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

BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twentieth session  
UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, Room X (Fontenoy)

24-29 June 1996

Item 4.2 of the Provisional Agenda: Reports on the state of  
conservation of specific properties

SUMMARY

In accordance with paragraphs 48-56 and 82-89 of the Operational Guidelines, the Secretariat submits herewith reports on the state of conservation of specific properties inscribed on the World Heritage List with particular attention to those properties that are inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Decision required: The Bureau may wish to take note of the attached state of conservation reports and adopt the accompanying draft texts for inclusion in the report of its session. If appropriate, the Secretariat or the advisory bodies will provide additional information during the session of the Bureau.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

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 in relation to properties inscribed, or to be inscribed, on the List of World Heritage in Danger (paragraphs 82-89 of the Operational Guidelines).

## 2. NATURAL HERITAGE

### 2.1. Natural Properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger

#### **Srebarna Nature Reserve (Bulgaria)**

The World Heritage Committee (nineteenth session) examined a monitoring report prepared by the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention. This report indicated that the new water control structure allowed for an inflow of water on a small scale and that a colony of the Dalmatian Pelican had been re-established. The report concluded, however, that the integrity of the site had not yet been adequately restored.

As a result, the Committee decided to retain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger and requested the Bulgarian authorities to prepare a status report on their efforts to restore the site, to be presented in three years time.

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

**Pending the status report which the Committee requested the Bulgarian authorities to submit in 1998, the Bureau recommended the Committee to retain this property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Following an endorsement by the last session of the World Heritage Committee, the Secretariat has been discussing with the Croatian authorities the organization of a situation assessment workshop. It was suggested that, at this stage, such a workshop would focus on an analysis of requirements of actions and priorities necessary to remove the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger with a view to the preparation of project

profiles as appropriate. The needs assessment would also encompass the collection of baseline data on the rehabilitation of the site after the armed conflict in the region. The workshop was scheduled for May 1996. The results of the workshop will be reported to the Bureau.

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

**The Bureau commended the Croatian authorities for their rehabilitation activities and awaiting further information on the site's state of conservation, recommended to the Committee its retention on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

At its last session, the World Heritage Committee called for an Environmental Impact Assessment of the road construction in the Park and requested information from INEFAN, the National Park administration, on road modifications, a land tenure study and steps for an updated management plan. INEFAN informed the Centre that with respect to the road construction a meeting was organized with the concerned political authorities and local communities. It was also noted that the road was declared of military interest. The Centre received a copy of the land tenure study which was concluded in March of this year and the terms of reference for the elaboration of a new management plan were prepared during a workshop in December last year.

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

**The Bureau commended INEFAN on its actions but at the same time reiterated the Committee's concerns about the road construction and its request for an Environmental Impact Assessment.**

#### **Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Guinea/Côte d'Ivoire)**

The site was included on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1992 because of negative impacts from a proposed iron-ore mining project and threats due to the arrival of a large number of refugees from neighbouring countries.

The Ministry for Energy and Environment in collaboration with the "Mission Française de Coopération et d'Action Culturelle" is organizing a Round Table on Mount Nimba which will be held in Conakry (Guinea) on 17 and 18 April 1996. A preparatory meeting was held at the French Ministry for Cooperation in Paris on 5 April 1996 with participation from the Secretariat; a member from the Secretariat was also present at the Round Table in Conakry. The Round Table included representatives of the following donor countries and organizations: France, Germany,

Japan, Canada, the Wallonian Region of Belgium, The World Bank, UNDP, the European Union, and USAID. The main recommendation is that UNESCO considers the establishment of a working group to create an "International Foundation for Mount Nimba".

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

**The Bureau commended the States Parties for their efforts. However, given the uncertainties concerning the adequate management of the site, and the shortcomings with regard to the on-site management, the Bureau recommended to the Committee to retain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

The site was included in the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1992.

At the nineteenth session of the Committee the Observer of India stressed that her Government is ready to welcome a visit from members of the World Heritage Committee and the Director of the Centre to Delhi, Assam and Manas. In her recent letters, the Ambassador of India to UNESCO, reiterated this information and underlined that she hoped that an updated state of conservation report would be available in due course. A meeting was held to plan, schedule and prepare arrangements for the New Delhi, Assam and Manas visit. Subsequently, the Centre has been advised that the mission would be welcomed at the end of November 1996. However, as this would conflict with the twentieth session of the World Heritage Committee and the preceding Bureau session, alternative scheduling will be necessary. At the time of the preparation of this document, no updated report was available from the Government of India.

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

**In the absence of any precise information, uncertainties remain concerning the state of conservation of the site, the Bureau asked the State Party for a detailed report. In the meantime, the Bureau recommended to the Committee to retain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

#### **Aïr-et-Ténéré Reserve (Niger)**

The site was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1992 as it was affected by civil disturbances. The Committee at its nineteenth session recalled that a peace agreement was signed on 9 October 1994 and that it had encouraged the authorities to implement it and to undertake all efforts to safeguard the site. In 1995 a dialogue was established between the parties, which has paved the way for a return to a normal

situation and may allow for a detailed evaluation of the state of conservation of the site as well as the development of an action programme for the recovery of the site.

An IUCN project is underway to assist in re-establishing the management regime. A report from the project may be available in time for the Bureau meeting.

