

Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage

***IUCN Report on the State of Conservation
of Natural and Mixed Sites Inscribed on
the World Heritage List and the List of
World Heritage in Danger***



Prepared by IUCN – The World Conservation Union

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IUCN
The World Conservation Union

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THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

IUCN REPORT ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF NATURAL AND MIXED SITES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST AND THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

26th October 2001

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

IUCN's role in Reactive Monitoring derives from Article 68 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Convention, which notes, inter-alia, that, "reactive monitoring is the reporting by the World Heritage Centre, other sectors of UNESCO and the advisory bodies to the Bureau and the Committee on the state of conservation of specific World Heritage properties that are under threat."

The following State of Conservation report has been prepared by the Programme on Protected Areas (PPA) of IUCN – The World Conservation Union. PPA co-ordinates IUCN's input to the World Heritage Convention. It also co-ordinates activities of IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), the world's leading expert network of protected area managers and specialists. The WCPA membership network totals over 1,300 protected area managers and specialists from 120 countries.

In the preparation of this State of Conservation Report, PPA has encouraged the involvement of WCPA members and of IUCN Regional and Country Offices (RCOs) as well as other IUCN Commissions, such as the Species Survival Commission, and other partner organisations. WCPA members, international organisations and field-based projects have provided a high level of relevant information for the preparation of this report. In carrying out its functions under the World Heritage Convention, IUCN has been guided by the following principles:

- The need to ensure the highest standards of quality control and institutional memory in relation to technical evaluation, monitoring and other associated activities;
- The need to optimise the use of IUCN's specialist networks, especially WCPA, but also other relevant IUCN Commissions and specialist networks;
- The need to support the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and States Parties in using the World Heritage Convention and individual sites as "flag ships" for biodiversity conservation;
- The need to strengthen the effective partnership between IUCN and the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM; and
- The need, in relation to State of Conservation reporting, to ensure information is accurate and to identify practical options and recommendations in relation to site issues, where possible in consultation with State Parties.

Sites Reported on:

This document contains state of conservation reports for thirty nine World Heritage sites, including:

- Seven natural sites included in the List of World Heritage in Danger
- Twenty-eight other natural heritage properties, and
- Four mixed sites.

Monitoring Missions

So far this year, IUCN has carried out six monitoring missions in association with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre:

- Simen National Park, Ethiopia (reported to the Bureau in June);
- Manovo-Gounda St. Floris National Park, CAR (reported to the Bureau in June);
- Niokolo-Koba National Park, Senegal;
- Lake Baikal, Russian Federation
- Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras, Philippines
- Srebrana Nature Reserve, Bulgaria

The mission report for Lake Baikal is included in Appendices as an information document. The reports of the Niokolo-Koba, Philippine Cordilleras and Srebrana missions will be available to the World Heritage Bureau and Committee in December 2001.

A number of monitoring missions are still to be carried out before the next meetings of the Bureau and Committee in April and June 2002.

Acknowledgements

As in previous years, this report is a group effort to which a large number of people have contributed. Information has been received from IUCN staff, WCPA members, IUCN members, various partner international organisations, local non-governmental organisations, government institutions, and field-based projects. This support, in terms of information, time, advice and feedback, is acknowledged with deep gratitude.

I. PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

MOUNT NIMBA NATURE RESERVE, COTE D'IVOIRE/GUINEA

Fauna & Flora International report that the first of two tri-partite meetings to discuss environmental management and conservation of Mount Nimba was successfully held in Man, Côte d'Ivoire from the 12-14 September. The meeting was organised by Fauna & Flora International, BirdLife International and Conservation International, and with funding from UNESCO and Rio Tinto Mining Plc. headquarters in London. As reported to the June meeting of the Bureau, the tri-partite meetings are intended to contribute to the long-term conservation of the Mount Nimba Massif by: establishing and encouraging contacts between technical staff, site managers, local decision-makers and local community representatives to share information and experience; and, increasing harmonised management planning and practices among the three countries sharing the Mt Nimba ecosystem.

The meeting was a technical workshop and included included representatives of local government, local development groups, local villages, relevant protected area managers, UNESCO and MAB Committee members, mining company representatives, water and forest authorities, Ministries responsible for mining, and refugee resettlement authorities.

The meeting analysed threats to the environment of Mount Nimba and the possible solutions, distinguishing between solutions, both at the national and international levels.

A second meeting, scheduled for December 2001, will attempt to outline practical first steps for transboundary planning and co-operation for the Nimba Massif. The Guinean Centre for the Management of the Environment of the Nimba Massif will be responsible for organisation, in collaboration with Fauna & Flora International, with the Ivoirian Direction for Nature Protection and the National Environmental Commission of Liberia playing lead roles in ensuring those countries' input to the process.

The report of the first workshop will include background reports initially presented by representatives from all three delegations. These reports provide a snapshot of the conservation status and the key environmental issues pertaining to their side of the Nimba Massif.

The Liberian report shows that the Liberian part of Mount Nimba, adjacent to the Mount Nimba World Heritage site, has undergone significant transformation since the 1950s due to mining activities, shifting cultivation and human settlements. The area includes the East Nimba and West Nimba National Forests, gazetted in the 1960s. In the late 1970s IUCN recommended that these two forests be connected, other important adjacent areas added, and the entire area set aside as a strict nature reserve. The Liberian Mining Corporation continues to have a caretaker role in the administration of the affairs of Mount Nimba, while the Forestry Development Authority is the other major governmental authority involved in the area. There has been no organized conservation programme related to the Mountain on the Liberian side as there has been in Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire.

Fauna & Flora International reports progress on the preparation of a long-term management programme for the Guinean Mount Nimba Biosphere Reserve and the Centre for the Management of the Environment of Mount Nimba (CEGEN). It is envisaged that the proposal under preparation will be submitted to the GEF through UNDP at the end of 2001. The majority of the work is being carried out with national consultants. However UNESCO and Fauna & Flora International are assisting with matters pertaining to protected area planning, logistical support to CEGEN, drafting the GEF documentation, organising certain key workshops and developing an institutional strengthening plan for CEGEN. The programme is likely to last for 8-10 years, beginning in 2002. The preparatory work is funded by the GEF (via UNDP), UNDP, UNESCO and the Government of Guinea.

Côte d'Ivoire is also preparing a national protected areas management project, which aims to create a national Foundation for Ivoirian protected areas. The lead agency is the Direction de la Protection de la Nature. The project will operate in the Nimba Strict Nature Reserve, among other protected areas,

and is envisaged to start in 2002. In the interim, BirdLife International has been able to secure some support for the Ivoirian Nimba Reserve from the European Commission.

Catalysed by the tri-partite meetings, it is hoped that both the Guinean and Ivoirian project proposals will include budgetary provisions for representatives responsible for their portion of Mount Nimba to participate in transboundary planning and collaboration. It is hoped that the same will be possible in Liberia when a significant and comprehensive protected area programme is launched there.

IUCN recommends that the Committee congratulate FFI, BI and CI and acknowledge their catalytic role in bringing the 3 parties together, and congratulate the three countries on the success of the meeting and its focus on practical, on-the-ground environmental and humanitarian issues and the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders. IUCN urges parties to continue this process, giving emphasis to equal participation by all three countries in long term collaboration.

IUCN recommends the Committee to urge Liberia to become a signatory to the Convention as soon as possible.

IUCN believes that Liberia should make all efforts to:

- **follow up on the IUCN recommendation to gazette the East and West Mount Nimba Forests and connecting land as a strict nature reserve;**
- **develop a Protected Area project (related to 2 above) that facilitates its involvement in the tri-partite meetings and cross-border collaboration;**
- **consider the possible inclusion of a Liberian portion in the World Heritage site.**

The Committee may wish to request the Centre inform the Liberian government of International Assistance available to signatories to the Convention.

IUCN acknowledges progress to the conservation of this site but recommends that Mount Nimba Nature Reserve be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

THE NATURAL WORLD HERITAGE SITES OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: COLTAN MINING AND OTHER COMMON ISSUES

The UNESCO/ICCN/UNF - UNFIP Project *"Biodiversity Conservation in Regions of Armed Conflict – conservation of the World Heritage sites in the Democratic Republic of the Congo"* received additional support from the Society for Conservation Biology. The Society was able to raise funds from members to direct towards providing individual awards to Park Guards, as well as compensating families of guards killed or injured.

Several articles appeared in the media during the period April – September 2001 covering the issue of coltan Mining in the DRC, and there was continued media interest. Focus magazine of the UK (edition 106, September 2001) included a short story on mining and the impact on the lowland gorilla.

The International Famine Centre Annual Report 2000 included a segment on Tantalum and the war in the DR Congo. It reports that the Centre will receive financial support from the Overseas Development Institute in London to continue and expand the analysis of war economies in the DRC.

The Observer newspaper in the United Kingdom raised the issue of logging in the DRC in an article of the 26th August. It reported that the largest logging operation ever undertaken in the DRC had been negotiated between the government of DRC and representatives of the government of Zimbabwe. The logging operation, to be run by the Zimbabwean army and Forestry Commission through a Zimbabwean registered company called Socebo, would involve 85 million acres, located in '...the heart of an area recently designated one of the most important forests on the planet by the United Nations.'

The logging operation is expected to take 2-3 years to clear the concession of the most valuable timber.

IUCN recommends that relevant State Party be asked to report on the status and the implication of the logging operation on the World Heritage sites.

SALONGA NATIONAL PARK, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) carried out an evaluation mission to Salonga in October-December, 2000 which aimed to assess war conditions, the needs of the park and staff, and the status of wildlife populations with a focus on the bonobo. This information was critical to forming subsequent management strategies for assisting the site. The report was presented and distributed in January 2001 to GTZ/PARCID, ICCN-DG and UNESCO.

ZSM is one partner in the UNESCO/ICCN/UNF-UNFIP Project *“Biodiversity Conservation in Regions of Armed Conflict – conservation of the World Heritage sites in the Democratic Republic of the Congo”*. In addition to the Project’s distribution of monthly support payments, ZSM has also undertaken to meet some basic daily needs of staff, notably uniforms and equipment, and to build a series of equipped patrol stations.

The UNESCO/ICCN/UNF-UNFIP Project Coordination Unit reports that given the size of the Park and weak logistics it is difficult to manage as a single site. Prior to the first payment of monthly salaries in July 2001, the park guards had not received any payment for 36 months. Several international organisations are interested in implementing different research and monitoring activities, and this requires good coordination.

IUCN commends the collaboration and partnership of several organisations in the implementation of the UNESCO/ICCN/UNF-UNFIP Project, and specifically recommends that the Committee commend the NGOs working in each of the five protected areas. IUCN recommends that Salonga National Park be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

VIRUNGA NATIONAL PARK, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

WWF reports that it has established five field stations in the Park to distribute the allowances provided under the UNESCO/ICCN/UNF-UNFIP Project to ICCN staff (US\$30/month). It has also organised the payments of pension allowances for retired Virunga staff. These payments, accompanied by rations and medical supplies provided by WWF, were made 73 months after the staff last received salaries. It is reported to have helped elevate morale and increase productivity. The project budget is limited and does not address the need for rations (US\$10/month), medical supplies (US\$5/month), bonuses related to performance (US\$12/month), and equipment.

WWF reports that the equipment needs of the Park total approximately US\$150,000 and comprise of:

- 60 motorola walkie talkies (10 for each station)
- 3 satellite cases
- 3 computers, 3 printers, 3 generators
- 3 jeeps vehicles (US\$45,000)
- 6 motorbikes and 60 bicycles
- 60 tents

WWF notes that there are an estimated 143 widows of guards killed during patrolling the Park. The widows are not included in the UNESCO/ICCN/UNF-UNFIP Project. As ICCN is unable to support them, the international agencies have taken it on to provide assistance, which is considered necessary to motivate guards to continue to work for the Park.

WWF has, in the six months to June 2001 seen the production of over 500,000 seedlings of different species in the 58 nurseries it has established to assist both the Park with reforestation and the local communities with alternative and improved livelihoods. A rotating credit scheme is helping local community associations with vegetable, honey and mushroom production.

WWF reports that 1,600 local people have commenced agriculture in the Park in the last 6 months, occupying an area of approximately 75.4 square km. The influx of persons has also led to a massive increase in the exploitation of natural resources. As a means to find solutions to this problem, WWF has organised regular meetings and forums with administrative, political and traditional authorities.

The UNESCO/ICCN/UNF-UNFIP Project Coordination Unit reports that the south sector of the Virunga National Park is a zone of high risk. Though it is considered by the Park to have a relatively high chance of conservation - based on the fact that local residents do not traditionally eat bush meat - it is currently the sight of fighting between the Rwandan Army and the Interahamwe.

The most pressing problem facing the central sector continues to be human occupation and various illegal activities including fishing, agriculture, hunting and logging. Both civilian and military authorities are implicated in this occupation of the Park, making the situation complicated. The corridor on the western edge that links the central and northern sectors is virtually non-existent.

The northern sector faces the same problems – illegal habitation, logging, poaching. The Hema pastoralist families at Karuruma now number 300 with 3,000 head of cattle.

A report prepared by the Park administration in May 2001 made several recommendations for improved Park functioning, including:

- More efforts should be concentrated in the Northern sector where biodiversity is at highest risk
- The UN forces deployed in the DRC should assist the Park by removing all military positions within its borders
- The government should rehabilitate the Park and equip the headquarters with adequate equipment
- The Park management should redefine the park boundaries to prevent conflicts in the future
- The government should finalise and solve the problems of fishing on Lake Edward
- The Park's authorities should meet with stakeholders to discuss options for compensation

It is also reported by Park authorities that due to the reduction in insecurity, elephants, as well as flamingos, antelopes and other game are moving back across the Ishasha river into the Park.

In July the Countryside Management Association (the Range Association representing English and Welsh Rangers, and a founding member of the International Ranger Federation) contacted IUCN to offer support to the rangers of Virunga National Park. This message was conveyed to Virunga and the Project Coordinator of the UNESCO/ICCN/UNF-UNFIP Project.

IUCN supports the Park's recommendation for a meeting with stakeholders to discuss compensation and other issues, recognising the levels of antagonism felt towards the Park by local residents; it recommends that the Committee consider providing emergency assistance to the Park for such a stakeholder meeting, if so requested by the State Party.

IUCN is concerned with the recommendation by the Park to redefine the boundaries, and recommends that the Committee request further information from the State Party on these proposals.

