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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-seventh session

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room XII
30 June – 5 July 2003

Item 7B of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

SUMMARY

This document contains information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Decision required: The Committee is requested to review the reports on the state of conservation of properties contained in this document. The Committee may wish to adopt the draft decision presented at the end of each state of conservation report.

I. INTRODUCTION

This document deals with **reactive monitoring** as it is defined in the *Operational Guidelines*: "The reporting by the Centre, other sectors of UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to the Bureau and the Committee on the state of conservation of specific World Heritage sites that are under threat". Reactive monitoring is foreseen in the procedures for the eventual deletion of properties from the World Heritage List (paragraphs 48-56 of the current *Operational Guidelines*) and for the inclusion of properties in the List of World Heritage in Danger (paragraphs 86-93 of the current *Operational Guidelines*).

II. STRUCTURE OF THE DOCUMENT

To facilitate the work of the Committee, a standard format has been used for all state of conservation reports as follows:

Name of property (State Party)

- Year of inscription on the World Heritage List and on the List of World Heritage in Danger, respectively;
- Inscription criteria;
- International assistance provided to the property to date;
- Previous deliberations. Reference is made to relevant paragraph numbers from the Report of the 26th session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee and 26th ordinary session of the Committee (June, Budapest 2002). In order to limit the length of this working document to a minimum number of pages, texts from this and other previous reports have not been repeated in this document).
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Reports on the State of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

A. NATURAL HERITAGE

AFRICA

1. Dja Faunal Reserve (Cameroon)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1987
Criteria N (ii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

US\$ 47,000 under Technical Assistance; US\$ 34,700 for Training Assistance

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

Twenty-fourth session of the Bureau (IV.27); Twenty-fifth session of the World Heritage Committee (para III.6)

New Information:

WHC:

Dja Faunal Reserve is one of the World Heritage sites that has been reported in the last years to be heavily impacted by wildlife extraction as bush meat, and encroachment on the buffer zone by timber concessions. The Committee at its twenty-fifth session was informed by the Centre and IUCN of the new Forest Initiative for African World Heritage (AWHFI) of UNESCO/FAO, which was under preparation for submission to United Nations Foundations in which Dja is included. The Committee was furthermore informed of the Bush Meat Task Force Initiative and the organization in Yaounde, Cameroon in 2001 of a workshop on "Links between Biodiversity Conservation, Livelihoods and Food Security and the Use of Wild Meat".

The State Party submitted a state of conservation report to the Centre, dated 16 February 2003. Additionally, the State Party requested international assistance for organizing a training workshop in order to prepare a Management Plan for Dja Faunal Reserve. The report received indicates that since October 2002, the "Conservation Service of Cameroon", funded by the Ecosystèmes forestiers d'Afrique centrale (ECOFAC/UE), has been working on preparation of the Management Plan for the site. The first phase has been completed. A consultation meeting was held with the Minister for Environment and Forestry on 14 February 2003. The draft management plan was presented and approved by the Minister. The second phase of the project consist of organising a series of restitution training workshops to be held in strategic "four corners" of the Dja Faunal Reserve for administrative personnel, the representatives of the communities on the periphery of the site, to be followed by one national inter-ministerial seminar for the validation of the management plan. The World Heritage Centre secured the support from the Netherlands Funds In Trust, amounting to US\$60,000, to be used towards the rapid assessment of biodiversity of Dja Faunal Reserve. This support will enable finalization of the rapid assessment task and organisation of the above

mentioned workshop. The State Party has already submitted a preliminary biodiversity assessment report.

Issues:

Poaching/Hunting; Lack of capacity in conservation techniques, Lack of management mechanism (including legislation), Lack of monitoring system

Additional Details:

Wildlife hunting and human encroachment

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recalling that requests have been made by the Committee and its Bureau to the State Party to take urgent actions to stop illegal poaching in the Reserve and to implement the recommendations of the Sangmelima workshop;

2. Noting that the State Party has renewed efforts to improve the management of Dja Reserve by drafting a Management Plan;

3. Welcomes the actions being undertaken by the State Party to implement the recommendations of the Sangmelima workshop requested by various sessions of the Committee and the Bureau within the framework of the periodic report,

4. Requests the State Party to submit a copy of the draft Management Plan to the Centre and IUCN for their review,

5. Expresses appreciation for the support provided under the Netherlands Funds In Trust agreement with UNESCO to assist Cameroon undertake actions recommended by the Committee for the protection of Dja Faunal Reserve, including the rapid assessment of biodiversity of the site.

2. Tai National Park (Côte d'Ivoire)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1982
Criteria N (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

US\$ 30,000 Under Technical Cooperation (1983); US\$7,500 Under Preparatory Assistance (1990); US\$30,540 Training Assistance (2002)

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b)6

New Information:

WHC:

At its twenty-sixth session (Budapest, 2002), the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party: "to provide a detailed report of the wildlife poaching situation at the site, including information on reported intentions to reopen hunting throughout the country and follow-up to the recommendations. If affirmative, the State Party should elaborate the plans and methods it proposes to regulate and control the activity at the World Heritage site". The Committee further urged the State Party to invite a monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the site with the aim of informing the Committee whether the site should be placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The State Party, following the request of the Committee has invited a monitoring mission to the site (letter to the Centre dated 16 August 2002).

On 1 April 2003, the State Party sent a report entitled "National workshop for training and awareness building: Contribution of Scientific Research to the management, conservation and sustainable development of a World Heritage site on forest zone: Tai National Park in South West Ivory Coast, as a result of two workshops held from 7 - 9 November 2002 in Tai National Park; and from 28 - 30 January 2003 in Abidjan. The workshops addressed the following issues:

- Lack of Master Plans providing priority orientations for research;
- Lack of co-ordination between researchers and conservators on the one hand, and foreign institutions on the other;
- Almost complete lack of national scientific research in Protected Areas;
- Lack of monitoring, evaluation and synthesis of research activities;
- Lack of access to and diffusion of research products.

The workshops further underlined the structural and institutional problems which have impacted Tai National Park, and which led to the creation of an independent protected area management system "Projet Autonome pour la Conservation du Parc National de Tai" (PACPNT). These problems include:

- The role of local populations in the implementation of the new conservation policy for the Tai National Park does not appear to be fundamentally different from their assigned role prior to PACPNT.
- The nature and importance of anthropic pressure exerted by the residents on the TNP does not appear to have evolved towards a sustainable conservation of the Park;
- The actions initiated in the development of a framework for a new conservation policy for the Tai National Park have not encouraged a change in behaviour on the part of the residents with regard to Tai National Park and its sustainable conservation.

Also, the research on management, conservation and sustainable management of the Park brought up a certain number of questions:

- What has been achieved through research activities in the Tai National Park and how have they significantly contributed towards the conservation of this site?
- In what way can scientific research encourage the active participation of all partners involved in the management of the Tai Area in the implementation of the TNP long-term conservation programme and in the economic, social and cultural development of the region?
- What are the strategies to be developed and expanded so that scientific research may play a lead role in the sustainable development, conservation and management of Tai National Park?

The State Party has recently informed the World Heritage Centre that all contacts have been cut off with the site believed to be occupied by the rebels. The State Party requested the Committee to inscribe this site in the World Heritage List in Danger.

IUCN

In January 2003, IUCN received a report dated 16 August 2002 one month before the outbreak of the civil war. The report outlines the work of the "Project Autonome pour la Conservation du Parc National de Tai", financed by GTZ (German Technical Cooperation) since 1993 and provides some basic statistics for the period from 1996 to 2001. Before the outbreak of the conflict and Since the beginning of the GTZ project, the reports show that: - Surveillance in the Tai National Park is among the best in the region and results from the monitoring studies show some improvement in the situation on the ground. Monitoring is taking place with the assistance of local people, many of whom were poachers previously. There is some indication of an increase in the density of monkeys between 1998 and 2001 and it is noted that no large species has disappeared from the Park. Satellite images also show that there is a positive evolution of forest growth in degraded areas, while an environmental education programme has been developed in the region. - The boundaries of the Park have been completely demarcated with the use of a GPS and entered into a database; - Anti-poaching patrols have helped reduce the effect of poaching on the Park. In summary: - An average of 90 people have been arrested per year for various illegal activities with a maximum number in 1999 due to the increased capacity of the guards assisted by the project; - Poaching is the greatest problem with the majority (81%) of arrests relating to illegal poaching, followed by gold mining and then crop growing; and - There was a decrease in arrests in 2001, dropping to only 25 people. - The Park management is seeking to develop greater collaboration with local people, NGOs and international organizations, especially in relation to developing ecotourism. About 250-350 visitors have been visiting the site per year but the current instability in the country has caused this to drop. Training of the local population, cooperation with the private sector and an

improvement in the security situation are necessary for ecotourism to develop successfully.

Whilst IUCN notes that the results of the GTZ project, the report does not provide clear information on the wildlife conservation status in the site and the impact of poaching over the years. No information has been provided by the State Party on the issue of re-opening hunting in the country and the plans to control such hunting in the World Heritage site.

IUCN thanks the State Party for its cooperation and hopes to be able to organize the monitoring mission as soon as the security situation in the country improves. Furthermore, IUCN recommends that the Committee commend the State Party for their efforts to protect the integrity of Taï National Park, as well as GTZ for their long-term support to this site. IUCN notes that while some of the results presented in the State Party report are encouraging, there is a lack of information on the impact of poaching at the site. IUCN recommends that the Committee request a report on the issue of re-opening hunting throughout the country, as well as an update on the effect of the current civil unrest on the site.

Issues:

Agriculture Pressure, Poaching/Hunting; Lack of capacity in conservation techniques, Lack of monitoring system, Lack of human or financial resources; Civil unrest, Looting/Theft; Fundamental change/diminution of protection

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Noting with concern the current civil war situation facing Côte d'Ivoire and its possible impact on Tai National Park, and stressing on the importance for each State Party to implement its obligations to the Convention to protect and conserve the properties in its territory,
2. Further noting that the State Party had undertaken before the war necessary measures that resulted with improved state of conservation of the site
3. Commends the State Party for the efforts to protect the integrity of Taï National Park;
4. Requests the State Party to submit a detailed state of conservation report by 1 February 2004, particularly addressing the issue of re-opening hunting throughout the country and the effect of the current civil unrest on the site, which may lead to the inscription of Taï National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

3. Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1983 ;
Criteria N (ii) (iv)*

Previous International Assistance:

US\$ 50,000 Under Technical Cooperation (2000)

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee – page 85 of Annex VIII

New Information:

WHC:

The Centre received the State Party's report entitled Gestion participative pour la conservation et la gestion durable du parc national de la Comoe, site du patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO (Nord-ouest de la Cote d'Ivoire) dated 9 December 2002. The preparation for this study was requested by the 23rd session of the World Heritage Committee. The report focuses on the presentation of the Park, management, organization, developments in the Park, and specifically management issues in relation to the local communities around the Park. The second part of the report includes a Management Plan for the Park.

Two awareness-raising seminars were organized from 4 - 6 January 2002 and from 30 - 31 March 2002. The seminars organized by Ecological Research Centre and Department of Water and Forest aimed at raising awareness of the local authorities and local communities on the impacts of poaching on biodiversity in the Park, and finding ways of including local population in combating poaching. The second workshop enabled to validate the Management Plan for Comoe National Park and to determine the priorities for its implementation.

Results of the study reports on factors that impact the site include:

- Wildlife poaching by local population living around the site; by well armed professional poachers (mainly from outside Cote d'Ivoire and often residing in the Park for several months); and by some Park guards themselves who often provide arms to the poachers.
- The captured wildlife from Comoe is being relocated to other Parks such as Abokouamekro Animal Park. The overgrazing by large herds of cattle by 'Peuls' herdsmen during the dry season. Dry season wild fires caused by poachers who burn nearly 80% of the Park annually, and drought, are recognized as the main causes for biodiversity degradation.
- Lack of communication between the Park personnel and the local communities; lack of monitoring and antipoaching activities; corruption and the absence of personnel supervision, and lack of resources for guards.

The report proposes specific activities in order to improve the management of the Park. To combat poaching and wild fires, the report recommends establishment of the inter-village committee with judicial status, comprising of members from the local communities and authorities to be charged with Park patrols.

On 7 April 2003, the Centre received a report from Comoe Research Station of the Department of Tropical Biology

and Animal Ecology from the University of Würzburg in Germany entitled "Status of the Comoe National Park (WHS), Cote d'Ivoire, Report to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre". The report confirms the information provided in the State Party's report. The report further mentions that following the launching of the European Union funded WorldWide Fund for Nature (WWF) project in 1998, some improvements were made related to equipment, maintenance of vehicles and re-organization of the patrol-system. Other improvements included: a six-month special training for 20 game wardens; construction of a surveillance; and construction of a road system extension for about 400 km which enabled better mobility for patrols. As a result of these improvements, the first positive results in reducing the poaching level were achieved in 2000.

At the time of preparing this report the situation in Comoe is unclear. The northern region of Cote d'Ivoire is occupied by the rebels who took over the western, northern, and eastern regions surrounding the Park. Reports show that the rebels could be seen within the Park four weeks into the war and reports of significant increase in poaching. One of the main bridges in the southern part of the Park as well as the Comoe ferry in Ganse were blown up hampering access to the southern region of the Park making it inaccessible.

The Cote d'Ivoire national authorities have expressed interest to request the Committee to inscribe Comoe on the List of World Heritage Danger.

Issues:

Agriculture Pressure, Poaching/Hunting; Lack of human or financial resources; Armed conflict, Civil unrest, Looting/Theft; Fundamental change/diminution of protection

Draft Decision: **27 COM 7 (b) 3**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Noting with concern the current civil war situation in Côte d'Ivoire which appears to impact Comoe National Park,
2. Requests the State Party to submit a detailed state of conservation report by 1 February 2004 for review by its 28th session which may lead to the inscription of Comoe National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

4. Mount Kenya National Park / Natural Forest (Kenya)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1997
Criteria N (ii) (iii)

Previous International Assistance:

US\$25,000 under Technical Cooperation;

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee (paragraph XIII.25); Twenty-fifth session of the Committee (para. VII.88); 26COM 21 (b) 14

New Information:

WHC:

At its 25th Session held in December 2001 in Helsinki the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission to the site. The mission was undertaken from 13 to 17 January 2003. The prime objective of the mission was to report on the state of conservation of the Mount Kenya National Park/Natural Forest. The second objective was to make proposals for future developments at the site and for networking among mountain World Heritage Sites in Eastern Africa using an Italian Funds-in-Trust contribution to UNESCO for an "African Network for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development of Mountain World Heritage sites".

The mission made the following observations:

- The mission team was provided with the copy of the "Preliminary Findings of Changes in Mt. Kenya Forests Between 2000 and 2002", dated December 2002. The study was carried out by UNEP, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Kenya Forest Working Group (KFWG) and the Durrell Institute for Conservation and Ecology – University of Kent. The satellite images presented in the report show substantial regeneration of vegetation cover within the site. In comparison to 1999, the report shows a large decrease in the amount of illegally logged timber such as camphor (reduction of 94%), cedar (reduction of 73%) and other indigenous trees (reduction of 92%), reduction of existing charcoal kilns (reduction of 62%) and marijuana fields (reduction of 81%).
- The State Party has made significant changes to the management of Mount Kenya since 1999. In July 2000, the Forest Reserve was gazetted as a National Reserve under the Wildlife Act and the responsibility of KWS. The Forest Reserve was not formally degazetted and this led to confusion and disagreement between Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and the Forest Department over the management responsibilities. This situation was not resolved at the time of the mission. Two weeks before the mission, a new government took office and the responsibility over KWS was moved to the Ministry of Environment.
- KWS and FD are currently preparing a new draft Management Plan 2002-2007 for the site. The mission was informed that local communities have not been fully consulted in the preparation of the draft Management Plan. This draft was not available to the mission.
- In 1999, KWS in cooperation with UNEP made an aerial survey of the destruction of Mount Kenya, Imenti and Ngare Ndare forest reserves. Although most of the forest damage was outside the World Heritage site, the result of

the survey nonetheless demonstrated critical threats to the entire ecosystem. After the National Reserve was gazetted, KWS acted to prevent these illegal activities and to apprehend those responsible. A sample follow-up aerial survey in 2002, other monitoring and the mission observation flights confirmed a much-improved situation. Two threats remain significant. Charcoal burning is still widespread on the fringes of the forest (outside the World Heritage site itself) Marijuana cultivation although greatly reduced in scale was still occurring at a few sites high in bamboo forest well within the World Heritage site

- A number of electric fences are in operation, or under construction, or planned to be erected, in order to protect villages and cultivated areas from elephants. While the mission encouraged judicious use of fencing to reduce conflicts, it stressed the importance of leaving key migration corridors to prevent genetic isolation of the Mount Kenya elephant population.

- Rural poverty and population growth lead to higher pressure on the Mount Kenya forests. The mission was pleased to learn about the many donor and NGO/CBO (spell out the first time please) activities in and around Mount Kenya and about the coordination and leadership being given by the Mount Kenya donor/partner forum chaired by UNDP. A number of community projects have benefited from grants from the GEF-United Nations Foundation COMPACT (Community Management of Protected Areas Conservation) initiative, which assigned US\$750,000 in support of Mount Kenya National Park/Natural Forest World Heritage site. Rural development in the watersheds to the south and east of the mountain will benefit from the US\$24 million IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) project. Support has also been provided to Mount Kenya by: German Development Agency for Agricultural issues; Swiss Embassy for Water issues and the Ford Foundation is expected to joint soon for Cultural sites development. European Union and UNDP have provided support for biodiversity conservation and the World Heritage Fund for preparing a site Management Plan. Private Sector support to Mount Kenya is provided by: Mount Kenya Bill Woodley Trust for fencing some areas and for miscellaneous projects and Willian Holden Wildlife Foundation for the conservation of wildlife and for energy issues; The corporate sector such as the Kenya airways provide support for advertising the site in the media; and, Alliance and Serena chain Hotels for forestation activities.

- On 8 April 2003, the United Nations Foundation (UNF) informed the Centre that it is discussing with UNDP-GEF Small Grants programme a project for mountain bongo reintroduction to Mount Kenya, in which UNF would contribute US\$100,000 from core resources with US\$200,000 as matching funds that UNF will mobilize. The headline above says "the mission made following observations", therefore this should not be included here.

There is potential to continue and reinforce these initiatives and to encourage appropriate tourism development. The mission identified networking and

development needs and suggested where could the proposed networking among mountain World Heritage sites in East Africa assist.

IUCN

The monitoring mission was undertaken by the Centre and IUCN and the report and the conclusions of the mission were drawn jointly.

Issues:

Agriculture Pressure, Logging

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Noting that the results of the report provided by the UNESCO and IUCN mission to the site and the existing number of positive actions that have been carried out by the State Party to improve the management of the site and the protection of World Heritage values,

2. Commends the State Party for positive actions undertaken so far for the conservation of the site, particularly in relation to the control of illegal logging, charcoal kilns and marijuana fields;

3. Urges the State Party to clarify jurisdiction arrangements over the plantation zone between KWS and the Forest Department and confirm that this zone will be managed either by Forest Department or in close cooperation with it;

4. Urges the State Party to finalize the Mt. Kenya National Park Management Plan;

5. Urges the State Party to redouble its efforts to ensure the long-term survival of the site's integrity and values of the site. These actions should include: the importance of leaving key migration corridors to prevent genetic isolation of the Mount Kenya elephant stock; undertaking further surveillance and enforcement to eradicate illegal activities around the site for the long-term conservation; undertake further work on the plan and a new round of community consultations in order to produce a plan that will effectively guide the long-term conservation of the site;

6. Acknowledges the financial support provided to the site by the Mount Kenya donor/partner forum chaired by UNDP, the GEF-United Nations Foundation COMPACT initiative, UNF, IFAD and further acknowledges the contribution of Italian Government under the Italian Funds in Trust towards agreement with UNESCO.

7. Requests the State Party to submit a report by 1 February 2004, addressing the recommendations from UNESCO / IUCN mission to be examined by the 28th session in June/July 2004.

8. Encourages the State Party to undertake further work for the planning of a new round of community consultation

in order to produce a plan that will effectively guide the long-term conservation of the site.

5. W National Park of Niger (Niger)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1996 ;
Criteria N (ii) (iv)*

Previous International Assistance:

US\$ 44,879 under Technical Co-operation;

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

Twenty session of the Committee par. A2.

New Information:

WHC:

The Centre has been informed about the planned project to construct the Dyodyonga electricity dam in "W" National Park on the Mekrou River valley, which constitutes the border between the Republics of Niger and Benin. In a letter dated 14 November 2002 the Centre requested the State Parties of Niger and Benin to verify the information and to ensure the protection of the site and its values in conformity with the paragraphs 4, 6, 11, and 48 and 56 of the *Operational Guidelines*. The Centre is yet to receive replies to the above referred letters.

The State Party reported that:

- The dam will produce only electricity with an estimated production of 26 megawatts, possible 13 megawatts for Niger and the rest for Benin.
- The electrical production will not be assured all year long as Mekrou River flow only 4 to 5 months within a year, implying that the dam will stay dormant when Niger consumes most of the electricity, that is, during the dry season (May and June);
- With the high rate of evaporation, erratic rainfall and cyclic droughts that affect the semi-arid countries on the periphery of Sahel, the sustainability of the dam is not assured;
- The dam will influence creation of a flooded area of approximately 12, 000 hectares. This area hosts one of the most beautiful riverline forests in West Africa, which constitute the refuge and important habitat for many endangered animal species. It is estimated that more than 3,500 hectares of riverline forest will be flooded and permanently lost;
- One of the main tourist attractions, the Mekrou gorges, would disappear; The lake will constitute a zone likely to favour the development of insects vectors to such diseases as malaria, river blindness and bilharzia;
- The Mekrou valley also contains a cultural heritage in the form of funeral sites and prehistoric technological sites. The Centre has been informed of new archaeological discoveries of an old ancient city and a tomb thought to be several million years old. The Centre was also informed about the proposals to revive the plan for phosphate exploration in the Park.

The Centre received a copy of a letter addressed to the Niger's Minister for Mines and Energy from Niger's Minister for Water, Environment and Desertification Control dated 24 February 2003. In this letter, the Minister for Water, Environment and for Desertification Control request his colleague the Minister for Mines and Energy to kindly reactivate the national Committee of dialogue on Mekrou river valley. Furthermore, the Minister noted in the letter that no infrastructure development should be made on this site protected under international agreements (UNESCO Convention concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, etc..) without detailed impact study and in collaboration with respective institution.

The Centre was informed that the "Cabinet Wertheimer Environment", a private consulting firm, will undertake a feasibility study on the Dyodyonga dam construction.

The Ramsar Bureau plans to organize a workshop financed under the World Heritage Fund in W National Park from 28 May to 6 June 2003, with participation from the Centre. During this workshop the Centre and Ramsar propose to undertake a mission to W Park to assess the state of conservation of the site and to discuss with the Niger authorities on the proposed dam construction. The report of the mission will be presented to the Committee to enable its decision concerning "W" Park at the time of the session.

Issues:

Agriculture Pressure; Lack of institution coordination

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 5

The draft decision for consideration by the Committee will be available at the time of its session on the basis of the report to be submitted on the findings of the Centre and Ramsar mission to "W" Park in Niger.

6. Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park (South Africa)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1999 ;
Criteria N (ii) (iii) (iv)*

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

Twenty-third session of the Committee (paragraph A1)

New Information:

WHC:

The World Heritage Centre has received information from various stakeholders, organizations, including communities, conservation groups such as the Wildlife and Environment Society, user-groups and NGOs, on Saint Lucia Wetland Park expressing concerns of reported "new constructions inside Saint Lucia Wetland Park, a World

Heritage site and the growing and intensified land conflict among the community members”.

These reports stress that:

- No overall environmental impact assessment has been completed or commissioned for new developments reported to be erected in ecologically sensitive areas of the Park; and no marketing assessment has been performed to justify the proposed 6000-7000 hotel beds planned to be built in the Park;
- The infrastructure for these facilities is commercially unviable;
- Many resident communities have not been informed of these initiatives; and
- The practice of falconry in and around the site.

It is reported through above correspondence to the Centre that there is a growing site management dispute resulting from claims and total breakdown in communication among stakeholders and some "illegal occupation" of the Park. The reports propose the need for skills training to promote the development of alternative livelihoods, negotiations and viable alternatives to alleviate the impact currently posed on the site.

The Centre received on 6 February 2003 a letter from Greater St Lucia Wetland Park Authority (GSLWP) transmitting a copy of a letter from the South African Minister for Environmental Affairs and Tourism to the South African Ambassador to France and the Permanent Delegate to UNESCO. The Minister informs that a dedicated management authority for St. Lucia was established to ensure that the World Heritage Convention obligations are met and that the objectives of the Park as set out in the World Heritage Convention Act 1999 (No 49 of 1999) are achieved.

Issues:

Lack of institution coordination

Additional Details:

Conflicting land use

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Taking note of the urgent need to re-establish cooperation and confidence among the stakeholders for the purpose of effective conservation and management of St. Lucia Wetland National Park,
2. Expresses strong concern regarding the potential impacts of the reported developments and the lack of comprehensive environmental assessment plan might have on the site;
3. Encourages the promotion of the development of new skills such as tourism among local communities for a better management of the site;

4. Requests the States Party to provide a report on these issues by 1 February 2004.

ARAB STATES

7. Banc d'Arguin National Park (Mauritania)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1989

Criteria N (ii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 16

New Information:

WHC:

During a Centre mission to Mauritania from 21 to 28 September 2002, meetings were held with the Banc d'Arguin Park Management and the GTZ Project office staff at Nouakchott. The Park Director also visited UNESCO Headquarters for a meeting with IUCN and Centre staff on 11 April 2003. The following points were noted:

Construction of the road from Nouakchott to Nouadhibou :
The first stone of the road was placed on 29 July 2002 by the President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. The 470km road will cost about US\$77 million, and is supported by FADES, BID and the State of Mauritania. The road is planned to detour around the Park at a distance of about 4km. A copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) carried out in 2001 was provided to the Centre with the comments from the Banc d'Arguin Park Management (PNBA) on 7 April 2003. The Park Management considers that this study is not professionally adequate and that the potential consequences of the road project on the Park were not taken into account.

IUCN has received information raising serious concerns about the EIA and its insufficient analysis of potential threats to the natural values of the site. For example, it seems that no study was carried on potential pollution to water resources, both chemical and organic, resulting from the construction of the road. In addition, the Moroccan agency that carried out the EIA did not consult with the Park Management unit and, as a result, there are many errors and gaps throughout the report in relation to the natural values of the Park and current conservation and management activities.

Oil explorations: The Australian company "Woodside" found oil 2 years ago for the first time in the region surrounding the Park. A number of explorations have been extremely successful in finding relatively large quantities of gas and oil. It is expected that the zone "Chinguity 1" will be exploited first where it is expected to hold approximately 1.5 billion barrels of oil. Three other companies are present in the region and the land around

the Park has been divided up into blocks for exploration. The World Heritage site is located within blocks 9 and 10 attributed to IPG, a Russian-English-Mauritanian consortium, that is apparently now carrying out seismic explorations / aerial inspections. According to the Centre mission, «Woodside» carried out a preliminary EIA and a copy of this in English had been sent to the Minister of the Environment. However, the Park Management, IUCN and the Centre have not yet received a copy of this report. GTZ has informed IUCN and the Centre that its study exploring the legality of oil exploitation in national parks in Mauritania and in particular Banc d'Arguin National Park, is not yet finalized.

Issues:

Urban Pressure, Mining, Oil/Gas Exploration; Lack of management mechanism, (including legislation).

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Notes that the road construction from Nouakchott to Nouadhibou has begun;
2. Urges the State Party to organize a meeting to define the real impact of this road on the Park and to ensure that the EIA study complies with internationally recognized standards, in collaboration with interested donors;
3. Notes that oil exploration in the vicinity of the park is being carried out, with indications that large reserves in the area may be exploited in the near future, causing a potentially serious threat to the marine life of the Park;
4. Requests that the State Party provide a copy of the GTZ study and the oil/gas exploration EIA to IUCN and to the Centre;
5. Calls on the State Party to associate the Centre to the decision-making process concerning the authorization of oil/gas explorations and possible exploitation of oil/gas fields as it relates to the site;
6. Encourages the State Party to submit an international assistance request to train the governmental specialists on the analysis of EIA documents regarding oil/gas explorations.

ASIA-PACIFIC

8. Lorentz National Park (Indonesia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1999
Criteria N (i) (ii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

US\$ 15,000 Preparatory Assistance in 1995/96; US\$ 30,000 Technical Co-operation in 2001/2002.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th session of the Committee (Annex IX, Chapter: III. 57– 60); 26COM 21 (b) 12

New Information:

WHC:

In response to item 1 of the Committee's Decision 26COM21(b)12 the State Party, by letter to the Centre dated 4 March 2003, invited an IUCN/World Heritage Centre mission to visit the site and suggested late April/early May as a possible time for the mission. In 1999, when the Committee inscribed Lorentz on the World Heritage List it had suggested that a mission be undertaken to the site three years later (2002/2003) to monitor progress in the implementation of the Committee's recommendations made at the time of inscription. The Centre's communications with the Directorate of Protected Areas of Indonesia have made it clear that the mission is likely to be delayed, perhaps until June-July 2003 due to logistical aspects of organizing the mission to this remote site. A Centre staff member is expected to undertake negotiations on the organization of the mission, including the Terms of Reference of the mission during a visit to Jakarta from 5 to 7 May 2003. The specific timing of the mission will be reported to the Committee at the time of its twenty-seventh session. In the meantime IUCN is in the process of choosing a suitable expert for undertaking the mission.

Issues:

Mining, Oil/Gas Exploration; Lack of human or financial resources; Lack of institution coordination.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Expresses its thanks to the State Party's prompt invitation of an IUCN/World Heritage Centre mission to the site in response to the Committee decision 26COM21(b)12,
2. Notes that the World Heritage Centre and IUCN are consulting with concerned authorities in Indonesia to establish the Terms of Reference and determine suitable dates for the mission, and
3. Requests the Centre and IUCN to co-operate with the State Party to organize the mission as soon as possible in 2003 and submit a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property for examination at its 28th session.

9. Royal Chitwan National Park (Nepal)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1984
Criteria N (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

A sum of US\$ 80,000 has been provided for management, equipment support and training.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th session of the Bureau (Chapter – V.126 – 127); 25th session of the Committee (Annex IX, paragraph 66 – 70) 25th session of the Bureau (Chapter V.126 - 127).

New Information:

WHC:

Following the decision of the 26th session of the Committee, and the invitation of the State Party, IUCN carried out a monitoring mission to the site from 16 to 20 December 2002.

The IUCN mission found a considerable increase in poaching of rhinos in recent years. The mission report notes that 27 dead rhinos had been found from mid-July to mid-December 2002. The report stated that the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MFSC) and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) were aware of this critical situation, and had expressed their commitment to address the problem.

The mission noted habitat degradation through the spread of invasive species such as water hyacinth, Mikenia species, tall grasses, etc. Habitat management is thus appropriately ranked as Priority 1 in the current Management Plan of the National Park (2001-2005). The mission also raised its concern over the pollution in the Narayani River induced by a number of adjacent industries.

The mission was informed that the Kasra Bridge on the Rapti River was built without carrying out the environmental impact assessment (EIA) that had been requested by the 26th session of the Committee. IUCN noted that the Department of National Parks and Wildlife had registered its protests against this project, funded by the Japanese Debt Relief Fund (DRF), The World Bank (IMF), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and His Majesty Government of Nepal (HMGN). The total cost of the bridge was US\$ 1.62 million. The 3.8 km link road to the existing public right of way from Dhurbhaghat to Bankatta was also built without an EIA. However, due to the controversy over these projects, neither the link road nor the bridge have been opened for use yet. The mission noted that the road is already in a bad condition due to heavy floods and erosion caused by the Rapti River.

In relation to the plan to build a 33kV transmission line from Jagatpur to Madi, the mission noted that the route for this development had still not been decided and an EIA was to be carried out. The IUCN mission recommended that the transmission line should not cross the National Park at any point, or if such a crossing is absolutely essential, then the crossing of the transmission lines within the Park, restricted to the least possible distance, should be built underground. IUCN emphasized that an EIA of this project is essential before it starts.

The mission was informed that the project to erect a causeway on the Reu River has currently been held up, as the Government did not approve funds for this development.

The full text of the report of the IUCN mission is available, in English only, upon request.

Issues:

Poaching/Hunting

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Expresses its serious concerns over the failure to carry out the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and the lack of consultations with the Centre or IUCN in the design and implementation of the Kasra Bridge Project and the link road from Dhurbhaghat to Bankatta, despite the protests of the national authority responsible for the site, namely the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation,

2. Requests that the Director of the Centre write to the highest officials of the concerned bi- and multilateral funding agencies, namely Japanese Debt Relief Fund, the World Bank, and Asian Development Bank as well as to Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Development Co-operation in the State Party, transmitting the Committee's displeasure on this matter and urging that the three donor agencies and State Party provide information, before 1 February 2004, on why EIAs were not undertaken for the two projects and how decisions to finance projects without EIAs were made,

3. Invites the State Party to provide a detailed work plan to implement recommendations outlined in the IUCN monitoring mission report and to regularly report progress on the implementation of those measures to the Committee,

4. Requests the Centre to co-operate with the State Party in mobilizing international assistance, from the World Heritage Fund as well as other partners and donors, to assist in the conservation of the site,

5. Recommends that the State Party contact the IUCN Species Survival Commission (Invasive Species Specialist Group) to explore best solutions for the control of invasive species.

10. Sagarmatha National Park (Nepal)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979
Criteria N (iii)*

Previous International Assistance:

US\$ 71,995 Technical Co-operation (reforestation programmes).

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

23rd session of the Committee: Chapter X.28; 23rd extraordinary session of the Bureau: Section (iii).

New Information:

WHC:

The mission to Sagarmatha National Park was not requested by the Committee. However, IUCN discussed with the State Party the possibility of connecting the mission to Royal Chitwan National Park with a visit to Sagarmatha National Park. Accordingly, and in agreement with the State Party, IUCN carried out a monitoring mission to the Sagarmatha National Park and World Heritage site from 21 to 26 December 2002.

The mission noted a decline in the number of tourists due to the current political insecurity in the country, but this is seen as a temporary situation and tourism impacts should be regarded as a serious issue in future planning and site management. The waste generation and disposal problem, indiscriminate use of timber for meeting energy needs, and ill-planned development of housing (particularly for lodges and hotels) are problems associated with tourism. The mission recommended that these issues be addressed in co-operation with local organizations. For example, the Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee (SPCC) and the Namche Youth Group (NYG) have extensive experience in dealing with waste management. The mission was informed about the lack of technical and financial means for supporting involvement of these groups in improving management effectiveness.

The mission also noted the ratification of the Letter of Agreement (31 December 2002) between the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation (MOCTCA) and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) for the implementation of the UNDP/SNV/DFID funded project "Tourism for Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme" (TRPAP). SNV is a Dutch organization that carries out development co-operation activities in the area. The project provides US\$ 1.24 million over a 5-year period in order to assist in the revision of the National Park Management Plan, preparation of a tourism management plan, and to build capacity for staff and local community involvement in ecotourism. The mission highlighted the importance of this project to address key issues affecting the conservation of the site.

IUCN also noted the support of other agencies in conserving Sagarmatha: WWF supports the Sagarmatha Agro-Forestry Project in the buffer zone, the Himalayan Trust supports plantation of trees and sustainable forest management, and the Khumbe Bijli Company has made a significant contribution to meeting some of the local people's energy needs by generating 600 kW hydropower capacity.

The mission was informed by MOCTCA that the Syangboche airstrip extension plan had been put on hold and that MOCTCA would not proceed with the development of the airstrip without DNPWC approval.

The Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MFSC) expressed its commitment to the protection of the site and its decision not to allow the project to proceed. IUCN has suggested that the State Party be requested to provide a written commitment to the Committee on this matter. The mission also recommended that the area already excavated at Syangboche for the airstrip extension be fully rehabilitated.

The mission observed deforestation and land degradation, mainly in the buffer zone and a number of enclaves within the Park, due to the extensive use of wood for domestic purposes. There is potential for the use of alternative energy sources, such as electricity and gas, and a potential role for the community groups, such as Community Forest User Committees and Community Forest User Groups in the promotion of these sources.

The mission supported the State Party's intention to nominate an extension to the World Heritage site to include the adjacent Makalu Barun National Park. IUCN also noted the potential establishment of a transboundary World Heritage site with the Chinese side of Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest).

The full mission report is available, in English only, upon request.

Issues:

Tourism Pressure; Logging; Lack of human or financial resources; Lack of institution coordination.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 10

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. Commends UNDP, SNV and DFID for establishing the TRPAP project that will address various aspects of the Park and tourism management and provide benefits to local communities,*
- 2. Invites the State Party to continue the implementation of priority management needs identified under the Sagarmatha National Park Management Strategy Framework developed in 2000 while the UNDP/SNV/DFID Project is being implemented,*
- 3. Commends the State Party for halting the Syangboche airstrip project and requests that the State Party: (a) provide a letter confirming this decision and ensure that the project will not proceed in the future; and (b) request the Nepal Civil Aviation Authority under MOCTCA to remove the excavator and other construction materials from the site and provide adequate compensation to the Park authorities to enable the full rehabilitation of the area,*
- 4. Requests the State Party to enhance co-operation with local stakeholders in the management of the site.*

11. Tubbataha Reef Marine Park (Philippines)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1993
Criteria N (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

US\$ 20,000 Preparatory Assistance, US\$ 20,000 Technical Co-operation; US\$ 30,000 Training.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

21st session of the Committee(paragraph 31.)

