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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE  
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE  
Twentieth extraordinary session

Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico  
29 - 30 November 1996

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

|                                                                                                    |
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| The Bureau is requested to examine the<br>nominations which shall be submitted to<br>the Committee |
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## **A. Natural Heritage**

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 The Secretariat furthermore informed the Bureau that one site was withdrawn.

### **A.1 Properties for which the nominations were referred back to national authorities and IUCN**

**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 complementary information has been received by the Centre 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.

**A.2 Properties for which the nominations were deferred**

**Miguasha Provincial Park**

686

Canada

The Bureau at its eighteenth session in July 1994 deferred Miguasha Provincial Park to await a global study of the earth's evolutionary history. Following the expert meeting on geological and fossil sites held at the 30th International Geological Congress in Beijing, China from 8 to 10 August 1996 (report contained in Information Document WHC-96/CONF.201/INF.10) a new evaluation will be presented in the light of the findings of the experts.

## A.2 Change in the name of an inscribed site on the World Heritage List

**Cape Girolata, Cape Porto      258      France**  
**and Scandola Nature Reserve**  
**in Corsica**

By letter dated 30 July 1996, the French authorities informed the Centre that they wish to change the name of the site "Cape Girolata, Cape Porto and Scandola Nature Reserve in Corsica" (France) to add "The Piana Calanches". The Bureau may wish to recommend to the Committee this change of name and to adopt the following name: "Cape Girolata, Cape Porto, Scandola Nature Reserve, and the Piana Calanches in Corsica".

## B. Cultural Heritage

At its 20th session, the Bureau examined thirty-three new inscriptions, one extension of a cultural property, and four previously deferred or referred nominations.

### B.1 Properties for which nominations were referred back by the Bureau

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

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.

No complementary information has been received by the Centre at the time of the preparation of this document.

**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 Historic                                      792                                      Mexico                                      C(iv)**  
**Monuments Zone of**  
**Querétaro**

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.

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

|                                               |     |       |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----|-------|
| Hiroshima Peace<br>Memorial (Genbaku<br>Dome) | 775 | Japan |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----|-------|

The Bureau took note of ICOMOS recommendation concerning the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, Genbaku Dome, Japan (775) in its written report (1996).

**C. Mixed property**

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

|                         |     |       |                       |
|-------------------------|-----|-------|-----------------------|
| Lushan National<br>Park | 778 | China | C(ii) (iii) (iv) (vi) |
|-------------------------|-----|-------|-----------------------|

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.