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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
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**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**Bureau of the World Heritage Committee
Seventeenth Session**

UNESCO Headquarters
21-26 June 1993, Paris, France
Room IX (Fontenoy Building)

Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda: Requests for International Assistance

A. Natural Heritage (Technical co-operation)

A.1. Dja Faunal Reserve (Cameroon)

Background: Cameroon ratified the World Heritage Convention in 1982. It has one site, i.e. Dja Faunal Reserve, inscribed (in 1987) on the World Heritage List. In 1988, US\$ 30,000 was provided from the World Heritage Fund for the purchase of two vehicles for the Dja Faunal Reserve. In 1987, the participation of a specialist from Cameroon in an international seminar on environmental education and training was supported, at a cost of US\$ 3,000.

Cameroon has not paid its dues to the World Heritage Fund since 1986-87.

Description of Request: The UNESCO National Commission for Cameroon wishes to purchase two vehicles to carry out, in co-operation with the authorities of the Dja Faunal Reserve, a number of projects related to the development of areas in the vicinity of Dja, environmental education, training and studies on the economics of wildlife harvesting in the region.

National contribution: All expenses related to the implementation of the projects will be borne by the national authorities. The total cost of the implementation of the projects is not provided.

Amount requested from the Fund: A sum of US\$ 40,000 is requested for the purchase of the two vehicles.

Action by the Bureau: The sum requested is higher than the amount (US\$ 30,000) that could be approved by the Bureau. The Bureau may wish to recommend that the Committee approve this request subject to: (a) Cameroon paying its dues to the Fund; (b) the receipt and approval, by the Centre, of detailed information on the different types projects which are to be implemented with national funds, and (c) an assurance from the Cameroon authorities that the use and maintenance of the vehicles will be directly supervised by the management of the Dja Reserve.

A.2. School for the Training of Wildlife Specialists (Cameroon)

Background: The School for Training of Wildlife Specialists in Cameroon is the premier regional institute for training managers of wildlife and protected areas from Francophone Africa. The World Heritage Fund has supported the training of managers from Congo, Guinea, Niger, Senegal and Zaire, at this School, at a total cost of US\$ 76,000. The World Heritage Fund also provided, in 1986, US\$ 8,000 to support the participation of the Director of the School at the 20th International Seminar on National Parks and Equivalent Reserves in USA/Canada. In 1988, the Fund supported the participation of the Principal of the School at the IUCN General Assembly in Costa Rica, at a cost of US\$ 4,000. Furthermore, the Director of the School participated in the World Heritage Workshop held during the Fourth World Parks Congress, in Caracas, Venezuela, in February 1992, and presented a paper on the training programmes offered by the School.

Description of request: The Director of the School has submitted a proposal for organizing a sub-regional (Francophone Africa) seminar for managers of World Heritage sites and biosphere reserves. The seven-day seminar is scheduled to take place during January or February 1994. The seminar will discuss information gathered in a number of projects conducted in the protected areas of Cameroon, including Dja Faunal Reserve (World Heritage site and Biosphere Reserve) and the Waza Biosphere Reserve. The seminar will be held in the Waza Biosphere Reserve and address issues pertaining to characteristics of World Heritage sites and biosphere reserves, their importance in national and regional protected area networks, management of biosphere reserves, international conventions for protected areas and the importance of tourism development in protected area management. Participants from the following countries are to be invited: Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Madagascar, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, and Zaire. UNESCO, IUCN and WWF will also be invited to send representatives to the seminar.

Although the request has been submitted on forms used for preparing a proposal for a training workshop, the nature of the activity foreseen resembles a regional seminar of technical experts rather than a training exercise.

Amount requested from the Fund: A sum of US\$ 43,667 is requested to cover the following expenses: international air-travel (US\$ 17,697), per-diem to international participants (18 in total; US\$ 11,450), per-diem for 5 Cameroon participants (US\$3,365), local transport and field visits (US\$ 8,230), organizational, secretarial and other miscellaneous expenses (US\$ 2,925).

National contribution: The Director of the School has indicated that national contributions, in kind, are foreseen but does not provide any details. He has also indicated that he is seeking contributions from other organizations, although he does not mention the their names.

