



Several recent events point to the increasing concern on the part of UNESCO and the World Heritage Centre for the conservation of heritage on the African continent. An important African Experts' Meeting was held in Cape Town in March to define an African position for the forthcoming 29th session of the World Heritage Committee to be held in Durban, South Africa in July. This paper will be included in the working reports of the African Cultural Ministers' meeting in May, as well as the summit of the African Union set for January 2006.

In parallel to this gathering, a workshop was held to discuss the establishment of an African World Heritage Fund. The proposed Fund, recommended by the Africa Periodic Report of 2002, would work towards the mobilization of governments, bi- and multilateral donors, non-governmental organizations and the corporate sector to address the challenges faced by African countries in identifying, protecting and managing World Heritage properties.

The figures speak for themselves. To date, 41 of the 47 sub-Saharan African countries have signed the *World Heritage Convention*. Although this represents 22 percent of the total number of States Parties to the *Convention*, the 63 African sites inscribed on the World Heritage List make up only 8 percent of the List. Added to this, a disproportionate number of African sites (14) are among the 35 inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Africa's heritage is disappearing even before it can be inscribed on the World Heritage List, and once it is inscribed, it is often vulnerable to recurring natural disaster. The lack of an adequate drainage system in the city of Timbuktu, for example, still remains a cause for concern today, three years after heavy rains and flooding brought serious damage to the World Heritage site.

There is good news as well. After 68 years, the Aksum obelisk is to return to Ethiopia. Ethiopia and Italy agreed the historical funeral stela would return from Rome to its home in Aksum. UNESCO is to draw up the project for the installation of the obelisk and the enhancement of the archaeological site, which was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1980. The 1,700-year-old, 160-ton obelisk will be transported in three separate pieces. The Italian government is paying for the transport of the stela to Ethiopia and for the site assessment study, as well as for the erection of the stela.

Another interesting development, which augurs well for the African continent was an important international 'Conference on Biodiversity and Governance', organized in Paris in January by the French Government and UNESCO. While one of the main objectives of this gathering of scientists and experts from all over the world was to assess current knowledge and define the needs for research and scientific expertise, conservation of African biodiversity was at the heart of the discussion.

In her speech, Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai reminded participants about the links between biodiversity conservation, sustainable development and poverty eradication and the need to empower local communities in Africa to better manage their environment. The President of Madagascar, Marc Ravalomanana reiterated the commitment of his government to triple the surface of protected areas in Madagascar by 2009 and called upon the developed countries to increase their support to African countries in conserving their rich biodiversity and natural heritage.

Africa provides a number of interesting examples of how World Heritage sites can be protected through partnerships, a selection of which will be explored during the 'Partners Day' at the 29th session of the Committee, scheduled for 16 July.

Francesco Bandarin, Director, World Heritage Centre

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"This highly symbolic gesture, born of a common agreement between Italy and Ethiopia is to be welcomed by the entire international community. This is a historic moment. After 68 years in exile, the Aksum obelisk returns to the heart of ancient Ethiopia, to the Tigray region. It will once again be erected in the former kingdom, which the Persian philosopher Mani called the 'world's third kingdom' and whose relics were among the first to be inscribed on the World Heritage List."

Koichiro Matsuura,
UNESCO Director-General
concerning the return of the
Aksum obelisk to Ethiopia.

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The Tsunami Disaster and World Heritage

Several properties inscribed on the World Heritage List are located in the regions hit by the earthquake and the ensuing tsunami on 26 December 2004. UNESCO, along with experts from the World Heritage community and local authorities, is mobilizing all efforts to evaluate damage caused to these properties and to identify the necessary actions for the safeguarding, rehabilitation and protection of the sites.

UNESCO is actively participating in the aid to countries affected by the tsunami, under the coordination of the United Nations. UNESCO and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) are also in the process of developing an interim tsunami alert system in the Indian Ocean which will cover the region while a longer-term fully-fledged system is put in place.

The most affected World Heritage site was the *Old Town of Galle and its Fortifications* in Sri Lanka. While the Galle Fort itself was not seriously damaged, water penetrated inside and superficially damaged some of the temples, churches and other religious buildings. The ramparts facing the eastern and southern side were affected, while the ancient harbour and underwater heritage also ran into difficulty. Artifacts from the Maritime Archaeological Unit were washed away.

