We, the members of the World Heritage Committee, recognize the universality of the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the consequent need to ensure that it applies to heritage in all its diversity, as an instrument for the sustainable development of all societies through dialogue and mutual understanding;

The properties on the World Heritage List are assets held in trust to pass on to generations of the future as their rightful inheritance;

In view of the increasing challenges to our shared heritage, we will:

- encourage countries that have not yet joined the Convention to do so at the earliest opportunity, as well as join other related international heritage protection instruments;
- invite States Parties to the Convention to identify and nominate cultural and natural heritage properties representing heritage in all its diversity, for inclusion on the World Heritage List;
- seek to ensure an appropriate and equitable balance between conservation, sustainability and development, so that World Heritage properties can be protected through appropriate activities contributing to the social and economic development and the quality of life of our communities;
- join to co-operate in the protection of heritage, recognizing that to harm such heritage is to harm, at the same time, the human spirit and the world’s inheritance;
- promote World Heritage through communication, education, research, training and public awareness strategies;
- seek to ensure the active involvement of our local communities at all levels in the identification, protection and management of our World Heritage properties;

We, the World Heritage Committee, will co-operate and seek the assistance of all partners for the support of World Heritage. For this purpose, we invite all interested parties to co-operate and to promote the following objectives:

- strengthen the Credibility of the World Heritage List, as a representative and geographically balanced testimony of cultural and natural properties of outstanding universal value;
- ensure the effective Conservation of World Heritage properties;
- promote the development of effective Capacity-building measures, including assistance for preparing the nomination of properties to the World Heritage List, for the understanding and implementation of the World Heritage Convention and related instruments;
- increase public awareness, involvement and support for World Heritage through Communication.

We will evaluate, at our 31st session in 2007, the achievements made in the pursuit of the above mentioned objectives and in support of this commitment.

Budapest, 28 June 2002

The Budapest Declaration, adopted at the 26th session of the World Heritage Committee, marks the 30th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention. The Declaration serves as a renewal of the commitment of all those involved in World Heritage conservation.

Francesco Bandarin, Director, UNESCO World Heritage Centre
Budapest Committee Meeting

The World Heritage Committee held its 26th session in Budapest, Hungary from 24-29 June, 2002. The session was attended by over 300 participants representing all 21 Committee members (Argentina, Belgium, China, Colombia, Egypt, Finland, Greece, Hungary, India, Lebanon, Mexico, Nigeria, Oman, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, South Africa, Thailand, the United Kingdom, and Zimbabwe), over 50 observers from States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, representatives from the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee (ICOMOS, IUCN, and ICCROM), and nearly 20 other organizations. The meeting, hosted by Hungary in the Budapest Congress Centre, was opened by Henrik Liljus, Finland outgoing Chairperson of the Committee. Laszlo Kissi, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage of Hungary, and Maria Kórdol, Minister for Environment and Hydrology of the Hungarian government, addressed the Committee as well as Mounir Bouchenaki, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture. Mr Tamás Fejedy, Hungary, was elected as the new Chairperson of the Committee.

On 28 June, 2002, the World Heritage Committee adopted the Budapest Declaration on World Heritage, marking the 30th anniversary of the signing of the World Heritage Convention in 1972. The Declaration recognizes the near universal significance of the World Heritage Convention, and calls for the application of the Convention to ‘heritage in all its diversity.’ The Committee renewed its commitment to geo-cultural diversity, and a balance between conservation, sustainability and development, underlining the importance of cooperation in the protection of the world’s heritage, particularly in zones of conflict.

In light of this, the Committee requested UNESCO and the Advisory Bodes to continue assisting the government of Afghanistan in elaborating a medium and long-term action plan for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. In order to help with the rehabilitation of Afghanistan’s cultural and natural heritage, the Committee provided USD150,000 for 2002-2003 for training, documentation, conservation and management.

The Committee also unanimously adopted a decision deplo- ring the destruction and damage caused to the cultural heritage of Palestine. It allocated USD150,000 for 2003 from the Emergency Reserve of the World Heritage Fund in order to assist with the task of establishing an inventory of the cultural and natural heritage in the Palestinian territories, the assessment of its state of conservation, and the identification of measures for its preservation and rehabilitation, as well as the training and capacity building of Palestinian specialists.

The objectives of the International Congress, ‘World Heritage 2002: Shared Legacy, Common Responsibility,’ to be held in Venice in November, were endorsed. The Committee thanked the Italian government for offering to host and contribute to the funding of the Congress.