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

The Bureau may wish to examine the report that will be provided by IUCN on the site and subsequently may wish to consider whether the site should remain on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

The site was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1993. At its last session, the World Heritage Committee examined a detailed monitoring report, presented by the State Party, which outlined the long-term restoration work necessary to restore the balance of the Everglades ecosystem. The State Party presented a preliminary monitoring report dated May 1996 outlining the Government's efforts to protect the site. The report acknowledges that despite significant progress made (acquisition of additional land, improved ecological indicators), the Park remains seriously in danger.

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

Due to the long-term nature of the rehabilitation activities and further to the conclusions of the Committee, the Bureau recommended that the site remain on the List of World Heritage in Danger until further rehabilitation is demonstrated.

#### **Yellowstone National Park (United States of America)**

It is recalled that, at its nineteenth session, the World Heritage Committee decided that, on the basis of both ascertained dangers and potential threats, Yellowstone National Park be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger and that the State Party should provide the Committee with reports on the results of the Environmental Impact Statement and mitigating actions. In such a report dated May 1996, the State Party advised the Centre about the different remedial actions taken. This includes long-term control programmes to counter the cutthroat trout invasion, public meetings to analyze visitor management, and the preparation of the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) for the New World Mine. The final EIS is not expected to be completed before autumn 1996.

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

The Bureau recommended that the site be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger until such time as the mining-related Environmental Impact Study required under domestic law is completed and actions taken on other issues.

#### **Virunga National Park (Zaire)**

Virunga National Park was included on the List of World Heritage in Danger in December 1994, due to the tragic events in Rwanda and the subsequent massive influx of refugees from that country. Virunga National Park, situated on the border between Rwanda and Uganda, has been destabilized by the uncontrolled arrival of refugees, causing deforestation and poaching at the site.

The Centre wrote to the authorities requesting that the World Heritage Committee be informed about any action to be undertaken to stop illegal poaching operations within the site and to improve control in the Park. The Centre and IUCN are in contact with several NGOs working in the area and a mission was organized together with WWF to the site in order to evaluate its state of conservation and to strengthen cooperation between the different international assistance agencies working to protect the site. The mission was carried out from 15 to 30 April 1996 and a report will be made available to the Bureau.

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

Taking into account the presence of thousands of refugees, the Bureau expressed its concern about the continuing degradation of the Park and recommended to the Committee to retain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

## **2.2. Natural Properties on the World Heritage List**

### **Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks (Canada)**

The World Heritage Committee discussed at its nineteenth session a report presented by IUCN, which underlined the infrastructural developments in the "Bow Corridor" and their impact on the integrity of the site. The Canadian authorities had set up the Bow Valley Task Force, in order to prepare a study on these issues. The Committee requested IUCN and the Centre to co-operate with the Canadian authorities and asked to be kept informed of the findings of the Task Force. In this context, IUCN advised the Centre that it had requested the Task Force to integrate World Heritage values in their deliberations.

The Canadian authorities informed the Centre that the report of this Task Force could be made available possibly as early as June.

**Decision required:**

The Bureau may wish to examine the information that will be provided during the Bureau's session and provide instructions to the Centre in light of the findings of the Canadian Task Force.

**Galapagos National Park (Ecuador)**

At its nineteenth session, the World Heritage Committee discussed extensively the issues and threats facing the site. It recommended that the Director of the World Heritage Centre accept the invitation from the State Party to visit the Galapagos Islands, with the Chairperson of the Committee and appropriate technical advisors, in order to discuss the pressures on and present condition of the site and to identify measures to overcome the problems. It further invited the State Party and the Director to report on the outcome of the visit for further consideration by the Bureau at its twentieth session, including the question of whether or not the property should be recommended for inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

At the time of preparation of this document the mission was scheduled for early June. IUCN informed the Centre that it has received regular information on the deteriorating situation at the site from their office in Quito. The Centre also received additional communications from the Charles Darwin Foundation and other NGOs directed at a number of issues. This information was referred to the State Party, but so far no comments have been received.

**Decision required:**

Following the conclusions of the World Heritage Committee, the Bureau may wish to examine the state of conservation of this site in light of the findings of the mission.

**Simien National Park (Ethiopia)**

The Centre and IUCN have received a report on a Field Study on the Flora and Fauna of the Simien Mountains prepared by the University of Berne (Switzerland). The report indicates a deterioration of the Walia ibex population and that other large mammals (such as bushbuck and bushpig) have become extremely rare. IUCN will provide additional information on the state of conservation of the site.

**Decision required:**

The Bureau may wish to examine the report that will be provided by IUCN.

### **Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras)**

At its nineteenth session, the Committee took note of a monitoring report prepared by IUCN. This report noted the threats to the site, including agricultural intrusion and the implementation of land reform programmes. IUCN informed the Centre that the Minister for the Environment is in agreement with the findings. A number of follow-up actions, including the inscription of the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger, was recommended. Further to the decision of the Committee, the Centre requested the Honduran authorities to inform the Committee about the actions taken to protect the site. The Centre received a state of conservation report dated 30 April 1996 from the Honduran Minister for the Environment, which indicated the actions taken by the Government and various NGOs, as well as two projects submitted for technical assistance.