IUCN recommends that Virunga National Park be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

KAHUZI-BIEGA NATIONAL PARK, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

In September 2001 it was reported by GTZ, the NGO active in the National Park, that coltan mining itself has declined in importance as the direct issue affecting the Park, however the indirect effects of the mining have become serious. Poaching of wildlife by residents of the mining camps is a major problem. Further, the influx of persons associated with the mining has had considerable destabilising effects on the livelihoods of local people.

The UNESCO/ICCN/UNF-UNFIP Project Coordination Unit reports that there is no evidence of elephants in the Park. The wildlife corridor connecting the lower and higher altitudes of the Park has been cut by agricultural incursions. The guards continue to patrol as far as possible in the high altitudes of the Park. The Governor is supportive of the Park's fight against the exploitation of the corridor. The Director of the Park and partner organisations have called for the support of the MONUC forces controlling the airstrips around the Park to assist the humanitarian aid agencies to reach the population, and to control the illegal exploitation of minerals.

At the beginning of August 2001 it was reported that the Chief of the rebel movement in Goma had ordered the cessation of all 150 illegal mines in Kahuzi-Biega National Park, in order to save the remaining gorillas.

The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund reports it has taken a number of initiatives since March 2001 to reduce the impact of coltan mining on Kahuzi Biega National Park. In April, the Fund, along with the Born Free Foundation, employed a consultant to conduct a study of the situation. His report is available at: <http://www.bornfree.org.uk/coltan>. In May, the Dian Fossey Fund met with representatives of various foundations related to the high-technology industries that use Tantalum. While all participants at the meeting agreed the situation was unacceptable, there was a mixed reaction about how to respond. The Fund has also had meetings and corresponded with leaders from the tantalum processing industry with regards to exploring a mining industry-led solution to the problem. In addition, the Fund aims bring all those involved in coltan mining together for a workshop in Durban before the end of 2001.

In September the Fund met with the DRC Minister of Mines and Minister of the Environment, who reiterated their commitment to protecting the environment. They informed the Fund that they had issued a strong warning message to all illegal persons in the Park to leave. They also mentioned their intention to re-arm the park rangers, and encourage their colleagues to support ICCN in its work.

The Fund is currently working on a six-month report on its Coltan campaign, which will be circulated soon.

IUCN recommends that Kahuzi-Biega National Park be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

RIO PLATANO BIOSPHERE RESERVE, HONDURAS

IUCN received a copy of the report submitted by the State Party on the state of conservation of this site, which was prepared by the Honduran Corporation for Forestry Development. The report notes positive development on the implementation of key recommendations from the IUCN/UNESCO mission to this site (October 2000). Key actions implemented are:

- Clear demarcation of the core zone of the site is well underway and soon to be finalised
- Two new field stations to improve the infrastructure required for the management of the site, including maintenance and partial renewal of the equipments for patrolling, have been established
- Fifty-two of the 152 families living in the core zone of the site have agreed to relocate in areas of the buffer zone. An economic compensation programme to those families moving out of the core zone has supported this process. This represents a major economic commitment from the government to the conservation of this site

- Training activities for staff at the site have been implemented. They have focused on supporting the development of co-management initiatives aimed at enhancing the conservation of the site through providing options to develop small community eco-development projects
- Forestry management plans for different sector of the site have commenced, with support from CATIE
- A monitoring report for 1999-2000 on the state of the forest coverage is being finalised. It is noted that this report, when compared with 1997-1999 assessments, provides evidence on the reduction of the rate of deforestation at the site, which is an indication of progress achieved in conservation activities.

The reports also notes with appreciation the support provided to the conservation of the site by the government of Germany, the Meso-American Biological Corridor Project, a number of local NGOs and international NGOs such as TNC, RARE-Center, and WWF.

IUCN recommends that the Committee commend progress made by the State Party in implementing recommendations from the 2000 IUCN/UNESCO mission, while requesting the State Party to provide updates on progress achieved on other planned activities. The Committee may also wish to commend support provided by the State Party of Germany and TNC, RARE Centre and WWF to the conservation of this area.

MANAS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, INDIA

In September Manas Wildlife Sanctuary was replaced by Keoladev National Park, Bharatpur as one of the two pilot sites involved in the UNESCO/IUCN/UNP-UNFIP Project ***"Enhancing our heritage: Monitoring and Managing for success in World Natural Heritage Sites"***.

Workshops for this project will be held in Keoladev National Park, Bharatpur, for the 21st to 23rd November, and in Chitwan National Park, Nepal for the 26th to 28th November, 2001.

The State Party invited a joint IUCN/UNESCO monitoring mission to this site in May 2001. However, due to the monsoon it was not possible to visit the site. Though a date was proposed for later in 2001, it has not been possible to arrange and hence the mission is now likely to take place in February 2002.

IUCN notes that further consideration will be made upon receipt of the mission report.

AIR AND TENERE NATURAL RESERVES, NIGER

IUCN received a copy of the ***Rapid Wildlife Assessment Report*** for Air e Tenere Natural Reserves, requested as part of the programme of emergency rehabilitation of the site funded by the World Heritage Fund. The assessment was undertaken between the 5th and 27th March 2001. It found that the principal large species had recovered to viable levels similar to those seen before the war, except for the ostrich, which had totally disappeared as a consequence of the war, and the gazelle which was sighted rarely.

IUCN notes that despite the recovery of certain species, the overall state of conservation of the site remains threatened.

The ***Rapid Wildlife Assessment Report*** makes the following recommendations:

- Recommence and strengthen surveillance activities

- Establish regulations on tourist activities
- Create a breeding centre for large Sahel-Saharan mammals and ostrich, with the aim of reintroduction and strengthening populations
- Develop the wildlife census system to include participation of stakeholders
- Create a specific method for estimating numbers in the addax population

IUCN notes that the Air e Tenere ostrich was a North Africa sub species, which is now only found as a viable population in Chad. IUCN concludes it is important to re-introduce the ostrich using the Chad population as other species of ostrich are not suited to the conditions in Niger. Re-introduction is vital for the local community in the long-term as they will be able to undertake breeding programmes and make a living from the ostrich.

IUCN strongly supports the *Rapid Wildlife Assessment Report* recommendations and recommends the Committee urge the State Party to implement these.

IUCN recommends the Committee encourage the State Party to identify and evaluate options for the ostrich reintroduction programme. IUCN recommends the State Party to obtain technical advice on this from the IUCN Species Survival Commission.

IUCN recommends that Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

ICHKEUL NATIONAL PARK, TUNISIA

The last formal World Heritage mission to Ichkeul (carried out in association with the Ramsar Bureau) was in March 2000. The mission report noted the loss of biodiversity at the site, because of high degrees of salinity in the lake and marshes, caused by the building of dams on inflow rivers. The mission also noted the measures (and in particular the rehabilitation plan) taken by the Tunisian authorities to restore the biodiversity. In addition to proposals on monitoring and management measures, the report recommended that Ichkeul should remain on the World Heritage in Danger List until the results of the restoration plan are known, and that removal of Ichkeul from the World Heritage List should be considered if the restoration plan is not successful. The report also called on the Tunisian authorities to consider immediate release of fresh water from the dams because of the high salinity in the lake in spring 2000.

IUCN understands that the situation on the ground at Ichkeul has not materially improved since the March 2000 mission. Indeed reports indicate that the situation has worsened: no releases of water were made from the dams upstream in summer 2000 because of the prevailing water shortage; rainfall in winter 2000/2001 was once again well below average, so that the sluice on the Oued Tindja had to remain open during summer 2001. Water salinity in the lake and marshes remains at about twice the level of seawater, so that inflow of seawater via the Oued Tindja is effectively diluting the water in the lake. The degradation of the vegetation (*Potamogeton* in the lake, *Phragmites* around the edges, and *Scirpus* in the marshes) continues, as does the decrease in populations of waterbirds (such as wintering Greylag Geese and Coot, migrant Teal and Godwits, for which the site was accepted as a World Heritage site).

IUCN also understands that – as noted in the March 2000 mission report - the Government of Tunisia still proposes to release water from upstream dams into the lake, when the necessary building works have been completed (essentially the coming into service of the Sidi Barrak dam). The exact amount of water to be released has not yet been specified, nor is it clear whether this water will be available unconditionally (ie, also in years of below average rainfall, like the last two years). IUCN further understands that the Government of Tunisia also intends to proceed with the construction of three dams planned some years ago in the Ichkeul catchment (on the Douimis, Tine and Melah). It is anticipated that the construction of these dams will further increase the salinity in the World Heritage site.

IUCN understands that a proposal is being made to the Global Environment Facility for funds to develop management plans at three Tunisian national parks, including Ichkeul. The experts who are drafting this request have suggested that GEF is unlikely to accept the proposal on Ichkeul unless there is a firm commitment from the Tunisian Government that adequate releases of water (of the order of 90 million cubic metres) will be made to Ichkeul every year.

IUCN notes with grave concern the reports on the continued state of inaction and the further deterioration of the site. It notes that the range of natural features found in Tunisia is a major feature of its strong international tourism industry, and that Ichkeul, as Tunisia's only natural World Heritage Site, contributes substantially to this appeal. Despite this, the site continues to be accorded insufficient attention and resources and has reached the stage where it is no longer of outstanding universal value.

IUCN acknowledges the State Party's undertaking to release water for the lake and marshes, but is concerned about the amount and the timing of releases. If an adequate amount is not provided immediately, there is no hope or justification for keeping the site on the World Heritage List. Further, the decision to go ahead with the Tine, Melah and Douimis dams will aggravate the worsening situation.

IUCN notes that the values for which this site were inscribed appear to have significantly deteriorated. It recommends the Committee request the State Party to invite a site mission to determine the extent and severity of impacts and what emergency measures are possible.

II. OTHER NATURAL HERITAGE PROPERTIES

GREAT BARRIER REEF, AUSTRALIA

On the 10th September 2001 the Australian Government released a scientific report addressing the effect of land use activities on water quality in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The report - *Great Barrier Reef Catchment Water Quality Action Plan* - recommends specific end-of-river pollution targets for 2011 for all 26 river catchments adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef.

The Plan was prepared by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) at the request of the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council and the Commonwealth Minister for Environment and Heritage. A scientific working group reviewed available data and existing national water quality guidelines, prioritised catchments according to the ecological risk present to the Reef, and recommended minimum targets for pollutant loads that would halt the decline in water quality entering the reef.

The Plan is available on the GBRMPA web site at: <http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au>

The Plan notes that the increase in pollution discharged to the Reef since c1850 is as follows:

- Sediment loads – between 300 and 900%
- Phosphate – between 300 and 1,500%
- Total nitrogen – between 200 and 400%
- Pesticide residues – now detectable in subtidal sediments

The Plan sets 10 year targets (2001 –2011) for the entire Great Barrier Reef catchment:

- Sediment – 38% reduction
- Nitrogen – 39% reduction
- Phosphorous – 47% reduction
- Chlorophyll – 30-60% reduction
- Heavy metals and pesticides – reductions in detectable levels

The Plan recommends that the targets be incorporated into relevant plans under the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP) and the Natural Heritage Trust. For the catchments not covered under the NAP, the report recommends the State Government prepare, and submit to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council, integrated catchment management plans that set out the action required to meet the water quality targets.

The Plan suggests specific actions that need to be taken to improve the quality of water entering the World Heritage site, notably a mix of regulatory and non-regulatory measures:

- Reforms to ensure that all environmentally significant activities in the catchments are subject to proper environmental impact assessment and approval processes and that conditions are attached to ensure activities are carried out in a manner that protects and improves water quality
- Promotion of 'constraint mapping' for current and future agricultural development
- Protection and rehabilitation of catchment areas at risk such as freshwater wetlands and riparian vegetation
- Establishment and enforcement of standards for sewage, wastewater and stormwater discharge from coastal developments to watercourses
- Promotion of environmental management plans for agricultural activities, which promote farming practices that minimise downstream impacts
- Promotion of full compliance to Industry Codes of Practice, and
- Initiation of public and catchment specific education programme about the connectivity between land use and the impacts on the Reef.

WWF estimates that the cost of a significant restoration program to tackle pollution and to clean up the waters flowing into the Great Barrier Reef would be in excess of \$300 million. It has identified key actions to tackle pollution:

- An immediate and permanent moratorium of land clearing in the GBR catchment
- Urgent legislative protection for coastal freshwater wetlands
- All agricultural activities to be regulated under the Qld Environment Protection Act 1994
- Fertiliser and pesticide use to be licensed
- Legislative discharge limits for acid sulphate soil to be set
- A major GBR catchment riparian revegetation and wetland restoration programme to be funded

IUCN notes that the *Great Barrier Reef Catchment Water Quality Action Plan* initiative directly addresses one of the major issues raised in the ACIUCN report on the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, relating to the need for more effective catchment management in lands adjacent to the Park.

IUCN recommends the Committee commend the State Party on the release of the Water Quality Action Plan, and the recommended actions to achieve the targets. Further, it recommend the Committee urge the State Party to take immediate action to progress and implement the strategic actions and targets outlined in the report.

IUCN recommends the State Party consider how the Action Plan can be strengthened by legislative, regulatory or other tools directed at land use in the catchments.

IUCN also recommends the Committee request the State Party to provide regular reports to the Committee on the implementation of the Action Plan.

FRASER ISLAND, AUSTRALIA

On the 30th April 2001 a 9 year old boy was killed by dingoes on Fraser Island. This was the first recorded death in Australia by dingoes of a human over 1 year of age. This death has prompted a re-evaluation of the risk posed to humans by dingoes and a re-assessment of the management strategies outlined in the draft Fraser Island Dingo Management Strategy (March 2001). The revised Strategy is now with the Queensland Government awaiting approval.

Immediately following the incident, the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) undertook a cull of 31 dingoes to reduce the immediate risk to people from habituated dingoes that were frequenting areas heavily used by people. This cull was a once only operation. A Risk Assessment Report (*Risk Assessment: Risk to humans posed by the dingo population on Fraser Island, EPA, May 2001*) was commissioned by the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Risk Assessment provides direction for the immediate management of dingoes on Fraser Island and provides site-specific management recommendations. As such it is complementary to the draft Fraser Island Dingo Management Strategy.

The Risk Assessment outlined some previously unused management options at particular sites, including:

- Fencing of campgrounds and recreational areas
- Active deterrence of animals in the vicinity of popular visitor areas
- Restriction on taking of food to certain locations, and
- Time restrictions for visitors at some sites.

Island wide management approaches recommended include:

- Limiting visitor numbers using a variety of approaches
- Significantly increasing fines and penalties for feeding dingoes
- Enhancing public education and awareness programmes

- Increasing enforcement through additional ranger presence
- Increasing monitoring and research on the dingo

The need for consultation with the Island's residents, tour operators, the Fraser Island Community Advisory Committee, native title claimants and the Island's World Heritage Area Management Committee on the limits and mechanisms is emphasised in the Risk Assessment Report.

