



The 28th session of the World Heritage Committee in Suzhou, China achieved important results, with 34 new properties being inscribed on the World Heritage List, bringing the total number to 788. Following this fruitful meeting, the World Heritage Centre can now look forward to organizing and participating in a series of significant events, which will bring the conservation and preservation of cultural and natural heritage to the fore of the international scene.

In September the United Nations Foundation and UNESCO are organizing the first major international event in support of the World Heritage sites in Danger in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. From 10 - 26 September the general public will be invited to a major exhibition, 'Congo - Nature and Culture in the DRC', conceived by the Royal Museum for Central Africa of Tervuren, Belgium and supported by the government of Belgium. This multi-themed exhibition will demonstrate the links between culture and nature in the DRC, highlighting the diversity of the country's natural resources, languages and symbolic rituals. There will also be a one-off Congolese Rumba fund-raising concert on 23 September, featuring major artists from the DRC. From 13-14 September a technical workshop will be held with natural heritage conservation experts to assess the lessons learned from conservation in regions of conflict. On 15 September a workshop with private sector representatives will explore ways and means for the private sector to support biodiversity conservation in the DRC. The highlight of the event will be an International Donors' Conference, 'Promoting and Preserving Congolese Heritage', from 16-17 September, under the patronage of President Joseph Kabila of the DRC and President Jacques Chirac of France, with the objective of launching a global partnership initiative for World Heritage conservation in the DRC.

Another major event on the WHC calendar is the Fourth International Experts' Meeting on the Main Inca Road, to be held in Chile (7-10 November) to prepare the nomination process of the Qhapaq Nan 'Camino Principal Andino' for inscription on the World Heritage List. One of the main themes of this meeting is the participation of the indigenous/local communities in the nomination process.

The WHC will also participate in the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress in Bangkok, Thailand (17-25 November), 'People and Nature – Only One World.' Discussions at this largest environmental gathering ever held in Asia will center on the issues dealing with safeguarding of ecosystems.

As decided by the World Heritage Committee at its 28th session, an extraordinary session will be held from 6 to 11 December at UNESCO Headquarters to deal with policy, administrative and financial issues as well as with the implementation of the World Heritage Strategic Objectives.

Finally, looking into next year, the WHC, the Austrian Government and ICOMOS are organizing an international conference, 'World Heritage and Contemporary Architecture: Managing the Historic Urban Landscape', to be hosted by the Municipal Government of Vienna from 12-14 May. This conference will look into the challenges of the conservation of historic urban environments, in order to reach a consensus among the different stakeholders on an international agreement on principles and guidelines for regulation and management.

Francesco Bandarin, Director, World Heritage Centre

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Our attachment to heritage – and thus the wish to reach a balanced representation on the World Heritage List – finds its roots in our deep attachment to the diversity of conceptions of the world that it reflects. It is increasingly obvious that the whole subject of heritage is closely bound up with the question of cultural diversity.

Michael Omolewa, President of the UNESCO General Conference and Permanent Delegate of Nigeria to UNESCO, at the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee, Suzhou, China.

The 28th Session of the Committee

The 28th session of the World Heritage Committee was held in Suzhou, China, under the chairmanship of Zhang Xinsheng, Vice Minister of Education of China and Chairperson of China's National Commission for UNESCO, from 28 June to 7 July 2004. Over 700 delegates from States Parties, Advisory Bodies and non-governmental organizations participated. 29 cultural sites and 5 natural sites were added to the World Heritage List, bringing the total number of sites inscribed to 788 (611 cultural, 154 natural, and 23 mixed). 157 reports on the state of conservation were examined. Three properties were added to the List of World Heritage in Danger and three were removed from it (see page 3). The Committee elected its Chairperson: Themba P. Wakashe of South Africa, Deputy Director-General for Heritage at the South Africa National Archives and Library Services; its Rapporteur: Ariel Gonzalez of Argentina, and its Vice-Chairpersons: Colombia, Lebanon, New Zealand, Nigeria and Portugal. The mandate of this Bureau will last until the end of the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee in July 2005.

During this eight-day session, in a warm and hospitable atmosphere created by the host country and by the city of Suzhou, the World Heritage Committee examined a considerable number of issues aimed at making its work, and the implementation of the World Heritage Convention more efficient.

Towards a balanced World Heritage List

One of its main concerns was to encourage the growth of under-represented categories of sites and improve geographical coverage. The Committee acknowledged that the so-called 'Cairns Decision' aimed to develop a more balanced World Heritage List had not been fully implemented.

On an experimental and transitory basis the Committee therefore decided to adopt a different mechanism that will be applicable at its the 30th session. At that time it will examine up to two complete nominations per State Party, provided that at least one of the nominations concerns a natural property. It has also set at 45 the limit on the number of nomina-



Scenes from the Suzhou Convention Centre during the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee

tions it will review at the 30th session, inclusive of nominations deferred and referred by previous sessions of the Committee, extensions, transboundary nominations and nominations submitted on an emergency basis.

The Committee called on the Secretariat to indicate to States Parties, within 30 days of reception of nomination proposals, whether their dossiers were complete. It also decided to develop a mechanism that would allow a State Party to correct what it considers to be factual errors in its inscription proposal.

The Committee also called on the WHC, in co-operation with States Parties, ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM, and other relevant partners to convene, no later than March 2005, a meeting of experts which is to make specific proposals to enable less-represented and non-represented States Parties to improve the quality of nominations and identify sufficient funding sources for the sustainable conservation of properties inscribed. The goal is to decrease, by the year 2007, by at least 30 % the number of less-represented and non-represented States Parties and to lower by 20 % the number of properties inscribed as of today on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The WHC is to report on the proposals and conclusions of this Experts Meeting at the 29th session of the Committee.

WHC – Work in Progress

The Committee also examined the work of the World Heritage Centre. It expressed its appreciation of the special activity in support of World Heritage in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It also expressed strong concern at the critical shortages of permanent staff at the WHC, particularly in the Latin America and Caribbean, the Europe and North America and the Policy and Statutory Implementation Units as well as staff dedicated to natural heritage. It urged that these shortages be addressed in the Programme and Budget of UNESCO for the biennium 2006-2007, at the latest.



