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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE
Nineteenth session

Berlin, Germany
4 - 9 December 1995

Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda : Information on tentative lists and examination of nominations of cultural and natural properties to the World Heritage List and List of World Heritage in Danger

a) Information on tentative lists

1. At its seventeenth session in Cartagena, December 1993, the Committee expressed its concern on the small number of Tentative Lists that meet the requirements as stipulated in the Operational Guidelines, paragraphs 7 & 8, and confirmed the importance of these Lists for planning purposes, comparative analyses of nominations and for facilitating the undertaking of the global and thematic studies. These Lists constitute also an inventory of the properties situated within the territory of each State Party, and which it considers suitable for inclusion on the World Heritage List (WHL).

Bearing in mind Article 11, para 2 of the Convention states:

> "On the basis of the inventories submitted by States in para 1, the Committee shall establish, keep up to date and publish under the title "World Heritage List", a list of properties ....."

the Committee also confirmed that the Tentative Lists are mandatory for cultural properties which the State Party intends to nominate for inscription on the WHL during the coming five to ten years.

2. Therefore, the Committee invited the States Parties, which had not yet done so, to submit Tentative Lists in accordance with the Operational Guidelines, with the understanding that "preparatory assistance should be provided if necessary and requested by the State Party concerned". The Committee also decided that "from 1994 onwards, the Tentative Lists that meet the requirements as stipulated in the Operational Guidelines be published and presented as an information document to the Committee at its annual meeting".

3. In September 1995, out of 142 countries which had ratified the Convention,

- only 50 States Parties had submitted Tentative Lists in accordance with the elements of presentation specified in the Operational Guidelines;
- 38 countries had submitted Tentative Lists which did not meet the requirements; and
- 54 countries had not submitted any Tentative Lists.

4. All the Tentative Lists received by the World Heritage Centre before 30 September 1995 are included in alphabetical order, as *Information Document*: WHC-95/CONF.203/INF.7.

b) Examination of nominations of cultural and natural properties to the World Heritage List

A. Natural heritage :

During its nineteenth session, the World Heritage Bureau reviewed nine new natural nominations and was informed about two nominations which were referred back at previous sessions of the Bureau and the Committee. The Bureau recommended four sites for inscription and did not recommend two sites. Five sites were referred back to the States Parties and for IUCN for additional information.

During its session in December, the Bureau examined four nominations for inscription of natural properites of which two were recommended for inscription. Two proposed nominations were deferred and a proposal for extension of a World Heritage property was referred to the World Heritage Committee.

A.1 Properties which the Bureau recommended for inscription on the World Heritage List

Name of Property	Ident. number	State Party having submitted the nomination (in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention)	Criteria
Glacier and Waterton Waterton Lakes International Peace Park	**354Rev**	**Canada/United States of America**	**N(ii)(iii)**

The conclusion of the Bureau at its last session in July 1995 was that a full evaluation of the amended nomination was

required before a decision could be made. IUCN was therefore requested to undertake the evaluation for the next meeting of the outgoing Bureau in December. This evaluation noted that an IUCN team visited the site in October 1995. The conclusion of the field visit and IUCN's panel review was that the site meets criteria (ii) and (iii). IUCN further recommended that a single "Biosphere Reserve" should be created from the three Biosphere Reserves already existing in the area.

The Bureau recommended to the new Bureau/Committee that the site be listed under criteria (ii) and (iii) and that the World Heritage Centre write to the States Parties with respect to the Biosphere Reserve proposal. The Observer of Canada indicated that Canada would support this recommendation. In addition, the Expert Group recommends that the site be eventually expanded to include the adjacent protected area in the Akamina/Kishinena.

Messel Pit Fossil site — **720** — **Germany** — **N(i)**

The Bureau recommended that the World Heritage Committee inscribe the nominated property on the basis of criterion (i), considering that the site is of outstanding universal value as the single best site which contributes to the understanding of the middle Eocene, when mammals became firmly established in all principal land ecosystems. The Bureau noted that a geological theme study is underway as part of the framework of a global strategy for natural heritage, which is to be completed in 1996. The Bureau, however, is of the opinion that the significance of Messel is clear and need not wait for the results of this study. Furthermore, the Bureau commended the German Government for their support of the high standards of paleontological research undertaken.

Caves of the Aggtelek Slovak Karst — **725** — **Hungary/ Slovak Republic** — **N(i)**

The Bureau recommended that the World Heritage Committee inscribe the nominated property on the basis of criterion (i), considering that the site is an outstanding example of on-going geological processes and a significant geomorphic feature. The karst formations and caves contain the geologic history of the last several millions of years with an unusual combination of climatic effects and paleokarst features.

