



The 32nd General Conference of UNESCO made some important advancements for the conservation of heritage worldwide. Two resolutions attest to the growing reach of heritage conservation issues. In one, the international community broadened the conservation efforts to include Intangible Heritage. In the other, Member States moved closer to the goal of protecting heritage in times of peace and war.

The *International Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage* adopted at the General Conference, is a new tool that joins the group of UNESCO conventions for the preservation of cultural heritage. This new Convention is an important international instrument, since it addresses the preservation of particularly vulnerable heritage, such as oral traditions and expressions, including languages as vehicles of cultural heritage; the performing arts; social practices, rituals and festive events; knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe; and traditional craftsmanship. What is of particular significance is the stress the Convention places on the vital role that communities and groups that bring life to this Intangible Heritage have to play in its preservation.

National inventories of cultural property to be safeguarded now need to be drawn up, and an Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage is to be established. Two lists will also be created: a Representative List of the Intangible Heritage of Humanity and a List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding. At UNESCO, we are looking forward to working to preserve Intangible Heritage once the Convention comes into force, with the signature of thirty States Parties.

The General Conference also adopted a *Declaration Concerning the Intentional Destruction of Cultural Heritage*. The document recalls the tragic destruction of the giant Buddha statues of Bamiyan and expresses serious concern about the growing number of acts of intentional destruction of cultural heritage. Although the document is not legally binding, it has gone a long way to bringing this issue to the world's attention. It asks all States to take appropriate measures to prevent, avoid, stop and suppress acts of intentional destruction of heritage, wherever such heritage may be located.

We are certain that the new *International Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage* and the *Declaration Concerning the Intentional Destruction of Cultural Heritage* will greatly support the efforts of UNESCO in providing assistance to Member States in preserving their heritage.

Francesco Bandarin, Director, World Heritage Centre

As it denotes sharing and convergence, heritage has one primary constituent value - diversity. ... Diversity of expression, but also of influence and of affiliations, so that it simultaneously symbolizes the cultural identity of peoples and communities, expresses the collective memory of humanity and is indicative of its future.

Koichiro Matsuura, UNESCO Director-General, on the occasion of the presentation of the follow-up to the UN Year for Cultural Heritage to the UN General Assembly at its 58th session.

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Highlights from the 14th General Assembly

The 14th General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, chaired by H.E. Mr Ahmad Jalali (Islamic Republic of Iran), was held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 14-15 October during the 32nd session of the UNESCO General Conference. Representatives of 163 States Parties attended, as well as representatives of the Advisory Bodies of the World Heritage Committee (ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM).

Ambassador Ahmad Jalali, who was elected Chairperson of the General Assembly, emphasized the innovation and imagination of a Convention that is more than thirty years old. 'Here we have together,' he said at the opening, 'in one package a reflection and reconciliation between nature and culture, state sovereignty and the obligations of our international community to protect the collective common heritage of humanity.'

Representativity of the World Heritage List and the Strategic Objectives of the World Heritage Convention were at the core of this General Assembly's debate. Director-General Koichiro Matsuura, in opening the meeting, noted that the World Heritage Convention is the most successful of UNESCO's conventions and a flagship programme. He said that since the 13th General Assembly in 2001, significant progress had been made with 64 new World Heritage properties added to the World Heritage List. However, he remarked that 48 States Parties still do not have properties on the List.

Mr Matsuura called the participants' attention to three significant issues for conservation. It is essential, he said, that ICOMOS and IUCN determine existing gaps in the World Heritage List. The lack of representativity of the List, according to Mr Matsuura, should be addressed by identifying

States Parties' needs, particularly for capacity-building. Thirdly Mr Matsuura pointed out that additional resources should be sought for protection through partnerships once the recurrent cost of conservation of existing World Heritage properties is determined.

The Assembly, in addressing these issues, adopted a Resolution which welcomed the adoption by the 26th session of the World Heritage Committee of new Strategic Objectives that include the strengthening of the Credibility of the World Heritage List and the development of effective Capacity-building measures. A progress report on the implementation of the Global Strategy for a credible, representative and balanced World Heritage List was presented and discussed. The Assembly also recommended that additional financial resources be allocated to the World Heritage Centre for programmes to strengthen capacity in the States Parties and regions under-represented on the List.