The WHC was also requested to submit the thematic initiatives on 'Astronomy and World Heritage' and 'Marine Conservation' for consideration at the 29th session.

The WHC was requested to report on the on-line database at the 29th session, with the understanding that it would become operational as of 1 April 2005. This database is to include information on the implementation of the decisions adopted at all the Committee's sessions from the 26th onwards. The WHC was also requested to develop a similar database for the decisions adopted by the General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention and to report on its progress at the 29th session.

The Committee decided that the revised *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the Convention*, subject to approval by Vera Lacoecilhe, Chairperson of the 27th session, would be applied as of 1 November 2004.

Despite this longer-than-usual Committee session, there was not sufficient time to discuss all items on the Agenda. It was thus decided to hold a 7th extraordinary session at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris 6-11 December 2004.

The 29th session of the Committee will be held in Durban, South Africa in July 2005.

Mission to the Volcanoes of Kamchatka

A joint IUCN-UNESCO mission went to the Volcanoes of Kamchatka, Russian Federation (24-30 May) to assess the state of conservation of this World Heritage site and investigate a number of specific threats to the area's conservation. The mission was carried out by Peter Shadie from IUCN and Mechtild Rössler, Chief, WHC Europe and North America Unit.



A joint IUCN - UNESCO mission travelled to the Volcanoes of Kamchatka in the Russian Federation

The site, located in one of the remotest parts of the Russian Far East, on Kamchatka Peninsula, which divides the Sea of Okhotsk from the Pacific Ocean, is one of the world's last pristine wilderness areas and one of the most active volcanic regions on the planet. The area contains great species diversity, including the world's greatest known variety of salmonid fish and notable concentrations of sea otter, brown bear and Steller's sea eagle.

Following the mission's report to the World Heritage Committee in Suzhou, China, the State Party was commended for its efforts to increase staffing and resourcing for the site. However, staffing and resourcing should better match the level of support from international donors and the contribution from commercial tour operators.

The Committee also requested that the Russian authorities ensure that the development of the Kamchatka Peninsula is balanced and integrated with the conservation of its outstanding natural values. Particular attention should be given as well to the issues of poaching, mining, tourism development and access impacts on the World Heritage site.

Interview with Seema Paul of the United Nations Foundation



Ms Seema Paul, Senior Program Officer for Biodiversity at the United Nations Foundation

The United Nations Foundation has catalyzed public-private partnerships in support of India's natural heritage sites. Together with its partners - the American-Indian Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Suri Sehgal Foundation and others - the UN Foundation will provide US\$5 million for the first four-year phase of UNESCO's ten-year programme, which will be implemented by the Wildlife Institute of India and the Ashoka Trust for Research in Environment and Ecology and other partners. Four of India's five World Heritage Biodiversity sites (Kaziranga National Park, the Manas National Park, the Keoladeo National Park and Nanda Devi) are targeted. The Newsletter spoke to Seema Paul, Senior Program Officer, Biodiversity at the United Nations Foundation.

What are the goals of the World Heritage Biodiversity Programme for India?

The World Heritage philosophy, which singles out sites of outstanding universal value serves as a beacon for a larger network of protected areas. The first challenge is to put that philosophy into practice. We must improve the state of conservation of the World Heritage biodiversity sites, as well as improve management and capacity building of staff and the local communities. This will serve as an example and lift the standard for other protected areas as well.

Will this programme focus on biodiversity and sustainable development?

There is a strong focus on work with local communities. Two donors, the American-Indian Foundation and the Ford Foundation, are emphasizing community-based work. This includes improving the livelihood of the communities in and near the sites. Of course, their livelihood must be friendly to the parks. Alternatives to the depletion of natural resources must be given.

What challenges lie ahead?

Much needs to be done. Park authorities are overburdened. Local populations need to be more sensitized to the needs of conservation. Where they are sensitized, skills have not been provided. Therefore there is sometimes a sense of conflict. Once the implementation stage and the hiring of staff are completed, then the work of integrating park authorities, government departments and local communities will begin. The challenge is to get all actors to work in a coordinated way.

What role will ecotourism play in this programme?

The Indian government has put a very high priority on ecotourism. India has been lagging behind in access to training and equipment in the area of ecotourism. This programme will integrate science into management and give economic incentives for conservation.

List of World Heritage in Danger: Sites Inscribed, Sites Removed

At its 28th session the World Heritage Committee simultaneously inscribed Bam and its Cultural Landscape (Iran) on the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee also inscribed the Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (United Republic of Tanzania) and the Cologne Cathedral (Germany) on the Danger List. Three sites, Angkor (Cambodia), Bahla Fort (Oman) and Rwenzori Mountains National Park (Uganda) were removed from this List. There are now 35 properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Simultaneous Inscription on the World Heritage List and the Danger List

Bam and its Cultural Landscape (Iran)

Situated in the desert on the southern edge of the Iranian high plateau, Bam developed as a crossroads of trade in silk and cotton. Its origins can be traced to the Achaemenid period (6th-4th century BC) and it was in its heyday from the 7th to 11th centuries. This is the most representative example of a fortified medieval town built in vernacular technique using mud layers. An earthquake in December 2003 caused the death of 26,000 people and severely damaged the rich archaeological remains of Bam. As a result of the destruction, archaeologists have discovered new evidence of the history of the place. This includes remains of ancient settlements and irrigation systems, dating at least to the Parthian-Hellenistic period, 2nd century B.C. UNESCO is to continue efforts to salvage the cultural heritage of this property.



Bam and its Cultural Landscape

Inscription on the Danger List

Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (United Republic of Tanzania)

The ruins, situated on two small islands near the coast, date from the 13th to the 16th centuries and testify to the two ports' position as a hub of Indian Ocean trade in gold, silver, pearls, perfumes, Arabian crockery, Persian earthenware and Chinese porcelain. The property has been particularly affected by sea erosion, inadequate management, demographic pressure and lack of maintenance that is leading to the collapse of buildings. Portugal has offered to provide the United Republic of Tanzania with assistance in preserving the site.



Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara

Cologne Cathedral (Germany)

One of Europe's masterpieces of Gothic architecture, the Cologne Cathedral was built in several stages between 1248 and 1880. The Cologne Cathedral and its urban landscape are the city's only outstanding cultural heritage elements to have survived the Second World War. Several high-rise buildings have been constructed on the bank of the Rhine River opposite the Cathedral. While the authenticity of the cathedral itself is not endangered by the new constructions, the structures have a harmful impact on the visual integrity of this World Heritage property.

Removal from the Danger List

Angkor (Cambodia)

Angkor is one of the most important archaeological sites in South-East Asia. Stretching over some 400 sq. km, including forested area, Angkor Archaeological Park contains the magnificent remains of the different capitals of the Khmer Empire, from the 9th to the 15th century. These include the famous Temple of Angkor Wat and, at Angkor Thom, the Bayon Temple with its countless sculptural decorations. Illicit excavation, pillaging and landmines were the main threats that led to the inscription of the remarkable complex on the Danger List. The Committee noted that the preservation of the site from destruction is reasonably secure and that the restoration activities, coordinated by UNESCO since 1993, could be considered a 'success story'.

Bahla Fort (Oman)

The oasis of Bahla owed its prominence to the Banu Nebhan tribe which dominated the area from the 12th to the end of the 15th century. The ruins of the immense fort, with its walls and towers of unbaked brick and its stone foundations, are a remarkable example of this type of fortification and attest to the power of the Banu Nebhan. Bahla Fort was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1987, and put on the Danger List in 1988, mainly because of the collapse of some of its structures following heavy

rainfall. In the last decade, however, the rapid urbanization of the oasis added another element of concern. Improved conservation and the development of a management plan in consultation with the local stakeholders led the Committee to approve the site's removal from the Danger List.

Rwenzori Mountains National Park (Uganda)

The Rwenzori Mountains National Park covers the main part of the Rwenzori mountain chain in western Uganda. The region's glaciers, waterfalls and lakes make it one of Africa's most beautiful alpine areas. The park is the home to endangered species and to a rich and unusual flora including, among other species, the giant heather. The site was put on the Danger List due to insecurity and a lack of resources. The Committee was satisfied that the authorities had regained control over the Park, that security has been restored and that proper management has been re-established.



Rwenzori Mountains National Park

Update on Kathmandu Valley (Nepal)

At the crossroads of the great civilizations of Asia, seven groups of Hindu and Buddhist monuments, as well as the three residential and palace areas of the royal cities of Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur, illustrate Nepalese art at its height. Kathmandu Valley, on the World Heritage List since 1979, was included in the Danger List last year, due to uncontrolled urban development. Taking note of the conclusions of the Technical Workshop for the Conservation of Kathmandu Valley (3-7 May), the Committee decided to retain Kathmandu Valley on the Danger List and to delay discussion of the possibility of deleting it from the World Heritage List until its 29th session. A joint WHC/ICOMOS mission to the property will examine whether its outstanding universal value has been lost and assist the State Party in completing redefinition of the protective core and buffer zones of the seven monument groups.

New World Heritage Web Site

On 6 May the new, completely redesigned World Heritage web site was launched, using the most advanced database-driven technology. The web site is the official site of the Secretariat for the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the source of the most up-to-date information about the World Heritage List, the Convention, and its many partners around the world. It features information about sites, projects, meetings and activities, events, publications, news, partnership opportunities, as well as contacts for the many organizations involved in the protection of our common heritage.



The World Heritage Centre now has a dynamic engine which provides the public with more updated content. Each of the 788 sites on the World Heritage List has its own page and can be accessed geographically using a dynamic world map, by region, by category or by simply typing in its name.

The new sections include 'Activities' which presents information about programmes, projects, and actions for the promotion and protection of World Heritage sites. 'Partner With Us' provides opportunities for the public to form sustainable partnerships to mobilize resources in order to consolidate and expand existing levels of technical and administrative expertise, as well as financially assist the proper management of World Heritage. 'News and Events' presents an updated engine of information and announcements dealing with the protection of World Heritage sites.

The web site has been made possible with the kind support of the Flemish Funds-in-Trust, the Spanish Funds-in-Trust, the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust, France UNESCO, Hewlett Packard and Zoomify.

Please visit the World Heritage web site at: <http://whc.unesco.org>

Satellites and Conservation in Latin America

More than 50 experts in the conservation of World Heritage sites in Latin America, representing ten countries, gathered at a workshop at the facilities of the Argentinean Space Agency (CONAE) from 18 to 23 April (Falda del Carmen, Cordoba, Argentina). The workshop was organized jointly by UNESCO, the European Space Agency (ESA), CONAE and EURISY (a non-profit organization which promotes capacity building in the use of space technologies).

In the course of this workshop experts discussed the conservation problems World Heritage sites in Latin America have in common. They also examined how satellite images and associated space technologies can be used as support tools to strengthen conservation and to detect potential threats to sites. Several areas of co-operation in which CONAE and UNESCO will assist were also identified.

On the sidelines of the workshop experts from CONAE, ESA and UNESCO met with site managers and conservation organizations from Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil to discuss the Iguazu/Iguaçu National Park World Heritage site. The conservation expert group concluded that satellite images should be used to identify priority areas for the extension of a significant zone surrounding the current World Heritage site. CONAE and UNESCO are to help with this initiative.

CONAE, a major UNESCO partner, will continue to assist this part of the world in obtaining access to satellite images which can be used in day-to-day conservation activities.

Jebel Ouenat

The World Heritage Centre has launched a new initiative for the trans-boundary site of Jebel Ouenat, situated in Egypt, Libya and Sudan, aimed at mobilizing regional and international expertise and sensitizing the three countries concerned about the need to further document and protect this exceptional heritage.