IUCN has expert scientific advice that the impact of the cull is unlikely to have any adverse impacts on the long-term viability or survival of the population.

The Fraser Island dingo population is of great relevance and high importance to the status of Fraser Island as a World Heritage site. Fraser Island is listed for several reasons including the relative genetic purity of dingoes compared with other parts of Australia, but it is not listed under criterion iv. Although the Fraser Island dingo population is not 100% pure, Fraser Island represents the best opportunity to establish and maintain a self-sustaining population of wild genetically pure dingoes.

Elsewhere in Australia, and other range countries in Asia and Africa, most populations are, or will soon be, predominantly hybrid. The IUCN Canid Action Plan lists the dingo as a threatened species. With the 2nd edition of the Plan currently in preparation, the conservation status of the dingo is under review and may be upgraded to endangered. Fraser Island may well be the only opportunity for the world to conserve a wild population of genetically pure dingoes.

Fraser Island does not have an exclusive Plan of Management, rather, it is catered for in the Great Sandy Region Management Plan (GSRMP). The GSRMP covers the Great Sandy Region National Park, of which Fraser Island is a part, and also adjacent marine areas and some lands outside the protected area. Released in 1994, it was prepared as a regional conservation plan with input from numerous government departments. It does not have statutory status.

The GSRMP is about to undergo a detailed review. The process will involve substantial stakeholder and community input and is scheduled for completion in March 2003. The review is explicitly considering an accredited management plan for the Fraser Island World Heritage property, as well as a commitment to new legislative requirements for the World Heritage site.

On the 27th July 2001 the Queensland Government announced the allocation of an extra \$1.75million towards the management of Fraser Island. \$1 million has been earmarked this financial year for dingo management on the island; the other \$750,000 is to be spent employing eight permanent rangers for the island.

IUCN commends the State Party/QPWS on the Risk Assessment and the draft Dingo Management Strategy. It supports the recommendation on imposing visitor limits. IUCN recommends that the Committee request further information be provided as this visitor management strategy is developed.

IUCN welcomes the review of the GSRMP and its explicit recognition of Fraser Island as a world heritage area requiring special management and legislative backing to protect the world heritage property in perpetuity.

AUSTRALIAN FOSSIL MAMMAL SITES (RIVERSLEIGH/NARACOORTE), AUSTRALIA

IUCN has received several reports of problems of management of the Riversleigh section of the serial site. These pertain to:

- Lack of infrastructure to deter vandalism or control tourism, including on-site security and surveillance. It is reported that vandalism and theft has impacted on one of the most important deposits - 'Burnt Offering Site'
- Lack of interpretation on site, including the lack of a ranger station/visitors centre

- Lack of research funding for the site to support increased interpretation and better conservation and management of the World Heritage site

IUCN notes that the management of Naracoorte and Riversleigh differ significantly, being the responsibility of different states, however there is a Scientific & Management Advisory Committee which brings the two management authorities together.

IUCN would like to note that current efforts are underway to address the imbalances of managing this serial site. IUCN is in contact with the State Party to obtain detailed information on problems reported at this site so as to provide a full and comprehensive report to the next session of the Bureau in April 2002.

THE SUNDARBANS, BANGLADESH

Oil and Gas Exploration

Shell has publicly declared that it has no plans for exploration activities in the Special Reserved Forest (SRF). The World Heritage site comprises three sections of the SRF at the coastal edge (see map in Appendix C). It has also restated its promise in a letter to IUCN Bangladesh. In the letter, Shell states:

- The Sundarbans is designated as a Ramsar site. The Ramsar Convention has confirmed that the Ramsar site is synonymous with the SRF and does not extend beyond the SRF. As previously indicated, Shell does not plan any exploration activities in the environmentally sensitive SRF in Block 5.
- Shell will carry out extensive environmental and social studies and stakeholder engagement before conducting any activities elsewhere in Block 5.
- As regards the socio-economic impact zone outside the northern peripheries of the SRF, Shell will be discussing the implications of oil and gas exploration with the Ministry of Environment and Forest.
- Shell recognizes that one of the main objectives of the ADB/ Government of Bangladesh (GoB) Sundarbans Biodiversity Conservation Project is to reduce the poverty level of the 3.5 million people living in the impact zone and attract them out of the forest by expanding economic opportunities within the zone.
- By providing economic activities and in case of successful exploration clean gas, Shell can add value to the objectives of the ADB/ GoB and be a party to providing sustainable development opportunities in the region.
- Shell Bangladesh is well aware of the need to consider the potential indirect impacts on the SRF of any of its future activities elsewhere. Such exploration activities, whether inside the socio-economic impact zone, or elsewhere in Block 5, will be continued only after full environmental and social impact assessments and in consultations with relevant stakeholders.
- The current phase of the project consists of exploration only. If hydrocarbons are discovered and it is decided subsequently to develop them, further EIA and SIA studies will be undertaken, together with continuing stakeholder consultation.

On the 20th September 2001 Shell convened its first workshop in Dhaka to share information about the ensuing work programme, oil and gas exploration and also to address emergent issues and questions. It has also distributed briefing papers to stakeholders and invited responses and discussion. A web site has been launched with updated information on Shell's activities in Bangladesh: <http://www.shell.com/bd>

IUCN Bangladesh is in discussion with Shell about their activities and will continue to advise them on an informal basis, as requested.

Sundarbans Biodiversity Conservation Project

The Steering Committee for the Sundarbans Biodiversity Conservation Project (SBCP), established by the Government of Bangladesh for smooth implementation of the SBCP, has invited IUCN Bangladesh to be a member. As part of the SBCP, IUCN Bangladesh is to conduct independent monitoring of biodiversity of the Sundarban, drawing on a range of wetland, marine and protected area specialists from its international network. It is in the process of finalizing its contract for this work.

Improving the Biodiversity of the World Heritage Site

IUCN Bangladesh reports that the Government of Bangladesh has agreed to a second biodiversity project for the World Heritage site. To be funded by UNF/UNFIP, the project "Improving the Biodiversity of the World Heritage Site" is anticipated to commence early in 2002. UNDP has appointed Consultants for preparation of the project proposal.

Salinity Levels

IUCN received a media report claiming that Bengal Tigers are dying of liver sickness in the Sundarbans. The cause is attributed to drinking increasingly salty water, itself a result of reduced fresh water flows into the Sundarbans. It states that "due to the high level of salinity, 30 Bengal Tigers have died within the past 10 years. Autopsy reports revealed that liver damage has caused the death of these Tigers."

The article mentions a proposal by the Bangladesh Forest Department for a five-year, US\$2 million project called "Tiger Project: Sundarbans" which, originally proposed in 1990-91, remains unimplemented.

IUCN has received advice that salinity levels are not a special threat to tigers in the Sundarbans, as they have been drinking saline water for centuries due to limited fresh water sources. There is a potential threat to the tigers from the salinity-induced changes to its habitat (vegetation; prey).

IUCN has been informed that a number of studies of the 'crown death' phenomena affecting the Sundri, the dominant mangrove species in the Sundarbans, have been undertaken. Most of them conclude that there are several possible causes: increase in salinity; sedimentation; pest attack and natural plant succession. The most commonly accepted reason is the increase in salinity. The SBCP has also initiated a study on the death of the Sundri trees.

Ecopark Project

IUCN has also received preliminary media reports of a planned 'Biodiversity Project' - comprised of an 'Ecopark' and mangrove arboretum - for Karamjal, situated in the Sundarbans East Zone under the Chandpai range. Karamjal is one of the captive breeding centers for many critically endangered species of Sundarbans. Proposed to cover an area of 30 hectares, the project is envisaged to play a vital role in conserving forest resources while also being a tourist attraction for international visitors.

IUCN recommends that the Committee commend the State Party on its efforts, through the SBCP and the newly announced "Improving the Biodiversity of the World Heritage Site".

IUCN recommends that the Committee commend Shell on the careful and transparent planning of its hydro-carbon exploration activities in Block 5; its steps to undertake full social, economic and environmental impact studies before any production occurs; and its continual and open stakeholder dialogue.

IUCN notes that the current proposals are outside the boundaries of The Sundarbans World Heritage site. IUCN reiterates its opposition to any mining or exploration within World Heritage sites and notes that any operations close to World Heritage sites must be carefully planned to minimise environmental impacts.

PIRIN NATIONAL PARK, BULGARIA

In October IUCN received a copy of the State Party report on the Conservation Status of Pirin National Park World Heritage site, as requested by the Bureau in June. The report includes the following information on the Territorial Development Plan (TDP) that was developed for the Bansko ski zone which lies within the site:

- The TDP passed all the Environment Impact Assessment procedures set by the Bulgarian Protected Areas Law. It was also subject to public hearing. It was later submitted to the High Expert Ecological Council (HEEC) of the Ministry of Environment and Water. The HEEC partially approved the TDP, while also requesting changes and protection measures aimed at improving the TDP.
- The final version of the TDP is 818.46 ha, with ski runs and facilities occupying 99.55 ha of this area.
- The TDP is considered as the upgrade and development of an existing ski zone, the most significant element of which is a cable car. It is considered to significantly reduce the negative impacts associated with crowding, traffic congestion, and rundown facilities.
- The development aims to ensure the achievement of one of the major goals of the National Park, namely granting the development of ecotourism and income for the local people. The TDP will contribute to the sustainable development of the Park by enrolling the local community into the idea of protection of the Park. The State Party report noted that the local population is fully supportive of the TDP.
- The Management Plan for the Park is to be developed with financial assistance from the ongoing Bulgarian-Swiss Biodiversity Conservation Programme. This is expected to be complete in 2001. It is expected that the Management Plan will take note of the main directives of the TDP and after the approval of the Management Plan, some of the TDP's decisions may be changed.
- On the 12th July 2001, the three member sitting of the High Administrative Court of Bulgaria ended with a rejection of the BALKANI Wildlife Society appeal against the decision of the Ministry of Environment and Water to grant permission for the TDP. The decision was appealed to a five-member sitting of the Court, and was subsequently rejected by the Court in late September. The High Administrative Court is the final authority and avenue of appeal.
- Prior to the High Court decision in July, the Ministry of Environment and Water opened the bid procedure for the concession for the TDP by advertising in the State Gazette, and a Commission was nominated to oversee the concession bidding process.

IUCN also received the first Brief of the "Save the Pirin Campaign", which involves a coalition of over 30 Bulgarian NGOs opposed to the development. The Brief and subsequent Briefs will be used as a means to inform European NGOs, Convention secretariats, European institutions including the EC, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and European Parliament about the Campaign's progress. Members of the Campaign have met with the new Minister of Environment and Water, representatives of the potential project sponsor and representatives of the EBRD, which is also involved in project financing.

IUCN notes the State Party's belief that "the only solution to the problem of the sustainable development of the Pirin NP is to bind the goals of the park to the interests of the local people", and that the TDP offers this opportunity. IUCN acknowledges that local populations must be able to enjoy in the benefits afforded by the Park and the existence of the World Heritage site. IUCN notes however that any development in the World Heritage site must be carefully planned to minimise environmental impacts.

IUCN questions whether the TDP project in Pirin National Park can be classed as ecotourism and whether it is compatible with World Heritage status. It also notes that the total area covered by the TDP is 818.46 ha, whereas the current proposed ski runs and facilities cover less than 100 ha. IUCN is concerned that the TDP may allow further incremental development within the remaining larger area. It recommends the Committee request the State Party to ensure that tourism development does not take place in the remaining TDP area in the future.

DJA FAUNAL RESERVE, CAMEROON

During August and September, the Guardian newspaper of the UK published two articles on illegal poaching in Cameroon and Dja Faunal Reserve. One article criticised UNESCO for not doing enough to halt the loss of wildlife in Dja Faunal Reserve, quoting a report by the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) that said "Hunters operate almost unimpeded in the Dja reserve, despite its status as a world heritage site." The second article focuses on the role logging operations and their staff play in wild meat consumption and trade. Figures reported include:

- 13 tonnes of bushmeat passed through one village bordering Dja Faunal reserve within two months. Most of it was bound for Yaoundé.
- The logging roads on which bushmeat is driven to Yaoundé come to within 500 metres of the border of Dja Faunal reserve
- Three tonnes of meat arrive at Yaoundé's four bushmeat markets daily
- The number of men hunting in the logging concession adjoining Dja Faunal Reserve equals the number of men employed by the concessionaire
- Each hunter may lay 200 snares, and capture on average three or four chimps and two gorillas a month

IUCN, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and TRAFFIC, the wildlife monitoring programme of IUCN and WWF, convened a technical workshop in Yaounde, Cameroon between the 17th and 20th September 2001. The workshop, entitled "Links Between Biodiversity Conservation, Livelihoods and Food Security and the Use of Wild Meat", aimed to:

1. forge functional links among the species conservation, food security/community development and commercial sectors in order to identify means to address conservation and development concerns linked to the unsustainable use of wild fauna for food
2. contribute to the process of identifying, prioritising and planning practical responses to address priority conservation and development concerns related to the use of wild fauna for food
3. provide input to a GEF proposal related to the use of wild fauna to contribute to sustainable livelihoods in Central Africa

(See Appendix A for a short Brief on Central Africa Logging and Wild Meat Initiatives)

The articles also raised concern about the effectiveness of the 50 'eco-guards' funded by the EU, who are responsible for law enforcement in and around Dja. Both claim that the guards are not making a difference to the poaching problem. They are hampered by the state requirement that any meat they confiscate - including that of protected species - must be auctioned for state revenue, hence creating a perverse incentive to protect wildlife. This situation is negatively impacting relations with local people.

It appears to IUCN that these developments, if accurately reported, suggest that it may be necessary to consider whether the site should be placed on the WH in Danger list. It therefore trusts that prompt and effective action will be taken by the Govt. of Cameroon to address the damaging trends and avert such action on the part of the WH Committee.

IUCN recommends that the Committee call the State Party to take urgent actions to stop illegal poaching in the Reserve, and request a full report from the State party on this situation.