UNESCO, responding to a request by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and National Heritage of Sri Lanka, sent a team of

experts on site from 2 to 11 March to assess the damage caused by the tsunami disaster and identify urgent restoration needs for the World Heritage property and other cultural heritage properties. The mission also made recommendations on disaster preparedness measures that can be taken specifically for cultural heritage sites.

Although no major destruction has been reported to the *Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra* in Indonesia, in the *Gunung Leuser National Park*, one of the three national parks within this World Heritage site, infrastructure was destroyed. Several staff members of the Nature Conservation Unit have perished. The Nature Conservation Unit's office in Banda Aceh has disappeared while the offices in Tapak Tuan have been damaged. *The Ujung Kulon National Park* in Indonesia did not sustain much damage as a result of the disaster, although the Park has been temporarily closed to the public.

The Indian sites of *Mahabalipuram* and the *Sun Temple of Konarak*, located in the tsunami's path, did not suffer substantial damage, according to the Indian national authorities.

UNESCO, ICCROM and ICOMOS developed action recommendations on cultural heritage risk management which were adopted by the participating Member States during the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in January in Kobe, Japan.



The Maritime Archaeological Unit of Galle was washed away with its collections and equipment



The annex to the old Dutch Hospital at the Old Town of Galle World Heritage site was destroyed by the tsunami



Religious monuments along the coast, damaged by the tsunami, are surrounded by tents of survivors



Aside from houses, the tsunami also damaged cultural and spiritual centres

Images from Galle, Sri Lanka

© Giovanni Boccardi / UNESCO

Interview with the Ambassadors of the Russian Federation and Lithuania

The Curonian Spit will not be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger as a result of an agreement between the Russian Federation and Lithuania to undertake an environmental assessment of the impact of oil exploration and production in the Baltic Sea, 22 kilometers from the site. The *Newsletter* spoke to Ambassador Vladimir Kalamanov of the Russian Federation and Ambassador Ina Marčiulionytė of Lithuania.

This decision to work together is being seen as an example of transboundary cooperation. Do you consider this to be a success story?

Ambassador Ina Marčiulionytė: We consider this as an important, but first step towards success. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Lithuania have signed a letter with a timeframe and a list of concrete measures to be undertaken before the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee in South Africa in July. We have to implement the decision of the 28th session of the Committee, so both States will have to work hard to meet the deadlines and to be efficient.

Ambassador Vladimir Kalamanov: Russia and Lithuania have demonstrated their good will and sincere adherence to the *World Heritage Convention*. Since the adoption of the World Heritage Committee decision on the Curonian Spit the two countries managed to find a proper way of dealing with this problem and have indeed succeeded in preparing a joint work plan for project implementation and prevention/mitigation measures to ensure the conservation of the property.

Are environmental considerations becoming a larger part of decisions on oil exploration and production in the Baltic Sea?

Ambassador Ina Marčiulionytė: The environmental considerations are of great importance in taking any decision on oil exploration and production in the Baltic Sea. Lithuania ratified the Helsinki Convention and considers its international obligations very seriously. The protection of the Curonian Spit is closely linked to the protection of the whole Baltic Sea. The Russian Federation and Lithuania still have a long way to go before they can work together in this particular field. Other countries on the Baltic Sea are also aware of their full responsibility in protecting the Baltic Sea. The environmental issues of the Baltic Sea are on the Council of Europe's agenda as well.

Ambassador Vladimir Kalamanov: Such considerations should be applicable not only in the Baltic Sea, but everywhere in the world, since we all care about sustainable development. Russia is quite serious about environmental issues. It recently joined the Kyoto Protocol. As for Baltic marine environment protection and the Curonian Spit in particular, the Russian oil platform, 22 kilometres from this World Heritage site, is being controlled by sophisticated monitoring of production, from space as well.

Can you foresee further cooperation on this issue? What next?

Ambassador Ina Marčiulionytė: Both Russian and Lithuanian national parks have worked closely together since the inscription of the Curonian Spit on the World Heritage List. Now efficient inter-governmental cooperation has to follow this good example. This first step is very promising. Let's be optimistic realists. We will only be able to call it a success story when the tasks have been achieved. We have to remember that the protection of World Heritage is an ongoing, never-ending process.

Ambassador Vladimir Kalamanov: The agreement for a post-project environmental assessment, in my opinion, reflects considerable progress, achieved by both countries in the process of working out a larger agreement between the government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Lithuanian Republic on 'Cooperation in the Field to Combat Oil Pollution in the Baltic and Other Harmful Substances' and a 'Joint Russian-Lithuanian Plan of Emergency Measures in the Event of Baltic Sea Pollution.' This implies that both sides should be equally responsible for the protection of the environment through constructive collaboration and information exchange by mutual consent.

