



editorial

Four years ago, in April 2000, the United Kingdom hosted a workshop in Canterbury to begin redrafting the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*. The aim was to improve the logical sequence of the different parts of the document, and to transform the *Guidelines* into a more user-friendly document for all those who work with the conservation of World Heritage properties.

Today I am pleased to inform you that the revised *Guidelines* have now been submitted to the Chairperson of the 27th session of the World Heritage Committee for approval. The revised *Guidelines* will, I hope, promote a greater understanding and application of the World Heritage Convention. They should form the basis for high standards in the identification, nomination and effective protection and monitoring of World Heritage properties throughout the world.

During the process of revising the *Guidelines*, a legal and policy review of the procedures for the inclusion of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger and the possible deletion of properties from the World Heritage List was undertaken. This culminated in the 6th Extraordinary Committee in March 2003 deciding to maintain existing provisions for in-Danger listing and deletion whilst adding a new emphasis on consultation with States Parties.

Over recent years, the revision of the *Guidelines* involved a number of lengthy formal written consultations with States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, several drafting group meetings and close collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN. I wish to thank all of those involved in this intensive period of discussion and drafting.

With new *Operational Guidelines* underway, the World Heritage Centre is now working to prepare the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee to be held in Suzhou, China from 28 June - 7 July 2004 (<http://whc.unesco.org/suzhou>).

As a first step in the preparation of this important Committee session, the World Heritage Centre recently organized an Information Meeting for all States Parties to the Convention at which the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee Mr Zhang Xinsheng (China), the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO and the Suzhou authorities made presentations. These presentations can be viewed at the following web site: http://whc.unesco.org/archive/infomtg_110304.pps

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Committee session in Suzhou in a few months time.

Francesco Bandarin, Director, World Heritage Centre

contents

1

Editorial - Francesco Bandarin
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2

International Tourism Fair (ITB 2004)

Two New Conservation Projects

Natchitoches Declaration on Heritage Landscapes

3

Modern Heritage in Africa

World Bank and World Heritage

World Heritage In Danger

4

For Your Information

What Are They Doing?

Calendar

“Social and ecological problems faced by contemporary societies, which were built in large part without regard for environmental viability, constitute a crucial ultimatum for humanity: to learn how to develop while preserving the environment.”

Koichiro Matsuura, UNESCO Director-General, at the opening of the colloquium on Environmental Education Towards Sustainable Development, Natural History Museum, Paris, 14 April 2004.

International Tourism Fair (ITB 2004)

For the first time the UNESCO World Heritage Centre had a stand at the International Tourism Fair (ITB 2004), held in Berlin, Germany (12-15 March). Apart from the WHC, three site managers from Guatemala and Mexico were present on the stand to promote their sites to tour operators and potential tourists. Other partners were: Accor, Auctionair, EF Educational Tours, Earthwatch, Ecotourism Australia, the International Hotels and Restaurants Association, the Grand Circle Foundation, GTZ, Jet Tours, LTU Touristik GmbH, Maison de la Chine et de l'Orient, Organización Mundo Maya, RARE, Rezidor SAS, The Nature Conservancy, UNEP and the United Nations Foundation.

The UNESCO WHC stand was aimed at promoting the World Heritage conservation message both to the tourism professionals and to general public. The stand presented the partnerships between the WHC and the tourism industry, displayed their contributions, and worked toward strengthening relations with existing partners.

The World Heritage sustainable tourism programme was introduced to potential partners. The stand was also used as a venue to showcase the current United Nations Foundation tourism project and local products it has developed.

A series of presentations was aimed at informing about World Heritage and the 'value-added' that working with World Heritage can bring to the tourism industry. The 14 presentations, attended by some 250 people, covered such topics as 'World Heritage sites and Sustainable Tourism', 'World Heritage and Local Communities', 'The Value Added of World Heritage', 'World Heritage Tours: A New Market?', and 'How Can You Help Conserve World Heritage Sites?'. They were open to the general public (including academics,

students and journalists) during the first three days and then to the tourism trade (eco-tourism and cultural tourism specialists in particular) during the last two days.