NAHANNI NATIONAL PARK, CANADA

IUCN received a copy of the State of Conservation report from the State Party, which focuses on the potential impacts of increased mining activity in the region surrounding Nahanni National Park World Heritage site. The report notes that:

- A study is currently underway to determine preferred boundaries for three adjacent areas which are proposed as additions to the Park
- The Deh Cho First Nations have proposed that the Park reserve be expanded to include part or all of the South Nahanni River watershed
- *The Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA) governs land and resource use in the Nahanni area and the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board has authority. The Board is required to conduct preliminary screening on any proposed development before issuing a permit or licence; this screening includes consultation with government agencies including Parks Canada and First Nations. It can lead to an EIA being requested. In cases where the screening does not lead to an EIA, a federal department such as Parks Canada may request such an assessment
- For Nahanni National Park the *Canada National Parks Act* applies, so only the environmental assessment provisions of the MVRMA have force, and under those provisions consideration must be given to cumulative impacts
- In recent months Parks Canada has been working with other federal and territorial agencies to review permit and licence applications under the MVRMA in an effort to ensure the ecological integrity of Nahanni National Park Reserve is maintained
- There are currently seven mining and energy companies that have submitted applications for exploration or development activities in the region. The areas potentially affected by this activity are within the watershed of the South Nahanni River. In two cases, the areas potentially affected are in one of the three candidate areas identified as proposed additions to the Park Reserve

Parks Canada is concerned that the number and location of the proposed developments could result in cumulative impacts on aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, including changes to water quality, habitat fragmentation, changes to wildlife movement and resulting impacts on biodiversity.

Parks Canada is continuing to work in the processes established under the MVRMA and De Cho Process to address its concerns. It is:

1. Continuing efforts to expand the park reserve into the three candidate areas identified and to work with other jurisdictions towards a comprehensive conservation regime for the balance of the watershed
2. Through the MVRMA process, focusing its reviews on the identification of potential impacts of the development proposals on ecological integrity and world heritage values. It will work with proponents and regulatory agencies to develop appropriate mitigation measures, and if measures cannot be found, it will recommend further environmental review

IUCN recommends the Committee note the importance placed by Parks Canada on the issue of cumulative impacts from mining to this WH site and the measures underway to solve or minimise this problem. The Committee may wish to request the State Party to provide a progress report on the implementation of the MVRMA and De Cho Process.

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, ECUADOR

Galapagos Special Law

On the 18th of September, 2001 Ecuador's Constitutional Court voted in favour of the Galapagos Special Law, one day after a public inquiry was held in response to a lawsuit brought forward by the

Association of Industrial Tuna Fishermen (ATUNEC), which challenged the Special Law's constitutionality. The final decision of the Constitutional Court Judges -eight votes in favour and one abstention-represents an important achievement in the continued efforts to protect the Galapagos Islands under the regulations of the Special Law.

Since its approval in March 1998, the Galapagos Special Law has faced continued attacks, primarily from the industrial fishing sector based in continental Ecuador, which seeks fishing rights inside the Galapagos Marine Reserve (proposed in entirety as an extension to the World Heritage site). The Special Law granted exclusive fishing rights in the Marine Reserve to artisanal fishermen and calls for a system of quotes and zoning to control fisheries. However the Special Law can only be fully enforced after having approved all the regulations and by-laws on key management issues such as fisheries.

Sea Lion Poaching

On the 16th July fifteen (11 male and 4 female) mutilated sea lion corpses- *Zalophus worlbeckii* - were discovered on La Loberia beach on San Cristobal Island. The Charles Darwin Research Station, Galapagos National Park Service and a veterinarian of the Araucaria Foundation undertook autopsies of nine of the animals (the rest had reached an advanced stage of decomposition). The technical report of the autopsy concluded that:

- The reproductive zone of each male had been removed
- The cause of death for all individuals was a cranial-cephalic contusion
- The deaths were possibly caused using metallic objects
- A knife was used to remove the external reproductive organs of the male sea lions
- It was a nocturnal attack, perpetrated by probably 3-5 people
- The females were possibly accidental victims because of the poor light at the time of the attack

This is the first time such action has been reported for the Galapagos Islands. The report makes the link between the incident and the increasing demand from Asian markets for the male genitals of sea lions and seals for use in traditional medicine, as aphrodisiacs and amulets. The value of each sea lion penis in the Asian market is about US\$ 50. It is used in various forms including powder, dried whole, made into capsules, mixed with other herbal substances, or used as the base for alcoholic drinks.

Enforcement

Earlier this year, the *Sirenian*, owned and operated by the environmental NGO Sea Shepherd, commenced a five-year tour of duty to help the Galapagos National Park Service clamp down on illegal commercial fishing operations within 40 miles of the islands. This collaborative operation, given a favourable ruling by the Ecuadorian court, is the first conservation patrol of the Galapagos by a foreign vessel officially supported by the Ecuadorian government.

Invasive Species Eradication Programme

IUCN notes that in early 2002 the Charles Darwin Research Station and the Galapagos National Park Service will commence a five year programme to combat invasive species. Funding of US\$18 million is being provided over six years from the United Nations and GEF, while other sources are estimated to reach US\$19 million. Biologists and park staff will use a combination of measures to remove some alien species, make a dent in other populations, and bolster controls to keep other exotics out of the Islands. The programme is one of the most ambitious ever to combat invasive species. It is believed that only by targeting the most troublesome species all at once will the programme be effective in saving the Galapagos from destruction by invasives. It is hoped that the holistic approach will set an example for other places battling invasives.

The Station and Park are in the final months of intensive monitoring to confirm the eradication of pigs from Santiago Island. This follows decades of work involving a range of control methods, a highly trained ranger team and GPS/GIS technology.

Tourism: SmartVoyager Certification Programme

Progress have been also reported on the *SmartVoyager* certification programme, a joint initiative of the Rainforest Alliance and Conservacion y Desarrollo (C&D) of Ecuador. The programme aims to give a green seal of approval to tour boats operating in the Galapagos Archipelago that meet certain environmental and social criteria. In December 2000, after nearly 2 years of research and improvements, five of the 20 large tour vessels that operate in the area were evaluated and certified as ecofriendly and socially responsible. The certifications were awarded to vessels owned by two Ecuadorian companies, Canodros S.A., and Ecoventura S.A. *SmartVoyager* is still evolving, and following the grounding and oil spill in January 2001, has been reviewing its standards involving refueling, type of fuel used, and contingency plans and training for oil spills. It is also including supply and service vessels in the programme. Full details of the certification programme can be found at: <http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/programs/sv/objectives.html>

IUCN recommends that the Committee commend the ruling by the State Party's Constitutional Court to uphold the Galapagos Special Law.

IUCN recommends that the Committee, recognising the continued and increasing threats posed to the marine and terrestrial flora and fauna of the Islands, urge the State Party to make all efforts to finalise the specific regulations under the Special Law and enforce them as soon as possible. This is in line with IUCN recommendation to the Bureau meeting in June in relation to the nomination of the Galapagos Marine Reserve to be added to the existing World Heritage site.

IUCN notes that the sea lion incident demonstrates the need to enhance the capacity of the Park to reinforce patrolling and control of the islands.

IUCN commends the *SmartVoyager* initiative, given the nature of tourism visitation to the Galapagos and the impacts of tourism on the fragile environment and in light of the proposed Marine Reserve. It believes that consideration should be given to promoting similar schemes in other World Heritage sites.

CAVES OF THE AGGTELEK KARST AND SLOVAK KARST, HUNGARY/SLOVAKIA

In June 2001 IUCN received reports on preparation of a new version of the mining law by the Slovak Ministry of Economy. The new law is believed to remove or weaken the present restrictions on mining operations in protected areas. The reports also claimed that mining companies are seeking to open new limestone mines in the Slovak Karst, and claims the granting of limestone exploitation licenses by the Slovak Government is imminent.

SOSNA, a Slovak environmental NGO, has proposed to the Slovak Minister of Environment the re-categorisation of the Slovak Karst from a Protected Landscape Area to a National Park and the development of local sustainable tourism and biological farming. It has also proposed that the revised mining law exclude geological reserves.

EuroBirder, a group of professional and amateur ornithologists based in Berlin concerned with the preservation of the environment in the Western Palearctic has also approached the Minister of Environment on the issue of National Park status for the area. It also mentions interest from local towns in the development of 'soft' tourism and traditional industries, handicrafts and farming methods, and the opposition to the visible impact caused by limestone mining.

IUCN has received a State Party state of conservation report for the Slovak Karst World Heritage site. It notes:

- Under the Law of the National Board of the Slovak Republic regarding the Protection of Nature and Landscape, the caves are listed as either National Monuments or Nature Monuments. This level of protection is the highest level of protection under the Law. Every cave that is listed as part of the world heritage site is covered by this highest level of protection and is further located within the Protected Landscape Area of Slovensky Kras.
- In order to avoid and prevent negative human impacts in the Protected Landscape Area of Slovensky Kras, the Ministry of the Environment in coordination with District offices are in the process of preparing proposals for the reclassification of Slovensky Kras as a National Park. The proposed decision date by the government of the Slovak Republic on this reclassification is October 2002.
- With National Park designation, under the *Law*, the protection of nature is of the highest consideration and only after that may considerations be made for other activities. This means that according to the *Law*, limestone exploitation is forbidden.
- The regional development plan for the Kosice region, gazetted in 1998, does not propose new limestone mining in the area of Slovensky Kras. Furthermore, this plan proposes the regulation of land-use to be guided by the limits of nature protection, the protection of cultural monuments, and the protection of agricultural and forest soil. These regulations have strong limits regarding acceptable human impact activities.
- The Ministry of Economy has proposed a new version of the *Basic Geological Law* regarding geological works and state geological services. This *Law* includes a section on research of geological conditions for opening new caves and the stabilization of underground areas. The proposed changes were not accepted by the Government and the Ministry of Economy is preparing a revision. The Ministry of Environment will consider these revisions to ensure this proposal takes into consideration the existing environmental regulations (including the protection of world heritage sites).

The Cave and Karst Theme Programme of IUCN's World Commission on Protected areas has offered the Slovak Government policy and guideline literature on Karst and mining activities.

IUCN recommends the Committee commend the State Party on the process of changing the status of the Protected Landscape Area of Slovensky Kras to that of a National Park. This will complement the adjacent Aggtelek National Park in Hungary and, in doing so, facilitate more cohesive and equivalent management of the two sections of the World Heritage site.

IUCN recommends the Committee request the State Party provide an update on the proposed revisions to the mining law and specific implications for the World Heritage site, prior to the April 2002 meeting of the Bureau.

SUNDERBANS NATIONAL PARK, INDIA

IUCN notes that the "Project Tiger Status Report", prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Forests of India, 2001, mentions that a system of National Waterways is proposed for the Sundarbans Tiger Reserve. It states:

"the proposed national waterways, if declared, through the mangrove forests of Sundarbans, particularly through the portion of Tiger Reserve, will affect the ecosystem adversely by large-scale human activities, dredging of streams and oil spills of numerous water crafts and vessels carrying cargo".

IUCN recommends that the Committee request a report from the State Party on the proposed national waterways project and whether it will involve the core zone of the Sundarbans Tiger Reserve – the Sundarbans National Park/World Heritage site.

KOMODO NATIONAL PARK, INDONESIA

Periodic Report

IUCN received the *Periodic Report on the State of Conservation of Komodo National Park, An Indonesian World Heritage Site*. The report notes:

- The 25 year Management Plan for Komodo National Park was completed in June 2000. Covering the period 2000 – 2025, the plan includes the expansion of the Park, to include an extension at Gili Banta and a connection to Gili Mota. The proposed extensions will add 504 square kilometres to the area of the Park, 479 square kilometres of those marine. The new Park would therefore comprise 27% terrestrial and 73% marine areas. The proposed extension is based on the high level of coral and fish diversity and associated aesthetic value, as well as on the importance of areas in the distribution and migration of cetaceans.
- The plan also includes a new zoning system for the Park, dividing the Park into 7 zones covering both marine and terrestrial environments: core zone; wilderness zone with limited tourism; tourism zone; traditional use zone; pelagic use zone; special research and training zone; and traditional settlement zone. Regulations have been formulated for each zone.
- According to the ongoing coral reef and fish monitoring programme conducted by The Nature Conservancy and Park personnel, a slow recovery of the coral reefs around Komodo has been occurring since 1996, equivalent to a 2% increase in hard coral per year. Eight demersal fish spawning grounds have also been identified within the park waters. As a consequence the Park has applied regulations to prohibit demersal fish exploitation during the spawning season.
- Forest fires occur frequently in the Park, largely the result of human activities during the dry season. Deer poaching has been a significant threat to the integrity of the Park, with poachers using fire to herd deer, as well as firearms. Park patrols involve local police, navy and army personnel, as Park rangers are not equipped with firearms.
- The report states that a floating boat patrol, equipped with communication systems to allow contact with park headquarters, has been added to the enforcement programme of the park. Overall, the incidences of dynamite and cyanide fishing and deer poaching have declined significantly with improved and intensified patrolling.
- The Park regulations prohibit anyone from entering the park without a permit, except official local people practicing traditional fishing. IUCN notes that despite the prohibition on entry to the park for fishermen other than registered locals, it has been reported that there is a significant problem with illegal fishing by illegal residents and individuals coming from other islands.

Sustainable Financing

TNC has been working on an innovative management scheme for the Park. This approach would involve TNC, the private tourism sector and the government of Indonesia in a partnership to establish sustainable financing for the Park. IUCN has been playing a supportive role and providing some technical input, in conjunction with the International Finance Corporation. On the 28th September the project proposal was submitted to the GEF.

IUCN acknowledges that the introduction of the ocean patrol boat will greatly assist in reducing poaching, and recommends the Committee urge the State Party to consider

providing additional funds for marine patrol operations, especially in light of a proposed marine extension to the Park.

IUCN recommends the Committee commend The Nature Conservancy on its valued contribution and long-term investment in the conservation of biodiversity of the site.

IUCN commends ongoing discussions about sustainable financing and collaborative management of the Park. IUCN recommends the Committee request updates on progress before the next meeting of the Bureau in April 2002.

IUCN recommends that the Committee request information from the State Party on the time frame for expansion of the Komodo National Park, and whether the State Party is intending to submit a nomination for an expansion of the World Heritage site.

AEOLIAN ISLANDS, ITALY

IUCN received reports of legal proceedings taken to oppose the implementation of the Landscape Territorial Plan for the Aeolian Islands.

The Plan ("Piano Paesistico delle Isole Eolie), was prepared by the Superintendent of Culture and Environment on behalf of the Sicily Region, which is responsible for the management of the World Heritage site. It covers the seven islands in their entirety. The main goals of the Plan are:

- To preserve the natural condition of volcanic bodies, structures and costal areas
- To establish clear rules and criteria to guide human interventions in relation to the landscape of the islands

It is understood that the Mayors of two of the four townships on the Islands – Lipari and Leni, have opposed the Plan and have requested the Court to deliver a judgement in order to cancel the Plan. A group of non-governmental organisations, including Italia Nostra, Associazione Prostromboli, WWF and Legambiente, is supporting the Sicily Region's Plan in Court. The deadline for submissions is the 14th November, while the court decision is expected on the 4th December 2001.