With this in mind, a workshop was organized in Libya (27 March - 5 April), with the financial support of the Italian Government and the contribution of the Libyan authorities. Participants included Ali Khadouri, President of the Department of Archaeology (Libya), Hassan Hussein Edris, Director-General of the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums (Sudan), Atia Mohamed Radwan of the Supreme Council of Antiquities (Egypt) and Rudolph Kuper, vice-president of the Heinrich-Barth Foundation (Germany).

This workshop brought together experts from Libya, Egypt and Sudan, as well as from Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom who, during the sessions in Kufra and Tripoli, as well as during the field-trip to Jebel Ouenat, were able to observe the current status of the site, discuss its values as well as the management system to be established among the three countries for its protection and conservation.

The results of the debate have been put together in a technical report, structured on the format of a nomination file for the inscription of a property on the World Heritage List. The report summarizes the actions to be taken by the three countries in the near future, in order to jointly develop a protection mechanism for the property in view of a possible future joint nomination.

On 25 May an agreement between UNESCO and the **Nordic World Heritage Foundation** (NWHF) was signed, which formalizes the status of the Foundation as a Regional Centre under the auspices of UNESCO. It was created by the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment and collaborates closely with the Nordic countries to support the implementation of the Convention.

A **Stakeholders' Meeting for the Elaboration of a Management Plan for Galle, Sri Lanka** was organized by the WHC and the Sri Lanka Heritage Foundation in Galle (26-27 May), to enhance co-operation and discuss establishing an effective monitoring system on the site. The workshop carried out a needs-assessment for the elaboration of a comprehensive site management plan for the conservation and management of this World Heritage property.

Within the framework of the project for **'Information Management Capacity Building for World Heritage in the Arab States Region'**, financed by the Flemish Funds-in-Trust (Belgium), a training workshop for natural World Heritage sites was organized in Tunis, Tunisia (3-16 May), with the co-operation of the National Environmental Protection Agency of the Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture, the Environment and Hydraulic Resources. It was attended by natural site managers from Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Mauritania, Oman, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen.

Twenty university students from Mozambique, South Africa, Namibia, Zambia, Lesotho, Cameroon, Botswana, Malawi, Reunion Islands, Germany and Zimbabwe gathered at Khami World Heritage site for the fifth **International Restoration Youth Volunteer Camp** (3-26 June), Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Since 2000 UNESCO, the National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe and the French Embassy have helped with the rehabilitation of the Khami World Heritage site by organizing yearly youth volunteer camps with the collaboration of CHAM (Chantiers Histoire et Architecture Medievales), a French association.

The **UNESCO-UNI TECHNICAL TWIN Heritage Studies Chair**, the first dealing with World Heritage, was inaugurated (3 June) at the University of Cottbus (Germany). The Chair is the result of continuous co-operation between the WHC and the BTU Cottbus, since the inauguration of the World Heritage Studies Programme there in 1999.

A conference on **'Preservation and Transmission to Future Generations of Places Marking the Slave Trade: the Heritage of Humankind'**, organized by the WHC, was held in Dakar, Senegal (4 June), with the participation of site managers and directors attending an Africa Regional Programme Seminar. Professor Mbaye Gueye of the Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar, was the keynote speaker.

The Pacific island state of **Tonga** has become the 178th State Party to the Convention, having deposited its instrument of Acceptance with UNESCO on 30 April 2004. The Convention came into force for Tonga on 30 July.

What Are They Doing ?

■ **Francesco Bandarin**, WHC Director, was in La Paz, Bolivia (4-7 April) to attend the Third International Expert Meeting, organized with financial support from extra-budgetary funds (Spain and the Netherlands) to prepare the nomination process of the Qhapaq Ñan 'Camino Principal Andino'. Mr Bandarin, along with **Feng Jing**, Programme specialist, Asia and **Junko Okahashi**, Assistant Programme Specialist, Asia, attended the Technical Workshop for the Conservation of the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Property in Danger (3-7 May). ■ **Mechtild Rössler**, Chief, Europe and North America Unit, attended the Steering Committee meeting of the Globally-Important Ingenious Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) at FAO in Rome (7-9 June). ■ **Vesna Vujicic-Lugassy**, Chief, Promotion, Publication and Education Unit, attended the First World Heritage in Young Hands Skills Development Course for Eastern and Central Africa at Mount Kenya (19-23 April), organized in co-operation with the UNESCO Nairobi Office and the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO. Participants included teachers and students from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zambia and Zimbabwe. ■ **Lazare Eloundou**, Programme Specialist, Africa Unit, undertook a joint reactive monitoring mission to Benin (31 May-4 June), together with **Sébastien Diallo** (ICOMOS) to evaluate the state of conservation of the Royal Palaces of Abomey. Mr Eloundou also attended the 14th Africa 2009 Steering Committee meeting in Cape Town, South Africa (14-16 May). He also went to the Island of Gorée, Senegal, with **Alain Godonou**, ICOMOS (29 March-3 April), to help determine the state of conservation of the site. ■ **Fumiko Ohinata**, Associate Expert, Europe and North America Unit, participated in a workshop on Periodic Reporting for Eastern European World Heritage sites held in Moscow, Russian Federation (25-27 May). ■ **Nuria Sanz**, Programme Specialist, Latin America and Caribbean Unit, apart from attending the Qhapaq Ñan meeting in La Paz, went on a mission to Guatemala (24-30 May) to help process the nomination of The Cuenca Mirador. Ms Sanz also went to Campeche, Mexico (12-15 March) for the 'Meeting of Experts for the

