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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 6 of the Provisional Agenda : Requests for International
Assistance

SUMMARY

The Bureau during its twenty-first session will be asked to examine international assistance requests between the amount of US\$ 20,000 - US\$ 30,000 in accordance with paragraphs 90 to 120 of the Operational Guidelines.

A. NATURAL PROPERTIES

TECHNICAL COOPERATION

A.1.2. Support to Strengthening Protection of Kaziranga National Park (India)

Background: Kaziranga National Park was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1985 and its management has not sought financial assistance from the World Heritage Fund so far. The site is well known for its success in protecting the greater one-horned rhinoceros and supports the largest population of the species (estimated at 1,200 animals). Poaching pressure however, is intense and an average of 26 rhinos are killed annually. Furthermore, about twice the number poached, i.e. 52, and several other species of wildlife die during the annual floods of the Brahmaputra River. Continued success of anti-poaching efforts have been threatened by cash-flow problems and the need to build up support among local people, particularly in order to obtain timely information on the movements of commercial poaching groups, most of which come from outside of the State of Assam.

India has paid its contribution to the World Heritage Fund for 1996.

Description of Request: Due to recent increases in the encounters with commercial poaching groups and cash-flow problems that had plagued the management because of budgetary shortages experienced by the State Government of Assam, the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) of the Government of India and the State Government of Assam are embarking on a renewed programme of support to Kaziranga, during 1997-99, in order to: (i) strengthen anti-poaching capability by increasing the number of camps located along the periphery of the Park; (ii) construct highland refuges for wildlife to take shelter during the period of annual floods of the Brahmaputra River; and (iii) launch conservation awareness and environmental education programmes for local people.

National and other Contributions: MOEF, in co-operation with the State Government of Assam has projected contributions of US\$ 731,833 for 1997-98, and US\$ 833,433 for 1998-99, respectively, to cover salaries and wages, travelling allowances, material supplies, project elephant operations, eco-development operations, vehicle maintenance, deployment of home guards, payment of daily-worker wages, medical expenditures, guard camp maintenance, maintenance of Departmental captive elephants for visitor travel in the Park, ecological studies, communications, conservation and development, buildings, publicity, office expenses and miscellaneous. Itemised breakdown of the projected figures for

1997-98 and 1998-99 are provided in the technical assistance request and is available for consultation by the Bureau.

Amount Requested from the Fund: A sum of US\$ 50,000 each for 1997-98 and 1998-99, respectively, have been requested to cover costs of the construction of 10 guard camps (US\$ 25,000), construction of 5 highland shelters (US\$ 21,000) and purchase of audio-visual equipment for the Park Interpretation Centre in Kohora (US\$ 4,000).

Action by the Bureau: The Bureau may wish to recommend that the Committee at its next session scheduled from 1 to 6 December 1997, in Naples, Italy, approve a sum of US\$ 50,000 as financial assistance for 1997-98 for Kaziranga National Park of India.

A.2 TRAINING

A.2.1 Request for Financial Assistance for Training of an Individual Specialist from Ecuador in Masters in Natural Resources Administration at the Business Administration Central American Institute (INCAE), Costa Rica

Background: States Parties to the World Heritage Convention may request support for the training of specialised staff at all levels in the field of identification, protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation of cultural and natural heritage related to the implementation of the Convention. However, paragraph 95 of the Operational Guidelines specifies that "priority in training activities will be given to group training at the local or regional levels, particularly at national or regional centres in accordance with Article 23 of the Convention" and that "training of individual persons will be essentially limited to short-term refresher programmes and exchanges of experiences". In the past several individuals from Ecuador have been trained in short-term courses conducted by CATIE in Costa Rica; in 1992; a regional training course on eco-tourism and protected area management, with field visits to Galapagos National Park, was supported with a contribution of US\$ 20,000 from the World Heritage Fund.

Ecuador has paid its contributions to the World Heritage Fund for 1996 and 1997.

Description of Request: A request from Ecuador has been received, for a sum of US\$ 30,000, from a well known Ecuadorean conservationist (i.e. the Secretary General of the Charles Darwin Foundation) to enable himself to undertake Masters level training at INCAE, Costa Rica. The request has been endorsed by the UNESCO National Commission of Ecuador, the Office of the Vice-President of the Republic of Ecuador and the Permanent

Delegation of Ecuador in Paris. The Masters Programme is scheduled to begin on 15 September, 1997 and terminate in July 1998 at an estimated cost of US\$ 59,090 comprising: tuition (US\$ 19,140); teaching materials (US\$ 2,100); rent and living expenses (US\$ 33,600); insurance (US\$ 2,000); return air-ticket, Ecuador-Costa Rica-Ecuador (US\$ 1,500) and administration and other expenses (US\$ 750).