The Bureau noted : (1) that cultural values of prehistoric cultures in the caves have not been assessed, and (2) that strict control of the area is needed from surface activities such as agricultural pollution, deforestation and soil erosion. The Observer of the Slovak Republic stated that the nomination is considered as a natural one, not indicating cultural values, and that the management plan is in place. The Observer of Hungary underlined that the Hungarian part of the nomination is

legally well protected as a national park and has a long history of scientific research at the site.

The Virgin Komi Forests	**719**	**Russian Federation**	**N(ii)(iii)**

The Bureau recommended that the World Heritage Committee inscribe the nominated property on the basis of criteria (ii) and (iii), considering the site among the most important natural sites in the boreal forest region. The site has pristine boreal forests and is an important site for scientific research including climate change.

The Bureau however, noted that the Committee should only inscribe 3 million ha of the site which are fully protected as a National Park, Zapovednik and buffer zone. It recommended that the national authorities be strongly encouraged to upgrade the legal status of the remaining 1 million ha and that this area be incorporated in a future nomination. The Bureau raised concerns over the possibility of releasing parts of the area to industrial forestry. It commended the national authorities for their conservation efforts as well as Greenpeace, WWF and the Swiss Government for their assistance in strengthening the management of this area.

Gough Island	**740**	**United Kingdom**	**N(iii)(iv)**

The Bureau noted that the British authorities had confirmed that the marine area (three nautical miles) is included in the nomination and the site is to be known as the "Gough Island Wildlife Reserve".

The Bureau discussed at length the question of commercial fisheries in the marine area and recommended the new Bureau/Committee to request the Centre to write to the States Party with respect to the need for continuous monitoring to ensure that the fishery is sustainable and respects the World Heritage values.

The Bureau recommended to the new Bureau/Committee inscription of the site under criteria (iii) and (iv).

Carlsbad Caverns National Park	**721**	**United States of America**	**N(i)(iii)**

The Bureau recommended that the World Heritage Committee inscribe the nominated property on the basis of criteria (i) and (iii), considering that the site is of outstanding universal value with exceptional geological features with unique reef and rock formations, and containing the world's largest cave deposits, such as accumulations of gypsum chandelier speleothems, aragonite 'christmas trees' and hydromagnesite balloons.

The Bureau noted however, that oil and gas exploration near the borders of the site may be a potential threat. It therefore requested the Centre to write to the national authorities and to encourage the State Party in its proposal for the creation of a cave protection zone to the north of the Park.

A.2 Properties which the Bureau did not recommend for inscription on the World Heritage List

Odzala National Park (and annexes) — 692 — Congo

The Bureau recommended that the World Heritage Committee not inscribe the nominated property, as the site is of national importance and does not possess distinguishing features of outstanding universal value.

The Bureau recommends that the World Heritage Committee encourage the State Party to consider nomination of a larger area to the north of the Park, the Ndoki National Park, which forms a part of a proposed tri-national park.

Wildlife Reserve of Conkouati — 693 — Congo

The Bureau recommended that the World Heritage Committee not inscribe the nominated property, as the site is of national importance and does not possess distinguishing features of universal value. It noted furthermore, that the site has been degraded over the past ten years.

A.3 Extension to a World Heritage site referred to the Committee by the Bureau

Galapagos National Park Marine Extension — 1bis — Ecuador

The Bureau recalled that the Committee at its eighteenth session deferred the inscription of the Galapagos Marine Reserve due to recognition of serious threats to the site and in accordance with the IUCN recommendation and the wish of the Observer of Ecuador.

In the absence of any further information from the State Party, the Bureau recommended that this nomination be brought to the nineteenth session of the World Heritage Committee in order to allow the Representative of Ecuador to provide a statement for information, as well as to have an opportunity to discuss the state of conservation report to be presented by IUCN.

B. Mixed natural and cultural properties

B.1 Reivision of boundaries of a World Heritage site

Willandra Lakes Region	**167Rev**	**Australia**	**N(i) C(iii)**

The Bureau, having taken note of the fact that the new boundary will reduce the total area by about thirty percent, which would constitute a major change in relation to the original nomination, recommended that the Committee accept the revised boundaries, as they better define the area containing the World Heritage values and will considerably facilitate the management of the property.