Safeguard of American Fortifications', organized by the Spanish Fund in Trust and the World Monuments Fund. ■ **Salamat Ali Tabbasum**, Associate Expert, Asia Pacific Unit, was in Samoa, Tonga, Fiji and New Zealand (3 March-5 April) to inform the relevant national authorities and heritage experts from the Pacific Island countries about the launch of the World Heritage – Pacific 2009 Programme to be held in New Zealand (7-22 October). ■ **Kerstin Manz**, Consultant Europe and North America Unit, participated in the first Iberian Meeting on World Heritage Management, Lisbon, Portugal (14-15 May), organized at the initiative of the Portuguese National Commission for UNESCO and supported by the Spanish National Commission for UNESCO. ■ **Karalyn Schenk**, Editorial Assistant for the Promotion, Publication and Education Unit, was at Mount Emei, China (29-30 April) to present the Convention and its mechanisms at a Journalists Training Workshop, organized by the UNESCO Beijing Office and the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO. ■ **Marielle Richon** has joined the WHC Publications, Promotion and Education Unit as Focal Point for universities and World Heritage Education. For WH Education, she is in charge of youth events and publications to promote the integration of World Heritage values and teaching in the school programmes. ■ **Pierre Smars**, has joined the Latin America and Caribbean Unit and the Information Management Systems Working Group to work as a consultant on the Inca Road Project Extranet and World Heritage website features. ■ **Niki Tselenti-Papadopoulou** has joined the Europe unit as a secondment from Greece to work on the Mediterranean countries. Holder of a PhD in Byzantine Archaeology she has been working in the Archaeological Service of the Ministry for Culture of Greece since 1974. ■ After nine years at the World Heritage Centre, **Natarajan Ishwaran**, former Chief of the Natural Heritage Section, has been appointed to the post of Director, Division of Ecological Sciences, Natural Sciences Sector, as of 1 July.



Panel at the journalist workshop on World Heritage

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Tonga is the newest State Party to the World Heritage Convention

1 to 3 September

6th European Conference 'Sustaining Europe's Cultural Heritage: From Research to Policy'. London, United Kingdom.

Information: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sustainableheritage/ec-conference>

7 to 10 September

Geological Heritage and Education seminar. Dorset, United Kingdom.

Information: Tony.Weighell@jncc.gov.uk

9 to 26 September

Congo Heritage in Danger - first major international event in support of World Heritage sites in Danger in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Technical Workshops and International Donors' Conference, reserved for experts and donors, open to the press.

13-14 September: 'Ensuring the Protection of Sites in DRC: An Experts' Workshop'; 15 September: 'Partners for Heritage in DRC'; 16-17 September: International Conference 'Promoting and Conserving the Congolese Heritage.' UNESCO Headquarters, Paris. Information: drcongo@unesco.org

14 September

Within the framework of the Forum Barcelona 2004 the WHC will participate in the World Urban Forum II, organized by UN-Habitat, with a session: 'Cities as World Heritage'.

Information: k.manz@unesco.org; www.barcelona2004.org

27 to 30 September

Val de Loire World Heritage Summer University, Orleans University, 'Economy and Heritage: Current Events, Interactions, Prospects'. Orleans, France.

Information: perthuisot@mission-valdeloire.fr

7 to 22 October

The 'World Heritage - Pacific 2009' Programme launch.

Tongariro National Park, New Zealand. Information: s.tabbasum@unesco.org

11 to 16 October

Ninth International Seminar of Forum UNESCO - University and Heritage, 'Heritage Management: Centre and Periphery', University of Buenos Aires.

Buenos Aires, Argentina. Information: m.richon@unesco.org or forunesco@fadu.uba.ar

6 to 11 December

7th Extraordinary Session of the World Heritage Committee. UNESCO Headquarters, Paris. Information: n.dhumal@unesco.org

The World Heritage

newsletter

Publisher: UNESCO World Heritage Centre
7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France
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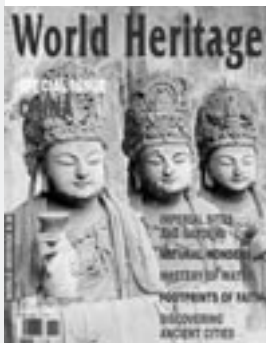
Assistant: Karalyn Schenk

English-French translation: Brigitte Guérin

Graphic Design: Nadia Gibson / Grace Hodeir

Printer: UNESCO
ISSN:1020-0614

This newsletter is available on request in two versions:
Print:
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Web Site:
<http://whc.unesco.org/news/index-en.htm>



The World Heritage Review No. 36, June 2004 is a special issue honoring the 29 World Heritage sites in China, on the occasion of the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee. Aside from articles devoted to the preservation of the Great Wall of China, the Peking Man site at Zhoukoudian and Mount Qingcheng and the Dujiangyan Irrigation System, features on other World Heritage sites in China are presented by themes, including: Imperial sites and gardens, Sacred mountains, Ancient Chinese cities and towns, China's natural World Heritage, Religious grottoes and China's heritage legislation. This special issue has been generously supported by the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO and La Maison de la Chine in Paris (<http://www.maisondelachine.fr>).

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New World Heritage Sites

Thirty-four new sites (five natural and twenty-nine cultural properties) were added to the World Heritage List at the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee, held in Suzhou, China (28 June – 7 July 2004). This brings to 788 the total number of cultural, natural and mixed sites now inscribed. Andorra, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iceland, Saint Lucia and Togo made their first appearance on the List, which now includes 611 cultural sites, 154 natural sites and 23 mixed sites in 134 countries around the world. The Committee also approved extensions to the following sites: Area de Conservación Guanacaste (Costa Rica); Gough and Inaccessible Islands (United Kingdom); St Kilda (United Kingdom); Great Living Chola Temples (India); Imperial Palaces of the Ming and Qing Dynasties in Beijing and Shenyang (China); and the Imperial Tombs of the Ming and Qing Dynasties (China).

Natural Properties

DENMARK Ilulissat Icefjord

N (i) (iii)



Located on the west coast of Greenland, 250 km north of the Arctic Circle, Ilulissat Icefjord (40,240 ha) is the sea mouth of Sermeq Kujalleq, one of the few glaciers through which the Greenland ice cap reaches the sea. Studied for over 250

years, it has helped to develop our understanding of climate change and icecap glaciology. The combination of a huge ice-sheet and the dramatic sounds of a fast-moving glacial ice-stream calving into a fjord covered by icebergs makes for a dramatic and awe-inspiring natural phenomenon.