The Committee also welcomed the establishment of the World Heritage Partnerships Initiative as a means, on an experimental basis, of achieving a new systematic approach to partnerships in support of World Heritage conservation, and called for further development of a regulatory framework for the initiative.

It asked the Director-General to develop performance indica tors for the strategic objectives adopted (4 Cs): strengthening the Credibility of the World Heritage List; ensuring the effective Conservation of World Heritage properties; promoting the development of effective Capacity building in States Parties; and increasing public awareness, involvement and support for World Heritage through Communication.

The Committee expressed great satisfaction with the Periodic Report for Africa 2001, saying it was comprehensive and clear, and gave direction for future World Heritage activities in Africa. While insisting on the ever-increasing importance of the activities concerning heritage preservation, the Committee examined the state of conservation of over ninety properties worldwide.

Commenting on the work of the Committee, UNESCO Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura stated that the destruction of the ancient Buddha statues at Bamyan last year by the Taliban in Afghanistan would ‘weigh on our conscience as the world’s moral authority and guardian of heritage. This is all the more reason why the decision of the Committee at this session to extend its concern to protect the heritage in the Palestinian territories is so important.’

Discussion at the 26th session was intense. Because of a very full agenda some items of importance, and notably the legal protections of world heritage, were not fully discussed. In the revised Operational Guidelines, had to be postponed for discussion at an extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee to be held at UNESCO Headquarters from 17 to 22 March 2003.

It was agreed to convene the 27th session of the World Heritage Committee from 30 June to 5 July in Suzhou, China.

New World Heritage Sites

At the 26th session of the Committee nine new sites were added to the World Heritage List, all in the cultural category. One cultural and one natural site were extended. Andrássy Avenue Underground in Budapest, Hungary, and Cocos Island National Park in Costa Rica. The total number of sites on the World Heritage List now stands at 730 (563 cultural, 144 natural and 23 mixed).

AFGHANISTAN

Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam

(C i, iii, iv)

The 657-m tall Minaret of Jam is a graceful, soaring structure, dating back to the 12th century. Covered in elaborate brickwork with a blue tile inscription at the top, it is noteworthy for the high quality of its architecture and decoration, which represent the culmination of an architectural and artistic tradition in this region. Its impact is heightened by its dramatic setting, a deep river valley flanked by towering mountains in the heart of the Ghur province.

EGYPT

Saint Catherine Area

(C i, iv)

The Orthodox Monastery of Saint Catherine stands at the foot of the Mount Horeb of the Old Testament, where Moses received the Tables of the Law. The mountain is known and revered by Muslims as Jabal Musa. The entire area is sacred to three world religions: Christanity, Islam, and Judaism. The Monastery, founded in the 6th century, is the oldest Christian monastery still in use for its initial function. Its walls and buildings, built on an extreme site, illustrate the long tradition of monastic life and religious sites and monuments, forms a per- fect backdrop for the Monastery.

GERMANY

Mineral and Historical Landmarks of the Upper Middle Rhine Valley

(C ii, iv)

The cultural landscape of Tokaj graphically demonstrates the long tradition of wine production in this region. Its rolling hills and river valleys. The intricate pattern of vineyards, farms, villages, and small towns, with their network of levees. The town Hall of Stralsund, and the series of houses for residential, commercial and cultural use, represent the culmination of the cultural landscape of the Upper Middle Rhine Valley.

ITALY

Historic Towns in Southern and South-Eastern Sicily

(C i, ii, iv)

The eight towns (Castelvetrano, Castiglione di Stella, Erice, Palma di Montechiaro), Catania, Modica, Ragusa, Siracusa; and Sciacca were all rebuilt after 1693 on or beside towns existing at the time of the earthquake in that area. They represent a comprehensive collective undertaking, successfully carried out at a high level of architectural and artistic achievement. Keeping within the late Baroque style of the day, they also depict distinctive innovations in town planning and urban building.

MEXICO

Historic City of Campeche

(C i, ii, iii, iv)

Campeche, an important Maya site set deep in the tropical forest of the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico, played a key role in the history of the Maya region for more than twelve centuries. Its imposing structures and its characteristic overall layout are remarkably well preserved and give a vivid picture of life in an ancient Maya capital.

