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WHC-96/CONF.201/9  
Paris, 14 October 1996  
Original: English/French

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,  
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE  
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twentieth session  
Merida, Yucatan, Mexico

2-7 December 1996

**Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda : Examination of nominations of cultural and natural properties to the World Heritage List and List of World Heritage in Danger**

This document contains recommendations made by the Bureau at its twentieth session (June 1996) regarding the nominations of properties for inscription on the World Heritage List. The Bureau's recommendations regarding referred nominations (properties listed in sections A.2, B.2, B.3 and C.2 of this document) as well as earlier deferred/referred nominations for which additional information has been received, will be transmitted to the Committee during its session under working document WHC-96/CONF.201/9.Add.

**Decision required:** In accordance with paragraph 65 of the Operational Guidelines, the Committee is requested to examine the nominations for inscription on the World Heritage List on the basis of the Bureau's recommendations and take its decisions in the following three categories:

- (a) properties which it inscribes on the World Heritage List;
- (b) properties which it decides not to inscribe on the List;
- (c) properties whose consideration is deferred.

**a) Information on Tentative Lists**

In accordance with paragraphs 7 and 8 of the Guidelines, which require that States Parties submit a tentative nomination list of cultural properties, the Secretariat has verified that all the nominations submitted for examination in 1996 are listed on the tentative lists of the States concerned.

The tentative lists of all States Parties can be found in Working Document WHC-96/CONF.201/8.

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

**A. Natural properties**

The Bureau, at its 20th session, examined 11 new natural nominations received for review by IUCN. IUCN informed the Bureau that due to geographic and climate conditions field missions could not be carried out for all of these sites in time for the June meeting of the Bureau. The Bureau also examined one extension to a World Heritage site and two previously deferred nominations. The Secretariat furthermore informed the Bureau that one site was withdrawn.

The Bureau recommended one natural nomination for inscription, referred back seven nominations and deferred four nominations and one extension to a site.

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

<b>Name of Property</b>	<b>Identi- fication number</b>	<b>State Party having submitted the nomination (in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention)</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
<b>Okapi Wildlife Reserve</b>	<b>718</b>	<b>Zaire</b>	<b>N(iv)</b>

The Bureau recommended inscription of the property as one of the

most important sites for conservation, including the rare okapi and rich floral diversity, under criterion (iv). The Bureau expressed its hope that the activities outlined in the new management plan would ensure the integrity of the site.

#### **A.2 Properties for which the nominations were referred back**

**Belize Barrier Reef  
Complex Protected  
Area System**

**764**

**Belize**

The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe the Belize Barrier Reef Complex Protected Area System under criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv) as the largest barrier reef in the Northern hemisphere, as a serial nomination consisting of six sites. It noted, however, that the conditions of integrity are not fulfilled and referred the nomination back to the State Party in order to receive, by 1 September 1996, the following information: (1) a clarification on the boundaries of the nominated property, omitting the site of Hol Chan and adding the Blue Hole; (2) a statement on the establishment of the Coastal Management Authority and the legal status of the different parts of the nomination and (3) information on potential oil exploration activities. In this context, the Bureau requested the Centre to write a letter to the national authorities. It commended the GEF/UNDP for considerable funding for the protection of the coastal and marine resources.

The World Heritage Centre has received complementary information including on the legislation of the protected areas and a statement on the establishment of the Coastal Management Authority. This information has been transmitted to IUCN to be examined. In their letter of 8 October 1996 the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries indicated that the States Party wishes to change the name for the nominated property to "Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System".

**W National Park**

**749**

**Niger**

The Bureau took note of the information provided by IUCN that the nominated property would not meet natural criteria of the World

Heritage Convention. It was noted that the site was recognized as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve as presently constituted at the last session of the MAB Bureau with the recommendation to extend it to include adjoining areas of the neighbouring countries.

After a considerable debate and intervention by the Delegation of Niger, the Bureau decided that the nomination of "W" National Park be referred in order to :

- (a) allow trans-national discussion to be held on the possibility of including the full natural system of the region, and that the World Heritage Centre provides its assistance in this matter as far as possible;
- (b) assess the broader ecological values that have been advanced as special features and the contribution of the river and aquatic systems. The Bureau took note of the proposal by the Director of the Centre regarding the forthcoming technical meeting in Niger which could provide additional information to the twentieth extraordinary session of the Bureau in November 1996;
- (c) enable the World Heritage Centre to mobilize bilateral or multilateral cooperation entities to provide assistance in the development of management plans for the contiguous W National Parks and other conservation areas in the region.

