1984/1994

At the request of the authorities of the city, a World Heritage Centre mission visited Grenada in January 1997 to study the requirements for the rehabilitation of the Albayzin quarter. A

report was prepared recommending that the authorities adopt an approach better adapted to the environment of the quarter, excluding any major interventions and associating all levels of the public sector as well as certain components of the private sector. A meeting to elaborate a revitalization programme for the quarter associating all interested parties is under preparation. It will be held in Granada in autumn 1997.

Furthermore, the World Heritage Centre was informed in March 1997 by a member of the Scientific Council of ICOMOS-Spain, that a building to be used as a festivities hall was under construction. It is located at the bottom of the hill of the Alhambra, Place del Rey Chico, between the Alhambra and Albayzin.

This information was confirmed in April by the UNESCO Centre of Andalusia based in Granada. The World Heritage Centre immediately alerted the national authorities and the Junta of Andalusia and requested technical advice from ICOMOS-Spain. One of the problems raised is the redefinition, following the inscription of the Albayzin, of the overall perimeter of the area inscribed and the buffer area.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"After having taken note of the report of the Secretariat regarding the situation of the Albayzin and the construction of a festivities hall at the Place del Rey Chico, the Bureau:

- 1) requested the competent authorities to undertake all efforts to ensure that the revitalization of the Albayzin quarter is implemented in accordance with the World Heritage Convention and other international conventions and recommendations in force;
- 2) expressed satisfaction that the global revitalization programme of the Albayzin quarter was being elaborated in association with all sectors concerned;
- 3) insisted strongly that the competent authorities undertake all efforts to avoid the degradation of the site through construction works and requested them to provide the Secretariat with a report relating the measures undertaken to remedy this situation so that the World heritage Committee may be informed at its twenty-first session in December 1997".

### **Old Town of Segovia and its Aqueduct (Spain)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1985.

In May 1994, the Academy of History and Art of San Quirce in Segovia informed UNESCO of the poor state of conservation and protection of the aqueduct and nearby historical residences. The Academy also noted that the urban planning and traffic circulation did not favour the protection of the site. The World Heritage Centre consequently alerted the national authorities.

In February 1997, the World Heritage Centre was again informed that construction work was being carried out in the immediate vicinity of the aqueduct, and that a car park had been installed at the base of the pillars of the monument. The World Heritage Centre wrote to the authorities to request information in this regard, and to the ICOMOS National Committee to verify this information.

It is to be noted that, in the nomination file for his property, it was mentioned that special protection plans for the Town of Segovia produced by the Municipal Planning Office of the Town Hall of Segovia were being drafted. To date these protection plans have not been transmitted to the Centre.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following:

"Having taken note of the information provided by the Secretariat, the Bureau requested the national authorities to provide a report on the measures taken and the plans adopted for the protection of the Old Town of Segovia and its Aqueduct. The Bureau requested ICOMOS to examine the state of conservation of the World Heritage Site of Segovia and to present a report to the twenty-first extraordinary session of the Bureau."

### **Old City of Berne (Switzerland)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List:1983.

The National Commission of Switzerland for UNESCO informed the World Heritage Centre of a fire which broke out in January 1997 and which destroyed a number of historic buildings in the Old City. The World Heritage Centre requested a detailed report on the damages caused by the fire and offered its support to the Swiss authorities.

**Decision required:** The Bureau, based on additional information that may be available at the time of the twenty-first session of the Bureau may wish to express its concern about de damages caused by the fire and support to the efforts undertaken by the authorities.

### **Hadrian's Wall (United Kingdom)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage List:1987.

At the time of inscription the site was not defined by mapped boundaries. In response to increasing threats through tourism, development etc., English Heritage together with the authorities and landowners have devised a management plan. This plan ensures cooperation between all partners, a strategy for tourism management and provides a clear definition of the boundaries of the site which consists of the principal linear elements and proposes the inclusion of other outlying related Roman sites. An extensive buffer zone has been identified along the Hadrian's Wall and its associated sites. The plan further foresees the establishment of a database and periodic monitoring.

The World Heritage Centre has asked ICOMOS to examine the plan and to present its views to the Bureau.

**Decision required:** The Bureau, upon the examination of ICOMOS' advice, may wish to consider to commend the national authorities on the establishment of the management plan and the clear definition of the boundaries of the World Heritage site and its buffer zone.

### Africa

State of conservation reports will be submitted to the twenty-first extra-ordinary session of the Bureau in November 1997.