#### **Decision required:**

**The Bureau may wish to examine the report that will be provided by IUCN and consider if it wishes to recommend the Committee to inscribe this property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

The Committee recalled at its nineteenth session that a mission to consider the state of conservation of Komodo National Park took place in July 1995 and that due to bad weather conditions and a rough sea, the boat capsized and the accident was fatal for four persons. The Committee took also note of a Geographical Information Project which was set up at Komodo National Park and the preparation of a zonation map of Komodo National Park with support from the World Heritage Fund.

The Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation of the Ministry of Forestry prepared a full state of conservation report on Komodo National Park dated February 1996. This report calls for protective means and measures including the legal protection of the site and management plans on different levels. The report also outlined the main factors affecting the site, which are population pressure, forest fires, poaching (deer), coral blasting and fish poisoning and tourism pressures (increase of visitor numbers from 7,692 in 1989/90 to 25,760 in 1994/95). The report outlines also the monitoring procedures including records on damaged areas, animal censuses summarizing fluctuation patterns of wildlife populations. Yearly censuses for mammals, birds and the komodo dragon populations are conducted by the Park management. The report also indicates the substantial support from the World Heritage Fund for both infrastructure and human resources development and it was considered crucial for the management of the Park.



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

The Bureau requested the Centre to write a letter of appreciation to the Indonesian authorities expressing satisfaction on the actions taken and commending them for the detailed state of conservation report received for Komodo National Park.

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

At its nineteenth session, the Bureau discussed a report about a project for industrial salt production at the site and its potential threats to the whale population. A letter, noting the concerns of the Bureau about this project, was addressed to the Mexican authorities, but no response was received. At its last session, the Committee was informed by the Delegate of Mexico that the project was still under study.

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

The Bureau urged the State Party to keep the Committee informed about the industrial salt production project and to ensure the integrity of the site.

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

The Centre received a progress report, dated March 1996, on the ongoing planning activities for the site. IUCN will present to the Bureau its evaluation of the findings of this report.

**Decision required:**

The Bureau may wish to review the evaluation of this report presented by IUCN.

#### **Huascarán National Park (Peru)**

The Committee (nineteenth session) recommended to the Peruvian authorities that a cultural resources inventory of the site be carried out and asked for clarification on the road developments which may threaten the integrity of the site. To date no reply has been received to a letter addressed to the State Party by the World Heritage Centre.

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

The Bureau reiterated the request issued by the World Heritage Committee that a cultural resources inventory of the site be carried out and clarifications be provided on the road developments which may threaten the integrity of the site.

**Skocjan Caves (Slovenia)**

The World Heritage Committee, at its nineteenth session, had requested the Centre to contact the Slovenian authorities to provide a map of the revised boundaries of the site and to encourage the State Party to finalize new legislation and to prepare a management plan. The World Heritage Centre transmitted the Committee's request to the authorities, but to date no response has been received.

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

**The Bureau reiterated the request issued by the World Heritage Committee to the authorities to provide a map of the revised boundaries of the site and encouraged the State Party to finalize new legislation and to prepare a management plan.**

**Ichkeul National Park (Tunisia)**

The site was included on the World Heritage List in 1980. IUCN will present a report on threats to the site which was prepared in cooperation with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat.

**Decision required:**

**The Bureau may wish to take note of this information and make a recommendation to the Committee in light of the findings of this report.**

**Ha Long Bay (Vietnam)**

The Committee at its nineteenth session noted the potential threats to the site including the development of a new port and a license for a large floating hotel. No response has been received to the letter sent by the World Heritage Centre on this matter.

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

**The Bureau reiterated the request issued by the World Heritage Committee for information on the potential threats and the measures being taken to ensure that they are minimized.**

**Garamba National Park (Zaire)**

Due to the success of the safeguarding action of the northern white rhino population by the World Heritage Committee, IUCN, WWF, the Frankfurt Zoological Society and the Zairian

authorities, the site was taken off the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1992.

In April 1996, the Centre and IUCN have received information on the poaching of two white rhinos (one female, one male adult). A joint WWF-IUCN mission to the site is being planned. The Centre requested the authorities to provide details of this event as well as any information on measures taken to prevent any further dissemination of the white rhino.

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

The Bureau recommended to the Committee to inscribe the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger and encouraged international partners to collaborate to safeguard the white rhino population.

### **Mosi-oa Tunya/Victoria Falls (Zambia/Zimbabwe)**

The Centre has been informed by IUCN that a "Sustainable Development Workshop" on the joint Zambia/Zimbabwe Strategic Environmental Assessment of Tourism Development in the Victoria Falls Area was held from 25 to 29 March 1996 in Livingstone. IUCN will present a report on the results of the workshop.

**Decision required:**

The Bureau may wish to take note of this information and make a recommendation to the Committee in light of the findings of this report.

