

# WORLD HERITAGE

**Convention** CONCERNING  
THE PROTECTION OF THE  
**World Cultural AND Natural  
Heritage**



WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE  
TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

**MARRAKESH, MOROCCO**

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

**WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

**Twenty-third session  
Marrakesh, Morocco**

**29 November – 4 December 1999**

**REPORT**

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## **I. OPENING SESSION**

**I.1** The twenty-third session of the World Heritage Committee was held in Marrakesh, Morocco, from 29 November to 4 December 1999. It was attended by all twenty-one members of the World Heritage Committee: Australia, Belgium, Benin, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, Ecuador, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of South Africa, Thailand, and Zimbabwe.

**I.2** The following States Parties to the Convention who are not members of the Committee were represented as observers: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Cyprus, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Holy See, Indonesia, India, Israel, Japan, Lithuania, Mongolia, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

**I.3** Representatives of the advisory bodies to the Committee, the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of the Cultural Property (ICCROM), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) attended the meeting in an advisory capacity. The meeting was also attended by representatives and observers of the following international governmental organizations (IGOs), international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs): Arch Foundation, Association for the Safeguarding of the Kasbah of Algiers, Heritage Friends of Morocco (APM), High-Tech Visual Promotion Centre, International Council on Metals and the Environment (ICME), International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA), International Federation of Shingon Buddhism, International Foundation of Historical Heritage (Canada), International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), Islamic Organization for Education, Science and Culture, (ISESCO), Nature Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Organization of the Arab League for Education, Science and Culture (ALECSO), Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC), Pro Esteros Mexico, UNEP/PAM Project, UN Foundation,. (The full List of Participants is attached as Annex II to this report).

**I.4** The twenty-third session of the World Heritage Committee was opened by Mr Abdelaziz Touri, Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, who presented Mr Mohammed Achaari, Minister for Cultural Affairs of Morocco, to read the welcome message of His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco (The Royal Letter is attached as Annex I to this report).

**I.5** In His Message, the King welcomed the participants and expressed the pleasure of the Kingdom of Morocco in hosting the Committee meeting in the prestigious historical capital of Marrakesh. He emphasized the progress made in the preservation of cultural and natural heritage which he attributed to the overreaching agreement by countries of the same thinking, that of preserving local and national heritage, a heritage which belongs to humankind. He noted that the current Committee session was the last during this century, and its future activities would be affected by on-going changes taking place in the areas of communication and information. On the other hand, these changing conditions will provide opportunities to improve future actions to understand and to give greater depth to the notion of world cultural and historical heritage and the multiple aspects of human civilization.

**I.6** His Majesty praised UNESCO for its leadership in the protection of the cultural and natural heritage. Referring to the Kingdom of Morocco, the King's message said that since independence, the country has been deeply aware of the need for

the preservation of its legacy. Through an initiative taken by the late King, His Majesty King Hassan II, Morocco has been working particularly with Moroccan and other experts, in the restoration of the Royal Palace of Fez. The Royal Letter concluded by expressing interest as regards the natural heritage and issues of the oral tradition, where man is inseparable from his environment, and that we have the responsibility to protect the verbally transmitted heritage that was greatly threatened. Reminding the participants of the responsibilities of humankind, His Majesty thanked UNESCO for deciding to propose the nomination of Jamaa Lafna Square in Marrakesh as oral heritage of humankind, an honour for Morocco. He noted with pleasure the presence of Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, and referred to his great competence and deep understanding of issues of global civilization. After congratulating Mr Matsuura on his election and having expressed confidence in his leadership of the Organization, the King wished the Committee success in its work and welcomed once again the participants to the City of Marrakesh.

**I.7** At the invitation of the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, and in his first address to the World Heritage Committee in his capacity as the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, welcomed the participants to the twenty-third session of the World Heritage Committee. He transmitted his sincere gratitude to the Kingdom and the people of Morocco for their generosity and hospitality. Mr. Matsuura mentioned that, it had been several years since a meeting of the World Heritage Committee was held in an Arab country, and in this regard, he expressed his satisfaction that the meeting was being held in Morocco and in the beautiful City of Marrakesh.