INDONESIA Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra

N (ii) (iii) (iv)

The 2.5 million ha Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra site comprises three national parks: Gunung Leuser, Kerinci Seblat and Bukit Barisan Selatan. The site holds the greatest potential for long-term conservation of the distinctive and diverse biota of Sumatra, including many endangered species. The protected area is home to an estimated 10,000 plant species, including 17 endemic genera; more than 200 mammal species, including the endemic Sumatran orang-utan; and some 580 bird species.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION Natural System of 'Wrangel Island' Reserve

N (ii) (iv)

Located well above the Arctic Circle, the site includes the mountainous Wrangel Island (7,608 km²), Herald Island (11 km²) and surrounding waters. Wrangel was not glaciated during the Quaternary Ice Age, resulting in exceptionally high levels of biodiversity for this region. The island boasts the world's largest population of Pacific walrus and the highest density of ancestral polar bear dens. It is a major feeding ground for the grey whale and the northernmost nesting ground for 100 migratory bird species, many endangered.

SAINT LUCIA Pitons Management Area

N (i) (iii)

The 2,909-ha site near the town of Soufriere includes the Pitons, two volcanic spires rising side by side from the sea, linked by the Piton Miton ridge. The volcanic complex includes a geothermal field with sulphurous fumeroles and hot springs. Coral reefs cover almost 60% of the site's marine area. Hawksbill

turtles are seen inshore, whale sharks and pilot whales offshore. At least 148 plant species have been recorded on Gros Piton, 97 on Petit Piton and the intervening ridge. The Gros Piton is home to some 27 bird species (five of them endemic), three indigenous rodent, one opossum, three bat, eight reptile and three amphibian species.

SOUTH AFRICA Cape Floral Region Protected Areas

N (ii) (iv)

A serial site – in Cape Province, South Africa – made up of eight protected areas, covering 553,000 ha, the Cape Floral Region is one of the richest areas for plants in the world. It represents less than 0.5% of the area of Africa but is home to nearly 20% of the continent's flora. The site displays outstanding ecological and biological processes associated with the Fynbos vegetation, which is unique to the Cape Floral Region. The outstanding diversity, density and endemism of the flora are among the highest worldwide.

Cultural Properties

ANDORRA Madriu-Perafita-Claror Valley

C (iv) (v)

The cultural landscape of Madriu-Perafita-Claror Valley offers a microcosmic perspective of the way people have harvested the resources of the high Pyrenees over millennia. Its dramatic glacial landscapes of craggy cliffs and glaciers, with high open pastures and steep wooded valleys reflect past changes in climate, economic fortune and social systems, as well as the persistence of pastoralism and a strong mountain culture, notably the survival of a communal land-ownership system dating back to the 13th century.



Madriu-Perafita-Claror Valley

AUSTRALIA Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens

C (ii) (iv) (vi)

The Royal Exhibition Building and its surrounding Carlton Gardens were designed by Joseph Reed for the great international exhibitions of 1880 and 1888 in Melbourne. The building is constructed of brick and timber, steel and slate, and combines elements from the Byzantine, Romanesque, Lombardic and Italian Renaissance styles. The property is typical of the international exhibition movement which saw over 50 exhibitions staged around the world between 1851 and 1915.

CHINA Capital Cities and Tombs of the Ancient Koguryo Kingdom

C (i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (v)

The site includes archaeological remains of three cities (Wunu Mountain City, Guonei City and Wandu Mountain City) and 40 imperial and noble tombs. All belong to the Koguryo culture, named after the dynasty that ruled over parts of northern China and the northern half of the Korean Peninsula from 37 BC to AD 668.

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA Complex of Koguryo Tombs

C (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

The property includes several group and individual tombs – totaling about 30 tombs – from the later period of the Koguryo Kingdom, which are almost the only remains of this culture. Only about 90 Koguryo tombs, of more than 10,000 discovered in China and Korea so far, have wall paintings. Almost half of these tombs are located on this site and they are thought to have been made for the burial of kings, members of the royal family and the aristocracy.

GERMANY Dresden Elbe Valley

C (ii) (iii) (iv) (v)

The 18th- and 19th-century cultural landscape of Dresden Elbe Valley extends some 18 km along the river from Übigau Palace and Ostragehege fields in the north-west to the Pillnitz Palace and the Elbe River Island in the south-east. It features low meadows, 19th- and 20th-century suburban villas and gardens, and is crowned by the Pillnitz Palace and the centre of Dresden with its numerous monuments and parks from the 16th to 20th centuries. Some terraced slopes along the river are still used for viticulture and some old villages have retained their historic structure and elements from the industrial revolution.

GERMANY Town Hall and Roland on the Marketplace of Bremen

C (iii) (iv) (vi)

The Town Hall and the statue of Roland in the marketplace of Bremen in north-west Germany are outstanding representations of civic and trading rights as they developed in the Holy Roman Empire in Europe. The old town hall was built in the Gothic style in the early 15th century, after Bremen joined the Hanseatic League, and was renovated in the so-called Weser Renaissance style in the early 17th century. A new town hall was built next to the old one in the early 20th century as part of an ensemble that survived bombardment during the Second World War.

GERMANY and POLAND Muskauer Park/Park Muzakowski

C (i) (iv)

This landscaped park of 559.9 ha astride the Neisse River and the border between Poland and Germany, was created by Prince Hermann von Pückler-Muskau from 1815 to 1844. Blending seamlessly with the surrounding farmed landscape, the park pioneered new approaches to landscape design and influenced the development of landscape architecture in Europe and North America.

ICELAND Þingvellir National Park

C (iii) (vi)

Þingvellir (Thingvellir) is the National Park where the Althing, an open-air national assembly, was established in 930 and continued to meet until 1798. Over two weeks a year, the assembly set laws – seen as a covenant between free men – and settled disputes. The Althing has deep historical and symbolic associations for the people of Iceland. Located on an active volcanic site, the property includes the Thingvellir National Park and the remains of the Althing itself: fragments of around 50 booths built from turf and stone.