At the meeting Zhang Xinsheng (China), Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, presented a comprehensive report of the activities of the World Heritage Committee since October 2001. 'As ... Chairperson, I would like to give greater encouragement to States Parties to identify and protect World Heritage and to recognize and enhance cultural diversity around the world. This would help,' Mr Zhang said in conclusion, 'to ensure that the world's cultures, traditions and environments are cherished and protected.'

Eight States Parties were elected as new members of the World Heritage Committee. They are Kuwait, Japan, Lithuania, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Benin and Chile. Belgium, whose mandate was to expire at the end of the 33rd session of the General Conference in 2005, voluntarily gave up its seat on the Committee after only four years in the interest of rotation. The other 13 members of



The opening session of the 14th General Assembly

the Committee are Argentina, China, Colombia, Egypt, India, Lebanon, Nigeria, Oman, Portugal, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

Camino Principal Andino

The first Expert Meeting to prepare the nomination process for inscription on the World Heritage List of the Qhapaq Ñan 'Camino Principal Andino' (Main Andean Road) was held in Cuzco, Peru (24-25 October), with the support of extrabudgetary funds from Spain and the Netherlands. National representatives from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, including the Minister of Education of Peru, Carlos Malpica, participated, as well as a team from the World Heritage Centre.

At the two-day meeting participants outlined their priorities and concerns relating to the nomination process of the Qhapaq Ñan – Camino Inca, the denomination of the extensive communication network of roads that in pre-Hispanic times connected the territories under Inca rule of present-day Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile and Argentina. The system included the roads themselves and associated architectural and engineering structures. It also connected human settlements, administrative centres, agricultural and mining areas and religious and sacred places.

Representatives at the meeting agreed on a number of issues, including the role of the World Heritage Centre in coordinating the nomination process. The delegations also set up a committee to monitor and implement future action. This committee, with a rotating presidency, will have one representative from each country involved in the Camino Inca nomination. Bolivia will hold the first presidency, and expressed the desire to host the second meeting, scheduled for April 2004.

In an important step, the delegates agreed to establish a protocol, to be ratified by all six countries, to adopt a common definition of the Qhapaq Ñan, as a guide for the development of the process.

It was also agreed to give priority to transnational nominations and to joint binational efforts within the process.

The majority of representatives agreed that the nomination of the Qhapaq Ñan should come under the Cultural Road category, awaiting the re-definition of this category, given that the road goes across different Andean cultural landscapes.

The Secretariat is to co-ordinate actions with the European Space Agency, CONAE, and the Permanent Delegation of Argentina to organize a meeting in Cordoba, Argentina in March 2004. The objective of this meeting will be to train national experts in using radar and satellite information.

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Peruvian women in a craft market along the Qhapaq Ñan

Interview with the Chairperson

The *Newsletter* spoke to the new Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, Zhang Xinsheng (China) and asked him what he felt were the main challenges facing the Committee during his mandate and what areas he would particularly like to tackle.



Mr Zhang Xinsheng

The main challenges facing the Committee this year consist primarily of the issue of the representativity of the World Heritage List (or the lack thereof) and the related Cairns Decision. The List has grown quite rapidly over recent years and now includes 754 properties. However, we are concerned that some regions and types of outstanding heritage are still not included on the List. The Cairns Decision, as you know, limits the number of new nominations the Committee will examine each year. It was partly proposed as a way to manage the workload of our World Heritage system. However, some States Parties have expressed serious concerns about the limiting effect it may have on the List's healthy development.

The Committee will review both issues at its 28th session in Suzhou, China in 2004. Our biggest challenge will be to find ways to encourage new and complete nominations from under-represented regions, countries and categories of heritage, to mobilize necessary additional technical and financial resources for this purpose and at the same time to manage the workload of our system.

Do you feel that the question of under-represented regions and categories is being adequately dealt with?