The 113-m² stand was deemed by many as one of the most elegant, matching perfectly the image of UNESCO and World Heritage and giving them high visibility. Ten remarkable photographs showing the beauty and diversity of World Heritage sites were displayed, along with interactive computers, and two plasma screens showing films by the Tokyo Broadcasting System (Japan) and by Südwest Rundfunk (Germany).

The WHC stand at the ITB was a platform to show partners' activities in World Heritage conservation, build new partnerships and reinforce networks. The Fair also enabled the WHC to study tourism market trends in order to design innovative and attractive partnership solutions while satisfying World Heritage conservation needs.

Tour operators were particularly interested in finding out how to become a partner of UNESCO. There was also much interest in the different partnerships already developed. Others expressed the need for ancillary items, such as DVDs, CD-Roms and promotional materials that they could adapt to their requirements.

The success of this year's event will be confirmed by the willingness of existing partners and new partners to join the WHC on the stand next year.



UNESCO World Heritage Centre stand at the ITB Berlin

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All information on presentations, photographs and activities held at the UNESCO WHC stand at the ITB can be found at <http://whc.unesco.org/events/itb/index.htm>

Natchitoches Declaration on Heritage Landscapes

The 7th International Symposium of US/ICOMOS, *Learning from World Heritage: Lessons from International Preservation and Stewardship of Cultural and Ecological Landscapes of Global Significance*, was held in Natchitoches, Louisiana, USA (25-27 March) bringing together 123 delegates from all over the United States, twelve nations and several disciplines to share experiences, draw lessons and address issues surrounding the interface of nature and culture in the landscape.



Oakwood plantation visited during the US/ICOMOS Symposium in Louisiana, USA

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Drawing upon work on cultural and natural landscapes in recent years, and the inscription of 36 cultural landscapes on the World Heritage List from 1993 to 2003, presentations and discussions explored a wide range of landscape preservation and conservation issues.

The *Natchitoches Declaration on Heritage Landscapes* was ratified by the assembly, and addressed to national and local authorities as well as institutions and international organizations, and particularly to ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM. This important declaration states that 'There is a convergence of natural and cultural values in the landscape, and a growing recognition that the traditional separation of nature and culture is a hindrance to protection and is no longer sustainable. Further heritage landscape protection is required at the local, national and global levels in order to transmit these universally valuable heritage landscapes to future generations.'

A CD with the papers presented and the Declaration is available from US/ICOMOS and the text of the Declaration can be found at: <http://www.icomos.org/usicomos/>

Two New Conservation Projects



Hammerhead sharks in the Eastern Tropical Pacific

In April, a two-year US\$780,000 project 'Conservation Action in the Yucatan Coastal Environment: Sian Ka'an World Heritage Site' was endorsed by UNFIP. Funding is provided by the United Nations Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and The Gillette Company.

This project will consolidate conservation gains made at the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve World Heritage site. The site, located just south of Cancun, on Mexico's Caribbean coastline, is under tremendous development pressure, with over two million visitors to the coast last year.

The project targets the 1,500 hectares of privately-owned land within the World Heritage site boundaries. A set of clear environmental policies concerning these lands was adopted by the State Party in 2002, paving the way for environmental regulation. Project activities include supporting the application of the recently-approved Coastal Zone Development Regulations.

The project provides for the acquisition of a tract of private land for conservation. Best practices for residential waste management will also be promoted. Monitoring activities are to be developed as well as support for the Mesoamerican Reef Action Planning process.

This conservation project will be carried out mainly by Amigos de Sian Ka'an, a long-standing NGO closely associated with this World Heritage site.

In February, a three-year US\$3,135 million project 'Promoting Marine Conservation through World Heritage in the Eastern Tropical Pacific' was signed, with funding from the Global Conservation Fund (grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation) and the United Nations Foundation.