Action by the Bureau: The Bureau may wish to recommend that this request be submitted to the Committee with detailed information on the proposed programme of the seminar so that the Committee may be able to judge whether the proposed activity could be considered a training seminar. The Centre will also seek a better justification of the estimated costs of the project and information on national and other contributions. The Bureau may also suggest to the Director of the School that the seminar be held at a later date than January/February 1994, in order allow adequate time for its organization.

A.3. Comoe National Park (Côte d'Ivoire)

Background: Côte d'Ivoire ratified the World Heritage Convention in 1981. It has two World Heritage sites, namely Tai National Park and Comoe National Park, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1982 and 1983, respectively. In 1988, US\$ 17,000 was provided to Comoe National Park for the purchase of a vehicle. In the framework of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, a UNDP/UNESCO project entitled 'Productivity of the Savannahs of Côte d'Ivoire' has been implemented during the last four years. Comoe National Park is the main study site for research studies undertaken as part of this project.

Côte d'Ivoire has paid its contributions to the Fund upto 1992, and has made a partial contribution for 1993.

Description of the request: The Director of the Institute of Tropical Ecology at Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, who is also the national co-ordinator of the UNDP/UNESCO Project, has requested the assistance of the World Heritage Fund for the purchase of an all-terrain vehicle to be used for project activities in the Comoe National Park. The Director of the Institute has also provided an invoice for the local purchase of a four-wheel drive (Nissan-Diesel) vehicle.

Amount requested from the Fund: In accordance with the invoice provided by the Institute of Tropical Ecology, a sum of FCFA 8,479,300 (US\$ 31,527) is requested for the purchase of the all-terrain vehicle.

National contribution: Information on national contribution is not available.

Action by the Bureau: The Bureau may wish to approve US\$ 30,000 requested by the Director of the Institute of Tropical Ecology, Abidjan, subject to the receipt of a report outlining the existing organizational links between the Institute and the management of the Park and describing the benefits which the UNDP/UNESCO study on the Productivity of Savannahs in Côte d'Ivoire has brought to the management of the Comoe National Park. The Bureau may also instruct the Centre to ensure that the purchase of the vehicle be made in the most economical way as possible.

A.4 Vallee de Mai (Seychelles)

Background: The Vallee de Mai, the smallest World Heritage site (20ha), was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1983. While the other World Heritage site in Seychelles, namely Aldabra Atoll, has received substantial assistance from the Fund, this is the first time the Seychelles authorities have proposed a project for Vallee de Mai.

Seychelles has not paid its dues to the World Heritage Fund for 1992 and 1993.

Description of the Request: The competent authorities have proposed the construction of a visitor information centre in this World Heritage site. The site attracts about 3000-4000 visitors every month and hence, the authorities consider the construction of this centre an important step in informing the public of the World Heritage value of this site. The Centre will also have a watchtower for surveillance of fire in the reserve.

The Vallee de Mai, like Aldabra Atoll, is managed by the non-government organization, Seychelles Island Foundation, and is provided strict protection under the Seychelles Government regulations for special reserves. The visitor information centre will be 105 square meters in extent and plans for the construction of the Centre are ready and have been approved by the Board of Directors of the Seychelles Island Foundation.

Amount requested from the Fund: A sum of US\$ 45,000 (241,500 Seychelles Rupees) is requested for the construction of the visitor information centre. This amount is calculated on the basis of 2,300 Seychelles Rupees per square meter (includes labour, materials and equipment), an amount agreed between the Seychelles authorities and a local contractor who has been given the responsibility for building the visitor information centre.

National contribution: Approximately US\$ 28,000 (150,000 Seychelles Rupees) is foreseen as national contribution to cover salaries of local staff, supervision of the construction and the management of the visitor information centre.

Action by the Bureau: The Bureau may wish to recommend that the Committee approve this request at its seventeenth session, subject to the Seychelles authorities paying their contribution to the Fund for 1992.

B. Natural Heritage (Training)

Training in management planning for protected area specialists of China in Mt. Huangshan

Background: Mt. Huangshan (a mixed site), was inscribed on the World Heritage List, at the fourteenth session of the World Heritage Committee, held in Banff, Canada, during December 1990. Since its inscription, an international symposium on sustainable tourism development in Mt. Huangshan has been organized (October 1991) under the joint sponsorship of UNEP, World Tourism Organization (WTO) and UNESCO. This symposium has recommended that a management plan for Mt. Huangshan be elaborated, with the goal of ensuring that tourism development be guided along sustainable paths.