The World Heritage List is a prestigious catalogue of the most outstanding cultural and natural places in the world. It is important that we, the World Heritage Committee, and all the States Parties and the experts working to prepare and evaluate World Heritage nominations do everything we can to maintain the value of World Heritage. It is vital that we do not lose the standard and threshold of value required for the inclusion of sites on the List.

At the same time, the World Heritage Convention is a tool for international co-operation. It is an instrument of encour-

agement and we should do everything we can to encourage (and, in some instances, assist) countries around the world to nominate their outstanding heritage to the List.

And it is not just about under-represented regions and categories. The Convention encourages all States Parties to identify, protect and present to future generations our World Heritage. There are 48 States Parties to the Convention that still do not have sites on the List - some of course are very recent signatories. We will obviously need to strengthen awareness about World Heritage and heritage conservation, build the capacity to nominate and effectively manage World Heritage sites and find the necessary resources to assist in the management of World Heritage in these countries.

You have talked in the past about China's progress in conservation and preservation. What has China learnt that can be handed on to others?

China is proud to have 29 properties on the World Heritage List. For China, World Heritage is attractive because, just like our centuries-old civilization, it brings together the concepts of culture and nature. You can see this demonstrated at many of our World Heritage sites, at Mount Taishan and Mount Huangshan for example.

China has used its ratification of the World Heritage Convention as a catalyst for conservation and preservation at a broader level. Most particularly it has led to the preparation and enforcement of national, provincial and local legislation for heritage protection. It has also led to the well-known 'China Principles', which reflect Chinese traditions and approaches to conservation under existing laws for the protection of cultural heritage and may serve as a model for other countries.

In addition, we have learnt that World Heritage can be used as a tremendous mobilizing force to foster research, education and training. In future years, we would like to focus our efforts on capacity-building and institutional development and hope to share our experience with other countries in the region and around the world.

Promoting and Preserving Congolese Heritage: Linking Biological and Cultural Diversity

The UNESCO Science Sector and the World Heritage Centre are to hold the first international event in support of the cultural and natural heritage of the Democratic Republic of the Congo at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 6-26 September 2004.

This three-week event will aim to build awareness of the cultural and biological diversity of the region and catalyse financial and technical support in view of preserving the heritage of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Thanks to the generous support of the Government of Belgium, an international exhibition, to be designed and produced by the Royal Museum for Central Africa (Belgium), the world's leading museum and research institute on Congolese heritage, will open the event on 6 September 2004.

This will be followed by an international donor's conference for the five natural World Heritage sites in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Conference, scheduled to open on 15 September 2004, will be organized by UNESCO, the United Nations Foundation (UNF) and many other partners to evaluate a four-year project in support of these sites, currently all inscribed on UNESCO's List of World Heritage in Danger, and mobilize additional resources to continue the project in 2005.

Technical workshops and thematic debates will also be organized to address some of the key issues relating to heritage preservation such as:

- The use of space technologies to monitor the state of conservation of heritage;
- Conservation practice in conflict zones;
- Transboundary management of World Heritage sites;
- The role of museums in promoting heritage conservation.

Other cultural events to promote the contemporary Democratic Republic of the Congo are also foreseen.

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Archaeo-Astronomical Sites and Observatories

Pyramids of the Sun and the Moon
at Teotihuacan (Mexico)

Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru)



© C. Mallouris

This new programme is in line with the main objective of the Global Strategy adopted in 1994 by the World Heritage Committee to establish a representative and balanced World Heritage List which reflects the diversity of cultural and natural sites of outstanding universal value.

On 17 November, the elaboration of the new World Heritage Thematic Programme 'Archaeo-Astronomical Sites and Observatories', was officially announced by Anna Sidorenko, WHC Assistant Programme Specialist, who is responsible for this Programme, in the presence of Magda Stavinschi, Director of the Astronomical Institute of the Romanian Academy, and Regina Durighello of ICOMOS. Dr Christoforos Mallouris, astrophysicist, WHC consultant, presented an analysis of the archaeo-astronomical sites inscribed on the World Heritage List and tentative lists, carried out with support of the Government of the Netherlands.