New Information:

WHC:

IUCN was informed about the illegal fishing activities within the World Heritage site that occurred in 2002, after which the Philippines authorities apprehended six vessels with a crew of 136 Chinese individuals. 122 poachers were kept in detention and taken to court under charges of poaching, gathering of rare, endangered or threatened species, and/or fishing with the use of explosives and poisonous substances. On 27 September 2002, the court hearing ruled in favour of confiscation of all the vessels and a penalty of US\$ 100,000 per vessel. IUCN has been informed however, that the State Party, represented by the State Prosecutor, has not yet pursued the collection of these fines. IUCN has also been informed that the Department of Justice accepted a plea bargain agreement that reduced the terms of imprisonment. Local NGOs have subsequently initiated E-mail campaigns and petition letters in order to ensure the full application of the law in any future illegal fishing cases in the site.

IUCN was informed that the World Heritage Centre contacted the Permanent Delegation of the Philippines on 18 September 2002, requesting submission of a report in order to clarify the situation related to the illegal fishing activities in Tubbataha Reef Marine Park. A Centre staff member met with the site's Director during a marine ecosystem workshop in the Philippines and the World Heritage Centre has been assured by the site Director that a report on this specific question of illegal fishing will be sent to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible.

Issues:

Fishing; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation).

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Commends the State Party for actions taken to stop illegal fishing in the site while noting the need to ensure the full enforcement of the law in accordance with the World Heritage and National Park status of the site,

2. Requests the State Party to submit a report, by 1 February 2004, on the illegal fishing activities in the Sulu Sea and to prepare an analysis of its impact on the conservation of World Heritage in that ecosystem,

3. Encourages IUCN and the World Heritage Centre to co-operate with appropriate international, national and local partners to address questions relevant to illegal fishing in marine ecosystems and their implications for World Heritage conservation and to submit findings and recommendations to its 28th session.

12. East Rennell (Solomon Islands)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1998
Criteria N (ii)

Previous International Assistance:

Japan Funds in Trust US\$ 20,000 in 2000 for the assessment of cultural landscape values of the whole Island of Rennell - project cancelled due to civil unrest.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

At the time of inscription on the World Heritage List, the Committee recommended "that the State Party should proceed with the preparation of the Resource Management Plan and the draft national World Heritage Protection Bill and that a mission be undertaken in three years time to assess progress made."

New Information:

WHC:

Since this property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1998 virtually no information as to its state of conservation has been received. However, the Centre is aware from recent publications that there is a need to develop a quarantine plan and bio-security training to control invasive species, particularly ship rats. Ship rats are a potential threat to bird and animal populations on Rennell.

No official Periodic Report was received from the Solomon Islands.

Issues:

Lack of monitoring system, Lack of human or financial resources, Lack of institution coordination; Civil unrest.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Requests that IUCN and the World Heritage Centre organize a joint mission to the Solomon Islands to: (i) assess the state of conservation of East Rennell; (ii) determine the state of preparation of the Resource Management Plan and the draft national World Heritage Protection Bill; (iii) examine the feasibility of recommencing the assessment of cultural landscape values of the whole Island of Rennell for potential renomination; (iv) determine the feasibility of the nomination of Marovo Lagoon, and (v) submit a report for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 28th session in 2004.

13. Ha Long Bay (Viet Nam)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994
Criteria N (i) (iii)

Previous International Assistance:

US\$ 87,207 has been provided for management planning support, equipment and training activities and for organizing a regional meeting on periodic reporting on natural and mixed sites in Asia Pacific.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

24th session of the Committee (Annex X, page 117); 25th session of the Committee (Annex IX, paragraphs 73 – 78.)

New Information:

WHC:

UNESCO staff who participated in the meeting (20-22 January 2003) to synthesize the state of conservation reports on natural and mixed World Heritage sites within the framework of the Regional Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention in Asia-Pacific, undertook a site visit and held discussions with Vietnamese and international authorities, such as The World Bank and the JICA (Japan International Co-operation Agency) in Hanoi. The findings of the World Heritage Centre staff have been shared with IUCN.

The rate of implementation of development projects by far exceeds implementation of the Environmental Management Plan (EMP), although Centre staff were informed that a number of projects recommended in the EMP have commenced. Management of caves open to visitors has significantly improved. The plans for the Ecomuseum Project implementation are underway and the Quang Ninh and the Government appear to be ready to commit around US\$ 9 million for the implementation of that project while expecting to raise an additional US\$ 9 million from donors. NORAD has agreed to finance a component of the Ecomuseum Project. These efforts are commendable and are strongly encouraged. However, the national and Quang Ninh Province authorities must also be requested to give higher priority to finance the full implementation of the EMP jointly prepared by the Government of Vietnam and JICA.

During the field visit to Ha Long Bay, an increase of permanent boats within the northern and northwestern boundaries of the Ha Long Bay was noted, compared to that observed during a previous visit in 2000. The possibility that some of the people residing in the boats may be practicing prawn culture is also a cause for concern. IUCN has expressed its concern on the increase in prawn culture in the vicinity of Ha Long Bay World Heritage area. IUCN believes that if this activity (within and out of the site's boundaries) is not carefully monitored, it could easily lead to the depletion of fish and seafood stocks.

The mission furthermore observed that scientific studies and surveys in the Cat Ba Island, carried out with the

support of Fauna and Flora International (FFI), and with the view to extending the Ha Long Bay World Heritage site to include this island, are progressing well. A revised nomination of the Ha Long Bay World Heritage Area to include Cat Ba and justifying the inscription of the expanded site under natural heritage criterion (iv), is due to be received by the World Heritage Centre before 1 February 2004.

The Centre's observations on the state of conservation were transmitted to the State Party. In response, the State Party, by letter dated 8 April 2003, submitted an "Environment Management Work Plan for Ha Long Bay – The World Natural Heritage site to the year 2010". This information has been transmitted to IUCN for review.

Issues:

Urban Pressure; Tourism Pressure; Mining, Oil/Gas Exploration; Illegal fishing; Lack of monitoring system; Lack of human or financial resources; Lack of institution co-ordination.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Commends the State Party for continuing various aspects of the management of the sites, particularly those pertaining to visitor management in caves and to the World Heritage site,
2. Notes with appreciation the State Party's provision of information on the work plan for the environmental management of Ha Long Bay World Heritage site by letter dated 8 April 2003,
3. Requests IUCN and the World Heritage Centre to review the information provided and co-operate with the State Party to find ways and means of expediting the implementation of the Government of Vietnam/JICA Environmental Management Plan,
4. Urges the State Party to provide a report describing (a) trends in the numbers of people living inside the World Heritage area in boats; (b) extent of prawn culture cultivation in and around Ha Long Bay World Heritage area; and (c) potential impacts of (a) and (b) on the integrity of the World Heritage site by 1 February 2004 for review by its 28th session.

EUROPE / NORTH AMERICA

14. Belovezhskaya Pushcha / Bialowieza Forest (Belarus/Poland)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979
Criteria N (iii)

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

24th session of the Committee (Chapter III.24 / Annex X page 112); 25th session of the Bureau (Chapter V.142-145) ; 25th session of the Committee - Chapter VIII.97

New Information:

WHC:

The National Commission of Belarus submitted a report on the situation of the site dated 10 September 2002, providing the following information: 1. The name of the site has been changed following the Decree of the President of Belarus dated 16 March 1999. This had no impact on the legal status of the site. 2. Concerning the logging of 17 lots of relic forest and 200,000 cubic meters of forest, the report stated that these were due to an outbreak of bark- beetle. The World Heritage status applies only to the absolute preservation zone and in this area no logging took place, only in other functional zones. 3. Concerning commercial hunting, it stated that wolf hunting is allowed, as wolf numbers have increased. Within the GEF project on the "Protection of Biodiversity of Forest in Belovezhskaia Pushcha", animal counts were carried out and recommendations were made. 4. The drainage system was already set up in the 1960s – its negative effect on the adjacent ecosystems is now stabilized and the areas are gradually becoming covered by forest. Small water reservoirs are in place. 5. Concerning the gas reservoir, the report underlines that no construction of such reservoirs is undertaken in or near the World Heritage site.

In a report received on 11 September 2002 from the Director of the Polish National Park, it was stated that due to extremely dry years, the loss of spruce stands and dispersion of bark- beetles have been observed. Operations of cut-out and removal of dead spruce stock from the forest were carried out.

IUCN:

IUCN has received a large number of letters and E-mails from local and international NGO's and concerned individuals in relation to the state of conservation of this transboundary site. In particular, they highlighted extensive logging operations in both countries around the site, logging of trees more than 100 years old, and concern over the management of the bark-beetle infection and felled trees, which are inducing negative impacts on the site.

IUCN notes, however, that the information received from these various organizations and individuals through letters or discussions with IUCN staff, is often conflicting with that received from the two States Parties. As a result, IUCN highly recommends that a joint IUCN / UNESCO monitoring mission be invited in order to gather first-hand information on the state of conservation of the site and to meet with the various stakeholders in each country.

Issues:

Logging; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation).

Additional Details:

Transboundary management, logging; community use.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Notes the information provided by both States Parties,
2. Encourages the States Parties to invite a joint UNESCO-IUCN monitoring mission to visit the site in 2003 to review the state of conservation of the site and possibilities for transboundary management cooperation and to meet with all relevant stakeholders in both Belarus and Poland,
3. Requests a report on the mission to be provided for review by its 28th session in 2004.

15. Pirin National Park (Bulgaria)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1983
Criteria N (i) (ii) (iii)

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th extraordinary session of the Bureau (Chapter III.97-99); 25th session of the Committee (Chapter VIII.85); 26th session of the Bureau (Chapter VII.14-18); 26 COM 21 (b) 2

New Information:

WHC:

No information was provided by the State Party following the 26th session of the Committee and the results of the report provided by the UNESCO-IUCN mission to the site concerning the number of existing and potential threats to the site's values and integrity, including boundary issues, the lack of a management plan, and a new ski development proposal with forest disturbance.

Issues:

Tourism Pressure

Additional Details:

Ski development

Draft Decision: **27 COM 7 (b) 15**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Expresses its serious concern about the lack of response from the State Party;
2. Recalls its decision to defer the inscription of Pirin National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger until its 27th session, with decisions on this to be based on an assessment of the State Party's response to the UNESCO/IUCN Mission Report;
3. Requests the Centre and IUCN to schedule a mission to Bulgaria to review the situation with the authorities concerned;
4. Requests a report by the State Party by 1 February 2004 for review by its 28th session.

16. Nahanni National Park (Canada)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1978
Criteria N (ii) (iii)*

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th extraordinary session of the Bureau (Chapter III.101-103); 25th session of the Committee (Chapter VIII. 97); 26 COM 21 (b)

New Information:

WHC:

The Centre received a report from the State Party dated 7 February 2003. The report provided information on the proposed industrial activities on Nahanni National Park and the expansion of the Park. The Mackenzie Valley Environment Impact Review Board found an environmental impact assessment of the proposed mine at Prairie Creek to be deficient. The Board is awaiting subsequent information from the Canadian Zinc Corporation.

IUCN

IUCN notes the progress in the development of a new Management Plan for Nahanni National Park, which is nearing completion. The report noted that Parks Canada is working with Deh Cho First Nations on the issue of the extension of Park's boundary. Local communities have agreed to work with Parks Canada and other governmental agencies over the next three years on a detailed feasibility study of boundary options.

Issues:

Mining, Oil/Gas Exploration

Additional Details:

Proposed expansion of site

Draft Decision: **27 COM 7 (b) 16**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Acknowledges progress made with the development of a new management plan for the site and the proposed expansion of the site as a long-term process, including consultations with the Deh Cho First Nations;
2. Requests the State Party to keep the Centre informed on the development of the new management plan and environmental impact assessment of the proposed mine at Prairie Creek.

17. Wood Buffalo National Park (Canada)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1983
Criteria N (ii) (iii) (iv)*

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21(b) 4

New Information:

WHC:

The Centre received the State Party's report, dated 7 February 2003, on the status of the proposal to build a winter road, as requested by the 26th session of the Committee. The report noted that the situation in relation to the proposed winter road has not changed since the 26th session of the Committee. The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) and the Mikisew Cree First Nation filed applications to the court, seeking prevention of the construction of the winter road. The report stated that the appeal has not yet been heard in the Court.

Issues:

Urban Pressure

Additional Details:

Road construction

Draft Decision: **27 COM 7 (b) 17**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Notes the response from the State Party, as requested by the 26th session of the Committee;
2. Requests the State Party to provide to the Centre with an update on the situation related to the proposal to build a winter road following the Court's decision.

18. Isole Eolie (Aeolian Islands) (Italy)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2000
Criteria N (i)

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th extraordinary session of the Bureau (Chapter III.107-109); 25th session of the Committee (Chapter VIII.97) ; 26 COM 21 (b) 13

New Information:

WHC:

The Permanent Delegation of Italy provided information to the Centre by letter of 31 January 2003, on the following points: 1. Pumice extraction in Lipari; 2. Implementation of the "Landscape Territorial Plan" and, 3. Advancement of the management plan of the site.

IUCN

IUCN received a copy of the State Party report, which noted that the Landscape Territorial Plan, previously been legitimized by the Court, had been additionally assessed by the Constitutional Court. According to the Decision No. 478, the Constitutional Court decided that the City and Regional Councils should not be called upon to decide on territorial planning.

IUCN has recently been informed that the Regional Directorate for Landscape and Environment (Regional Assessorato Territorio ed Ambiente) received requests to establish a new pumice stone quarry and to extend four existing quarries, some of them extending into the World Heritage site.

The report received from the State Party noted that the relevant authorities are in the process of organizing a set of meetings to discuss the preparation of the plan for the closure of the pumice quarries. This plan will be incorporated into the General Management Plan of the Lipari Council and it will outline the Government's incentives for providing alternative job solutions for people involved in pumice extraction.

Issues:

Mining, Oil/Gas and Exploration

Additional Details:

Landscape Territorial Plan

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Notes* the report provided by the State Party and the positive development of the Constitutional Court ruling related to the adoption, legitimacy and implementation of the Landscape Territorial Plan;

2. *Welcomes* the State Party's intention to close the pumice quarries;

3. *Expresses* concern about the status of the requests for opening of a new pumice stone quarry and the extension of four existing quarries within the World Heritage site;

4. *Requests* the State Party to keep the Centre and IUCN informed about the developments related to this issue and to provide a report by 1 February 2004 for its 28th session.

19. Lake Baikal (Russian Federation)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1996
Criteria N (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

US\$ 30,000 for a training seminar in 1999

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th session of the Bureau (Chapter V.281); 25th session of the Committee (Chapters VIII. 89-94); 26th session of the Bureau (Chapter XII.23-29); 26 COM 21(b)19

New Information:

WHC:

The Director of the UNESCO Moscow Office, who headed the 2001 monitoring mission to Lake Baikal, attended a meeting on "Baikal as World Heritage site in Irkutsk", from 15-18 September 2002 at the Baikal Economic Forum. Following the Committee's request, he was able to arrange a meeting in Moscow on 11 March 2003 with the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources responsible for Lake Baikal, Mr. Kirill Yankov. The Director of the UNESCO Moscow Office informed the Centre that the meeting took place in a good atmosphere and that the Deputy Minister stated that he was ready to meet when necessary and welcomed the proposal for a high-level meeting. During the meeting the following information was provided:

1. Oil pipeline: There is no doubt that the pipeline will be built. The authorities prefer one instead of two, and to build it as far as possible from the Baikal, and in no event along the shore of the Lake. The Minister confirmed that the first project had not received the approval of the ecological expertise.

2. Water level: No changes in the water level of the lake will be allowed beyond the limits established.

3. Gas exploration: There are currently no plans to go further than the scientific drillings of the past.

4. Zoning: The process is under preparation and a decision will shortly be taken.

5. Management: A special office or authority for the co-ordination of all Baikal matters called "Baikalpriroda" has been created. It is based on the "Baikalpkmvod" in Ulan Ude.

6. Financing: The Target Programme under the Federal budget is still working. The last project financed is a

waste-processing factory in Ulan Ude. Others are waste-water purification installations in and around Baikalsk.

7. Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill: In February 2003, the project on closing the water cycle was approved and finally decided and a Memorandum has been signed.

The Committee at its 26th session (Budapest, 2002), requested the organization of a high level meeting involving the Russian State Party, IUCN and UNESCO representatives before the end of 2002. No official invitation from the State Party for such a meeting was received so far, despite clear indications by the Centre and IUCN to work closely with the State Party in improving the state of conservation of this site. No written information on Lake Baikal was received from the State Party.

IUCN

IUCN reiterates its view about the necessity of such a high-level meeting in light of the IUCN/UNESCO monitoring mission report (2001) which recommended including the site in the List of World Heritage in Danger and recommends that the Committee urge the State Party to determine the potential dates for this meeting in close co-operation with the UNESCO Moscow Office and IUCN.

Issues:

Mining, Oil/Gas Exploration

Additional Details:

Federal Law; pollution; pulp and paper mill, decline in seal population; Baikal Commission; oil and gas pipeline.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recalls the recommendation of the report of the monitoring mission in 2001 to include the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger,
2. Notes that no written information was provided by the State Party since the last session of the Committee,
3. Expresses its concern that the high-level meeting did not take place,
4. Urges the State Party to provide an up-date on the situation at the site taking into account all issues indicated in the 2001 report, by 1 October 2003,
4. Requests the State Party to invite the high-level meeting and requests that the results be provided by 1 February 2004 for review by its 28th session.

20. Volcanoes of Kamchatka (Russian Federation)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1996

Criteria N (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

24th session of the Committee (Chapter VIII.27 / Annex X page 115); 25th session of the Bureau (Chapter V.158-162); 26 COM 21(b)20

New Information:

WHC:

Following the Committee's decision, the Centre requested the State Party to submit a report on the management and staffing levels and arrangements in the protected areas included in the site, the system of delineation or distribution of game areas and the management of hunting, including the extent of involvement of the protected area management/authorities, and the location of the gas pipeline and power plant in relation to the site's boundary, as well as any impacts on the site. To date, no report from the State Party was received.

IUCN:

IUCN recalled that the Committee recommended at its 25th session (Helsinki, 2001) that the State Party invite a joint UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the site. However, the Committee at its 26th session (Budapest, 2002) decided to defer the mission until the above information is received. Although the report on the above issues has not yet been received, IUCN believes the mission should take place to assess the state of these issues and newly received information. IUCN received information that the Federal Forest Service of the Ministry of Natural Resources is leasing the most valuable lands within the protected area to private companies for exploitation of natural resources, in particular timber.

IUCN notes that in June 2002, the Ministry of Natural Resources started to implement a seven-year UNDP/GEF funded project (Kamchatka Phase I) "Demonstrating Sustainable Conservation of Biodiversity in Four Protected Areas". The project will seek to bolster the legal status and improve monitoring and management of Kamchatka's protected areas, fund scientific research and ensure that local people benefit by developing tourism and integrating indigenous peoples' hunting and fishing into site management.

Issues:

Mining, Oil/Gas Exploration

Additional Details:

Gold mining project; road construction; collaboration with local people.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Welcomes the State Party's co-operation with UND/GEF in an effort to conserve and protect the Volcanoes of Kamchatka World Heritage site, and for beginning to implement Phase I of the project,

2. Notes with concern that the State Party did not provide any report on the state of conservation of the site,

3. Requests that the State Party invite an IUCN/UNESCO mission to the site to provide a report by 1 February 2004 for review by its 28th session.

21. Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast (United Kingdom)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1986
Criteria N (i) (iii)*

Previous International Assistance:
N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:
26 COM 21(b)24

New Information:
WHC:

UNESCO and IUCN carried out a monitoring mission to this site from 16 to 19 February 2003, as requested by the 26th session of the Committee. The mission team was satisfied with the overall state of conservation of the site.

The mission report notes positive development in the preparation of the Management Plan for this area, which is managed by the Moyle District Council and the National Trust. There are two draft versions of the planning documents: "The Causeway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan of Landscape Design Associate", dated 5 December 2002, and the "Causeway Coast AONB Management Plan", dated 5 February 2003. The final version of the Management Plan should be available in March 2003. Additionally, the authorities intend to prepare a separate Management Plan for the World Heritage site by February 2004.

The mission report notes several proposals for the development projects adjacent to the World Heritage boundaries, including the extension of the Causeway Hotel, the development of a golf resort, and a new visitor centre adjacent to the site. The mission was informed that the applications for these projects were sent to the Planning Service. However, no applications were submitted for reconstruction of the existing visitor centre that was damaged by fire. The mission report supports renovation of this centre. The mission report also notes that the buffer zone is not defined and that no projects should be allowed without clear demarcation of this zone.

The State Party provided comments on the report by letter dated 17 April 2003, proposing that the reference in the report concerning the small visitor centre at the entrance of the site should be referred to as Visitor Centre appropriate for a World Heritage site, taking into account the landscape, ecological and aesthetic sensitivities of the site. Referring to the issue that there is no buffer zone, the State Party commented that all development proposals have been scrutinized within a radius of 4km of the site. Furthermore it was underlined that the AONB Management Plan is being prepared. Concerning the Management Body, the authorities note that this will be addressed through the World Heritage site management plan – this will also cover tourism management. The authorities note that issues concerning development proposals will be addressed through the AONB Management Plan. The State Party furthermore submits an announcement for a tourism master plan.

Issues:

Tourism Pressure; Lack of management mechanism

Additional Details:

Construction of the visitor centre; Management plan.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Notes the results of the UNESCO/IUCN mission to Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast (United Kingdom),

2. Acknowledges the additional comments by the authorities on the mission report,

3. Commends the State Party for preparing "The Causeway Coast AONB Management Plan" as well as for the proposal to develop the World Heritage Site Management Plan by February 2004,

4. Encourages the State Party to work towards a consistent plan in co-operation with all relevant stakeholders,

5. Requests the submission by 1 February 2004 of a copy of the Management Plan to the Centre and IUCN for review,

6. Encourages the Moyle District Council to apply for the reconstruction of the existing facility under the condition that it does not extend in size and height from the previous one,

7. Requests the authorities to keep the Centre and IUCN informed on any further development.

22. Henderson Island (United Kingdom)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1988
Criteria N (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21(b)26

New Information:

WHC:

The State Party provided an up-date in response to the Committee's request, and informed the Centre of the following: The Henderson Management Plan has been in existence for a number of years but has yet to be finalised. The State Party informed the Centre that no significant work has been carried out on the Henderson Management Plan since the last meeting of the World Heritage Committee. This is largely due to difficulties in getting to the Island and other priorities within the community. Preparation of a final version of the Management Plan has been agreed with the Island Council and community.

Until the end of 2002, Pitcairn enjoyed an irregular but fixed-date service from P&O container ships. Unfortunately though, sailings never seemed to coincide with the availability of the environmentalists responsible for finalising the Management Plan. The container ship service has now stopped and has been replaced by a charter service, which has been set up to transport official visitors to and from the Island.

Issues:

Tourism Pressure; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation).

Additional Details:

Management planning; tourism development.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recalls that the State Party was to implement, as a matter of urgency, the 1995 Management Plan for this site, with provision for its on-going improvement (based on input received and lessons learnt,

2. Requests the State Party to prepare an update report by 1 February 2004 for review by its 28th session.

LATIN AMERICA / CARIBBEAN

23. Iguazu National Park (Brazil)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1986
Criteria N (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

Training US\$ 30,000 (2000).

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th session of the Committee (Chapter VIII.2 - 5)

New Information:

WHC:

The Committee at its 25th session (Helsinki, 2001) removed Iguazu National Park from the List of World Heritage in Danger and requested a UNESCO / IUCN joint mission to take place in 2002 / 2003 to prepare a status report for submission to the 27th session of the Committee in June 2003. UNESCO and IUCN have not yet received an invitation from the State Party but are willing to cooperate with the State Party in order to plan and undertake such a mission at a suitable time in 2003.

Issues:

Poaching/Hunting

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recalls its request for a UNESCO/IUCN joint mission to prepare a status report on the site,

2. Notes with concern that no invitation has yet been forthcoming to UNESCO/IUCN to carry out such a mission;

3. Encourages the State Party of Brazil to co-operate with the State Party of Argentina towards the joint management of the two World Heritage sites;

4. Urges the State Party to invite a UNESCO / IUCN joint mission in time to provide a report for review by its 28th session.

24. Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves / La Amistad National Park (Costa Rica/Panama)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1983
Criteria N (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

US\$5,000 Technical Co-operation in 1991

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

21st extraordinary session of the Bureau

New Information:

WHC:

The WHC received information from the Permanent Delegation of Panama in December 2002 regarding a proposed road to be constructed within the Volcan Baru area, adjacent to the La Amistad World Heritage site, and regarding illegal logging taking place within the site boundaries. The Centre sent a letter dated 6 February 2003 to the Panamanian authorities requesting information on the actions the government may be taking to deal with the aforementioned activities. To date, no response has been received.

Issues:

Urban Pressure, Poaching/Hunting

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 24

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Requests the State Party to report to the WHC and IUCN by 1 February 2004 on actions taken to deal with these activities for review by its 28th session.

25. Galápagos Islands (Ecuador)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1978
Criteria N (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

The site has received US\$466,250 in international assistance since it was inscribed in 1978.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21(b) 7

New Information:

WHC:

Under the UNESCO/UNF Galápagos Project, UNESCO carried out a mission from 20 February to 4 March 2003. The mission report states that the project has significantly contributed to capacity building to undertake future prevention of introductions of new species, as well as the control and eradication of existing invasive species. Additionally, there has been progress in raising scientific attention and public awareness to the problems related to introduced species. In particular, the project included training of students, establishment of networks among scientists, and dissemination of information through conferences, publications and a website. The project requires that US\$ 1 million be raised towards a trust fund aimed at providing stable financing for combating threats to Galápagos biodiversity. UNF would match the US\$1million. Efforts are behind schedule and the target has not yet been achieved. The Centre will submit the full mission report to the Committee. Other notable points:

As was urged by the Committee in 2001 and 2002, nearly all regulations have been passed under the Galápagos Special Law. These include i) Small fisheries, ii) Tourism, iii) Disposal of Solid Waste, iv) Quarantine and v)

Introduced Species. GEF financing (US\$18.3million) started flowing in 2002, focusing on control of introduced species. Field work on goat eradication is expected to begin in June – this is the largest island world wide from which goats will be eradicated. A new director was appointed to the Galápagos National Park Service in February 2003, though he submitted his resignation on 23 April. The first attempt at biological control in Galápagos continued – after extensive multi-year tests and trials, an Australian species of ladybird beetle has been released on many islands in an effort to limit the damages caused by the cottony cushion scale, a plant parasite seriously affecting mangroves and other native and endemic plants. WWF and the Ecuadorian Government signed an agreement to transform the Galápagos Islands into a model for 21st century clean energy use within a timeframe of the next ten years. WWF reports that several projects and investments of approximately US\$ 25 million will aim at creating a renewable, non-polluting energy supply for the Islands. On 19 March 2003, the National Park authorities captured a boat that was illegally fishing sharks in the Galápagos Marine Reserve – the boat crew had caught 75 sharks. IUCN is concerned about the continuing threat illegal fishing represents for marine biodiversity in National Park waters.

Issues:

Mining, Oil/Gas Exploration, Poaching/Hunting; Lack of monitoring system

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Notes that over the past few years, the State Party, through its Galápagos National Park Service, and the Charles Darwin Foundation have undertaken new and expanded responsibilities in the areas of marine conservation and the control of introduced species,

2. Welcomes the efforts by the State Party to support the ongoing strengthening of the Special Law for Galapagos,

3. Commends the authorities for pursuing programme development in areas critical to the conservation of this site, including the establishment of a Galápagos quarantine system,

4. Commends the State Party for having passed several regulations in 2002, including the regulation on quarantine and on introduced species,

5. Encourages the State Party to pass the final regulations under the Special Law for Galápagos,

6. Urges the State Party to maintain all efforts related to the control of illegal fishing in the Galápagos Marine Reserve.

26. Sian Ka'an (Mexico)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1987
Criteria N (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21(b) 17

New Information:

WHC:

IUCN received a copy of a report from the Reserve's authorities on coastal development in the site, dated 31 January 2003. The report indicates that six projects have been submitted for building residential or lodging facilities on private properties since April 2002. These projects that have been developed according to the Coastal Development Plan's criteria, are currently under review, including the environmental impact assessments. The proposals also include the establishment of sewage systems to minimize environmental impacts.

A second report has also been received from the State Party, which relates to the Management Plan for the coastal zone of the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve and the potential impacts on the site derived from the suspension of a moratorium on construction. The report stressed that the Management Plan of the site, adopted in 2002, should help to guide territorial planning for new constructions.

IUCN notes that the removal of the moratorium on construction is in accordance with the newly accepted Management Plan. The report provides the exact numbers of hotel rooms that could be built in each of the three zones of the Reserve, emphasizing the property's carrying capacity. The removal of the moratorium will help to increase the number of jobs, but at the same time will increase pressure on land use, and result in greater potential for incompatible activities such as increased sport and commercial fishing, thus putting greater pressure on the ecosystem in general.

Issues:

Urban Pressure

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Noting that the State Party has removed the moratorium on construction within the site, and that this action is in accordance with the newly adopted management plan for the site, strictly limiting the total number of hotel rooms to be built in the reserve,

2. Invites the State Party to ensure strict adherence to the management plan and to carry out systematic environmental monitoring to detect and, if necessary,

remedy any possible negative effects on the site ecosystem from the development,

3. Requests the State Party to provide a report by 1 February 2004 for review by its 28th session.

B. MIXED HERITAGE

AFRICA

27. Cliff of Bandiagara (Land of the Dogons) (Mali)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1989
Criteria N (iii) C (v)

Previous International Assistance:

1993, US\$42,000 Technical Co-operation (research activity and equipment); 2001, US\$ 14,740 Technical Assistance (evaluation of Bandiagara's natural heritage); 2002, US\$20,000 Training.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

22nd session of the Committee (page 33)- 22nd session of the Bureau (page 37)

New Information:

WHC:

The State Party, in an E-mail addressed to the Centre dated 8 April 2003, confirmed an earlier report of severe famine facing Bandiagara. The State Party described the situation as catastrophic and in need of a rapid emergency food programme. The State Party reported that, as a consequence of famine and in order for the local communities to survive, massive selling of cultural objects has taken place. Within the Joint Declaration on Co-operation concerning World Cultural and National Heritage Protection between the Italian Government and UNESCO, a team of three Italian Experts undertook a mission to Mali in July 2002. During the mission, the team had the opportunity to visit the Timbuktu, Djenne and Cliff of Bandiagara World Cultural Heritage sites. As regards Bandiagara, the team made specific recommendations in their report to the Centre, as follows:

i) the urgent need to elaborate a management plan for the site;

ii) the need to review the actual site limit to include some of the sensitive areas of the Bandiagara territory;

iii) the need to find a solution to the villages' abandonment by the active population due to the drought. International Assistance, amounting to US\$20,000, was approved by the Chairperson and provided in 2002 to enable Mali to sensitize the local communities through a series of workshops on the protection of the World Heritage site: to rehabilitate the Arou Temple which was looted, and to promote local tourism activities in order to generate

revenue for the local population and at the same time activities geared towards the protection of the site.

Within the Africa 2009 Programme training activities, one of the professionals working for the Cultural Mission attended, in 2002, the 4th Regional Course on Management and Conservation of immovable cultural heritage. In its efforts to preserve the site, the State Party created, in 2001, a National Directorate of Cultural Heritage to which the Cultural mission of Bandiagara is now attached.

Issues:

Tourism pressure

Additional Details:

Severe drought

Draft Decision: **27 COM 7 (b) 27**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Noting the actions undertaken so far by the Centre and the Advisory Bodies to improve and assist Bandiagara,

2. Considering the importance to undertake all necessary measures for preventive action to protect a property inscribed on the World Heritage List,

3. Requests the Director-General of UNESCO to bring to the attention of the Director-General of The World Food Programme to the severe famine reported in Bandiagara.

ASIA-PACIFIC

28. Kakadu National Park (Australia)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1981
Criteria N (ii) (iii) (iv) C (i) (vi)*

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th session of the Bureau (Chapter V.170 - V.194); 25th session of the Committee (Chapter VIII.98-104); 26 COM 21 (b) 30

New Information:

WHC:

In responding to Decision 26 COM 21 (b) 30, the State Party provided the following new information in a letter dated 31 January 2003 that was subsequently transmitted by the World Heritage Centre to ICOMOS and IUCN:

The mining company Energy Resources of Australia (ERA) will develop an Environmental Management System (EMS) certified to meet ISO14001 (an international standard of excellence for environmental procedures and systems). ERA will develop the EMS in

consultation with regulators and Aboriginal representatives and aims to be compliant with ISO14001 by July 2003 and certified by 2005.

In September 2002, the Supervising Scientist released a report into allegations by a former employee of deficiencies in management at the Ranger uranium mine between 1996 and 1998. The overall conclusion of the report was that, apart from a previously reported breach of the Ranger Authorization in December 1997, no evidence had been found that ERA has operated otherwise than in accordance with its Authorization and the Commonwealth's Environmental Requirement. The report is available at <http://www.ea.gov.au/ssd/publications/ssr/171.html>

The Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee was due to report on the Inquiry into Environmental Regulation of Uranium Mining by March 2003. The submissions made to the Inquiry are available at http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/ecita_ctte/uranium/submissions/sublist.htm and the transcripts at <http://www.aph.gov.au/hansard/senate/committee/s-ecita/htm>. The State Party has indicated that they will report to the Committee on the outcomes of the Inquiry relevant to any of Australia's World Heritage properties at the 27th session of the World Heritage Committee.

The Alligator Rivers Region Technical Committee (ARRTC) last met in September 2002 to examine issues such as the research on programmes relating to monitoring and assessment, water management and landscape monitoring. ARRTC gave its endorsement to the current phase of the landscape monitoring programme being developed by the Supervising Scientist in response to the recommendation of the International Scientific Panel of the International Council for Science (ICSU). In addition, ARRTC assessed the Supervising Scientist's routine monitoring programme as being current best national and international practice. In August 2002, the Minister for the Environment and Heritage wrote to six environmental NGOs seeking up to two nominations from each organization for consideration for appointment to the ARRTC. The National Environmental Consultative Forum responded to this request, however, only one nomination was provided. The State Party has indicated that it will report on any new information on this matter at the 27th session of the World Heritage Committee.

The State Party has indicated that it will report to the Committee on progress concerning cultural heritage protection and management issues at the 27th session of the World Heritage Committee.

The Indigenous Health Education Project (IHEP) at Jabiru Area School is continuing to achieve positive outcomes for indigenous students in the Kakadu region.

On 15 April 2003, the Centre received a report from a group of Australian environmental NGOs on the state of

conservation of Kakadu National Park. The NGOs referred to the following recent developments and commented that the impacts of uranium mining operations and the potential for further large scale industrial development at the Jabiluka site are having an adverse impact on Kakadu:

i) State Party failure to accept and implement enhanced monitoring and review mechanisms, including failure to accept agreed environmental NGO representation on the ARRTC;

ii) No clear indication by the mining company Rio Tinto/Energy Resources of Australia to rehabilitate the Jabiluka mine site;

iii) Formal resolutions from the Australian Chapter of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature calling for the rehabilitation of the Jabiluka mine site and the appointment of an agreed environmental NGO representative on ARRTC;

iv) Continuing serious deficiencies in the four priority issue areas identified by IUCN and no further articulation or detail by either the State Party or the mining company as to how and when promised improvements to the environmental management regime will be realised;

v) Continuing erosion of environmental NGO and wider stakeholder confidence in the adequacy and effectiveness of current monitoring and protection regimes;

vi) Inadequate communication and clarity of responsibilities, role definition and reporting lines between State Party and Northern Territory Government agencies;

vii) Detailed evidence and testimony on environmental and cultural impacts received as part of a continuing Australian Senate Inquiry into the effectiveness of existing regulatory frameworks.

The report of the environmental NGOs was transmitted to the State Party with a request for response by 31 May 2003. The State Party response will be sent to IUCN and ICOMOS for information and review and will be reported orally by the Observer of Australia at the 27th session of the Committee.

IUCN:

No comments were provided by IUCN at the time of preparation of the document.

ICOMOS:

No comments were provided by ICOMOS at the time of preparation of the document.

Issues:

Mining, Oil/Gas Exploration

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Notes the new information provided by the State Party,

2. Requests that the State Party provide a report on (i) progress on compliance with ISO14001; (ii) the appointment of NGO representatives to the Alligator Rivers Region Technical Committee (ARRTC); (iii) the ARRTC's continuing monitoring and review of water management and other environmental issues at Jabiluka and Ranger, and (iv) consultation with the Traditional Owners of Kakadu on cultural heritage management and protection. The report should be provided by 1 February 2004 for review by its 28th session in June/July 2004.

29. Mount Emei Scenic Area, including Leshan Giant Buddha Scenic Area (China)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1996
Criteria N (iv) C (iv) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

1999, US\$20,000 Technical Co-operation

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

23rd session of the Committee (Chapter X.30)

New Information:

WHC:

On the occasion of a monitoring mission to the World Heritage property of Potala Palace in Lhasa, including a visit to Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province, and after consultations with the State Administration of Cultural Heritage of China and ICOMOS, the World Heritage Centre proposed that the ICOMOS expert undertake a one-day monitoring mission to the Leshan Giant Buddha of Chengdu. This would enable the expert to examine the state of conservation and tourism development plans of the Leshan Giant Buddha World Heritage property.

