

Distribution limited

WHC-96/CONF.201/INF.5
Paris, 25 November 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 4 of the Provisional Agenda: Report of the Secretary on
the activities undertaken since the nineteenth session of the
Committee

SUMMARY

This document presents an overview of the activities carried out by the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with States Parties, the Advisory Bodies and other partners, between December 1995 and November 1996 according to the following subject headings:

1. Introduction
2. The Global Strategy
3. Tentative Lists
4. The World Heritage List
5. State of Conservation reporting
6. International Assistance
7. World Heritage under threat and
World Heritage in Danger
8. Examples of Regional Activities
9. Cooperation with the Advisory Bodies and other
partners
10. Training
11. Documentation, Information and Education
12. The World Heritage Centre
13. The 25th Anniversary of the Convention

More detailed information on each of these subjects may be found in the relevant working and information documents prepared for the twentieth session of the World Heritage Committee. Additional information has also been presented in the three issues of the *World Heritage Newsletter* and the two issues of the *World Heritage Review* published in 1996.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
1.	Introduction	3
2.	The Global Strategy	3
3.	Tentative Lists	5
4.	The World Heritage List	5
5.	State of Conservation reporting	6
6.	International Assistance	7
	Preparatory Assistance	
	Technical Assistance	
	Training Assistance	
	Emergency Assistance	
7.	World Heritage under threat and World Heritage in Danger	11
8.	Examples of Regional Activities	13
	Arab States	
	Africa	
	Asia and the Pacific	
	Europe	
	Latin America and the Caribbean	
9.	Cooperation with the Advisory Bodies and other partners	18
10.	Training	21
11.	Documentation, Information and Education	24
	Documentation, WHIN and the Internet	
	Information Materials	
	Education	
	Coproductions with the media and publishers	
12.	The World Heritage Centre	28
13.	25th Anniversary of the Convention	29

Annexes

Annex I	Increase in States Parties 1973-1996	
Annex II	Sites inscribed on the World Heritage List	
Annex III	New Nominations 1996 and 1997	
Annex IV	State of Conservation Reports	
Annex V	World Heritage Web Usage Statistics	

1. Introduction

The 1972 UNESCO *Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* now has 147 States Parties with the ratification of the Convention by Belgium, Estonia, Iceland and Mauritius having come into effect since the nineteenth session of the World Heritage Committee in December 1995. Annex I shows the cumulative and incremental increase in the number of States Parties from 1973 to 1996.

This document presents an overview of the broad spectrum of activities carried out by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre working with States Parties, the Advisory Bodies (ICCRROM, ICOMOS and IUCN) and other partners, between December 1995 and November 1996.

2. The Global Strategy

Dans le cadre de la Stratégie globale adoptée par le Comité à sa 18ème session de 1994, plusieurs réunions thématiques et régionales ont été organisées en 1996 par le Centre, les organismes consultatifs et des Etats parties, pour identifier de nouveaux aspects du patrimoine mondial.

From 22 to 24 March 1996 a meeting on the "Evaluation of general principles and criteria for nominations of natural World Heritage sites" was held at the Parc national de la Vanoise, France. The meeting, hosted by the French Government, discussed the definitions and interpretations of the concepts of "outstanding universal value", aesthetic value of natural sites, integrity and the term "natural". The expert group also considered how best to acknowledge the complexity of interactions between nature and culture through the implementation of the Convention. In addition, the questions of balance, credibility and management of the World Heritage List were discussed. At the request of the twentieth session of the World Heritage Bureau the report of the Vanoise meeting, including a number of specific recommendations (see information document WHC-96/CONF.201/INF.8), was sent to all States Parties for comment under the cover of a Circular Letter.

In accordance with the "Action Plan for Cultural Landscapes" adopted by the seventeenth session of the World Heritage Committee in 1993, a regional expert meeting on "European Cultural Landscapes of Outstanding Universal Value" was held in Vienna, Austria on 21 April 1996. The meeting was held with the support of the Austrian National Commission for UNESCO and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education and

Cultural Affairs. 42 experts from 14 States Parties and NGO's (for example, ICOMOS, IUCN, IALE and IFLA) attended. The expert meeting was the first attempt at applying the concept of cultural landscapes as part of the "Global Strategy for a balance and representative World Heritage List" in the European region. The expert group discussed the application of the three World Heritage cultural landscape categories and explored the identification, assessment and evaluation of cultural landscapes for the European region. The expert group highlighted the existence of parallel initiatives and opportunities for collaborative approaches to World Heritage cultural landscape conservation in the region (for example with the Council of Europe who are in the final stages of preparing a draft non-legal text for a European Landscape Convention).

As requested by the eighteenth session of the World Heritage Bureau in 1994, and following preparatory work in 1995 and 1996, an expert meeting was held at the 30th International Geological Congress in Beijing, China in August 1996 to enhance the preparation of a comparative global study of the Earth's evolutionary history. The meeting was organized by the UNESCO Division of Earth Sciences and the World Heritage Centre, in co-operation with IUCN and IUGS (the International Union of Geological Sciences). Financial assistance for travel was provided by the Canadian Government. The expert meeting reviewed the sites inscribed in the World Heritage List on the basis of natural heritage criterion (i) and made recommendations on the criteria for the identification, evaluation and review of geological and fossil nominations for inclusion in the World Heritage List. The report of the expert meeting, including a number of recommendations, is presented in information document WHC-96/CONF.201/INF.10.

D'autre part, après avoir entrepris des consultations d'universitaires et de chercheurs scientifiques spécialistes de l'Afrique et de la Convention et réuni un comité d'experts de réputation internationale, le 6 mai, pour mettre au point ce projet, le Centre et l'ICOMOS ont organisé à Addis Abeba (Ethiopie), du 29 juillet au 1er août dernier, en étroite collaboration avec les responsables nationaux des Monuments et des musées (CRCCH), une deuxième réunion de stratégie globale pour contribuer à définir et identifier les types de biens culturels africains susceptibles de faire l'objet de propositions d'inscription sur la Liste. Environ 35 experts d'Etats parties ou non encore parties de la région ont participé à cette réunion et ont étudié la question de l'éligibilité pour inscription sur la Liste de très nombreux types de biens culturels (Patrimoine archéologique, Savoirs

traditionnels et patrimoine technique, Patrimoine spirituel, Etablissements humains, itinéraires culturels et routes d'échanges), représentatifs de l'histoire et de la vie des sociétés africaines. Cette réunion va donner lieu à l'établissement d'inventaires scientifiques, à la préparation de listes indicatives harmonisées dans le cadre d'une coopération sous-régionale puis à de nouvelles propositions d'inscription de biens culturels africains, actuellement particulièrement sous-représentés sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial (WHC-96/CONF.201/INF.7).