INDIA Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park

C (i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (v)

This site comprises a concentration of largely unexcavated archaeological, historic and living cultural heritage properties cradled in an impressive landscape which includes prehistoric (chalcolithic) sites, a hill fortress of an early Hindu capital, and remains of the 16th-century capital of the state of Gujarat. The site also includes, among other vestiges, fortifications, palaces, religious buildings, residential precincts and water installations, from the 8th to 14th centuries. The site is the only complete and unchanged Islamic pre-Mughal city.

INDIA Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus Station

C (ii) (iv)

The Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, formerly known as Victoria Terminus Station, in Mumbai, is an outstanding example of Victorian Gothic Revival architecture in India, blended with themes deriving from Indian traditional architecture. The building, designed by the British architect F. W. Stevens and built over ten years starting in 1878, became the symbol of Bombay as the 'Gothic City' and the major international mercantile port of India. Its remarkable stone dome, turrets, pointed arches and eccentric ground plan are close to traditional Indian palace architecture.



Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF) Bam and its Cultural Landscape

C (ii) (iii) (iv) (v)

Bam is situated in a desert environment on the southern edge of the Iranian high plateau. The origins of Bam can be traced back to the Achaemenid period (6th to 4th centuries BC). It was in its heyday from the 7th to 11th centuries, being at the crossroads of important trade routes and known for the production of silk and cotton garments. The existence of life in the oasis was based on the underground irrigation canals, the *qanāts*, of which Bam has preserved some of the earliest evidence in Iran. Arg-e Bam is the most representative example of a fortified medieval town built in vernacular technique using mud layers (*Chineh*).

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)
Pasargadae

C (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

This was the first dynastic capital of the Achaemenid Empire, the first great multicultural empire in Western Asia, founded by Cyrus II the Great, in Pars, homeland of the Persians, in the 6th century BC. Its palaces, gardens and the mausoleum of Cyrus are outstanding examples of the first phase of royal Achaemenid art and architecture and exceptional testimonies of Persian civilization. Spanning the Eastern Mediterranean and Egypt to the Hindus River, it is considered to be the first empire that respected the cultural diversity of its different peoples.

ITALY
Etruscan Necropolises of Cerveteri and Tarquinia

C (i) (iii) (iv)

These two large Etruscan cemeteries reflect different types of burial practices from the 9th to 1st centuries BC. Some of the tombs are monumental, cut in rock and topped by impressive tumuli (burial mounds). Many feature carvings on their walls, others have wall paintings of outstanding quality. The necropolis near Cerveteri, known as Banditaccia, contains thousands of tombs organized in a city-like plan, with streets, small squares and neighbourhoods. The necropolis of Tarquinia, also known as Monterozzi, contains 6,000 graves cut in the rock. It is famous for its 200 painted tombs, the earliest of which date from the 7th century BC.

ITALY
Landscape of Val d'Orcia

C (iv) (vi)

The Landscape of Val d'Orcia is part of the agricultural hinterland of Siena, redrawn and developed when it was colonized by the city-state in the 14th and 15th centuries. The landscape's distinctive aesthetics, flat chalk plains out of which rise almost conical hills with fortified settlements on top, inspired many artists. Their images have come to exemplify the beauty of well-managed Renaissance agricultural landscapes. The property reflects a planned colonized agrarian and pastoral landscape with innovative land-management systems; towns and villages; farmhouses; and the Roman Via Francigena and its associated abbeys, inns, shrines, bridges, etc.

JAPAN
Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range

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

Set in the dense forests of the Kii Mountains overlooking the Pacific Ocean, three sacred sites – Yoshino and Omine, Kumano Sanzan, Koyasan – linked by pilgrimage routes to the ancient capital cities of Nara and Kyoto, reflect the fusion of Shinto, rooted in the ancient tradition of nature worship in Japan, and Buddhism, which was introduced from China and the Korean Peninsula. The sites (495.3 ha) and their surrounding forest landscape reflect a persistent and extraordinarily well-documented tradition of sacred mountains over 1,200 years.

JORDAN
Um er-Rasas (Kastron Mefa'a)

C (ii) (iv)

This archaeological site contains remains from the Roman, Byzantine and Early Muslim periods (end of 3rd to 9th centuries AD) and a fortified Roman military camp.



Um er-Rasas (Kastron Mefa'a)

The site also has 16 churches, some with well-preserved mosaic floors. Two square towers are probably the only remains of the practice of the stylites (ascetic monks who spent time in isolation atop a column or tower). Um er-Rasas is surrounded by, and dotted with, remains of ancient agricultural cultivation in an arid area.

KAZAKHSTAN
Petroglyphs within the Archaeological Landscape of Tamgaly

C (i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (v)

Set around the lush Tamgaly Gorge, amidst the vast, arid Chu-Ili mountains, is a remarkable concentration of some 5,000 petroglyphs (rock carvings) dating from the second half of the second millennium BC to the beginning of the 20th century. A huge number of ancient tombs are also to be found including stone enclosures with boxes and cists (middle and late Bronze Age), and mounds (*kurgans*) of stone and earth (early Iron Age to the present). The central canyon contains the densest concentration of engravings and what are believed to be altars, suggesting that these places were used for sacrificial offerings.

LITHUANIA
Kernavė Archaeological Site (Cultural Reserve of Kernavė)

C (iii) (iv)

Situated in the valley of the River Neris, the site is a complex ensemble of archaeological properties, encompassing the town of Kernavė, forts, some unfortified settlements, burial sites and other archaeological monuments from the late Palaeolithic Period to the Middle Ages. The site has preserved the traces of ancient land-use, as well as remains of five impressive hill forts, part of an exceptionally large defence system. Kernavė was an important feudal town in the Middle Ages. The town was destroyed by the Teutonic Order in the late 14th century. However the site remained in use until modern times.