Issues:

Tourism Pressure; Lack of monitoring system.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the ICOMOS report containing the findings and recommendations further to its monitoring mission to the site.

LATIN AMERICA / CARIBBEAN

30. Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1983
Criteria N (ii) (iii) C (i) (iii)

Previous International Assistance:

2001, US\$ 5,000 for the services of a stone conservation expert for the assessment of necessary conservation work

on the Intihuantana sun-dial stone. Up to 2000, US\$ 98,825 for training, technical, emergency and preparatory assistance.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:
26 COM 21 (b) 32

New Information:
WHC:

On 2 May 2002, the Chairperson of the Committee addressed letters to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture and Education urging the Government to take the necessary measures for the implementation of the recommendations of the 2002 mission. In the same letters, the Chairperson alerted the Ministers that in the absence of these measures, the Committee would be obliged to consider the inscription of Machu Picchu on the List of World Heritage in Danger. To date, no response has been received to these letters.

On 11 February 2003, the Government of Peru submitted a report in which it informed of the inclusion of the Ministry of Tourism and the Regional Government in the directorate of the Management Unit and on progress made in the adoption of the plan for the village of Aguas Calientes and the undertaking of landslide studies. It also reported a great number of activities that are planned for execution in 2003, such as the revision of the Master Plan, an evaluation of the access to the Sanctuary, the implementation of the Urban Ordinance Plan for the village of Aguas Calientes etc.

IUCN reviewed the report and noted positive development related to documenting the sacred values of the site, the strengthening of the Management Unit and the approval by the Urubamba Provincial Municipality of the urban plan for Aguas Calientes. IUCN noted that the report was not clear on the timeline for revision of the master plan in the planning process of which a number of key issues need to be considered. IUCN noted also that the Peruvian Government has finished the construction of the infrastructure of energy dissipaters in the Aguas Calientes River, the treatment of unstable zones and the cleaning of the riverbed and river banks. It has also developed an emergency programme for evaluation and monitoring of the zone in co-operation with the National Institute of Civilian Defence (INDECI). IUCN noted that the site continues to be threatened by the spread of invasive species and that the problem urgently needs the implementation of control measures. IUCN would like to offer to the State Party the possibility of expert advice from the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group.

ICOMOS reviewed the report of the Government of Peru and expressed the opinion that, in general terms, the report lacks in supportive detail on a number of points, that certain responses are evasive with regard to the recommendations of the 2002 mission, and that it gives the impression of a lack of urgency in some respects. It is recommended that the State Party be thanked for its report, and that it be invited to prepare a more detailed report for

the meeting of the Committee in 2004, with full supporting documentation.

On 24 April 2003, the Director of the National Institute of Culture informed the Centre that it had signed an agreement with the Ministry of Tourism and the Municipality of Machu Picchu for the execution of some activities: the construction of a handicraft square, improvement of vehicular access, system of communication, diffusion, cultural information and security, and a complex for sport and cultural and recreational activities.

The Secretariat notes that the report of the Government of Peru provides very little information on concrete actions and achievements during the year 2002. No information is provided on the implementation of the 2002 Operational Plan of the Management Unit or the status of infrastructure works in Aguas Calientes. The fact that the Programa Machu Picchu, a major debt-swap project with the Government of Finland, was terminated in December 2002 and that remaining funds have been withdrawn from Machu Picchu is not reported upon. Instead, the report makes very general statements and refers very frequently to actions that are being planned or programmed for implementation in 2003. It seems that concrete progress has only been made in the management of the Inca Trail, which includes Aguas Calientes. However, the report of 24 April 2003 does not stipulate if the works are implemented in the context of the plan for the village, and in the study and management of landslide risks. The report does not make a convincing case that the state of conservation and the management of the site have been improved significantly as compared to the situation referred to in the 1999 and 2002 mission reports. In line with the letter of the Chairperson to the Peruvian authorities in May 2002, the Committee would have to seriously consider inscribing Machu Picchu on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Issues:

Tourism Pressure; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of institution co-ordination; Landslides

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 30

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recalling that the Committee, since 1996, has expressed its serious concerns about the management and planning arrangements of the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu,

2. Recalling that reactive monitoring missions were undertaken in 1997, 1999 and 2002 and that the recommendations of these missions were endorsed by the Committee and transmitted to the Government of Peru for consideration and implementation,

3. Recalling further that in May 2002, as an exceptional measure, the Chairperson of the Committee addressed letters of concern to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs,

Agriculture and Education urging the Government to take the necessary measures for the implementation of the recommendations of the missions and alerting the Ministers that in the absence of these measures, the Committee would be obliged to consider the inscription of Machu Picchu on the List of World Heritage in Danger,

4. Acknowledging that progress has been made on specific issues such as the preparation and adoption of a Master Plan, the creation of a Management Unit, the management of the Inca Trail and planning for the village of Aguas Calientes,

5. Noting, however, that the information submitted by the Government of Peru does not make a convincing case that the state of conservation and the management of the site have been improved significantly as compared to the situation referred to in the mission reports of 1999 and 2002,

6. Urges, once again, the Government of Peru to take the necessary measures for the implementation of the recommendations of the missions of 1999 and 2002 and to provide, by 15 September 2003, a report on these measures as well as detailed information on:

- the timeline for the revision of the Master Plan;
- the Organization and Functions Regulations of the Management Unit;
- the evaluation of transport options;
- the studies related to the carrying capacity of the Ciudadela ad Camino Inca;
- the development of a Public Use Plan, -the implementation of urban planning and control measures for Aguas Calientes;
- the implementation of geological studies and the development of a study on the impacts of buses on landslides;
- the possibility to develop, in cooperation with UNESCO, a feasibility study to establish a permanent international institution for the protection of the site;

7. Requests that UNESCO, IUCN and ICOMOS undertake a joint mission to Machu Picchu in early 2004 to evaluate the situation and to assess whether the site meets the criteria for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger and to submit a report by 1 February 2004, for review of the Committee at its 28th session,

8. Decides to examine the state of conservation of the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu and its possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 28th session.

C. CULTURAL HERITAGE

AFRICA

31. Lamu Old Town (Kenya)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2001
Criteria C (ii) (iv) (vi)*

Previous International Assistance:
N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:
N.A

New Information:
WHC:

The Centre received information from the National Museums of Kenya of the uncontrolled plans to construct houses and hotels on the island of Lamu likely to affect the authenticity and the integrity of the island. Following discussions held between the Centre and the Kenya Delegation to UNESCO, the Delegation indicated that they were aware of the situation and that they would send a letter to Kenyan authorities concerning the issue. As a follow up to these discussions, the Centre sent a letter dated 31 March addressed to the Delegation requesting further information concerning the site. The reply to this letter has yet to be received.

The Centre received a letter dated 17 March 2003 from the Senator of Indre-et-Loire, Mayor of Chinon, transmitting a file concerning Lamu sent to him for his examination concerning Lamu site. In addition to other documents the file contain a petition addressed to the Kenyan authorities which mention that:

- Lamu's environment and cultural heritage are endangered;
- The waterfront is under threat: the old Custom House is being destroyed in spite of the Lamu Museum warnings and protestations through letters dated August 2002 from the Director of National Museums and the Lamu Museum curator in which the Museums authorities requested that the site be reviewed for protection for its historical and archaeological significance; and that;
- Sand dunes are threatened by uncontrolled developments.

The petition further recommends that:

- UNESCO should extend the World Heritage listing to include the whole of Lamu Island;
- No further allotment of sand dunes should be allowed;
- New houses should conform in scale and style to traditional buildings;
- A permanent advisory committee should be set up to watch upon the island's development, with

representatives from National Museums, UNESCO, architects, and Lamu residents.

Issues:

Lack of management mechanism (including legislation);
Lack of institution coordination.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Noting with concern that there are various reports that indicate possible lack of institutional coordination in management and of adequate legislation mechanism which might cause threat to the integrity and authenticity of Lamu site,

2. Considering that all possible measures should be taken to protect a World Heritage property,

3. Requests the Centre and ICOMOS to cooperate with the State Party with a view to undertaking a monitoring mission to the site and ascertain its state of conservation.

32. Royal Hill of Ambohimanga (Madagascar)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2001
Criteria C (iii) (iv) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

2000, US \$18300 Preparatory Assistance (nomination of the Royal Hill to the World Heritage List)

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

N.A

New Information:

WHC:

On 26 February 2003, the President of Madagascar met with the Director-General of UNESCO. One of the points discussed was the situation of the Royal Hill of Ambohimanga, some important parts of which were seriously damaged by a tornado on 31 January 2003. A report submitted by the site manager (Mrs. Marie-Hortense Razafindramboa) to the authorities explains the following:

- The supporting wall of the footbridge linking the “kings tomb” to the “quiet palace” partially collapsed;
- The waterproof system roof of the “council room” is damaged with the consequence that the roof is not waterproof;
- The wooden stair of the “quiet palace” is seriously deteriorated.

Attached to the site manager’s report is a technical study undertaken by a local “Bureau d’Etude” in which it is explained that the collapsing of the supporting wall was due to leakage from the old sewer system which in turn provoked water infiltration in the wall.

The Centre held a meeting with the Madagascar Delegation to UNESCO during the 6th Extra-ordinary session of the Committee, during which the situation of Ambohimanga was confirmed. Madagascar has submitted to the Centre an Emergency Assistance request of US \$50,000 to undertake emergency rehabilitation measures for safeguarding of the property. This request was not ready at the time of finalizing the Committee’s report on International Assistance, as Madagascar had not submitted to the Centre the details of the budget, and a workplan. The Ministry for Culture has undertaken the following preliminary measures regarding the use of the site: - The damaged parts have been closed to the public and are surrounded by a coloured ribbon and a sign has been placed to prohibit entrance to the area; - Some emergency works were carried out such as the installation of a temporary wooden support to sustain the footbridge and the placing of a plastic sheet on top of the supporting wall to limit water infiltration. Early in 2003, several States Parties in the east Indian Ocean region were seriously hit by severe torrential rains that affected World Heritage sites such as the Ambohimanga, Valley de Mahé in the Island of Seychelles and the Island of Mozambique in Mozambique, and also some islands in Mauritius. These States Parties have neither early warning systems nor contingency plans to address such problems once they occur.

ICOMOS:

Congratulates the State Party for the steps taken to respond to the urgent problems posed by the Glass Pavilion, the Tranquillity Palace (“quiet palace”) and the End of the 18th Century Palace that sustained damage caused by climatic conditions. Additional work could be undertaken in the framework of a conservation and maintenance activity. ICOMOS also wishes to encourage the State Party validate the property’s management structures that had been set up at the beginning of the process for the preparation of the nomination dossier (notably the Site Commissions and the Master Plan Commission), the importance of which had also been acknowledged during the inscription of the property.

Issues:

Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Fire, Floods/Landslides/Hurricanes.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Noting with concern that several sites in the Indian Ocean islands have suffered severe damage caused by natural disasters,

2. Congratulates the Malagasy authorities for the efforts undertaken to secure the site against further damage and for informing the Secretariat on the site’s state of conservation,

3. Invites Madagascar to undertake urgently restoration works to preserve the World Heritage values of the Royal Hill of Ambohimanga, if necessary requesting emergency assistance under the World Heritage Fund, and inform the Committee thereupon.

33. Island of Gorée (Senegal)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1978
Criteria C (vi)*

Previous International Assistance:

1981, US \$33,071 Emergency Assistance (consolidate the “Western Battery”); 1981, US \$19,529 Training (technicians responsible for rehabilitating the Island).

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

22nd Extraordinary session of the Bureau - Page 35

New Information:

WHC:

The site, which is the principal tourism destination in Senegal, has been the subject of an international safeguarding campaign for a number of years. From 2000 to 2001, the site has been under urban development pressure due to a hotel construction project by a local company, although the Municipality of Gorée had not authorized this construction. Fortunately, the Ministry of Culture of Senegal and the Municipality of Gorée managed to halt the construction before the site was irreversibly altered. Despite the fact that a National Committee for the safeguarding of Gorée was created and works undertaken in co-operation with UNESCO for the protection of the Island, there is still a lack of capacity in management (the site does not yet have a site manager).

On 20 June 2002, in Paris (Musée Grévin), the President of Senegal, His Excellency Mr. Abdoulaye Wade, met with the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr. Koichiro Matsuura. During the meeting, President Wade informed the Director-General of the creation of the “Gorée Island Foundation” to enable the generation of financial resources for Gorée and emphasized the danger being faced by the Island of Gorée due to development pressure.

Within the Africa 2009 Programme training activities, one of the professionals working for the Slave House of Goree, attended the 4th Regional Course on Management and Conservation of immovable cultural heritage (2002). Furthermore, during his visit to the Centre, the Director of the Senegal Culture Department informed the Centre that the authorities are planning to demolish the monument erected on the site.

Issues:

Urban Pressure; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation).

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 33

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Noting with satisfaction the action undertaken by the State Party to protect the property,

2. Invites the State Party, in accordance with Articles 4 and 5 of the Convention, to take the necessary administrative measures for an in situ management of the site and to recruit a manager for the site,

3. Requests ICOMOS and the Centre to organize a mission to the site, in consultation with the national authorities, in order to establish the state of conservation of the property and advise the Committee on the opportunity to inscribe it on the World Heritage List in Danger,

4. Congratulates the Senegalese authorities for the efforts undertaken to preserve the site’s World Heritage values and encourages Senegal to implement awareness-raising initiatives in order to avoid new construction activities on the site.

34. Robben Island (South Africa)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1999
Criteria C (iii) (vi)*

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

N.A

New Information:

WHC:

Since its inclusion to the World Heritage List, Robben Island is threatened by tourism pressure due to an increasing number of visitors, placing a high demand on the available resources. The Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee accompanied by the Centre and a representative of the South African Department of Environment and Tourism visited Robben Island in August 2002. During the visit the following observations were made:

- There is a gradual deterioration of structures and an urgent need for the rehabilitation of 6 or 7 buildings used as ‘singles quarters’ for soldiers during WWII: painting work of the main prison as well as repairs to its roof and broken windows, and for the rehabilitation and protection of the photographs exhibited in the ‘prisoners’ compound which are currently in a poor state;
- Robben Island is located on the main entry passage of ships into Cape Town, and as a result some of the plastic papers thrown from ships are

washed up onto the Island creating a serious garbage problem;

- While the tour guides who were former prisoners on the Island ably recount the experiences of the prisoners while on the Island, there is need for further training of the guides with regard to the World Heritage Convention, and specifically on the values that enabled the site to be inscribed, so that this information can be transmitted to the visitors;
- There is no visitor centre on the Island, and this is urgently required as well as interpretation for self-guiding visitors; and
- Even though Robben Island was listed as World Cultural Heritage, the site displays a large variety of wildlife (such as rabbits, guinea fowl, penguins, antelopes etc) some of which were introduced to the Island and whose populations has increased tremendously, possibly due to lack of 'natural enemies' on the Island.

On 13 March 2003, the Director of the World Heritage Centre met with the Director of Cape Town Heritage Trust and a member of the Robben Island Museum Board at UNESCO Headquarters. The Director of Cape Town Heritage Trust confirmed the observed deterioration of the site which she attributed to the massive increase in the number of visitors (estimated at 1000 visitors per day), and a lack of an updated management and conservation plan to meet conservation/restoration and visitor use demands and legislative requirements. She informed the Director of the Centre that the Museum Board is in the process of outlining rehabilitation and a management plan for the site.

In 2002, the Raddison Hotel Group donated an amount of US\$25,000 for the improvement of the Robben Island Museum. As part of the Robben Island Museum's research, conservation and exhibition strategies, the Heritage Department plans to bring together ten groups of ex-political prisoners who were imprisoned in Robben Island Maximum Security Prison, to record on video their experiences. These recordings, and others to be made, will be played back in various parts of the prison to visitors, as a memorial to those who were imprisoned there. The funding will be used to edit and refine the recordings and set up a playback system within the prison, which uses the most contemporary technology within the Robben Island Museum Prison setting.

In the exhibition room already available, a collection of historical and cultural artifacts will be displayed, leaflets will be prepared in major local languages, as well as in international languages (e.g. English, French, German) to enhance visitor understanding of the Robben Island World Heritage site.

ICOMOS:

Robben Island's state of conservation is a cause for grave concern, and ICOMOS feels that the State Party should be requested to prepare a management plan as soon as possible. This plan could include a study on the

management structure and staffing situation so that the Robben Island Museum (to which the management and conservation of the property has been entrusted), can count on the presence of professionals experienced in the conservation of architectural heritage. The property has a high number of visitors, and it would be wise to strictly control their number and access to the buildings, particularly the most fragile ones.

Issues:

Tourism Pressure; Lack of monitoring system; Lack of presentation and interpretation.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 34

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recalling that all possible measures must be taken to protect the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and reaffirming support to the States Parties in their efforts to protect properties,

2. Welcomes the Centre's efforts in mobilizing extrabudgetary resources from industries that benefit from World Heritage sites,

3. Encourages the State Party to continue its efforts towards establishing a plan for the rehabilitation and for the integrated management of the site, which should take into consideration a programme for systematic monitoring,

4. Requests the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and IUCN to undertake a mission to Robben Island to ascertain the state of conservation of the site, including the status of the wildlife populations, and to prepare an information document with a proposed rehabilitation programme for the consideration of the Committee at its 28th session (June 2004).

ARAB STATES

35. Kasbah of Algiers (Algeria)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1992
Criteria C (ii) (v)*

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount (up to 2002): US\$ 37,600

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th session of the Committee (Chapter III.213 - 215)

New Information:

WHC:

In September 2002, a WHC mission went to the site in order to assess the development of the situation, and had the opportunity to visit the Citadel, the Lower Kasbah as well as most of the residential quarters. Concerning the Citadel, restoration works are going on at a slow pace,

under the responsibility of the National Agency for Archaeology. These works, entrusted to a local contractor, are based on a project prepared in 1986, which foresaw the transformation of the Citadel into a Museum. Serious structural problems, however, are raising the concern of the National Agency, whose technicians lack the necessary skills in dealing with such issues. The Centre's Mission noted, moreover, the lack of an appropriate documentation and monitoring of the monument, which would be essential both for the understanding of its static behaviour and complex historic chronology in view of the conservation and restoration of the Citadel. The Mission also learnt of a large capacity building programme (1,5 million Euro), sponsored by the Italian Government, which should start shortly by training local technicians in conservation, and would later include the actual rehabilitation of the Citadel.

The Centre is coordinating its training activity for the Kasbah with this initiative to ensure complementarity and avoid duplications. In the lower Kasbah, the Wilaya of Algiers undertook important works, namely under the Martyrs' Square and the sea front arcades. This project, called "Carrefour du millénaire", has created a large underground commercial area extending from the city to the Port. The Great Mosque and the Fishery Mosque have also been restored. In the area adjacent to the Bastion 23 (a remnant of the original Ottoman structures near the sea) some important building projects have been executed in recent years, such as the "Cité de la Musique", introducing within the Kasbah contemporary architectural elements not compatible with the character of the area. The Centre was not informed of these projects.

The most worrying part of the site is undoubtedly the residential quarters of the Higher Kasbah, between the Citadel and the Port. The very degraded state of conservation of the urban tissue, the extent of the socio-economic problems and the constraints preventing an effective juridical protection of the site had been brought to the attention of the Committee already in 2001. Here the new information concerns a recent aid programme established by the Wilaya to enable owners to rehabilitate their properties. An amount of 60 million dinars (almost 1 million dollars) was provided by the State to that end. In September 2002, however, only 15 rehabilitation permits had been granted through this mechanism, possibly owing to the fact that owners are supposed to contribute 50% of the total costs. Some other public works on streets and fountains are also being carried out.

Despite these positive developments, the situation remains extremely grave, with several buildings in danger of collapse and tons of garbage lying on the streets, in the absence of a comprehensive Urban Conservation Plan and adequate financial resources. The Centre's Mission, moreover, noted that the Algerian Cultural Heritage Department was not involved in conservation activities outside the Citadel and the Bastion 23. New hope was raised by a letter of 29 March 2003, in which the Director of the Algerian Cultural Heritage Department informed the

Centre that the Kasbah had been finally designated as a special protected zone (secteur sauvegardé) by the National Cultural Heritage Commission.

This very important step will hopefully enable the finalization and future implementation of the Urban Conservation Plan (Plan de Sauvegarde et de Mise en Valeur PSMV), under preparation since many years. It is to be mentioned that the Centre has not been consulted during the elaboration of this Plan, which, to this day, it has not seen. The completion of the Plan would necessarily have to include detailed technical specifications and building regulations. In this respect, the Centre's Mission recommended that the expertise available within an NGO called "Association des Amis de la Casbah", actively engaged in conservation and rehabilitation projects, might be of help to the responsible authorities.

ICOMOS:

This property was formally inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1992, following a somewhat unusual procedure. At the 15th session of the Committee at Carthage (Tunisia) in December 1991, it was agreed that the procedure for inscription should be initiated but not confirmed until the State Party provided details of a suitable management plan. The outline plan was submitted during 1992, although it was reported that it was not yet approved or in operation. The undertaking of the State Party to implement the plan without delay was accepted by ICOMOS and the Committee, and the property was duly inscribed.

ICOMOS feels cause for concern after reading the excellent report by the Centre on its mission to Algeria in September 2002. It appears that little has been done to advance the implementation of an effective management plan. The condition of the Haute Casbah is clearly little short of disastrous, whilst in the Basse Casbah work is in progress that contravenes the conservation principles underlying the Convention. In its report, the Centre Mission describes the property unambiguously as a site in danger, where urgent measures must be taken to check the threats caused by the insalubrious conditions that weigh heavily on the inhabitants, an aspect that appears not to have been attended to for a number of years. ICOMOS is acutely aware of and highly sympathetic to the economic problems within the State Party. It recommends that the "Plan permanent de sauvegarde et de mise en valeur de la Casbah d'Alger" be finalised and following its presentation to the Committee, be implemented as soon as possible in order to address the problems of this very important property.

Issues:

Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of institution coordination.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 35

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having noted the very worrying state of conservation of the Kasbah, and its difficult socio-economic context,
2. Commends the Algerian authorities for having designated the Kasbah as a special protected zone under the current Law, which constitutes an important step towards an effective protection of the site,
3. Recognizes the urgent need to strengthen capacity in conservation for responsible technical bodies and appreciative of the support from the Italian Government in this respect,
4. Invites the State Party to rapidly proceed, in close consultation with the WHC, with the completion and implementation of the PSMV, which will have to include appropriate institutional co-ordination mechanism, as well as building regulations and detailed technical specifications adapted to the particular architectural context of the Kasbah,
5. Strongly encourages the State Party to make available as a matter of urgency the necessary financial resources to the responsible bodies for emergency rehabilitation interventions within the Kasbah,
6. Requests the State Party to prepare a report on the progress in the finalization and implementation of the Urban Conservation Plan by 1st February 2004 for the consideration of the Committee at its 28th session.

36. Islamic Cairo (Egypt)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979
Criteria C (i) (v) (vi)*

Previous International Assistance:
Total amount (up to 2002): US\$ 233,900

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:
25th session of the Committee (paragraphs III.219-224);
26 COM 21 (b) 44

New Information:
WHC:

In 2002, the Committee was informed by the Secretariat of a project, proposed by the Governorate of Cairo, to execute a new road in the southern sector of Fatimid Cairo. The Egyptian Authorities assured the Secretariat, by letter of 15 April 2003, that the construction of the above-mentioned road through the Southern sector of Islamic Cairo (Darb El Ahmar, Bab Zuweyla) has been halted so as to preserve the original urban texture of the city as well as the monuments located in the area.

Issues:

Urban Pressure; Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of institution coordination.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 36

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Commending, with gratitude, the State Party for halting the implementation of the proposed new road through the Southern sector of Islamic Cairo,
2. Recognizing that this type of recurrent problem should be addressed in a global manner and preventively in the framework of a comprehensive urban conservation plan,
3. Encourages the State Party to implement, in consultation with the Centre, the Recommendations of the International Symposium held in Cairo in February 2002, and particularly to:
 - Designate Historic Cairo as a Special Planning District, with buffer zones, in accordance with the prescriptions of the Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention,
 - Prepare a comprehensive Urban Plan for the Conservation and Development of the Old City, whereby the conservation of historic buildings would be accompanied by appropriate development regulations to encourage the rehabilitation of the urban fabric so as to ensure its compatibility with the historic character of Islamic Cairo,
4. Invites the State Party to submit a report on the progress on these actions at the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee (2004).

37. Memphis and its Necropolis - the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur (Egypt)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979
Criteria C (i) (iii) (vi)*

Previous International Assistance:
N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:
26 COM 21 (b) 45

New Information:
WHC:

In 2002, the Committee was informed of a project proposed by the Ministry of Housing to execute a tunnel, or a highway, across the Plateau of the Pyramids. The Egyptian authorities informed the Secretariat, by letter of 15 April 2003, that the project for the construction of a tunnel under the Giza Plateau has been completely stopped. They also provided assurances that any other project with potential impact on the site would be submitted in the future to the consideration of the

Committee. The Secretariat, moreover, was informed by a foreign co-operation agency working in Cairo of its interest in assisting the Egyptian authorities for the preparation of a comprehensive management plan for the site and its surroundings.

Issues:

Urban Pressure

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 37

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Commending the State Party for its commitment towards the preservation of the Pyramid Fields, and particularly for having prevented the implementation of the proposed tunnel project,

2. Encourages the State Party to share with the Committee, through the Centre, any information concerning the development of management plans for the site.

38. Byblos (Lebanon)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1984
Criteria C (iii) (iv) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

Preparatory Assistance (US\$ 10,000), 1999: Seminar on Byblos at Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 55

New Information

WHC

Following the request of the Committee, a report on the state of conservation of the site was submitted by the State Party, on 7 March 2003. In the report, the General Directorate of Antiquities (DGA) informs that a certain number of actions have been taken since 2000, including an assessment of the state of conservation of archaeological structures, a feasibility study of the consolidation of walls dating from the Calcolithic period, cleaning and disinfestation, as well as a fence surrounding the archaeological area. In addition, the State Party confirms that new visitor paths, the setting up of a security gangway, and the opening of the site Museum within the Medieval Citadel have been accomplished, with funding from the Ministry of Culture of Quebec.

The same report mentions that pending the elaboration of a study by the Ministry of Transportation and its submission to the DGA for advice, the project for the extension of the jetty of the port has been halted. As far as The World Bank project is concerned, the Centre received the final studies prepared in view of its negotiation between the Government of Lebanon and the Bank's Board. Unlike

Tyre and Baalbeck, the Byblos component of this project only includes interventions in the historic urban core of the site, and does not foresee any action on the archaeological sector. In its comments dated 10 February 2003, addressed also to the competent Lebanese authorities, while recognizing and appreciating the beneficial impact of the rehabilitation works foreseen in the urban area of the site, the Centre recalls that the archaeological site of Byblos was considered to require urgent conservation and enhanced interpretation by an extensive ICOMOS report of 2002.

Considering that for Baalbeck and Tyre The World Bank project has adopted a balanced approach between conservation of archaeological heritage and urban development, and taking also into account that the historic city of Byblos appears to be in a better state of conservation than the two other mentioned cities, the World Heritage Centre wondered if it would have not been possible, and desirable, to reserve some funding for heritage conservation for the site of Byblos as well. A proposal for an extension of the pier within the port was included within the studies prepared for The World Bank Project. This issue has been discussed several times between the Lebanese authorities and the World Heritage Centre, which reiterated the negative impact of a new construction within the port, both visually and with respect to potential underwater heritage.

Finally, concerning the proposed promenade around the archaeological site, and taking into account that this should be executed over very important remains on the ground and possibly extending below the water level, the World Heritage Centre considered that a thorough study of the ancient topography should have been carried out to support the project, and recommended, therefore, postponing its execution until sufficient information is available for the DGA to assess the impact of the promenade on the site.

Issues:

Tourism Pressure

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 38

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Congratulates the State Party, as well as the Ministry of Culture of Quebec, for the considerable efforts made towards the improvement of the site and its better presentation,

2. Invites the State Party to consider the possibility of integrating a component for the conservation and interpretation of the archaeological sector of Byblos within the scope of The World Bank Project,

3. Recommends to the Lebanese authorities to discard proposals to further extend the jetty of the port and to postpone the project for a promenade around the archaeological site until sufficient information is available

for the DGA to assess its impact on the ancient remains, including those underwater.

39. Tyre (Lebanon)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1984
Criteria C (iii) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount (up to 2001): US\$25,000

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 56

New Information:

WHC:

Following the Committee's request to the State Party, a report on the state of conservation of Tyre was drawn up by the General Directorate of Antiquities, in which the State Party stressed the following points:

- the trace of the roadway to the east of Tyre has been modified;
- the Master Plan of the city has been approved by governmental decree;
- an agreement has been concluded with the Japanese Government for the elaboration of an archaeological map;
- The World Bank project: Phase I of the studies concerning the rehabilitation of the archaeological sites and the studies concerning the historic centre of the city of Tyre are finalised, as well as the study concerning the strengthening of the DGA. The implementation studies for the project (phase II) will be finalised in 2003, after which the project will enter its operational phase;
- the work to consolidate the structures of the Byzantine Basilica of Tyre, carried out by Dr. Sami el Masri, will soon be followed up by banking up for the sustainable conservation of the site;
- The same expert has undertaken a study for the conservation and rehabilitation of a funeral complex within the site of El Bass.

The Centre feels that the new Master Plan, although a considerable improvement over the former version, still does not provide sufficient protection for the non-urban zones with potential archaeological value, as well as the natural reserve to the south of the city. A list of recommendations drawn up by the Centre has been presented to the DGA (letter of 27 July 2002) with a view to their possible integration into the Master Plan.

The Centre was also requested to provide advice on all the studies pertaining to the World Bank project. This document presents a complete analysis of the Old City of Tyre, including possible suggestions for its conservation and development. It also includes a detailed sociological study and an inventory of all the historic buildings. The pilot actions proposed and the "building code" are all the

more interesting, in that they propose to regulate the building activities in the historic core of the city by defining the typologies and coefficients for intervention. In this respect, the Centre stressed the need to integrate more detailed directives and regulations into this study to ensure the architectural quality of the urban fabric, beyond the respect for size and coefficients. These directives should include indications on the material, colour and form of the architectural elements to be used for the interventions on the old buildings, and the buildings of the private and public sectors, including street paving. All of these documents should become an integral part of the city's Urban Master Plan.

A geo-archaeological research mission to Tyre was organised by the Centre under the World Heritage Fund. A Franco-Lebanese Team (CEDRE) undertook all the studies concerning the littoral geomorphology and underwater archaeology of the south port of Tyre. The report, in three volumes produced from 181 dives, proposes a safeguarding plan for the archaeological and natural heritage of the coastlines of Tyre, based on a multidisciplinary approach, associating geosciences with archaeology. The experts concluded that it is necessary to continue the study of the linkage of the underwater and land archaeological remains south of the Tyre peninsula. With regard to the protection of the underwater archaeological heritage, it would be advisable to create a special protection zone. In this respect, the CEDRE report advised that the Urban Master Plan be modified to give more importance to the wealth of the archaeological heritage and of the natural coastal landscape, whilst respecting the zoning boundaries. The Master Plan could:

- set up the overall protection of the shallow waters, less than 5 metres deep;
- prohibit the anchoring of the ships in the South port, which destroys the structures and encourages looting;
- enforce a 500-metre perimeter for the protection of the archaeological vestiges of the North and South ports and along the west coast of the Tyre peninsula;
- consider the natural reefs of Poidebard a natural reserve;
- plan for preventive archaeological excavations before any subterranean development of the ports.

The creation of an Underwater Archaeology Department within the DGA is also envisaged. Moreover, the Centre received a letter dated 27 January 2003 concerning the project for the construction of an Institute for Islamic research on the south side of the Old City of Tyre, inside the archaeological zone. Although the Ministry of Culture gave official instructions for halting this project, the Centre has not received documents confirming the effective termination of this work.

ICOMOS:

In June-August 2002, a Geo-archaeological Research Mission, set up within the framework of the Franco-Lebanese CEDRE agreement and with financial assistance from the World Heritage Fund, visited the World Heritage

site of Tyre to study its littoral geomorphology and underwater archaeology. The resulting report makes it clear that the submerged heritage of Tyre is of outstanding significance, a conclusion with which ICOMOS fully concurs. ICOMOS therefore urges the State Party to lose no time in implementing the reports' recommendations, with the objectives both of increasing our knowledge of this important site and extending the boundaries of the World Heritage site to include the underwater heritage of Tyre. In the opinion of ICOMOS this will greatly enhance the tourist potential of the site.

Issues:

Urban Pressure; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation).

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 39

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Congratulates* the State Party, as well as the Japanese Government and The World Bank, for the efforts undertaken for the safeguard of Tyre;

2. *Invites* the State Party to strengthen the Urban Master Plan for the city, taking into account the recommendations of the Centre and those elaborated under the Franco-Lebanese CEDRE Programme for the protection of the underwater heritage.

3. *Requests* the State Party to halt the construction work of the Institute for Islamic Research on the south side of the Old City of Tyre and within the archaeological zone, and to take all necessary measures for the protection of the entire site.

4. *Requests* the State Party to submit to the Centre by 1 February 2004, a report on the progress being made in the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations, for the consideration of the Committee at its 28th session in June 2004.

40. Ancient Ksour of Ouadane, Chinguetti, Tichitt and Oualata (Mauritania)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1996
Criteria C (iii) (iv) (v)

Previous International Assistance:

Before 2002 : Total US\$ 117.069

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 59

New Information:

WHC:

In September 2002, the Centre participated in the mid-term review of the project "Safeguarding and Enhancement of Mauritanian Cultural Heritage" (PSVPCM) co-financed by

the Government of Mauritania and The World Bank. Following a revision to all the components of the project, the Pilot Project "Safeguarding and Development of Four World Heritage Cities in Mauritania", elaborated by the Centre, was integrated into the PSVPCM Project. An amount equal to US\$ 1,245,000 was allocated by the State Party, with the support of The World Bank (IDA/BIRD), for the implementation of this Project. A tripartite Agreement was signed between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, The World Bank and UNESCO for the implementation of the activities in the four Mauritanian World Heritage towns, as a pilot project.

All of the Pilot Project activities will be carried out by the French consultant services, ACT Consultant, associated with a Mauritanian consultant service, both selected following a limited invitation to tender. In accordance with the contract signed with the PSVPCM Permanent Secretariat, they should achieve the following objectives: - elaborate master plans for the four ancient towns, as well as technical guidelines and methodologies for their rehabilitation; - elaborate a strategy to review all the rehabilitation initiatives of the historic centres of the ancient towns and initiate the sustainable socio-economic development of the local communities of these towns; - study the feasibility of this intervention activity by way of test work programmes.

The World Heritage Centre is responsible for the technical co-ordination of this project, and an amount of US\$ 40,860 is reserved for that purpose. The work in the four towns of Chinguetti, Ouadane, Tichitt and Oualata is foreseen to start in June 2003. The duration of the Pilot Project is estimated at 15 months. Upon termination of the Pilot Project, and in order to ensure its sustainability, the consultant team shall propose the creation and establishment of a permanent advisory structure for the conservation, rehabilitation and construction issues in the ancient centres. The possibility of attaching this structure to a national permanent body should be envisaged. To this end, the consultant team shall recruit four technicians who would have the task of integrating the local staff upon termination of the project. They would be trained not only in safeguarding measures, but also in urban management.

The provisional report concerning an organizational audit of cultural institutions in Mauritania by a Tunisian Office, TEC, was made public in the presence of The World Bank, all the responsible authorities of the institutions concerned and the World Heritage Centre. This report comprises a number of recommendations and an action plan to establish institutional coordination based on the definition of the competences of the bodies and particularly the National Foundation for the Safeguarding of the Ancient Cities (FNSVA). The World Bank called upon the persons in charge of the PSVPCM Project to finalise with TEC, and as soon as possible, the proposals for institutional reinforcement and to identify accompanying measures that could be introduced with support from the PSVPCM Project. At the same time, the collective development of the four *ksour* could be accompanied and strengthened by

the establishment of decentralized cooperation and twinning between European cities and the four ancient towns, based on the reforms for decentralization being instituted in Mauritania.

Issues:

Urban Pressure, Tourism Pressure; Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of human or financial resources; Lack of institution coordination.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 40

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Congratulates the State Party for the efforts undertaken for the safeguarding of the exceptional values of the ancient cities, through the integration of the Pilot Project "Safeguarding and Development of the Mauritanian World Heritage Cities" into the PSVPCM Project,

2. Calls upon the international community to support the commitment of the Mauritanian authorities in setting up the necessary reforms to ensure the continuity of the Pilot Project activities,

3. Encourages the State Party to integrate these actions into the overall reforms being instituted by the Mauritanian Government to transform the Mauritanian society, and notably the strategy for poverty alleviation,

4. Invites the State Party, following the completion of the organizational audit of the cultural institutions of Mauritania, and in consultation with the Centre, to define and establish the structure of the competent body specialized in management and conservation of World Heritage sites, including the integration of its antennae into the municipalities of the four ancient cities.

41. Ksar of Ait-Ben-Haddou (Morocco)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1987

Criteria C (iv) (v)

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th session of the Committee (Chapter VIII.128 to VIII.133); 26 COM 21 (b) 61

New Information:

WHC:

Following the request expressed by the Committee during its 26th session, the State Party submitted, in March 2003, a new report on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report dated August 2000, and comprising:

- finalisation of the listing process of the site, in accordance with the law concerning national

heritage, including the private land that is part of the site;

- strengthening of the capacities of CERKAS, institution in charge of the safeguarding of the site;
- creation of a management commission for the site;
- establishment of a working group to elaborate a management plan to be completed end 2001;
- content of the management plan and the timetable for its elaboration and implementation.

