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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

24 - 28 June 1996

REQUESTS FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

A. Natural Heritage

A.1 Technical Co-operation

A.1.1 Request for Architectural Design for the
Interpretation Centre on Isabela Island,
Galapagos National Park (Ecuador)

Background : In 1988, a Master Plan for Environmental Education and Interpretation for the Galapagos Islands was established, receiving financial assistance from the World Heritage Fund. One of the recommendations of this plan was the construction of an interpretation centre on the island of Isabela. A competition for design proposals was organized, and one project chosen.

Description of the request : The proposal seeks support from the World Heritage Fund, in order to continue the work on the architectural design of the interpretation centre. This work includes, in particular, detailed construction plans for the various parts of the building as well as preparatory engineering design work.

National and other contributions : The construction of the interpretation centre is supported with US\$ 700.000 under Spanish bilateral aid, US\$ 40.000 from the Charles Darwin Foundation and US\$ 100.000 from other donors, including a certain amount of national contributions.

Amount requested from the Fund : The requested amount of US\$ 25.900 would serve to cover the salary of the architect and engineers plus related expenses.

Action by the Bureau : The Bureau will be informed of the outcome of a mission to the Galapagos Archipelgo to be undertaken at the request of the Committee in early June. As a result of this mission, recommendations for technical cooperation may be formulated.

A.1.2 Request for Technical Assistance for Virunga National Park, World Heritage in Danger List, (Zaire)

Background : The site was included in the World Heritage in Danger List in 1994 due to the influx of refugees from Rwanda. Emergency assistance (US\$ 50.000) was provided in 1993/94 to reinforce the management of the site.

Description of the request : The present proposal was presented by the former Minister of the Environment and was received in March 1996. The project is to reinforce the equipment (range - rover, 4 motors and equipment for the wardens of the site), to strengthen the conservation of the biodiversity of the site, to integrate and to inform local communities about the site as well as to prepare reforestation programmes for the communities.

National and other contributions : The national contribution covers the payment of salaries of the staff, rations for the wardens, and a budget for the management of the site.

Amount requested from the Fund : The requested amount is US\$ 100.000.

Action by the Bureau : In light of the limited resources of the Fund, the Centre has organized a mission to the site to review the situation and to discuss the above project with the authorities concerned. The mission, moreover, aims at coordinating activities with other agencies and international donors. The Bureau may wish to request the Centre to write a letter to the authorities to submit a revised proposal not exceeding US\$ 50,000 to the twentieth session of the World Heritage Committee.

B.Promotional Activities

B.1.1 Preparation of Interpretation Materials for the Interpretation Centres of Isabela and Santa Cruz Islands, Galapagos National Park (Equator)

Background : As with the previous request, the need for interpretation material was identified in the Master Plan for Environmental Education and Interpretation for Galapagos National Park. The implementation of this plan is the subject of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Park Service, the Charles Darwin Foundation and the Government of Spain as the major donor.

Description of the request : The proposal seeks assistance from the World Heritage Fund for the development and production of various interpretation and promotion materials for the three interpretation centres foreseen in the Master Plan. The materials would include both fixed elements for the centres as well as posters, leaflets, etc. to be distributed to the local population and visitors.

National and other contributions : No national or other contributions have been identified in the proposal. It can, however, be assumed that major financial assistance from Spain is available in the frame of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Amount requested from the Fund : The requested amount of US\$ 29.900 would be used to cover the salary of one local interpretation specialist for one year plus related costs (equipment, travel, administration).

Action by the Bureau : Given the restrictions on financial assistance for promotional activities and in view of the substantive assistance from the Government of Spain, the Bureau might wish not to recommend this request.