The report of the first Global Strategy meeting held in Harare, Zimbabwe in October 1995 entitled "African Cultural Heritage and the World Heritage Convention" has recently been published.

3. Tentative Lists

At its seventeenth session in Cartagena in December 1993, the Committee expressed its concern regarding the small number of tentative lists that have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Operational Guidelines. The Committee confirmed the importance of these lists for planning purposes and comparative analyses of nominations. Tentative lists constitute an inventory of the properties situated within the territory of each States Party, and which it considers suitable for nomination for inclusion on the World Heritage List in future years. Furthermore, the Committee decided at its seventeenth session in 1993 to reinforce the requirements for the form and content of tentative lists as of 1 October 1995.

Of the 147 States Parties to the Convention, 72 of these tentative lists comply with the format specified in the Operational Guidelines (see working document WHC-96/CONF.201/8). Further efforts are required in most regions to ensure the systematic preparation and use of tentative lists for the identification, assessment and evaluation of properties for inclusion in the World Heritage List.

A group of experts meeting in the Parc National de la Vanoise in France in March proposed that the obligatory requirement of a tentative list also be extended to natural properties (see information document WHC-96/CONF.201/INF.8).

4. The World Heritage List

Following the decisions made by the World Heritage Committee at its nineteenth session in Berlin in December 1995,

the World Heritage List now includes a total of 469 properties (350 cultural properties, 102 natural properties and 17 mixed properties) located in the territories of a total of 104 States Parties.

At its twentieth session the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee examined a total of 47 new nominations for inscription in the World Heritage List (11 natural, 33 cultural and 3 mixed cultural and natural properties). In addition the extension of one natural and one cultural World Heritage property were examined and 2 natural and 4 cultural heritage nominations previously deferred or referred were examined (see working documents WHC-96/CONF.201/4 and WHC-96/CONF.201/9).

For 1997 a total of 53 nominations (13 natural, 1 mixed and 39 cultural) have been forwarded to the Advisory Bodies by the World Heritage Centre for evaluation. Annex III shows the cumulative and incremental increase in the number of sites inscribed on the World Heritage List from 1978 to 1995.

The regional distribution of new nominations remains strongly biased towards Western Europe for 1996 and 1997 as shown in Annex III.

It is pleasing to note that in 1996 the Committee is examining nominations from four States for the first time (Armenia, Austria, Belize, and Mongolia jointly with the Russian Federation).

5. State of Conservation reporting

Following the decision of the Committee at its nineteenth session, the Bureau at its twentieth session prepared a draft report on the methodological and procedural aspects of systematic monitoring and reporting on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties. The report includes the draft resolution prepared by the Committee at its nineteenth session. If adopted, the Committee will submit the report to the Eleventh General Assembly of States Parties that will be held in late 1997. Considering the Committee's decision that a draft resolution on monitoring and reporting should also be included in its report to the 29th General Conference of UNESCO, the Bureau prepared such a draft resolution for examination by the Committee (see working document WHC-96/CONF.201/6A).

As to the more technical aspects of the reporting, the Secretariat has, upon the request of the Committee at its

nineteenth session, circulated the proposed new nomination form and the format for the periodic state of conservation reports among all States Parties to the Convention. The replies of the States Parties will be brought to the attention of the Committee together with proposals for actions in 1997 (see working document WHC-96/CONF.201/6B).

The Bureau at its twentieth session in June 1996 again examined a great number of state of conservation reports - forty-four in total: twenty-two on natural, two on mixed and twenty on cultural properties. These reports were based on information received from the States Parties, Advisory Bodies and other partners in World Heritage conservation.

At this its twentieth session, the Committee will be requested to examine a total of fifty-four state of conservation reports: thirty-one on cultural, twenty-two on natural and one on mixed properties. Of the fifty-four reports, thirteen are from Africa, seven from the Arab States, fifteen from Europe and North America, nine from Latin America and the Caribbean and ten from Asia and the Pacific (see Annex IV).

It should be noted that since 1994, state of conservation reports on the 15 African cultural sites have been submitted either to the Bureau or to the Committee.

As for the systematic monitoring exercise in Asia, the state of conservation reports of more than thirty cultural sites inscribed before 1992, other than those in India and three in Sri Lanka, will have been completed by the end of 1996. In 1997, it is hoped that reports on the remaining cultural sites in the Asia and the Pacific region can be prepared by the States Parties concerned.

6. International Assistance

The implementation of international assistance as approved by the Bureau, Committee and Chairperson is summarised in working document WHC-96/CONF.201/14A as of 31 August 1996. An overview of international assistance activities is also summarised below.

During 1996, **preparatory assistance** has been implemented for the preparation of technical studies for the conservation of properties in Brazil and Ecuador and for the preparation of tentative lists and nomination dossiers (Dominica, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia) and a thematic meeting on fortifications in

the Caribbean (held in Colombia in August 1996). It is hoped that these activities contribute to balancing the World Heritage List for Latin America and the Caribbean cultural heritage which currently shows a very strong emphasis on colonial cities.

The 1995 preparatory assistance grant for Luang Prabang, Laos has been used as seed funding for the preparation of building guidelines for this historic town. The project has resulted in the preparation of a much larger project on the Heritage House which is now partially funded by the French Government and the European Union, enabling progress in the development of an urban preservation plan and building guidelines as well as draft law on the protection of cultural property, including urban historic sectors.

Preparatory assistance for Rohtas Fort, Pakistan was used in 1995 to revise the nomination dossier deferred in 1990. In 1996, under this grant, a comparative study of early Islamic forts is under preparation for completion by June 1997.

The 1995 preparatory assistance grant for the Indus Valley Civilization, Pakistan helped to establish an international and national scientific group coordinated by the Musee Guimet (Paris, France). This group is working on the feasibility of a serial or group nomination of several early-Indus Valley archaeological sites for inclusion in the World Heritage List.