In opposing the Plan, the Mayor of Lipari has stated that "limitations foreseen - for agricultural, tourist, economic and productive activities; in the alteration of existing buildings; the prohibition of new constructions; the limitations of new constructions on agricultural areas; the prohibition of building new roads and enlarging existing footpaths - will all harm the general economy of the Islands".

The Plan will be managed by the Regional Office of the Superintendent of Culture and Environment of Messina who will approve or reject any alteration of the territory according to the rules stated in the same Plan. This Plan is the only existing plan for the Islands and meets the requirements set for the World Heritage Site.

If the Plan should not be implemented, it is understood the rules regarding conservation, new constructions and general human activities on the Islands will be decided on a case by case basis by the different City Councils. As reported by Italia Nostra, these Councils have stated their intention to increase by at least 4 times the present level of tourist accommodation.

IUCN notes the actions of Italia Nostra et al in supporting the Landscape Territorial Plan, given its significance as the only (potential) plan governing the World Heritage site. However IUCN also notes that at nomination, the State Party mentioned its commitment to allocating resources to the preparation of a separate management plan for the World Heritage site, to be placed within the Landscape Territorial Plan.

IUCN recommends the Committee:

- **express its concern to the State Party on the local government opposition to the Landscape Territorial Plan, noting that the inscription of the site was partly based on the existence of this Plan**
- **request information on the implications the court action has for the preparation of a Management Plan for the World Heritage site**
- **request the State Party provide an update on progress in development of the Management Plan**
- **request the State Party provide an update on the protective and educational/interpretative actions undertaken for the site**
- **request information from the State Party on proposed development plans, particularly with respect to tourism on the Islands, and how such tourism development would be dealt with within the Landscape Territorial Plan and Management Plan.**

MOUNT KENYA NATIONAL PARK/NATURAL FOREST, KENYA

IUCN received a letter from the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) noting that IUCN had 'requested KWS nominate Mt Kenya World Heritage Site for inclusion in the List of World Heritage in Danger', and expressing opposition to the 'proposed de-listing of Mt Kenya WHS'.

The letter noted that the management of the site had recently been passed from the Forest Department to the KWS with the aim of enhancing management and enforcement. The KWS reported that it had extended the boundaries of the site to include the natural forest, and was in the process of preparing an integrated management plan.

IUCN responded by:

- clarifying its role as an Advisory Body
- outlining the process involved in listing sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger
- explaining the implications of inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and
- outlining the purpose of monitoring missions and the need for such missions to be approved by the State Party.

The delay in receiving an invitation from the Kenyan State Party for a monitoring mission appears to be related to a misunderstanding on what was requested by the Bureau in June. The KWS was of the understanding that the request for a mission with the view to considering whether the site should be included on the List of World Heritage in Danger constituted automatic inclusion in this list, as well as subsequent removal from the World Heritage List.

IUCN recommends the Committee request the State Party invite a mission to the site as soon as possible to enable an independent assessment of the situation at the World Heritage site.

THE GUNUNG MULU NATIONAL PARK, MALAYSIA

Indigenous Opposition to Expansion of Site

IUCN received a report that a proposal for the enlargement of Mulu World Heritage site is raising concern amongst indigenous groups and the wider conservation community. This concern is related to the reported lack of inclusion of indigenous peoples and their claims in the decision to propose Gunung Buda as an extension to the Mulu WHA.

The recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples in Sarawak were upheld by the historical legal decision on Rumah Nor. On the 12th May 2001 the High Court of Sarawak upheld the customary rights of the Iban village Rumah Nor when it found that the Borneo Paper and Pulp company, which

had begun logging the forest claimed by the villagers, did not have the right to destroy Rumah Nor's rainforest.

Following this decision, the people of Gunung Buda lodged a claim with a lands tribunal seeking an injunction to rule that they should have a share in the management of the Gunung Buda area. The government argued against this on the grounds that there was no properly surveyed boundary of their claimed lands, and so the claim was denied. Thus the indigenous peoples are opposing the inclusion of Gunung Buda in the Gunung Mulu World Heritage site.

IUCN notes the statement on Gunung Mulu National Park from the 24th meeting of the Bureau:

"...and (d) assurance that the new management plan addresses issues relating to local peoples' use of and benefits from the Park as well as the new contractual arrangements for management of the Park..."

IUCN brings to the attention of the Committee and State Party the IUCN "Indigenous and Traditional Peoples and Protected Areas: Principles, Guidelines and Case Studies", produced by the WCPA as part of its Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series. This addresses a number of practical measures for more effectively involving indigenous peoples in the establishment and management of protected areas.

Initiatives at the site

IUCN has been advised of three on-going initiatives aimed at enhancing management of Gunung Mulu National Park:

- Implementation of the Plan for Management of the Park - This plan was reviewed as part of the World Heritage assessment for the park. Current status includes examination of options for contracting out management of the Park to the private sector, while overall regulatory responsibility remains with the Ministry of Forestry, Department of National Parks. The Plan of Management for the Park has been drafted in a manner which supports this possibility."
- Community development for areas outside the Park - an initiative to develop options for better planning and development around the park boundaries, particularly in the Mulu area, including issues of land title, planning processes etc. This will assist/enable locals to manage better, and benefit from, the opportunities that come with World Heritage listing.
- Preliminary drafting of a project concept to secure international assistance with capacity building for management of the park - to focus on staff capacity and skills development.

IUCN recommends the Committee request the State Party clarify the status of the proposed boundary extension of the World Heritage site and measures to involve indigenous peoples in this proposal.

BANC D'ARGUIN NATIONAL PARK, MAURITANIA

The June 23, 2001 issue of the *New Scientist* included an article on Banc d'Arguin National Park. Entitled "Breaking the Banc: Africa's largest marine sanctuary is failing", the article describes the threat to the Park's fish stocks posed by 'tens of thousands of traditional fishermen' and 'hundreds of giant foreign trawlers' that fish at the edge of the Park boundary. The article provided the example of the collapse of the Mauritanian mullet fishery in the early 1990's following a twenty-fold increase in the catch. The main harvesters were Senegalese fishermen, whose own mullet fisheries had collapsed, seeking to sell mullet roe to the European market.

The article puts most blame on the large international trawlers, many of them European (the largest European vessel can hold 7,000 tonnes of fish and is dedicated full time to Mauritanian waters) who

have the financial power to buy fishing rights from the Mauritanian government. It notes that the trawlers have displaced traditional fisherman who are placing greater pressure to be allowed inside the Park and World Heritage site.

IUCN notes the importance of working with traditional fisherman to help address their concerns. This is a vital element of effective management of the coastal zone as is the protection of key ecosystems such as that within the World Heritage site. The increasing involvement of international trawlers is of grave concern as it can potentially negate such initiatives.

In September the Park reported to IUCN that two pre-exploration permits for petroleum exploration within the Park had been signed by the government of Mauritania. The Park is currently seeking to undertake an urgent assessment of the legal situation in Mauritania and its obligations under international conventions including the World Heritage Convention in order to halt the exploration and production permits. It is seeking assistance to undertake this assessment.

The Park reports that the situation with the proposed road between Nouadhibou and Nouackchott, which will pass close to the boundary of the Park, remains inconclusive.

IUCN recommends the Committee request a report from the State Party, addressing the following issues:

- **The status of petroleum permits relating to oil exploration within the Park**
- **Threats to marine resources of the Park**
- **The status of the road between Nouadhibou and Nouackchott**

SIAN KA'AN, MEXICO

In August, 2001 IUCN received a report that land on the strip of dunes between the ocean and the coastal lagoon of Sian Ka'an was being advertised for sale by a real estate agent in the town of Akumal. It is believed that the land for sale was within the World Heritage site.

While this is consistent with State Party law and regulations on protected areas that maintains ownership of private lands including the right to sale of those lands, the rapid escalation of tourism development in the area since the mid 1980's is of considerable concern. To counteract these pressures the Management Plan for the site established a moratorium on new construction until an Ecological Land Use Plan was developed for the site. This is in process, and the Management Plan is also being updated.

These initiatives will be complemented by a new initiative from the Sian Kaan authorities on a transferable development rights strategy to deal with all the beach front inholdings. The authorities hope to identify receiving areas and remove the density (development potential) from critical portions of the World Heritage site, while compensating property owners in those areas.

IUCN has received notification from the Municipality of Solidaridad, Playa del Carmen, State of Quintana Roo, Yucatan Peninsula of a scientific gathering planned for the 5-10th November 2001. The event – *"RIVIERA MAYA ECO'01: Safeguarding the Fragile Ecosystems of Solidaridad"* is being convened with the aim of developing integrated programmes that consider protection, conservation, recovery and management of the areas unique biodiversity on a sustainable basis. The Municipality of Solidaridad, which includes part of the World Heritage site and the Biosphere Reserve, expects the construction of approximately 80,000 hotel rooms in the Municipality in the next 10-15 years, associated with a 24% annual population increase. Currently the area receives 5,500 tourists a day.

IUCN believes the transferable property rights strategy holds some promise for reducing development pressures, and if successful it has the potential to be applied in other World Heritage sites. IUCN therefore acknowledges the innovative attempt by the Park authorities to find a solution to the

development problems facing the site, and request the State Party provide information on the strategy.

IUCN recommends the Committee request the State Party to provide a report on:

- **The impact of the reported increased tourism development on the World Heritage site and strategies to address negative impacts**
- **Progress with the revision of the management plan for the World Heritage site.**

ROYAL CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK, NEPAL

IUCN received the State Party response to the Bureau request for information on the road and transmission line projects.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIA) for the Jagatpur Madi 33 kV Subtransmission Line Project states that the transmission line will pass through approximately 6km of the Park and World Heritage site between Dhruvbaghat and Bankatta, and through 500 metres and 1,000 metres of buffer zone forest at Dhruvbaghat and Bankatta respectively. The project involves erection of eleven metres high concrete poles and the stringing of lines. It will be aligned along the existing Hulaki road and hence require the clearing of a corridor two metres in width. In total 331 trees of endangered species - *Shorea robusta*; *Acacia catechu*, *Bombax ceiba* and *Cedrella toona* will be removed.

The EIA is still to be approved by the Government of Nepal.

The report notes the loss or alteration of habitat; construction disturbances to wild fauna; likely hunting and poaching by project workers; decline in water quality associated with erosion and siltation; pollution from temporary workers camps; and bird deaths from collision with the transmission line. Mitigation measures include a reforestation programme to occur on two ha of community land near the Park with the guidance of the Park authorities; a Community Forest Support Programme in three community forests to be implemented in conjunction with Park authorities; an Environmental Awareness for Conservation Programme (EAC) to be implemented by NGOs, and a Habitat Management Programme to be implemented by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife.

The Kasara bridge is under construction over the Rapti River which constitutes the northern boundary of the Park and World Heritage site. No EIA was conducted for the project. Due to budget uncertainties and restrictions, the road will require a few years for completion. The road will pass through the Park and World Heritage site, but will partly follow the current designated Public Right of Way to Madi Village. The alignment from Kasara bridge to the Public Right of Way has not been decided. One option is to follow the Park/World Heritage site periphery along the Rapti river for 3-4 km.

IUCN notes that the provision of electricity will help reduce the need for kerosene for lighting and firewood for cooking, the two major sources of the local population, and also a source of fuel for lodges and hotels in the area. This will have a positive impact on wood collection from the Park. However, IUCN is concerned about the price of the electricity to be provided, and the ability of many residents to afford to convert to electricity cookers.

IUCN is concerned about the impacts associated with the proposal to construct a road within the World Heritage site and notes that similar proposals have prompted Danger Listing in some cases. IUCN recommends the Committee urge the State Party to:

- a) give careful consideration to the least impacting option for the Kasara bridge and associated road, ideally following the external periphery of the Park;**
- b) not to proceed with the construction of a road through the WH site before taking account of the views of the WH Committee**

c) provide a report to the next Committee session on the status of the road location.

BELOVEZHSKAYA PUSCHCHA/BIALOWIEZA FOREST, BELARUS/POLAND

IUCN received a copy of "*Background to Management Guidelines for Bialowieza Forest*", an output of the Technical Working Group (TWG) created within the framework of the **Bialowieza Forest Project**. The *Guidelines* document is the result of a trial process for establishing a decision-making procedure concerning the future of the Forest, its social functions, and the protection of natural values of primeval forests.

The TWG is the only forum assembled to date that has included representatives of a wide range of stakeholders and has involved intensive broad consultations within the communities affected by management of the Forest.

The **Bialowieza Forest Project**, supervised by the Ministry of Environment and supported by Danish Cooperation for the Environment in Eastern Europe (DANCEE), aims to elaborate and agree upon a proposal for management of Bialowieza Forest. The objective of the Project is to achieve a participatory, coherent and sustainable approach to the management of the Forest, ensuring the protection of natural values and supporting development of local communities.

The *Guidelines* document makes several recommendations. Key amongst these are to:

- create a system of strict protection covering the whole of the Bialowieza Forest, with 12,000 ha as a final, recommended area. Proposals for the precise location of the strictly protected territory require further consultation
- establish a Forest Board within the Powiat authority to coordinate management of the Bialowieza Forest and resolve conflicts. The Forest Board as proposed includes representatives of State Forests, Bialowieza Forest management, local authorities, the tourism sector and the Bialowieza National Park Board
- accord the Forest a special legal status, ie: pass a Bialowieza Forest Act that supports it as a unique area of regional, national and international significance while also taking account of specific natural conditions and the development of the local community
- establish one administrative unit for the Bialowieza Forest, which will enable rationalisation of decision making, management, financial organisation and implementation of projects and allow easier access to financial resources

IUCN supports the key recommendations as noted above and commends the efforts of the TWG and the Bialowieza Forest Project to bring all stakeholders together to create a common vision for the World Heritage site. IUCN recommends the Committee request the State Party to provide regular progress reports in relation to the implementation of this project.

LAKE BAIKAL, RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The State Party invited a UNESCO mission to this site following the recommendation from the 24th Session of the Committee. The mission took place from 25 August to 3 September 2001. A representative of IUCN and the Director of UNESCO-Moscow, representing the WH centre, conducted the mission. A full report from this mission is available as an information document in Appendix C. IUCN would like to acknowledge the excellent support received for this mission from the regional authorities and local stakeholders. However IUCN notes that no representative from the Federal Government participated in the mission during the field visit, when substantive discussion on the State of Conservation of this site took place.

