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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

**Twentieth extraordinary session
Merida, Yucatan, Mexico**

29-30 November 1996

Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda: Examination of nominations of cultural and natural properties to the World Heritage List and List of World Heritage in Danger

Following the request of the twentieth session of the World Heritage Bureau, the subregional seminar for Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage site managers from francophone countries, held at La Tapoa, Niger from 29 September to 6 October 1996, made a number of recommendations. The Bureau may wish to

- (a) consider the recommendations concerning the nomination of the "Parc du W"(Niger) for the World Heritage List;
- (b) take note of the full report of the meeting contained in Information Document WHC-96/CONF.203/INF.1.

The subregional Workshop for Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage site managers from francophone countries of West Africa was held from 29 September to 6 October 1996, at La Tapoa (Niger). Following the request of the World Heritage Bureau at its twentieth session, the experts representing eight countries of the subregion (Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal) and the disciplines of the natural and cultural heritage, made the following recommendations concerning the inscription of the Parc du W Niger on the World Heritage List:

*** Recommendation 1**

The subregional workshop, noting the combined elements of natural, cultural and spiritual heritage of the site of the PNWN, noting the precarious state of the diverse forms of biodiversity in this part of the subregion, noting the universal and exceptional character of the ecosystems, animal and vegetal, of this site and considering their interest for science, conservation and culture;

Strongly recommends the immediate inscription of the Nigerian site of the PNWN under criteria (ii) and (iv) for natural sites;

Also recommends that criteria (vi) for cultural sites be taken into account, with reference to living and associated cultural environments, so that this site can benefit from all its natural, cultural and spiritual qualities.

*** Recommendation 2**

The subregional workshop, noting that each State is sovereign and the sole owner of its national park and biosphere reserves;

Recommends the treatment, case by case, of the inscription of each of the three National Parks "W" of Niger on the World Heritage List.

*** Recommendation 3**

The subregional seminar, noting the role of refuge of the PNWN in this part of the subregion, noting the outstanding universal value of these three adjoining national parks;

Recommends that at their next meeting, the Governments of Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger insist upon the inscription of the Nigerian Parc National du W Niger on the World Heritage List and encourage the two other countries to accelerate the inscription procedure of their own adjoining sites as Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage.

* **Recommendation 4**

The subregional workshop, noting the outstanding quality of the biodiversity in the region of W du Niger, noting the endangered status of a number of rare animal species such as the giraffe and the manatee, noting the necessity for the local communities of the park to undertake sustainable development on both the economic and social levels, and also noting the need for safeguarding and valorizing the natural, cultural and spiritual heritage of this region;

Recommends that a project document be prepared and submitted to funding institutions for the implementation of systematic ecological monitoring in the central zone and socio-economic monitoring in the differentiation zone, as well as for the implementation of a territorial management scheme.

The summary report of the subregional workshop for Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage site managers from francophone countries of West Africa (29 September to 6 October 1996, La Tapoa, Niger) is available as an information document at the extraordinary session of the Bureau in Merida, Mexico, on 29 and 30 November 1996.