SUIZA

Ancient Maya City of Calakmul, Campeche

(C i, ii, iii, iv)

Calakmul, an important Maya site set deep in the tropical forest of the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico, played a key role in the history of the Maya region for more than twelve centuries. Its imposing structures and its characteristic overall layout are remarkably well preserved and give a vivid picture of life in an ancient Maya capital.
Rehabilitating Afghanistan’s Cultural Heritage

An International Seminar on the Rehabilitation of Afghanistan’s Cultural Heritage was organized by UNESCO and the Afghan Government in Kabul from 27 to 29 May. Participants included representatives and heritage experts from Afghanistan, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Pakistan, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, UNESCO, the World Heritage Centre, the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, the Agency for Technical Co-operation and Development (ACTED), the Bibliotheca Afghanica Foundation (HAFO), the Hirayama Foundation, ICOMOS, the International Foundation of Hope, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the World Tourism Organization (WTO). A team from the Ministry of Culture, professional tourism and non-governmental organizations, and representatives from more than one thousand representatives of heritage experts from Afghanistan, France, Germany, Japan, and Italy attended the informal dialogue, discussed the possibility of establishing an international center, and re-established the re-establishment of inventories and the training of personnel. The seminar recommended the re-establishment of the directorates of museumology and design, restoration, photography and library through training, and the support of UNESCO, ICOMOS, ICOM, and several archaeological institutions.

At the seminar the Aga Khan Foundation promised US$5 million to safeguard Afghanistan’s traditional habitats and public or historical buildings in Heart as well as the Babur Garden and the Timur Shah mausoleum in Kabul.

The International Seminar on the Rehabilitation of Afghanistan’s Cultural Heritage brought together experts, donors and the Afghan Government to work out priorities for the consolidation, rehabilitation and protection of the endangered heritage.

Widespread international attention was focused on Afghanistan’s cultural heritage in March last year when the Taliban destroyed the giant Buddhas at Bamyan. The Afghan Government promised €365,000 for the rehabilitation of the Afghan Institute of Archaeology and another €365,000 for other projects to be implemented through ICOMOS. Italy also announced a substantial contribution through the Italian Funds-in-Trust at UNESCO and will support archaeological research within the framework of bilateral relations. France, in co-operation with ACTED, will finance the protection of the 9th-century Abbassie Mosque.

Other projects were discussed, such as the consolidation of the 12th-century Minaret of Jam in western Afghanistan, to be undertaken by UNESCO and SPACH (see World Heritage in Danger column). The seminar reaffirmed the urgency of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger at the 26th session of the World Heritage Committee last June, bringing to 31 the number of sites on the List. The Minaret of Jam, which rises 65 m from a narrow valley, is the first property in Afghanistan to be inscribed on the World Heritage List. The tower, with its elaborate buttress-like base, is the second tallest minaret following the Indian World Heritage property of Qutb Minar. The minaret and the surrounding archaeological remains constitute exceptional testimony to the pace and quality of the Ghurid civilization that dominated the region in the 12th and 13th century. The minaret is moreover an outstanding example of Islamic architecture and ornamentation in the region.

The archaeological remains of Tipasa are a further cause for concern. The site has also been the target of illegal excavation and looting for years. Experts say many of the Ghana period artefacts have disappeared. At the seminar the Aga Khan Foundation promised US$5 million to safeguard Afghanistan’s traditional habitats and public or historical buildings in Heart as well as the Babur Garden and the Timur Shah mausoleum in Kabul.

The archaeological remains of Tipasa are facing serious concerns, due to poor maintenance, vandalism and the growing encroachment of adjacent settlements. Much of recent urban construction is taking place within the site’s buffer zone. The site is open to tourists who are not guided and there is no open sewage drainage systems running through the site. The absence of an effective management plan and the failure to implement a 1992 ‘Permanent Safeguarding and Presentation Plan’ have compounded the problems facing the site.

Emergency Assistance from the World Heritage Fund was provided to the site in 2001. However, an on-site mission by the UNESCO expert mission in February 2003 reaffirmed the urgency of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Ecotourism Summit

The first-ever World Ecotourism Summit was held in Québec City, Canada, from 19 to 22 May, with the participation of more than one thousand representatives of government, professional tourism and non-governmental organizations from 130 countries, under the auspices of the World Tourism Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). A team from UNESCO and the World Heritage Centre attended the summit as well as representatives from several World Heritage sites.

The World Ecotourism Summit in Québec City was the crowning event in the International Year of Ecotourism. The participants called on governments, international institutions and the private sector to give priority to tourism that respects the environment and helps the development of local communities, warning that the world’s coral reefs, its tropical forests, deserts and mountains are put in danger by uncontrolled mass tourism.

At the Summit the World Heritage Centre presented issues dealing with the monitoring of ecotourism costs and benefits to stakeholders. Chief of the Natural Heritage Section, Natarajan Ishwaran, illustrated the potential for ecotourism development not only for sites, but also for a whole network of destinations. Harry Salden, Head of the Sub-direction of National Parks and Protected Areas, Indonesia and Pontious Ezusta, from the Ugandan Wildlife Programme (UNEP), provided an example of integrated tourism development, the founding of the luxury resort, the building of the framework of the resort, and the training of personnel.