The seminar is scheduled from 29 September to 5 October 1996. An oral report will be provided at the Bureau session (in November 1996).

**Lake Baikal**

**754**

**Russian Federation**

The Bureau took note of the oral report provided by IUCN. The Bureau decided to refer the nomination back to the State Party to allow it to (1) confirm the revised boundaries of the core area proposed for inscription, and (2) provide information about the status of the special Lake Baikal Law. Furthermore, the Bureau requested IUCN to submit a written evaluation. On the condition that this information is provided by 1 September 1996, in time for the twentieth extraordinary session of the Bureau, the Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe the nominated property as the most outstanding example of a fresh water ecosystem on the basis of criteria (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv). No information was received at the time of the preparation of

this document.

**The Volcanoes of  
Kamchatka**

765

Russian Federation

The Bureau took note of the information provided by IUCN that a field inspection of the site is scheduled for September 1996 and that a report will be provided to the twentieth extraordinary session of the Bureau in November 1996.

**The Sikhote-Alin Natural  
Complex**

766

Russian Federation

The Bureau took note of the information provided by IUCN that a field inspection of the site is scheduled for September 1996 and that a report will be provided to the twentieth extraordinary session of the Bureau in November 1996.

**The Ubsunuur Hollow**

769

Russian Federation/  
Mongolia

The Bureau took note of the information provided by IUCN that a field inspection of the site was carried out for the Russian part and that a full report will be provided to the twentieth extraordinary session of the Bureau in November 1996.

**B. Cultural properties**

The Bureau examined thirty-three new inscriptions, one extension of a cultural property, and four previously deferred or referred nominations.

The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe twenty-three cultural nominations on the World Heritage List and one extension to a site, did not recommend one nomination, referred back five nominations, deferred seven nominations, and adjourned the discussion of one nomination to the extraordinary session of the Bureau in November.

The Committee is informed that the Government of Uruguay, by letter of 24 July 1996, requested that the nomination of the Legislative Palace in Montevideo not be examined by the Committee at its 20th session as it intends to submit substantive additional information regarding this nomination in the future.

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

<b>Name of Property</b>	<b>Identi- fication number</b>	<b>State Party having submitted the nomination (in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention)</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
<b>The Monastery of Haghpat</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>Armenia</b>	<b>C(ii) (iv)</b>

The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe the Monastery of Haghpat in accordance with criteria (ii) and (iv). The title of the nomination should therefore read "The Monastery of Haghpat". The State Party was invited to consider an eventual extension to include the Sanahin Monastery, when restoration work had been completed and a decision had been reached on the ownership of this property and the Sanahin Bridge (Alavredi) and the Kayanberd Fortress.

<b>The Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>Austria</b>	<b>C(ii) (iv) (vi)</b>
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The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of criteria (ii), (iv) and (vi) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value being an important example of a European ecclesiastical city-state which preserves to a remarkable degree its dramatic townscape, its historical significant urban fabric and a large number of outstanding ecclesiastical and secular buildings from several centuries. It is also noteworthy for its associations with the arts, and in particular with music in the person of its famous son, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

<b>The Palace and Gardens of Schönbrunn</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>Austria</b>	<b>C(i) (iv)</b>
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The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of criteria (i) and (iv) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value being an especially well preserved example of the Baroque princely residential ensemble, which constitutes an outstanding example of a *Gesamtkunstwerk*. The Palace and Gardens are exceptional by

virtue of the evidence that they preserve modifications over several centuries that vividly illustrate the tastes, interests and aspirations of successive Habsburg monarchs.

**The Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape**      763      Czech Republic      C(ii)(iv)

The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of criteria (ii) and (iv) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value being a cultural landscape which is an exceptional example of the designed landscape that evolved in the Enlightenment and after under the care of a single family. It succeeds in bringing together in harmony cultural monuments from successive periods and both indigenous and exotic natural elements to create an outstanding work of human creativity.