The 1995 preparatory assistance grant to Mongolia funded a National Interministerial workshop to prepare a tentative list of cultural and natural properties. The tentative list has been received by the World Heritage Centre.

During 1996 assistance was approved for the preparation of a tentative list for natural heritage for Sudan and the preparation of a nomination of Wadi Howar.

During 1996 preparatory assistance was approved for the preparation of the nomination of Lorenz National Reserve (Indonesia). The preparatory assistance for the nomination of East Rennell has not been processed as the Solomon Islands has not yet paid its contribution to the World Heritage Fund.

During 1996 preparatory assistance was approved for the identification of natural heritage in Guyana and the arrangements for the nomination of Palace Cave (Uruguay) have been made. The preparation of the nomination of Trois Morne Pitons Park

(Dominica) has been finalized since the approval of assistance by the Chairperson on 21 December 1995.

The assistance provided for the preparation of the nomination dossier of Riga in Latvia has been successfully completed and in a collaborative effort with the NWHO a rehabilitation project has been identified and an analytic study is in progress at the historic city. Funding for this project is presently being discussed with Denmark, France and Norway and may also involve the European Commission.

Tanzania has received preparatory assistance for the collection of data and considerations required for the preparation of their tentative list. Zimbabwe has organized in November 1996, a sub-regional meeting with participants from 10 countries to examine and harmonize tentative lists.

Technical cooperation/assistance projects for Latin America focussed on conservation and management issues at complex sites, such as the archaeological park of San Agustin (Colombia) and the missions in Bolivia, but above all on cities: urban conservation, rehabilitation and development were the subjects of activities in Olinda and Ouro Preto (Brazil), Mompox (Colombia) and Lima (Peru).

The installation of a security alarm system at the Mountain Resort and Outlying Temples, Chengde, China, financed by a technical assistance grant, is expected to be completed by early 1997.

At Hue, Vietnam, the technical assistance grant approved in 1994 for the establishment of an on-site wood conservation laboratory was fully implemented in 1996.

Since the last session of the Committee, technical cooperation was provided to Lake Malawi National Park (Malawi) for community awareness training and for a biodiversity inventory, as well as for a scientific conference on Rwenzori Mountains (Uganda) and for the mixed site of Tassili n'Ajjer (Algeria).

Technical cooperation has also been provided for the conservation of Tubbataha Reef Marine Park (Philippines), for equipment at Komodo National Park (Indonesia) and a regional technical meeting held in Indonesia.

Technical cooperation was provided for the preparation of a management plan for Los Glaciares (Argentina).

The technical assistance provided for the Slovak Republic and Bulgaria have been successfully implemented. Assistance focussed primarily on the conservation and restoration of cultural heritage as well as on the identification of threats to architectural structures. The technical assistance approved for Albania has so far not been implemented as Albania is in arrears with its contributions to the World Heritage Fund. Several collaborators are standing by to commence with the urgent conservation works.

Technical cooperation has been given to for the completion of an integral conservation and management project and assistance was also provided to Mali for the organization of a pilot training project of the three mosques of Timbuktu which are on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Technical assistance was provided to conservation and restoration projects in Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Egypt as well as for two projects in Algeria.

Training assistance was provided for regional group training in the conservation and rehabilitation of monuments and cities (Brazil and Argentina) and earthen heritage (Chan Chan, Peru).

Assistance provided to China in 1995 is being used to prepare a training course for the World Heritage cultural site managers to be held in spring 1997.

Training assistance was provided for individual fellowships at the wildlife schools at Mweka (Tanzania) and Garoua (Cameroon) for students from 6 African countries. Two subregional training seminars were held for francophone protected area managers: in June in Cote d'Ivoire and in September/October in Niger.

Training assistance was provided for individual fellowships at a marine training course at Ailie Beach (Australia) for participants from Indonesia.

Training assistance was provided for two subregional training seminars for site managers from Latin America: at Fort Collins (United States of America) and at CATIE (Costa Rica).

An ICCROM regional training course on the restoration and conservation of architectural surfaces for Central and Eastern Europe took place in Austria between August and October 1996 with the support of the World Heritage Fund.

A conservation and enhancement course for the Palaces of Abomey, Benin, on the List of World Heritage in Danger was financed under training assistance and implemented by ICCROM. An ICCROM mission reviewed the state of conservation of James and Albreda Islands in Gambia and prepared a pilot conservation project with a training component which will be submitted to the Committee.

Four requests for **emergency assistance** for cultural heritage have been approved by the Chairperson of the Committee since its last session. An amount of US\$ 20,000 was made available for urgent consolidation works in Joya de Ceren, El Salvador and an amount of US\$ 50,000 for the cleaning of the altars and the interior of the church of La Compania in Quito, Ecuador, that was seriously affected by a fire in early 1996. An amount of US\$ 15,000 was approved for technical studies for the towers of the Teatro Sucre in Quito, Ecuador, whose instability, caused by an earthquake in 1987, worsened considerably in 1996. An amount of US\$ 40,000 was approved for the Historic Town of Lijiang, Yunnan, China following the severe earthquake.

The 1995 emergency assistance grant for the Minaret of Jam, Afghanistan (nomination deferred in 1983) could not be implemented due to military conflict in the region during the spring when weather conditions would have permitted action. The region is now under Taleban control but negotiations are currently in progress for implementation of the planned emergency action.

No emergency assistance was given in 1996 for natural heritage. However, support from the World Heritage Fund was provided for a World Heritage session at the World Conservation Congress (Montreal, Canada) in October 1996, including travel funds for participants from developing countries.

7. World Heritage under threat and World Heritage in Danger

Expert missions to a number of threatened World Heritage sites included missions to Plitvice National Park, Croatia; the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador; Simien National Park, Ethiopia; Palace and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin, Germany; Mount Nimba, Guinea/Cote d'Ivoire; Durmitor National Park, Yugoslavia; and Virunga and Kahuzi-Biega National Parks in Zaire.

An international expert mission was carried out to Plitvice National Park (Croatia) to review the state of

conservation of the site as well as to provide expertise for the future management of this site on the World Heritage in Danger List. Specific recommendations were presented to the twentieth session of the World Heritage Bureau. The report of this mission can be found in information document WHC-96/CONF.201/INF.14.