**I.8** Mr. Matsuura took the occasion to pay tribute to the late King Hassan II, whom he said brought to Morocco a policy of foresight and vision concerning the protection of cultural and natural heritage. He noted that it was indeed in 1980 when, with the assistance of UNESCO, the late King led the initiative to launch the international campaign for the protection of the Medina of Fez, which was followed by the inscription of Fez in the World Heritage List. Mr. Matsuura recalled that it was the late King Hassan II who facilitated the preservation of the assemblage of the world's most important architecture, as well as the living traditional art.

**I.9** Welcoming again the participants, Mr. Matsuura expressed his high esteem for the work of the World Heritage Committee of the 1972 Convention on the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage. He reminded the participants that the work of the Committee is among others, the tangible expression of international solidarity and co-operation embodied in the World Heritage Convention.

**I.10** The Director-General informed the participants that there are currently 158 States Parties who have adhered to the Convention, which represents the majority of the 188 UNESCO Member States. He welcomed the States Parties attending the Committee session for the first time and congratulated the States Parties elected recently by the twelfth session of the General Assembly. Mr Matsuura, addressing the newly-elected Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, Mr Abdelaziz Touri, Director of the Department of Cultural Heritage in Morocco, commented that his election was fully justified, being a respected expert involved in day-to-day conservation of the cultural heritage, a person of experience at the heart of the Committee where he has worked for several years.

**I.11** Turning to the values of World Heritage sites, Mr Matsuura emphasized that the Committee's deliberations and decisions on the established criteria for World Heritage, will be important not only for the future protection of the exceptional world cultural and natural heritage, but also for important national and local sites. He stressed the importance of developing

a collective ethic for heritage conservation which he viewed as a major challenge in the face of economic globalisation.

**I.12** As the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr. Matsuura said that he will endeavour to strengthen the World Heritage Centre, to enable it to respond to the increasing demands of national and local authorities, of site managers, research institutes, development agencies, the media and the public.

**I.13** In emphasizing the importance and the large quantity of work of the Committee, Mr. Matsuura observed the need to facilitate its work. He also mentioned the need for rigour, particularly in matters dealing with the inscription of sites in the World Heritage List, the evaluation of international assistance requests and in addressing the root causes of various threats to World Heritage. The Director-General suggested the linkage of preparatory assistance and training grants to the Global Strategy and priority approval for requests from Least Developed Countries and Low Income Countries, particularly for technical co-operation.

**I.14** In conclusion, he emphasized the importance of public awareness-building and education for World Heritage conservation. Without education the survival of the World Heritage is at risk. He informed the Committee that as the Director-General of UNESCO, and working with the General Conference and the Executive Board, he would seek to further strengthen the World Heritage Centre. (The Director-General's speech is attached as Annex III to this report).

**I.15** Mr Touri, the Chairperson, thanked the Director-General of UNESCO for his kind words. He then thanked the Director-General for having presented on behalf of UNESCO the following two medals: Victor Hugo Medal to His Excellency, the Minister for Cultural Affairs, Mr. Mohammed Achaari; and the Aristotle Medal to Mr. Abdelaziz Touri, the Director of Cultural Heritage, and the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee.

**I.16** The Chairperson informed the Committee that the First Arab States World Heritage Youth Forum had taken place at the Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco, from 22-28 November. The Forum, organized within the framework of UNESCO's Special Project "*Young People's Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion*" with the support of NORAD (Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation) and the Rhône-Poulenc Foundation (France), was attended by young people and secondary school teachers from twelve countries in the Arab region.

**I.17** In previous years, international Youth Fora had been held in Norway (1995) and Japan (1998), and regional Youth Fora in Croatia (1996), Zimbabwe (1996), China (1997) and Senegal (1999). The Youth Forum for the Arab region coincided with the recent publication, in Arabic, of the Educational Resource Kit for Teacher's entitled "World Heritage in young hands" translated with the assistance of the UNESCO Office in Amman, Jordan. The Youth Forum was organized in collaboration with the UNESCO Office in Rabat, Morocco and the Al Akhawayn University.