The Revised Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention entered into force on 2 February 2005

This new version is the result of a long process of reflection undertaken over the past few years and faithfully complies with the decisions of the World Heritage Committee. The main change in the new *Operational Guidelines* is the merging of the cultural and natural criteria for the assessment of Outstanding Universal Value for World Heritage sites. The *Operational Guidelines* outline the precise requirements for both the inscription of properties on the World Heritage List and for the provision of international assistance under the World Heritage Fund.

The revised *Operational Guidelines* give a detailed description of the role and responsibilities of each of the partners (States Parties, General Assembly, Committee, WHC, Advisory Bodies). They emphasize the participatory role of all stakeholders and in particular communities. They also clarify many concepts and definitions such as Global Strategy, thematic studies, comparative analysis, serial and transboundary properties, boundaries and buffer zones, referral and deferral; procedures for boundary extensions and name changes.

The new *Operational Guidelines* better define the requirements for a 'complete' nomination. Under the new *Operational Guidelines*, International Assistance has also been made simpler with a single application form. The nomination format, outlined in the *Operational Guidelines*, will apply to nominations to be examined by the Committee as of 2007.

The Revised *Operational Guidelines* are available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines>

International Conference on Biodiversity: Science and Governance

The Conference, organized by the French government under the auspices of UNESCO, was held at UNESCO Headquarters (24-28 January). It was opened by the President of France, Jacques Chirac. Participants included Marc Ravalomanana, President of Madagascar; Abdullah Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia; Carlos Gomes Junior, Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau; Wangari Maathai, Nobel peace prize winner and Vice-Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources of Kenya; and Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO. This meeting was attended by over 1000 participants representing governments, inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, as well as academia and the private sector.

One of the main objectives of the Conference was to assess current knowledge and define the needs for research and scientific expertise. It was held independently of any intergovernmental negotiations, and was part of the ongoing global effort to reverse the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. It focused on ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from genetic resources.

The *World Heritage Convention* is one of five biodiversity conventions, which include the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS). UNESCO thus has an interesting opportunity to contribute significantly to in-situ conservation of biodiver-



The President of the French Republic, Jacques Chirac

sity. At the meeting, the WHC highlighted tangible ways in which the *World Heritage Convention* can be, and has been used to get real conservation results on the ground.

Marc Patry, Programme Specialist, WHC Natural Heritage Section, presented the *Convention* to the meeting.

'We were addressing a largely scientific and policy development audience that wasn't too familiar with the *World Heritage Convention*', Mr Patry said. 'For this reason, our presentation highlighted the fact that the *World Heritage Convention* is more than just a listing mechanism to identify particularly nice places of the world. We gave them several concrete illustrations of how the *Convention* has been used to obtain some real and significant biodiversity conservation results in the field. I think the people attending our presentation left with a greater appreciation of what the *World Heritage Convention* could actually do.'



Kahuzi-Biega National Park, Democratic Republic of the Congo

In its final declaration the Conference stated that biodiversity is the natural heritage of and a vital resource for all humankind. It recognized that biodiversity is being destroyed irreversibly by human activities and that a major effort is needed to discover, understand, conserve and use biodiversity sustainably.

The Conference urged governments to engage in interdisciplinary research programs and to integrate biodiversity into the criteria of all economic and policy decisions and environmental management.

A final Conference Statement called on governments to take all necessary action to reach the goal of reversing the current rate of biodiversity loss by the year 2010.

Historic Court Judgment on World Heritage

In January, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia sentenced retired General Pavle Strugar of the Yugoslav Peoples' Army to eight years in prison for war crimes against the civilian population and the destruction and willful damage to a number of historical and cultural sites in the Old Town of Dubrovnik, Croatia, during the 1991 siege of the medieval Croatian town, a site inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1979.



View of the Old Town of Dubrovnik in Croatia

Under the command of Pavle Strugar, Yugoslav forces pounded the historic heart of Dubrovnik, a city known as the 'Pearl of the Adriatic', in the December 1991 siege. Strugar was found guilty of failing to take adequate measures to stop the shelling of the Old Town. The city, largely made up of medieval and Renaissance buildings, suffered heavy damage. According to the indictment against Strugar, some 68 percent of the buildings in the Old Town, ringed by almost two kilometers of medieval walls, were hit by projectiles during the siege.