This report emphasizes that the nomination process had been initiated since 1994 and reactivated in 2001. During the Inter-ministerial Listing Commission meeting in April 2001, an agreement for the listing of the site was announced on condition that the Communal Council be consulted. The Council recently gave its favourable decision, and the listing might be announced before the end of 2003. The State Party has informed the Secretariat that at present the site is protected under a legal instrument that takes into consideration the environmental and cultural characteristics of the *Ksar*. Many areas are constrained by *non-aedificandi* and *non-altius-tollendi* prohibitions.

With regard to the strengthening of the CERKAS, the State Party informed the Centre that prior to granting this institution the status of an autonomously managed service (SEGMA), the Ministry of Finance suggested that it define, in a timeframe of two years, its new mission as a service supplier and that it prove that it is sufficiently reliable as regards staffing, technical and financial aspects. In the framework of its activities, CERKAS has carried out since 2001 a systematic inventory by aerial photography of the cultural heritage of the Draa Valley in cooperation with Swiss partners. Under this project, CERKAS obtained computer equipment and has expanded its team, but its functioning budget has not been increased. In February 2003, it was decided to extend this project to the *Ksar*. A project for the creation of an antenna for CERKAS inside the *Ksar* is being studied.

In 2002, the State Party informed the Committee that an Inter-ministerial Management Commission for the site had been created and was meeting every two weeks to discuss the state of conservation of the site and measures to be undertaken. The new report dated March 2003, gave the impression that the Commission had only been constituted during the last visit of an expert from the Centre at Ouarzazate on 31 October 2002. The Province of Ouarzazate and CERKAS will be the coordinators for the Provincial Services and will ensure the permanent secretariat of the Interministerial Management Commission. The report indicates that at present the members of the Bureau of this Commission have not yet been designated, and that no rules of procedure or regular budget have been fixed. The State Party, which should have provided concrete information as to the creation of a working group responsible for the preparation of a management plan, informed the Centre that currently a

working group (CERKAS) was undertaking a new reflection on the formulation of objectives and strategy for site intervention with the support of the UNESCO Office in Rabat and UNDP.

CERKAS has also undertaken the inventory of all the existing documentation at site, as well as a study of its cadastral situation. In parallel, the State Party underlined that the site is in a state of quasi-total abandon and is greatly degraded. In spite of efforts to control degradation thanks to a provincial commission, the number of offences committed in the old *Ksar* continues to increase. There is an urgent need to establish efficient means to control these offences and to identify the responsible parties before undertaking any kind of safeguarding or presentation activities. The lack of any kind of global vision or a coherent methodology does not facilitate the mission of CERKAS. The report indicates the need for the following actions: - signature of an Interministerial Convention making the safeguarding of the site a national priority and expressing the firm commitment of all the departments; setting up of a system of financial aid exclusively for the inhabitants to encourage them to repair and restore their properties.

ICOMOS:

The Centre sent the report from the Secretary General of the Moroccan Ministry of Culture on the state of progress in the management and development of this World Heritage site to ICOMOS for comment. This frankly acknowledges the lamentable state of conservation of this partly abandoned site and sets out the problems confronting the problems of conservation and management of this and comparable sites in the south of Morocco, more recently exacerbated by a significant growth of tourism, a passive attitude on the part of the local inhabitants, a negative attitude by property owners towards proposals for purchase, leasing, or partnership, and internal dissensions.

In 1990 the Ministry of Culture set up a Centre for the Conservation and Rehabilitation of the Architectural Heritage of the Atlas and Sub-Atlas Zones (CERKAS). Protection of the *Ksar Ait Ben Haddou* was identified as its priority project. A number of projects, including the restoration of the mosque, paving of alleys, cleaning and rehabilitation of covered passages, and the installation of protective gabions against flooding, were carried out between 1992 and 1995, financed by UNDP. However, the role of CERKAS was drastically curtailed when its contracts with UNDP, UNESCO, and other international bodies expired in 1994.

Following the creation of a provincial regulatory commission two years ago, regular inspections of the site have been carried out to identify illicit constructions and other offences against the regulations. In spite of this, the number of such offences continues to rise. It is recognized to be a matter of urgency to introduce effective measures for combating these offences and identifying those responsible for them. The report highlights the urgent need for statutory protection of the site, an action that has been

delayed because of the complex legal status of the properties that make it up. It also argues strongly for CERKAS to be reconstituted as a public or autonomous agency and given resources adequate to perform its role. Despite the setting up of several committees for the purpose, there is still no management plan for the site.

In October 2002 a management committee was set up, with representatives from the various interests involved. The coordinators will be the Province of Ouarzazate and CERKAS, which will be responsible for the creation of a working team and providing the necessary resources. Preliminary work has begun on the outlines of the plan. ICOMOS commends the State Party for the action that it has taken, but, whilst appreciating the reasons for delay, expresses regret that the original timetable for action has not been adhered to. It recommends that the Committee should express guarded approval of what has been accomplished, while at the same time urging the State Party to redouble its efforts to improve the present unsatisfactory situation at *Ksar Ait Ben Haddou*.

Issues:

Urban Pressure, Tourism Pressure; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of human or financial resources.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 41

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. Having taken note of the report submitted by the State Party in March 2003, concerning the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report dated August 2000,*
- 2. Expressed its concern regarding the information on the quasi-total state of abandon of the site, the increase of offences in the old *Ksar* and its state of degradation, the lack of legal protection, delay in the establishment of a technical and administrative structure responsible for the site as well as in the elaboration of a Management Plan for its safeguarding and presentation,*
- 3. Recalls its concern regarding the implementation of projects at the site when the listing procedure is not yet completed, especially in the absence of an appropriate Management Plan, prepared according to the recognized international scientific standards, as well as a management structure capable of guaranteeing the general technical coordination and control of the various initiatives,*
- 4. Reiterates once again its request to the Moroccan authorities to adopt, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, the necessary legal and financial measures for the creation of a specialised technical team and the preparation of the management plan of the site, and to this end, encourages the State Party to request emergency assistance from the World Heritage Fund if necessary,*

OPTION A

5. *Decides* to inscribe the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger,

OPTION B

6. *Urges* the State Party to finalise the procedure for the nomination of the site and to create by decree an institution, with legal authority, resources and adequate financial means to elaborate a Management Plan and its technical and administrative implementation at site, before 31 December 2003, and to reconsider its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 28th session in June 2004,

7. *Requests* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre before 1 February 2004, a progress report on the implementation of the afore-mentioned measures for consideration by the Committee at its 28th session in June 2004.

ASIA-PACIFIC

42. Ruins of the Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur (Bangladesh)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1985
Criteria C (i) (ii) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

Technical Co-operation (US\$ 20,000) (Drainage for the Ruins of the Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur) 1986

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 37

New Information:

WHC:

At its 26th session in 2002, having examined the state of conservation of the property, the Committee requested and encouraged the authorities to consider the nomination of the property to the List of World Heritage in Danger in order to mobilize the significant international financial and technical resources to address the conservation challenges facing the property. The Committee also requested to elaborate an action plan to enhance the long-term conservation and management of the site, remove the ascertained and potential threats facing the property and to submit an international assistance request.

Following the Committee's decisions, a second UNESCO mission to Paharpur took place in October 2002, which concluded that the site was no longer facing immediate threats and danger as the inappropriate rehabilitation work had regretfully been completed leaving some irreversible changes to the authentic character of the property. However, to reverse the inappropriate work to the extent possible, the following specific measures were recommended: Enact and enforce a moratorium on all

future work involving further excavations and rehabilitation; Training for the conservation for terracotta plaques and other archaeological materials; Digital inventory and publication of all terracotta plaques as a precaution against theft and to facilitate future study; Enhancement of visitor management; Organization of an expert workshop to define the medium and long-term strategy of archaeological study and conservation of the site.

A third UNESCO mission was organized in February 2003 to assist the authorities in further implementing the UNESCO recommendations made during the October 2002 UNESCO mission. The mission found that the previously recommended "moratorium" had been respected, and that no major restoration or construction work had been carried out on the site. However, the mission noted some degradation, notably on the upper terrace where a terracotta plaque was almost detached from the wall, as well as a few inscriptions on the walls, a few bricks missing, and a sidewall collapsing. The mission recommended that a regular monitoring of the monument be maintained. The mission also recommended that in order to improve the protection of the monument, access to the upper terrace should be forbidden, in accordance with the second UNESCO mission's recommendation, as the current number of guardians is insufficient to adequately control visitor flow.

A first part of the inventory had been completed between October 2002 and February 2003 in which 870 terracotta plaques from three different store-rooms had been numbered, though with no photographic information. General improvements in storage are required after the training for terracotta plaque conservation has taken place. However, a large amount of fragmentary terracotta plaques currently lying on the floor of the custodian's house, require urgent and proper storage and protection. On 6 March 2003, the authorities of Bangladesh submitted a project proposal for the organization of a workshop to elaborate archaeological research and a strategy for the Ruins of the Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur, to be funded under the France-UNESCO Convention.

On 30 March 2003, the authorities of Bangladesh submitted two International Assistance requests, one for Training Assistance and one for Technical Co-operation, which are in the process of reformulation. The two requests are presented in the working document for International Assistance, according to the request of the World Heritage Committee (26th session).

Issues:

Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of monitoring system; Lack of human or financial resources.

Additional Details:

Deterioration of the authentic characteristics of the property.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 42

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the state of conservation of the property, the progress made by the national authorities since the previous session of the World Heritage Committee, the findings and recommendations of the two UNESCO missions in October 2002 and February 2003,
2. Expressing its appreciation to the State Party for having submitted the International Assistance requests to the Committee to enhance conservation and management of the property,
3. Encouraging the State Party and the World Heritage Centre to maintain efforts to plan and implement enhanced conservation of the property,
4. Decides to defer inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger until the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee, in light of the findings and recommendations of the UNESCO missions and to permit the State Party to undertake corrective measures to reverse the negative work undertaken on site;
5. Requests the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Dhaka Office, the Regional Advisor for Culture in Asia and the Pacific and the Advisory Bodies to provide technical support to the State Party in the implementation of the corrective measures,
6. Requests the State Party to provide by 1 February 2004, a report on the progress made in implementing the corrective measures for examination at the 28th session of the Committee.

43. Imperial Palace of the Ming and Qing Dynasties, Temple of Heaven: an Imperial Sacrificial Altar in Beijing, Summer Palace, an Imperial Garden in Beijing, (China)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1987;1998; 1998

Previous International Assistance:
N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:
18th session of the Bureau (paragraph C.30)

New Information:

WHC:

The urban transformation that Beijing is undergoing to meet the requirements for hosting the 2008 Olympic Games, and its impact on the cultural heritage in Beijing, including World Heritage properties, has been a subject of concern to the international community and UNESCO. The World Heritage Centre has been informed through various international sources, UNESCO Field Office

representatives and press articles that the on-going development projects in Beijing were leading to a major renewal of the historic and traditional residential districts immediately surrounding the World Heritage protective buffer zones of the Imperial Palaces of the Ming and Qing Dynasties, notably Nanchizi Street.

On 6 November 2002, the Director of the Centre expressed concern to the State Administration of Cultural Heritage of China (SACH) and the Beijing Municipal Government and further requested the authorities to examine this issue to protect the irreplaceable cultural heritage of Beijing. In particular, the WHC requested information concerning the state of conservation and development pressures facing the following World Heritage sites which are located in the urban areas of Beijing: The Imperial Palace of the Ming and Qing Dynasties; Temple of Heaven: an Imperial Sacrificial Altar in Beijing; Summer Palace: an Imperial Garden in Beijing.

During his mission to China in July 2002, the Director of the World Heritage Centre consulted the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Cultural Relics, which focused on the on-going rehabilitation projects in Beijing being undertaken in the immediate vicinity of the World Heritage protective buffer zones of the property. The mission was assured that the authorities would take appropriate action to protect the historic fabric of Beijing surrounding the World Heritage properties of the Imperial Palace of the Ming and Qing Dynasties, the Temple of Heaven and the Summer Palace.

On 4 April 2003, the World Heritage Centre received a response from the Director-General of the SACH, informing that the most controversial project was the renovation of Nanchizi traditional streets within the World Heritage property's buffer zone, which is beyond the scope of protection under the World Heritage Convention. As a territorial management policy has been adopted in China relative to the conservation of the World Heritage properties, SACH welcomed and supported the Centre and UNESCO to further discuss, research and co-operate on the case of Nanchizi and other similar old street renovation projects. The authorities further noted that the Nanchizi project is an experimental case in Beijing, and principles and methodologies could be compared, studied and upgraded in the future for similar historic quarters. The authorities also underscored that the inscription on the World Heritage List has intensified the protection of cultural heritage values of these three properties, and that the scope of management and protection have improved.

To demonstrate this policy for enhanced conservation of the World Heritage properties in question, SACH highlighted some development projects with large investments which have contributed to the conservation of the World Heritage values of these properties: (i) At the Summer Palace, there was a large-scale proposal to construct a high-pressure power supply line through the buffer zone to improve the power supply to Beijing. To safeguard the integrity of the World Heritage property, the

Beijing Municipal Government revised this proposal from a US\$6 million overland supply line project to a US\$60 million underground one; (ii) In the northeast corner of the protective buffer zone of the Temple of Heaven, there was a modern flower market covering 20,000 square meters and housing more than 1,000 souvenir shops. To maintain the historical feature of this World Heritage property, the Beijing Municipal Government invested US\$11 million to relocate the market and turn the original market place into a "green land"; (iii) After the Qing Dynasty collapsed, the area surrounding the Forbidden City was developed without coherence. As a result of great efforts in recent years, many modern buildings that were not in harmony with the heritage of the Forbidden City were removed, resulting in the recovery of the splendour and magnificence of the property. At present, the 6.8 square kilometer area around the World Heritage property of the Imperial Palace of the Ming and Qing Dynasties has been designated as an imperial city protection zone, and a protection plan has been developed.

The UNESCO Office in Beijing met on 28 March and 16 April 2003 with the Vice Mayor and the Mayor of Beijing Municipality respectively, regarding the protection of cultural heritage in Beijing. The Beijing Municipality informed UNESCO on the actions undertaken concerning the protection of Beijing's Old City. The Director of the UNESCO Beijing Office expressed UNESCO's willingness to reinforce co-operation with the City of Beijing, especially to share UNESCO'S experience in the field of conservation of World Heritage historic cities. As an immediate outcome of this consultation, UNESCO was invited to support a project entitled "Policy Research on the Conservation and Renewal Process of Yan Dai Xie Jie Area", which is located outside the World Heritage properties.

Issues:

Urban Pressure; Tourism Pressure; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation).

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 43

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Expressing concern on the urban development pressure in Beijing, which is renewing the historic and traditional urban fabric of the historic city,
2. Requests the State Party to strengthen, as appropriate, the legal provision for the protection of the buffer zones of these World Heritage properties,
3. Encourages the Chinese authorities to continue their efforts to protect the urban historic fabric of Beijing surrounding the World Heritage properties of the Imperial Palace of the Ming and Qing Dynasties, the Temple of Heaven and the Summer Palace,
4. Encourages, further, the Chinese authorities to review and update the management plans for these properties,

taking into due consideration the heritage conservation needs and development needs of the local communities;

5. Requests UNESCO and the World Heritage Centre to provide technical assistance as appropriate to the Chinese authorities to review and update the existing management plans for their WH properties, including the case of Nanchizi and other similar renovation projects in the historic quarters of Beijing, to ensure long-term comprehensive management,

6. Requests the State Party to submit a progress report, by 1 February 2004, on measures taken to enhance the conservation and development of the WH properties for examination by the Committee at its 28th session in 2004.

44. Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains (China)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994
Criteria C (i) (ii) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

22nd session of the WH Committee, Chapter VII.43

New Information:

WHC:

On 21 January 2003, the Director of the World Heritage Centre expressed his concern to the Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of China to UNESCO over the news that the Yuzhen Palace, one of the properties of the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains World Heritage property in China, had been destroyed by fire. This Palace was a complex of 236 square meters, built in 1412 and restored in the 18th century. The Centre, expressing deep regret over this loss, requested the Chinese authorities to provide information on the state of conservation and damage to the property.

On 4 April 2003, the State Administration of Cultural Heritage of China confirmed to the Centre that the Yuzhen Palace, a provincial-level cultural relic property located at the foot of the Wudang Mountain, had indeed burned down on 19 January 2003 after the residents had changed the lighting wire without the authorities' approval. Since the accident, the Hubei Provincial Cultural Heritage Bureau and the local authorities have taken measures to: (i) explore further cause of fire and examine safety measures of the whole property to eliminate the possibility of similar accidents in the future; (ii) take legal action against the person responsible for the fire accident; (iii) survey and record the remains of the ancient building affected by the fire; (iv) reclaim the use of all the historic buildings which have been leased; (v) enforce a rule which requires that the site management authority signs a safety responsibility contract with specific protection units; (vi) provide training on fire-protection and equip the site

management authority with 12 sets of high-pressure water pumps at the main fire-prone areas and establish on-site fire fighting teams; (vi) improve the surrounding environment of the historic buildings.

According to the authorities, the lessons learnt from this fire accident were publicized by the SACH through its administrative circulars. Moreover, the SACH dispatched five safety inspection teams to check the existing system for fire protection and other safety measures at all the cultural World Heritage properties as well as national treasures in China. The SACH wishes to strengthen co-operation with UNESCO and other organizations to enhance fire prevention of timber structure ancient buildings.

ICOMOS

N.A

Issues:

Lack of management mechanism (including legislation);
Lack of monitoring system; Fire.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 44

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the state of conservation of this property,

2. Commends the State Party for its immediate follow-up action in addressing the disaster prevention mechanisms at all the cultural WH properties in China,

3. Requests the WH Centre and the Advisory Bodies to strengthen co-operation with the State Party to mobilize technical assistance for enhancing preventive conservation mechanisms for timber structure heritage in China;

4. Requests the State Party to submit a progress report, by 1 February 2004, on measures taken to enhance the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the Committee at its 28th session in 2004.

45. Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa (China)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994-2000-2001

Criteria C (i) (iv) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th extraordinary session of the Bureau, (Chapter III 240-244); 25th session of the Committee (Chapter VIII.151); 26COM 21(b) 42

New Information:

WHC:

Following the decision of the World Heritage Committee at its 26th session (June 2002), a Joint UNESCO-ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission was organized to the property from 20 to 25 April 2003. The findings and recommendations of this Joint Mission will be reported at the time of the 27th session of the Committee.

Issues:

Urban Pressure; Lack of institution coordination.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 45

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the report presented by ICOMOS concerning the findings and recommendations of its Mission to the site.

46. Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya (India)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2002

Criteria C (i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 23.15

New Information:

WHC:

At the time of inscription of this property on the World Heritage List, the World Heritage Committee noted with concern the information from ICOMOS regarding intense pressure from tourism development and pilgrimage activities on-site. The Committee recommended that the Indian authorities develop a comprehensive management plan to ensure the conservation of the heritage values of the property, including provisions for regular monitoring and adequate mechanisms to control the impact of tourism and pilgrimage activities within and surrounding the property.

Since inscription on the World Heritage List, the Centre has received information from local NGOs and religious groups concerning vandalism and theft on site. Moreover, the Centre has been informed of a number of court cases that reflect some conflictual relationships between the religious groups using the property and occasionally the local communities, which reportedly resulted in fires and riots.

Reportedly, some groups have proposed that the management of the property be placed into the hands of Buddhist religious groups instead of the current local government authority.

Issues:

Tourism Pressure; Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of institution coordination; Fire.

Additional Details:

Development pressures include religious activities within and around the World Heritage property. Bodh Gaya experiences extreme climatic conditions (very dry and hot weather), complicating the conservation process and the development of tourist-friendly installations, as well as pilgrimage-friendly facilities.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 46

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the state of conservation of the property for the first time since its inscription on the World Heritage List in 2002,

2. Recalling the concern at the time of inscription concerning the tourism and pilgrimage pressures facing the property,

3. Noting that the absence of a functioning comprehensive management plan has persisted,

4. Expresses concern over the continuing tensions and occasional conflicts between local stakeholders, in particular the religious groups who wish to use this important religious World Heritage property,

5. Requests the State Party to urgently commence the elaboration of a comprehensive management plan which adequately integrates:

a. Local community and stakeholders' dialogue and co-operation;

b. Protection, conservation and preservation of the heritage values and assets of this sacred property;

c. Control of development activities within and surrounding the property related to tourism and pilgrimage activities,

6. Decides to examine the state of conservation of the property at the 28th session of the Committee.

47. Borobudur Temple Compounds (Indonesia)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1991
Criteria C (i) (ii) (vi)*

Previous International Assistance:

1998, US\$ 5,000 On-site Promotional activities for the International Safeguarding Campaign for Borobudur; a total of US\$ 7 million extrabudgetary funding was mobilized by UNESCO between 1972 and 1983.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

19e session of the Bureau (C.2); 19e session of the Committee (paragraphe VII.38)

New Information:

WHC:

On 29 January 2003, the Governor of Central Java (Indonesia) requested from the Director-General of UNESCO the support of the Organization to review and finalize a proposed tourism development plan to enhance the presentation and tourism facilities at the Borobudur World Heritage property. This plan proposed the construction of a large shopping centre on four hectares of land in Zone 3, immediately outside Zone 2, of the property and approximately 880 metres from the Borobudur Temple itself.

To examine the proposal, the World Heritage Centre organized a UNESCO-ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to Borobudur between 16-20 April 2003. While organizing this mission, the Centre also requested the Indonesian authorities to provide further information concerning the plan of the project in English, accompanied by detailed maps showing the exact location of the proposed project. The Centre received this information on 25 April 2003 through the Permanent Delegate of Indonesia to UNESCO. The UNESCO-ICOMOS expert mission noted that:

- (i) The Department of Archaeology reported deforestation of the surrounding area, especially in Zone 5, but also in the hills and mountains beyond the World Heritage protected zones, due to population pressure and increasing urbanization. This deforestation has caused a change in the microclimate change of the Borobudur Temple.
- (ii) The problem of the monument's surface persists as one of the major yet unsolved conservation problems of the Borobudur Temple. However, this problem has become worse reportedly due to environmental changes induced by improper management of the protection zones. Localized treatment of the stone is ineffective, and it appears that sound environmental control is the only feasible long-term solution to control pollution and the microclimate of the monument. The environmental controls which are in place derive from the establishment of concentric rings of protective zones, each with a degree of development, the highest being Zone 1. However, these zones are reportedly inadequate, and micro-environmental changes, induced by actions that have occurred in the property's concentric protective Zones have negatively impacted the property.
- (iii) Concerning weakness in the existing management mechanism:
 - (a) In Zone 1, the zone of highest protection immediately surrounding the monument itself, where no construction of any type is permitted, the Department of Archaeology has cleared trees, shrubbery and grass and is in the process of constructing a paved parking lot for VIPs,

which can accommodate 50-100 vehicles. The construction of such a large paved area adjacent to the monument is a principal contributor to the increase in temperature, and temperature gradient within the monument's micro-climate.

- (b) In Zone 2, the site management support zone, which is under contractual management by a private management firm created for the purpose of managing tourism at the site, the number of commercial vendors has been allowed to grow uncontrolled from the originally planned 70 kiosks to approximately 2000. This has led to overcrowding, solid waste pollution, and social friction among the vendors who compete aggressively for visitor attention. In addition, the capacity of the vehicle parking lots has been greatly exceeded, with consequent crowding of the designated parking areas, and unregulated spill-over into other parts of Zones 2 and 3, and an overall increase in both temperature and air-borne pollutants.
- (c) In Zone 3, the commercial development zone, various proposals are being suggested by the local government authorities, which are responsible for the management of this zone, to develop this area with shopping complexes and other commercial tourist facilities. However, this area also functions as an environmental and visual buffer protecting the main monument itself. Moreover, recent research has confirmed the presence of archaeological material within this zone, especially in the area around Bukit Dagi. The currently proposed plans for shopping complexes in Zone 3 do not adequately take into consideration the conservation needs of the World Heritage property, but underscores its commercial development. While acknowledging the desire for large scale commercial development of the area to bring economic benefit to the surrounding populations, and also acknowledging the need to better control the present informal commercial activities at the entrance to the site, the UNESCO-ICOMOS mission noted that the best solution would be to discourage vendors to loiter around the property, and develop the existing marketplace in the settlements east of the main monument along the road axis leading to Chandi Pawon and Chandi Mendut.
- (d) The Zones 4 or 5 are designated protective zones but actually do not benefit from management control, which adds to the challenge for environmental and cultural heritage protection. Recent research has revealed that the mandala construction of the main monument is repeated in the landscape design of the surrounding countryside up to and including the ancient sacred volcano, Mt. Merapi, lying on the east-west axis of the monument.

- (iv) There is a serious lack of on-site presentation and interpretation of the World Heritage values of the property to visitors. Today, there is no signage, printed information material, obvious property guide presence, nor indication of the sacred character of the property. This absence of interpretation of the heritage values of the site reinforces the view of visitors, vendor and local decision-makers that the values of the property lie in recreation and commerce. However, the Minister for Culture and Tourism of Indonesia is very much aware of this issue and has proposed a new long-term development plan for the site which focuses on the site's intangible cultural heritage values through education, performing arts and the development of appropriate cultural enterprises.

Issues:

Tourism Pressure; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of presentation and interpretation.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 47

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the state of conservation of this property,

2. Underscores the importance of reinforcing the legal management and development control mechanisms provided under the existing 5-zone management scheme for the property,

3. Requests the State Party to evaluate and possibly redefine the World Heritage protective boundaries and management guidelines pertaining to Zones 4 and 5 taking into consideration the findings of the recent research which indicate that the mandala form of the main monument is repeated at a larger scale in the surrounding landscape, and thus requires protection in an integrated manner,

4. Recommends that the State Party consider removing the new, paved parking lot from Zone 1 and restore the area to grass and shrubbery. A small drop-off area for VIPs may be developed in front of the current guardian's house, with parking for VIP vehicles retained in Zone 2 at the foot of the hill on which the main monument is located,

5. Recommends further the State Party to strictly minimize vehicular access to Zone 1, consider removing vehicular parking from Zone 2, and ban major new road developments within Zone 3, although improvement of existing roads may be permitted. As with all development proposals affecting the property, the State Party is invited to submit in advance to the Committee, any proposal for the development of roads,

6. Requests the State Party, as a first step, to organize and control the informal commercial activities within Zone 2,

possibly through a system which involves the construction of bazaar facilities and licensing of stall occupants,

7. Recommends that, as a second step, a socio-economic study be undertaken to plan for a more viable commercial and marketing strategy of long-term benefit to members of the surrounding community, linked directly to the cultural traditions of the property and its surrounding area. The long-term strategy for commercial development of the property must ensure that the environmental buffer zone around the main monument, and contained within current Zones 3 and 4 retains its agricultural or forested character,

8. Expresses concern over the potential negative impact of the construction of major commercial/shopping centres near the property and within any of the protection zones, and recommends that such commercial developments be located within existing market places and commercial districts of the local towns,

9. Endorses the national policy to improve the interpretation of the World Heritage values of the property site to visitors, giving due emphasis to the local cultural history, intangible cultural heritage, meditative cultural practices which contribute to promote understanding of the spiritual and artistic values for which the property was recognized as World Heritage,

10. Recommends that visitor management guidelines pertaining to Zone 1 be elaborated to enhance the visitor's educational and authentic cultural experience of the property through regulations which encourage respect for the property,

11. Notes with concern the lack of management co-ordination between the authorities responsible for managing the different zones of the site,

12. Requests the State Party to establish an appropriate mechanism for the full co-ordination of the implementation of management policies and practices within the 5 zones, to better safeguard the entire property and simultaneously promote sustainable development,

13. Requests that the findings and recommendations of the UNESCO-ICOMOS mission be examined in depth during the forthcoming Experts Meeting on the Safeguarding of Borobudur, scheduled to take place in July 2003,

14. Requests the State Party submit a report on the short-term corrective measures taken and long-term development strategy proposed for the property for examination at its 28th session in 2004.

48. Meidan Emam, Esfahan (Iran)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979
Criteria C (i) (v) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

2003: Training (3 Iranian World Heritage properties) US\$ 2,752

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26th session of the Bureau (Chapter XII.88); 26 COM 21 (b) 53.

New Information:

WHC:

Within the project "Urban Conservation of Meidan Emam site-monitoring the state of conservation and co-operation between local and national authorities of the World Heritage site", supported by the UNESCO-France Convention for cultural heritage, a joint mission by the urban planning expert from France and ICOMOS took place from 4 to 11 July 2002. The mission concluded that the plans for the development and expansion of the urban centre required a comprehensive and integrated urban planning approach and recommended the elaboration of a plan to protect the city centre by controlling the height of the buildings.

The mission underscored that the protection of the Meidan Emam should not be considered in an isolated manner, and the extension of the protective buffer zone around the site should be envisaged for long-term protection of the historic urban morphology and fabric of Esfahan. Finally, the expert mission recommended that the four top storeys of the Jahan Nama real estate complex be removed as a compromise solution to retain the integrity of the skyline of the historic centre of Esfahan. In March 2003, the Government informed the Centre that a compromise solution had been agreed upon between the national and local authorities to reduce the height of the commercial complex.

Issues:

Urban Pressure; Tourism Pressure; Fire, Earthquake.

Additional Details:

Lack of full coordination between the concerned authorities.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 48

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Thanks the State Party for favourably considering the recommendations of the joint international urban planning expert and ICOMOS mission of July 2002,

2. Notes with appreciation that a compromise solution is being elaborated between the national and local authorities to reduce the height of the commercial complex

to minimize the negative impact of this high rise building to the World Heritage property,

3. Requests the authorities of Iran to continue their efforts to ensure the conservation of the authentic setting and integrity of the historic city of Esfahan surrounding the Meidan Emam World Heritage property,

4. Requests the Secretariat to continue to co-operate closely with the Iranian authorities in the organization of a stakeholders' meeting in Esfahan, supported by the Government of France,

5. Decides to examine the state of conservation of the property at its 28th session in 2004.

49. Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara (Japan)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1998

Criteria C (ii) (iii) (iv) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

N.A

New Information:

WHC:

In July 2001, the World Heritage Centre received information concerning a plan to construct a major motorway called "Keinawa Motorway" in the vicinity of the Nara (Heijo) Palace site, one of the monuments listed as "The Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara" World Heritage site. Following this information, the World Heritage Centre requested the Japanese Government for information, particularly with regard to the potential damage that could result from the construction of the road in the vicinity of archaeological deposits. The Japanese Government informed the Centre that the authorities had established a "Cultural Property Examination Committee" consisting of cultural heritage experts to examine this issue.

According to a report from the Government in October 2002, this Committee assessed the universal value of the property, and recommended that the Nara Palace site be protected from any potential negative impacts and routing of the motorway beneath the site should be avoided. The World Heritage Centre expressed appreciation to the Japanese authorities' effort and requested to be kept informed on the decision-making process and the final decision on the motorway. In March 2003, the World Heritage Centre received information from a Japanese NGO, representing 14 NGOs and numerous individual citizens, stating that in spite of the fact that the Ministry of Land Infrastructure and Transport had established an Expert Committee in September 2002 to serve as a link between the Government and the general public on decisions regarding the routing of the Keinawa Motorway,

this NGO claimed that communication was not transparent and that the general public had not had the opportunity to express comments on the routing of the motorway. Following this information, the World Heritage Centre requested further information on 17 April 2003 from the Japanese authorities concerning the decisions regarding the Keinawa Motorway construction, in relationship to the World Heritage property.

Issues:

Urban Pressure

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 49

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the state of conservation of the property for the first time since its inscription on the World Heritage List,

2. Expressing its appreciation to the Government of Japan for examining the potential negative and irreversible impact the construction of the Keinawa Motorway could have upon the World Heritage values of the property,

3. Encourages the Government of Japan to continue making efforts to ensure the conservation of the authenticity and integrity of the property,

4. Suggests that the concerned authorities continue their efforts in informing the local communities on the decision making process,

5. Requests the State Party to provide, by 1 February 2004, a report on the decision making process and the final decision concerning the construction of the motorway, for examination at the 28th session of the Committee.

50. Town of Luang Prabang (Lao People's Democratic Republic)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1995

Criteria C (ii) (iv) (v)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount from 1994-2000: US\$ 125,000

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

24th session of the Committee (IV para.69); 25th session of the Bureau (para. XII 91-93); 26 COM 21(b)54

New Information:

WHC:

Pursuant to Decision 26COM21(b)54, the Director-General of UNESCO, by letter of 12 August 2002, informed Mr Tadao Chino, President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) of the concerns expressed by the Committee. Mr Chino, in his reply of 16 September, referred to the consultative mechanism, including ADB

and UNESCO, established to ensure better co-ordination between the Maison du Patrimoine (MdP-Heritage House) of the Provincial Department of Information and Culture and the Urban Development Administrative Authority (UDAA) in respecting the conservation plan (PSMV).

The UNESCO monitoring mission (24-28 February 2003) composed of a Centre staff and the Senator-Mayor of Chinon (France) who is responsible for the city-to-city partnership programme, and an expert from the France-UNESCO Agreement, participated in the Inter-ministerial National Committee for Heritage chaired by the Minister of Information and Culture in Vientiane, and in the Local Heritage Committee in Luang Prabang, as well as in the on-site inspection in the company of the Vice Premier-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Justice, Vice-Minister of Construction, Deputy DG of the Planning Commission, Governor of Luang Prabang and other senior officials. The progress report on the implementation of the 6-point corrective measures presented at the Local Heritage Committee meeting indicated the following achievements:

- partial correction of the open sewage system constructed under ADB-funding;
- re-opening of the ponds filled-in for construction works under ADB-funding to protect the urban wetlands and halting of road widening activities in the wetlands;
- abandon of the concrete gabion reinforcement of the Mekong riverbank in favour of consolidation by vegetation in view of potential risks of concrete structures, as recommended by the ICOMOS expert in April 2002;
- strengthening of operational capacity of the MdP to review building permits and monitoring of public and private works thanks to allocation of funds for capacity-building under the € 5.5 million French Development Agency (AFD) project (PASS-LP) being implemented in close cooperation with UNESCO and the Chinon-Luang Prabang cooperation programme;
- launch since April 2003, of small-scale public works for urban infrastructure improvement in 55 areas, including those through innovative modalities under the "village contract" between the MdP and neighbourhood committees funded under AFD's PASS-LP project;
- implementation, since mid-2002, of the "incitation fund" to proprietors of buildings in the protected area, i.e. the provision of free traditional building material for housing renovation;
- continuation under funding of AFD and Region Centre (France) of the urban wetlands protection and sanitation improvement project including the construction of an interpretation centre in a rehabilitated wetland (the first phase funded by EU was completed in 2001);
- rehabilitation of a public space for outdoor markets for all ethnic groups of Laos, under EU-Asia Urbs funding;
- submission to UNESCO of the draft amendment of the national cultural heritage protection law; Despite these positive efforts, some cases of constructions violating the PSMV were recorded in 2002 since the official adoption by the State Party of the corrective measures.

Issues:

Urban Pressure; Tourism Pressure; Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of monitoring system; Lack of presentation and interpretation; Looting/Theft.

Additional Details:

Illegal demolition of listed and non-listed buildings and illegal construction of buildings not in conformity with the conservation plan (PSMV) in the World Heritage protected area; public works financed by the Asian Development Bank threatening the urban wetlands and core area of the World Heritage site.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 50

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recalling Decision 26COM21(b)54 expressing concern over the growing incidents of violation of the conservation plan (PSMV) of Luang Prabang, including public works being carried out by the Urban Development Administrative Authority (UDAA) under the Asian Development Bank for Secondary Cities, undermining the World Heritage values of the Town of Luang Prabang,
2. Reiterating the fragility of these values based on the relationship between the natural and built environment, the traditional urban morphology and the fusion of traditional Lao and French architecture,
3. Noting with appreciation the positive results in the implementation of the 6-point corrective measures to safeguard the site and the contribution to this effort by the French Development Agency, European Commission and Region Centre through the Chinon-Luang Prabang-UNESCO co-operation programme,
4. Expressing concern over continued incidents of illegal construction and violation of the conservation plan (PSMV) and increasing vehicular traffic in the core protected area,
5. Requests the State Party to:
 - report to the 28th session of the Committee through the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2004 on further progress in the implementation of the corrective measures;
 - make all efforts to raise public awareness and respect of the PSMV; and
 - take the necessary measures to reduce vehicular traffic and noise pollution impacting on the core area of the World Heritage site.

51. Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape (Lao People's Democratic Republic)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2001
Criteria C (iii) (iv) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:
1999, US\$13,000 Preparatory Assistance.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:
N.A

New Information:
WHC:

In late 2002, UNESCO Bangkok was informed by a consultant of the Japan International Co-operational Agency (JICA), responsible for environmental impact assessment at the property, that JICA has planned and financed with Laotian government approval, a new major north-south road that would traverse the entire length of Zone 1, and cut directly through the rich archaeological area of the Ancient City, Zone 3.

In February 2003, the Regional Advisor for Culture in the Asia-Pacific Region of UNESCO Bangkok, inquired about the status of the planned road project with relevant government officials of Laos. However, no response has been provided to UNESCO, while teams are currently on-site surveying the new road alignment. Since its inscription in 2001, tourism at the site has rapidly increased, benefiting from the active promotion of the property by national and provincial tourism authorities. Tourism related infrastructure projects have had a severe negative impact on the property's World Heritage values. The most damaging of these projects, undertaken by the Department of Archaeology and Museums, has been the construction of a large parking lot, complete with access road and visitor centre, exactly on the median of visual and cosmological access of the property. This construction has severely degraded the heritage value of the cultural landscape that originally justified inscription of the property on the World Heritage List, and moreover, has endangered the archaeological remains.