This is the first project in the tripartite partnership between Conservation International, the United Nations Foundation and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

The main goal of the project is to establish a marine conservation and sustainable development corridor linking marine protected areas in the Eastern Tropical Pacific within the exclusive economic zones of Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Panama.

The project will strengthen site-level marine protected areas conservation efforts by working with national agencies and participating NGOs to develop site-specific programmes of work.

Another objective of the project is to contribute to a regional co-operative framework in which the four participating countries are beginning to co-ordinate their marine conservation efforts. It will also review all international and regional agreements relating to marine conservation and synthesize the pertinent components of these agreements in an effort to make them more accessible to site managers, government agents and NGOs working in marine conservation.

Finally the project will support States Parties in their efforts to nominate marine sites to the World Heritage List. The region already has two marine sites: the Galápagos Islands, Ecuador and the Cocos Island, Costa Rica. Panama's Coiba and Colombia's Malpelo are sites proposed for nomination.

Modern Heritage in Africa

The third Regional Meeting on Modern Heritage, which took place in the modernist city of Asmara in Eritrea (4 - 7 March), was organised by the WHC, in collaboration with the Government of Eritrea and Africa 2009 (ICCROM, UNESCO-WHC, CraTerre-EAG, African cultural heritage institutions) as counterparts, and partners ICOMOS, DOCOMOMO International (Working party for the Documentation and Conservation of buildings, sites and neighbourhoods of the Modern Movement), mAAN (modern Asian Architecture Network), and the Swedish National Heritage Board, with financial support from the Government of the Netherlands. It brought together 20 experts in the field of heritage conservation, including experts in modern African heritage and modern heritage in general.

The meeting was officially opened by H. Exc. Mr Osman Saleh, Honorable Minister for Education and Chairperson of the Eritrea National Commission for UNESCO. Formal addresses were given by H. Exc. Mr Semere Russom, the Lord Mayor of Asmara, and Ron van Oers, representative of the WHC.

Representatives from various African countries presented case studies of modern heritage from their countries. These studies involved modernist cities, including garden cities with designed landscapes, urban planning schemes, ensembles consisting of built heritage from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and individual buildings. Some were part of the process of tentative listing and preparation of a nomination file, while other case studies emphasised ideas around

perceptions of what modern heritage is in an African context. There was much discussion on such topics as whether modern heritage means exclusively colonial heritage, or includes vernacular heritage as well. Participants tried to determine what period covers Africa's modern heritage and to what extent history and identity are linked to modern heritage on the continent.

They considered the extent to which local communities should be involved in the determination of whether their heritage is part of modern heritage, and concluded that it is extremely important in an African context that the community appropriate the heritage as its own.

The meeting also looked at how skills and the continuity and development of design modes in a local context are important to community acceptance of modern heritage.

Representatives determined that modern heritage in Africa is the human-made environment of approximately the past 200 years, including its historical and intangible associations. It was further felt that in light of different experiences of the past the onus should be on African States Parties, including African communities, to determine how they wished to define modern heritage in their own unique context.

The meeting appealed to Africa 2009 to actively engage countries that request assistance in the revision of existing or creation of new legislation. It also encouraged States Parties to carry out nationwide inventories and establish national heritage lists, for inclusion on the Tentative List. Governments were also called on to increase awareness

in local communities, as well as consult with them for the management of heritage in general and modern heritage in particular. Heritage authorities were encouraged to build private-public sector partnerships in the conservation of heritage.

Representatives suggested that a network of African experts on modern heritage be established and called for a follow-up meeting to be held in order to expand on the deliberation of this workshop and to formulate strategies for modern heritage in Africa.



Participants in the meeting on Modern Heritage in Africa

World Bank and World Heritage

A World Heritage Centre team held meetings in Washington D.C. (17-18 March) with officers of the World Bank in order to discuss the state of collaboration in the field of cultural and natural heritage in different regions. The WHC team also met with the National Geographic Society and with the Interamerican Development Bank.