**I.18** At the invitation of the Chairperson, the President of the Al Akhawayn University, Dr Rachid Benmokhtar, gave a brief summary of the Youth Forum. He referred to his pleasure in having welcomed young people from the Arab region to his University as the Youth Forum reflected the goals and research of the University in relation to cultural heritage and its conservation. The University aims to instil in its students a spirit of open-mindedness, tolerance and peace. The location of Ifrane had provided an appropriate setting for the Forum enriched by Berber culture and extraordinary biodiversity. The young people at the Youth Forum actively participated in plenary sessions, field visits to the World Heritage sites of Fez and Volubilis,

workshops on traditional calligraphy, handicrafts and communication technology and prepared a Forum newspaper. Dr Rachid Benmokhtar thanked UNESCO for having taken the initiative to organise the Forum.

**I.19** Two student representatives from the Youth Forum read an appeal adopted by all thirty-eight students at the Youth Forum in Ifrane. They expressed their commitment to the conservation of heritage and requested the assistance of UNESCO to organise further youth forum in the region. The students referred to the role of media and modern technology in raising awareness of the necessity of preserving the world's heritage and noted the important role of revitalisation of traditional crafts in the maintenance of heritage and identity. They concluded by calling on the young people of the world to join with young people in the Arab region to protect their World Heritage. The Student Pledge from Ifrane is included as Annex IV of this report.

**I.20** The Director of the Centre sincerely thanked the young people for their presentation and for their energy and commitment in favour of heritage awareness and conservation.

## **II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND THE TIMETABLE**

**II.1** The Committee adopted the agenda (WHC-99/CONF./209/1), the Annotated Agenda (WHC-99/CONF.209/2) and the Provisional Calendar with modifications. Following unanimous agreement, the Committee decided to discuss the Agenda Item 7 on 'Follow-up to the work of the Consultative Body to the World Heritage Committee', to enable a working group to be established under this agenda item and for it to complete its task as early as possible during the session. In response to the interventions by the Delegates of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Hungary, Thailand and Zimbabwe, the Chairperson proposed to hold discussions on Item 7 before agenda Item 10 which deals with the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger and the World Heritage List, at the end of the afternoon session on Monday, 29 November, 1999. This was accepted and he then requested the Secretariat to redraft the timetable accordingly.

## **III. REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT ON THE ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN SINCE THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

**III.1** Mr Mounir Bouchenaki, in his capacity as Director of the World Heritage Centre and Secretary to the World Heritage Committee, presented the report on activities undertaken since the last session of the World Heritage Committee in 1998.

**III.2** He referred to the Information Document WHC-99/CONF/209-INF.5 and used an audiovisual presentation to highlight the important points of the document.

**III.3** The Director of the Centre indicated that Chad and Israel had ratified the Convention in 1999, bringing the number of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention to 158. Concerning new nominations for inscription, the Director noted that in spite of the fact that the majority of these new nominations emanated from western European countries, nominations have also been received for the first time from the following five States Parties, Bosnia and Herzegovina, South Africa, Saint Christopher & Nevis, Suriname and Turkmenistan. He indicated that this was a positive sign for better representivity of the List in the future. The Director also underlined that 109 of the 158 States Parties have submitted tentative lists of sites they may

wish to nominate in future in conformity with the format prescribed by the *Operational Guidelines*.

**III.4** The Director then emphasized the importance of the work of the Global Strategy to ensure a representative World Heritage List and drew the attention of the Committee to a certain number of regional thematic meetings that had been held on this subject. He mentioned, in particular, the expert meeting on African cultural landscapes which was held in Kenya in March, activities and missions carried out in the Arab region which will contribute towards the organization of a series of workshops to strengthen conservation capacity in the field of natural heritage in the region and to the second Global Strategy Meeting for the Pacific Region held in Vanuatu in association with the Pacific Islands Museums Association (PIMA). He also stated that a meeting was held in Brastagi, Indonesia, in December 1998, organized jointly by the Ministry of Forestry of Indonesia and the World Heritage Centre, to study how the Convention may be implemented in the framework of protecting biodiversity of forest habitats. The Director mentioned two additional meetings on cultural landscapes, one in Slovakia in June 1999 concerning the preparation of Management Guidelines for Cultural Landscapes and the other in Poland in October 1999, convening experts from fourteen States Parties from Eastern Europe and representatives of the three advisory bodies. He also referred to the efforts undertaken by the Centre to ensure better representativity of the List in Asia and the Caribbean.