A mission to Galapagos National Park (Ecuador) led by the Chairman of the World Heritage Committee took place from 1 to 11 June 1996. The results and recommendations of the mission were presented to the twentieth session of the World Heritage Bureau as well as to the national authorities of Ecuador (see information document WHC-96/CONF.201/INF.13). The Director-General of UNESCO, the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee and the Chairman of the Committee called upon the President and the Congress of Ecuador to take the necessary action to mitigate the threats. Assistance was provided to revise the special legislation for the Galapagos.

Following the recommendation of the Bureau at its twentieth session, an expert mission to Simien National Park, Ethiopia was carried out between 13 and 19 October 1996. The objectives of the mission were to identify the current status of the management and administration of the Park, review current development activities and evaluate and report on the nature and extent of threats to World Heritage values. A technical assistance request has subsequently been received.

Since the nineteenth session of the World Heritage Committee in Berlin in December 1995, the World Heritage Centre has been informed of a number of threats to the World Heritage values and integrity of the Palace and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin, Germany from planned development projects. The Chairman of the World Heritage Committee visited the site in September 1996 and on the request of the City of Potsdam an ICOMOS expert mission was organized to advise the authorities on an urban planning strategy in November 1996. The reports and recommendations of these missions will be reported to the Committee under Item 7.2 of the Provisional Agenda (see working document WHC-96/CONF.201/7B).

An expert mission took place to Durmitor National Park (Yugoslavia) to review the situation at the site, including the damage to the visitor centre caused by a fire in 1995.

An expert mission was carried out to two endangered sites in Zaire: Kahuzi Biega and Virunga National Parks in May 1996

to assess the situation at the sites and to discuss cooperative conservation efforts with international organizations.

Yellowstone National Park was included on the List of World Heritage in Danger at the nineteenth session of the Committee in 1995 in response to potential threats related to proposed gold-mining activities adjacent to the Park boundary, hydrothermal exploration and bison population disease control; and ascertained threats including illegal introduction of exotic trout species and visitor management problems. A proposed land-swap, announced by the President of the United States in September 1996, may serve to ensure the protection of this icon of nature conservation. A state of conservation report for Yellowstone is included in the working document WHC-96/CONF.201/7B.

8. Examples of Regional Activities

Arab States

Le comité, à sa 19ème session, avait été informé de l'existence de dangereux projets de percées automobiles au travers de la Médina de Fès (Maroc). Grâce à un travail continu mené en étroite et pleine coopération avec les autorités marocaines, et en particulier la Direction du patrimoine culturel, ces projets de percées ont été écartés et, comme l'a confirmé le Ministre des Affaires culturelles, les instructions nécessaires ont été données aux diverses autorités concernées pour que les mesures de réhabilitation de la ville de Fès soient prises dans le plein respect des valeurs culturelles et sociales de la Médina.

Grâce à la mission de l'UNESCO, entreprise en novembre 1995, nous avons pu obtenir cette année que le Gouvernement libanais prenne les mesures nécessaires pour que le projet de remblaiement du vieux port de Tyr soit abandonné. Ce projet de construction de marina aurait en effet irrémédiablement détruit le patrimoine sub-aquatique du site. En outre, à la 20e session du Bureau du patrimoine mondial (24-29 juin 1996), le Directeur général des Antiquités du Liban a rappelé l'urgence de lancer officiellement la Campagne internationale de sauvegarde de Tyr.

Africa

A meeting on Rwenzori Mountains was held in Kampala (Uganda) in April 1996. The meeting proposed the creation of a Mountain Resources Centre at Makerere University, Kampala

(Uganda), which would promote collaboration between mountain World Heritage sites in Eastern Africa.

A donors round table was organized by the authorities in Guinea for the protection and conservation of Mount Nimba. A report was presented to the Bureau at its 20th session. As a follow-up the creation of a "Mount Nimba Foundation" is under study.

The site managers in Abomey, Djenne, Bandiagara and Timbuktu received baseline documentation about their sites which was not available in their country. The 6 Ethiopian site managers shall be receiving the same material about their sites in 1997.

Asia and the Pacific

In the Asia-Pacific Region, the Secretariat's activities continued to focus on the problems related to the safeguarding of World Heritage properties located in cities. The Centre participated in the World Summit on Cities - Habitat II Conference in Istanbul, notably in the seminar on Cities for the 21st Century in order to emphasize the importance of integrating the preservation of historic sectors in the overall urban development schemes. The brochure, "Cities of Asia for the Future", produced with extrabudgetary funds from the American Express Foundation was distributed.

In terms of operational activities, the project of technical cooperation between the City of Chinon in France and the World Heritage town of Luang Prabang in Laos initiated by the Centre, made significant progress. The Chinon-UNESCO mission in September resulted in the official acceptance by the Laotian authorities of the Heritage House Project co-financed by the French Government, the European Union and other donors. Under this project, a draft law and building guidelines have been prepared thereby strengthening the regulatory framework for heritage protection. In terms of management, a local inter-departmental site management committee, as well as a National Interministerial Committee were established. Progress has also been made in the urban preservation plan with the help of experts from the French Ministries of Culture and Equipment. The Provincial Authorities have formally agreed to a 15-year lease on three buildings to be renovated under the Chinon-Luang Prabang-UNESCO project under on-the-job training courses in conservation methodology.

This cooperation between local authorities has served to enrich the on-going Programme for the Safeguarding and

Development of World Heritage Cities in Asia. Similar technical cooperation between the local authorities in other European and Asian countries is being developed in collaboration with the European Union.

Cooperation involving universities and municipalities in Europe and Asia in the preparation of urban preservation plans for the city of Xian, Lhasa and Lijiang in China, Intramuros Manila in the Philippines, Hue in VietNam and the Kathmandu Valley in Nepal are also underway. The development of the urban preservation plan in cooperation with the local population for Vigan in the Philippines and Hoi An in VietNam have also been initiated under the Netherlands-funded project of the UNESCO Office in Bangkok.

Preparations are currently underway for a Conference for the Mayors of Historic Cities in Asia and Europe which is tentatively scheduled to be held in China in September 1997.

An information meeting on the safeguarding and development needs of the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site was organized by the Department of Archaeology of Nepal and the World Heritage Centre for the national and international donor communities. This meeting held on 9 October in Kathmandu was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Nepal, demonstrating the importance the Government of Nepal is attaching to the preservation of this World Heritage site.