This set of meetings, coordinated by Vitor Serra, Secretary of the World Bank's Cultural Heritage Group, was the third since 2001 to bring UNESCO-WHC and Bank staff together to discuss collaboration on culture and development. Following the first two events a number of joint activities had been studied and initiated. Discussions this time focused on the assessment of ongoing co-operation on culture and development.

A start-up meeting was held with Ian Johnson, Vice-President for Environmentally Sustainable Development, to discuss current collaboration in the field of cultural and natural heritage, and to outline a future agenda for strengthening conservation of World Heritage sites within the World Bank programme and project activity.

Discussions were then held with World Bank regional team leaders in charge of South and South-East Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, Latin America and Africa. World Bank and WHC representatives concluded that substantial progress has been made during the past year of co-operation on the common platform of projects and initiatives.

A final meeting was attended by Maryvonne Plessis-Fraissard, Director of the Urban Transport and Infrastructure

Division, and Mark Hillebrand, Manager of the Cities Alliance Program. The main areas of co-operation agreed upon were in Morocco, Lebanon, Tunisia, Iran, China and Peru for cultural heritage, and Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, Lao PDR and Viet Nam for natural. A number of joint training and workshop activities were planned. The subject of co-operation in the implementation of the Bank's Cultural Heritage Safeguard Policies was also discussed.

The issue of awareness-raising inside the Bank, with the help of UNESCO, was highlighted. The Bank is interested in co-operating with UNESCO in the definition of specific guidelines for project preparation and implementation, and in promoting staff exchanges with UNESCO. The possibility of developing joint activity with the Cities Alliance Program, focusing on a limited number of case-studies of common interest was also discussed.

In a meeting with Leonard Good, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Small Grants Program managed by UNDP was discussed, as well as the prospect for further development of GEF activities encompassing World Heritage mixed and cultural sites. A brochure, presenting all the projects in World Heritage sites currently supported by GEF, is to be produced.

In a meeting with the National Geographic Society discussion focused on co-operation on specific projects and future joint activities. The Interamerican Development Bank and the WHC discussed the Camino Inca Programme and other areas of possible co-operation.



World Heritage in Danger

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.

The site of Angkor was inscribed simultaneously on the World Heritage List and on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1992, in consideration of the serious threat posed to the site by long-term civil disturbances (including the abandonment of the site during and after political and military upheavals and the plundering of sculptures). Angkor is now properly managed thanks to the Authority for the Protection of the Site and Management of the Region of Angkor (APSARA), created in 1995. It is not anymore threatened by looting, but its surroundings and other Angkorian temples located in remote areas are still under constant threats. Meanwhile tourism pressure is growing, with the number of tourists between 2001 and 2002 increasing by 29% to almost 270,000 annually.

The monuments of Angkor are in varying states of conservation. Since 1992, more than fifteen major conservation and restoration projects have been undertaken at the site. However, owing to the great size of the property, there are still many monuments in need of attention.

Angkor has received aid from the World Heritage Fund for preparatory assistance and technical co-operation. Restoration projects have been funded by international partners, including the Japanese Funds-in-Trust to UNESCO, the French Funds-in-Trust to UNESCO, the Italian Funds-in-Trust to UNESCO and the French tour operator Accor Group. Today, the scope of international efforts to safeguard Angkor make this site the largest conservation workshop in the world. Almost 600 people working for various international organizations are actively taking part in on-site conservation activities.

At its 27th session in Paris in June 2003, the World Heritage Committee examined the state of conservation of Angkor as a site inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee recommended that the Cambodian authorities strengthen co-operation between APSARA, the Region of Siem Reap and the provincial authorities to improve preventive measures against on-site looting and theft, and asked that they provide a report on the state of conservation of the property, to be examined by the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2004.

The 2004 workshop for **Management and Conservation of Natural and Cultural Heritage Sites in the Asia-Pacific Region**, organized with the support of the WHC, took place in Hiroshima, Japan (8-12 March), as part of a series focused on the social impact of World Heritage properties. The objective of the workshop was the optimal use of the 1972 Convention through national policymaking and planning and the exchange of information on best practices and case studies. Participants included decision-makers, civil society, tourism organizations, academics, government representatives and site managers.