The IUCN report which follows is based on the results from this UNESCO mission plus additional information received from a number of sources. IUCN welcomes some positive developments in relation to the increased awareness of regional authorities on the relevance of the status of Lake Baikal as a World Heritage natural site, as well as the increased support given to enhance the management of the protected areas within this site through GEF Projects. However there are a series of recurrent problems and new potential threats that IUCN believes are seriously threatening the integrity of this site.

Key recurrent problems have been reported to previous Committee meetings and include:

- The Federal Baikal Law, approved in March 1999, is still lacking the necessary detailed regulations and by-laws that will make it fully operational. Five important decrees are foreseen to complement this important law but only two of them, on *Regulation of the Water Level at Lake Baikal* and on *Activities Banned in the Central Ecological Zone* have been approved. However, even this limited legal framework has not been fully enforced. The decree to ban activities in the Central Ecological Zone is constrained by the fact that the zoning for this site has not been defined. There are also reports on frequent violations of *the Federal Law on the Protection of the Environment* and of the *Federal Law on Environmental Impact Assessments* in relation to logging activities, illegal hunting, over fishing and the development of new buildings and infrastructure in the Baikal World Heritage site.
- There is still no overall management plan for this site, as requested by the Committee at the time of inscription. This is essential in view of the need for effective zonation of this site and the increasing development pressures that this site is facing.
- In 2000 the Baikal Commission, an intergovernmental body comprising federal and regional authorities as well as scientific institutions, was abolished causing serious gaps in the coordination and implementation of conservation activities at Lake Baikal. The absence of this body also makes it more difficult to evaluate the impact of proposed new development projects on the integrity of this site and to take the necessary measures to stop or modify those projects.
- There is particular concern about the impact from the development of tourist centres in Pribaikalsky National Park that have been developed in ecologically important areas of this park. Increasing illegal poaching and logging have also been reported in this park as well as in other areas within the World Heritage site.
- Continuing decline of the Baikal Seal population (a census in 1994 estimated a total population of 104,000. Two research groups estimated the total population in 2000 at 40,000 - 60,000 and 67,000 respectively). This species is at the highest level of the food chain in Lake Baikal and its decline is an important indicator on the overall state of Baikal ecosystems. Research suggests a complex combination of causes, including a high accumulation of poisonous substances such as PCBs, and other organochlorines products, loss of immunity to natural diseases, habitat deterioration and human predation. In relation to PCBs some studies point to the town of Usolye-Sibirskoye as the single largest possible source, being associated with the production of the soda that it is used at the Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill.
- The Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill (BPPM) continues to be a serious threat to the integrity of this site discharging around 50,000 tons of wastewater into Lake Baikal and 20,000 tons of total emissions into the atmosphere per year. Polluted areas of the Lake of almost 100km² are recorded by scientific studies, and include impacts on phytoplankton composition in the southern part of the Lake. A number of options have been studied in relation to BPPM operations: from closure of the plant to a total re-profiling of the plant to move from pulp production to the production of paper and furniture. There is also a proposal to establish a closed-loop recycling system for BPPM, however some experts consider this option unfeasible. In addition there is concern that a re-profiling of the plant to use unbleached cellulose will create additional pressure on the forests of the Lake Baikal region, including forest within the WH site. The technical, social

and economic considerations related to BPPM re-profiling are very complex and urgently requires substantial international funding and technical support.

In addition to these recurrent problems there are new emerging potential threats to the integrity of this site:

- A project to develop a gas and oil pipeline to China was confirmed by the regional authorities during the IUCN/UNESCO mission. There are a number of options under consideration for this project, including one that envisages the pipeline passing in the vicinity of the south-western watershed area of the World Heritage site (at the headwaters of the rivers Sneznaya and Utulik). This option may involve considerable risks to the integrity of this site and the people living around in case of accidents due to seismic activities in the area. The government of the Republic of Buryatia has approved the Declaration of Intent for this project in spite of the fact that for a number of Russian experts the options under consideration are violating the *Federal Law on the Protection of the Environment*. In the case of federal approval of this project, its implementation could create unprecedented environmental risks to the integrity of this site.
- The government of the Republic of Buryatia has granted a license to Buryat Gas Company that allows for both exploration and exploitation of gas and oil in the Selenga Delta, within the World Heritage site, for a period of 25 years. As the initial phase of this project, in winter 1999/2000 six sampling drillings were done in the southern Selenga delta (Istok-Golutai area) not far from the border of a RAMSAR site. An EIA for the second part of this project, which implies deep drilling in the Selenga littoral, was presented to the regional authorities but it was denied. The General Procurator of Buryatia also has protested against the issued license for the first phase of exploratory drilling that was approved by the State Committee for Natural Resources of Buryatia. This project is currently under consideration by the Federal Ministry of Natural Resources but no official response is available yet. However, in the case of a positive decision the potential threats to the integrity of this WH site are considerable due to the direct and indirect impacts of oil and gas exploration and exploitation. This project is particularly important considering its potential link with the gas and oil pipeline to China. As mentioned above, one of the design options for the pipeline passes close to the Selenga Delta, presumably to be linked to this area if exploitation of gas and oil is allowed.

Based on the facts that: a) little substantial progress has been achieved towards enhancing the protection of Lake Baikal, and addressing issues repeatedly raised by the World Heritage Committee, and b) that there are new emerging threats that would pose unprecedented risks to the integrity of this site, IUCN considers the conditions exist for inscription of Lake Baikal in the List of World Heritage in Danger. IUCN believes that this should be seen as a positive measure to attract most needed international support to enhance the capacity of the State Party to deal with the complex issues related to the conservation of this site. IUCN would also like to recommend to the Committee, as key milestones in assessing progress for a possible de-listing of Lake Baikal from the List of World Heritage in Danger, the following:

- Development and enforcement of all related regulations and by-laws required to make the *Federal Baikal Law* fully operational. These regulations and by-laws should be developed through a participatory and transparent process involving local people and all key stakeholders dealing with the protection and management of this site.
- Development and implementation of an integrated management plan for the whole Baikal region, with emphasis on the protection of the WH site. Priority should be given to develop an adequate ecological zoning of this site to enforce the *Federal Baikal Law*. This plan needs to include a comprehensive monitoring system on the state of Lake Baikal. Adequate human and financial resources are required to ensure its long-term implementation.
- Development and implementation of adequate institutional and coordination mechanisms for implementing the *Federal Baikal Law*, its regulations and by-laws. This could take the form of a renewed Baikal Commission or a similar institutional arrangement that would enhance

coordination between federal and regional authorities while involving also NGOs, scientific institutions and other stakeholders.

- Development and implementation of a comprehensive programme to adequately address the pollution problems affecting this site, giving particular priority to the case of BPPM, but also including other sources of pollution that are affecting the integrity of this site.
- Detailed consideration of various scenarios for the Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill, including total phasing out of the mill. This requires a long-term strategy and must be associated with the development of alternative livelihoods for local people as the BPPM is the main source of employment in the region.

On the basis of findings of the UNESCO mission to this site IUCN recommends that the Bureau request the Committee to inscribe Lake Baikal in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

In addition IUCN recommend the Committee request an urgent response from the State Party on:

- **the development of a gas and oil pipeline to China, and the potential impacts of this project on the integrity of this site**
- **the proposed oil and gas exploration in the Selenga Delta**

In line with this, IUCN considers the World Heritage Centre should make all possible efforts to encourage the World Bank, GEF, UNF, and other relevant international donors to provide urgent support, in the form of soft loans, grants and projects, to enhance the State Party efforts to address the complex conservation and development issues facing Lake Baikal.

VOLCANOES OF KAMCHATKA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION

IUCN has received a copy of the State Party report on Kamchatka prepared following the June 2001 Bureau meeting. It reports that salmon poaching has been increasing on the Peninsula but not within the World Heritage site. It also states explicitly that gold mining is not carried out on "*..areas of especially protected natural territories, which are a part of the World Heritage site, and on nearby areas...*", and that the decrease in world prices for gold and the high costs of gold mining is holding up the development of the industry in the region.

The report also mentions the construction (already commenced) of the Kamchatskaya oblast gas pipeline, and the planned construction (imminent?) of a hydro-thermal power station at Mutnovsky volcano. Both are outside the World Heritage site.

IUCN has received several reports on the Bystrinski Nature Park (BNP). At a conference on Mining Industry Investments, held between 18th and 20th April at Petropavlovsk-Kamchatski, the BNP status was noted as an obstacle to the development of the Kamchatka region, specifically with respect to constraining infrastructure development (roads and buildings) required for gold, platinum and molybdenum mining.

The situation in and around BNP remains uncertain. The Kamchatka Park Service has appointed a new Park Director, however there has been little progress in dealing with threats to the BNP as the Park is receiving no financial support from the Government.

Legal uncertainties continue to surround the BNP: legally the Park does not have control of its land; the boundaries of the BNP are not officially defined (both on-the-ground and on paper), and zoning of the BNP remains incomplete. This situation constrains the Park Director in taking measures towards monitoring of hunting, prevention of poaching and forest fires.

Reports received by IUCN note that hunting and tour operators (registered outside of the District) are actively operating within the BNP without any control or consultation with the Park Administration, and concerns have been expressed by indigenous populations.

It is reported that gold mining operations have started at Manuch, following an unannounced change to the boundary of the BNP. Neither the Forest Service, the Park authorities, nor leaders of local indigenous communities were informed of the mine development. The site is 5km from the 'new boundary' of the Park in the south-eastern corner.

The gold mine operation underway in Manuch is approximately 12km inside the boundary of the BNP as inscribed by the World Heritage Committee. IUCN notes that in the original nomination of 1995 there was a small area excluded from the park in the south, which corresponded to the Aginskoye deposit. In 1996 there was a revision of the boundary of the BNP, releasing a section in the south for mining. This was the same year that the World Heritage site as a whole was inscribed. The latest boundary change has cut off a further section in the south for gold mining, moving the boundary inwards by about 17km. IUCN notes that it is unclear what a boundary change of 17km means in terms of the total area excised from the BNP.

IUCN has received a report that a road is planned connecting Esso, the administrative centre of Bystrinski District located in the centre of the BNP, with Palana, the capital of Koriak Autonomous Region. The road will bisect the Park, and no monitoring or control programmes have been outlined.

IUCN notes this road will open up large areas to poaching and hunting. With no monitoring or control programmes in place, and in light of the extremely limited capacities of Park authorities and the Forest Service, the potential for major threats to the fauna and flora of the Park are high.

Since February this year IUCN it has been working with local and indigenous communities in Esso and Anavgai in the Bystrinski Nature Park within the framework of the CIDA funded project "*Building partnerships for forest conservation and management in Russia*". The project aims to build partnerships with local communities for the development and marketing of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) such as mushrooms, berries, herbal teas and medicinal plants, thereby improving livelihoods and conserving the forest.

IUCN notes with concern threats to the Bystrinsky Nature Park and notes conflicting reports relating to the gold mine operation and its relationship to the World Heritage boundary. IUCN recommends that the Committee urge the State Party to request a mission to the site to review the State of Conservation and to ascertain whether a case exists for inscribing this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

WESTERN CAUCASUS, RUSSIAN FEDERATION

IUCN has received a copy of the State Party periodic report for the Western Caucasus prepared following the June 2001 Bureau meeting. The report mentions that illegal trespassing continues to be significant, largely related to tourism activities and the proximity of tourist centres and hostels to the preserve's boundaries. Further, that there has been a weakening of conservation controls over the last 5-10 years, with an absence of such controls in the Lagonaki plateau and Fisht-Oshinsky massif which are popular areas for trekking, mountaineering etc.

In September IUCN received reports that the Court of Adygea intended to exclude part of the Western Caucasus Zapovednik (the World Heritage site) to allow for tourist development and the construction of a road.

Tourist Development

Regarding the tourist development, IUCN received a report that the Adygean administration is proposing to develop ski facilities in Plateau Lagonaki, and that this area of the World Heritage site has been incorporated into the "Fisht Ecological Tourist Territory" (ETT Fisht).

On the 6th August 2001, the Court of Arbitration of the Republic of Adygea ruled on an appeal made by the Administration of Maykop district and ETT Fisht. The ruling deems void the decisions of the republic authorities to include plateau Lagonaki, Fisht-Oshtensky massif and the Bambaki tract into the Caucasus nature preserve. IUCN notes that all these areas are part of the World Heritage site. The Court decision follows a land withdrawal deed filed on the 13th July 2001 for construction of tourist facilities and a cableway in the area.

Road

In relation to the road, IUCN received word that the Head of the Committee of Natural Resources of the Republic Adygea has reiterated his promise made in his previous letter to the World Heritage Committee regarding the proposed road. IUCN notes that this letter states:

"The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of the Republic of Adygea informs you that at the present time the authorities of the Republic of Adygea are considering a new route for the Maikop-Black Sea Coast highway, avoiding the Caucasus Natural Reserve and other specially protected territories, including the Caucasus nomination.

The above mentioned activities are being carried out for the purpose of execution of the order by President of the Republic of Adygea DzhariMOV. So the insinuations that the Adygean authorities have tried to build the highway right through the Caucasus State Natural Biospheric Reserve have no grounds."

Illegal Hunting

IUCN is concerned with reports received noting the increasing use of helicopters, the use of a variety of high impact fire-arms, and the increase in trophy hunting. The direct and indirect impacts associated with helicopters are likely to be substantial. The use of machine guns enables multiple killings and creates noise distress. Unregulated trophy hunting can alter the male-female balance to the extent that population viability may be threatened.

IUCN notes that the issue of the road through the Lagonaki Plateau was discussed at the time of inscription of this site and that assurances of the State Party to abandon this route was key to the site being inscribed on the World Heritage List. IUCN recommends the Committee request the State Party provide an update on the status of the road and its routing.

IUCN recommends the Committee request the State Party provide detailed information on the developments mentioned above, and specifically the status of the removal of areas from the site.

NIOKOLO-KOBA NATIONAL PARK, SENEGAL

A monitoring mission to the site was undertaken in July 2001. The full mission report will be provided to the December meeting of the Bureau and Committee. The recommendations of the report are included below.

Report Recommendations

General

An aerial survey should be conducted as a matter of urgency. This survey should aim to determine the number and distribution of giant eland in Niokolo-Koba NP's eastern part and the adjacent Faleme

Hunting Zone. Because of the present low density of giant eland, a total coverage of the primary giant eland area in Niokolo-Koba NP is recommended. A sample count following standardised methodology could be undertaken in the rest of Niokolo-Koba NP and the Faleme Hunting Zone.