The Centre's proactive strategy with regard to the promotion of sustainable tourism was again demonstrated in the Asia-Pacific region this year through strengthened cooperation with the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Tourism Working Group and the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA). Cooperation between the Centre and the China National Tourism Authority in the production of the brochure "China's World Heritage" for the APEC Tourism Working Group meeting in Beijing in May this year has led to the joint preparation of a training project on World Heritage tourist guides in China for which extrabudgetary funding is currently being sought.

Activities in this region with regard to public information and relations with the media have also been extremely dynamic. Under the Centre's contracts with Beijing Television and the Tokyo Broadcasting System (TBS), close to 100 documentary films on World Heritage will be made over the next two years. With Japanese and Australian publishers, a World Heritage Encyclopedia as well as a series of high quality photo books are under preparation.

The first regional workshop for World Heritage Managers in South East Asia, Australia, New Zealand and the West Pacific was convened at Ravenshoe in Queensland, Australia, in April 1996. The workshop agreed to establish a Regional Network for management of World Heritage sites. The summary results of the meeting are presented in information document WHC-96/CONF.201/INF.12.

Comparative studies were presented on tropical forest World Heritage sites at the World Heritage Tropical Forest Conference held in September 1996 in Cairns (Australia).

A South East Asia IUCN/CNPPA regional workshop held in Indonesia in May 1996 had a strong World Heritage component and included site visits to Komodo and Ujung Kulong National Parks.

Europe

Central and Eastern Europe consists of 22 countries of which 20 are States Parties to the World Heritage Convention. Only Moldova and Macedonia have not yet adhered to the Convention, although the latter, by virtue of its secession from the former Yugoslavia, has a World Heritage site located on its territory : the Ohrid Region. While three State Parties (Poland, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia) signed the Convention more than 20 years ago, twelve are newcomers, having joined the Convention in the 1990's.

At the present time, 53 World Heritage properties are located in 15 Central and Eastern European countries. Five States Parties - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia, Estonia and Latvia - do not yet have a World Heritage property on their territory.

The World Heritage Centre continues to be involved in the rehabilitation programme of Vilnius Old Town in Lithuania. With technical assistance from UNESCO (World Heritage Centre Regular Programme and PROCEED), a brochure is presently being printed outlining the rehabilitation programme of Vilnius Old Town. An International Donors and Investors Conference is scheduled for February 24-25, 1997. The World Heritage Centre is assisting the Lithuanian authorities in this undertaking. Technical assistance is provided by Denmark and Norway. Close collaboration between the World Heritage Centre and the World Bank is being maintained in all activities related to Vilnius Old Town.

In St Petersburg, the World Heritage Centre is collaborating with the World Bank in order to initiate a far-reaching rehabilitation programme. A joint World Bank/World Heritage

Centre mission, at the request of the Russian Federation and the City of St Petersburg, took place in June 1996. The degradation of the St Petersburg Historic Centre is severe, and the World Heritage Centre continues to monitor the rehabilitation programme of the Historic Centre in collaboration with the World Bank.

In Western Europe the past year has seen a heightened emphasis on the identification of threats to World Heritage sites and the preparation of management plans. Several countries were active in this field organising colloquiums, meetings and workshops which focused on the dangers of uncontrolled urban development and the preservation of World Heritage sites.

The World Heritage Centre is involved in several cooperative projects with Western European countries. Extensive financial support and expert advice is being provided by these countries to projects relating to Eastern and Central European World Heritage sites and urban rehabilitation.

Also, in the past year several cultural landscapes have been included in European countries' tentative lists and several cultural landscape nominations have been received for evaluation in 1997.

Collaboration between the World Heritage Centre and the Ford Foundation has begun. An annual Ford Foundation Conservation Award for Europe was presented to four excellent projects in the field of environmental preservation and cultural heritage conservation. In June 1996 the second prize was awarded to the Valtice-Lednice conservation and restoration project. Valtice-Lednice is among the nominations proposed for inscription in the World Heritage List for 1996. Further collaboration between the Ford Foundation and the World Heritage Centre is envisaged for the future.

Contact has been established with the World Heritage Centre and Europa Nostra/IBI in the field of information exchange. In particular, information and advice on the conservation of industrial heritage and cultural landscapes is of great importance to both partners.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Considerable attention was given in 1996 to improved communication and information exchange with the States Parties and the UNESCO field offices in the region. Following the success of the first Meeting of Directors of Cultural Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean (Cartagena, Colombia, 9-11 May 1995), a workshop was held for the Caribbean to examine the state of the implementation of the Convention and to identify fields for future actions and cooperation. The workshop, which took place on 13 and 14 March 1996 in connection with the Seventh Regional Cultural Committee Meeting of the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM), was hosted by the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis and was organized in collaboration between the secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and UNESCO. More than thirty participants, both from the natural and the cultural fields, came from six States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, seven non-States Parties and from two territories of The Netherlands and four from the territories of the United Kingdom. Representatives of ICOMOS, CARICOM and the Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA) also attended the workshop.

Participants felt that considerable work should be done on the national and regional level to develop adequate legislation and institutional arrangements for heritage protection and management. Strong training needs were expressed in the management and presentation of sites. Awareness building, educational and promotional programmes targeted towards the public at large, politicians and professionals were also mentioned as priority areas.

As to the identification of potential World Heritage sites, national inventories will have to be completed and thematic studies undertaken. A great interest was expressed in the thematic meeting on fortifications in the Caribbean organized by Colombia and in the Global Strategy meeting for the Caribbean that is scheduled for early 1998 in Fort de France, Martinique. Several themes were suggested for further study, such as the Arawak and Caribbean heritage, plantation systems, naval history and cultural landscapes.

9. Cooperation with Advisory Bodies and other partners

Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with the Advisory Bodies

In order to strengthen collaboration between the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to achieve greater

complementarity, cost efficiency and to clarify the respective roles and responsibilities between the Advisory Bodies and the Centre, Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) have been jointly prepared with all three Advisory Bodies (see working document WHC-96/CONF.201/11).

The MOU between UNESCO, as represented by the World Heritage Centre, and IUCN - the World Conservation Union, was signed by the Director of the World Heritage Centre and the Director General of IUCN at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Montreal, Canada on 17 October 1996.

The final draft of the MOU between UNESCO, as represented by the World Heritage Centre, and ICCROM is pending. The MOU between UNESCO, as represented by the World Heritage Centre, and ICOMOS is pending further discussions.