With the financial assistance of UNESCO, 10 local staff of the Ministry of Information and Culture undertook training to be responsible for the on-site management and conservation work. However, only one of these trained staff members, a mid-level officer, has been retained to work on the site. The authorities have been repeatedly urged by UNESCO to redress this lack of sufficiently qualified on-site staff. The authorities have recognized this issue and have assured UNESCO that the problem will be addressed. Regretfully, no action has been taken to date, including the conservation activities that are included within the approved Management Plan. The National Inter-Ministerial Co-ordination Committee for the Safeguarding of Vat Phou and the Champasak Cultural Landscape, which was created for the preparation of the site Management Plan prior to inscription, has now ceased

to function. There is no longer any inter-department co-ordination of activities that are undertaken within or impacting upon the World Heritage property. Recently, the Champasak Provincial Governor has constituted a cross-departmental heritage management committee chaired by the Chef de Cabinet of the governor's office, who has requested UNESCO to discuss an action plan for resolving many of the outstanding management issues at the site.

Issues:

Urban Pressure; Tourism Pressure; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of presentation and interpretation.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 51

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having taken note of the state of conservation of the property, which is being examined for the first time since its inscription on the World Heritage List in 2001,
2. Takes notes, with appreciation, of the continued support provided by the Governments of Japan and Italy to assist the national authorities in the implementation of the activities approved in the Site Management Plan,
3. Emphasizes the importance of adherence to the government-approved Management Plan for the property, which was included within the nomination dossier, originally submitted to the World Heritage Committee, in order to conserve the heritage values of all four protected zones through adequate inter-department coordination and on-site management,
4. Requests the State Party to:
 - (i) ensure that any new road or other infrastructure construction which takes place within Zones 1 or 3 of the property is duly approved with respect to the applicable World Heritage zoning provisions contained in the approved Management Plan, and in particular, urges the State Party to submit a detailed survey plan for the new north-south road to mitigate any negative impact this road could have on Zones 1, 2, 3, or 4, detailing the protective measures being undertaken or planned;
 - (ii) relocate the newly-construction parking lot and visitor centre which is aligned along the property's principal cosmological axis, to an area which outside Zones 2, 3 or 4;
 - (iii) identify and engage sufficient on-site professional staff to adequately manage the World Heritage property;
 - (iv) reactivate the work of the Inter-Departmental Co-ordinating Committee for the Safeguarding of Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements with the Champasak Cultural Landscape through the activation of an appropriate authority;
 - (v) monitor, during the upcoming monsoon season, the effectiveness of the recently completed hydrological engineering works designed to protect the main hill-

side temple of Vat Phou from water erosion, which has been undertaken thanks to the Government of Japan;

5. Further requests the State Party to submit a report on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 28th session in 2004.

52. Kathmandu Valley (Nepal)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979
Criteria C (iii) (iv) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

Total World Heritage Fund amount from 1980-2003: US\$ 332,775

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

23rd session of the Bureau (Chapter IV.69); 23 extraordinary session of the Bureau BUR (Chapter III); 23rd session of the Committee (Chapter X.42); 24th session of the Bureau (Chapter IV.70); 24th extraordinary session of the Bureau (Chapter III.2); 24th session of the Committee (Chapter VIII.32); 25th extraordinary session of the Bureau (Chapter III.253); 25th session of the Committee (Chapter VIII.134)

New Information:

WHC:

At its 25th session, the Committee decided to dispatch a Second High Level Mission to be undertaken between December 2002 and June 2003 so that the findings and recommendations could be examined by the Committee at its 27th session, when the inscription of this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger would be reconsidered. The report of this Second High Level Mission, undertaken from 19-22 February 2003, is presented as an Information Document to this session of the Committee.

Issues:

Urban Pressure; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of institution coordination; Earthquake.

Additional Details:

Loss of authenticity and integrity; Lack of enforcement of protective regulations; Rapid growth of population;

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 52

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Government of Nepal for receiving the Second High Level Mission,

2. Notes with grave concern that the historic vernacular heritage of six of the seven Monument Zones had been partially or significantly lost since the time of inscription,

resulting in a general loss of authenticity and integrity of the property as a whole,

3. Notes furthermore with concern that although the concerned authorities have made efforts with some positive results, the threat of uncontrolled development has persisted, which continuously decreases the urban landscape and architectural fabric of the property,

4. Decides to:

Option A:

Delete the Kathmandu Valley property from the World Heritage List, and simultaneously recommend the State Party to re-nominate the property for inscription on the World Heritage List after legally redefining the core and support zones of six of the seven Monument Zones, accompanied with realistic management mechanisms to adequately conserve the property in the long-term. Corrective measures should continue to address the illegal activities in the future core and support zones.

Option B:

Inscribe the Kathmandu Valley property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and simultaneously recommends the State Party to legally redefine the core and support zones of all Monument Zones, accompanied with management mechanisms to adequately conserve the property in the long-term, to make possible the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. Corrective measures should continue to address the illegal activities in the future core and support zones.

Option C:

Recommend that the State Party legally redefine the core and support zones of all Monument Zones, accompanied with management mechanisms to adequately conserve the property in the long-term within two years. Corrective measures should continue to address the illegal activities in the future core and support zones.

5. Decides to reconsider the Options A and B above at its 29th session in 2005, after examining the state of conservation of the property and actions taken by the State Party in redefining the core and support zones and establishing effective management mechanisms for the property.

6. Decides to examine the state of conservation of the World Heritage property at the 28th session of the Committee.

53. Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha
(Nepal)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1997
Criteria C (iii) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

Total World Heritage Fund amount 1997 to 2003: US\$ 40,000

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th extraordinary session of the Bureau (III.265); 25th session of the Committee (VIII.151); 26th session of the Bureau (XII.94-97)

New Information:

WHC:

At its 26th session, the Committee requested the Government of Nepal to provide information concerning the existing conservation codes applicable to this property and management mechanisms that ensure the protection of the property, and to submit a report on the state of conservation of the site by 1 February 2003. Neither the legal and management information nor the report had been submitted to the Centre as of 30 April 2003. The Centre reminded the Permanent Delegation on 30 April 2003, requesting further information to be presented to the Committee.

Issues:

Tourism Pressure; Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of presentation and interpretation; Floods/Hurricanes.

Additional Details:

Additional development pressures include pilgrimage activities.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 53

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the information on the state of conservation of the site provided by the Secretariat.

54. Seokguram Grotto and Bulguksa Temple (Republic of Korea)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1995
Criteria C (i) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

23rd session of the Bureau (Chapter IV.64); 23rd extraordinary session of the Bureau, (Chapter III.12)

New Information:

WHC:

On 11 March 2003, the World Heritage Centre received a letter from the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Korea to UNESCO, requesting that a UNESCO expert mission be organized to examine a proposed tourism development project at this property, in particular to assess the potential positive and negative impacts such a project would have on the World Heritage values of the property. It was also requested that this mission assist the authorities in finalizing the proposed tourism development project to ensure that the heritage conservation needs are compatible with the tourism development needs.

Following this request, the Centre organized an international expert mission to take place in early June 2003. However, on 22 April 2003, the Centre was informed by the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Korea that the concerned authorities had cancelled the tourism development project and an official communication would be addressed to the Director of the Centre. Further information will be reported to the Committee at the time of its 27th session.

IUCN

N.A

Issues:

Tourism Pressure; Lack of presentation and interpretation.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 54

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the state of conservation of the site.

55. State Historical and Cultural Park “Ancient Merv”
(Turkmenistan)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1999
Criteria C (ii) (iii)

Previous International Assistance:

2000 Technical support for the monitoring of principle earthen architectural monuments within Ancient Merv (US\$ 25,300); 2002 Training for the Reinforcement of the capacities of the Department for the Protection and Restoration of Monuments, Turkmenistan (US\$ 68,814 for funding in 2002 and 2003).

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

N.A

New Information:

WHC:

Illicit excavation at remote sites within the World Heritage protected area of Ancient Merv has been repeatedly noted with concern by Centre staff and UNESCO experts during missions. Since 2001, the Centre has organized, in close

co-operation with CRATerre EAG experts, the planning of a systematic monitoring for a selection of monuments at the site with the authorities. This activity has been successfully launched and an on-site training activity in conservation, protection and restoration of earthen architecture aiming to reinforce the capacities of the authorities, has also begun. In addition, several archaeological excavation and conservation work are ongoing at the site, such as the International Merv Project (a Turkmen-British archaeological co-operation), a joint Turkmen-Turkish project for the conservation and restoration of the Sultan Sanjar Mausoleum commenced in 2002, annual Russian archaeological excavations at necropolises near Margus and a capacity-building project for the recording, management and conservation of cultural sites within Ancient Merv, funded by the World Monuments Fund.

Issues:

Agriculture Pressure; Lack of capacity in conservation techniques, Lack of management mechanism (including legislation), Lack of Presentation and interpretation; Earthquake; Looting/Theft

Additional Details:

Lack of co-ordination among international teams working on-site.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 55

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the State Party, CRATerre and the Centre for their continued co-operation to enhance conservation and management of this large property,

2. Requests the State Party to strengthen the legal protection and management mechanism to safeguard the extensive property, especially to prevent looting of excavated archaeological areas, particularly necropolises, and to enhance communication among the various international teams working on-site, which ideally should be co-ordinated and controlled by the Department for the Protection and Restoration of Monuments within the Ministry of Culture,

3. Requests the State Party to submit a report, by 1 February 2004, on the progress made in enhancing the conservation and management of the property, for examination by the Committee at its 28th session (2004).

56. Historic Centre of Shakhrysbz (Uzbekistan)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2000
Criteria C (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

N.A

New Information:

WHC:

In December 2001, the National Commission of Uzbekistan for UNESCO alerted the World Heritage Centre to the immediate potential structural threats facing the Ak Sarai Palace and other main monuments at Shakhrysbz World Heritage site. Upon receiving this news, which included information on extensive cracks, leaning walls and humidity inside the Ak-Sarai Palace, the World Heritage Centre urgently organized an international expert mission in 2002 to assist the national authorities in elaborating a conservation plan to stabilize the Ak Sarai Palace.

During this mission, the international expert noted that structural threats, as well as human activities, the rise in ground water and weathering (rain and frost), were persistent issues threatening the structures, in addition to the major cracks which resulted from large scale earthquakes in the past. All these combined issues were aggravating the structural stability of the Ak Sarai Palace, causing decomposition of the historic building materials. Furthermore, while the emerging commercial and tourism developments represent a rich yet unexploited economic potential for Shakhrysbz city, such activities are uncontrolled and pose significant development pressure on the site. The UNESCO mission recommended as a priority that preventive measures to stabilize the Ak-Sarai Palace as well as systematic monitoring and management of the site be ensured. Subsequently, an emergency assistance request for the stabilisation of the Ak-Sarai building was elaborated and submitted by the Government of Uzbekistan, in close collaboration with the UNESCO expert and the World Heritage Centre. This request is contained in the working document for international assistance requests to be examined by the World Heritage Committee during its 27th session.

Other UNESCO Sector or Field Office:

The Government of Uzbekistan, the UNESCO Culture Sector, and the UNESCO Tashkent Office are preparing a series of activities for the "Celebration of the 2700 anniversary of Shakhrysbz".

Issues:

Urban Pressure; Tourism Pressure; Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of monitoring system; Lack of presentation and interpretation; Lack of human or financial resources; Earthquakes.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 56

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Noting with concern the findings and recommendations of the UNESCO international expert following the urgent request of the State Party to assess the state of

conservation of the Ak Sarai Palace and other main buildings within Shakhkhrisyabz,

2. Recalling that at the time of the inscription on the World Heritage List, the State Party had assured the World Heritage Committee on plans to elaborate a comprehensive conservation and management plan to strengthen the conservation process at this property,

3. Recalling further that no international assistance has been made available for this site to date,

4. Requests the State Party, in close co-operation with the Secretariat, to accelerate its efforts towards the elaboration of a long-term comprehensive conservation and management plan for the historic centre of Shakhkhrisyabz and its main buildings, especially for the conservation of the Ak Sarai Palace, and to submit a request for International Assistance to that end, if necessary,

5. Requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Committee on the progress made in elaborating and implementing a long-term comprehensive conservation and management plan for the property.

EUROPE / NORTH AMERICA

57. Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2001
Criteria C (ii) (iv) (vi)*

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25 COM (paragraph, I. A) 26 COM 21 (b) 35

New Information:

WHC:

In compliance with the recommendations and requests made by the 26th session of the World Heritage Committee, a report was submitted by the City of Vienna in September 2002 which described the efforts undertaken by the authorities to minimize the problems, however, it stated that the "Wien-Mitte" project would be continued. The report was transmitted to all Committee members for information. ICOMOS commented that no suitable solutions for the concerns expressed by the Committee had been found.

Subsequently, a meeting with representatives of the City of Vienna, the Ambassador of Austria, the ICOMOS President, the Director of the World Heritage Centre and staff of the Europe Unit, was held in Paris on 6 February 2003 to jointly discuss the report and to clarify some of the main issues concerning the heights of the buildings. As a result of this meeting, the City of Vienna and the Federal

Office for Preservation of Monuments intensified the measures taken for a co-ordinated management of the World Heritage site "Historic Centre of Vienna". These efforts are described in detail in a "First Interim Report" which was submitted to the World Heritage Centre at the beginning of March 2003. In particular, this First Interim Report also responded to individual points of criticism raised in the meantime by ICOMOS. At the same time, a draft management plan was submitted to the Centre and ICOMOS.

On 10 April 2003, a final report on the situation was sent by the City of Vienna which states that at the end of March 2003, the decision was taken – despite the developer's existing legal entitlement – to elaborate a new "Wien-Mitte" project which will be compatible with the World Heritage site "Historic Centre of Vienna" with regard to the height and volume of the buildings. The Final Report provides a summary of the efforts undertaken by the City of Vienna, addressing in detail the recommendations formulated by the World Heritage Committee:

Buffer zone: Guidelines for planning and assessing high-rise building projects were adopted in April 2002. These Guidelines explicitly ban high-rise construction in specific protection zones, landscape areas, important visual axes and other significant preservation zones. However, two construction zones, which are located in the periphery of the buffer zone, are not included: the "Wien Mitte" site and the urban area north of the Danube which suffered war damage in 1945.

Restoration practices and conservation of Historic Buildings: Since the Committee's suggestion that a greater proportion of the stock of monuments in the 1st District should additionally be placed under protection as such by administrative order, the Federal Office for the Preservation of Monuments has compiled a preliminary list of monuments, which must still be discussed in detail. The buildings on the list comprise more than 80 % of the building stock of the Historic Centre and, if not yet protected by administrative order, will in future be subject to a process to place them under protection in accordance with the Preservation of Monuments Act.

In October 2002, the City of Vienna completed a study on roof extensions. Reflecting its commitment to the objective of minimizing impact on Vienna's roofscape, the City of Vienna proposed to the political level that the Building Code should be amended in line with the Management Plan. The proposal that future permission for roof extensions within the areas covered by the World Heritage sites should generally be limited to a single floor only, is under discussion. Roof extensions in buildings under monument protection are already required to remain within the historic roofline, at least on the side of the building facing the street.

Management Plan: The City of Vienna's Management Plan for the two World Heritage sites of the Historic Centre of Vienna and the Palace and Gardens of Schönbrunn was

completed in June 2002. In particular, the Management Plan also includes a corresponding organigram, which gives a detailed overview of all District Councils within the Historic Centre of Vienna (municipal districts 1 to 9 and 20) and around Schönbrunn (municipal districts 12 to 15), as well as all the relevant bodies and departments involved in the administration of the World Heritage sites. An initial interim report on the implementation of the Management Plan covers the new procedures and administrative processes as well as the relevant timetables and monitoring arrangements. Since the nomination of the Historic Centre of Vienna as a World Heritage site, the contents of the Management Plan have been elaborated in more detail. The Plan is supported at political level and is due for immediate implementation. The building plans for the new Ministry of Justice will have to be reviewed in terms of their possible impact.

ICOMOS:

ICOMOS welcomed the positive development initiated by the statement of the Mayor, Dr. Michael Häupl, of mid-March 2003 and therefore suggests that the World Heritage Committee could refrain from delisting the site. However, it remains to be seen whether the new project for "Wien-Mitte", "scheduled for adoption before the end of 2003" will actually be "compatible" with the World Heritage site. This means that the new height should not exceed the height of the existing Hilton Hotel (60 m). Unfortunately, the almost completed Vienna City Tower (87 m), erected despite all protests, now has to be accepted as an error in urban planning - but only as a bad example to prevent future errors. There is hope that the presented management plan will lead to an improved co-operation between the State authorities (Bundesdenkmalamt) and the Municipal Authorities (MA19) and that the historic building stock will be listed quickly. Furthermore, the promised improvements to the Building Code could check the ever-growing number of roof extensions.

Issues:

Urban Pressure; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation).

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 57

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Thanking the Austrian authorities for their strong commitment to the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and the considerable efforts in finding a suitable solution in close collaboration with ICOMOS and the Centre,
2. Acknowledges the establishment of a management plan for the Historic Centre of Vienna,
3. Further acknowledges the decision of the city authorities to revise the design of the "Wien-Mitte" project,

4. Takes note that, in spite of the clear indications of the Committee, one high-rise tower - not part of the "Wien-Mitte" Project - is being built, thus threatening the integrity of the city landscape,

5. Requests the State Party to continue to inform and collaborate with the Centre and ICOMOS concerning the further development of the project and to provide a report thereupon by 1 February 2004, for examination by its 28th session.

58. Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg (Austria)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1996
Criteria C (ii) (iv) (vi)*

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

N.A

New Information:

WHC:

A large construction site in the buffer zone of the World Heritage site is being planned, which may have an impact on the panorama view from the Castle of Salzburg. ICOMOS has been involved in the project discussions with the City of Salzburg. Building heights and volumes were reduced in view of the discussions concerning the "Wien-Mitte" project.

ICOMOS:

ICOMOS recommends to watch the future development and to evaluate possible negative effects on the World Heritage site. It proposes to investigate the situation during a mission to the site, preferably jointly with a representative of the World Heritage Centre.

Issues:

Urban Pressure.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 58

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Thanking the authorities in Salzburg and ICOMOS for their collaboration concerning this project,
2. Requests the City of Salzburg and the Austrian authorities to further collaborate with the Centre and ICOMOS in the future development and review of the project,
3. Further requests the State Party to provide an up-dated report by 1 February 2004, for the consideration at its 28th session in 2004.

59. Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Azerbaijan)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2000
Criterion C (iv)*

Previous International Assistance:
N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:
26 COM 21 (b) 36

New Information:
WHC:

A joint UNESCO/ICOMOS technical mission was undertaken to the site in October 2002 as requested by the Committee to review the situation in Baku. The mission observed that the concerns expressed by the Committee at the time of the inscription have not yet been resolved. Increasing urban development pressures have worsened the situation in the Old City of Baku. An earthquake, which struck the City in November 2000 with the strength of approximately 6.7 on the Richter scale, added to this process of destruction. Activities within the site are not co-ordinated and not based on any up-to-date maps of the area due to the lack of a comprehensive management, conservation and development plan.

The mission found that the maps available and presented in the nomination dossier have never been updated and the damage caused by the earthquake or subsequent changes (demolitions, reconstructions, etc) have not been documented cartographically. Several new building complexes and other construction projects have introduced new materials, styles and additional floor levels. Changes have also been made to the width of streets and alleyways and the introduction of different road surfaces, all of which have had a considerable impact on the historic and traditional urban fabric of the site. The destruction of individual buildings, including a number of important edifices, has had a negative impact on the integrity of the site, especially the loss of architectural substances following the earthquake of 2000. The process of destruction and redevelopment clearly threatens the authenticity of the site, and stands in contradiction to the justification for its inscription on the World Heritage List.

In light of the findings, discussed in the mission report (Paragraphs B.1, B.2, C.1. and C.2), the joint UNESCO-ICOMOS mission concluded that the Walled City of Baku (Icheri Sheher) with the Shirvanshah's Palace and the Maiden Tower meets the conditions defined in the *Operational Guidelines*, paragraph 82 (i), Ascertained Danger: b. serious deterioration of structure and/or ornamental features, c. serious deterioration of architectural or town-planning coherence and e. significant loss of historical authenticity. Furthermore, in accordance with Paragraphs A.2, B.1, B.2 and B.3, it meets conditions defined in the *Operational Guidelines*, paragraph 82 (ii) Potential Threats: b. lack of conservation policy and d. threatening effects of town planning.

In January 2003, the ADG/CLT undertook a mission to Baku. On this occasion the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan issued a Presidential Decree which calls for the suspension of all construction projects, excluding restoration projects, and requests reports on the current situation of the site as well as management of the site to be undertaken. Furthermore, at the time of the preparation of this report, an expert meeting was planned by the authorities of Azerbaijan to discuss urban development issues at the site. The report of the UNESCO-ICOMOS international mission is included in document INF.7 D.

During a recent mission to Baku (21 to 24 April 2003), two UNESCO experts in urban conservation attended a workshop on the restoration, conservation and safeguarding of the Inner City of Baku (Icheri Sheher), organized by the Ministry of Culture. The experts confirmed the findings of the UNESCO-ICOMOS mission regarding lack of management of the site and the issues of authenticity. In addition, closer examination of the reconstruction works in the Shirvanshah's Palace Complex pointed to some additional concerns regarding technical aspects of the restoration. In particular, the use of cement mortar and reinforced concrete frames seriously compromises the authenticity of the structure as well as the seismic performance of the masonry wall structures in the case of an earthquake. Furthermore, the insertion of modern services such as electricity cabling has damaged the integrity of the historic stonework and the flooring of the buildings needs to be protected from the ongoing works (i.e. mixing of mortar on the historic surfaces).

Issues:

Urban Pressure; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation).

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 59

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Acknowledging the recent efforts of the national authorities to address the issues of conservation at the site,
2. Welcomes the newly signed Presidential Decree as an important step towards the legal protection and future safeguarding of the site,
3. Notes with concern the state of conservation of the site and the considerable loss of authenticity due in part to the earthquake in 2000 and the urban development pressures,
4. Decides to inscribe the Walled City of Baku on the List of World Heritage in Danger due to the urgency of the situation and to ensure that concerted efforts by the State Party are made to halt ongoing demolition of historic buildings,
5. Requests the State Party to work in close collaboration with the Centre, the UNESCO Cultural Heritage Division, ICOMOS and ICCROM, to set up a plan of action to address the issues mentioned above, and to jointly

elaborate a comprehensive management and conservation plan and ensure the future preservation of the site,

6. Further requests the State Party of Azerbaijan to provide a detailed report on the situation by 1 February 2004, for examination at its 28th session.

60. Historic District of Québec (Canada)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1985
Criteria C (iv) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:
US\$ 26,000: Technical Co-operation in 1991 (Québec Acts)

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:
25th extraordinary session of the Bureau (Chapter III.157-158); 26 COM 21 (b) 39

New Information:

WHC:

A letter was received from the State Party on 21 November 2002 indicating that, in accordance with the decision of the 26th session of the Committee, a revision and adjustment to the boundaries of the site have been accomplished by the national authorities in order to include the entire esplanade of Pointe-à-Carcy. Therefore, an extension to the site in order to better protect the World Heritage area will be presented to the Committee for examination.

Issues:

Urban Pressure.

Additional Details:

Project for a cruise terminal at Pointe-à-Carcy.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 60

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Taking note of the report transmitted by the State Party and of the fact that an extension of the World Heritage site in order to better protect the World Heritage area is to be submitted for examination,

2. Congratulates the Canadian authorities on the actions undertaken in accordance with the recommendations made by the ICOMOS mission and by the 25th session of the Committee,

3. Requests the State Party to continue working in close consultation with ICOMOS and the Centre for the implementation of the rest of the actions foreseen in the framework of the project,

4. Requests the State Party to provide by 1 February 2004, a progress report on this matter for examination at its 28th session.

61. Mont-Saint-Michel and its Bay (France)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979
Criteria C (i) (iii) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

21st session of the Committee (Chapter VII.55); 23rd session of the Committee (Chapter X.46.)

New Information:

WHC:

The French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development informed the Secretariat on 18 February 2003, of the protection and enhancement programmes for Mont Saint-Michel and its Bay. The protection and presentation of Mont Saint Michel and its Bay is the subject of two programmes, initiated by the Government in 1995. On the one hand, there is a project for the re-establishment of the maritime character of Mont Saint Michel, including the island itself and its anchorage to the continent and, on the other, the 'Opération Grand Site' (OGS) involving all the riparian districts of the Bay concerned by World Heritage.

1) The project for the re-establishment of the maritime character of Mont Saint Michel: this project is placed under the responsibility of the local communities, grouped together as a mixed syndicate, in which the Lower-Normandy region plays a leading role. The complexity of the project has required a preliminary, lengthy study phase and consultation that was completed with the closure of the public enquiries. The broad outlines of the different elements of this programme have not been decided upon: a new dam on the River Couesnon; a footbridge for access to the Mont Saint Michel; a shuttle service; parking lots. A competition for the work plan was held for these components and the winning projects were selected. These projects are contained in the document in Annex.

2) The 'Opération Grand' site: As the Bay of the Mont Saint Michel extends over two administrative regions, the regional directorates for the environment of Brittany and Lower Normandy jointly pilot this programme through a partnership with the local communities concerned. Two technical programmes have been developed for the work, to encourage better management of the protected areas of the listed sites, to improve the quality of the overall landscape and enhance the rich heritage of the Bay. In parallel, the State is pursuing a line of reflection to extend the protection of the inscribed sites, in particular the areas adjacent to the project for the re-establishment of the maritime character of the Mont Saint Michel and especially the area south of La Caserne. Finally, the Prefet

of the Manche is establishing an observatory to measure visitor frequentation that will contribute over the long-term to the development and service requirements in accordance with the visitor carrying capacity of the Bay of Mont Saint Michel.

Issues:

Tourism Pressure.

Additional Details:

Project for the «Re-establishment of the Maritime character of the Mont-Saint-Michel»

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 61

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Taking note of the development of the project for the re-establishment of the maritime character of the Mont-Saint-Michel prepared by the French authorities,

2. Congratulates them for their continuing commitment to the protection of the World Heritage site,

3. Recommends to take into account the needs of the residents of the Mont-Saint-Michel in the implementation of the project,

4. Requests the Centre to continue working with the French authorities and to keep the Committee informed.

62. City-Museum Reserve of Mtskheta (Georgia)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994
Criteria C (iii) (iv)*

Previous International Assistance:

1999 Technical Co-operation - US\$ 19,000 (preparation of the heritage and tourism master plan for Mtskheta).

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th extraordinary session of the Bureau (Chapter III. 159-160); 26 COM 21 (b) 46

New Information:

WHC:

The World Heritage Committee strongly urged the State Party of Georgia to provide, before 1 September 2002, a report on the on-going constructions and degradations at the site and requested that the authorities invite a UNESCO-ICOMOS mission to the site. To date no report has been received and pending the official invitation by the authorities, the experts identified by ICOMOS and the Centre were not able to undertake this mission.

Issues:

Management; Conservation.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 62

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recalling the decision taken at the 26th session of the Committee (26 COM 21 (b) 46), to carry out a mission to the site and for a report to be provided by the State Party,

2. Reminds the Georgian authorities of their responsibilities under the World Heritage Convention as described in Article 6 of the World Heritage Convention, to ensure the preservation and conservation of sites,

3. Urgently requests the Centre and the State Party to work closely to ensure timely organization of the joint mission and a detailed report to be provided by the State Party before 1 February 2004 for examination at its 28th session.

63. Cologne Cathedral (Germany)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1996
Criteria C (i) (ii) (iv)*

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

N.A

New Information:

WHC:

A master plan adopted in mid-2002 for Cologne's quarter of Deutz on the right bank of the Rhine River, foresees several high-rise buildings (height: 100 to 149 m) situated in the view axis of the Cathedral. By letter dated 8 October 2002 addressed to the Mayor of the City of Cologne, ICOMOS drew attention to the problem. The plan is currently presented to the public and to the citizens' participation; no final decisions have been taken yet. The current planning is part of a general master plan for the city centre, foreseeing more high-rise projects in other parts of the city (there is not yet a comprehensive high-rise plan for the city of Cologne). A workshop on high-rise buildings was due to take place at the beginning of 2003, organized by the City of Cologne.

ICOMOS:

ICOMOS considers that the situation needs to be investigated and that UNESCO should send an expert mission to Cologne, as well as sending a written inquiry to the City.

Issues:

Urban Pressure.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 63

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Noting the information provided by the Centre and ICOMOS on the current situation at the site,
2. Recalling paragraph 56 of the Operational Guidelines, inviting States Parties to provide due information to the Centre in case of major planning decisions affecting the site,
3. Requests the City of Cologne to collaborate with the Centre and ICOMOS in the review of the building plans and to invite a mission to the site,
4. Further requests the State Party to provide a detailed report on the situation by 1 February 2004 for the consideration by the Committee at its 28th session, in 2004.

64. Hanseatic City of Lübeck (Germany)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1987
Criteria C (iv)*

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th extraordinary session of the Bureau (Chapter III. 163-166); 26 COM 21 (b) 48

New Information:

WHC:

The status report prepared by the Mayor's Office Municipal Planning Division on 30 January 2003, states that the demolition works of the post office building and the council office site had been commenced at the end of 2002. A consultation meeting will be held before planning permission is granted. With regard to the council office site, no new plans exist for the moment. An Expert Committee Working Group was scheduled to meet in April 2003 to assess the plans and make recommendations. A comprehensive preservation plan has been elaborated for the Old Town of Lübeck. A management plan will be provided to UNESCO upon completion. A final decision to establish a World Heritage Advisory Board is expected in the course of 2004. The Advisory Board will be in charge of advising the city on preservation and development of listed buildings.

ICOMOS:

ICOMOS, having analysed the report, hopes that the partially reworked plans for Lübeck's market square will be an improvement on the original project. Apart from that, the status of Lübeck as a World Heritage site should be critically evaluated in the future – particularly in comparison to the other Hanseatic cities of Wismar and

Stralsund, which in the meantime have been placed on the World Heritage List.

Issues:

Urban Pressure.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 64

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Thanking the German authorities for the report and the decision to change the plans for the projects on the market square,
2. Requests the German authorities and the City of Lübeck to collaborate with the Centre and ICOMOS in the development of the plans for the buildings,
3. Further requests the State Party to provide an updated report by 1 February 2004 for review by the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee.

65. Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin (Germany)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1990
Criteria C (i) (ii) (iv)*

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th extraordinary session of the Bureau (Chapter III. 171-172)

New Information:

WHC:

By letter of 31 March 2003, the German Permanent Delegation reported that the "Havel Waterway Improvement Project " has been suspended. The resumption of the planning process cannot be predicted. Concerning the Glienicke Castle, on 31 March 2003 a fire at the "Jagdschloss Glienicke" burned down large parts of the roof and the building's top storey. ICOMOS informed the Centre that no historic interiors of particular importance were lost through the fire, as the interior structures were largely removed and altered after World War II. The gables in the Neo-Renaissance style were saved, and the burnt roof framework will be renewed - all reconstruction measures will be carried out under the supervision of the Berlin State Conservation Office. A report on the situation has been requested from the State Party.

ICOMOS:

ICOMOS believes that from the World Heritage point of view there will be no particular problem of conservation.

Issues:

Fire.

Additional Details:

Infrastructure development pressure.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 65

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Thanking the German authorities for the information on the Havel Project,
2. Expressing concern regarding the impact of the fire at Glienicke Castle,
3. Requests the State Party of Germany to keep the Committee informed of any future development of the "Havel Waterway Improvement Project" and to provide up-dated information to the Centre as appropriate.

66. Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz (Germany)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2000
Criteria C (ii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

N.A

New Information:

WHC:

During the flood disaster of August 2002, toxic water affected the natural balance of the Park's lakes and canals. Detailed information on the site's condition has not been provided to the Centre. The Director-General of UNESCO indicated in his message of 16 August 2002 that UNESCO is readily available to provide technical and emergency assistance to safeguard the heritage sites. Concerning the "Elbe Waterway Improvement Project", construction works at the Elbe near the World Heritage site were foreseen, which could impact the integrity of the site and the dynamics of the existing wetland and its water levels. By letter of 1 April 2003, the German Permanent Delegation reported that the "Elbe Waterway Improvement Project" had been suspended. The resumption of the planning process cannot be predicted. Before the suspension of the "Elbe Waterway Project", IUCN pointed out the lack of an overall evaluation (Environmental Impact Assessment) of the construction work on the River Elbe. This assessment remains valid in case of resumption of the project.

Issues:

Floods.

Additional Details:

Infrastructure development pressure

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 66

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Thanks the State Party for the information provided on the Elbe Waterway Project,
2. Expresses concern for the degradation of the natural environment and the buildings of the Garden Kingdom due to the flooding,
3. Requests the State Party to provide information on the current conditions and the rehabilitation works on the World Heritage site to the Centre,
4. Further requests the State Party to provide information to the Centre in case the authorities of Saxony-Anhalt take any steps towards continuing the Elbe construction project.

67. Acropolis, Athens (Greece)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1987
Criteria C (i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th extraordinary session of the Bureau (Chapter III.173 – 177); 26 COM 21 (b) 49

New Information:

WHC:

The Centre has continued in the past months to receive complaints regarding the proposal for a 32m-high building in the vicinity of the Acropolis. The 26th session of the Committee requested the State Party to give urgent consideration to a redefinition of the buffer zone in order to better protect the visual setting of the monument; to undertake a visual impact study, notably concerning the site of the Acropolis; to provide information on any development projects which have an impact on the visual integrity of the World Heritage site; and finally, to submit, by 1 February 2003, a report on these matters. At the time of the preparation of this working document, no report had been received from the authorities.

Issues:

Urban Pressure.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 67

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Taking note that the Greek authorities have not provided the report requested by 1 February 2003,
2. Urges the State Party to provide the information requested and to submit a report by 1 February 2004 for

review by the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee.

68. Archaeological Ensemble of the Bend of the Boyne (Ireland)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1993
Criteria C (i) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

N.A

New Information:

WHC:

Since 2 June 2002, the Centre has been informed by several individuals that plans are underway to build a municipal waste incinerator in the vicinity of the site. Further information on this matter has been requested through the Permanent Delegation of Ireland to UNESCO. At the time of the preparation of this working document, no report from the authorities has been received.

Issues:

Urban Pressure.

Additional Details:

Infrastructure development pressure

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 68

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Taking note that the Irish authorities have not provided any information requested on the municipal waste incinerator in the vicinity of the World Heritage site,
2. Recalling paragraph 56 of the Operational Guidelines,
3. Urges the State Party to provide the requested information and to submit a report by 1 February 2004 for review by the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee.

69. Historic Centre of Riga (Latvia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1997
Criteria C (i) (ii)

Previous International Assistance:

Preparatory assistance (1996) 7,500 US\$; Technical co-operation (1998-2002) 117,000 US\$; Promotional assistance (2001) 5,543 US\$

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

N.A

New Information:

WHC:

The Centre received a letter dated 2 April 2003 from the National Commission of Latvia and the State Inspection for Heritage Protection providing information on a 26-storey building project of a tower located on the left bank of the River Daugava. The construction site is located on the opposite side of the Riga Historic Centre, within the buffer zone of the World Heritage site. The information was provided to ICOMOS for review.

The Ambassador of Latvia to UNESCO furthermore provided a translation of the Law on the Preservation and Protection of the Riga's Historical Centre, which was adopted by the Parliament (Saeima) on 16 April 2003.

Issues:

Urban Pressure.

Additional Details:

Construction of a skyscraper.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 69

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Noting the information provided by the Latvian authorities on the construction project within the buffer zone of the site,
2. Recalls the protective provisions of the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines,
3. Acknowledges the adoption of the Law on the Preservation and Protection of Riga's Historical Centre in April 2003; and urges the State Party to implement it,
4. Requests the State Party to continue to inform and collaborate with the Centre and ICOMOS concerning the review of the construction project in order to protect the World Heritage site and its visual integrity,
5. Further requests to provide a report thereupon by 1 February 2004, to be examined by its 28th session.

70. Curonian Spit (Lithuania/Russian Federation)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2000
Criterion C (v)

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th extraordinary session of the Bureau (Chapter III. 179-181); 26 COM 21 (b) 57

New Information:

WHC:

A report received from Lithuania on 4 February 2003 describes the steps, which have been taken by the

Lithuanian Government to comply with the recommendation of the World Heritage Committee. In order to jointly carry out the EIA, Lithuania identified a group of experts and made provisions for co-operation with the Russian Federation on this issue. However, no information on the EIA was given to Lithuania nor was a meeting of the experts set up. Despite repeated requests through bi-lateral channels, the Lithuanian authorities have received no information on the status of the oil field. A meeting was held in the Centre on 12 March 2003 with the Ambassadors of Lithuania and the Russian Federation to discuss the current situation and to obtain more information. By letter received on 9 April 2003, the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources reported that from 3 to 4 March 2003 a meeting was held, under bilateral intergovernmental co-operation in the field of environment protection, with Russian and Lithuanian officials. The meeting focused mainly on the ecological aspects of economic activities in this region. The Russian officials reported on the outcome of the state ecological expertise procedure, which was carried out for the project, and related to the production structure for the deposit of the "Kravysovskoe". The procedure complies with Russian legislation and observes international standards in this field. The Ministry of Natural Resources offered to organize a Russian-Lithuanian Conference on the environmental aspects of sea units located in the Baltic Sea, to be held on the LUKOIL - Kaliningradmorneft, in April 2003.