**Le Canal du Midi**      770      France      C(i)(ii)(iv)(vi)

The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of criteria (i), (ii), (iv) and (vi) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value being one of the greatest engineering achievements of the Modern Age, providing the model for the flowering of technology that led directly to the Industrial Revolution and the modern technological age. Additionally, it combines with its technological innovation a concern for high aesthetic architectural and landscape design that has few parallels.

**Cologne Cathedral**      292Rev.      Germany      C(i)(ii)(iv)

The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of criteria (i) (ii) and (iv) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value being an exceptional work of human creative genius, constructed over more than six centuries and powerful testimony to the strength and persistence of Christian belief in medieval and modern Europe.

**The Bauhaus and its sites in Weimar and Dessau**      729      Germany      C(ii)(iv)(vi)

The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of criteria (ii) (iv) and (vi) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value since these buildings are the seminal works of the Bauhaus architectural school, the foundation of the Modern Movement which was to revolutionize artistic and architectural thinking and practice in the twentieth century.

<b>The Luther Memorials in Eisleben and Wittenberg</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>C(iv) (vi)</b>
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The Bureau decided to keep the Melanchthon's House in Wittenberg in the nomination. The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of criteria (iv) and (vi) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value bearing unique testimony to the Protestant Reformation, which was one of the most significant events in the religious and political history of the world and to which the buildings bear exceptional testimony.

<b>The Archaeological Site of Vergina</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>Greece</b>	<b>C(iii)</b>
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The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of criterion (iii) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value representing an exceptional testimony to a significant development in European civilization, at the transition from classical city-state to the imperial structure of the Hellenistic and Roman periods. This is vividly demonstrated in particular by the remarkable series of royal tombs and their rich contents.

<b>The Millenary Benedictine Monastery of Pannonhalma and its Natural Environment</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>Hungary</b>	<b>C(iv) (vi)</b>
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The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of criteria (iv) and (vi) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value illustrating in an exceptional manner the structure and setting of an early Christian Monastery that has evolved over a thousand years of continuous use. Its location and the early date of its



foundation bear unique witness to the propagation and continuity of Christianity in Central Europe.

**Sangiran Early Man Site**                      593                      Indonesia                      C(iii) (vi)

The Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe the site under criteria (iii) and (vi) as one of the key sites for the understanding of human evolution that admirably illustrates the development of *Homo sapiens sapiens* from the Middle Pleistocene to the present through the outstanding fossil and artefactual material that it has produced.

**Skellig Michael**                      757                      Ireland                      C(iii) (iv)

The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of criteria (iii) and (iv) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value being an exceptional, and in many respects unique example of an early religious settlement deliberately sited on a pyramidal rock in the ocean, preserved because of a remarkable environment. It illustrates, as no other site can, the extremes of a Christian monasticism characterizing much of North Africa, the Near East and Europe.

**Castel del Monte**                      398Rev.                      Italy                      C(i) (iii)

The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of criteria (i) and (iii) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value as in its formal perfection and its harmonious blending of cultural elements from northern Europe, the Muslim world, and classical antiquity. Castel del Monte is a unique masterpiece of medieval military architecture, reflecting the humanism of its founder, Frederick II of Hohenstaufen.

The Bureau requested that the competent Italian authorities provide information on the car park project which would be visually obstructive and consider the suppression of the trees planted near the top of the hill where the castle is built.

**The Trulli of Alberobello**                      787                      Italy                      C(iii) (iv) (v)

The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe the nominated

property on the basis of criteria (iii) (iv) and (v) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value being an exceptional example of a form of building construction deriving from prehistoric construction techniques that have survived intact and functional into the modern world. Further the Bureau recommended that the Italian authorities consider the up-grading of the streetscape.

The Bureau decided to rename this property to "**The Trulli of Alberobello**"

<b>The Early Christian Monuments and Mosaics of Ravenna</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>Italy</b>	<b>C(i) (ii) (iii) (iv)</b>
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The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of criteria (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value being of remarkable significance by virtue of the supreme artistry of the mosaic art that the monuments contain, and also because of the crucial evidence that they provide of artistic and religious relationships and contacts at an important period of European cultural history.

The Bureau decided to rename the property to "**The Early Christian Monuments and Mosaics of Ravenna**".

<b>The Historic Centre of the City of Pienza</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>Italy</b>	<b>C(i) (ii) (iv)</b>
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The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of criteria (i), (ii) and (iv) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value as it represents the first application of the Renaissance Humanist concept of urban design, and as such occupies a seminal position in the development of the concept of the planned "ideal town" which was to play a significant role in subsequent urban development in Italy and beyond. The application of this principle in Pienza, and in particular in the group of buildings around the central square, resulted in a masterpiece of human creative genius.