Damaged by the armed conflict, the Old City of Dubrovnik became the focus of a major restoration programme co-ordinated by UNESCO. In 1991 the city was put on the List of World Heritage in Danger. With technical advice and financial assistance from UNESCO, the Croatian government restored the facades of the cloisters and repaired roofs and rebuilt palaces. As a result the site was removed from this List in 1998.

The World Heritage Centre continues to provide international assistance to the site, most recently by financing two meetings of the Consultative Council of Experts for the Restoration of Dubrovnik.

This Judgment illustrates clearly how destruction of, and damage to, World Heritage sites under the 1972 UNESCO *Convention* can be sanctioned under international humanitarian law.

International Workshop on World Heritage Education

This workshop, held in the American Philosophical Society's Benjamin Franklin Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA (28-30 January), served as a platform to launch the World Heritage in Young Hands (WHYH) project within the United States. It was organized by Interconnections21 (IC21), a not-for-profit organization created to facilitate the involvement of US schools, students and educators in UNESCO's Associated Schools Project Network, ASPnet.

This first World Heritage Education workshop in the United States after the country's re-entry into UNESCO highlighted ASPnet/USA's outreach to American schools, teachers and students. Some 60 participants included teachers and students (age 12 to 16) from around the United States, representatives from Independence Hall National Historical Park, the US National Parks Service, the UN Foundation, the National Council of Social Studies, international experts on World Heritage Education, as well as UNESCO officials.

Activities included an introduction to the concept of World Heritage, a visit to Independence Hall World Heritage site, in-depth discussions with resource people on topics including the slave trade, tourism, education, cultural identity,

and preservation, hands-on activities from the WHYH Educational Resource Kit for Teachers, sharing of experiences on the use of the Kit in other countries and planning for the future implementation of this project in the US.

As a follow up to this workshop, the WHYH project will be focusing on providing training to educators from across the US on the local and global significance of World Heritage and the rationale for its inclusion in school curricula. The project will enable teachers to develop and implement strategies which will encourage students to protect cultural and natural sites in their communities as well as in the world at large.



Students participating in the Philadelphia Workshop

New construction near an ancient mosque in the Historic Town of Zabid



Historic Town of Zabid

Zabid's domestic and military architecture and its urban plan make it an outstanding archaeological and historical site. Besides being the capital of Yemen from the 13th to the 15th century, the city played an important role in the Arab and Muslim world for many centuries because of its Islamic university.

Today the city is in decline and in a very poor state of conservation. It was placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2000 at the request of the Yemeni government to facilitate its preservation. Between 2001 and 2004 the WHC worked in close collaboration with the Yemeni authorities to establish a Programme of Emergency Assistance. More than US\$100,000 was allocated by the World Heritage Fund. A series of international experts' meetings was carried out.

Despite these efforts, the degradation process of Zabid is continuing. Some 40 percent of the city's houses have been replaced by concrete buildings, and other houses and the ancient souk are in a deteriorating state.

At its 28th session in July 2004, the World Heritage Committee retained the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger and strongly urged the local authorities to finalize and implement the Urban Conservation Plan, to halt or remove illegal constructions and to strengthen the local unit of the General Organization for the Preservation of the Historic Cities of Yemen (GOPHCY).

In December 2004, a high-level meeting attended by the Yemeni Minister of Culture and Tourism, Mr Khaled Abdallah Al-Rweshan and the Director of the World Heritage Centre, Mr Francesco Bandarin, was held at the University of Hodeidah, Yemen (14-16 December, 2004). The meeting recommended the adoption of the Historic Cities Conservation Law, the finalization of the Conservation Plan and implementation of its regulations and the completion of the draft Urban Development Plan. A list of emergency activities has also been drawn up. Participants acknowledged that poverty in the city of Zabid, and in Yemen in general, needs to be addressed if a sustainable solution to the degradation of the city is to be found.

Countess
Setsuko
Klossowska
de Rola

© Michel Ravassard / UNESCO

In March, Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, and Frederick D. Gregory, Deputy Administrator of the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), signed a **cooperation agreement between UNESCO and NASA**. The agreement includes the use of space technologies for the protection of World Heritage sites. According to the agreement, UNESCO will benefit from NASA's expertise in the Earth sciences and space technology to strengthen its work in the conservation of World Heritage sites and monitoring of Biosphere Reserves. This expertise will also contribute to UNESCO's work relating to natural hazards, as well as education and capacity building. UNESCO's particular concern is to improve the access of Member States to the benefits of NASA's expertise, remote sensing data and science research results.