IUCN

IUCN received a copy of a report from the State Party of the Russian Federation dated 31 November 2002. The report noted that an environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the project "Creation of producing structure for oil deposit Kravtsovskoe (D-6) in the Baltic Sea" was being carried out by the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation (MNR). The World Heritage Committee (Budapest 2002) requested close co-operation between the States Parties of the Russian Federation and Lithuania related to the EIA for this project and other relevant management issues. The MNR reports that it sent all the relevant information related to the project to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lithuanian Republic in September 2002. However, the Lithuanian State Party reported in February 2003 that no information on the EIA had been communicated to them. Additionally, the Lithuanian report noted that they had not been asked to co-operate on the EIA.

IUCN is concerned about this lack of co-operation between the two States Parties, especially as the implementation of the project is to commence this year. The Lithuanian Ministry of Environment (LME) indicated in its report that they have identified a group of experts and made all the necessary steps to ensure co-operation with the Russian State Party. The LME's report notes that information available from the Russian Federation could not be used for the development of effective environmental protection measures and/or risk assessment and emergency contingency measures and plans, as

requested by the World Heritage Committee. The LME expressed its concern about the potential danger of contamination of the site. It also emphasized the need to carry out a UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission in case the co-operation between the States Parties does not take place before the oil exploration begins. The Russian MNR notes that they are considering the organization of a meeting of experts within a framework of bilateral intergovernmental co-operation between the Russian Federation and Lithuania. IUCN welcomes this proposal, but notes that no concrete timeframe has been proposed in the State Party's report.

Issues:

Mining, Oil/Gas Exploration.

Draft Decision: **27 COM 7 (b) 70**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recalling the decision taken at its 26th session concerning the Curonian Spit,
2. Urges both State Parties to work co-operatively on the project's EIA, preparation of risk assessment measures and emergency plans,
3. Strongly advises that oil exploration should not commence before all the necessary research has been carried out, leading to the preparation of a joint work plan for project implementation and prevention / mitigation measures to ensure the conservation of the World Heritage site,
4. Requests a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/IUCN mission to be undertaken to the site in full collaboration with the Russian and Lithuanian authorities, and a detailed report by the State Party of the Russian Federation to be prepared on the state of the project, by 1 February 2004, for examination by the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee.

71. Auschwitz Concentration Camp (Poland)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979

Criteria C (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

1998 (US\$ 20,000): Technical Co-operation (organization of international expert meetings for the Strategic Governmental Programme for Auschwitz).

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th extraordinary session of the Bureau (Chapter III. 185-191); 26 COM 21 (b) 65

New Information:

WHC:

By letter of 25 August 2002, the National Commission of Poland informed the Centre that the completion of a management plan for the deadline of 1 February 2003, as

requested by the Committee, would not be feasible. Taking into account the complexity of the site and the local situation (50 000 inhabitants) a long-term strategy had been developed to harmonise conservation with the needs of the contemporary city. The Strategic Programme foresees the creation of an International Centre for Education on the Holocaust as well as awareness-raising activities to improve the understanding of the local population to this subject.

As requested by the Committee, a report was submitted on 27 January 2003, which describes the implementation of the 2nd phase of the Strategic Programme for the Oświęcim Area (OSPR) for the years 2002 - 2006. The report identifies four priority areas and gives detailed information on the tasks to be fulfilled within these areas: The main objective of the Programme comprises:

1. Bringing order and development to the areas around the State Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau: The second phase of the Strategy Programme will continue to revalorise the site of the former extermination camp and to mark places of historical significance that are situated in the proximity of the Museum area. It also aims to enable access to these sites of interests outside the Museum.

2. Transport accessibility of Oświęcim pilgrims and tourists, commuters and investors: During the years 1997-2001, the internal transport infrastructure has already considerably improved and the second phase will further ameliorate the safety and quality of the roads, and the access to the sites.

3. Conducting in Oświęcim educational activities related to the commemoration sites and the issue of human rights, international relations and peace: The establishment of an International Educational Centre and an educational programme is planned which will make Oświęcim a place for education, information, remembrance and research on the Holocaust and human rights, as well as a place of Polish and international peace initiatives and dialogue among different cultures and religions.

4. Increasing the attractiveness of Oświęcim and its surroundings for tourists: In order to make Oświęcim a more attractive place for all to understand the complex problems associated with Auschwitz, the plan includes renovating the 13th century buildings and improving visitor access to the buildings in the Old Town. The Israeli authorities have offered assistance for the preparation of the Management Plan.

Following a meeting between the Centre and the Secretary-General of the Polish National Commission to UNESCO, a letter with updated information concerning Auschwitz Concentration Camp was received on 29 April 2003. The Polish authorities underlined the importance of the 5-year Strategic Programme and informed the Centre that on 18 December 2002 an agreement was signed between the relevant authorities that are going to be in charge of the implementation of the Programme. This

agreement is a starting point for creating a management system for the site.

Furthermore, an international conference is being organized in Krakow on 16 - 17 June 2003 to launch the International Education Centre, to which the UNESCO Assistance Director-General for Education and international experts, who have been active in the site preservation, are invited. Another Conference entitled "Preservation for the Future", dedicated to the technical aspects of the site preservation, will be held in the State Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau from 23 to 25 June 2003 under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture.

The Polish Government wished to call attention to the fact that the site was inscribed under criterion (vi) alone, underlining the complexity of the site to which many emotions are linked. They noted that there is no equivalent site on the World Heritage List. Therefore, the Government invited the World Heritage Committee to consider this specific situation requiring a different approach to the preservation of the site.

ICOMOS:

ICOMOS believes that the Polish Government should be congratulated for this comprehensive document and hopes that it will all be implemented. Nevertheless, it considers that:

1. It is impossible to understand many of the "tasks" indicated in the document without a larger colour map and with a legend.

2. The main problem in the past was the lack of a management plan and the issue of the buffer zone, its boundaries and land uses. The International Group of Experts, as well as the World Heritage Centre, requested a definition of the boundary of the buffer zone and the activities allowed in it. The "protection area" mentioned in the document is smaller than the buffer zone in the original nomination documents - it was one of the sources of problems and concerns in the past. There is a need for a good map showing the nomination boundaries, the original buffer zone and the so called "protection area".

3. Another plan, which is needed to understand future possible situation, is the one of allowed land uses around the camps.

4. A traffic plan, which shows clearly the parking areas, directions of traffic, possible restrictions, pedestrian traffic, new roads and bridges.

5. All the "tasks" in the programme could become worthless if, in the areas between the camps and in buildings associated with the past of the sites, there would be a type of activity, which would compromise the values.

Issues:

Urban Pressure; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation).

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 71

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Thanks the Polish authorities for their efforts in prolonging the Strategic Programme for the Oświęcim Area,
2. Notes the additional information provided by the Polish authorities on the Programme and other activities at the site,
3. Urges the national and local authorities to prepare the management plan in collaboration with UNESCO and ICOMOS,
4. Acknowledges with gratitude the financial support provided by the State Party of Israel,
5. Requests an updated report to be provided by the State Party of Poland by 1 February 2004, for examination by the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee.

72. Cultural Landscape of Sintra (Portugal)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1995
Criteria C (ii) (iv) (v)*

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th extraordinary session of the Bureau (Chapter III.306);
26 COM 21 (b) 66

New Information:

WHC:

By 20 March 2003, a state of conservation report elaborated by the Municipality of Sintra was sent to the Secretariat announcing the designation of a site manager responsible for the World Heritage site. The document states that several elements of the World Heritage site are in a serious condition: The two Parks (Pena and Monserrate) have not yet benefited from any improvement works; the Monserrate Palace and the Capuchos Convent are in a bad state of conservation, as is the “Chalet da Condessa” that had been subject to a fire after the inscription on the World Heritage List; there is no adequate planning policy taking into account the buffer zone and the transition zone of the World Heritage site; the restoration of the historic city centre of Sintra has made little progress. The document also underlines several aspects of improvement on the site as well as the debate on the projects undertaken by the Company “Parques de Sintra – Monte da Lua”. The main critical point remains the lack of a comprehensive management plan for the whole World Heritage site. It is foreseen to submit such a management plan by January 2004.

Issues:

Urban Pressure; Tourism Pressure.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 72

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Taking of the report on the state of conservation of the Cultural Landscape of Sintra provided by the Portuguese authorities,
2. Notes that progress has been achieved in view of some recommendations made in 2000, including the restoration works on the Quinta da Regaleira,
3. Further notes that several elements of the World Heritage site are in serious condition;
4. Recalls its request for a detailed management plan for the site which should have been submitted by 31 December 2001,
5. Urges the State Party to submit the management plan by 1 February 2004 for review by the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee.

73. Historic Centre of Sighisoara (Romania)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1999
Criteria C (iii) (v)*

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th session of the Committee (Chapter VIII.143 –147);
26 COM 21 (b) 67

New Information:

WHC:

The Centre has been informed through several press releases of the official decision of the Romanian authorities to relocate the proposed theme park, which was planned in the immediate vicinity of the World Heritage site. No official information from the national authorities had been received by the deadline of 1 February 2003. A letter was received on 5 February 2003 from the Ministry of Culture indicating that a request for technical co-operation will be submitted in the near future to enhance the state of conservation of the site.

By 19 March 2003, a report on the state of conservation of Sighisoara was submitted by the Romanian Ministry of Culture accompanied by a letter, which states:

1. Concerning the state of conservation of the World Heritage site of Sighisoara, a strategy and methodology has been developed by the institution in charge of the management of historic monuments based on the Law 564 of 2001 concerning measures to protect World Heritage sites. The Minister of Culture and the local authorities have identified financing for the most urgent works to address the state of conservation of the site. The Ministry expressed its great interest and commitment in preserving

this World Heritage site and other sites on the World Heritage List. The annex to the letter lists a number of projects carried out at the site, including rehabilitation of buildings, measures against landslides, as well as projects foreseen in the future. Furthermore, proposals were developed for the management of the site and its continuous monitoring, as well as infrastructure and tourism development.

2. The letter also informs the Centre that the Minister of Tourism has provided information concerning the Dracula Park project, for which alternative location away from the World Heritage site of Sighisoara is sought now. The UNESCO mission report also stressed the importance and urgency of surveying, reinforcing and repairing the fortifications of Sighisoara. It drew attention to the collapsed sections of walls and the poor state of some of the towers.

ICOMOS:

Commenting on the state of conservation report dated 20 March 2003, ICOMOS drew attention to the persisting lack of protection and maintenance measures for the site as an ensemble, the lack of clearly identifiable responsibilities and locally integrated co-operation as well as to the lack of financing strategies. ICOMOS noted that the Report is divided into three parts: 1. State of conservation, protection and restoration, as well as management of the "Historic Centre of Sighisoara"; 2. Programme and framework for the protection and management of historic monuments on the World Heritage List, and 3. The future Protection and Management Plan.

ICOMOS noted that it is not the geological structure, but the lack of maintenance that has been the cause of the degradation at the site. In the past, if a section of wall collapsed, it would immediately be rebuilt more strongly and securely than before. Symptomatic of the failure to appreciate the vital importance of regular maintenance, is the absence of any mention in the sections on regular maintenance and repair, of the source of funding, budget and organization responsible for carrying out the work. ICOMOS recalls that the UNESCO-ICOMOS mission report of 2002 stressed the importance and urgency of surveying, reinforcing and repairing the fortifications of Sighisoara. It drew attention to the collapsed sections of wall and the poor state of some of the towers. It identified some international sources of funding. Although the Report of the Romanian Ministry of Culture recognized the need to rebuild the collapsed wall sections, take appropriate measures against landslides and strengthen the wall at the base of the Bootmakers' Tower and in the vicinity of the Blacksmiths' Tower, it is disappointing in that it pays little regard to the suggestion that international sources of funding might be available through UNESCO. It omits any mention of the feasibility study into ways of contending with landslides, an urgent need for which is expressly mentioned in Part I under "measures for conservation".

Another example is the feasibility study for the rehabilitation of the historic centre, timed for 2003/2004, which has a blank under "project executant". It is also disappointing to read yet again "Establish zones of protection for each monument...". Where the solution in a World Heritage site like Sighisoara must be to make the whole a "conservation area" in which there is strict development control. Also, the role of the local inhabitants needs to be recognized, amenity societies encouraged by being given some official standing, for example being made part of the consultation process. Finally, on restoration, a general comment is desirable regarding the importance in restoration/conservation of using materials and techniques which are compatible with the existing structure (i.e. no more indiscriminate use of concrete and cement).

Issues:

Urban Pressure.

Additional Details:

Project for the building of a theme park - "Dracula Park" - in the vicinity of the World Heritage site.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 73

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Congratulating the national authorities regarding the decision to relocate the proposed theme park,*
2. *Takes note of the progress made with regard to restoration projects and protection measures and the intention to request technical assistance under the World Heritage Fund in order to enhance the state of conservation of the site,*
3. *Requests the State Party to comply as soon as possible with the additional recommendations made by the international mission and the decision by the 26th session, i.e. to prepare an overall management plan, including management of tourism, for the World Heritage site,*
4. *Urges the authorities to take into account the comments made by ICOMOS on the restoration and conservation of the site,*
5. *Further requests the State Party to provide by 1 February 2004, a progress report on these issues for examination at its 28th session.*

74. Kizhi Pogost (Russian Federation)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1990 ;
Criteria C (i) (iv) (v)*

Previous International Assistance:

2001, US\$ 29,540 (International Workshop on the preservation and conservation of wooden structures).

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th extraordinary session of the Bureau (Chapter III. 198-202)

New Information:

WHC:

Following the request by the 25th session of the World Heritage Committee to elaborate « a work plan for the safeguarding of the site » and the approval of funds under emergency assistance, the “International Workshop on Kizhi Pogost and the Preservation and Conservation of Wooden Structures of the Church of the Transfiguration” was held from 31 July to 5 August 2002, St. Petersburg - Kizhi Pogost. It was organized by the UNESCO Chair in Urban and Architectural Conservation (Moscow), in collaboration with the UNESCO Moscow Office and the World Heritage Centre.

The extensive discussions during the workshop and the site visit to Kizhi Pogost resulted in a full report of the meeting and a document with recommendations, which was transmitted to the appropriate authorities and organizations and bodies, for consideration and follow-up. The recommendations concern the following points:

1. The presentations on the project of the restoration of the Church of the Transfiguration enhanced the dialogue between the Russian and the international participants and the confidence of all in the careful, systematic and thorough approach in place for the conservation of this property. The care with which this project has been undertaken could provide useful lessons on the safeguarding of complex wooden structures, the promotion of the protection and conservation of wooden heritage in Eastern Europe, and for exemplary international co-operation involving different stakeholders, international organizations (UNESCO, ICOMOS, ICCROM, etc.) as well as national and international experts.

2. While recalling the resolution of the Novgorod Meeting (17 September 1999) to examine the possibility of inscription of Kizhi Pogost on the List of World Heritage in Danger, the participants noted that a multi-disciplinary project team has been assembled and is working actively on the project. There is an extensive restoration plan, which has received Government approval and funding.

3. The participants discussed extensively the state of conservation of the Church of the Transfiguration and the restoration project planned for it. The participants expressed their appreciation to the authors of the current project for the quality of analysis evident in their work, for their efforts to learn from the results of past interventions, for their efforts to work in continuity with the findings of the ICOMOS-Russian conservation plan of 1993-1995 and for their commitment to cautious approaches which would minimize the replacement of original material.

4. While expressing support in general for the approach proposed and its guiding philosophy, the participants expressed the need to be cautious in implementation and

therefore propose: to ensure comprehensive monitoring of impacts of interventions described in detailed plans and to use a careful approach to ensure respect for the heritage values and a full re-examination of the basic principles and strategies of the adopted restoration approach; Concerning the question of chemical treatment of the logs, the World Heritage Committee and the Advisory Bodies are asked to provide general advice for the preservation of wood.

5. During the field visit to the site, the participants also reviewed the situation regarding the other buildings included in the site, and encouraged the Russian authorities to develop plans for the long-term maintenance of all wooden structures, in the World Heritage property and its environment, to ensure that the World Heritage values and the integrity of the site are preserved.

6. Concerning the surroundings of the World Heritage site, the participants were informed of ongoing conservation efforts for the 84 buildings comprising the Open Air Museum. They urged that the integrity of this unique landscape be maintained in its overall management.

7. It is recommended that reports on the progress of the project and its results, as well as the monitoring of the state of conservation be regularly transmitted to the World Heritage Committee. It is further recommended that the expertise and insights of the international experts, and in particular members of the ICOMOS International Wood Committee, involved with this site since 1988 be called to maintain the professional dialogue now in place.

8. The workshop suggested that a meeting of all Russian speaking World Heritage site managers and national coordinators be organized, in collaboration with the East European Centre of the countries of the CIS for the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, proposed by Russia.

9. The workshop proposed to extend the ICCROM digest of Kizhi international co-operation activities to include all Russian activities, the contribution of ICOMOS Germany relating to structural renewal and restoration of the iconostasis and a list of all documents available to be published.

10. In order to ensure regular update on activities and other necessary information on World Heritage to be made available to all persons involved, the participants recommended that the Moscow Office update the existing web site with Russian material and that the Russian World Heritage Committee take responsibility to maintain contact with all site managers. Furthermore, it was recommended that the Management Guidelines for Cultural Heritage Sites (Jokilehto/Fielden, ICCROM 1992) (translated into Russian), be published.

Issues:

Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; wood conservation.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 74

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recalling its decisions taken at the 25th extraordinary session of the Bureau,

2. Thanks the authorities of the Russian Federation for their commitment to the preservation of the site,

3. Takes note of the report and recommendations provided by the International Workshop with regard to the future conservation of this site under threat,

4. Encourages the State Party, the Centre and the Advisory Bodies to continue to collaborate and to closely follow the future development of the conservation works,

5. Requests the State Party to provide an updated report on progress made by 1 February 2004, for consideration at its 28th session.

75. Spišský Hrad and its Associated Cultural Monuments (Slovakia)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1993
Criteria C (iv)*

Previous International Assistance:
1996, Technical Co-operation US\$ 23,333

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:
25th extraordinary session of the Bureau (Chapter, III.203–204)

New Information:
WHC:

An extensive report on the overall state of conservation of the site and the associated monuments, prepared by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, was received on 30 September 2002. Concerning the effects of quarrying on the conservation of Spišský Hrad and its Associated Cultural Monuments, the report clarifies that mining is carried out strictly in the determined mining area and meets the conditions specified by the District Mining Authority in agreement with state landscape protection authorities. For this reason, the operation at one working site was terminated. The report further informed of conservation work being carried out at the Spiš Castle and restoration works in the towns of Spišské Podhradie and Spišska Kapitula. In general, the character of the inscribed territory and its cultural heritage remain preserved.

ICOMOS:
ICOMOS congratulates the State Party for actions undertaken to ensure the conservation of the site. It noted, however, that the State Party should take into account difficulties concerning the intensification of traffic, the environment (tree felling along the access roads and the removal of vegetation along the waterways) as well as the

conservation of uninhabited historic buildings, and encourages the State Party to continue to ensure the preservation of the site.

Issues:
Mining, Oil/Gas Exploration

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 75

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Thanking the Slovak authorities for the report on the overall conservation of the site,

2. Requests the State Party to keep the Centre and ICOMOS informed of any future projects, which may have an impact on the site and to provide a report to the World Heritage Centre on traffic and conservation issues of the site, by 1 February 2004.

76. Old City of Salamanca (Spain)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1988
Criteria C (i) (ii) (iv)*

Previous International Assistance:
N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:
26 COM 21 (b) 69

New Information:
WHC:

According to information received by the World Heritage Centre in 2002, Caja Duero desisted from building the auditorium in the Huerta de las Adoratrices, thus following the recommendation of the World Heritage Committee. However, according to several newspaper articles sent to the Centre by ICOMOS-Spain in September-October 2002, Caja Duero still has the intention to build the auditorium, which is fully supported by the Regional Government (Junta de Castilla y León). On 22 October 2002, a letter was sent to the Spanish Permanent Delegation to express concern about the uncertainty created about the future use of the Huerto de las Adoratrices. Although there are signs that the original project of the auditorium in the Adoratrices will not be carried out, on 6 September 2002 the General Assembly of Caja Duero approved the creation of a Foundation to promote cultural and social activities. According to a regional newspaper (Norte de Castilla, 7 September 2002), this Foundation will have its seat in the now so-called 'Complejo de las Adoratrices', implying that a new project for the Auditorium will be presented. At the time of the preparation of this working document, no report from the authorities had been received concerning this issue.

ICOMOS:
ICOMOS underlined its opposition to this project, stating that the insertion of a modern building would be a

regrettable intrusion, which would seriously jeopardize the extraordinary atmosphere of history and learning of the historic centre.

Issues:

Urban Pressure.

Draft Decision: **27 COM 7 (b) 76**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Taking note that the Spanish authorities have not provided any official information concerning the current state of the constructions plans for the Auditorium,

2. Recalling that the walled garden of the Adoratrices is an integral part of the protected core area of the site 'Old City of Salamanca',

3. Recalling further that when inscribing the site in 1988, the Committee requested the Spanish authorities to take all possible steps to ensure that the laws concerning the protection of the town be strictly applied,

4. Recalling finally its decision (June 2002) that the State Party avoid minor modifications to the present safeguarding plan and elaborate a new adapted and sustainable management plan,

5. Urges the State Party to elaborate a management plan that also ensures the preservation of open places within the protected area,

6. Requests the State Party to provide by 1 February 2004, a report on these issues for examination at its 28th session.

77. Route of Santiago de Compostela (Spain)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1993

Criteria C (ii) (iv) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th session of the Bureau (Chapter V.280); 25th extraordinary session of the Bureau (Chapter III.205-206.)

New Information:

WHC:

In June 2001, ICOMOS-Spain, together with the Vice-Chairman of ICOMOS International and representatives of ICOMOS-Cuba, ICOMOS-Costa Rica and ICOMOS-Paraguay, the President of the Association APUDEPA (Asociación de Acción Pública para la Defensa del Patrimonio Cultural Aragonés), other associations and authorities of several municipalities, visited the area and concluded that the project to enlarge the artificial lake should be suspended. After the necessary collection of information, the properties belonging to the Route of

Santiago de Compostela should be restored. This report supported the first report from ICOMOS-Spain on the same issue.

On 11 April 2002, the Centre received extensive documentation from the Spanish Permanent Delegation, including a document on the social need to enlarge the barrage, documents on the ethnographic, archaeological and paleontological research carried out in the area, reports on the affected trail of the Route by the enlargement, and a legal report on the viability of transferring the trail of the Route of Santiago. This report coming from the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport has been sent to answer the request of the World Heritage Bureau at its meeting in December 2001 concerning the enlargement of the barrage. At the time of the preparation of this document, no reply was received.

In June 2002, the Centre received a letter from the President of APUDEPA, with several annexes and documentation. In her letter, she indicated that the Regional Government of Aragon has changed the boundaries of the Route as they were fixed in 1993 when the site was nominated, asking the Centre to contact ICOMOS and the Spanish authorities on this question. On 28 February 2003, the Centre received a visit from the President of APUDEPA and the President of the Asociación del Río Aragón. They handed over a file with copies of newspaper articles and other documents referring to the negative consequences of the enlargement of the barrage. No further information has been received from the Permanent Delegation of the State Party.

ICOMOS:

ICOMOS stressed two points concerning the situation: 1. There appears to have been no direct response from the State Party regarding the viability of modifying the dam project so as to avoid flooding the 5 km stretch of the Route. 2. The apparent readiness of the Comunidad Autónoma of Aragón to change the course of this stretch as a result of "research ... to establish the true trail of the Route" within its territory, calls into question the original nomination.

The result of a meticulous and prolonged research project, the Route inscribed on the List must surely be seen as authoritative, the more so since it is based to a considerable extent on the Callixtine Codex, which records the Route in great detail. A redefinition of the boundaries of a single length of the Route to conform to contemporary economic requirements carries with it a suspicion of sophistry. ICOMOS, therefore, proposes that the Committee should continue to apply pressure on the State Party to react to the suggestion that alternative solutions be sought to the enlargement of the Yesa Dam and the augmentation of water supplies in this region, where this is recognized to be of considerable economic and social significance.

Issues:

Urban Pressure.

Additional Details:

Impact of a dam in a section of the route

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 77

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Acknowledging the information received from the State Party in 2002,
2. Expresses concern about the dam project and its effects on the World Heritage site of the Route of Santiago,
3. Requests the State Party to provide a report by 1 February 2004 for review by the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee.

78. Old Town of Avila with its Extra-Muros Churches (Spain)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1985
Criteria C (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

N.A

New Information:

WHC:

On 24 April 2003, the World Heritage Centre received a report by the City Council of Avila with information and photos of a new building and the complete refurbishment within the square "Mercado Grande / Plaza de Santa Teresa" in Avila. Two old buildings had been demolished to clear the area for the new building designed by a renowned architect. The volume of the new building is not proportionate to the ensemble of the Square as it is bigger than the two demolished buildings it is replacing. The Romanesque Church of San Pedro, on the opposite side of the Square, is described in the nomination file as one of the four protected extra-muros churches.

Issues:

Urban Pressure.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 78

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Acknowledging that the Spanish authorities have provided, as requested by the Centre, information concerning the current state of the constructions plans for the Plaza Santa Teresa,
2. Recalling that the Plaza Santa Teresa has been included in the nomination file as part of the protected area of the site 'Old Town of Avila', being the buffer zone between the Puerta del Alcazar and the Church of San Pedro,

3. Recalling also that when inscribing the site in 1985, the extra-muros Church of San Pedro was included in the listed area, as advised by the Bureau, and special mention was made of the Square of Santa Teresa as a high point within the World Heritage site,

4. Further recalling Article 56 of the Operational Guidelines, wherein the State Party is requested to inform the World Heritage Centre of any construction plans that may affect a World Heritage site,

5. Expresses concern about the demolition of the old buildings, its impact on the authenticity of the World Heritage site, the construction plans for a new and bigger building, and the refurbishment of the Plaza Santa Teresa,

6. Urges the State Party to reconsider the construction plans of the new building in order to adapt it as far as possible to the historic ensemble of the area,

7. Requests the State Party to provide by 1 February 2004, a report on these issues for examination at its 28th session.

79. Historic Areas of Istanbul (Turkey)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1985
Criteria C (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

Total International Assistance 1987-1999 :US\$ 316,149; 2000; US\$30,000 Emergency assistance for evaluation of earthquake damage to Hagia Sophia
2000; US\$35,208 Completion of the documentation of the buildings and monuments within the city walls of Istanbul

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

22nd session of the Bureau (Chapter V.67); 22nd extraordinary session of the Bureau (Chapter III C); 22nd session of the Committee (Chapter VII.43); 23rd session of the Bureau (Chapter IV.85); 23rd session of the Committee (Chapter X.46).

New Information:

WHC:

The €7 million project designed by the World Heritage Centre in 1998-99 and approved by the European Commission, became operational from January 2003. This project for urban renewal of the Fatih District through social housing policies and social development actions, is expected to create a new dynamic in the project target areas of Balat and Fener, but also in the adjacent area of Zeyrek which is one of the four core World Heritage protected areas.

In February 2003, the Centre reviewed the results of the social economic survey of the inhabitants and the building condition survey of Zeyrek, Yenikapi and Suleymaniye areas of Historic Istanbul, where the Ottoman period timber buildings still exist. This study financed by the

World Heritage Fund and carried out by the Istanbul Technical University (ITU), demonstrated the critical condition of the extant buildings and the inability of the poor inhabitants to conserve these buildings without public aid. UNESCO/WHC and ICOMOS-Turkey recommended the following:

1. Extension of social housing credit from TOKI (government housing agency) for the renewal of Zeyrek and Yenikapi (both part of Fatih Municipality); development of a new project proposal for €1.5 million for submission to EC by Zeyrek Conservation Association (Turkish NGO) and consortium of European NGOs;
2. Negotiations with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for the funding of the rehabilitation of the timber building area of Yenikapi, located next to the proposed new train station, where the tunnel under Bosphorus is expected to emerge;
3. Development of a project proposal for submission to the World Heritage Committee for a demonstration conservation of one Ottoman epoch timber building in Zeyrek to be used as a local community advisory centre (linked to the Fatih Heritage House in Fener managing the € 7 million EC funded project);
4. Review of the draft urban conservation plan at 1/1000 scale of Fatih and Eminonu Districts integrated as part of the urban plan of Greater Istanbul.

The mission expressed great concern that the urban plan abrogated in 1997 has not yet been replaced, despite assurances from the State Party received by letter of 2 August 2000, of the imminent enactment of a new plan. Moreover, noting the continued deterioration of the state of conservation of the Ottoman epoch timber buildings of Zeyrek, the mission recommends that the Committee, at its 28th session in 2004, consider the inscription of the Historic Areas of Istanbul on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Issues:

Urban Pressure; Tourism Pressure; Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of monitoring system; Lack of presentation and interpretation; Lack of human or financial resources; Lack of institution coordination; Earthquake.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 79

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recalling the repeated concerns expressed by the Committee over the delay in the approval of a new urban conservation plan since the abrogation of the previous plan in 1997, and the deterioration of the Ottoman epoch timber buildings in Zeyrek,

2. Further recalling concerns over the impact of the construction of the subway system on the archaeological deposits in the historic peninsula of Istanbul,

3. Noting the reports on probable additional disturbances to the archaeological remains and the timber building neighbourhood of Yenikapi which could be caused by the construction of the planned station building for the urban train system,

4. Requests the State Party to complete and enact the new urban conservation plan without further delay and to make available the technical and financial resources required for emergency measures to prevent the collapse of the timber buildings, particularly in Zeyrek,

5. Requests the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to support the State Party in seeking international support to halt further loss of the historic urban fabric of Istanbul,

6. Requests the State Party to submit, by 1 February 2004, a report on the above to enable the Committee, at its 28th session, to consider the inscription of the site on the World Heritage List in Danger, in absence of tangible remedial measures to prevent the loss of World Heritage values of this property.

80. Kiev: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kiev-Pechersk Lavra (Ukraine)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1990
Criteria C (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

1998, US \$ 19,750 (Equipment to preserve ancient wall paintings, Saint-Sophia Cathedral).

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

N.A

New Information:

WHC:

On 26 July 2002, concerned citizens informed the Centre about construction works in the vicinity of the Saint-Sophia Cathedral. According to their report, a two-storey underground parking lot, swimming pool and fitness centre was under construction. Large concrete walls were reported to have blocked the drainage of underground sources, causing water to flow into the foundations of the Cathedral and the Belfry. The report drew attention to the destabilisation of the ground, allegedly provoked by the changed watercourse, which has caused the buildings to crack, given that the Saint Sophia Cathedral is built over quicksand.

On 23 September 2002, the national authorities responded with a report stating that the construction projects had been halted and that the elaboration of an action plan for 2002-2004 had been initiated for research and restoration as well as for a conservation programme for the period until 2010.

The Ukrainian National Commission for UNESCO stated, on 28 January 2003, that the construction of the fitness centre with a swimming pool was carried out in violation of the regulations of Ukraine. Hence the construction was suspended, and measures have been taken to reverse the impact of the construction. The Ukraine Government has further initiated a programme to promote scientific research as well as technical and restoration works for the preservation of St.Sophia of Kiev. The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, the National Academy of Sciences and other institutions have initiated a number of research projects, which include the domains of engineering, geology, hydro- and geo-physics as well as monitoring the state of the ground structure and the water table within the affected area.

During a meeting held on 31 January 2003, the Permanent Delegation of Ukraine stated that the President had ordered the construction to be halted within the World Heritage site and requested that UNESCO be informed in a timely fashion of any significant construction or restoration works within the borders of the site. The Centre received furthermore an unofficial translation of the Order by the President of Ukraine to preserve the cultural and natural heritage in Ukraine according to the World Heritage Convention. Preventive measures to avoid illegal construction within protected zones are taken and the elaboration and adoption of a programme on the preservation of the St Sophie Cathedral 2003 to 2010 is underway. On 17 February 2003, however, concerned citizens once again informed the Centre that the previously halted construction work had been resumed. Alarm was also raised about a newly erected restaurant within a national conservation area/defined site boundary of Kyiv Pecherska Lavra Monastery.

Issues:

Urban Pressure.

Draft Decision: **27 COM 7 (b) 80**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Thanking the Ukraine authorities for their rapid response to the threats and the programme of actions adopted for the site,
2. Acknowledging the progress made with legal protection of the site through a presidential decree,
3. Expresses, however, its concern for the preservation and conservation of the Cathedral and the Belfry,
4. Requests the State Party to provide a detailed report to the Centre, by 1 February 2004, on the research and on planned or completed projects in the vicinity of the designated World Heritage site, for the consideration at its 28th session.

81. Old and New Towns of Edinburgh (United Kingdom)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1995
Criteria C (ii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

N.A

New Information:

WHC:

A blaze affected a part of the Old Town area of Edinburgh (Cowgate) on 7 December 2002. On 19 December 2002, a letter was received from the Minister for the Arts of the State Party indicating that the fire affected only 13 out of the World Heritage site's nearly 4,500 historic buildings. It was considered that the overall quality of the World Heritage site has remained intact. Historic Scotland, that has been working closely with the local authority to give assistance in developing a remedial action plan for the area affected, transmitted a more detailed report on 20 January 2003. This report underlined that the impact of the fire was limited to less than 1% of the whole area of the World Heritage site, and that the most important historic buildings in the area escaped damage. Only 2 listed buildings (buildings identified by the State as meriting particular individual protection) out of some 3,500 listed buildings in the World Heritage site were directly affected.

However, the report stated that the fire did destroy an important part of the Edinburgh townscape at the junction of the two streets, an area that had been the subject of significant 18th and 19th century urban design projects. The report underlined also that the re-development of the site very quickly became a subject of public debate. To date, the reconstruction of some of the demolished buildings or reinstatement of the frontage to an earlier appearance are among the options that may be considered in the development plan. Yet, redevelopment will not commence until a proper assessment of the remaining structures and the archaeological and architectural significance of the site has been carried out and a development plan agreed with the City Council.

The State Party also informed that the City Council is committed to ensuring that any redevelopment of the area will take full account of the character and the surviving medieval street pattern of this part of the World Heritage site. The Edinburgh City Council assumed control under its powers in relation to unsafe structures and public safety. Its aim was to keep demolition to a minimum, however, in view of the considerable structural damage caused by the fire, unlisted buildings were demolished.

ICOMOS:

ICOMOS stated that the challenge was now to address the consequences of the fire in the light of the designation of the area as part of the World Heritage site. ICOMOS also

agreed that stating that a significant part of the Old Town was destroyed did not correspond to the truth, since only 13 buildings were involved and the loss of structures of particular architectural interest remain modest. However, the fire has resulted in the destruction of a highly important sector of the city and that buildings which contributed to the strong character of the streetscape and fabric of the Old Town, for which Edinburgh was inscribed as a World Heritage site, have been lost. ICOMOS also informed the Centre that a full archaeological survey would take place as soon as the site is safe. ICOMOS expressed the hope that, in due course, a conservation plan or equivalent will be put together to guide the redevelopment of the site through informing debate on options to be considered, and that the approach will take account of ICOMOS International Charters, such as the Charter of Krakow of 2000 on Historic Towns.

Issues:

Urban Pressure; Fire.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 81

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Thanking the national authorities as well as the local authorities for their prompt and brave action undertaken during the blaze and immediately after,
2. Takes note of the actions taken by the Edinburgh City Council and Historic Scotland in close co-operation to develop a remedial action plan for the area,
3. Takes note that involved stakeholders are studying a conservation plan for the site and that any redevelopment of the area affected will take full account of the character and medieval pattern of this part of the World Heritage site,
4. Requests the State Party to provide, by 1 February 2004, a report on this matter and on any development proposals in the boundaries and buffer zone of the site, for examination by the Committee at its 28th session.

82. Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites (United Kingdom)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1986
Criteria C (i) (ii) (iii)

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th extraordinary session of the Bureau (Chapter III.207-210); 26th session of the Bureau (Chapter XII.108-109.)

New Information:

WHC:

A report has been received from the State Party on 31 January 2003 underlining that an archaeological condition survey of the Stonehenge part of the World Heritage site is underway and will shortly be completed. This will complement the existing condition survey for Avebury. The launch of a Special Countryside Stewardship Scheme for Stonehenge and Avebury was a major success for the World Heritage site in 2002. Funded by the European Union, this grant scheme encourages farmers to convert arable fields to pasture. This will remove from cultivation some important archaeological sites, enhance the landscape setting of Stonehenge and enhance the ecological value of the World Heritage site. The Scheme is managed by the UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Concerning the Stonehenge Project, the State Party has been working with key stakeholders to improve the setting and conservation of the Stonehenge part of the World Heritage site in accordance with the policies contained in the World Heritage site Management Plan through the development and implementation of the Stonehenge Project. The Committee has supported the general approach adopted to deal with the problems of the site. In 2000, ICOMOS confirmed that they were in full agreement with the proposals for a 2 km cut-and-cover tunnel. Since the last report to the Bureau, work has continued on the development of the scheme designs for the roads and for the visitor centre. Work includes full environmental impact assessments.