<b>Itsukushima Shinto</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>Japan</b>	<b>C(i) (ii) (iv) (vi)</b>
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**Shrine**

The Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe the group of buildings under criteria (i) (ii) (iv) and (vi) as the supreme example of this form of religious centre, setting traditional architecture of great artistic and technical merit against a dramatic natural background and thereby creating a work of art of incomparable physical beauty.

**The Historic City of Meknes**                      **793**                      **Morocco**                      **C(iv)**

The Bureau recommended that the Committee inscribe the Historic City of Meknes under criterion (iv) because it represents an exceptionally complete example and well preserved way the urban fabric and monumental buildings of a 17th century Maghreb capital city which combines elements of Islamic and European design and planning in a harmonious fashion.

**The Defence Line of Amsterdam**                      **759**                      **Netherlands**                      **C(ii) (iv) (v)**

The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of criteria (ii), (iv) and (v) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value as it is an exceptional example of an extensive integrated defence system of the modern period which has survived intact and well conserved since it was created in the later 19th century. It is also notable for the unique way in which the Dutch genius for hydraulic engineering has been incorporated into the defences of the nation's capital city.

**The Historic Centre of Oporto**                      **755**                      **Portugal**                      **C(iv)**

The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of criterion (iv) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value as the urban fabric and its many historic buildings bears remarkable testimony to the development over the past thousand years of a European city that looks outward to the west for its cultural and commercial links.

**The Historic Walled Town of Cuenca**                      **781**                      **Spain**                      **C(ii) (v)**

The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of criteria (ii) and (v) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value as it is an exceptional example of the medieval fortress town that has preserved its original townscape remarkably intact along with many excellent examples of religious and secular architecture from the 12th and 18th centuries. It is also exceptional because the walled town blends into and enhances the fine rural and natural landscape within which it is situated.

**La Lonja de la Seda de Valencia**                      782                      **Spain**                      **C(i)(iv)**

The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of criteria (i) and (iv) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value as it is a wholly exceptional example of a secular building in late Gothic style, which dramatically illustrates the power and wealth of one of the great Mediterranean mercantile cities.

**The Church Village of Gammelstad, Lulea**                      762                      **Sweden**                      **C(ii)(iv)(v)**

The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of criteria (ii), (iv) and (v) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value as it is a remarkable example of the traditional church town of northern Scandinavia, and admirably illustrates the adaptation of conventional urban design to the special geographical and climatic conditions of a hostile natural environment.

**B.2 Properties for which nominations were referred back by the Bureau (in June 1996)**

**Verla Groundwood and Board Mill**                      751                      **Finland**                      **C(iv)**

ICOMOS proposed the extension of the nominated area to include significant buildings and structures relating in particular to the social unit associated with the Mill.

The Bureau recognized that this property fulfilled criterion (iv) for inscription, but however, decided to refer it back to the State Party, to await an official written confirmation regarding

the extension of the site and the land planning regulations.

The Finnish Authorities have provided information on the extension of the nominated area and the land planning regulations.

**Upper Svaneti**                      709                      **Georgia**                      **C(iv) (v)**

The Bureau recognized that the property fulfilled criteria (iv) and (v), but decided to refer this nomination back to the State Party to allow it to delineate a recognizable and representative area which could be effectively managed. ICOMOS stressed also that it would strongly support inscription of the Uzguli-Chazhashi Reserve under criteria (iv) and (v) in the event of this being confirmed as the nominated area by the State Party.

At the time of the preparation of this document, no further information has been received by the Centre.

**The Ancient ksour of**            750                      **Mauritania**  
**Ouadane, Chinguetti,**  
**Tichitt, Oualata**

After having taken note of the ICOMOS evaluation, the Bureau has been convinced of the outstanding universal value of the proposed nomination. However, there were some uncertainties concerning the conservation policy adopted by the Government of Mauritania with regard to the four towns.

Since then, additional information on this policy and on the conservation and development programmes established, implemented or already completed has been provided by the Mauritanian Authorities and transmitted to ICOMOS which was able to provide a new evaluation.