The first training workshop on the use of **Information Technology for World Heritage Sites in the Arab States** was organized in Cairo, Egypt from 17 February-4 March. The training course, financed by the Flemish Funds-in-Trust, and organized in co-operation with Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities and the Centre for Documentation of Cultural and Natural Heritage, included an overview of state of the art recording, documentation and information management techniques. Practical exercise was held in Saqqara, part of the World Heritage site of the Pyramid fields. Twenty-five representatives from several Arab countries, Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Mauritania, Sudan, Jordan, Bahrain, Yemen, and Oman participated. Lectures and fieldwork were carried out by facilitators from the World Monuments Fund, Getty Conservation Institute, English Heritage, University of California at Berkeley, and the R. Lemaire International Centre for Conservation (K.U. Leuven). See also: <http://whc.unesco.org/acb/>

Experts from IUCN and UNESCO conducted a monitoring mission to the **Belovezhskaya Pushcha/Bialowieza Forest** (15-20 March), organized by the Polish and Belarus authorities. Stakeholder meetings were organized on both sides. The two States Parties used this occasion to conduct a high-level meeting on bilateral co-operation which resulted in the signing of a document with relevant recommendations for improved co-operation on this site.

Representatives of the Caribbean States Parties gathered at the **Conference on the Development of a Caribbean Action Plan in World Heritage** (23-27 February) at Castries, Saint Lucia. They called upon the World Heritage Committee to note that they wish to explore fully the implications of the options of serial, transboundary and serial-transboundary nominations to increase possibilities for Caribbean nominations to the World Heritage List, and to approve the Periodic Report for Latin America and the Caribbean and related Action Plan and Capacity Building Programme at its next meeting in July. They also called upon the governments of Caribbean States Parties to provide the necessary financial, technical and administrative resources and structures to take full advantage of the benefits derived from the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and to improve existing policies, legislation and resource management systems within their countries.

The WHC organized an information meeting for **European and North American States Parties** on Periodic Reporting (11 March) to give an overview of the exercise and its importance in strengthening regional co-operation, in particular through the organization of sub-regional meetings. The electronic tool for Periodic Reporting, which facilitates the collection of data and allows better comparison between the reports of the different States Parties, was also presented. All information concerning the exercise, including a calendar of meetings, is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/reporting/europe>.

The **Advisory Bodies** ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN met 28-30 January at IUCN Headquarters in Gland, Switzerland to discuss issues relating to their World Heritage work and to develop a common approach, where applicable, for treating issues with the WHC and the Committee. From 29-30 January the WHC staff joined the meeting. They were welcomed by the Director General of IUCN, Achim Steiner.

What Are They Doing ?

WHC Director, **Francesco Bandarin**, was in Berlin (12-14 March) to attend the International Tourism Fair (ITB) (see page 2). Mr Bandarin was in Dublin and London (18-20 February). In Ireland he joined the UNESCO-ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission (17-21 February), carried out by **Fumiko Ohinata**, Associate Expert, Europe and North America Unit, to the Archaeological Ensemble of the Bend of the Boyne, which evaluated the impact of a proposed municipal waste incinerator in the vicinity of the site. In London he met with **Michael Seeney**, Head of the Architecture and Historic Environment Division of the Department of Culture, Media and Sport to discuss the development of a the bilateral agreement signed in 2003 between UNESCO and the UK. **Fernando Brugman**, Associate Expert, and **Christine Delsol**, Assistant, Europe and North America Unit, were in Trieste (3-7 March) to participate in a training workshop on the Periodic-Reporting exercise for focal points from southeastern European States Parties. **Guy Debonnet**, Programme Specialist Natural Heritage, along with **Yvette Kaboza**, Consultant for the PACT Unit, was in London (20 February) to meet with **Karen Hayes**, Director of Corporate Affairs, Fauna and Flora International, to discuss private sector involvement in environmental protection and in particular the conservation of World Heritage properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The first meeting of international experts specialized in astronomy and astrophysics, archaeo-astronomy, archaeology and architecture, organized by the WHC in