In 2002, a full appraisal of the options for the length and method of constructing the tunnel was undertaken. On the basis of this appraisal, Ministers decided that their preferred option was for a 2.1 km bored tunnel rather than the previously proposed 2 km cut-and-cover tunnel. This longer tunnel using less intrusive construction techniques will minimize the impact of the road scheme on the World Heritage site. The estimated cost of the longer bored tunnel is £183m (US\$ 298m), some £30m (US\$ 49m) more than the original 2 km cut-and-cover tunnel. Ministers concluded that the 2.1 km tunnel met the requirements of the World Heritage site Management Plan.

Progress continues on the development of the scheme for the new visitor centre in close collaboration with the National Trust, the charitable organization that owns nearly half of the Stonehenge World Heritage site landscape. The scheme is now expected to cost £ 57m (US\$ 93m). So far, the Department for Culture Media and Sport has committed £ 13m (US\$ 21m) and the Heritage Lottery Fund £25m (US\$41m). Remaining funding will come from English Heritage's core budget and a substantial fundraising campaign. It is now expected that the formal consent procedures for both the road scheme and the visitor centre will begin in late spring 2003. These will provide additional information on the environmental impact of the proposals, which will allow full assessment

of the projects to be made before decisions are taken on whether or not consent should be granted.

Concerning Silbury Hill, Avebury, the report mentioned that English Heritage is continuing to make progress in ensuring the long-term conservation of Silbury Hill, an important part of the Avebury portion of this World Heritage site. Following the stabilisation work undertaken in 2001, a geophysical survey of the whole Hill was carried out by Skanska Cementation, on behalf of English Heritage. The results indicated that the Hill is a robust structure, basically stable, although some areas were identified for further investigation. An area on the northern flank of the Hill considered potentially unstable, was evaluated as being stable after detailed seismic survey work, coring and ground investigation during 2002. English Heritage is now planning to investigate the area of the previously collapsed shaft by drilling two small cores or boreholes in the area. The information gathered will help us design long-term remedial work. The cores are due to be sunk during March 2003 and fieldwork will be completed by the end of March. After that, English Heritage will assess the results, and may or may not, depending on the results, design a programme of remedial works to the Hill in order to ensure its long-term conservation.

ICOMOS:

Following the 24th session of the World Heritage Committee in December 2000, ICOMOS received additional information concerning the different options for the tunnel project. This information has caused ICOMOS to modify its point of view on the initial solution of the State Party (2km cut-and-cover tunnel). It has adopted a position in favour of the longer tunnel project (4.5km) and welcomes that the State Party has opted for a bored tunnel solution. It considered such a solution to correspond best to the aim of protecting the exceptional value of the Stonehenge landscape.

Additional Details:

Infrastructure development pressure.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 82

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Taking note of the changes made to the construction project for the tunnel,
2. Welcomes the State Party's decision to opt for the project, which is less damaging for the World Heritage site,
3. Requests the State Party to provide a progress report by 1 February 2004 for review by the 28th session of the Committee.

83. Tower of London (United Kingdom)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1988
Criteria C (ii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

N.A

New Information:

WHC:

The Centre has been informed by several individuals and through press articles of two development proposals in the vicinity of the site, which can have a potential impact on the World Heritage area. ICOMOS-UK has expressed its concern regarding this matter. In October 2002, a letter was received from the State Party indicating that the Government is aware of the two proposed projects, the Minerva Tower and the London Bridge Tower, as well as of their potential impact on the setting of the World Heritage site. The State Party informed the Centre that both proposals are the subject of major planning applications, and are being processed according to the usual development control system.

In parallel, the impact of the proposed development on the setting of the site will be one of the issues under consideration at the public inquiry expected to take place in February/March 2003, which will precede a Ministerial decision on this planning application. The relevant local authority will carefully consider the outcome of this public inquiry before taking a decision on the planning application. The State Party also informed that an approved management plan for the Tower of London should be in place in early 2003. This plan will include locally agreed policies on the future protection of the setting of the site.

ICOMOS:

ICOMOS informed the Centre that it is not in favour of the current plans, as they may affect the views to and of the Tower. It recommends deferring the application of the projects. ICOMOS-UK proposed to carry out a skyline assessment to determine more appropriate planning solutions.

Issues:

Urban Pressure.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 83

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Taking note of the report provided by the State Party on the building project that could have a negative impact on the World Heritage site,

2. Notes the actions foreseen by the State Party to undertake an in-depth study on the possible impact of such project,

3. Recommends to the State Party to avoid any construction in the immediate vicinity of the site that could harm the setting and integrity of the site,

4. Requests the State Party to provide, by 1st February 2004, a report on this matter for examination by the Committee at its 28th session.

LATIN AMERICA / CARIBBEAN

84. Jesuit Missions of the Guaranis: San Ignacio Mini, Santa Ana, Nuestra Señora de Loreto and Santa Maria Mayor (Argentina), Ruins of Sao Miguel das Missoes (Brazil), Jesuit Missions of las Santísima Trinidad de Paraná and Jesús de Tavarangue (Paraguay) (Argentina/Brazil/Paraguay)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1983-1984, 1993

Criteria C (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

US\$ 22,350 was approved in 2002 for a training activity that involved significant national parks in the three countries (including Brazil and Paraguay).

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

23rd session of the Bureau (paragraph IV.51)

23rd session of the Committee (paragraph X.46, Annex VIII)

New Information:

WHC:

Upon the invitation of the World Monuments Fund (WMF), an interdisciplinary expert team visited the Jesuit Missions of the Guaranies in Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil from 16 to 26 October 2002. The UNESCO Regional Adviser for World Heritage participated in the mission. The mission's objective was to analyse the present state of conservation of the Jesuit Missions, their management and their potential for cultural tourism development and to make recommendations for future action. An important conclusion of the mission was that the ensemble of the original thirty missions is fragmented in terms of interpretation, criteria for interventions and conservation and management. The fact that seven of these missions located in three different countries appear on the World Heritage List does not seem to have had a major impact on decision-making at the local, national or regional level. There is no systematic institutional or professional co-operation between the countries.

In response to these issue, the expert team proposed a three-year capacity building programme for the ensemble of the Jesuit Missions. The programme will strengthen the institutional and technical/professional capacities in the

countries concerned, including Uruguay, for the integral conservation, management and sustainable development of the missions. The first activity of the programme will be a training-workshop for those responsible for the conservation and management of the sites. This one-week workshop will be held in the mission of Sao Miguel, Brazil, in the second half of 2003. Brazil has submitted a training request under the World Heritage Fund and additional contributions have been requested under the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust and the World Monuments Fund.

Issues:

Tourism Pressure; Lack of capacity in conservation techniques, Lack of management mechanism (including legislation), Lack of presentation and interpretation, Lack of human or financial resources, Lack of institution co-ordination.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 84

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of and welcomes the initiative to implement a sub-regional capacity building programme for the conservation, management and sustainable development of the Jesuit Missions of the Guaranies (2003 to 2005),

2. Welcomes the co-operation established to this effect between UNESCO and the World Monuments Fund,

3. Invites the Secretariat to provide information at its 28th session on the implementation and results of the programme.

85. Brasilia (Brazil)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1987

Criteria C (i) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

1997 to 2000: US\$ 42,000 for international conferences on modern architecture.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th session of the Bureau (Chapter V.244 - 5); 24th session of the Committee (Chapter VIII.35; Annex X, page 126).

New Information:

WHC:

On 25 April 2003, the Secretariat received reports from the State Party concerning measures taken since November 2001 to improve protection, conservation and management of the site. On 10 January 2002, an Environmental Protection Area (Area de Protecao Ambiental, APA) was declared by Presidential Decree. This Decree aims to protect water sources on the Central Plateau, in the Federal District and the State of Goiás, and thereby guide rational

use of natural resources and the protection of environmental and cultural heritage in the region. This measure is very important as the federal authority is now responsible for environmental protection of the region. The November 2001 joint UNESCO-ICOMOS monitoring mission recommended, among other measures, that a Master Plan for the protected area be prepared and adopted that fully recognizes and ensures the preservation of the values of the city. In order to meet this recommendation, the GDF (Government of the Federal District) has prepared a planning process, based on workshops held in April, May and October 2002, that encompasses eight phases, from raising awareness in the official administration and civil society to the elaboration of a strategy for the implementation of the plan in question.

Issues:

Urban Pressure; Lack of institution coordination.

Draft Decision: **27 COM 7 (b) 85**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the report transmitted by the State Party,
2. Commends the Brazilian authorities for their commitment towards the preservation of this modern city in development, which could set standards for similar properties around the world,
3. Encourages the further development and implementation of the Master Plan and the continued involvement of all relevant levels of authority, professional organizations and different sectors of society in the ongoing process of protection and management of the city,
4. Requests that the State Party submit a progress report with the design, adoption and implementation of the Master Plan, by 1 February 2004, for review at its 28th session.

86. Historic Centre of the Town of Goiás (Brazil)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2001
Criteria C (ii) (iv)*

Previous International Assistance:

Emergency assistance: US\$ 57,288 in 2002.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 38

New Information:

WHC:

The Secretariat received reports from the UNESCO Brasilia Office and the Permanent Delegation, on 10 and 27 March 2003 respectively, stating that eleven damaged houses around the town's centre were restored with the funds provided by UNESCO, comprising around 3% of the total of US\$ 1.7 million raised for the reconstruction of the

Historic Town Centre of Goiás. This restoration work set standards for the further restoration of the remaining eighty damaged houses. Priority was given to the restoration of houses of the poorer and more elderly people left homeless by the heavy rains. Difficulties encountered concerned the limited financial resources, knowledge of traditional construction techniques and the provision of sufficient quantities of wood, being an expensive construction material.

As a result, an important co-operation was established between the UNESCO Brasilia Office, IPHAN (Instituto do Patrimonio Historico e Artístico Nacional), the city's community, represented by the non-governmental organization Social Works of the Diocese of Goiás, and the Brazilian Government's Institute for Environment (IBAMA), who donated wood for the restoration of the houses. The contribution by the World Heritage Fund was acknowledged during the works and received a fair amount of attention from the media. It was established that damages during the flood were caused to a great extent by obstacles lying on the riverbed and embankments and rubbish, due to urban expansion extending to the originally open areas of the banks of the Rio Vermelho. In order to protect the city centre in the future from intense rainfall, an integrated treatment of the preservation of the urban area and environmental protection is under implementation.

This scheme, however, has raised concerns with ICOMOS-Brazil and the Direction of IPHAN, stated in a fax received by the Secretariat on 20 March 2003, since it foresees major new constructions, among which an avenue along one of the river banks, which could affect the coherence and World Heritage values of Goiás. Information received by the Secretariat on 23 April 2003 concerned a lawsuit of the Federal District against the Mayor of Goiás for the building of new constructions, which are considered illegal.

ICOMOS

ICOMOS was informed that the Municipality of Goiás had begun work on redeveloping the Avenue Rio Vermelho in order to facilitate the circulation between the historic centre and the Rio Vermelho Quarter, from the Rue Padre Luiz Gonzaga to the Rue Araguari. This project foresees the construction of two bridges that will span the Rio Vermelho at two points. Some photographs of the work and a map of the city show the proposed trace of the street (originals sent by mail). ICOMOS suggests that the World Heritage Committee request the State Party for information on the project for the development of the Avenue Rio Vermelho and on the impact that the project will have on the environment as well as on the built and archaeological heritage.

Issues:

Urban Pressure; Floods/Landslides.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 86

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the report transmitted by the State Party,
2. Commends the Brazilian authorities for their concerted effort in restoring the damage caused by the floods,
3. Recognizes the need for an integrated urban and environmental protection of the city centre of Goiás to mitigate future impact of heavy rains,
4. Requests, however, more detailed information, in particular concerning the construction of the road,
5. Invites the State Party to request that a monitoring mission be carried out by ICOMOS to assess results of the restoration works carried out and impact of the integrated treatment, among which the road construction, under implementation,
6. Requests the State Party to submit a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, by 1 February 2004, for review at its 28th session.

87. Historic Town of Ouro Preto (Brazil)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1980
Criteria C (i) (iii)

Previous International Assistance:

Consolidation of the slopes of the hills around Ouro Preto and restoration of Antonio Diaz bridge.(Emergency Assistance, US\$ 50,000, 1999); Historic Town of Ouro Preto and the Historic Centers of Olinda and São Luiz (Technical Assistance, US\$ 19,375, 1999); Ouro Preto, consolidation (Technical Cooperation, US\$ 20,000, 1994); “Séminaire gestion Ouro Preto” (Training, US\$ 19 250, 1994)

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

N.A

New Information:

WHC:

The Management Plan of the Historical Centre was finalized in 1996 but was never implemented. The UNESCO Office in Brasilia and Caixa Economica Federal held a seminar on Urban Cultural Heritage from 28 July to 2 August 2002, which focused on recent legislation regarding urban policy and its application for cultural heritage in Brazilian cities, especially those on the World Heritage List. Reference was made in the working documents to the poor state of conservation of Ouro Preto as well as to the lack of administrative and institutional resources. The participants produced a document (Motion to Preserve Ouro Preto) requesting a co-ordinated action for its integral preservation.

Following this meeting, an ICOMOS monitoring mission took place from 8 to 13 April 2003. In its preliminary conclusions, sent to the Secretariat on 18 April 2003, ICOMOS declared that there is no clear definition of the core zone and buffer zone of the nominated area. Institutional difficulties had been detected between the Municipality and the Institute of Historical and Artistic Heritage (IPHAN) for the implementation of the Historical Centre Management Plan. The IPHAN is responsible for the protection of the area under nomination, however it does not have the required resources, neither technical nor financial, to fulfil that task. The revision of the Management Plan should be finalized by the end of 2003. As a result of a specific study carried out by the Municipality, truck traffic cannot drive through the historic centre. The IDB has begun several interventions via the MONUMENTA project. The historic centre retains a homogeneous image, however some interventions on historical buildings have transformed the original indoor distribution. The urban development in peripheral areas seems to be more problematic, especially the development registered on the hills around the centre, which distort the original urban landscape, which is one of the reasons justifying the inscription of Ouro Preto on the World Heritage List. Two days after the completion of that mission, the Secretariat was informed that a fire destroyed one of the 18th century historical buildings situated in Tiradentes Square. This damage highlights the lack of an Emergency Plan in such circumstances.

Issues:

Urban Pressure; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation), Lack of monitoring system, Lack of human or financial resources; Fire.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 87

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Commends the State Party for having requested a monitoring mission,
2. Expresses concern for the damage caused by the 15 April 2003 fire, which destroyed a 18th century building in the historical centre of Ouro Preto,
3. Urges the State Party to take risk-preparedness measures and to include them in the Management Plan of the site,
4. Urges the State Party to define a core zone and a buffer zone for the nominated area by 15 October 2003 and to finalize the revised Management Plan,
5. Requests the State Party to submit a report by 1 February 2004, for consideration at its 28th session, in June 2004.

88. Churches of Chiloé (Chile)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2000
Criteria C (ii) (iii)

Previous International Assistance:

Churches of Chiloé. (Emergency Assistance, US\$ 50,000, 2002)

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 40

New Information:

WHC:

The Secretariat received a report on 30 April 2003 with updated information on the actions foreseen for 2003. The report provides information concerning the fundraising efforts undertaken in 2002 and 2003. During 2002, planning for future interventions started on the Church of Cholo and on the tower of the Church of Chonchi. Materials have been acquired for the work foreseen in 2003. During 2003, the Direction of Architecture allocated a sum of US\$ 140,000 for the restoration of the Churches. Priorities have been established: first interventions will take place in Chonchi and Colo; secondly in Ichuac and Aldachildo and thirdly in Vilupulli and San Juan. For 2003, the following interventions have been foreseen: construction of a centre for keeping restoration materials; construction of a visitor centre in Ancud; relaunching of the programme "School of carpenters"; restoring intervention for the churches included in the World Heritage List (still to be defined).

Issues:

Lack of human or financial resources; Hurricanes.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 88

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Strongly recommends that the State Party define and implement a detailed restoration plan for the Churches included on the World Heritage List,

2. Requests the State Party to submit a detailed report on the work carried out for consideration at its 28th session, in June 2004.

89. Port, Fortresses and Group of Monuments, Cartagena (Colombia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1984
Criteria C (iv) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

US \$ 60,000 in 1999 for the integrated conservation of the Cloister of San Pedro Claver.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

N.A

New Information:

WHC:

Upon request of the Secretariat, and further to information received from various public sources in Colombia over the period February to March 2003, the State Party provided extensive documentation on 12 March 2003, in Spanish, concerning a rehabilitation project for public spaces in the historic centre of Cartagena de Indias. In order to provide for the necessary visitor services, public restroom facilities had been constructed inside the walls of the fortification of Cartagena, at the location of the courtyard at Baluarte de San Juan Bautista, in accordance with Resolution 059 2002 of the Ministry of Culture. The documentation provided by the State Party, including photographs and construction plans, showed the facilities as being finalized. A public debate had raged over the necessity of these facilities in relation to the need to preserve the authenticity and integrity of the site. Supporting letters from ICOMOS-Colombia and the Sociedad Colombiana de Arquitectos stated that the construction project had followed the normative, methodological, historical and technical requirements set by the Dirección del Patrimonio of the Ministry of Culture and that neither the historic values, nor the authenticity of the site had been compromised. However, since the plans foresee the construction of five more restroom facilities within the protected area of the fortifications, public concern over their impact on the authenticity and integrity of the site continues.

Issues:

Tourism Pressure.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 89

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the report provided by the State Party,

2. Recognizes the need to provide for proper on-site visitor facilities, such as public bathrooms,

3. Recalls, however, paragraph 56 of the Operational Guidelines, which states that "the World Heritage Committee invites the State Parties to the Convention [...] to inform the Committee, through the UNESCO Secretariat, of their intention to undertake or to authorize in an area protected under the Convention major restorations or new constructions which may affect the World Heritage value of the property.",

4. Invites the State Party to request ICOMOS to send a mission to assess the necessity and impact of the foreseen future interventions of five more facilities on the authenticity and integrity of the site,

5. Requests the State Party to submit a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, by 1 February 2004, for review at its 28th session.

90. Colonial City of Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1990
Criteria C (ii) (iv) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

International assistance: US\$ 82,207 of which US\$ 24,207 were approved in 2001 for a Study on Cultural Tourism in the Historic Centre of Santo Domingo, and US\$ 50,000 were approved for Emergency Assistance in 1998 for rehabilitation works at the Palacio de Herrera.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

22nd session of the Committee (Chapter VII.31); 23rd session of the Bureau (Chapter IV.54); 26 COM 21 (b) 43

New Information:

WHC:

On 14 March 2003, the Secretariat received a report from the State Party concerning progress in the restoration and remodelling project of the Hostal Nicolás de Ovando in the Colonial City of Santo Domingo, and the draft Law on monumental heritage. In a letter, dated 6 February 2003, from the State Under-Secretary for Environment and Natural Resources to the Director of the National Office of Monumental Heritage, mention is made of the fact that, in order to obtain a certification on the impact on the environment of the interventions at the Hostal Nicolás de Ovando, this project is under evaluation by the Secretary of Environment. It further mentions that the nature of this project requires a declaration on its impact over the environment and human beings.

Prior to the execution of the works, the office of the Secretary of Environment provided the terms of reference to prepare the necessary information. The promoter company of the project did not submit the information requested by the Secretary of Environment to enable a decision to be made on the environmental impact for a subsequent issuing of a certification, and has continued the infrastructure works without the required permit. Furthermore, the report stated that the restoration, remodelling and enlargement project for the hostel is in an advanced state of implementation, and completion of the project was expected in the first months of 2003. The project converts former residential houses into hotel use from three to five buildings, all of which have remnants that date from the 16th century, the earliest settlement period. Two of the houses, Ovando and Dávila's House, are near completion with the installation of the interiors, bathrooms and painting. In two other colonial houses, no. 51 and 53 of the Las Damas Street, the installation of technical facilities is near to completion.

The report further stated that the external wall towards the River Ozama has been covered with stones up to the level of the adjacent wall; that a treatment plant for waste water has been built and that the existing sewer was cleaned until the exit to the river. Although specifically requested for, the small defensive battery at the rear of the houses, named

El Fuerte Invencible, has not yet been restored. According to the report, the project has been carried out with the approval and under the supervision of the Dirección Nacional de Patrimonio Monumental, respecting the atmosphere of the old colonial constructions. The Secretariat notes, however, that the State Party did not follow the Committee's recommendation (25COM/CONF.208/24, p.37) "to seek a more compatible use for the site", as the conversion into a hotel has required significant interventions on the site and in the historic buildings. The report further elaborates on the different sections and articles of the draft law on monumental heritage, the "Ley del Patrimonio Monumental de la República Dominicana". According to information received from ICOMOS on 24 April 2003, this new law was submitted to the National Congress, but has not been approved.

Issues:

Urban Pressure, Tourism Pressure; Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of presentation and interpretation; Lack of institution coordination.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 90

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the report transmitted by the State Party,
2. Regrets that the restoration and enlargement works have nearly completed without a proper environmental assessment being executed on the impact of these works on the historic setting and fabric of the World Heritage site,
3. Strongly recommends a closer institutional coordination between the different governmental departments approving and supervising restoration and reconstruction works in the Colonial City of Santo Domingo,
4. Encourages the adoption and strong enforcement of the new law on monumental heritage;
5. Requests that the State Party inform on the progress made with the adoption of the new law on monumental heritage, by 1 February 2004, for review at its 28th session.

91. Joya de Ceren Archaeological Site (El Salvador)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1993
Criteria C (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

US\$ 195,750 (up to 2001).

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

N.A

New Information:

WHC:

The Secretariat has received the Management Plan for the site. Concultura has been working since 1997 on that Management Plan, according to guidelines and criteria elaborated at the international seminar organized by the Secretariat in 1997. Since 1999, and in the framework of the Mundo Maya initiative, the Getty Conservation Institute assisted in the process of the elaboration of the site's Management Plan, as it can be a reference for complex archaeological sites in the region. The site was covered by the ashes of the Volcano Caldera in 600 A.C. and was discovered in 1979. The conservation conditions of the archaeological site are exceptional and they provide a rare insight into the daily life of the Central American agricultural communities of that period.

The Management Plan is a multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral tool for the development of archaeological research and applied conservation. Over the last two years, the site registered samples from ceramics, earthen structures and organic materials giving parameters to identify the potential damage factors as well as providing indicators to evaluate environmental impacts. Paleobotanic, paleo-magnetic and geophysical, geological analyses are being carried out. The results have been most successful. The Management Plan aims at developing a national policy for professional archaeological heritage management, and should guarantee the transfer of know-how to other archaeological sites in the country as well as the continuity of the process at local and national level. It covers a wide range of activities from the technical and very sophisticated analyses for conservation to community participation programmes.

Issues:

Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of human or financial resources; Lack of institution coordination; Floods/Landslides/Hurricanes; Earthquake.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 91

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the finalization of the Management Plan,
2. Congratulates the State Party for its concerted efforts in completing the Plan, and thanks the Getty Conservation Institute for its important contribution in this field,
3. Recognizes, because of the vulnerable nature of the site, the need to reinforce the site as a research laboratory in archaeology and conservation, which can also be useful for the sub-region,
4. Invites the State Party to reinforce the on-site staff and to set up a coordination committee with the relevant national authorities for the plan's implementation,

5. Invites the State Party to request International Assistance in order to improve the conditions of the water canalizations and avoid further structural damage.

92. Antigua Guatemala (Guatemala)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979

Criteria C (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

Mitigate damages caused by an earthquake (Emergency Assistance, US\$ 55,000, 2003); Clean-up and preventive measures (Emergency Assistance, US\$ 20,216, 2000); Equipment (Technical Cooperation, US\$ 20,000, 1994); Antigua Guatemala (Emergency Assistance, US\$ 60,710, 1979).

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th session Committee.(Chapter III.289 - 290)

New Information:

WHC:

The State Party has not submitted the requested report. However, the Secretariat received several complaints concerning the reconstruction and transformation of two of the more outstanding buildings of the historical centre: the Cathedral and the Church of the Compañía de Jesús by the National Council for the Protection of La Antigua Guatemala. These interventions seem to contradict Article 14 of the Protection Law of the city. In addition, the Newsletter El Periódico, dated 13 February 2003, announced the approval by the Antigua Municipality of the construction of the commercial complex, which had been discarded in 2002. The State Party confirmed this information in March 2003 and requested assistance from the Centre in order to prevent additional damage to the Historical Centre.

Issues:

Urban Pressure; Tourism Pressure; Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of monitoring system; Lack of institution coordination; Earthquake.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 92

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Expresses concern about the foreseen construction of a commercial complex as well as about the new interventions already carried out, which seem to be incompatible with la Antigua Guatemala's heritage protection law,
2. Recommends that a reactive monitoring mission be carried out as soon as possible to assess the possible damages following the interventions on the Cathedral and on the Church of La Compañía de Jesús, as well as the impact of the proposed commercial complex,

3. Urges the State Party to finalize the reformulation of the La Antigua's heritage protection law,

4. Requests the State Party to submit to the Centre a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and the measures taken for its preservation, by 1 February 2004, for review at its 28th session.

93. Maya Site of Copán (Honduras)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1980
Criteria C (iv) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

22nd session of the Committee (paragraph VII. 43); 23rd session of the Committee (paragraph X.46)

New Information:

WHC:

At the request of the State Party, a joint UNESCO - ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the site was undertaken from 18 to 24 February 2003 with the objective of assisting the authorities of Honduras in studying the impact of the existing airstrip and the potential sites for building an airport closer to the World Heritage site in order to provide an objective analysis to mediate the conflictive situations and positions that existed in this regard. The mission stated that since 11 September 2001, there is a reported increase of 18% in tourism in Honduras. It is foreseen that an increase of 3.5% in air passengers will occur during the years 2002-2005.

The existing airport "La Estanzuela" is located in the vicinity of the small city of Copán Ruinas and the archaeological site. Copán Ruinas has approximately 30,000 inhabitants, with an average annual growth of 4%. From an overall tourism flow of 531,491 visitors in 2002 for Honduras, it is assumed that the air traffic demand regarding Copán Ruinas is 50,000 passengers today, doubling to 100,000 within the next 10 years. The Ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports designated a Technical Archaeological Commission to evaluate the proposed site for an extended airstrip at La Estanzuela. In their report, it was indicated that there were no major archaeological obstacles to undertake infrastructure works and approve the project considering that the location corresponds to Zone III of the Management Plan, meaning that infrastructure can be built and rescue archaeology would be undertaken should remains be found.

However, staff from INAH also produced three evaluations at the site and they placed a different level of significance on the existing archaeological remains, which could be indirectly affected by operating the airstrip. Their objection to an extended airstrip at La Estanzuela also stems from considering that the integrity of Copán could be compromised and, most importantly, the fact that in

case of emergency the only clear area in the vicinity for aircraft to land would be the archaeological site. The Civil Aviation Entity in Honduras has undertaken several evaluations at La Estanzuela site and they recommended limitations for aircraft operation and specific aircraft to land there, particularly with regard to safety, because of existing aeronautical limitations and conditions. They have also designed an approach and take-off route so that no airplanes would fly directly over the site if they were to use the airstrip. However, they indicated that in case of an emergency, the only clear space where aircraft could land would be at the Main Plaza in the Archaeological site of Copán.

Taking various aspects into consideration, such as pollution, noise, topography of the location, setting of the existing airstrip and presence of archaeological remains and human settlements, the mission's conclusions were that the current airstrip at La Estanzuela is not equipped to facilitate commercial aircraft and that there is no possibility that the site, after extension, can comply with the minimum required international safety standards. The statistical possibilities of an accident occurring at the site are very high because of its conditions; if no accident has occurred to date it has been largely due to good weather conditions and the limited number of aircraft that have landed here. It recommends that even if there is no airport built in the future, a restricted flying zone should be established over the Archaeological Park of Copán, with no low-altitude flights over this area. After examining three alternatives, being Llano Grande (4 km from Copán Ruins), Rio Amarillo (17 km from Copán Ruins) and La Entrada (located 70 km from Copán Ruins), it further recommends that the most suitable site would be La Entrada, despite its relative distance, as it provides the most secure site for a commercial airport, with possibilities for future expansion and local economic and tourism development, and absence of archaeological remains.

Issues:

Tourism Pressure, Overflights

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 93

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the February 2003 joint UNESCO-ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission findings and recommendations,

2. Expresses its appreciation to the State Party for inviting the joint UNESCO-ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to examine the impact of proposed development of the airstrip at the archaeological site of Copán and possible alternatives,

3. Invites the State Party to discard plans for extension of the airstrip at Copán Ruins and follow the recommendations made by the mission,

4. Requests that the State Party submit, by 1 February 2004, for review at its 28th session, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and in particular with regard to its decision concerning the development of a commercial airport to operate the Archaeological site of Copán.

94. Historic Centre of Puebla (Mexico)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1987
Criteria C (ii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:
US\$100,000 Emergency Assistance (Earthquake), 1999.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:
26 COM 21 (b) 60

New Information:
WHC:

From December 2002 through March 2003, the Secretariat received several complaints concerning the fire of 29 December 2002, followed by the demolition of three houses in the historic centre, as well as the project for the construction of parking lots announced by the Mayor's spokesman in the press. In a letter dated 11 February 2003, the national authorities confirmed the information concerning the fire and the unauthorized destruction of the three houses. An investigation is underway regarding this matter. Furthermore, on 30 January 2003, the Mayor sent a copy of a project of the Integral Plan for the Rehabilitation of the Historic Centre of Puebla to the Centre, that included the construction of underground parking lots in the historic centre. The national authorities informed the Secretariat that by 3 March 2002, only the geo-technical sounding had been carried out. By a fax of 14 March, the State Party informed the Secretariat that the entire project of the Integral Plan for the Rehabilitation of the Historic Centre of the City of Puebla is the subject of consultations between the national institutions concerned, including INAH. It indicated, moreover, that the final approval for all the proposed activities is the responsibility of the Ministry for Social Development.

ICOMOS:

ICOMOS was informed that three buildings situated in the Boulevard Héroes del 5 de Mayo between 2 Oriente y Juan de Palafox y Mendoza, and within the Monumental Zone (Zona de Monumentos) of Puebla, had been demolished for public safety reasons. These buildings that were in a critical state of conservation, had, however, resisted the earthquake tremors of 15 June 1999 and were awaiting consolidation and restoration. Other buildings have been shored up and partially rebuilt in order to save them. Such is the case of the building situated at 12 Oriente 207, the state of which was considered alarming for public security following technical studies and expert recommendations, and which was shored up to forestall all risk of collapse.

Issues

Urban pressure; Lack of monitoring system; Earthquake.

Additional Details:

Construction projects for underground parking;
Demolition of houses; Management Plan.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 94

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the information provided;
2. Notes with regret the demolition of three houses;
3. Encourages the State Party to encourage the participation of local organizations and associations in finalising the Integral Plan for the Rehabilitation of the Urban and Architectural heritage of the Historic Centre of Puebla, and further encourages it to remain vigilant with regard to the content and implications of the Plan;
4. Commends the establishment of a working group involving the Mayor and INAH;
5. Requests the Mexican authorities to provide a detailed monitoring report before 1 February 2004 for consideration at its 28th session.

95. Historic Centre of Mexico City and Xochimilco (Mexico)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1987
Criteria C (ii) (iii) (iv) (v)

Previous International Assistance:
N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:
N.A

New Information:
WHC:

The ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, carried out from 23 to 29 November 2002, had as objective to review existing legal provisions, administrative aspects of site management and recent studies and actions undertaken. For the natural and urban areas of Xochimilco, the following important studies and actions have been undertaken for the conservation and management of the site. For the natural area, including the mountains, floating gardens (chinampas) and agricultural zone (ejidos), the study "Leading Management Program for a Protected Natural Area Classified as Ecological Conservation Zone known as Ejidos of Xochimilco and San Gregorio Atlapulco" updated a 1999 study, to find the means and make effective the 1992 Declaration of Protected Natural Area (PNA) "Ejidos of Xochimilco and San Gregorio Atlapulco". It was updated by the Institute of Ecology (INECOL) upon request of the Secretary of the Environment: Natural Resources Commission (CORENA),

with the objective to provide the Government of the Federal District with the elements to orchestrate and render operational the existing Declaration and thereby the protection, conservation and restoration of ecosystems in the Protected Natural Area.

The study "General Guidelines for the Management Plan of World Cultural and Natural Heritage" of 1999-2000 was commissioned by UNESCO and prepared for a request for technical support to determine the criteria that would justify extending or changing the current designation of Xochimilco as a cultural site to a cultural landscape by incorporating the chinampas (floating gardens) and canals area. The study involved a comprehensive and participative review of the various problems encountered in Xochimilco and defined priorities essential for strategic planning of actions aimed at solving those problems, based upon review of available bibliography, interviews and workshops.

For the urban area, a "Comprehensive Strategic Project for the Historic Centre of Xochimilco, 2000-2003" was developed by the Delegation of Xochimilco that involved five programmes, including recovery of the landscape and intangible heritage (maintenance and improvement works), road and transportation network (relocation of bus lines, signage and street adjustments), public safety and crime prevention (co-ordination between police and neighbourhood committees, video monitoring system), economic and cultural development (cultural tourism promotion, new handicrafts activities) and reorganization of commercial establishments on public roads. Until now, 40 MM Mex Pesos have been invested in works in the Historic Centre, comprising 5% of the general budget.

Within the framework of the 30th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, the Declaration of 2002 as the International Year for Cultural Heritage and the 15th Anniversary of the designation of Xochimilco as World Heritage, and under the auspices of the UNESCO and FAO Offices in Mexico, the Xochimilco Unit of the Autonomous Metropolitan University, in co-operation with several government agencies of the Federal District, organized the First Seminar on the Full Recovery of Xochimilco World Cultural Heritage which took place on 11 and 12 November 2002. Its objectives were to involve international institutions, the Federal government and the Federal District's government in the preparation of a Master Plan for the Rehabilitation of Xochimilco, to obtain legal provisions and funds from the government, and establish mechanisms for community participation in the design and implementation of this Master Plan. The seminar established a general agreement on the need to prepare a Master Plan on an inter-institutional and multidisciplinary basis, and within this to review the boundaries of the current World Heritage designation in order to include all natural and cultural sites, and create a World Heritage citizens council with representatives from Mexico City and Xochimilco for the protection of tangible and intangible heritage, also through the establishment of an information centre.

The mission's recommendations include a review of the site's inscription as a cultural property to consider designation as a cultural landscape, for which the preparation of a comprehensive Master Plan as agreed upon during the First Seminar on the Full Recovery of Xochimilco, constitutes an important step. The UNESCO Office in Mexico should actively participate in the establishment of this Master Plan, most notably as facilitator during negotiations on conflicting interests. Information received from the UNESCO Mexico Office at the Secretariat on 31 March 2003 involved a funds-in-trust proposal of the Municipality of Xochimilco that is currently under consideration for establishment at the UNESCO Mexico Office, in which US\$ 200,000 is being reserved to "Implement a project for the participatory formulation of a comprehensive rehabilitation plan for Xochimilco".

Issues:

Urban Pressure; Tourism Pressure; Agriculture Pressure; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of monitoring system; Lack of human or financial resources; Lack of institution coordination; Civil unrest.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 95

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having taken note of the November 2002 ICOMOS mission findings and recommendations,
2. Commends the authorities for their efforts to increase the protection and conservation of the site,
3. Appreciates that a seminar on the recovery of the site was organized under the auspices of UNESCO and of the FAO and that as one of the results a funds-in-trust will be established at the UNESCO Mexico Office,
4. Strongly supports the current initiative to co-ordinate and manage the conservation process through the design and implementation of a comprehensive Master Plan that includes management strategies and reviews the site's characteristics in relation to its boundaries to include the natural environment, the historic urban heritage and the living culture of the territory and community of Xochimilco,
5. Requests the State Party and ICOMOS to consult with IUCN on the plans available for the conservation and effective management of Natural Areas and Ecological Zones and determine the best options available for modifying the boundaries of the area in a manner that would ensure the protection of the natural environment of the heritage site,
6. Encourages the State Party to do its utmost to facilitate this initiative and cooperate with all relevant institutions and organizations in this process, most notably with the local community of Xochimilco,

7. Requests the State Party to continue working in close consultation with ICOMOS and UNESCO,

8. Requests that the State Party submit a detailed report on the progress made with the design, adoption and implementation of the Master Plan, by 1 February 2004, for review at its 28th session.

96. Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo (Panama)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1980
Criteria C (i) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

US\$ 6,500 for Preparatory Assistance and US\$ 67,388 for Technical Co-operation.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th session of the Committee (Chapter III.291 - 293)

New Information:

WHC:

To date the Secretariat has not received any report from the State Party concerning the state of conservation of the site. Information received from the World Monuments Fund, which is considering the site for listing on the 100 Most Endangered Sites List " World Monuments Watch List", stated that in 2002 a landslide caused a 60 square meter collapse of the south perimeter wall. A grant awarded by American Express in 2003 for US\$ 100,000 is funding the design and construction of an emergency roof and drainage restoration project at San Lorenzo. The castle of San Lorenzo is located far from the city and surrounded by a rain forest. The rain forest is one of the main causes of deterioration of the structure. The vegetation adheres to the wall surfaces, loosening the stones and making them unstable and eventually causing collapse. This vegetation also weakens the foundations.

Issues:

Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Floods/Landslides.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 96

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Noting the lack of information provided by the State Party,

2. Thanking American Express for its grant awarded for the design and construction of an emergency roof and drainage restoration project at San Lorenzo,

3. Requests that the State Party submit a progress report on the design and further measures taken for the conservation of the site, by 1 February 2004, for review at its 28th session.