### **3. MIXED NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE**

#### **Mixed Natural and Cultural Properties on the World Heritage List**

#### **Tasmanian Wilderness (Australia)**

This mixed site was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1982. The Bureau (July 1994) previously discussed reports received on logging operations in adjacent areas. The Committee (1995) noted that the national authorities have provided information that negotiations to alleviate possible impacts are still underway. The authorities informed the Centre that a preliminary assessment of World Heritage values was undertaken in adjacent areas, the 'Interim Forest Assessment'. The outcome of the Interim Forest Assessment negotiations between the Commonwealth and Tasmanian Governments was, that of the eight coupes identified in the study, five were protected from logging and three were made available for timber harvesting. Subsequent stages of the comprehensive regional assessment process have begun. The scoping agreement of January 1996 includes a commitment to undertake

World Heritage assessments for all forested areas within Tasmania including the Tarkine region. Discussions are now underway with Tasmania to develop a methodology for the proposed World Heritage assessments, involving both natural and cultural values.

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

The Bureau commended the State Party for its efforts to carry out the preliminary assessment of World Heritage values in areas adjacent to the World Heritage site. It requested the Australian authorities to provide a full report once the negotiations and assessment work has been completed.

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

Early 1996, the Secretariat learned about plans to construct two suspended cable car systems (telepherique) to facilitate access to the ruins of Machu Picchu. As this could have a considerable environmental and visual impact within the World Heritage property, the Secretariat, by letter dated 22 February 1996, requested the Government of Peru for detailed information on this project. The Peruvian National Institute for Culture informed the Secretariat by letter dated 12 April 1996 that the project had been suspended awaiting the consideration by the Minister of Education of a proposal for the study and integral management of the Sanctuary.

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

"The Bureau welcomed the decision of the National Institute for Culture to suspend the plans to construct two suspended cable car systems to facilitate access to the ruins of Machu Picchu. It suggested that the access to Machu Picchu be studied in the context of integral planning for the whole of the area of the Sanctuary and that an assessment of its impact be undertaken. The Bureau requested the authorities of Peru to be kept informed on the progress made in the development of an integral management mechanism as well as on the plans for the cable car systems."

#### **4. CULTURAL HERITAGE**

##### **4.1. Cultural Properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger**

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

The International Coordinating Committee for Angkor (ICC) co-chaired by France and Japan, as well as the Special

Representative of the Director-General of UNESCO for Angkor has received assurances from H.E. Mr Vann Molyvann, Minister of State of the Royal Government of Cambodia and from other senior government officials, that the instructions given by H.R.H. Samdech Krom Preah Norodom Ranariddh, First Prime Minister and H.E. Samdech Hun Sen, Second Prime Minister to enforce regulations for protecting the Angkor World Heritage Site will be strictly applied. These assurances follow ICC and UNESCO's interventions with regard to a number of hotel construction projects reportedly under consideration which, if approved, will be violating the zoning regulations adopted by the Royal Government of Cambodia following the inscription of Angkor on the World Heritage List.

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

"The Bureau requested the Chairperson of the Committee to write to H.E. Mr Vann Molyvann, expressing on behalf of the Committee, his appreciation for the commitment of the Royal Government of Cambodia to the World Heritage Convention and to request the Government to keep the World Heritage Committee informed on developments that may be of concern to the Committee in accordance with Paragraph 58 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention."

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

By letter of 22 December 1995, the Centre transmitted the Committee's appreciation, expressed during its nineteenth session, to the Omani authorities for their collaboration in the restoration of the Fort in conformity with international standards with regard to the preservation of authenticity. It also suggested that a further mission visit the site to evaluate the progress of the work and advise the authorities.

The Omani authorities propose that this mission take place in autumn 1996.

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

"The Bureau took note that an expert mission is scheduled for autumn 1996 and requested the Secretariat to report on the outcome of this mission to the World Heritage Committee at its twentieth session."

#### **Wieliczka Salt Mines (Poland)**

As requested by the Committee at its nineteenth session, the Secretariat took appropriate measures to accelerate the implementation of the technical assistance, that is the purchase

and installation of dehumidifying equipment. In addition to the assistance provided by the World Heritage Fund, funding is provided by the Marie Curie Foundation; the U.S. National Park Service/Department of the Interior is also contributing.

As soon as the final technical and managerial problems are solved, World Heritage funding will be forwarded to Poland, in accordance with UNESCO contractual procedures.

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

"The Bureau commended the Polish authorities for their efforts at Wieliczka and requested the Secretariat to continue its support to the State Party in order to reach a prompt conclusion of this assistance."

#### 4.2. Cultural Properties on the World Heritage List

##### Africa

##### **Forts and Castles (Ghana)**

*Description and present state of conservation* : The castles and forts of Ghana represent the continuing history of the European-African encounter over five centuries, and the starting point of the African Diaspora. The major problems facing the Ghanaian properties are: the depredations of the tropical marine climate, the conflicting effects of under-developed and/or impoverished local economies. The property, as inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1979, consists of three castles and 15 forts in reasonably good condition, and 10 ruined forts, in various degrees of deterioration. Seven other formerly fortified sites were also included. All sites are in the custodianship of the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board (GMMB) and are periodically inspected and, when necessary, emergency repairs are carried out (though, during the prolonged period of economic depression in Ghana from the mid-1970's to the late 1980's, very little regular maintenance has been carried out). In general, the habitable forts and castles, and the partially restored ruins, are in a reasonably sound condition, with the exception of Fort Prinzenstein at Keta, which is threatened with devastation by the sea, and which received \$20,000 from the World Heritage Fund in December 1995.