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Just ahead of the seminar, World Heritage Centre Director, Francesco Bandarin, and Akbar Zargar, representative of ICOMOS, discussed the reaction of the World Heritage Convention in Afghanistan with the authorities. They also dis- cussed nomination dossier presented previously and the organization of training activities to build national capacities for conserving natural and cultural heritage in Afghanistan.
July 14th marked the one hundredth anniversary celebration of the discovery of Machu Picchu, Peru, by three Peruvians: Augustin Lizarraga, Gabino Sanchez and Enrique Palma, nine years before the arrival of the area by the American explorer Hiram Bingham. The site has been on the World Heritage List since 1983.

Liberia, Barbados, the Marshall Islands, Vanuatu and Palau have all joined the World Heritage Convention since March, bringing the total number of States Parties to the Convention to 172. A complete list of States Parties is available on: http://whc.unesco.org/west/whl

In May, UNESCO and the World Heritage Centre-ICOMOS mission to Afghanistan in April, signed a co-operation agreement on 18 April whose purpose is to identify natural and cultural sites for inscription on the World Heritage List, to provide technical assistance to nominating countries, to enhance the management of sites already listed and to develop projects for which funding may be sought, in particular from international co-operation agencies.

The first World Heritage Skills Development Training Course for ASPnet Students was held in the Arab Region held at Petra, Jordan, 20 to 25 April, for hands-on practice in preservation. The course was organised by the UNESCO Amman Office, in co-operation with the WHC, UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network, IICROM, the Jordanian national Commission for UNESCO, and the Jordanian Department of Antiquities. For more information on the World Heritage in Young Hands Project: http://whv.unesco.org/education/index.htm

What Are They Doing?

Francesco Bandarin, WHC Director, attended the celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the Convention organized by the German National Commission in Potsdam. In addition to participating in the joint World Heritage Centre-ICOMOS mission to Afghanistan in April and May, Mr Bandarin went to Vienna in May at the invitation of Austria to consider the impact of the Wiener Mitte project on the historic centre of Vienna. He travelled to Greece in March for meetings with ministerial authorities on the implementation of the Convention and to attend an international conference on modern heritage in Rhodes, and in April he discussed in Madrid the implementation of the UNESCO-Spain Convention on World Heritage conservation. Natarajan Ishwaran, Chief of the Natural Heritage Section, was in Dublin, Ireland in April to speak on the World Heritage Convention and its application to students taking the environmental management diploma course, organized by the Conservation Education Trust of Ireland and to review the status of these diplomas.

Ms Kokkonen also participated in a meeting at the UNEP Regional Office in Mexico City, concerning a project proposal for a Global Environment Facility to establish a marine conservation corridor between the Galápagos and Cocos Islands region in the Eastern Pacific; in March Ms Negrin, Consultant, attended the 5th meeting for South America, held in Montevideo, Uruguay.

Ron van Oers, Consultant for Urban Conservation & Management, was in Sri Lanka in May to discuss the design of a master plan for Galle World Heritage site. He travelled to Bali, Indonesia in April to assist with the nomination dossier of a cluster of four sites proposed by the Balinese provincial government; he was also in South Africa in March to evaluate the possibility for a Cape Vineyard Cultural Landscape and to participate in the launch of the Project ‘Restoration Genadalen’, a 19th-century mission station; Alexandra zu Sayn-Wittgenstein, Consultant, European Union, attended the inscription ceremony in May for the Mining Area of the Great Copper Mountain in Futun, Sudan; Ms Hooff, Adviser for World Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean in Montevideo, and Ms Kokkonen participated in the sub-regional periodic reporting meeting for South America, held in Montevideo, Uruguay.


5 to 8 November Space Applications for Heritage Conservation, Virtual Heritage Congress in Strasbourg, France. Call for Papers, deadline 31 May 2002. Information: euny@micomft.net, http://www.eurisy.asso.fr/

14 to 16 November World Heritage International Congress of Experts Preliminary workshops: 11 to 14 November, venues to be announced. Information: http://whc.unesco.org/venice2002/, Jassim@unep.org

16 November 30th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention

The World Heritage newsletter

Publisher: UNESCO World Heritage Centre
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English-French translation: Sabine de Valence
Graphic Design: Nadia Gibson / Grace Hoder

Print: UNESCO
ISSN: 1920-0614

This newsletter is available on request in three versions: print, on the UNESCO World Heritage Centre website, or by e-mail:
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