'Archaeo-Astronomical Sites and Observatories' is the first programme at UNESCO to link the study of astronomy with cultural sites and monuments around the world which have been devoted to the explanation of the universe and humankind's relationship to the sky. Some examples of archaeo-astronomical sites on the World Heritage List are: the Temple of the Sun in Teotihuacan (Mexico), the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru), Stonehenge (United Kingdom) and the Ulugh-Beg Observatory at Samarkand (Uzbekistan).

An initial expert mission to Africa, where archaeo-astronomical sites are not well-known, is in preparation. A meeting of international experts is to be organized from 17-19 March 2004 in Venice, Italy, with the support of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in Europe. The main goal of the meeting will be to define the strategy of the thematic programme and a methodology which will aid States Parties in choosing archaeo-astronomical sites and observatories.

The 21 States Parties World Heritage Committee members have been notified on the progress of this programme, which will be presented during the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee in Beijing, China.

The World Heritage Centre welcomes support from partners in elaborating comparative thematic studies and developing regional pilot projects in under-represented areas.

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World Heritage in Danger

Butrint, Albania
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Butrint (Albania)

Butrint occupies a small peninsula between the Straits of Corfu and Lake Butrint. Inhabited since pre-historic times, Butrint has been the site of a Greek colony, a Roman city and a bishopric. Following a period of prosperity under Byzantine administration, then a brief occupation by the Venetians, the city was abandoned in the late Middle Ages after marshes formed in the area. The present archaeological site is a repository of the ruins representing each period in the city's development.

Butrint was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1997, with the full support of the Minister of Culture of Albania who voiced his government's concern and commitment to the preservation of the site. Civil disturbances in Albania that year did not cause any irreversible damage to the archaeological site itself, but the showcases of the museum were opened and looted. Since then, the World Heritage Committee has closely followed the developments affecting the site and has expressed its concern about its situation in terms of legal protection, management arrangements, planning and state of conservation. During its last session in June/July 2003, the Committee requested the State Party to submit a report to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2004 that would take all these issues into account.

As was also requested by the Committee, a joint UNESCO-ICOMOS mission went to Butrint in October to assess the implementation of actions earlier proposed by UNESCO and ICOMOS and to formulate a recommendation as to whether the site can be withdrawn from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The mission met with national and local stakeholders, as well as international private foundations involved in the site and site management. Together with the report to be submitted by the State Party, the World Heritage Committee will examine in 2004 the outcomes and recommendations of this mission, and decide whether to remove Butrint from the List in Danger.

Lake Baikal World Heritage Site

In accordance with the request of the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session and at the invitation of the authorities of the Russian Federation, a high-level meeting was held at the Ministry of Natural Resources in Moscow on 11 November, with participants from UNESCO/WHC, IUCN and the Ministry – including K.V. Jankov, Vice-Minister of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation, A. Steiner, IUCN Director General, F. Bandarin, WHC Director, and M. Rössler, Chief WHC Europe and North America Unit.

The goal of this meeting was to jointly discuss issues related to the conservation of the Lake Baikal World Heritage site and the debate over its possible inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources stressed the relevance of co-operation with the World Heritage Centre and the IUCN and the importance of its further development.

The Ministry presented comprehensive information on issues related to the current state of conservation of the site, as well as the measures undertaken by the Russian authorities to address these issues. The Russian delegation confirmed its preparedness to present a detailed report on the state of conservation of the site by February 2004, in line with the requests of the 26th and 27th session of the World Heritage Committee.

The Russian Ministry of Natural Resources also proposed the consideration of a joint pilot project with the participation of UNESCO and IUCN, aimed at addressing issues of concern to the conservation of the site. The representatives of UNESCO and IUCN supported the proposal.



Lake Baikal (Russian Federation)

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In November the UNESCO Amman Office produced the second edition of the **'World Heritage in Young Hands Educational Kit.'** This regionally adapted version, made possible with the support of the government of the Netherlands, will be distributed to teachers of secondary schools in and around World Heritage sites in eight countries of the Arab region. The Arabic Kit will now allow teacher training to commence in the region. The Educational Kit, first published in 1998, has already been translated into twenty languages.