National and other Contribution: The following contributions from national and other sources have already been secured: Charles Darwin Foundation (US\$ 10,000); Galapagos Conservation Trust (US\$ 10,000); others (US\$ 10,000).

Amount Requested from the Fund: A sum of US\$ 30,000 is requested from the Fund

Action by the Bureau: The type of training proposed here for an individual (i.e. Masters level over a period of 10 months) cannot be considered as "short-term refresher programmes and exchanges of experiences" specified in paragraph 95 of the Operational Guidelines. Hence, the Bureau may wish to reject this request as unsuitable for consideration for support from the Fund and request the candidate to seek financial assistance from alternative sources.

A.3 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

A.3.1 Contribution to the Implementation of an Emergency Rehabilitation Plan for the Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India)

Background: The Manas Wildlife Sanctuary was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1985. The infrastructure of this World Heritage site was badly damaged during 1989-1993, due to militant action by the Bodo people, resident in the vicinity of the Park and agitating for an autonomous territory within the State of Assam. Staff morale declined leading to increased poaching of wildlife populations during 1992-93. The Committee included Manas in the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1992, and requested the Government of India (GOI) to submit a state of conservation report, including a plan for rehabilitating Manas. Following a GOI/World Heritage Centre site-visit in January 1997, the GOI has provided a state of conservation report and an emergency assistance request for financing a 2-3 year rehabilitation plan for Manas. Militant action by Bodo people has been considerably reduced since the establishment of the Bodo Autonomous Council in 1993, and work related to the rehabilitation of Manas can now be started.

Description of the Request: The rehabilitation plan for Manas, jointly prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the State Forest Department of Assam and the Directorate of

Manas, foresees completion of restoration of protection infrastructure, including equipment purchases, to be completed within a 2-year period. Research and surveys, habitat improvement programmes (e.g. creation and maintenance of water holes and salt licks) and eco-development schemes for villages surrounding Manas (e.g. promotion of small-scale industries) are also foreseen, and require a 3-year time-period for completion.

National and other Contributions: The total cost of the rehabilitation plan is estimated at US\$ 2,130,000 of which the GOI and the State Government of Assam foresee the following contributions: (a) restoration of bridges and roads (US\$ 500,000); construction of ranger quarters, camps and other buildings (US\$ 500,000); habitat improvement programmes (US\$ 285,000); eco-development programmes (US\$ 500,000; to be provided by an on-going GOI/UNDP Project financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF)); purchase of arms and ammunitions (US\$ 60,000); and research and surveys (US\$ 60,000).

Amount requested from the Fund: US\$ 235,000 is requested as emergency assistance from the World Heritage Fund, for a 2-year period for: (a) purchases of 3 vehicles (US\$ 30,000), 55 wireless communication sets (US\$ 40,000), 3 boats (US\$ 10,000), and 400 patrolling gear such as raincoats, uniforms etc. (US\$ 15,000); (b) contributions for the restoration of bridges and roads (US\$ 60,000) and re-construction of buildings (US\$ 70,000); and (c) office automation (US\$ 10,000).

Action by the Bureau: The Bureau may wish to approve an initial sum of US\$ 75,000 (for the purchase of 3 vehicles, 55 wireless communication sets and 1-2 boats), as emergency assistance for Manas, in accordance with paragraph 93 of the Operational Guidelines. The Bureau may also recommend that the Committee, at its next session, review progress in the use of the financial assistance provided, and consider approving a second instalment of the requested emergency assistance for Manas from the World Heritage Fund budget for 1998.

B. CULTURAL PROPERTIES

B.1 TECHNICAL COOPERATION

B.1.1 Visitor Centre at Paphos, Cyprus

Background: Paphos was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1980. As a result of many years of excavation in the area of Nea Paphos numerous monuments and archaeological sites dating back to the prehistoric time as well as the Byzantine and Medieval periods have been unearthed. Its outstanding value lies in the concentration of a large number of monuments which provide an excellent historical record for a succession of

periods. The mosaics of Nea Paphos are considered to be among the most beautiful in the world.