The Memoranda of Understanding will in themselves, provide an over arching framework which will facilitate and not replace the annual contracting process, allow for continued evolution of requirements in response to Committee decisions, provide for a stronger and more involved participation on the part of the memberships of the respective Advisory Bodies and provide guidelines for institutional consistency over time. It is anticipated that through these frameworks, the annual contracting process will be accelerated. Work will proceed in a more timely and orderly manner than in previous years. Agreement for longer term work programmes can be formulated within the respective areas of competence and capability, activities distributed fully and effectively, and in accordance with decisions of the Committee and based upon the needs and requests of the States Parties, implemented with a broader base of support.

World Conservation Congress, Montreal, Canada

Cooperation with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and CNPPA was strengthened, in particular in the preparation of the World Conservation Congress in Montreal in October 1996. The World Heritage Centre collaborated with the Division of Ecological Sciences in presenting a photographic exhibition "The Earth from above" on a selected number of World Heritage sites and Biosphere Reserves. A World Heritage workshop entitled "Caring for the Earth-25 Years of World Heritage Action" was held on 17 October 1996 focussing on management of World Heritage sites, threats and sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger as well as future perspectives and strategies for natural World Heritage conservation.

Resolutions encouraging greater participation in the implementation of the World Heritage convention, particularly in the Oceania region, were adopted by the Congress.

Coopération avec l'Organisation des Villes du patrimoine mondial (OVPM)

Dans le cadre de sa coopération avec le Centre du patrimoine mondial, l'OVPM a poursuivi la mise au point de la base de données sur les Villes du patrimoine mondial. Cette base de données, qui jouit d'une assistance du Centre et qui associera les administrations des Villes du patrimoine mondial, est conçue comme un outil d'aide à la gestion urbaine. Elle associe à la recherche des outils géomatiques comme lien entre les informations de plusieurs natures nécessaires à la gestion de villes historiques. En même temps, l'OVPM poursuit l'installation de sa page sur le Web et les connections diverses, notamment avec celle du Centre du patrimoine mondial.

Cooperation with the World Bank

At a meeting in January 1996, UNESCO, the World Bank, ICCROM and private foundations laid the basis for international cooperation aimed at improving the quality and efficiency of rehabilitation programmes in World Heritage or historic cities.

Six cities were earmarked for this enhanced cooperation : Vilnius, St.Petersburg, Fez, Sana'a, Samarkand and Hué. At Vilnius, St.Petersburg and Fez, the preparation of the rehabilitation programme is in the final planning stage. Project preparation activities are underway for the other three cities.

Moreover the following are being prepared :

"Urban Design Guidelines for World Heritage Cities" prepared by the World Heritage Centre;

"Methodological Issues for Economic Analysis of Cultural Heritage Projects" prepared by the Environmentally Sustainable Development Division of the World Bank; and,

"Re-use Criteria for Historic Buildings" prepared by the Getty Foundation.

Cooperation with the Nordic World Heritage Office (NWHO)

Since the establishment of the Nordic World Heritage Office (NWHO), several activities carried out in the Nordic region have contributed to the promotion of the World Heritage Convention and has consequently encouraged the implementation of the Convention in that region. The NWHO has contributed to the identification of potential Nordic nominations to the World Heritage List.

In addition to the assistance provided by this office to States Parties with regard to activities in the international and Nordic regions, the close relationship between the NWHO and States Parties has contributed to effective dissemination of information and materials and has facilitated negotiations with the Nordic development agencies for conservation activities.

The NWHO has proven successful in extending and communicating the World Heritage Convention in the Nordic Region and has resulted in the establishment of closer links between the region and its World Heritage site managers.

10. Training

Training activities for natural heritage in 1996 focussed mainly on the African Region with individual scholarships provided to the Wildlife Schools in Mweka (Tanzania) and in Garoua (Cameroon), as well as to the sub-regional training courses. From 8 to 13 June 1996 a regional seminar was held in Côte d'Ivoire on sensibilization and training in "Biodiversity Conservation" in Central and Western African Natural Heritage sites. A subregional training seminar for World Heritage site and Biosphere Reserve Managers was organized at the "Parc du W" in Niger from 19 September to 5 October 1996 by Niger, the Division of Ecological Sciences and the World Heritage Centre. A detailed report is made available as information document WHC-96/CONF.203/INF.1.

ICCROM and the World Heritage Centre held an expert meeting in Rome in September 1996, to define a Training Strategy in the field of Cultural Heritage. Experts from Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Arab States and Central European countries presented regional strategies based on analyses of regional needs. The overall strategy is submitted in working document WHC-96/CONF.201/12.

The fourth training seminar for Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage site managers from the Arab Region is planned to

be held in Morocco in 1997 and preparatory work is being carried out with the UNESCO offices in Cairo and Rabat. Several documents resulting from the third training seminar, held in Cairo, Egypt, in May 1995 were published or are currently in print. A larger project on World Heritage and biodiversity protection is under preparation in collaboration with the Egyptian MAB Committee and the UNESCO Cairo office.

A World Heritage session was provided to protected area and Biosphere Reserve managers at a regional seminar with participants from five Anglophone countries in February 1996 in Uganda. One result of this workshop was the proposal to enlarge the Queen Elizabeth Biosphere Reserve towards Rwenzori Mountain National Park and to ensure coordinated management of the two properties.

A pilot project for training in the field of immovable cultural heritage south of the Sahara was designed by the Centre in cooperation with ICCROM. The pilot project is based on a questionnaire which was sent to the 44 African countries. 34 countries have answered. The questionnaire was designed to assess the training needs in the field of conservation of cultural heritage south of the Sahara. The analysis of the responses received has provided the basis of the proposed training strategy in Africa, which is an Annex to working document WHC-96/CONF.201/12. The approach covers educational and training activities. It is based on *in-situ* small-scale pilot conservation projects whose scope is to train technicians and craftspeople and gather scientific documentation necessary for the preparation of a conservation plan and teaching materials at an academic level. On the basis of the experience of several pilot-projects, academic courses at regional level shall be launched.

The Tropical Agriculture and Higher Education Centre (CATIE) held its XVIIIth Protected Areas Course for site managers from the Latin American Region in April/May in Costa Rica.

The second course for Latin American protected area managers, including three World Heritage site managers, supported by the World Heritage Fund, took place at Fort Collins, Colorado, United States of America in July 1996.