A **Capacity-Building Training Workshop for Afghan national and local authorities** in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention was organized in Kabul between 12-24 October 2003 by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Kabul and Tehran Offices, and the Afghan Ministry of Information and Culture. Twenty-five Afghan experts participated, as well as ICCROM, ICOMOS, and IUCN.

A **World Heritage Boreal Zone Workshop** was held from 9-13 October in St Petersburg, Russian Federation to identify priority areas in the boreal zone, with emphasis on boreal forests that could be nominated as World Heritage. The 33 participants were from the Russian Federation, Finland, Norway and Canada as well as from several NGOs. The workshop was hosted and organized by IUCN Russia, in co-operation with IUCN Canada, and with support from the World Heritage Fund and the Government of Finland.

On 15 October UNESCO and the United Kingdom signed a **Memorandum of Understanding**, which will enable developing countries to benefit from UK heritage and conservation expertise. The UK will provide aid in the identification of potential World Heritage sites and in the preparation of management plans and conservation strategies. In its first year the plan will concentrate mainly on under-represented regions.

Lesotho joins the World Heritage Convention. On 25 November 2003, the Kingdom of Lesotho deposited its instrument of Acceptance to the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, thus becoming the 177th State Party to the Convention. The Convention will come into force for Lesotho three months from that date, 25 February 2004.

What Are They Doing ?

WHC Director, **Francesco Bandarin** was in Peru (18-26 October) with **Nuria Sanz**, Programme Specialist, Latin America and Caribbean Unit, to meet the authorities in charge of Peruvian World Heritage properties. He also chaired the first Expert Meeting in the process of the nomination of the Qhapac Nan. **Natarajan Ishwaran**, Chief Natural Heritage Section and **Art Pedersen**, Consultant on Tourism and Visitor Management, attended the 2003 Ecotourism Australia 11th National Conference (10-14 November). A World Heritage workshop was held and a Memorandum of Co-operation was signed with Ecotourism Australia in which members will donate tourism services, with the proceeds going to World Heritage conservation projects. **Sarah Titcher**, Chief Policy and Statutory Implementation Unit, attended the 9th Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal, Canada (10-14 November). **Mechtild Rössler**, Chief Europe and North America, participated in a colloquium at the University of Limoges, France (29-30 October), 'Historical Monuments: What is at Stake?', on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of France's law on the protection of historical monuments. **Herman van Hooff**, Adviser for World Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean, participated in a course-workshop in Sao Miguel, Brazil, on the conservation, management and sustainable development of the Jesuit Missions of the Guarani (3-8 November). **Joanna Sullivan** and **Karina Lennon**, of the Partnerships for Conservation Unit, were in Washington, D.C. and New York, USA (28 October-4 November) to discuss partnership development opportunities with a number of institutions including the United Nations Foundation, the World Wildlife Fund, the World Monuments Fund, RARE, the American Museum of Natural History, the Explorer's Club, the National Geographic Society, Scholastic Inc. and A&E Television Network. **Peter Stott**, Consultant for Nominations and Documentation, toured Belarus (25-31 October) with Polish expert **Tadeusz Bernatowicz** and members of the Department for the Protection of Historical and Cultural Heritage of Belarus to assist in the development of a national Tentative List. **Fernando Brugman** and **Fumiko Ohinata**, Associate Experts, Europe and North America Unit, were in Moscow, Russian Federation (22-28 September) to participate in a training workshop on a Periodic Reporting exercise for cultural World Heritage sites from the Russian Federation and the