The important increase in the number of visitors is causing destruction of the remaining archaeological remains. As a result a Master Plan was prepared, now under implementation, funded by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, to develop the site so as to ensure adequate protection and at the same time provide visitors with a complete picture of the site's history.

Cyprus has fully paid its contribution to the World Heritage Fund.

Description of request: The Visitors' Centre, as identified by the Master Plan, will provide necessary facilities such as a bookshop, a lecture hall for audio-visual presentations as well as accommodate a variety of functional facilities for the visitors' comfort. In addition to its educational component the Visitors' Centre will be able to accommodate the increasing number of tourists and thus protect the site from the adverse effects of increased visitation.

National contribution: The Master Plan for Paphos is estimated at US \$ 6,070,000. The Visitors' Centre project will cost approximately US \$ 63,892 of which US \$ 40,625 will be provided by the national authorities.

Amount requested from the Fund: An amount of US \$ 23,267 is requested in order to:

- a) finance two experts for 6 days to study the area
US \$ 12,187
 - b) Materials for exhibition cases of various dimensions
US \$ 11,080
- | | |
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| Total | US \$ 23,267 |
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Recommendation by ICOMOS: Whilst ICOMOS supports the total request in principle, it feels that the second element should form the subject of a supplementary request once the report of the expert mission has been approved and more information is available regarding the exhibition cases.

Action by the Bureau: In light of ICOMOS' recommendation, the Bureau may wish to approve the amount of US\$ 12,187 for the experts' mission and suggests to the State Party that they submit a separate request for the materials for the exhibition cases upon approval of the report of the experts' mission and a clear identification of the costs for the exhibition cases and the interior design.

B.1.2 Brasilia (Brazil)

Background: The City of Brasilia was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1987 on the basis of criteria (i) and iv).

A state of conservation report was prepared through the Regional Project for Cultural Heritage and Development of UNDP/UNESCO in 1993. This report emphasized the challenge to preserve the particular characteristics of this living and unfinished city (e.g. open and built-up spaces, distribution of functions). It was recommended that a forum be held to discuss this matter among all institutions involved.

Brazil is a voluntary contributor to the World Heritage Fund. No payments have been received for the 1996-1997 biennium.

Description of the request: The Institute for the National Historic and Artistic Heritage (IPHAN) and the Secretary of Urban Development and Housing of the Federal District of Brasilia have submitted a request for support to the "Symposium on the Preservation of Contemporary Heritage: the Case of Brasilia". This Symposium will be held in 1997 and will be part of a series of events that will celebrate the 40th anniversary of Brasilia's Pilot Plan and the 10th anniversary of the inscription of Brasilia on the World Heritage List.

The objectives of the Symposium are to:

- review the experiences acquired by the institutions involved in the preservation and management of Brasilia;
- discuss and establish new general urban guidelines to permit the effective preservation of Brasilia's heritage.

National contribution: The national contribution to the series of events will be: US\$ 250,000.

Amount requested from the Fund: The Institute for the National Historic and Artistic Heritage (IPHAN) and the Secretary of Urban Development and Housing of the Federal District of Brasilia request an amount of US\$ 30,000 from the World Heritage Fund under technical cooperation as a support to the "Symposium on the Preservation of Contemporary Heritage: the Case of Brasilia".

Advice from ICOMOS: ICOMOS advised that it considers the request too broadly defined and recommends that assistance should be confined to the expenses of two or three experts in urban planning, with special reference to World Heritage cities and/or contemporary cities. The total assistance should not exceed US\$ 20,000.

Action by the Bureau: Following ICOMOS' advice, the Bureau may wish to approve an amount of US\$ 20,000 for international experts in urban planning as a support to the "Symposium on the Preservation of Contemporary Heritage: the Case of Brasilia" under the condition of payment of the voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund including 1996.

B. 1.3 Maya Site of Copan (Honduras)

Background: The Maya Site of Copan was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1980 on the basis of criteria (iv) and (vi). In the ICOMOS evaluation, specific mention was made of the Hieroglyphic Stairway as having a great historical importance which justified the application of criterion (vi).

Technical cooperation was provided in 1982/1984 for the preparation of a Master Plan for the site. A state of conservation report was prepared through the Regional Project for Cultural Heritage and Development of UNDP/UNESCO in 1993. Technical cooperation for an amount of US\$ 8,800 was approved in April 1997 by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee as a contribution to a scientific seminar on the preservation of the Hieroglyphic Stairway at the Maya Site of Copan (Honduras) which is scheduled for 12-13 June 1997.