C. Cultural Heritage

After having examined at its nineteenth session in July 1995, 28 nominations for inscription of cultural properties and one mixed property, the Bureau recommended the inscription of 17 properties. Four nominations were referred back to the State Party and six deferred. The Bureau could not reach a consensus on one of the nominations.

The Bureau examined at its session in December eight nominations for inscription of cultural properties of which it recommended six for inscription. One nomination was not recommended and another was deferred.

C.1 Properties which the Bureau recommended for inscription on the World Heritage List

Name of Property	Ident. number	State Party having submitted the nomination (in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention)	Criteria
Lunenburg Old Town	**741**	**Canada**	**C(iv)(v)**

During the course of fruitful discussions, resulting in the recommendation to inscribe this property, it was also proposed that the Bureau examine at its twentieth session in July 1996, the principles and methodology of comparative studies, as well as the cases where such studies are indispensable prior to the nomination of a property.

Rapa Nui National Park	**715**	**Chile**	**C(i)(iii) (v)**

The Historic Centre of Santa Cruz de Mompox	742	Colombia	C(iv)(v)
National Archaeological Park of Tierradentro	743	Colombia	C(iii)
San Agustin Archaeological Park	744	Colombia	C(iii)
Kutná Hora: The Historical Town Centre with the Church of St Barbara and the Cathedral of Our Lady at Sedlec	732	Czech Republic	C(ii)(iv)
Roskilde Cathedral	695Rev.	Denmark	C(ii)(iv)
Avignon: Monumental ensemble formed by the Place du Palais, Palais des Papes, Cathedral of Notre Dames des Doms, Petit Palais, Tour des Chiens, Ramparts and Saint-Bénézet Bridge	228Rev.	France	C(i)(ii)(iv)
The Historic Centre of Siena	717	Italy	C(i)(ii)(iv)
The Historic Centre of Naples	726	Italy	C(ii)(iv)
Crespi d'Adda	730	Italy	C(iv)(v)
Ferrara: City of the Renaissance	733	Italy	C(ii)(iv)(vi)
Historic Villages of Shirakawa-go and Gokayama	734	Japan	C(iv)(v)
Town of Luang Prabang	479Rev.	Lao People's Democratic Republic	C(ii)(iv)(v)

The Bureau was informed of the evaluation by an expert mission sent by UNESCO in October 1995 to update the February assessment made by ICOMOS on the application of the December 1994 Decree on the legal protection of this property. Satisfied with the

progress made in the implementation of this Decree and the management structure for its enforcement, the Bureau recommended inscription.

Schokland and its surroundings	**739**	**Netherlands**	**C(iii)(v)**
The Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras	**722**	**Philippines**	**C(iii)(iv)(v)**
The Serra and Town of Sintra	**723**	**Portugal**	**C(ii)(iv)(v)**

The Bureau recommended that the State Party be invited to change the name of the site to "The Cultural Landscape of Sintra".

Sokkuram Buddhist Grotto	**736**	**Republic of Korea**	**C(i)(iv)**

The Bureau recommended that this nomination, extended to include the Pulguksa Temple, be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (i) and (iv) as a masterpiece of Far Eastern Buddhist art, and the complex that it forms with Pulguksa Temple as an outstanding example of the religious architecture of the region and of the material expression of Buddhist belief.

Haeinsa Temple Changgyong P'ango, the Depositories for the Tripitaka Koreana Woodblocks	**737**	**Republic of Korea**	**C(iv)(vi)**
Chongmyo Shrine	**738**	**Republic of Korea**	**C(iv)**
The Hanseatic Town of Visby	**731**	**Sweden**	**C(iv)(v)**
Edinburgh	**728**	**United Kingdom**	**C(ii)(iv)**
The Historic Quarter of the City of Colonia del Sacramento	**747**	**Uruguay**	**C(iv)**

C.2 Property which the Bureau did not recommend for inscription

Savannah City Plan	**746**	**United States of America**

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that no reply had been received to the decision of the Bureau formulated at its nineteenth session that, in accordance with the Operational Guidelines, the site is only likely to be inscribed on the World Heritage List if it is extended to the entire urban fabric of the historical plan area and not confined to the streets and open spaces. The Observer of the United States of America explained to the Bureau that the United States legislation does not permit the Government to nominate private properties without the consent of the owners concerned and that it could not ensure the long-term preservation of the individual privately-owned buildings. He concluded, therefore, that it was impossible for the United States Government to meet the condition of the Bureau. The Bureau expressed its regret that, under these conditions, this important cultural property could not be inscribed on the World Heritage List.