*Sources and levels of finance* : Over the period 1990-1997, UNDP, USAID and Shell (Ghana) Ltd., have made a total of some 4-5 million US Dollars available for architectural conservation works and associated consultancy services and training provision. Under the Historic Preservation and Natural Resource Conservation Project, provision is made for the establishment of a Castles Maintenance Trust Fund. Apart from this international

assistance, virtually all finance for the conservation and maintenance of the properties is provided by the Government of Ghana through its annual recurrent budgets.

The state of conservation report identifies several factors that affect the property such as:

*Development Pressures:* Development pressures vary considerably along the coast of Ghana, they are most intense in the capital, and significant in the larger urban settlements, slight or non-existent in the remote and less accessible locations. Population pressure is the most pervasive factor, as well as the pressures of economic development.

*Environmental Pressures:* The only severe environmental pressures that adversely affect these properties are those arising from the coastal location of the forts and castles, and are inevitable; namely the tropical maritime climate and the threat of encroachment by the sea which are most apparent at those sites that are low lying, close to the sea, and lack underlying rock strata. Fort Prinzensten is threatened with encroachment by the sea.

*Site Buffer Zones:* Buffer zones had not been identified for the thirty plus sites of this World Heritage Property. Site boundaries have not yet been fully defined, nor given legal status.

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

"The Bureau thanked the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board (GMMB) for having provided accurate information on the state of conservation of this site and congratulated the Government of Ghana for the efforts in mobilizing international assistance for the establishment of a Castles Maintenance Trust Fund. It commended the current major conservation programme in Elmina and Cape Coast which should serve as a model for the conservation of the Castle, Osu, Accra. The Bureau recommended that protective action be taken urgently at other coastal forts most at risk (e.g. Fort Prinzensten, Keta) and that special attention be paid to the project financed by the World Heritage Fund."

#### **Ashanti Traditional Buildings (Ghana)**

*Description and present state of conservation:* The property, as inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1980, consists of thirteen traditional Asante buildings, all associated with the institution of chieftaincy and/or the indigenous animist religion. All are single-storey, wattle-and-daub and/or monolithic earth constructions, decorated in the traditional Asante manner, and are fine examples of the small and still diminishing number of traditional structures surviving in the forest belt of Ghana. All except two have been taken into the

custody of the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board (GMMB). They have undergone a programme of repair and conservation, and are periodically inspected. Most of the conservation work was carried out in the 1960's and early 1970's; the prolonged period of economic depression in Ghana, from the mid 1970's to the late 1980's, has put an effective brake on the Monuments Board's conservation programme in the Ashanti region.

The state of conservation report identifies several factors that affect the property such as:

*Staffing levels* : Current levels of staffing in the Monuments Division, GMMB, regionally, and salaries/wages for management and employees of the GMMB nationally, are inadequate for the current responsibilities of the Monuments Division within the region to be properly sustained, let alone for the extension of those responsibilities which the envisaged developments referred to in the preceding section would require.

*Environmental pressures*: The only significant environmental pressures which adversely affect these properties are: (1) the warm humid tropical climate, which is destructive for traditional earth and wattle-and-daub buildings - heavy rain erodes the foundations and wall bases, high by destructive insects breed prolifically; and (2) intensification of agricultural development making the traditional building materials - thatching materials, bamboo, specific timber species - less easily obtainable.

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

**"The Bureau, concerned by the inadequate level of resources available for the conservation of the fragile Ashanti Traditional Buildings recommended that the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board prepare comprehensive conservation and site management plans within the context of envisaged regional integrated development programmes. It requested the Ghana authorities to inform the World Heritage Committee before its twenty-first session at the latest, on the initiatives taken in this matter."**

#### **Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (Tanzania)**

*Description and present state of conservation*: The Islands of Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara were inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1980. The ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani comprise the vestiges of the great mosque, constructed in the 12th century, of coral tiles embedded in a core of puddled clay. The remains of the Palace Husuni Kubwa, built between ca. 1310 and 1333; numerous mosques; the Geraza (in Swahili, the term means prison) constructed on the ruins of the Portuguese fortress; and finally, an entire urban complex with houses, public squares, burial grounds, etc. The ruins of Songo Mnara comprise five mosques and a number of domestic dwellings of puddled clay and wood within



the enclosing walls. Generally, the monuments are in a poor state of preservation. They are endangered by plant infestations, sea wave and river erosion. They are threatened by land use conflicts such as animal grazing, subsistence farming, constructions, vandalism, lack of a proper and functional management plan, surface and river erosion. The properties, which are protected under the Antiquities Act of 1964, and the Amendment of the above Act 1979, are under the custody of five staff employees at Kilwa Kisiwani and two at Songo Mnara. The management is exercised by the Antiquities Unit at national level; the Local Government at District level; and the village Government at local level.

The state of conservation report identifies several factors that affect the property such as:

*Development pressures* : Uncontrolled local house constructions and encroachment of subsistence farming.

*Environmental pressures* : Harvesting of marine resources; sea wave and river erosion; vegetation and micro-organism infestations on monuments; and deforestation in some places.

The state of conservation report identifies remedial measures such as a better management plan with the following objectives: to design a systematic and sustainable maintenance programme; to undertake major repairs and consolidation works on the monuments; to undertake archaeological and architectural study; to present and interpret the site and its monuments; and to study and evaluate the threatening problem of sea wave action and design the necessary preventative and consolidation works.