Honduras has paid its contributions to the World Heritage Fund including for 1997.

Description of the request: The conservation of the stone sculptures at Copan poses a particular problem. A museum was built in 1996 to house the original sculptures, replicas being placed on the original location.

A particularly vulnerable element at Copan is the Hieroglyphic Stairway which is an integral part of one of the pyramids around the main plaza of Copan. Photographic records show a serious deterioration over the last hundred years. In order to slow down the deterioration process, a temporary roof has been installed over the stairway. Until recently it was envisaged that the Hieroglyphic Stairway would also be placed in the museum. The Scientific Seminar mentioned above is intended to define the most appropriate conservation approach for the Stairway.

Whatever the final decision will be (preservation 'in situ' or re-location in the museum), the National Institute for Anthropology and History considers it necessary to undertake the preparation of a replica of the Stairway based on the elements 'in situ', those at the Peabody Museum in the United States of America and earlier photographic and graphic documentation.

The project would be undertaken over a three year period under the supervision of the National Institute for Anthropology and History.

National contribution: The national contribution will cover the salaries of 40 persons and materials.

Amount requested from the Fund: The National Institute for Anthropology and History of Honduras requests an amount of US\$ 29,613 from the World Heritage Fund under technical cooperation as follows:

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| 1 Director of Conservation | US\$ 8,292 |
| 1 Assistant to Director of Conservation | US\$ 5,923 |
| 1 Assistant Archaeologist | US\$ 1,777 |
| 1 Technical Sketcher | US\$ 1,540 |
| 4 Sculptors | US\$ 8,529 |
| 2 Assistant Sculptors | US\$ 3,552 |
| Total | US\$ 29,513 |

Advice from ICOMOS: ICOMOS advised that, mindful of the cultural importance of the Great Hieroglyphic Stairway at Copan and the desirability of creating an adequate replica before the components deteriorate further, it supports the request.

Action by the Bureau: The Bureau may wish to approve an amount of US\$ 29,613 for the preparation of a replica of the Hieroglyphic Stairway at the Maya Site of Copan.

B.1.4 Latin America and the Caribbean: Special course on the World Heritage Convention (request submitted by Mexico)

Background: Mexico has paid its contributions to the World Heritage Fund including for 1996.

Description of the request: The Mexican National Institute for Anthropology and History (INAH) proposes to organise a three-week course on the World Heritage Convention and its application over a period of twenty-five years. The course will address all issues related to the application of the World Heritage Convention. By the end of the course, the participants (selected and proposed by States Parties and with an academic background, from Mexico and twelve other countries from the region) will be able to (i) apply the basic criteria of the Convention in the inscription process and the subsequent conservation and management programmes, (ii) identify and apply to the different mechanisms of international assistance, and (iii) evaluate the needs of personnel training for the conservation of natural and cultural properties.

The maximum number of participants will be fifty. Lectures will be given by renowned international experts with experience in the implementation of the Convention.

National contribution: The national contribution will cover the infrastructure, support personnel and the edition of the report of the course and is estimated at US\$ 37,000.

Amount requested from the Fund: The Mexican National Commission for UNESCO requests an amount of US\$ 30,000 from the World Heritage Fund under technical cooperation as follows:

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| 1. | Travel for six lecturers | US\$ 6,000 |
| 2. | Accommodation for six professors (six days each) | US\$ 3,600 |
| 3. | Travel for twelve participants (Belize, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Paraguay, Dominican Republic, Venezuela) | US\$ 6,000 |
| 4. | Accommodation for twelve participants | US\$ 14,400 |
| | Total | US\$ 30,000 |

Advice from the Advisory Bodies: The advice from the advisory bodies was requested on 15 May 1997. ICOMOS informed that it is of the opinion that the objectives of the proposed seminar are fully compatible with the forward policies of the World Heritage Committee and that it will make a significant contribution to the development of the Convention in this region. It commends the initiative of the Government of Mexico and supports the request. Advice from the other advisory bodies will be transmitted to the Bureau during its session.

Action by the Bureau: The Bureau may wish to examine the advisory bodies' advice and, considering paragraph 106(b) of the Operational Guidelines which states that 'for requests from States members of the Bureau, the Bureau can only make recommendations to the Committee', consider whether it wishes to recommend the Committee to approve an amount of US\$ 30,000 for a Special Course on the World Heritage Convention to be held in Mexico.