97. Chavin (Archaeological Site) (Peru)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1985
Criteria C (iii)

Previous International Assistance:

Preparatory Assistance, US\$ 7,500, 1988; Emergency assistance, US\$ 37,250, 1998; Preparatory Assistance, US\$ 4,000, 1994; Emergency Assistance, US\$ 26,800, 2002.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

25th Session of the Committee (Chapter III.294-295). 26 COM 21 (b) 63

New Information:

WHC:

The Secretariat did not receive the detailed report, which was requested by the Committee. However, it received updated information from Section II of the Periodical Report. The Master Plan has not yet been finalized. The State Party informed the Secretariat by letter dated 11 February 2003 that it confirmed its willingness to formulate the Conservation, Restoration and Enhancement Projects, the finalization of the management plan, the feasibility and urban planning studies.

Issues:

Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of monitoring system; Floods/Landslides.

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 97

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the willingness of the State Party to undertake the actions requested by the Committee over the last years,

2. Invites the State Party to finalize as soon as possible the Master Plan as well as the urban planning and feasibility studies,

3. Requests an intermediary progress report to be submitted to the Chairperson of the Committee by 1 October 2003, and, if deemed necessary, that a reactive UNESCO/ICOMOS monitoring mission take place,

4. Requests the State Party to submit a detailed progress report to the Centre by 1 February 2004 for review at its 28th session.

98. City of Cuzco (Peru)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1983
Criteria C (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

Technical Cooperation, US\$ 7,000, 1989; Emergency Assistance, US\$ 25,000, 1986; Technical Cooperation, (Cuzco, Management Plan) US\$ 20 000, 1997; Technical Cooperation, (Preparation of a Master Plan for the City of Cuzco) US\$ 20,000, 2000.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

22nd session of the Committee (Chapter VII.43); 23rd session of the Committee (Chapter X.46).

New Information:

WHC:

The Municipality of Cuzco opened a call for tender for the renovation of the Plaza de San Francisco. The project includes the construction of an underground parking. The Secretariat requested information on this matter. On 31 January 2003, the State Party informed the World Heritage Centre of the decision to cancel the construction of the parking. By letter dated 25 March 2003, the Director General of Monumental and Historical Heritage (INC, Peru), informed that the draft Master Plan of the Historical Centre of Cuzco was being revised.

ICOMOS:

ICOMOS has studied the correspondence between the Centre and the State Party regarding the pilot project for the rehabilitation of the Plaza San Francisco de Asis in the heart of Cuzco. Following extensive consultations, it has been decided to carry out the following actions: archaeological investigation; environmental impact assessment; viability assessment, and identification of plant species in the Plaza. It is intended that the project will result in the creation of a green open space in the Plaza, together with the rehabilitation of the surrounding buildings.

One aspect of the project is, however, causing concern: the proposal to create an underground vehicle park beneath the Plaza. The Centre has requested the State Party for more information about this aspect of the project, which is seen as a potential source of traffic congestion in the streets leading into the Plaza. However, this information had not been provided at the time these comments were prepared, nor has the Master Plan for the Historic Centre of Cuzco, which had also been requested since there is no copy at the Centre. ICOMOS shares the Centre's misgivings about this aspect of the project, and recommends that the Committee should strongly reiterate its requests to the State Party.

Issues:

Urban Pressure; Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation).

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 98

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the measures undertaken by the municipality to revise the draft Master Plan for the City of Cuzco,
2. Commends the State Party for its decision to cancel the construction of the parking,
3. Urges the State Party to finalize the Master Plan for the city of Cuzco,
4. Requests the State Party to submit to the Centre a progress report, by 1 February 2004, for review at its 28th session.

99. Historic Centre of Lima (Peru)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1988
Criteria C (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

US\$ 19,500 in 2000; US\$ 48,000 in 2002.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 64

New Information:

WHC:

Following the fire which occurred on 29 December 2001, a meeting was organized, in July 2002, by the UNESCO Lima Office on the rehabilitation of the Historic Centre. The meeting included national and local institutions, university experts as well as representatives of the private sector. It recommended a revision of the Management Plan and a more balanced distribution of housing and commerce, as well as greater social participation in the decision and financing process. Follow up to this meeting was given at the level of the private sector but not at the level of the Municipality, which changed. In addition, an ICOMOS monitoring mission took place from 31 March to 7 April 2003 to evaluate the impact of the new housing project in the Historic Centre. The mission report is being finalized.

ICOMOS:

The purpose of the ICOMOS monitoring mission was to evaluate the new housing project in the Historic Centre. The area referred to as Mesa Redonda, damaged by the fire on 29 December 2001, is within the boundaries of the historic centre, which is protected by the State Party's legislation, but outside the World Heritage boundary. This very high density zone includes twelve buildings declared as historic monuments. The recommendations of the meeting held in Lima in July 2002 have not been followed nor was a follow-up given to an IDB project proposal. It seems that no damage has been sustained in the zone inscribed on the World Heritage List. However, other

serious problems were detected in the historic centre, which will be detailed in the forthcoming report and which can be summarized as follows: about 300 buildings in danger; a high percentage of the higher part of the buildings in the historic centre are abandoned; the Dirección General de Patrimonio Monumental e Histórico does not have the adequate minimum resources to protect the historic centre; the lack of security is alarming; the lack of proper management of the site.

Issues:

Urban Pressure; Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation), Lack of monitoring system; Lack of human or financial resources; Lack of institution coordination; Fire.

Draft Decision: **27 COM 7 (b) 99**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the additional information provided by ICOMOS,
2. Strongly urges the State Party to take into consideration the recommendations made by the July 2002 meeting on the rehabilitation of the Historic Centre of Lima
3. Urges the State Party to revise its Management Plan for the Historic Centre,
4. Requests the State Party to submit, by 1 February 2004, for review at its 28th session, a detailed report on the revision and implementation of the Management Plan of the site.

100. Historical Centre of the City of Arequipa (Peru)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2000
Criteria C (i) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:
\$75,000 Emergency Assistance in 2001.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:
25th session of the Committee (Chapter III.296 – 301).

New Information:

WHC:

During the 25th extraordinary session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee (7-8 December 2001 Helsinki) it was requested that the State Party submit a report on the state of conservation of the site by 1 February 2003. On 28 February 2003 the State Party submitted the requested report to the World Heritage Centre. The World Heritage Centre also received additional information by letter dated 7 March 2003, concerning the Management Plan of the site. The Plan specifies priorities: urban renovation of the Solar Quarter; rehabilitation of the San Lazaro Quarter;

recreation areas around the train station; interventions in the metropolitan park; re-definition of the pedestrian areas; commercial structuring and environmental recovery; traffic redistribution and the re-orientation of urban land uses. The report contains detailed information of the interventions undertaken following the 2001 earthquake.

ICOMOS:

The State Party has provided a report on the implementation of the Master Plan for this property for the period 1999–2002. This is a comprehensive professional document in three parts (Diagnosis; Proposals; Programmes and Projects) that illustrates the systematic efforts being made by the responsible authorities to rehabilitate the historical centre and improve its state of conservation and social and economic structure. Work began on its implementation in 2000 (the year in which Arequipa was inscribed on the World Heritage List) with detailed analyses and inventories of the multiple components of the urban fabric of the historical centre. The timetable for full implementation identifies three stages: completion of the short-term plan 2006; medium-term plan 2010; and long-term plan 2015. The property was severely affected by an earthquake on 23 June 2001, which damaged a high proportion of the buildings in the historical centre. Structural damage to the cathedral was a source of particular concern, and an emergency assistance grant of US\$75,000 was made available from the World Heritage Fund. The State Party has provided a report on the emergency works carried out to ensure the stability of the structure. As part of the Master Plan, a study is being carried out on the damage caused not only by the June 2001 earthquake but also earlier seismic events. ICOMOS congratulates the State Party on the progress being made in the implementation of the Master Plan for the Historical Centre of Arequipa. It recommends the responsible authorities to incorporate a risk-preparedness plan into the Master Plan in view of the frequent seismic activity in this region.

Issues:

Urban Pressure; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of institution coordination; Earthquake.

Draft Decision: **27 COM 7 (b) 100**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Shares the ICOMOS recommendations and congratulates the State Party on the progress being made in the implementation of the Master Plan for the Historical Centre of Arequipa,
2. Recommends the responsible authorities to incorporate a risk-preparedness plan into the Master Plan in view of the frequent seismic activity in this region.

101. Historic Quarter of the City of Colonia del Sacramento (Uruguay)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1995 ;
Criteria C (iv)*

Previous International Assistance:
N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:
26 COM 21 (b) 71

New Information:
WHC:

An ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission was undertaken in April 2002 to assess a project for a hotel and casino in the harbour area of Colonia. The report of the mission includes recommendations and guidelines for the further development and revision of the project, specifically regarding the need to maintain the internal patio-structure of the building block and some original buildings and walls, as well as to avoid a uniform height of the buildings. The report also emphasizes the need to proceed with the preparation of a master and management plan for the World Heritage site in the context of an urban development plan for the city of Colonia that, among other things, should guarantee the permanence of residential functions and the adequate management of tourism. The National Commission for Cultural Heritage of Uruguay, by letter dated 24 March 2003, informed the Secretariat that it had taken the initiative to establish a joint working group between the Commission, the Honorary Council for the Conservation of Colonia del Sacramento and the Municipality of Colonia to start the preparation of a Management Plan (Resolution 47/2002, December 2002). It also informed that it had studied the report of the ICOMOS mission at its session in February 2003 and that it fully agreed with its recommendations. The Commission informed that it would submit revised plans for the hotel-casino project for review by the ICOMOS expert.

Issues:

Urban Pressure; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation).

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 101

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the recommendations of the ICOMOS mission and the response submitted by the State Party,

2. Invites the State Party to proceed with the revision of the hotel-casino project in accordance with the recommendations of the ICOMOS expert mission and to further consult the World Heritage Committee and ICOMOS on this matter,

3. Encourages the State Party to urgently initiate the preparation of a master and management plan for the area inscribed on the World Heritage List with the participation

of all relevant institutions as well as with the involvement of local community organizations,

4. Requests the State Party to submit to the Centre a report on the implementation of the above recommendations, by 1 February 2004, for review at its 28th session.

102. Coro and its Port (Venezuela)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1993
Criteria C (iv) (v)*

Previous International Assistance:
N.A

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:
N.A

New Information:
WHC:

Following the receipt of several letters expressing concern about the management of the site, and with regard to potential damage caused by heavy rains, the Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre addressed, on 4 January 2001, a letter to the authorities of Venezuela requesting information on the state of conservation and management of the World Heritage site. The President of the Institute for Cultural Heritage of Venezuela responded by letter dated 16 April 2002 informing that among other matters, the management structure for Coro and its Port had been abolished. He requested a joint UNESCO-ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to address the following issues:

- The abolition of the existing management structure;
- The impact of external factors such as the heavy rains;
- The definition of new strategies for the conservation and management of the site.

The mission was undertaken from 29 July to 2 August 2002. The report of the mission was transmitted to the authorities on 14 February 2003. To date, no response has been received from Venezuela. The text below is an excerpt of the executive summary of the mission report.

“Since its inscription in the World Heritage List, important changes have taken place in the management structure of the site. In 1995, a corporation –Corporación Mariano Talavera– was created with the specific task to manage and preserve the historical towns of Coro and La Vela. Although the corporation was able to undertake important activities, particularly an inventory and the preparation of a rehabilitation project, the board of the corporation decided its abolition in 2001. Since then, there has been a lack of definition of responsibilities and institutions have been competing for power and authority. The National Institute for Cultural Heritage –IPC– has had difficulties to assume its responsibilities due to severe limitations in financial and human resources. The municipal institutes for cultural heritage, both created in response to the

collapse of the corporation, are too new and lack resources to assume full responsibilities. There are no co-ordinating mechanisms between these two municipal institutes to ensure a coherent planning for both parts of the World Heritage site. To date, no agreed management plan or master plan exists and decisions have been and are being taken on an ad-hoc basis. There is no common vision on the values, the importance and the future of the historic areas. Under the present conditions it is difficult to envisage a common approach to the two World Heritage areas of Coro and La Vela. The state of conservation of the site has deteriorated since its inscription on the World Heritage List. Although some individual buildings and the pavements and walkways are in relative good conditions, the overall state of conservation of the ensemble and the urban context is bad. There are strong indications that the World Heritage site meets the criteria for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- the management structure for the World Heritage site collapsed and no new structure has been established;
- there is a serious deterioration in the architectural and urban coherence and integrity;
- there is no management plan;
- there is no conservation plan.

In order to revert this situation, decisive action and the immediate implementation of the recommendations formulated by the expert mission are required. Before considering the inscription of the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger, the Venezuelan authorities, particularly the IPC, should be given the opportunity to consider the recommendations and to propose new mechanisms for co-ordination, planning and action. A re-evaluation of the situation during the course of 2003 will be necessary. The benefits of an inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger should be considered in this process.”

ICOMOS:

ICOMOS wishes to draw the attention of the State Party to the need to pursue the conservation work of the buildings that have been damaged following the 1999 earthquake, or that are in a bad state of conservation, and to prevent any further demolition.

Issues:

Lack of management mechanism (including legislation);
Lack of institution coordination; Floods.

Additional Details:

Heavy rains

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 102

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the report of the UNESCO/ICOMOS mission,
2. Expresses its serious concerns about the lack of adequate management, planning and conservation mechanisms for the site,
3. Urges the State Party to consider and implement the recommendations of the UNESCO/ICOMOS mission and requests the State Party to submit a progress report on this matter by 15 October 2003,
4. Authorizes the Chairperson of the Committee to consider the State Party's progress report and to approve, if deemed necessary, a second UNESCO/ICOMOS mission that should prepare a report on the implementation of the mission's recommendations as well as an assessment as to whether the site meets the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger,
5. Decides to examine the state of conservation of the site at its 28th session.

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CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-seventh session

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room XII
30 June – 5 July 2003

Item 7B of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

CORRIGENDUM

This document contains: (I) Revised Draft Decisions (the background concerning the revised Draft Decisions can be found in document WHC-03/27.COM/7B) and (II) New State of conservation reports of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.

I. The Draft Decisions for the World Heritage properties mentioned below have been revised since the preparation of document WHC-03/27.COM/7B and can be found in this document:

- Draft Decision **27 COM 7 (b) 2** (Tai National Park, Côte d'Ivoire)
- Draft Decision **27 COM 7 (b) 3** (Comoé National Park, Cote d'Ivoire)
- Draft Decision **27 COM 7 (b) 5** (W National Park of Niger, Niger)
- Draft Decision **27 COM 7 (b) 15** (Pirin National Park, Bulgaria)
- Draft Decision **27 COM 7 (b) 29** (Mount Emei Scenic Area, including Leshan Giant Buddha Scenic Area (China)
- Draft Decision **27 COM 7 (b) 31** (Lamu Old Town, Kenya)
- Draft Decision **27 COM 7 (b) 45** (Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa, China)
- Draft Decision **27 COM 7 (b) 46** (Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya, India)
- Draft Decision **27 COM 7 (b) 53** (Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha, Nepal)
- Draft Decision **27 COM 7 (b) 54** (Seokguram Grotto and Bulguska Temple, Republic of Korea)
- Draft Decision **27 COM 7 (b) 82** (Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites, United Kingdom)
- Draft Decision **27 COM 7 (b) 89** (Port, Fortresses and Group of Monuments, Cartagena, Colombia)

II. 3 State of conservation reports of the following properties have been added to the document:

- Draft Decision **27 COM 7 (b) 103** (Ouadi Qadisha, Lebanon)
- Draft Decision **27 COM 7 (b) 104** (Medina of Fes, Morocco)
- Draft Decision **27 COM 7 (b) 105** (Taj Mahal,Agra Fort and Fatepur Sikhri, India)

I. Revised Draft Decisions

A. NATURAL HERITAGE

AFRICA

2. Taï National Park (Côte d'Ivoire)

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recalling the decision made at its 26th session requesting the State Party in particular to provide a detailed report of the wildlife poaching situation at the site and urging the State Party to invite a mission to Taï National Park to assess the state of conservation of the site with the aim of informing the Committee whether the site should be placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
2. Noting the recent report of the State Party to the World Heritage Centre, received 5 May 2003, which highlights that the situation at this site has deteriorated and is now in real danger due to civil unrest;
3. Expresses its serious concern over the potential impacts of the current civil unrest and the increasing level of poaching on the integrity of the site;
4. Decides to inscribe the Taï National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger.
5. Requests the State Party to submit a detailed report on the state of conservation of the site by 1 February 2004, particularly addressing the impact of poaching on the site, the re-opening of hunting throughout the country and the effect of civil unrest on the integrity of the site;
6. Welcomes the State Party's invitation for a mission, as requested by its 26th session, and requests IUCN and the World Heritage Centre to carry out a mission as soon as the security situation permits with the aim of reviewing the state of conservation of the site and developing a plan of rehabilitation measures, which would include benchmarks for removing the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
7. Encourages the donor agencies such as the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and the European Union, already assisting the State Party in management and development of Taï, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to continue their support, and further encourages other donors to mobilize their resources in support of Côte d'Ivoire sites.

3. Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire)

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recalling the decision made at its 23rd session requesting the State Party to consider inviting a mission to Comoé National Park during 2000 to review threats to the integrity of the site and plan appropriate emergency rehabilitation measures and to submit a detailed state of conservation report to enable the Committee to consider including this property in the List of World Heritage in Danger;
2. Noting the recent report of the State Party to the World Heritage Centre, received 5 May 2003, which highlights that the situation at this site has deteriorated and is now in real danger due to civil unrest;
3. Expresses its serious concern over (a) the potential impacts of the current civil unrest on the integrity of the site, (b) the decrease of large mammal populations due to increased and uncontrolled poaching and (c) the lack of effective management mechanisms;
4. Decides to inscribe the Comoé National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger.
5. Welcomes the State Party's invitation for a mission, as requested by its 23rd session, and requests IUCN and the World Heritage Centre to carry out a mission as soon as the security situation permits with the aim of reviewing the state of conservation of the site and developing a plan of urgent rehabilitation measures, which would include benchmarks for removing the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger.
6. Encourages the donor agencies such as the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and the European Union, already assisting the State Party in management and development of Comoé, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to continue their support, and further encourages other donors to mobilize their resources in support of Côte d'Ivoire sites.

5. W National Park of Niger (Niger)

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Notes with concern the proposed construction of the Dyondyonga electricity dam on the Mekrou River, on the border between the Republics of Niger and Benin, within the W National Park World Heritage site in Niger and the proposed World Heritage site in Benin, currently deferred by the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee (April 2002);
2. Recognises the importance of finding solutions to the urgent need for electricity in Niger and Benin but

urges the States Parties and funding agencies concerned to seek alternative solutions to that currently proposed;

3. Encourages the States Parties of Niger, Benin and Burkina Faso to cooperate with IUCN, UEMOA (Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine), Ramsar, the regional programme ECOPAS (Ecosystème protégés en Afrique Sahélienne) and the Centre in order to seek the most appropriate solution, and to seek assistance from the World Heritage Fund as necessary for the coordination of meetings and studies;

4. Requests the authorities of Benin and Niger to provide by the 1 February 2004 and before any construction takes place, a detailed report on the proposed construction of a dam on the Mekrou river and the results of a detailed independent environmental and social impact assessment according to international standards;

5. Notes that the proposed construction of the dam is a serious potential threat to the integrity of the site;

6. Defers the decision on the inscription of the W National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger until its 28th session in 2004, after an assessment of the two most concerned States Parties' response and the outcomes of any missions or meetings held with the States Parties.

EUROPE / NORTH AMERICA

15. Pirin National Park (Bulgaria)

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recalls its decision to defer the inscription of Pirin National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger until its 27th session, with decision on this to be based on an assessment of the State Party's response to the UNESCO / IUCN mission report;

2. Welcomes the State Party's report as requested by the 26th session of the Committee and notes progress made in preparing the management plan for Pirin National Park, with support provided by the Swiss Government;

3. Urges the State Party to adopt the final management plan by the end of 2003, as noted in the report, so that it constitutes a legal document, and to provide a copy in English to the WH Centre and IUCN along with a plan for implementation, including the allocation of sufficient resources, by 1 February 2004. Any development within the World Heritage site should comply with this Management Plan.

4. Requests the Centre and IUCN to schedule a meeting in Bulgaria to review the situation with the authorities concerned.

5. Requests the State Party to provide by 1 February 2004, a precise map of the boundary of the World Heritage site as inscribed in 1983, including exact details of the existing and proposed Ski Development Zone, as well as a detailed report on (a) ongoing efforts to develop effective management mechanisms, (b) the restoration of the forest ecosystem of disturbed areas, (c) the creation of a Scientific Advisory Body, and (d) any developments of the proposed Ski Development Zone.

B. MIXED HERITAGE

ASIA-PACIFIC

29. Mount Emei Scenic Area, including Leshan Giant Buddha Scenic Area (China)

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the findings and recommendations of the ICOMOS monitoring mission to the World Heritage property of Mount Emei and the Leshan Giant Buddha;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the Chinese authorities for facilitating the ICOMOS mission and for providing further information regarding the tourism development projects in the buffer zone of the property;

3. Requests the State Party to:

- strengthen the management mechanisms and the effective implementation of existing legal provisions for the protection of the property, including the enhancement of co-operation with local stakeholders in its management and conservation.
- provide the WH Centre with a progress report by 1 February 2004.

4. Requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS and IUCN) to review the information provided by the State Party and co-operate with the authorities to find ways and means to enhance the state of conservation of the property.

C. CULTURAL HERITAGE

AFRICA

31. Lamu Old Town (Kenya)

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Commends* the government of Kenya for its commitment to address the concerns over the physical developments on the Lamu Island and welcomes the Kenya's availability to cooperate with UNESCO and ICOMOS for a mission to Lamu;
2. *Invites* the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to cooperate with the State Party with a view to undertaking a monitoring mission to ascertain the state of conservation of Lamu;
3. *Further invites* the Centre and ICOMOS to identify needs for assistance from the World Heritage Fund and from other sources for the rehabilitation activities of the site;
4. *Requests* a report on the state of conservation of Lamu and a programme for the rehabilitation of Lamu to be submitted to the 28th session of the Committee in 2004.

ASIA-PACIFIC

45. Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa (China)

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 45

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined* the findings and recommendations of the UNESCO-ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions which were undertaken to the Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace in close consultation with the Chinese authorities in October 2002 and April 2003;
2. *Expresses* its appreciation to the Government of China for facilitating the UNESCO-ICOMOS missions;
3. *Requests* the State Party to continue making efforts to mitigate the negative impact on the World Heritage value of this property caused by development pressures, and in particular recommends the following to this end:

Institutional requirements: The conservation challenges and potentials in Lhasa would benefit from a management and development agency to co-ordinate activities in Old Lhasa, which could

be responsible for the management of Old Lhasa and the WH properties. It is recommended that such an agency be established to raise and administer funds from national and international donors.

Conservation, planning and urban development: Taking into consideration the on-going processes of change and urban development, it is recommended that a review of the urban development plan is undertaken to address integrated territorial urban conservation challenges of Lhasa. The current conservation plan of 1995-2015 should be made available to the public to increase their appreciation of the plan. A mechanism to periodically review the relevance of the conservation plan should be built in the planning process itself.

Protection: In view of the rapid change in the character of Old Lhasa, all remaining historic traditional buildings in Lhasa should be protected at the level of the Autonomous Region or at the national level.

Demolition of historic traditional buildings: All on-going demolition should be stopped including that to replace traditional construction in the Shöl area. Demolition of the traditional buildings and replacement with all-concrete construction should not be permitted to continue, and the State Party is requested to inform the World Heritage Committee of its policy on the conservation of the historic urban fabric of Lhasa.

Conservation awareness: It is recommended that the management authorities set up a programme to encourage community participation and increase awareness of heritage conservation needs amongst the local residents.

Protective areas and buffer zones: It is recommended that the management authorities evaluate and redefine the current World Heritage protective boundaries and management guidelines pertaining to the Potala Palace, Jokhang Temple (including the Barkor Historic Area) and Nobulingka, taking into consideration the heritage values of the surrounding landscape and environment.

Tourism: In view of the potential income generation opportunities from the tourism industry for financing conservation work in Lhasa, the heritage management authorities are encouraged to develop training activities and provide guidance on sustainable tourism planning at the WH properties in Lhasa.

International outreach: An exchange programme between the WH site managers in Lhasa and the

managers of WH properties in other countries is encouraged to develop on-site and international co-operation activities. The Chinese authorities may consider the organization of a study tour to successfully managed WH properties focusing on the selected issues identified above.

4. Underlines the importance of introducing better design that is compatible and harmonious to the historic environment of the Lhasa City;

5. Encourages the State Party to elaborate design guidelines for the built heritage environment, including urban design elements, so as to increase the capacity of local urban planners, architects, and designers to follow World Heritage conservation guidelines.

6. Further encourages the Chinese authorities to develop an articulated strategic programme for the restoration and renovation of the historic fabric of Old Lhasa based upon an analysis of the heritage values of the historic structures. This analysis should assist the authorities in ranking the buildings according to their importance. Therefore, the information should be made public. The Lhasa Municipality of the Tibetan Autonomous Region is therefore invited to provide information about all the conservation and renovation work in Lhasa to the World Heritage Committee.

7. Requests UNESCO and ICOMOS to assist the Chinese authorities in the assessment and updating of the comprehensive conservation plan to make the most appropriate use of the Shöl Area, which forms part of the administrative section of the Potala Palace so as to maintain the traditional urban fabric of the area while changing the use of the traditional buildings.

8. Expresses its readiness to consider an international assistance request to support national and local efforts to address the above recommendations. .

9. Requests the State Party to take appropriate action to follow up the findings and recommendations of the UNESCO-ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions in a concerted manner and to submit a progress report by 1 February 2004, on the measures taken and long-term development strategy proposed for the property, for examination by the Committee at its 28th session in 2004.

46. Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya (India)

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 46

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the state of conservation of the property for the first time since its inscription on the World Heritage List in 2002,

2. Recalling the concern at the time of inscription concerning the tourism and pilgrimage pressures facing the property,

3. Noting that the absence of a functioning comprehensive management plan has persisted,

4. Expresses concern over the continuing tensions and occasional conflicts between local stakeholders, in particular the religious groups who wish to use this important religious World Heritage property;

5. Recognizing the associated heritage values of the surrounding areas of the Mahabodhi Temple which are intrinsically linked to the enlightenment of Buddha which are not within the core nor the buffer zone of the existing WH property;

6. Requests the State Party to enlarge the World Heritage protected area to ensure that the protective core and buffer zones are meaningful and effective for the conservation of the values of the property;

7. Requests the State Party to urgently commence the elaboration of a comprehensive management plan which adequately integrates:

a. Local community and stakeholders' dialogue and co-operation;

b. Protection, conservation and preservation of the heritage values and assets of this sacred property;

c. Control of development activities within and surrounding the property related to tourism and pilgrimage activities;

8. Decides to examine the state of conservation of the property at its 28th session.

53. Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (Nepal)

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 53

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the report on the state of conservation of the property and the new information provided by the WH Centre and the State Party;

2. Notes that the construction of the new Maya Devi Temple was completed;

3. Reiterates its request to the State Party to provide information concerning the management mechanisms which ensure the protection of the WH values of the property;

4. Requests that a report on the state of conservation of the property be submitted by 1 February 2004 for examination at its 28th session in June 2004.

54. Seokguram Grotto and Bulguksa Temple (Republic of Korea)

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 54

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Takes note* of the updated information provided by the State Party and the World Heritage Centre on the state of conservation of the Seokguram Grotto and Bulguska Temple;
2. *Congratulates* the State Party on the decision to withdraw the proposal to build a new structure within the vicinity of the World Heritage property of Seokguram Grotto to ensure the conservation of the authenticity and integrity of the heritage area and in particular, the pristine natural setting of the property.

EUROPE / NORTH AMERICA

82. Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites (United Kingdom)

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 82

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Taking note* of the changes made to the construction technique for the tunnel;
2. *Welcomes* the State Party's decision to construct a bored tunnel, which is less damaging for the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated sites World Heritage property than a cut-and-cover tunnel;
3. *Requests* the State Party to provide a progress report by 1st February 2004 for review by the 28th session of the Committee.

LATIN AMERICA / CARIBBEAN

89. Port, Fortresses and Group of Monuments, Cartagena (Colombia)

Draft Decision: 27 COM 7 (b) 89

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Takes note* of the report provided by the State Party concerning the State of Conservation of Port, Fortresses and Group of Monuments,
2. *Recognizes* the need to provide for proper on-site visitor facilities, such as public bathrooms,

3. *Recalls*, however, paragraph 56 of the Operational Guidelines, which states that "the World Heritage Committee invites the State Parties to the Convention [...] to inform the Committee, through the UNESCO Secretariat, of their intention to undertake or to authorize in an area protected under the Convention major restorations or new constructions which may affect the World Heritage value of the property."

4. *Commends* the State Party for inviting a joint UNESCO-ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, which took place from 30 May to 3 June 2003, to assess the necessity and impact of the finalized and foreseen interventions on the authenticity and integrity of the site;

5. *Requests* the State Party to submit a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, by 1 February 2004, for review by the Committee at its 28th session.

(II) New State of Conservation reports

C. CULTURAL HERITAGE

ABAB STATES

103. Ouadi Qadisha (Lebanon)
Inscribed 1998 criteria C (iii) (iv)

Previous debates: N/A

Previous International Assistance: N/A

New information

In June 2003, the Centre organized and carried out a mission to the site, in close collaboration with the responsible Lebanese authorities, in order to assess its state of conservation. The findings of the mission can be resumed as follows:

- Legal framework

The site is not protected by any legal instrument at the national level. No building regulations exist within the perimeter of the WH property. As a consequence, according to the current legislation, any building can be constructed within the site if a permit is granted. In addition, four new constructions have been illegally erected within the site, without any building permit.

- Management

The Management Plan presented at the time of the inscription of the site on the World Heritage List is not operational. The villages developing on the edge of the Valley have a negative visual impact on the site, do not have a proper waste water treatment system, and in some cases are built on unstable soil, constituting a serious threat for the inhabitants and the site itself.

At the request of the General Directorate for the Antiquities (DGA), the site should be included in the scope of a study carried out by the General Directorate for

Urban Planning, with a view to determine the appropriate land use of the area (building coefficients should not exceed 0,01-0,05). Moreover, the Mission was also informed of a proposed project, funded by the Government of Japan, for the tourist development of the Valley of Qadisha, for an amount of one million dollars.

The Mission met with the Minister of Culture, the Minister of Environment and the Maronite Patriarch. During these meetings, the national authorities have all recognized the urgent need to designate the World Heritage site of Oadi Qadisha as a National Reserve, thus ensuring its legal protection, and to develop an appropriate Management Plan. They also stressed the need to integrate into the objectives of the Management Plan concerns for the socio-economic context around the site, with particular reference to the importance of ensuring that the site constitutes a sustainable resource for the well-being of the local population.

Draft Decision : 27 COM 7 (b) 103

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Takes note of the report on the state of conservation of Oadi Qadisha World Heritage site presented by the Secretariat;*

2. *Invites the State Party, in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre, to establish an adequate legal framework for the protection of the site, designating the World Heritage site of Oadi Qadisha as a National Reserve, and to develop a comprehensive Management Plan;*

3. *Invites the State Party to consider the possibility to establishing an Inter-ministerial Committee to coordinate and oversee the implementation of the future Management Plan;*

4. *Requests the State Party, with respect to the illegal constructions within the perimeter of the World Heritage property, to re-establish the integrity of the site and take all measures to ensure its protection.*

104. Medina of Fes (Morocco)

Inscribed 1981 criteria C (ii) (v)

Previous debates: N/A

Previous International Assistance: N/A

New information

In April 2003, the Centre received information concerning the partial covering of the Oued Boukhareb, within the Medina of Fes, by a concrete slab of around 250 Meters. This intervention, apparently carried out without the approval of the responsible authorities, appears to be the first step towards the erection of a series of shops and

would have a number of negative consequences. These include:

- Hydrological risk, owing to the possibility of exceptional rains which could cause floods upstream or destroy the new structure;

- Environmental risk, since the main waste-water collectors of the Medina are now buried under the structure and cannot be inspected or maintained;

- Cultural risk, as a result of the impact of this new construction on the Medina and particularly on the two historic bridges of Terrafine and Binlamdoun.

On 29 May 2003 and 10 June 2003, the World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Division of Cultural heritage have written to the Moroccan authorities, requesting further information on this project.

Draft Decision : 27 COM 7 (b) 104

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Takes note of the report presented by the Secretariat, concerning the execution of a concrete slab, which would cover the Oued Boukhareb, within the Medina of Fes, and negatively impact on the World Heritage property;*

2. *Invites the State Party to provide information to the Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, on the above-mention work, and subsequently to submit a report on the progress of the matter by 1 February 2004 for the consideration of the Committee at its 28th session.*

ASIA-PACIFIC

105. Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Fatepur Sikhri (India)

Year of Inscription on the World Heritage List: 1983 under criteria C (i) and (iii) respectively.

Previous international assistance:

Emergency Assistance in 1995 (US\$ 17,865)

Technical Cooperation in 1986 (US\$ 20,788)

Previous deliberations:

21st extraordinary session of the Bureau – Chapter III (c)

21st session of the WH Com – Chapter VII.55

New Information:

In September 1996, the “Taj Protection Mission Management Board” (TPMMB) was set up as per suggestions of the Supreme Court of India for the environmental protection of the Taj Mahal. Consequently the TPMMB was formed under the Chairpersonship of the Chief Secretary of the State Government of Uttar Pradesh. The TPMMB was to approve various schemes for the protection of the Taj Mahal and request the release of funds from the Central Government Ministry of Environment & Forests.

In mid June 2003, the WH Centre received numerous press releases concerning a large-scale commercial development plan in the immediate vicinity of the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort World Heritage properties along the Yamuna River. The proposed plan, according to the press, included large-scale landfill of the Yamuna River bank to construct shopping complexes and tourism facilities. Accordingly, since November 2002, the TPMMB had begun the implementation of a US\$ 35 million 'Taj Heritage Corridor Project', without consulting other agencies responsible for the conservation, management and development of the properties.

Reportedly, this "Taj Heritage Corridor Project" proposes an alternate access to the Agra Fort and Taj Mahal WH properties, envisaging commercial development along 2km of the riverfront between the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort. 1.6 km of 1.5 metre-high landfill along the Yamuna River bank has reportedly already been completed at the cost of US\$ 6.9 million.

The adverse impact of this new development to the two WH properties so far appears to have been caused by the alteration in water table and change in the flow of the Yamuna River, and in particular, may have affected the structural stability foundations of the Taj Mahal. The Taj Mahal's superstructure base was designed and constructed on the Yamuna River's sand taking into full consideration the natural hydraulic pressure and river flows. While the monument has very slowly and gradually been sinking with the passage of time, this process may have been accelerated, according to some reports, due to the recent changes of the river flow and hydraulic pressure caused by the mass landfill in the immediate vicinity of the monument's base.

In addition, altering the Yamuna River course may cause irreversible damage to cultural heritage properties located along the river between the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort, which are intrinsically linked with the heritage values and history of these two properties. These include, the Etmad-ud-Daulah Tomb (1622-25 A.D.), Chini-ka-Rauza Tomb (1639 A.D.), Sarai Nur Jahan Mughal Inn (early 17th century A.D.), Battis Khamba monument (1615-20 A.D.) and Mughal Gardens such as Mahtab bagh, Ram bagh, Buland bagh, Zuhra and Sayyid-ka-bagh.

This TPMMB project appears to be in direct contradiction of the Agra Master Plan drafted by the Town and Country Planning Department of the Uttar Pradesh State Government with the Agra Development Authority (ADA) in 2001, which designated the WH properties and their surroundings as a 'National Park', distinct from residential or commercial use. No environmental or heritage impact assessment studies appear to have been undertaken before the design and execution of the project. Moreover it appears that none of the concerned authorities, such as the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the Central Water Commission (CWC), the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the Agra Development Authority (ADA) and the

Agra City Municipal Corporation (ACMC), were consulted during the design and execution of the project.

On 18 June 2003, the WH Centre requested the authorities via the Permanent Delegation of India to UNESCO for clarification and detailed information on the proposed plan and its execution.

Issues:

Urban and tourism development pressure
Absence of communication and co-ordination between concerned authorities responsible for the conservation, management and development of the properties.

Draft Decision : 27 COM 7 (b) 105

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Expresses grave concern concerning the report on the large-scale tourism development plan in the immediate vicinity of the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort WH properties, which may irreversibly negatively impact upon the World Heritage value of the two properties, as well as the heritage values of the related properties in the Agra and Yamuna River areas.*
2. *Requests the WH Centre and ICOMOS to undertake a Joint Reactive Monitoring Mission to hold consultations with the State Party concerning this development project with a view to elaborate corrective measures for enhanced conservation, management and development of the WH properties of Taj Mahal and Agra Fort.*
3. *Requests the State Party to reconsider the on-going implementation of the project based upon a full analysis and assessment of the impact such major development plan would cause upon the WH properties of Taj Mahal and Agra Fort, while simultaneously assessing the damage already caused by the landfill in the Yamuna River between the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort.*
4. *Requests the State Party to consider establishing a co-ordinated and effective management authority for the WH properties in the Agra area, which would include the three properties of Agra Fort, Taj Mahal, and Fatepur Sikhri.*
5. *Requests the State Party to submit a report before 1 February 2004 on the state of conservation of the World Heritage properties Taj Mahal and Agra Fort for the Committee's examination at its 28th session in June 2004.*