**III.5** With regard to the conservation of World Heritage sites and the presentation of the periodic reports, the Director recalled the decisions of the Committee and the General Assembly concerning this issue. He informed the Committee that a Circular Letter with the new format and explanatory notes had been addressed to all States Parties, and that an information brochure on the presentation of periodic reports had been elaborated and distributed in 1999 as a follow-up to these decisions.

**III.6** The Director indicated that two expert meetings organized by ICCROM were held in 1999. These meetings had elaborated a structure for a reference manual for monitoring the state of conservation. Numerous initiatives were cited by the Director which had been undertaken by some States Parties in support of the submission of periodic reports, such as training seminars organized by the Russian Federation and the Republic of Korea, as well as other national seminars. The Director emphasized the importance of these seminars and indicated that other seminars and workshops are under preparation for 2000, particularly in Asia. Among the initiatives undertaken, the Director presented a new database, available on the Centre's Intranet, which incorporates all information relating to sites situated in Asia. He encouraged the creation of similar databases for other regions.

**III.7** Sixty-seven reports, nineteen of which concerned sites inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, were submitted to the Centre in 1999. The Director noted that a majority of the reports submitted for examination by the Committee concerned sites situated in Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. He expressed concern about the increasing number of serious problems facing certain sites, in particular the Kathmandu Valley (Nepal) where recent deterioration of the historic fabric has been reported by the UNESCO mission that took place in October 1999. He also mentioned, among other sites, the Group of Monuments at Hampi in India, where two bridges are currently under construction, Machu Picchu in Peru where a cable car is proposed and the Iguazu National Park in Brazil which has suffered negative effects due to the construction of a road which crosses the site, and to numerous helicopter flights in this area. The many natural catastrophes that had caused important damage, notably in Latin America and the

Caribbean, and the need to develop specific activities to assist the States concerned, were mentioned by the Director.

**III.8** In reporting on the implementation of International Assistance, the Director drew the attention of the Committee to the fact that 40% of Preparatory Assistance had been allocated to natural sites. He continued by informing the Committee that Technical Co-operation had to a great extent been allocated to African natural sites and that the greater part of preparatory assistance for cultural sites had been to support sites in Europe, and Latin American and the Caribbean.

**III.9** The Director then referred to activities of the Centre's Documentation, Information and Education Unit, emphasizing the importance of these activities, in particular the development of a modern information management system. He also underlined the need to prepare specific information documents oriented to respond on the one hand to the needs of States Parties, and on the other to the public at large and the media. He also presented the UNESCO Special Project "*Young people's participation in the preservation and promotion of World Heritage*" and informed the Committee that the most recent Youth Forum was held at the Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco, during which young people of the Arab region had the opportunity to improve their knowledge of the Convention by attending numerous workshops. He also recalled that the Educational Kit entitled "*World Heritage in young hands*" is now available in Arabic. He highlighted the need to strengthen this programme.

**III.10** In the framework of activities and co-operation with the advisory bodies, the Director reported on a certain number of meetings held during the year and expressed satisfaction with the increasing co-operation between the advisory bodies and the Centre.

**III.11** The Director evoked the spirit of co-operation that existed between the Centre and the other Division of UNESCO, notably the Division of Ecological Sciences, the Division of Earth Sciences, the Education Sector and the Division of Cultural Heritage. He also noted the increasing number of activities undertaken by the regional offices and focal points in collaboration with the Centre.

**III.12** In emphasizing the need to strengthen international co-operation and facilitate exchanges between the States, the Director presented a new Internet site on Afghanistan, funded by the World Heritage Fund and the Funds-in-Trust of Professor Hirayama. This site will soon be available on the web. He also spoke of the co-operation between the Centre and organizations such as The World Bank, UNDP, with particular reference to the activities carried out in co-operation with the United Nations Foundation, thanks to which several projects, in particular the Galapagos Islands and sites in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, have been financed.

**III.13** In the framework of co-operation between the States, the Director cited as an example, the Nara Seminar for the Integrity and Development of Historic Cities that provided the opportunity for a dialogue between eleven cities inscribed on the World Heritage List. He also indicated that the Agreement between France and UNESCO for the Protection and Development of Monumental and Urban Heritage is now operational. Sixteen activities have been defined in this Agreement which aim at supporting under-represented States Parties in the preparation of nomination files and providing technical co-operation input.