eastern European CIS countries. Mr Brugman also carried out a mission, together with ICOMOS expert **Carla Maurano** to the World Heritage site in Danger of Butrint, Albania (26-31 October). He participated in a round table in Kotor, Serbia and Montenegro (1-7 November) to develop a management plan for this site. Ms Ohinata further attended a workshop on Rock Art and Tourism, in Windhoek, Namibia (18-26 October). Ms Ohinata and **Bernd von Droste**, Advisor to ADG/CLT, went to a round table in Vilnius, Lithuania and the Russian Federation (2-6 November) on the transboundary site of the Curonian Spit. At the 30th International Symposium of Remote Sensing and Environment in Honolulu, USA (10-14 November), **Mario Hernandez**, Chief of the Remote Sensing Unit, presented the World Heritage Centre's new activity implemented in partnership with Space Agencies and Governments. **Marielle Richon**, WHC Focal Point for Universities, attended the international symposium: 'Stepping Toward the Future, Protection of World Heritage and University Education' in Tokyo, Japan (27-29 October), organized by the University of Tsukuba. **Guy Debonnet**, Programme Specialist Natural Heritage, attended a SYGIAP (Système de Gestion d'Information pour les Aires Protégées) workshop in Kinshasa, Congo (28 September-6 October) organized by the Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature (ICCN), the Universities of Gent and Louvain La Neuve and the WHC. **Kerstin Manz**, Consultant Europe and North America Unit, spoke at a meeting on World Heritage and Young People in Lorsch, Germany (30-31 October) organized by the Association of German World Heritage Sites. **Lodovico Folini Calabi** has joined the WHC as Associate Expert from Italy. He will be working on legal and policy issues. The World Heritage Centre has recently established a working group on the Information Management System. The participants include: **Alonzo C. Addison**, Advisor to the Director; **Mario Santana Quintero**, Co-ordinator; **Scot Refsland**, Consultant; **Maria Lepeigne-Cobo**, web design and content; **Eric Esquivel**, web design and dynamics; **Ben Geebelen**, web dynamics.



On tour in Polatsk, Belarus: left to right: I. Charniauskis, Deputy Director of the Department for the Protection of Historical & Cultural Heritage; O. Zhdanovich, Deputy Mayor of Polatsk; P. Stott, WHC; T. Bernatowicz, ICOMOS Expert from Poland; V. Pliutau, Press Office of the President of the Republic



New Arabic language edition of the Educational Kit 'World Heritage in Young Hands'

11 to 16 January
Stakeholders' Workshop on the Elaboration of a Site Management Plan. Hampi, India.
Information: f.jing@unesco.org

24 to 29 January
International Workshop to Elaborate a Long-Term Archaeological Research Strategy for the Site of Paharpur. Paharpur, Bangladesh.
Information: h.kinami@unesco.org

26 to 30 January
Plain of Jars World Heritage Nomination Review Workshop. Vientiane, Lao PDR.
Information: f.jing@unesco.org

9 to 20 February
7th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Putra World Trade Centre. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Information: http://www.biodiv.org/secretariat@biodiv.org

15 to 25 February
Sub-Regional Workshop on the Joint Nomination for the Site of Jebel Ouenat. Tripoli and Jebel Ouenat (transboundary site between Egypt, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Sudan).
Information: m.ugo@unesco.org

17 February to 4 March
Workshop on Recording, Documentation and Information Systems, Development of World Heritage information management. Cairo, Egypt.
Information: http://whc.unesco.org/arabworkshop/m.santana@unesco.org

18 to 21 February
Workshop on Mundo Maya. Tikal, Guatemala.
Information: n.sanz@unesco.org

28 February to 3 March
Expert Meeting on Intervention in American Fortifications (Caribbean and Pacific). Campeche, Mexico.
Information: n.sanz@unesco.org

29 February to 4 March
Meeting of the Second International Working Group on the Safeguarding of Huê. Huê, Viet Nam.
Information: f.jing@unesco.org

The World Heritage newsletter

Publisher: UNESCO World Heritage Centre
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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. 33, October 2003. The leader article in this issue focuses on the Life of the Buddha through the World Heritage sites of Lumbini in Nepal, Mahabodhi in India, and Anuradhapura and Kandy in Sri Lanka. Other articles feature Belize Barrier Reef, the second-largest reef in the world; Mesa Verde (USA), where the Pueblo Indians lived in cliff dwellings in the 6th and 12th centuries AD; and the spectacular cultural landscape of Cinque Terre, built on the steep and uneven Ligurian coastline. The 24 New World Heritage sites added to the List in 2003 are also highlighted.

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