The first meeting of experts on the cultural heritage of the **Old City of Jerusalem** was held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (26 January), bringing together twelve internationally renowned architects, archaeologists, curators, restorers, architectural historians and structural engineers with professional knowledge of this World Heritage site. The meeting was opened by the Director-General.

The Director-General appointed (7 January) the Honorary president of the Balthus Foundation, internationally renowned painter **Countess Setsuko Klossowska de Rola, UNESCO Artist for Peace** for her role in promoting the World Heritage Education Project. UNESCO Artists for Peace are personalities who use their influence, charisma and celebrity to promote UNESCO's message.

A two-and-a-half year, US\$1.9 million **'Partnership for the Conservation of Sumatran Natural Heritage'**, was signed (31 December 2004) to support the establishment of site-based multi-stakeholder conservation partnerships, with a particular focus on capacity building and the nurturing of strong grassroots support for conservation. The project will be carried out in Bukit Barisan National Park, in the Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra World Heritage site. Funding was secured through the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, and matched on a 1:1 basis by the UN Foundation.

The inscription of **Bam and its Cultural Landscape** (Islamic Republic of Iran) on the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger was commemorated at a ceremony (26 December 2004), marking the first anniversary of the earthquake that destroyed much of the site and killed more than 26,000 people. UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture, Mounir Bouchenaki, represented the Director-General at this ceremony.

The State of World Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region 2003 publication is now available as No.12 of the World Heritage Paper Series. It provides an overview of the result of this first cycle of Periodic Reporting for the Asia-Pacific Region and is also available on CD-Rom, which includes a synthesis of country- and site-specific Periodic Reports of the Asia-Pacific States Parties, as well as background information on the Periodic Reporting process. No.13 of the World Heritage Paper Series has also been published on **'Linking Universal and Local Values: Managing a Sustainable Future for World Heritage'**, a Conference organized in May 2003 by the Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO, in collaboration with the Netherlands Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, to reflect on the involvement of local communities in the management of World Heritage properties, and to identify opportunities for their sustainable economic and social development. **For further information on the Paper Series: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/publications>**

What Are They Doing ?

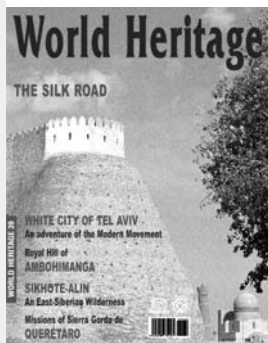
■ **Francesco Bandarin**, WHC Director, along with **Lazare Eloundou**, Programme Specialist, Africa Unit, and **Mauro Bertagnin**, Consultant, were in Mali (12-20 February) for discussions with the Malian authorities on conservation and management of Timbuctu and Djenné. Mr Bandarin and **Véronique Dauge**, Chief, Arab States Unit, were in Yemen (12-19 December) to participate in a meeting and national workshop on the rescue of the Historic City of Zabid. Mr Bandarin also participated in discussions on the conservation of Sana'a and visited the archaeological sites of Marib and Baraqish. ■ **Giovanni Boccardi**, Chief, Asia and Pacific Unit, participated in a fact-finding mission to Sri Lanka (1-11 March) to assess the damage caused by the recent tsunami and elaborate an action plan for the rehabilitation of World Heritage and other cultural properties there. Along with **Hidetaka Kinami**, Associate Expert, Mr Boccardi was in Kobe and Tokyo (14-21 January) to participate in an expert meeting and public forum on Cultural Heritage Risk-preparedness; conduct a thematic session on Cultural Heritage Risk Management; and hold a series of meetings with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation. ■ **Mechtild Rössler**, Chief, Europe and North America Unit, participated, along with **Marc Patry**, Programme Specialist, Natural Heritage Section, in the Inter-Agency Preparatory Meeting for an International Scientific Conference on Deserts and Desertification in 2006, 'The Future of Arid Lands', in Paris (14-15 February). Ms Rössler went on mission with IUCN experts and colleagues from the Venice Office to Serbia and Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina (16-21 January) to evaluate the proposed dam project Buk Bijela and its potential