*Monitoring/Inspection*: The following key indicators for measuring state of conservation: beach erosion; encroachment of mangrove forests; plant growth infestations on ruins; weathering of architectural structures; humidity in structures; and land development pressures.

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

"The Bureau thanked the Antiquities Unit of Tanzania for having provided the state of conservation report. Since it is obvious that the site lacks proper documentation and a management plan, the Bureau recommended that a management plan be prepared by the Antiquities Unit of the Republic of Tanzania."

## North and South America

### City of Potosi (Bolivia)

The World Heritage Committee at its nineteenth session requested the Bolivian Government to be informed of the measures taken for the preservation and management of the Cerro Rico mountain. The

Secretary for Culture of Bolivia informed the Secretariat by letter dated 16 February 1996 that it shares the concerns about the potential degradation of the Cerro Rico and that it is collaborating with the regional authorities in the preparation of an ordinance for the use of the Cerro Rico.

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

**"The Bureau was pleased to note that the Secretary for Culture of Bolivia shares the concerns about the potential degradation of the Cerro Rico and that it is collaborating with the regional authorities in the preparation of an ordinance for the use of the Cerro Rico. It requested the Secretary for Culture to keep the Committee informed on the progress made in this respect."**

#### **Taos Pueblo (United States of America)**

The Committee at its nineteenth session discussed the potential impact of the extension of the Taos Airport on the World Heritage site of Taos Pueblo. Committee recommended to the authorities of the United States that an impartial professional review of the area defined by the Federal Aviation Administration for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be carried out in cooperation with ICOMOS and IUCN, and that a report be submitted to the twentieth session of the World Heritage Committee. The Committee also invited the State Party to consider the possible extension of the World Heritage site to include the culturally valuable areas related to the Taos Pueblo under the cultural landscape criteria.

A preliminary monitoring report dated May 1996 was received from the United States National Park Service. This report indicates that no agreement has been reached as of yet between the Federal Aviation Administration, the Taos Pueblo and the National Park Service on the definition of the geographic area of potential impacts and on the contents of the Environmental Impact Statement. As to the recommendations made by the Committee, the report indicates that these will have to move forward in full consultation with the Pueblo, which is self-governing, and that the recommendation regarding the possible extension of the World Heritage site will require a minimum of a year for consideration.

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

**"The Bureau took note of the information provided by the United States National Park Service in response to the World Heritage Committee's recommendation regarding the Environmental Impact Statement that is to be undertaken in relation to the proposed extension of the Taos airport and the possible extension of the Taos Pueblo World Heritage site. It requested the authorities to keep the Committee informed of any progress made in these matters."**

## Europe

### **Butrinti (Albania)**

Studies and minor restoration works are presently being carried out at Butrinti. These activities are funded by UNESCO (PROCEED) and the British Butrinti Foundation. In addition, The World Bank is conducting major studies related to the economic development (tourism) of the Albanian Ionic Coast around the World Heritage site, that is across the Strait from Corfu. Albania has made a request for technical assistance for monitoring these activities.

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

"The Bureau commended the Albanian authorities for their efforts. In addition, it recommended that the Committee be kept informed about the on-going activities."

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

The construction developments endangering the cultural landscape of the World Heritage site of Potsdam-Sanssouci were reviewed on two visits by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee and the World Heritage Centre, in December 1995 and January 1996. As a result of the missions, enlargement of the site is anticipated, including an extension of the "Neuer Garten" and of the "Barbelsberger Park". The corridor "Russische Kolonie/Kapellenberg/Pfingstberg" may also become integrated into the World Heritage site. An outline proposal for the preparation of an overall cultural landscape management plan, presented by the Mayor of Potsdam, has been received and is currently being reviewed.

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

"The Bureau took note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the possible extension of the World Heritage site. It requested the Secretariat to write a letter to the German authorities encouraging them to extend the site in order to include the "Neuer Garten" and the "Barbelsberger Park" as well as the corridor "Russische Kolonie/Kapellenberg/Pfingstberg."

### **Roman Monuments in Trier (Germany)**

The planning of dense housing construction and the already granted building permits for town villas, on an area formerly owned by a brewery, located just opposite the Amphitheatre of Trier, has come to the attention of the Centre. At the time of this report, a mission is planned to review together with the

authorities concerned, the state of conservation of this World Heritage property and to discuss future town development projects and their eventual impact on World Heritage conservation.

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

"The Bureau took note of information provided by the Secretariat on housing construction that might have an impact on the World Heritage site. It requested the Secretariat to report on the results of an expert mission to Trier at the next session of the Bureau in December 1996."

#### **Vilnius Old Town (Lithuania)**

The elaboration of the Action Plan for the restoration and upgrading of Vilnius Old Town is progressing satisfactorily and on schedule. The consultants' final report is due late July 1996. This planning activity is conducted in collaboration with The World Bank. In May, the Lithuanian UNESCO House, located in Vilnius Old Town, will be inaugurated by the Director-General of UNESCO. An International Donors and Investors Conference, for the purpose of identifying funds for the Vilnius Old Town rehabilitation programme, is being considered by the Lithuanian Government for either early October 1996 or at a later date in 1997.

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

"The Bureau commended the Lithuanian authorities for their efforts, and encouraged them to pursue the promising revitalization programme for the Historic Centre of Vilnius."