All National Parks staff members working in Niokolo-Koba or visiting the park should be encouraged to record detailed giant eland information on standardised data sheets whenever possible. These records could possibly be kept at the Park offices in Tambacouda and later entered into a computer database. Observations should include standardised information such as date, habitat type, locality, group sizes and number of calves. Other regular visitors to Niokolo-Koba NP, such as tour operators, could also be encouraged to collect specific information on giant eland.

It is desirable to protect a small number of giant eland outside Niokolo-Koba NP. The present six giant eland in Bandia Reserve could serve this purpose (see Recommendations for Bandia Reserve).

No further captures and relocations of giant eland from Niokolo-Koba NP to areas outside the Park should be considered for the time being.

A short field research project on giant eland should be considered. This project should aim to collect detailed population data, movements and habitat use. A one-year field project should be able to achieve the initial goals. Radio collaring of a few selected individuals would be essential to ensure that study animals could be reliably located.

Effective law enforcement (anti-poaching operations) will remain of critical importance, not only as far as the survival of giant eland is concerned but also other species in the Park. It is proposed that the services of a specialist consultant be sought to consider various alternative law-enforcement strategies. This must be done in close co-operation with National Parks' authorities as well as community representatives in the Niokolo-Koba region.

Czech Project in Niokolo-Koba NP

"The protection, reproduction and veterinary control of large antelopes, such as the Derby eland" - Tropical and Sub-tropical Agronomy at the ITSZ CZU in Prague.

It is recommended that the proposed project be reviewed with the various stakeholders, viz. National Parks, Czech representatives and representatives of the neighbouring communities. The project should play a major role to ensure the survival of particularly the giant eland. However, the total fenced-off areas should be reviewed. Careful consideration should also be given to the number of giant eland to be contained in the proposed 500ha fenced-off camps. It is of great importance to ensure that the project should not negatively affect the free-ranging giant eland population.

It is suggested that the above stakeholders encourage a representative of IUCN/ASG to be invited to serve as an observer on the project.

Fathala Reserve (Siné-Saloum Delta)

This area falls outside the giant eland habitat and no giant eland should be relocated to the present enclosure in the Fathala Reserve.

Bandia Reserve

No further additions of giant eland from Niokolo-Koba NP should be considered.

It is also recommended that none of the giant eland in Bandia Reserve should be relocated to other areas in Senegal for the time being, including Fathala Reserve.

None of the giant eland should be exported to other countries.

The position of Bandia Reserve's giant eland should be reviewed annually and specific recommendations pertaining to the giant eland could be made if necessary. This could be done by representatives of National Parks and the IUCN in collaboration with Bandia management.

Close co-operation with the management of Bandia Reserve should be encouraged to ensure that valuable information gained from the semi-captive giant eland would be available.

IUCN considers the mission report is a credible technical document and recommends the Committee request the State Party review the document and report back to the June 2002 Bureau session.

DONANA NATIONAL PARK, SPAIN

Project Doñana 2005

IUCN has received a report on the Donana National Park, which welcomes the initiation of a number of recommendations from the *Project Doñana 2005*, but notes that progress continues to be slow despite the importance of this project. In May 2001 the Project established its Scientific Board, however there has been little scientific input into the Project's activities. A new coordinator for the project has been appointed and it is expected that this will help to speed up project implementation.

The report notes that some of the recommendations from the October 1999 Seminar have not been acted on, for example in relation to: coordination; definition of public riverine domain; watershed restoration; promotion of sustainable agriculture; development of pilot projects; and prospective studies.

Expansion of the Port of Seville

The information received also noted with concern a proposal to expand the Port of Seville, up the Guadalquivir River and outside the World Heritage site. This project will be funded by sea shipping subventions of the EU. The project includes the construction of new port facilities, for which it will be necessary to correct the course of the Guadalquivir River, the estuary of which is the western boundary of the World Heritage site. This will require dredging and deepening of the river channel, removing around 9.5 Million cubic metres of sediments which will be dumped in the estuary.

An EIA, prepared for this investment by the Port Authorities of Seville, met with considerable criticism and, as a result, the project was temporarily stopped. It has been reported in local news that an agreement has been found between the rice farmers of the area and the Guadalquivir Hydrographical Confederation that may help to promote the implementation of the project – ie: the inclusion of a sluice to mitigate the effects from new saline intrusions.

IUCN has received a detailed report on the state of conservation of the site. It provides the following information:

1. Management Plan

The National Park Management Plan is still under discussion and as such is behind the original schedule, however notable progress has been made in the prevention and reduction of possible conflicts with stakeholders, and a next draft is expected to be publicly released soon.

2. Iberian Lynx

The Iberian lynx is experiencing a major decline in numbers due to the scarcity of its major food source, the rabbit. The lynx population fell from 50 individuals in 1990 to 30 in 2000, with not more

than 5 reproducing females (National Census by Pereira & Robles, 2000). Further, the lynx habitat is being damaged and reduced by overgrazing, by annual pilgrimages, and there are concerns with the impact road infrastructure outside the Park is having on the lynx population (since 1982, 25 lynx have been killed by vehicles).

3. Imperial Eagle

The imperial eagle population has also declined, with only seven territories being occupied in 2000, compared to fifteen in 1988. The electricity line mortality has fallen, however the lack of rabbits, environmental pollution (with effects on fertility) and poisoning continue as the major causes of death outside the Park.

4. Rocío pilgrimage

The Rocío pilgrimage, which takes place twice a year, involves large numbers of pilgrims (1,500,000 in June, 400,000 in September), travelling from their origins to El Rocío village at the northern boundary of the Park. Those originating in Cadiz province (south of Doñana) travel two-three days/nights through the Park. The problems faced by the Park are mostly related to garbage, forest fires, and traffic congestion. However, a small Northern stretch of the Park is not fenced and this is where pilgrims from Sevilla pass through. This northern crossing also lies in the middle of the important lynx habitat, and therefore requires joint control and management by the Park and Regional authorities.

It is reported that a major campaign was launched last year to raise awareness amongst various institutions on the impacts of the pilgrimage on the Park. Nonetheless, this years pilgrimage left huge amounts of garbage, and a vandalised Doñana Research Centre. An agreement to reduce traffic on the Rocío-Cádiz route through the Park has been signed after long negotiations.

5. Grazing

After long negotiations, the Park and livestock holders have approved a Plan for management of grazing, and a Committee has been established to implement it. To date, no concrete reductions in grazing levels have been achieved, and, as mentioned previously, this is impacting on the restoration project in the Matasgordas.

6. Road Construction

The impact of road building outside the Park on Doñana and its wildlife populations is of concern. Almost every road in the area has been renewed or enlarged in the last decade, leading to an increase in speed and volume of traffic. Many of the roads have significant impacts on the migration routes of mammals, including the endangered lynx.

7. Illegal Water Extraction

Illegal water extraction for rice, cotton and strawberry farming is occurring on the Northern and Western boundaries of the Park. This could lead to long term effects, which include degradation of the groundwater body, and drying out of temporary lagoons and ash forests.

8. Restoration Plan for Aznalcollar Mine

Environmental organisations and institutions in the area are concerned with the Restoration Plan that Boliden-Apirsa has submitted for the Aznalcollar mine. Although 76% of the planned restoration work has already been completed, there are concerns with insufficient isolation of the broken tailings dam in the Southern border, an insufficient cover of the rock dumps, and the reliability of data about the water-sludge level in the mining pits, which could effect the groundwater layer in future. Another concern lies with the funding for the required restoration works: Apirsa has declared bankruptcy, Boliden Ltd has denied any responsibility, and no official statement has been made by the Regional Department for Works.

IUCN commends the State Party on the Donana 2005 initiative, which provides an excellent framework for integrated land management. IUCN notes a number of concerns have been raised in relation to the integrity of this site. Accordingly, IUCN recommends the Committee to request the State Party a full report on the threats to the site, and on how they will be addressed, by the time of the next WH Committee in Hungary. On the basis of this report the Committee should consider whether or not there is a case of listing this site in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

ST. KILDA, UNITED KINGDOM

IUCN received the State Party report on the site which outlines the actions being undertaken to fulfil the recommendations made by the Committee at its twenty-third session in Marrakech, specifically, the recommendation to expand the boundaries of the site to include the surrounding marine area, and to prepare a revised management plan.

On the basis of the State Party report IUCN would like to:

- commend the State Party on the research and surveys, both those completed and ongoing, which are mapping the seabed and identifying key seabird communities
- note the collaboration of a number of organisations in the process of delineating the proposed new boundaries of the site based on these research activities
- commend the State Party for maintaining the moratorium on the issuance of new oil licenses nearer to the site than those already in existence, and request that details of the risk assessment process to be put in place be provided along with the draft management plan as soon as possible
- encourage the State Party to include in the revised management plan strict prohibition of all oil, gas and other exploration, in both the site and the buffer zone

IUCN recommends the Committee encourage the State Party to complete the new boundary identification as soon as possible so that work can commence in earnest on the management plan; request the State Party to clarify the role and involvement of the site authorities in the decision making process for issuance of licenses in the site, in the buffer zone and outside the buffer zone, and welcome receipt of the outcomes of the consultation meetings held as part of the preparation of the management plan.

NGORONGORO CONSERVATION AREA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

IUCN received a report of extensive and increasing domestic crop cultivation in the Ngorongoro Crater and wider Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA). Concerns have been raised over the expansion and the negative impacts on wildlife and the Masaai traditional pastoralism. Specifically the concerns raised relate to:

- Cultivation on very steep slopes of 7.5 to 12.5 degrees. Cultivation was most intense behind Embakai Crater, around Endulen and on the slopes of the Ngorongoro Highland between the Crater and the Serengeti National Park
- Growing pressure for alternative land use which has taken away most of the Maasai's grazing lands, making Ngorongoro the last sanctuary with intact grazing land for the resident Maasai and to pastoral communities normally situated outside the boundaries of the NCA
- Steady increase in residents in Ngorongoro, mainly through immigration from other areas

- Changes in the agricultural practices of the Masaai pastoralists, including increasing sedentarisation, intensification of livestock production, changing food traditions and introduction of modern housing and development inputs.
- The report recommends:
 - The complete halt to all cultivation, with priority given to the slopes of the crater
 - Provision of opportunities for NCAA residents to cultivate outside the protected area, while allowing them to continue to practice traditional pastoralism within the NCA
 - Possible exclusion of the heavily cultivated and settled Nayobi-Kapenjiro Area at the northern boundary of NCA
 - Increase in the amount of NCAA revenue distributed directly to the resident people of NCA and channelled into conservation compatible development projects

In response to the above report, the Conservator of Ngorongoro notes that in 1995 the NCAA commissioned a team of experts to consider the issue of domestic cultivation. The study concluded that the cultivation practised by the Masaai pastoralists was not a threat to conservation and pastoralism interests. It recommended cultivation carried out by non-Masaai pastoralists be stopped as it posed a threat to the integrity of the Conservation Area. It also noted that increasing numbers of in-migrants who might not abide by Masaai relations and customs could threaten the functioning of the Masaai's social institutions which regulate land use.

Further, the Conservator of Ngorongoro notes that the following actions have been enforced:

- Identification of in-migrants and human and livestock census
- Acquiring alternative land for cultivation outside the Conservation Area for resettling of in-migrants and where domestic cultivation could be carried out
- Follow up study to the 1995 study
- Implementation of a DANIDA funded project aimed at revitalising livestock based economy in order to ensure that cultivation remains secondary to livestock
- Continuing grain importation scheme to help the resident population gain access to grain at cost price and therefore discouraging crop cultivation

IUCN notes that the serious encroachment and destruction of the highland forests at the northern edge of the site continues.

IUCN notes that cultivation, even at a very low level, excludes use of the area by larger wildlife species in the long term, and that only a very small percentage of the NCAA is suitable for cultivation because of rainfall, soil and slope conditions.

IUCN notes that:

- the Ngorongoro Conservation Area was separated from the Serengeti and gazetted as a multi-use conservation area, hence sustainable use such as grazing is allowed
- Limited subsistence cultivation was allowed in the early nineties due to food shortages, declining livestock herds and a rising population. This alone was not a serious threat. What has become a serious threat is the commercial farming introduced by immigrant farmers, and this is what needed to be addressed urgently
- There is some disagreement about the impact of the Masaai practising agriculture within the NCA. There is the possibility that Masaai agriculture (distinct from traditional pastoralism or livestock rearing), is also negatively impacting on the site
- The management of the NCA requires more effective scientific guidance

IUCN recommends the Committee to request the State Party report on the encroachment situation in the northern section of the World Heritage site and on the impacts of commercial farming introduced by immigrant farmers on the integrity and values of this World Heritage site.

SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

IUCN has received several reports about the proposed Ewaso Ng'iro Hydroelectric Project (ENP) in Kenya, and its potential impacts on the Serengeti and Mara ecosystems. The state owned Kenya Electricity Generating Company is proposing to build three dams along the Ewaso Ng'iro river that would generate 180 MW of electricity and is expected to cost 350 million dollars by the time of completion in 2007. Since 1989, Knight Piesold, a British company has been working on the feasibility studies of the dam project.

The ENP is based on the much larger altitudinal range in the Rift Valley compared to the Lake Victoria drainage. An essential component of ENP is the Amala Weir Water Diversion Scheme in the Amala, an upper tributary of the Mara River. This scheme would link the Mara river system through a 3.5 km tunnel with the upper drainage of the Ewaso Ng'iro (south) River, thus reversing the Mara's flow into the Ewaso Ng'iro river, finally draining into Lake Natron in the east instead of Lake Victoria in the west. The extraction rate of water from the Mara River is suggested to be at a rate of between 2 and 6 cubic metres per second. The water diversion scheme would give Kenya the ability to tap water from the rainy Northern Serengeti to the arid Rift Valley.

There have been a series of Environmental Impact Assessments and discussions on the ENP which have held up implementation of the ENP. These have focused predominantly on the negative effects on the Ewaso Ng'iro Catchment and Rift Valley in Kenya and the downstream effects on Lake Natron in Tanzania (a RAMSAR site famous for its flamingo population and also proposed as an extension to the Rift Valley Lake Reserves World Heritage Site).

IUCN understands that there is considerable concern in Tanzania about the ecological impact of the ENP on the Serengeti National Park, and that the EIA's associated with the ENP have not given adequate attention to the impacts on both the Mara and Serengeti ecosystems.