**The Prehispanic Town**        791                      **Mexico**                      **C(i) (ii) (iii)**  
**of Uxmal**

The Bureau endorsed the recommendation made by ICOMOS and decided to refer this nomination back to the State Party, requesting that it reduces the visibility of the "son et lumière" installations, and also considers the possibility of extending the nomination to cover the four related sites of Kabah, Labna, Sayil and Xlapak. In the event that the State Party accedes to these requests, the Bureau, considering that the ruins of the ceremonial structures at Uxmal represent the pinnacle of late

Mayan art and architecture in their design, layout and ornamentation, recommended that the property be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (i), (ii), and (iii).

Information regarding the "son et lumière" has been received and transmitted to ICOMOS for examination. No reply has been received yet regarding the possible extension of the nomination.

<b>The Historic Monuments Zone of Querétaro</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>Mexico</b>	<b>C(iv)</b>
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The Bureau was of the opinion that this property meets at least one criterion for cultural properties (criterion (iv)) and possibly others.

According to the decision of the Bureau, ICOMOS has clarified the criteria.

**B.3 Property for which the discussion was adjourned to the next extraordinary session of the Bureau (November 1996)**

<b>Hiroshima Peace Memorial (Genbaku Dome)</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>Japan</b>
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The Bureau took note of ICOMOS recommendation concerning the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, Genbaku Dome, Japan (775) in its written report (1996) and decided to adjourn the discussion of this matter to the extraordinary session of the Bureau in November 1996.

**B.4 Extension of a World Heritage site**

<b>The City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto</b>	<b>712bis</b>	<b>Italy</b>	<b>C(i)(ii)</b>
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The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of criteria (i) and (ii).

With the proposed extension the Bureau further recommended that the name be changed to "The City of Vicenza and the Palladian

**Villas of the Veneto."**

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that it had received a letter in May 1996 from the Italian Delegation concerning the withdrawal of the Villa Thiene in Cicogna di Villafranca Padovana from the proposed extension.

**C. Mixed properties**

The Bureau examined three nominations for inscription of mixed sites which had been sent to ICOMOS and IUCN for review.

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

Name of Property	Identi- fication number	State Party having submitted the nomination (in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention)	Criteria
<b>Mt. Emei and Leshan Giant Buddha</b>	779	China	<b>C(iv) (vi) N(iv)</b>

The Bureau recommended that the World Heritage Committee inscribe the site under cultural criteria (iv) and (vi) as an area of exceptional cultural significance related to Buddhism and of natural beauty into which the human element has been integrated, and natural criterion (iv) for its high plant species diversity with a high number of endemic species. The Bureau furthermore recommended that the Chinese authorities carefully control tourism development at the site and encourage involvement of the Buddhist Monasteries in conservation activities on the mountain.

<b>The Lapponian Area Precious Nature - Saami Culture</b>	774	Sweden	<b>C(iii) (v) N(i) (ii) (iii) (iv)</b>
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The Bureau recommended that the World Heritage Committee inscribe the nominated property on the basis of natural criteria (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv). The Bureau considered that the site is of outstanding universal value as it contains examples of ongoing geological, biological and ecological processes, a great variety

of natural phenomena of exceptional beauty and contains significant biological diversity including a population of brown bear and alpine flora. It was noted that the site meets all conditions of integrity.

The Bureau also recommended inscription under cultural criteria (iii) and (v) as the site is one of the last and largest examples of pastoralism with transhumance.

The Bureau encouraged the Swedish authorities (a) to continue to work with the Saami people on the environmental impact of reindeer herding, (b) to extend the inventory of species and (c) to consolidate management planning for a single World Heritage area. The Bureau would welcome consideration being given to the possibility of a transboundary site with Norway. By letter of 6 August 1996 the Swedish authorities acknowledged the Bureau recommendations.

#### **C.2 Property for which the nomination were referred back**

<b>Lushan National Park</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>China</b>	<b>C(ii) (iii) (iv) (vi)</b>
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The Bureau recommended that the World Heritage Committee inscribe the site under cultural criteria (ii), (iii), (iv) and (vi) as a cultural landscape of outstanding aesthetic value and its powerful associations with Chinese spiritual and cultural life.

The State Party and IUCN have provided further clarifications on the boundaries of the site as cultural landscape. The Bureau also decided not to recommend the inscription of the property under natural criteria.