**III.14** With regard to the follow-up of the work of the Consultative Body, the Director recalled the terms of reference of the Strategic Task Force on the future of the World Heritage Convention.

**III.15** The Director also presented the organizational chart of the Centre and insisted on the need to strengthen the Centre at all levels. He drew the attention of the Committee to the need to regularize the five posts requested during the thirteenth session of the UNESCO General Conference to respond to the most urgent needs. He also emphasized that many core functions of the Centre were currently being carried out by contractors.

**III.16** The Chairperson thanked the Director of the Centre, for his excellent presentation. The Delegations of Ecuador, Japan and the Republic of Korea, also thanked the Centre and noted the wide diversity of activities undertaken by the Centre. They also insisted upon the need to strengthen the structure and the staff of the Centre.

**III.17** The Delegate of Republic of Korea specifically mentioned his satisfaction with the close collaboration between the Centre and States Parties in the Asian region. He expressed his appreciation for the support provided to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea referring to it as an exemplary case of promoting "the cultural of peace in the framework of the World Heritage Convention".

#### **IV. REPORTS OF THE RAPORTEURS ON THE SESSIONS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE BUREAU**

**IV.1** The Rapporteur of the twenty-third session of the Bureau (5 – 10 July 1999), and the third extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee, 12 July 1999, presented the two reports WHC-99/CONF.209/4 and WHC-99/CONF.209/5 respectively. Concerning the report of the twenty-third session of the Bureau, Mr Janos Jelen (Hungary) said the report reflects the debate of the Bureau and the document can be instrumental for States Parties and the members of the Committee when they prepare themselves for future meetings. Regarding the report of the third extraordinary session of the Committee, the Rapporteur said that he hoped that the report would be scrutinized intensively in the years to come since the deliberations of the Committee set examples for the future. He said that he felt honoured and proud that he could take part in the work of the Committee and the Bureau. With no comments from the members of the Committee the two reports were adopted.

**IV.2** The Rapporteur of the twenty-third extraordinary session of the Bureau held in Marrakesh, Morocco, from 26 – 27 November 1999, Ms Anne Lammila (Finland), presented the report (WHC-99/CONF.209/6). The Rapporteur said the report was prepared in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre. She paid tribute to the personnel of the Centre and noted that the work of the Centre had become very demanding, and that some changes should be made in the working methods of the Committee. Proposals in this respect were welcome from all Committee members and observers.

**IV.3** The following delegates and observers made contributions to the report: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, France, Germany, Hungary, Philippines, Portugal, Spain, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam, Zimbabwe, ICOMOS and IUCN.

**IV.4** The Chairperson reported on his meeting with a representative of the United Nations Foundation, Mr. Nicholas Lapham, and the Director of the World Heritage Centre. The United Nations Foundation was created in January 1998 by Mr Ted Turner to support United Nations activities in the field of environment, improvement of child health, women and the population.

**IV.5** The Representative informed the Chairperson that the UNF Board of Directors had approved, at the beginning of November 1999, an overall strategy for biodiversity that would primarily focus on natural World Heritage sites inscribed for their biodiversity values (e.g. criterion (iv)). Therefore, the Foundation would contribute over several years to the strengthening and the protection and the management of sites, the first of which are the Galapagos Islands of Ecuador, and the World Heritage sites in Danger in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

**IV.6** The UNF Representative also informed of the wish of the Foundation to participate towards the promotion of the Convention to raise awareness of the public and concerned governmental authorities.

**IV.7** In reporting on this meeting, the Chairperson emphasized the very positive aspects for the Convention. The UNF Representative would observe the work of the Committee and was available to those members of the Committee who might wish for more detailed information.

**IV.8** The Rapporteur thanked delegations that had made contributions and the report was adopted with the proposed amendments.

#### **V. REPORT ON THE DECISION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES WITH REGARD TO "WAYS AND MEANS TO ENSURE A REPRESENTATIVE WORLD HERITAGE LIST"**

**V.1** Mr Isidore Monsi (Benin), Rapporteur of the twelfth session of the General Assembly of the States Party to the World Heritage Convention, presented the report (WHC-99/CONF.209/7) of this session.