In February 1991, the UNESCO National Commission submitted a proposal to organize a training workshop in the Mt. Huangshan World Heritage site. In view of the international symposium which was scheduled to be held in October 1991, the World Heritage Secretariat, at that time, requested the Chinese authorities to delay the organization of the training workshop until the recommendations of the international symposium on Mt. Huangshan were finalized. Following the international symposium, UNEP has provided assistance to senior staff of Mt. Huangshan, and to the authorities in Anhui Province where the World Heritage site is located, to undertake study tours in Australia and New Zealand to view tourism development programmes in World Heritage sites.

The Institute of Botany of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, by their letter of 24 March 1993, submitted a separate request for financial assistance from the World Heritage Fund to support the participation of protected area specialists at a Regional Conference on Protected Areas of East Asia, organized by the Commission of National Parks and Protected Areas (CNPPA) of IUCN and the Chinese Academy of Science, during 12-18 September 1993. IUCN has recommended that the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee consider supporting this request from the Chinese authorities.

The Centre, taking into account the above mentioned elements has co-operated with the Permanent Delegation of China to UNESCO, to revise the request for organizing a training workshop in Mt. Huangshan and link it to the convening of the Regional Conference on protected areas of East Asia, organized jointly by CNPPA/IUCN and the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

The People's Republic of China has paid its contributions to the World Heritage Fund up to 1993.

Description of Request: The training workshop will be organized to meet the following objectives:

- (i) to familiarize the personnel from World Heritage sites of China with the concepts and techniques of the management planning process;
- (ii) to develop concepts and strategies for the management of Mt. Huangshan, particularly to ensure sustainable tourism development, and
- (iii) to provide a forum for the discussion of issues and problems of sustainable tourism development in World Heritage sites in China.

The training workshop will be organized with the services of an international consultant, and the Chinese personnel who undertook study tours in Australia and New Zealand. Participants from all natural and mixed World Heritage sites of China will be invited to be trainees in the workshop. The workshop will be held during a period of three weeks from late August to early September 1993 to prepare a draft management plan for Mt. Huangshan. This draft will be submitted to a panel of protected area specialists who will participate in the CNPPA/IUCN Regional Conference on Protected Areas of East Asia for review and further refinement. The management plan will be finalized in late 1993, for adoption by the Chinese authorities.

Amount requested from the Fund: For the organization of the training workshop, a sum of US\$ 20,000 is needed to meet the following expenses: (i) fees, per-diem (3-4 weeks) and international travel of an expert for participation in the workshop (US\$ 8,500); travel and per-diem of trainee participants from natural and mixed World Heritage sites (a total of five sites) of China (2 per site; 3 or more from Mt. Huangshan; US\$ 4,000); contribution to organizational and other preparatory expenses (US\$ 4,500); support for the participation of a selected number of Chinese personnel from World Heritage sites at the CNPPA/IUCN meeting on Protected Areas of East Asia (US\$ 3,000).

An additional US\$ 10,000 is requested as a contribution to support the participation of protected area specialists, particularly from the Asia-Pacific Region, at the CNPPA/IUCN regional conference on Protected Areas of East Asia.

National contribution: A sum of US\$ 17,500 is foreseen to cover the following items: organization (US\$ 5,000), travel and per-diem of trainees-participants from other protected areas of China (US\$ 7,000), local travel within Mt. Huangshan (US\$ 2,000), publications and preparation of training materials (US\$ 2,000) and miscellaneous costs (US\$ 1,000).

Action by the Bureau: The revised request described here is being submitted to the relevant agencies in China, by the Permanent Delegation of China to UNESCO. The Centre has also transmitted a copy of the revised proposal to IUCN. Subject to

the endorsement of the revised proposal by competent Chinese authorities and by IUCN, the Bureau is requested to consider approving a sum of US\$ 30,000 for organizing the training workshop and supporting participation of Chinese and other specialists at the CNPPA/IUCN regional conference on Protected Areas of East Asia.