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

After receiving information concerning the construction of a supermarket within the close proximity of the Auschwitz concentration camp, thought to be within the UNESCO "protective zone", the Centre responded immediately by sending a letter to the Permanent Delegation of Poland to UNESCO. So far the information received indicates that the construction has been halted and an investigation is being undertaken by a Special Commission, under the presidency of an ICOMOS member.

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

"In view of the information provided by the Secretariat regarding construction works thought to be within the World Heritage protective zone, the Bureau requested the Centre to write a letter to the national authorities encouraging

them to review the boundary zone and to redefine the nature of their protection".

### Arab States

#### **Baalbeck and Tyr (Lebanon)**

UNESCO organized a mission of two experts to the site, from 24 November to 4 December 1995.

##### **a) Baalbeck**

This mission noted the disturbances and water infiltration in the underground passages, which could be remedied by efficient maintenance of the site, and especially called attention to a serious alteration in the inner north-east angle of the Temple of Bacchus where the combined effects of water infiltration and frost have eroded the sculpted decoration, causing the stone to crack and weakening the inner wall of the construction to the point of possible collapse, with the consequent danger for tourists.

Furthermore, if the electrical transformer project appears to have been abandoned, a rectilinear road project, passing near the back of the site, in a natural environment of traditional cultivation and gardens, must definitely be abandoned. Finally, efforts should be made to make the site's welcoming and access facilities more functional and aesthetic.

##### **b) Tyr**

By letter of 22 December 1995, the Centre transmitted to Mr Michel Eddé, Minister of Culture and Higher Education, the Committee's thanks for the assurances given concerning the Lebanese Government's desire to protect the site of Tyr and its surrounding natural environment, and in particular with regard to a project for a commercial and tourist port adjacent to the northern part of the old port.

During its visit, the expert mission to the site stressed that the project for a commercial port in the immediate vicinity of the site appeared to have been abandoned and that another more distant location was being sought.

It however emphasized that the hippodrome and the aqueduct, situated to the east of the World Heritage site, should clearly be protected against different urban development projects.

By letter of 13 March 1996, UNESCO transmitted to Mr. Michel Eddé the experts' reports and recommendations concerning the two sites.

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

"The Bureau thanked the Lebanese authorities for the efforts undertaken for the conservation of the sites of Baalbeck and Tyr, and recommended they take the necessary measures to ensure their preservation:

a) Baalbeck

- urgent conservation measures to halt the degradation of the north-east angle of the Temple of Bacchus, protect tourists and implement the necessary conservation and restoration measures,
- halt water infiltration and other interference in the underground tunnels,
- total abandon of both the rectilinear road project envisaged behind the site, in order to preserve its natural environment and traditional agricultural activities, and the electrical transformer project.

b) Tyr

- continue to ensure that no tourist or commercial port project be envisaged in the immediate vicinity of the World Heritage site,
- take legal and financial action to preserve the hippodrome and the aqueduct."

**Medina of Fez (Morocco)**

By letter of 22 December 1995, the Centre transmitted to the Moroccan authorities the Committee's concerns with regard to the threatened projects for automobile traffic through the Medina of Fez and the demolition already carried out in the Ain Azliten quarter, and requested them to provide information on measures undertaken.

By letter of 22 February 1996, the Permanent Delegation of Morocco transmitted to the Centre a copy of a letter dated 15 February from Mr Abdallah Azmani, Minister of Cultural Affairs, informing that the central government authorities, as well as the provincial and local authorities, had been contacted with regard to the position of the Committee, "to ensure that the principles for 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 desire of the national authorities to preserve the site, and indicating that the present orientations for access to the Medina are completely modified and no longer reflect the initial road projects.

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

"After having been informed by the Secretariat of the measures undertaken by the Minister of Cultural Affairs of the Kingdom of Morocco to ensure the safeguarding of the Medina of Fez against the threatening automobile circulation project, the Bureau expressed its warm thanks to the national authorities of Morocco and to their Cultural Heritage Directorate, and recommended that they continue to be vigilant with regard to any new project of this kind, and that economic development projects envisaged with assistance from The World Bank continue to be carefully evaluated with regard to the preservation of the cultural values of the site in all their aspects."

#### **Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen)**

The Centre was informed that totally inappropriate work has been undertaken at the Grand Mosque of Zabid, which dates from the 15th century.

It appears that damage has already been done to the authenticity and the integrity of the monument: the roof has been repaired with concrete, the dedicatory inscription of 1492 has been partially cut in order to install beams, the decorative wall panels have been damaged by electrical installation work, and concrete block toilets have been built in the area of the old ablution courtyard. There is also question of the foundations being raised to protect the Mosque from possible flooding.

By letter of 16 February, the Centre transmitted its grave concern to the Minister of Culture and Tourism, drawing his attention to the Articles of the Convention and the Guidelines for the work, the principles of restoration and respect of authenticity, and proposing the assistance of an international expert. By letter of 5 March, the Permanent Delegation informed the Centre that the Minister had replied that the works were financed by local donation and that the restoration was being carried out "without deformation". The Minister also accepted the offer of an expert.

The Centre proposed to the Director of the Canadian archaeological mission in Yemen that he assist the Yemeni authorities in this matter.