**V.2** In qualifying the session as "historic", Mr Isidore Monsi, (Benin), reported on the convergence of views relating to the actions proposed in the framework of the Global Strategy and in particular he emphasized the two substantial resolutions unanimously adopted by the States Parties, namely the resolution on "the ways and means to ensure a representative World Heritage List" and the one relating to an equitable representation within the Committee.

**V.3** The Document WHC-99/CONF.209/8 submitted proposals referring to the implementation of the two resolutions that demand close examination by the Committee. Referring in particular to the first resolution, he emphasized that in the opinion of many of the delegates attending the General Assembly, its application should be implicit to a true political will.

**V.4** He invited all the partners involved in the implementation of the Global Strategy to arm themselves with this will and thanked the Secretariat for their excellent work and their determination in the spearheading process.

## TASK FORCE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

At the request of the World Heritage Committee, a working group chaired by Canada submits to the Committee proposals relating to the composition and terms of reference of a Task Force aimed at improving the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

### Composition of the Task Force:

The same as the working group established by the Committee in Marrakesh 1999, chaired by Canada and including Australia, Belgium, Hungary, Morocco, Mexico, South Africa, Thailand, and the advisory bodies (ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN) and a representative of the World Heritage Centre. Australia agreed to act as rapporteur.

### Terms of reference of the Task Force:

To identify and propose for consideration of the Bureau in June 2000 priority practical measures for more effective operation of the Convention, taking account of pressures affecting the Convention over the coming years. Those measures, some of which should be applicable in preparation of and during the Committee meeting of December 2000, will focus on:

- The organization and running of the statutory meetings,
- The procedures for decision making,
- The information and documentation management,
- The Operational Guidelines.

The Task Force will take into account and further build upon all discussions in previous General Assembly, Committee and Bureau meetings (see WHC-99/CONF.209/9), the management review and financial audit, and proposals made by State Parties.

### Working methods:

The Task Force will operate in a way that maximizes the opportunity for State Party input. A concise draft paper will be circulated by March 2000 and comments will be sought by fax and email. The draft paper will be posted on the UNESCO homepage.

### Possible further developments:

After having considered the proposals of the Task Force, the Bureau, at its meeting of June 2000, will recommend for Committee consideration a possible new working group to reflect in depth on the objectives and fundamental priorities in implementing the Convention.

## VIII. INFORMATION ON TENTATIVE LISTS AND EXAMINATION OF NOMINATIONS OF CULTURAL AND NATURAL PROPERTIES TO THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER AND WORLD HERITAGE LIST

The Chairperson indicated that all the cultural nominations for inscription are included in the tentative lists of the countries concerned.

## EXAMINATION OF NOMINATIONS OF CULTURAL AND NATURAL PROPERTIES TO THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

**VIII.1** Following the review of the state of conservation reports and at the recommendation of the Bureau, the Committee decided to inscribe the following natural and cultural properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- **Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)**
- **Rwenzori Mountains National Park (Uganda)**
- **Iguaçu National Park (Brazil)**
- **Hampi (India)**

**VIII.2** The Committee did not recommend the deletion of properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

## EXAMINATION OF NOMINATIONS OF CULTURAL AND NATURAL PROPERTIES TO THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

**VIII.3** The Committee approved the change of the name of the following property included on the World Heritage List:

"Sokkuram Grotto" to "Sokkuram Grotto and Pulguksa Temple" (Republic of Korea)

Concerning the request from Germany, that "Roman Monuments, Cathedral and Liebfrauen-Church in Trier" is changed to "Roman Monuments, Cathedral Saint Peter and St. Mary's Church in Trier", the Chairperson suggested consultations between the Centre and the State Party to define the correct English version.

### A. NATURAL HERITAGE

#### A.1 Properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

Property	<b>Península Valdés</b>
Id. N°	<b>937</b>
State Party	<b>Argentina</b>
Criteria	<b>N (iv)</b>

The Committee decided to inscribe Peninsula Valdés on the World Heritage List under *criterion (iv)*.

Peninsula Valdés contains very important and significant natural habitats for the in-situ conservation of several threatened species of outstanding universal value, and specifically its globally important concentration of breeding southern right whales, which is an endangered species. It is also important because of the breeding populations of southern elephant seals and southern sea lions. The area exhibits an exceptional example of adaptation of hunting techniques by the orca to the local coastal conditions.