threats to the values and integrity for the Durmitor National Park. ■ **Ron van Oers**, Chief (a.i.) Latin America and Caribbean and **Sachiko Haraguchi**, consultant, were in Port Louis, Mauritius (10-14 January) to coordinate UNESCO's Panel on Culture during the Mauritius UN meeting for the 10-year review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. ■ **Guy Debonnet**, Programme Specialist, Natural Heritage, was in Madagascar (10-20 January) to launch the second year of the project 'Promoting WH in Madagascar'. ■ **Nuria Sanz**, Programme Specialist, Latin America and Caribbean Unit, traveled to Honduras (14-21 December) to undertake the preparatory work for the Tentative List for Honduras. She also organized the first meeting in Valdivia, Chile (18-22 January) to initiate the transnational candidature process for the Spanish Fortifications in the Pacific. ■ **Vesna Vujicic-Lugassy**, Chief, Promotion, Publications and Education Unit and **Eman Qara'een**, UNESCO Amman Office, attended the International Workshop on World Heritage Education (28-30 January) in Philadelphia, USA. ■ **Marjaana Kokkonen**, Marine Heritage Specialist, Natural Heritage Section, presented the World Heritage Central Pacific Project at the first meeting of the French Development Agency-funded project 'Coral Reef Initiative for the South Pacific', held in Noumea, New Caledonia, France (24-28 January).



Experts assessing damage to the ramparts of the Old Town of Galle World Heritage site in Sri Lanka

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World Heritage of March 2005, No. 39, dedicates its feature article to The Silk Road. In this issue you will also discover: the Royal Hill of Ambohimanga in Madagascar, an ensemble of sacred places, a royal city and a burial site of kings; the White City of Tel Aviv, built by architects trained in Europe and a true museum of the Modern Movement in architecture; the extraordinary natural site of Central Sikhote-Alin in the Russian Federation, which hosts one of the richest forests on Earth and is a refuge for many endangered species such as the Amur tiger; and the Franciscan Missions of Sierra Gorda de Querétaro, whose magnificent buildings are a symbiosis of the creative efforts of the Indians and the missionaries.

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11 to 16 April

10th International Seminar of Forum UNESCO - University and Heritage: 'Cultural Landscapes in the 21st Century: Laws, Management and Public Participation: Heritage as a Challenge of Citizenship'. Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom. Information: forum.unesco@ncl.ac.uk and m.richon@unesco.org www.ncl.ac.uk/unescolandscapes

11 to 17 April

UNESCO Regional Workshop on the follow-up to the Asia-Pacific Periodic Reporting for World Heritage Cultural Properties in South Asia. Moenjodaro, Pakistan. Information: h.kinami@unesco.org

14 to 17 April

Sub-regional meeting on Periodic Reporting for the States Parties of Central and Eastern Europe. Levoca, Slovakia. Information: pincik@pamiatky.sk

18 to 21 April

UNITAR Second Training Workshop on Management and Conservation of World Heritage Sites: Value-Based World Heritage Management. Hiroshima, Japan. Information: h.kinami@unesco.org

5 to 8 May

8th Annual US/ICOMOS International Symposium 'Interpretation and Presentation of Heritage Sites'. Charleston, South Carolina, USA. Information: http://www.icomos.org/usicomos/Symposium/2005_Symposium.htm

10 to 11 May

Conference of the Network of Austrian World Heritage Properties. Rust, Austria. Information: mairitsch@unesco.at

12 to 14 May

International Conference on 'World Heritage and Contemporary Architecture - Managing the Historic Urban Landscape'. Vienna City Hall, Austria. Information: r.vanoers@unesco.org and k.manz@unesco.org www.worldheritage2005.at

20 to 21 May

'Cultural Corridors in South East Europe - Common Past and Shared Heritage, a Key to Future Partnership'. Varna, Bulgaria. Information: k.stenou@unesco.org

30 May to 2 June

International Symposium on 'Conserving Cultural and Biological Diversity: The Role of Sacred Natural Sites and Cultural Landscapes'. Aichi, Japan. Information: www.unesco.org/mab/SNS/symposium.html and www.unu.edu/hq/japanese/aichi2005/sacred-sites.html

10 to 17 July

29th Session of the World Heritage Committee. Durban, South Africa. Information: a.lemastre@unesco.org

The World Heritage

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Fax: +33(0)1 45 68 55 70
<http://whc.unesco.org>

Editor: Barbara Giudice

Co-ordinator: Vesna Vujicic-Lugassy
(e-mail: v.vujicic@unesco.org)

Assistant: Frédérique Tsai-Klassen

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