Glossary of World Heritage Terms

A Glossary of World Heritage Terms, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its nineteenth session in December

1995, has been prepared (see information document WHC-96/CONF.201/INF.21). The Glossary is a separate document, independent from, but referring to the Operational Guidelines.

The Glossary was prepared by extracting terms and their definitions and interpretations from the World Heritage Convention and the Operational Guidelines. Just over 100 terms are defined or explained in the Glossary. The terms are presented alphabetically and are cross-referenced to each other.

A wide range of documents and publications relating to World Heritage were consulted during the preparation of the Glossary. Those that have been cited and referred to in the Glossary are listed in a Bibliography to the Glossary.

It is hoped that the Glossary of World Heritage Terms will be a useful tool for those people and organisations seeking to understand more about the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

The Manual on the World Heritage Convention. A Guide to the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage

During the preparation of the Glossary of World Heritage Terms it has become clear that the simple extraction of terms and their definitions from the Operational Guidelines is not going to make the Guidelines all that much shorter (less than 10% of the paragraphs could be extracted) and will not significantly improve the clarity of the Operational Guidelines. At present the Operational Guidelines does not present the World Heritage conservation process clearly. What is needed is a clear expression, step by step, of the World Heritage conservation process. The World Heritage conservation process may be briefly described as the identification, assessment, evaluation, conservation, management, presentation and monitoring of cultural and natural heritage of "outstanding universal value".

The Committee will recall that the preparation of a Manual was proposed as part of the Training Strategy adopted by the Committee at its nineteenth session in 1995.

A draft outline of the *Manual on the World Heritage Convention* has been prepared to present and explain the World Heritage conservation process in a clear, logical and

informative way reflecting each step in the conservation process.

The aim of the *Manual* is to enhance the capacity for participation in the World Heritage conservation process. It is proposed that the *Manual* will be produced either as a loose-leaf folder or small sized handbook to allow future revision of its contents and to allow easy inclusion of forms and documents that currently exist separately and in a variety of formats (for example, the Nomination Form, World Heritage List, World Heritage Map etc).

The World Heritage Manual would have a broad application and usage in training and education. Uses and target audience for the Manual are expected to include training and education, World Heritage Centre staff, UNESCO Divisional and Regional staff, World Heritage site managers, Tourism Industry (eg Tour Guides at World Heritage sites), the World Heritage Committee and Bureau, the Advisory Bodies (ICCROM, IUCN and ICOMOS) and others interested in World Heritage conservation.

A copy of the outline of the *Manual* is available for Committee members on request.

11. Documentation, Information and Education

Documentation, the World Heritage Information Network (WHIN) and the Internet

The World Heritage Centre is the focal point for the dissemination of information and materials about World Heritage and is the chief recipient of public opinions and reactions to World Heritage activities. The Centre responds daily to numerous requests for information, via the post, telephone, fax and electronic mail, and services visitors to the Centre. The World Heritage web site on the Internet is being accessed by people all around the world. Annex V shows the usage statistics for the World Heritage web site between May and September 1996.

The Centre's electronic information capacities have been further upgraded with the purchase of computer equipment, thanks to a grant received from the Republic of Korea. Most of the Centre's staff are linked through an internal network (Intranet) and have E-mail and Internet connections. An electronic scanner has been acquired to digitalize documents for electronic access and archiving. The Centre is currently making arrangements to transfer information about World

Heritage sites and the Convention to the UNESCO Archives and the UNESCO Library, where researchers, students and the general public will be able to consult them. All the literature on World Heritage sites located in the World Heritage Centre has been catalogued and indexed in a data base. Another data base contains information on all proposed sites (inscribed, deferred, referred and rejected) from 1978 to 1996. The database on World Heritage States Parties is regularly updated and has proved to be a useful tool in day-to-day work with States Parties and other partners.

Utilizing the new scanning equipment and software, the World Heritage Centre's own Web Server has been upgraded, improving both its design and content. The World Heritage Centre site on the Internet has been expanded to contain some 150 files, organized around five basic headings: About the World Heritage; How does it Work; All about the List; Youth Forum, and Information Desk. A group of images identifying current projects or publications is also included. A major emphasis has been to provide core documents from the Convention's history. The electronic Document Collection now includes all of the Committee reports since 1977 (see Annex I of working document WHC-96/CONF.201/16) and a significant number of the Bureau reports and other documents since 1977. A quick search is now possible through key words, phrases, and site names, contributing significantly to the efficiency of information retrieval by Centre staff. International Assistance request forms are now also available on the Internet.

The same Internet technology is also allowing the Centre to manage information internally much more effectively. Every networked computer in the Centre now has available to it the same set of forms, archive of reports, model responses and other tools necessary for the staff to do its work. This Internal Web Server, or "Intranet" is expected to streamline many of the day-to-day operations of the World Heritage Centre (see working document WHC-96/CONF.201/16 for more information).

As a follow-up to the WHIN meeting in September 1995, an Internet search engine has been established, permitting rapid access to World Heritage information and sites across the Internet. The first phase of this project, which was demonstrated at the 20th session of the Bureau in June, utilizes the Internet resources of the Centre, ICOMOS, WCMC, and ICCROM. As the project is expanded, the Centre will be involving all partners in the Network, linking the WWW servers of World Heritage site managers, States Parties, universities,

and other heritage organizations. The WHIN partnership and search tools will be fully operational in 1997.

Information materials

The World Heritage Folder and Information Kit, containing 8 sheets on different World Heritage subjects, has been completed and printed in English and French. Another new product recently published is a World Heritage brochure in full colour with general information on World Heritage, also in English and French. The 1997 World Heritage Diary has been published in a new format with a hard cover and photographs of the World Heritage sites which were inscribed in the World Heritage List in 1995. The World Heritage Map has been published in English, French and Spanish (with a total number of 15,000 copies produced). An additional 3,000 copies have been produced in poster format. The Brief Descriptions of the 469 World Heritage sites have been revised and updated in English and French. The slide presentation of the Convention has been adapted and used on a number of occasions.

Eleven editions of the World Heritage Newsletter have been published since 1992. With the possibility of now additionally distributing the Newsletter via the Internet and the World Heritage Information Network (WHIN) the Newsletter has been redesigned as a new 4-page periodical, beginning with the October 1996 issue.