The Committee commended the government of the Province of Chubut for promoting the preparation of an Integrated Collaborative Management Plan for this site. The Committee recommended that the State Party, along with responsible regional and local bodies should: (a) ensure that effective controls are in place over any possible pollution threat from the town of Puerto Madryn to the waters of Golfo Nuevo, (b) support the efforts of the relevant authorities to secure the equipment needed to respond quickly to any oil hazard from passing shipping so as to protect the marine conservation values of the area; (c) produce a tourism management plan as an integral element of the overall management plan; (d) encourage implementation of the Integrated Collaborative Management Plan, and in particular to ensure that farmers and other private owners of land can play a full part in the development of environmentally responsible tourism; and (e) work at the international level to ensure that the marine mammals concerned are protected throughout their range.



**Criterion (iv):** Nikko is a perfect illustration of the architectural style of the Edo period as applied to Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples. The Gongen-zukuri style of the two mausoleums, the Tōshōgū and the Taiyū-in Reibyō, reached the peak of its expression in Nikko, and was later to exert a decisive influence. The ingenuity and creativity of its architects and decorators are revealed in an outstanding and distinguished manner.

**Criterion (vi):** The Nikko shrines and temples, together with their environment, are an outstanding example of a traditional Japanese religious centre, associated with the Shinto perception of the relationship of man with nature, in which mountains and forests have a sacred meaning and are objects of veneration, in a religious practice that is still very much alive today.

The Committee took note of the comments of ICOMOS that the development pressure near the south-west border of the site would require the State Party to be vigilant in monitoring potential threats in the future.

Property	<b>Historic Fortified Town of Campeche</b>
Id. N°	<b>895</b>
State Party	<b>Mexico</b>
Criteria	<b>C (ii) (iv)</b>

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (ii) and (iv)*:

**Criterion (ii):** The harbour town of Campeche is an urbanization model of a Baroque colonial town, with its checkerboard street plan; the defensive walls surrounding its historic centre reflect the influence of the military architecture in the Caribbean.

**Criterion (iv):** The fortifications system of Campeche, an eminent example of the military architecture of the 17th and 18th centuries, is part of an overall defensive system set up by the Spanish to protect the ports on the Caribbean Sea from pirate attacks.

At the initiative of ICOMOS and with the agreement of the States Party the title of the property was changed to the **Historic Fortified Town of Campeche**.

Property	<b>The Archaeological Monuments Zone of Xochicalco</b>
Id. N°	<b>939</b>
State Party	<b>Mexico</b>
Criteria	<b>C (iii) (iv)</b>

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (iii) and (iv)*:

**Criterion (iii):** Xochicalco is an exceptionally well preserved and complete example of a fortified settlement from the Epiclassic Period of Mesoamerica.

**Criterion (iv):** The architecture and art of Xochicalco represent the fusion of cultural elements from different parts of Mesoamerica, at a period when the breakdown of earlier political structures resulted in intensive cultural regrouping.

The Committee recommended that the State Party take note of the recommendation to upgrade visitor facilities, security and management planning.

Property	<b>Droogmakerij de Beemster (Beemster Polder)</b>
Id. N°	<b>899</b>
State Party	<b>Netherlands</b>
Criteria	<b>C (i) (ii) (iv)</b>

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (i), (ii), and (iv)*:

**Criterion (i):** The Beemster Polder is a masterpiece of creative planning, in which the ideals of antiquity and the Renaissance were applied to the design of a reclaimed landscape.

**Criterion (ii):** The innovative and intellectually imaginative landscape of the Beemster Polder had a profound and lasting impact on reclamation projects in Europe and beyond.

**Criterion (iv):** The creation of the Beemster Polder marks a major step forward in the interrelationship between humankind and water at a crucial period of social and economic expansion.

Referring to the particular character of the nominations of the Netherlands, the Observer of the Netherlands informed the Committee that very recently the parliament of the Netherlands had accepted a policy document on the integration of cultural heritage – archaeology, built heritage and cultural landscapes - in national, provincial and local planning policies. World Heritage preservation is explicitly incorporated in this document. The Netherlands would be pleased to share this kind of experience with other States Parties.