collaboration with and with the support of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in Europe (ROSTE) and the government of the United Kingdom, was held in Venice, Italy (17-19 March). The text of the thematic project 'Astronomy and World Heritage' was finalized during a special session led by **Alexander Boksenberg**, Astronomy Institute, Cambridge University. **Marcio Barbosa**, DDG UNESCO, **Mounir Bouchenaki**, ADG/CLT, **Howard Moore**, Director UNESCO-ROSTE, **Anna Sidorenko-Dulom**, Project Co-ordinator and **Christoforos Mallouris**, astrophysicist and scientific advisor, also attended. The results of this activity will be presented during the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee. **Sarah Titchen**, WHC Chief Policy and Statutory Implementation Unit, has been transferred to the UNESCO Office in New York to work on World Heritage and other aspects of UNESCO's Culture Programme. **Anne Lemaistre**, will replace her, after having worked in the Division of Cultural Heritage, in charge of operational projects in Southeast Asia and Eastern Europe, including the World Heritage property, Angkor, Cambodia.



Uxmal, an archaeo-astronomical World Heritage site in Mexico

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Anne Lemaistre

A Moroccan trainee measuring at Saqqara during the Information Technology Training workshop in Cairo

© K. Hendili

7 to 9 May

ICOMOS-UK/IUCN International Conference on 'Future Landscapes: Working with the Principles of the European Landscape Convention', University of Oxford, Department of Continuing Education, sponsored by The Countryside Agency and English Heritage. Oxford, UK.

13 to 14 May

International Conference of Conservation and Management of World Heritage Sites in the Planning and Development of Eco-cultural Tourism in Viet Nam, organized by the Viet Nam National Commission, the UNESCO Viet Nam Office and the Hans Seidel Foundation. Information: <http://www.unesco.org.vn>

22 to 29 May

40th Celebration of the Venice Charter: 1964-2004-2044? Organized by ICOMOS Hungary. Information: secretariat@icomos.hu

26 to 28 May

OWHC Regional Conference, North West European Region, 'Preservation and World Heritage Cities, Integration by Rehabilitation.' Bamberg, Germany. Information: <http://www.ovpm.org>

30 May

Deadline for the submission of papers and posters for the Forum UNESCO-University and Heritage 9th International Seminar, University of Buenos Aires. Buenos Aires. Argentina (11-15 October 2004) 'Heritage Management – Centre and Periphery'. Information: dri@fadu.uba.ar or forunesco@fadu.uba.ar Website: www.fadu.uba.ar

28 June to 3 July

Conservation of Ancient Sites on the Silk Road. Second International Conference on the Conservation of Grotto Sites. Dunhuang, Gansu Province, China. Information: <http://www.getty.edu/conservation>

28 June to 7 July

28th Session of the World Heritage Committee. Suzhou, China. Information: <http://whc.unesco.org/suzhou>



The World Heritage Review No. 35, April 2004. The leader article in this issue focuses on World Heritage Vineyard Landscapes in several of Europe's wine-producing regions. Other articles feature Wooden Churches of Southern Little Poland, built in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries with highly ornamented interiors; Quebrada de Humahuaca in Argentina, the first cultural landscape in Latin America to be listed as World Heritage; Persepolis, colossal ruins of the ancient capital of the Achaemenid Empire, still standing in today's Islamic Republic of Iran; and the Old Towns of Djenné, an adobe-built settlement in Mali.

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<http://worldheritagereview.org>

The World Heritage

newsletter

Publisher: UNESCO World Heritage Centre
7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France
Fax: +33(0)1 45 68 55 70
<http://whc.unesco.org>
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English-French translation: Sabine de Valence

Graphic Design: Nadia Gibson / Grace Hodeir

Printer: UNESCO
ISSN:1020-0614

This newsletter is available on request in two versions:
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write to the World Heritage Centre
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<http://whc.unesco.org/news/index-en.htm>