The "World Heritage Review", a new quarterly magazine in English, French and Spanish, published jointly by UNESCO and INCAFO, was launched in April in Paris. The scope of the Review is to present to a wide public World Heritage sites and the different aspects of World Heritage conservation. The approach is educational as well as informational, with accent on the quality of both text and photographs. The Review, printed on 80 full-colour pages, is produced in 15,000 copies (5,000 English, 5,000 French and 5,000 Spanish) and sold by subscription through UNESCO marketing channels for an annual subscription price of US \$29 for the four issues.

Three special information brochures financed by extrabudgetary funding were produced in 1996 - "China's World Heritage", "cities of Asia-Heritage for the Future" and "World Heritage: Ours Forever? - Treasures of Asia and the Pacific" have been published to date.

The CD-ROM "World Heritage Cities", containing more than 1,500 photographs of 104 cities with World Heritage sites,

explanatory texts, over 2 hours of music and commentaries, has been put on sale in bookstores. This CD-ROM has been shown, as part of the UNESCO 50th anniversary exhibit, in Japan and in Jamaica, as well as at the launching of the "World Heritage Review" (see working document WHC-96/CONF.201/16).

L'exposition "Nouveaux regards sur l'Afrique", présentée à cette session du comité, a été réalisée à partir des enseignements tirés de la 1ère réunion de stratégie globale d'Harare de 1995 et de la préparation de cette réunion d'Addis Abeba. Elle a été inaugurée à l'occasion de la tenue de la 150e session du Conseil exécutif de l'UNESCO, en octobre de cette année.

The exhibition "Cities with World Heritage Sites" was shown in Hamburg, Germany; Dubrovnik, Croatia; and Halstatt and Linz in Austria. The photo exhibition "Threats to World Heritage" is currently being shown by FNAC in Paris, France.

Education

As a follow-up to last year's first World Heritage Youth Forum in Bergen, Norway, the Centre and the Associated Schools Project (ASP) of UNESCO's Education Sector launched the project, *Young People's Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion in Europe and English speaking Africa*.

ASP secondary schools in 42 countries introduced World Heritage Education into the classroom in line with the overall objective to integrate it into secondary school curricula.

Two regional World Heritage Youth Fora were subsequently organized: the European World Heritage Youth Forum in Dubrovnik, Croatia, 25-30 May 1996, and the African World Heritage Youth Forum in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 18-24 September 1996.

The two Youth Fora, each assembling some 100 students, teachers, policy-makers and conservation specialists from 42 countries, focused primarily on (i) the production of UNESCO's World Heritage Education Kit and (ii) the elaboration of regional action plans for World Heritage Education in secondary schools, to be implemented through the ASP network. More detailed information on both is provided in working document WHC-96/CONF.201/16.

The Project is financed partly under UNESCO's Regular Programme and partly under its Participation Programme. In 1996 the Project received significant financial assistance from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), the Rhône-Poulenc Foundation (second consecutive year) and the Governments of Croatia and Zimbabwe. Financial support was also received by the Nordic World Heritage Office (NWHO). Additional assistance, mostly in kind, came from the UNESCO National Commissions of the countries that participated in the two Youth Fora, particularly the Austrian National Commission for UNESCO.

The success of this Project in the past year confirms the great interest in World Heritage Education in all parts of the world. Several countries have expressed their willingness to host World Heritage Youth Fora in Asia, the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, French-speaking Africa and the Arab region in future years.

Co-productions with the media and publishers

The World Heritage Centre has been working to generate greater public awareness about, and support for, World Heritage sites and their conservation by developing collaborative agreements with mass media and publishing companies. The production of documentary films on World Heritage for television and the publication of books on World Heritage, ensures that the concept and importance of World Heritage conservation is communicated in a variety of languages to huge audiences around the world. Further details of these collaborative projects are provided in working document WHC-96/CONF.201/16.

12. The World Heritage Centre

Suite à la demande du Comité, le Président, M. H. Winkelmann, a rencontré à trois reprises le Directeur général pour trouver une solution au cas du personnel du Centre payé sur le Fonds du patrimoine mondial. Suite à cette demande, le Directeur général a décidé d'absorber dans le cadre du budget régulier de l'Organisation le financement des huit postes en question dès janvier 1997. 6 postes sont financés au titre du budget de l'Organisation pour le personnel et 2 postes devraient être absorbés dans le cadre du Programme régulier. Le Directeur général a donné l'assurance que 8 postes supplémentaires seront établis à partir du 1er janvier 1998 dans le cadre du Programme régulier, quand cette proposition aura été approuvée par la Conférence générale. Entretemps, le

financement du personnel restant sera couvert à partir du budget ordinaire du Centre.

Grâce à la générosité d'Etats parties à la Convention, le Centre a pu bénéficier de personnel spécialisé qui a grandement contribué à son travail. Ainsi, le Danemark, la Suède et le Japon ont fourni chacun un expert associé, tandis que l'Autriche, la Finlande et les Etats-Unis d'Amérique ont détaché respectivement un spécialiste en patrimoine naturel (jusqu'en août 1996), un architecte (jusqu'en juillet 1996) et un conseiller spécial pour les politiques et la planification auprès du Directeur du Centre.

13. The 25th Anniversary of the Convention

Finally, the World Heritage Centre has begun preparatory work for the 25th Anniversary of the Convention.

A Circular Letter was sent to all States Parties, site managers, IUCN, ICCROM and ICOMOS informing them of the upcoming 25th Anniversary of the Convention (16 November 1997), opportunities to organise events and activities to mark the anniversary, and of reviewing the implementation of the Convention.

As of 24 November 1996, a total of 41 replies to the Circular Letter have been received by the World Heritage Centre. The replies include a wide array of suggestions for events and activities to mark the 25th anniversary (a summary of these suggestions is included in working document WHC-96/CONF.201/16) and identify a number of issues that could form the basis of a review of the implementation of the Convention (a summary of these issues is included in working document WHC-96/CONF.201/15).

A preliminary evaluation of the implementation of the Convention, focussing particularly on progress made towards achieving the 1992 Strategic Goals and Objectives (devised at the time of the Convention's 20th anniversary) has been performed by the World Heritage Centre (see working document WHC-96/CONF.201/15).

In conclusion, the 25th anniversary is an historic opportunity to strengthen international cooperation for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. It is a time to critically review achievements and failures and to chart the course of actions for the future. However, above all let us

use this opportunity to mobilise public support and understanding.