Property	<b>Sukur Cultural Landscape</b>
Id. N°	<b>938</b>
State Party	<b>Nigeria</b>
Criteria	<b>C (iii) (v) (vi)</b>

The Committee inscribed the property on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (iii), (v) and (vi)*:

**Criterion (iii):** Sukur is an exceptional landscape that graphically illustrates a form of land-use that marks a critical stage in human settlement and its relationship with its environment

**Criterion (v):** The cultural landscape of Sukur has survived unchanged for many centuries, and continues to do so at a period when this form of traditional human settlement is under threat in many parts of the world.

**Criterion (vi):** The cultural landscape of Sukur is eloquent testimony to a strong and continuing spiritual and cultural tradition that has endured for many centuries.

Several members of the Committee expressed their pleasure and emotion following the inscription of this cultural landscape on the World Heritage List as it reflects international recognition of African heritage and is of significant importance in achieving the goals of the Global Strategy.

The Chairperson, in the name of the Committee, congratulated Nigeria and expressed the wish that, in the near future, nominations for inscription from the biggest state in Africa that bear witness to its richness, its cultural diversity, and illustrate the specificity of African heritage would be submitted for inscription.

H.E. the Federal Minister for Culture and Tourism thanked the Committee and ICOMOS, the World Heritage Centre and transmitted to them a message from the highest authorities in his country. The text of his intervention is included as Annex VI to this report.

**Acceptance speech of OJO MADUEKWE Minister of Culture and Tourism  
On the occasion of the inscription of the Sukur cultural landscape on the World  
Heritage list: 23rd session of UNESCO World Heritage Committee  
(29th November - 4th December 1999 ) at Marrakesh Morocco.**

- Your Excellency the President of UNESCO  
World Heritage Committee  
- Ladies and gentlemen

Our delegation brings fraternal greetings from President OLUSEGUN OBASANJO and the Government and people of Nigeria. We are most delighted with the excellent arrangements which the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco has made for the conference. And may I use this opportunity to wish his Royal Majesty, King Mohammed VI, a long and prosperous reign.

I hasten to mention that with us from Nigeria is the ADAMAWA STATE Governor, His Excellency BONI HARUNA. ADAMAWA is one of the 36 states of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and home to Sukur Cultural Landscape, which has just been honoured by this committee as a World Heritage Site. I also wish to acknowledge the presence in our delegation of His Excellency, Ambassador Abdoul-Wahab Nigerian Ambassador to Morocco; Dr Gella Director-General National Museums, and Monuments of Nigeria; and Dr Eborieme Co-ordinator of UNESCO World Heritage project in Nigeria.

The historic inscription of the first World Heritage Site in Nigeria has implications for the cultural rediscovery of Nigeria by Nigerians and the rest of the world far beyond the most optimistic expectations of those friends who gave early support to the project. It is to all such friends that we dedicate this honour.

With over 120 Million people and 450 ethno-linguistic communities, and every fourth African a Nigerian, recognition of one site out of a possible 31 no less deserving sites might appear to be a drop in the ocean. But it was a drop that came quite timely at a critical point of intolerable thirst in the

midst of so much water. For us in Nigeria what is happening here in this ancient and fascinating city of Marrakech is a great beginning and worthy preface to the future. We cannot thank the UNESCO Heritage Committee enough for making this possible.

Coming on the heels of Nigeria's recent re-entry into all those international fora where its past contributions earned it respect before the years of isolation, the inscription of Sukur is a tonic for the democratic renewal and the national reconciliation that has been in place since the election of President OLUSEGUN OBASANJO. SUKUR has the distinction of being a cultural property admitted into the World Heritage list on the basis of the continuity of customary laws, community ethos, and spiritual values. It is symbolic of the enduring heritage of a very diverse wider African society. **It gives hints of the glue that binds together a complex polity whose leadership, even as at now, remains challenged by the intricacies of nation- building. SUKUR will therefore be for us an enduring metaphor for a re-invigorated Nigeria that is set to bless all humanity with an experience of its rich cultural heritage in the defining years of the next millenium.**

It is indeed on the wings of that pledge that I wish to draw your generous attention to the over 31 cultural heritage sites which have already been submitted to UNESCO World Heritage Committee as at 1999. Your expeditious consideration of the list will represent a long over-due acknowledgement of the significant contribution of Africa to the collective heritage of the world. For now, welcome to Nigeria, on your way to SUKUR, Africa's first cultural landscape.