MALI
Tomb of Askia

C (ii) (iii) (iv)

The dramatic 17-m pyramidal structure of the Tomb of Askia was built by Muhammad I Askia, the Emperor of Songhai, in 1495 in his capital Gao. It bears testimony to the power and riches of the empire that flourished in the 15th and 16th centuries through its control of the trans-Saharan trade, notably in salt and gold. It is also a fine example of the monumental mud-building traditions of the West African Sahel. The complex, including the pyramidal tomb, two flat-roofed mosque buildings, the mosque cemetery and the open-air assembly ground, was built when Gao became the capital of the Songhai Empire.



Tomb of Askia

MEXICO
Luis Barragán House and Studio

C (i) (ii)

Built in 1948, the House and Studio of architect Luis Barragán in the suburbs of Mexico City represents an outstanding example of the architect's creative work in the post-Second World War period. The concrete building, consists of a ground floor and two upper storeys, as well as a small private garden. Barragán's work integrated modern and traditional artistic and vernacular currents and elements into a new synthesis,

which has been greatly influential, especially in the contemporary design of gardens, plazas and landscapes.

MONGOLIA
Orkhon Valley Cultural Landscape

C (ii) (iii) (iv)



Orkhon Valley Cultural Landscape

The 121,967-ha Orkhon Valley Cultural Landscape encompasses an extensive area of pastureland on both banks of the Orkhon River and includes numerous archaeological remains dating back to the 6th century. The site also includes Kharkhorum, the 13th- and 14th-century capital of Ching-gis (Genghis) Khan's vast Empire. Collectively the remains in the site reflect the symbiotic links between nomadic, pastoral societies and their administrative and religious centres, and the importance of the Orkhon valley in the history of central Asia. The grassland is still grazed by Mongolian nomadic pastoralists.

MOROCCO
Portuguese City of Mazagan (El Jadida)

C (ii) (iv)

The Portuguese fortification of Mazagan, now part of the city of El Jadida, 90 km south-west of Casablanca, was built as a fortified colony on the Atlantic coast in the early 16th century. It was taken over by the Moroccans in 1769. The fortification with its bastions and ramparts is an early example of Renaissance military design. The Portuguese City of Mazagan – one of the early settlements of the Portuguese explorers in West Africa on the route to India – is an outstanding example of the interchange of influences between European and Moroccan cultures, well reflected in architecture, technology and town planning.

NORWAY
Vegaøyan – the Vega Archipelago

C (v)

A cluster of dozens of islands centred on Vega, just south of the Arctic Circle, forms a cultural landscape of 103,710 ha, of which 6,930 ha is land. The islands bear testimony to a distinctive frugal way of life based on fishing and the harvesting of the down of eider ducks, in an inhospitable environment. There are fishing villages, quays, warehouses, eider houses (built for eider ducks to nest in), farming landscapes, lighthouses and beacons. There is evidence of human settlement from the Stone Age onwards. By the 9th century, the islands had become an important centre for the supply of down, which appears to have accounted for around a third of the islanders' income.

PORTUGAL
Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture

C (iii) (v)

The 987-ha site on the volcanic island of Pico, the second largest in the Azores archipelago, consists of a remarkable pattern of spaced-out, long linear walls running inland from, and parallel to, the rocky shore, built to protect the thousands of small, contiguous, rectangular plots (*currais*) from wind and seawater. Evidence of this viniculture, whose origins date back to the 15th century, is manifest in the extraordinary assembly of the fields, in houses and early 19th-century manor houses, in wine-cellars, churches and ports.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION
Ensemble of the Novodevichy Convent

C (i) (iv) (vi)

The Novodevichy Convent, in south-western Moscow, built in the 16th and 17th centuries in the so-called Moscow Baroque style, was part of a chain of monastic ensembles that were integrated into the defence system of the city. The convent was directly associated with the political, cultural and religious history of Russia, and closely linked to the Moscow Kremlin. It was used by women of the Tsar's family and the aristocracy. The convent provides an example of the highest accomplishments of Russian architecture with rich interiors and an important collection of paintings and artefacts.

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO
Dečani Monastery

C (ii) (iv)

The Dečani Monastery – at the foot of the Prokletije mountains, in the western part of the province of Kosovo – was built in the mid-14th century for the Serbian King Stefan Dečanski. It is also his mausoleum. It represents the last important phase of Byzantine-Romanesque architecture in the region and is the largest of all medieval Balkan churches. It contains exceptional, well-preserved Byzantine paintings, which cover practically the entire interior of the church with over 1,000 individual depictions of saints. It also has numerous Romanesque sculptures. The Dečani treasury is the richest in Serbia, with notably about 60 exceptional icons from the 14th to 17th centuries.



Dečani Monastery

SWEDEN
Varberg Radio Station

C (ii) (iv)

The Varberg Radio Station at Grimeton in southern Sweden (built 1922–24) is an exceptionally well-preserved monument to early wireless transatlantic communication. It consists of the transmitter equipment, including the aerial system of six 127 m-high steel towers. Although no longer in regular use, the equipment has been maintained in operating condition. The architect Carl Åkerblad designed the main buildings in the neoclassical style and the structural engineer Henrik Kreüger was responsible for the antenna towers, the tallest built structures in Sweden at that time.

TOGO
Koutammakou, the Land of the Batammariba

C (v) (vi)

The Koutammakou landscape in north-eastern Togo, which extends into neighbouring Benin, is home to the Batammariba whose remarkable mud tower-houses (*Takienta*) have come to be seen as a symbol of Togo. Many of the buildings are two storeys high and those with granaries feature an almost spherical form above a cylindrical base. Some of the buildings have flat roofs, others have conical thatched roofs. They are grouped in villages, which also include ceremonial spaces, springs, rocks and sites reserved for initiation ceremonies.

UNITED KINGDOM
Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City

C (ii) (iii) (iv)

Six areas in the historic centre and docklands of the maritime mercantile City of Liverpool bear witness to the development of one of the world's major trading centres in the 18th and 19th centuries. Liverpool played an important role in the growth of the British Empire and became the major port for the mass movement of slaves and emigrants from northern Europe to the Americas. Liverpool was a pioneer in the development of modern dock technology, transport systems and port management.