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

"The Bureau informs the Yemeni authorities of its concern with regard to the work undertaken by local donors at the Grand Mosque, part of the World Heritage site of the Historic Town of Zabid, and which appears to be causing serious damage to the authenticity and integrity of the monument."

It draws their attention to Articles 4 and 5 of the World Heritage Convention whereby States Parties undertake to ensure the protection and the conservation of their heritage, and that conservation must be carried out in accordance with international standards, such as the Charter of Venice, in order to ensure respect of authenticity. It also recalls that Paragraph 24(b) of the Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention concerning the respect of authenticity of properties inscribed, and requests them to conform in the future to Paragraphs 56 and 75 which invite States Parties to inform the Committee, through the Secretariat, of their intention to undertake or to authorize, in an area protected by the Convention, major restoration work or new constructions.

Finally, it reminds the Yemeni authorities that the Committee is always ready to provide international expert advice prior to any restoration work, and requests that the work be discontinued until this expert advice can be obtained."

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

The authorities of the Syrian Arab Republic had requested that UNESCO send an expert mission to Damascus, to provide advice on the restoration of the Omeyyades Mosque, where work was already underway.

This mission, comprising five experts of international renown, visited the site from 29 November to 5 December 1995. Their reports emphasized the tremendous investment on the part of the Syrian authorities for the conservation of the monument, but also revealed that, unfortunately, the work carried out over several years at the Mosque had been undertaken without sufficient preliminary studies and without taking account of the fundamental tenets of conservation and restoration of historic buildings, and that the consequences on the preservation of this monument, of world renown, are very disturbing.

The inordinate use of concrete, cement, marble and other materials, the demolition, reconstruction and replacement of materials, the way in which the work has been carried out and its general guidelines, are in fact more often than not totally contrary to the basic principles of restoration which, for years, have been observed by the entire international community.

The experts' reports and a summary have been sent to the General Direction of Antiquities and Museums, and by letters dated 19 January, the Centre and the Division of Cultural Heritage requested the Minister of Culture and the Minister of National Education, President of the National Commission, to undertake the necessary action to stop the work immediately and to continue it only when in-depth studies could be carried out, and in accordance with international standards for the respect of authenticity.



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

"The World Heritage Bureau expressed to the authorities of the Syrian Arab Republic their grave concern with regard to the serious damage sustained to the authenticity of this exceptional monument through the inordinate use of reinforced concrete, cement, plaster and marble, and by the demolition and reconstruction work carried out without sufficient scientific studies and without taking into account international standards for authenticity and integrity. It recalls Articles 4 and 5 of the World Heritage Convention ratified by the Syrian Arab Republic on 13 August 1975, whereby States Parties undertake to ensure the protection and conservation of their heritage - in accordance with international standards - and Paragraphs 24(b), 56 and 75 of the Guidelines for its implementation concerning the respect of the authenticity of the sites inscribed on the World Heritage List, and inviting States Parties to the World Heritage Convention to inform it, through the Secretariat of UNESCO, of their intentions to undertake or to authorize, in an area protected by the Convention, major restoration work or new constructions, which, in all evidence, have not been respected.

It requests the authorities to immediately issue the necessary instructions to suspend the work and that no further work be undertaken prior to a careful and in-depth study of the present needs, and in conformity with the standards of the international community concerning restoration work which respects the historical value of the monuments and with the advice, should they so wish, of experts that UNESCO is willing to provide.

It further recommends to avoid such work at all costs so as not to compromise the authenticity of other World Heritage sites, as for example, the monuments of the Ancient City of Aleppo. The Bureau thanks the authorities for the financial and human resources provided by Syria for the preservation of its heritage in general."

#### Petra (Jordan)

The Centre was informed of the existence of different construction or road widening projects leading to the site, of the construction or the uncontrolled elevation of houses in the vicinity of the site and in particular at Um-Sayhun, with the aim of accommodating tourists, and the use of cement in the creation of tourist itineraries within the site and in particular for the stairway leading to the Djebel al-Khubta.

Finally, numerous juniper trees were burnt, with negative effects to the natural environment of the site. A mission to the site, foreseen for March, did not take place due to the change of government in Jordan. UNESCO has expressed its concern to the

national authorities through its Bureau in Amman, and, by letter of 19 March, has informed the Permanent Delegation of the problem concerning the damage caused by tourists.

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

"The Bureau recommends that the Royal Kingdom of Jordan undertake the measures necessary to ensure the long-term conservation of the World Heritage site of Petra, and more particularly that it:

- halt all projects for the construction of new tourist roads, and carefully evaluate the impacts of the road-widening project of Wadi Musa at Taybeth;

- carefully evaluate the location of the water purification station;

- prolong the interdiction of building authorizations for hotels until the zoning regulations as proposed by the UNESCO experts can be adopted;

- halt all construction of new houses, as at Um-Sayhun, or the elevation of existing houses for tourist purposes and enforce the construction regulations;

- prohibit the use of reinforced concrete in developing or repairing the site, such as for the stairway leading to Djebel al-Khubta;

- protect the juniper trees and the vegetation of the natural environment of the site.

The Bureau encourages the national authorities to continue the implementation of effective long-term protection for the site, and the measures advocated by the Petra Management Plan of the UNESCO experts".