IUCN has received a report by the Frankfurt Zoological Society, which has been involved in the conservation of the Serengeti National Park since its inception in 1952. The report notes the following:

- The main feature of the Serengeti Ecosystem is the wildebeest migration. Wildlife numbers in this system are controlled by dry season rainfall (and consequent grass availability) in the Mara River system. Presently the Serengeti Migration consists of approximately 1.2 million wildebeest and 200,000 zebras.
- If the Mara River were to dry up, most of the wildlife migrants would perish and the Serengeti Migration would collapse irreversibly. There is concern that though the ENP makes allowances for maintaining some water flow in the Mara River, even during severe droughts, these drought times would also produce the worst power shortages in Kenya. Consequently there would be unpredictable pressure on the demand for channelling all available Mara water into the Ewaso Ng'iro Hydroelectric project.
- Even under normal climatic conditions the project might endanger the Serengeti World Heritage Site and impact tourist revenues in Tanzania and Kenya. In June 2001, Tanzania National Parks, together with the Frankfurt Zoological Society and the Australian Institute for Marine Science developed an ecological model to test the possible impact of the Amala weir water diversion project on the Serengeti Migration (Gereta, E., Wolanski, E., and Borner, M., 2001. *Modeling the Impact on the Serengeti Ecosystem of the Proposed Amala Weir Water Diversion Project in Kenya*). The model used several extraction rates to show the impacts on the wildebeest population. It showed:
 - The effect of the Amala weir water extraction scheme will only be negligible when rainfall is average or above. The effect is predicted to become significant once a drought occurs (i.e. a year where the annual rainfall is 30% below the long-term mean). In such a one-off situation, without considering the possibility of a higher water diversion by the Kenya authorities, the

Amala weir diversion scheme is predicted to result in the deaths of at least 20% of the wildebeest, over and above the normal die-off of 10-20% during such a drought.

- For more severe water extraction rates the model predicts a death rate of 50%. The recovery rate in such a situation will be between 15 and 20 years. Since a drought on the average occurs every ten years, the wildebeest would never recover.
- In the case of repeated droughts the wildebeest population would drop to below 200,000, from which it cannot recover, as predator control would take over.

IUCN understands that the Serengeti-Mara ecosystem has undergone considerable change in recent years, and that there is concern that these changes have not been taken into account in the ENP feasibility process. From monitoring that has taken place at the Kogatende Bandas in the Serengeti since 1967, it is reported that the flow of the Mara has been decreasing at a significant rate over the past thirty years. The chances of a total drying of the Mara River are now much greater than before due to:

- major settlement and extensive development of intensive, large-scale agriculture along much of the Kenyan side of the Mara River in recent years, with the off-take for irrigation and drinking water growing exponentially
- the river is now exploited virtually throughout its course except for the small section in the Serengeti
- within the Masai Mara National Reserve and the adjacent wildlife areas, the growth of tourism facilities has been tremendous, which has impacted on both off-take and the input of waste
- forest has declined and so has the water holding capacity of the soil. Thus, the rains are producing progressively higher floods with the effect of eroding the river banks. Conversely in the dry season there is less water remaining in the soil and so there is progressively lower flow. The results are that the Mara is getting lower and lower over time in the dry season.

IUCN has been notified that WWF East Africa Regional Office is commencing design of a ***Mara River Catchment Basin Initiative***. This will focus on conserving the Mara River Catchment's unique biodiversity; ensuring the maintenance of natural functions by balancing the supply and demand of biodiversity products, and developing alternative livelihoods for communities. As part of the Initiative's preliminary phase, WWF has recently commissioned a report on the hydrology of the Kenyan side of the Mara River, in order to consider the land use changes and impacts of these on the flow and quality of the river.

IUCN notes that the Serengeti National Park is one of the field sites for the ***Enhancing our Heritage Project*** funded by the UNF.

IUCN notes that the East Africa Community has identified the Serengeti/Mara ecosystem as a priority transboundary ecosystem that should be managed jointly. Further, that the Maasai Mara Reserve was proposed to be included in the Serengeti World Heritage site in 1997, but was rejected by Tanzanian National Parks, the authority in charge of the Serengeti site, because of their concerns over the lack of an effective protection or management regime.

IUCN considers there is merit in the State Parties of Kenya and Tanzania establishing a joint committee through the Commission on East Africa Cooperation arrangement to undertake further in-depth studies on the entire catchments of the Ewaso Ng'iro, Lake Natron, Mara River systems.

IUCN notes that the Serengeti is not only a World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve, it is also the main tourist attraction in Tanzania, a country where tourism revenue is the largest foreign exchange earner. It also notes that the very reason that the Serengeti is a World Heritage Site - the wildebeest migration, is potentially threatened by the ENP. IUCN recognises that any negative impact on the dry season range of the wildebeest has potentially major ramifications for the very criteria on which the Serengeti listing is based. IUCN also notes that the Mara River is habitat for riverine forest containing many rare forest birds and other fauna, and upon which large populations of crocodiles and hippopotamus depend.

It is clear that there is a high element of risk in the diversion of water from the Mara. The Mara diversion cannot be considered in isolation, it must be considered in the context of other ecological problems such as rapidly changing land use and deforestation in the catchments, as well as the impacts of climate change. Most serious ecological/environmental problems arise because of a complex combination of factors. In such cases IUCN believes that the precautionary principle must be applied to avoid any actions that increase the risk of the Mara drying up.

IUCN recommends the Committee request the State Parties of Tanzania and Kenya to provide information on the status of the ENP and Amala water diversion scheme, and its impact on the World Heritage Site.

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK, UNITED STATES

In April 2001, the US National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) included Great Smoky Mountain National Park – the most visited park in the National Park System - in its list of America's Ten Most Endangered Parks for the third consecutive year. This listing was based on the continuing decline in air quality, largely the result of air pollution caused by nearby coal-fired power plants.

The NPCA reports that a controversial grandfathering clause in the Clean Air Act exempts older coal-fired power plants from current environmental protection standards—allowing the plants to continue polluting at a rate up to 10 times worse than newer plants.

Experts estimate that a mandatory phase-out of older coal-fired plants would alleviate 70 percent of sulfur dioxide emissions in the Great Smoky Mountains—the pollutant primarily responsible for the Park's smog and visibility issues. A suit has been presented by NPCA and the Sierra Club against the Tennessee Valley Authority for illegally emitting thousands of tons of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides every year. Scientific evidence links this air pollution to numerous health problems, visibility degradation, and plant damage in Great Smoky Mountains.

IUCN recommends the Committee request the State Party provide information on the impacts the air pollution is having on the flora and fauna of the site as well as information on plans to address this problem.

HA LONG BAY, VIETNAM

IUCN has been informed that the project proposal for the Institutional Capacity Building of the Halong Bay Management Department, prepared by IUCN, the Halong Bay Management Department (HLBMD) and Quang Ninh Province, has been widely circulated and finalised in close collaboration with relevant institutions and the province. The proposal is currently being shared with potential donors.

IUCN has also been notified that the HLBMD, IUCN and UNESCO Vietnam office are developing a proposal with several components: a comprehensive survey and mapping of all significant caves in the Halong Bay area; an assessment of biodiversity values (both terrestrial and marine) of Halong Bay, and an evaluation of cultural values of the site. These will provide the basis for the future possible re-nomination of the site under biodiversity value criteria and as a mixed world heritage site.

IUCN VN has been member of the Steering Committee of the UNESCO ***Ha Long Bay Eco-Museum Feasibility Project***. Discussions have been held on collaboration between the Eco-Museum project and the Institutional Capacity Building project. The final proposal of the ***Ha Long Bay Eco-Museum Feasibility Project***, envisages to implement the following main activities:

(1) The establishment of a project team of young Vietnamese staff of the Ha Long Bay Management Department supported by two international facilitators.

(2) Intensive capacity building and skills transfer, particularly in the fields of planning, data collection and integrated interpretative management of the area.

(3) A comprehensive stakeholder analysis to develop strategic partnerships between the Ecomuseum and key stakeholders. For example, a theme on the fishing traditions of Ha Long will directly involve floating fishing villages, terrestrial fishing communities, boat builders and major institutions such as the Viet Nam Institute of Oceanography, the Institute of Marine Products and local authority agencies such as the provincial Fisheries Department.

(4) The development of an outline for an Interpretative Management Plan by the Department, including a number of interpretative themes, two of which are particularly targeting the fishing industry.

IUCN has received the State Party report for Ha Long Bay. IUCN notes that the level of tourism increased by 135% between 1997 and 2000 and is one of the key management issues at this site.

IUCN recommends that the Committee commend the HLBMD for working with other agencies to clarify and assign responsibilities for management and activities within the site. In particular it is pleased to hear that the direct management and control of the caves now lies with the HLBMD, and hopes this will ensure appropriate measures to present the caves, control tourism and minimise impacts.

The Committee may also wish to acknowledge efforts of the State Party to link projects being developed for the site. Given the considerable international interest in the site, the Committee may wish to urge the HLBMD to continue and strengthen its efforts to coordinate projects, to ensure optimal use of resources and skills.

III. MIXED SITES

KAKADU NATIONAL PARK, AUSTRALIA

Independent Science Advisory Committee

IUCN has received details of the composition of the newly established Independent Science Advisory Committee for Jabiluka. Membership of the previous existing statutory scientific review committee, the Alligator Rivers Region Technical Committee (ARRTC) has been amended to meet the ISP recommendation for an independent and transparent review of research and supervision at Jabiluka. The first meeting of the new committee is to take place in October.

The new appointments form two groups: the independent members nominated by the independent Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Services (FASTS); and a second key stakeholder group. The latter includes representatives from Parks Australia; ERA Ltd; Hanson Australia Pty Ltd; Northern Land Council, and Northern Territory Department of Mines and Energy.

IUCN has noted that it is not proposed at present to include a representative from an environmental NGO in the ISAC, and believes that this is an omission that should be rectified in order to ensure the credibility of the Committee's work, especially as other stakeholder groups are to be represented. In this connection, IUCN notes that the final ISP report recommended that « *the Committee's terms of reference, membership, secretarial support etc. would need to be agreed between the Australian Government and the WH Committee* » (report number 3, section 8.1).

Australian NGO Report on Jabiluka

IUCN has received a report on Kakadu from three Australian environmental NGOs: the Australian Conservation Foundation; Environment Centre NT Inc. and Friends of the Earth. The document summarises key developments that have taken place in relation to Kakadu National Park and the Jabiluka uranium mine since the 24th session of the World Heritage Committee. This report raises the following concerns:

- "There is no publicly available current mine plan. As the project has changed considerably from the approved proposal it is impossible to quantify the potential impacts of the mine.
- The principal environmental hazards at the Jabiluka site are the mineralised ore stockpile and the interim water management pond (IWMP). The IWMP serves as the primary component of a long-term water management system at Jabiluka, though it was only designed to be an interim measure, operational for a period of 12 months. Project delays announced by Rio Tinto could result in the use of the interim pond for a much greater period than it was designed for.
- There have been water management problems over the last two wet seasons:
 - In the 1999/2000 wet season the IWMP filled almost to capacity. ERA then committed to installing a Reverse Osmosis (RO) plant to capture contaminants and filter the water to a standard suitable for irrigation on the Jabiluka mineral lease. This was installed near the end of 2000.
 - In mid-February 2001 the company was forced to resort to pumping water from the IWMP into the mine decline and underground shafts in order to avoid the IWMP overflowing. This process has led to further contamination of accumulated water at the Jabiluka site with a subsequent significant elevation in the contaminant load. According to the Supervising Scientist "the contact with the ore body at the very bottom has increased the concentration of uranium in the water in the decline to 1,500 parts per billion." By the end of the wet season around 20ML of water was in the decline.
 - There is concern that ERA will be unable to treat all the contaminated water prior to the 2001/02 wet season.

- The stockpile of mineralised ore unearthed during the construction of the Jabiluka decline is currently covered with a tarpaulin."

The report ends by saying that the "cessation of construction and the future uncertainty of the project raise considerable opportunities for the Australian Government to prevent further development at Jabiluka and safeguard the region's World Heritage values and properties". The report recommends that there are grounds to include Kakadu in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

As reported to the June meeting of the Bureau, in March 2001, Rio Tinto, which took over ERA's parent company North Ltd, stated that it would be hard to support development of Jabiluka in the short term due to the lack of traditional owner consent, wider community opposition and record low market prices for uranium. IUCN has also learnt that following Rio Tinto's announcement the Australian Senate passed the following motion:

"That the Senate-

a) notes the announcement by Rio Tinto in the week beginning 18 March 2001 that it would not support mine owner Energy Resources of Australia's development of Jabiluka in the short term;

b) advises the Government that it is unacceptable for this major mine site including retention dams, mine construction and associated works to remain in this state for any length of time; and

c) calls on the Government to commence discussions with Rio Tinto immediately with a view to an early rehabilitation of the site and for it to be handed back to the traditional owners as soon as possible."

Rehabilitation of Site

IUCN has received several letters pertaining to the site, concerning rehabilitation of the Jabiluka mine site and establishment of an Independent Science Advisory Committee as reported to the WH Committee in December 2000 at Cairns. The Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation has expressed its desire to see an assessment of rehabilitation options for the Jabiluka mine site undertaken. It believes that the March 2001 announcement by ERA majority share holder Rio Tinto that it would not develop Jabiluka in the short-term triggers an assessment of rehabilitation options for the site, as per the ISP of ICSU Report no. 3, page 24 which states:

"the Supervising Scientist has indicated that, should further developments at Jabiluka be delayed for a protracted period or, if the mining company propose to mothball the site, the Supervising Scientist would consider what arrangements would be necessary to ensure that the site continues to pose no significant threat to the World Heritage Property. Options that the SS should consider include revegetation of the waste stockpiles, emplacement of the mineralised material stockpile in the decline, sealing of the decline, and decommissioning the water management facilities".

The State Party reply to the Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation on this issue notes:

- The Jabiluka mineral lease was granted for 42 years from 1982. There is currently no legal requirement which would prevent the mining company from continuing to manage the Jabiluka site on a standby and environmental management basis until it is required to begin rehabilitation work before the end of the lease period in 2024. Such rehabilitation would need to commence about five years before the end of the lease period, thereby in about 2019. This means, in principle, that the Jabiluka project could be managed in standby mode for up to 20 years.
- The ISP report page 24 refers to environmental best practice monitoring and management during the development phase and does not necessarily refer to the rehabilitation of the site
- Rio Tinto's statements regarding the Jabiluka project are consistent with ERA's 1999 commitment to the World Heritage Committee: full scale commercial mining at Jabiluka, if it was to commence, would only be reached at about 2009 following the scaling down of production at the Ranger mine.

- In its 2000 AGM, Rio Tinto confirmed ERA's existing commitments regarding sequential development and added that Rio Tinto does not believe that Jabiluka can be developed without the consent of both the Northern Land Council and, through the Northern Land Council, the traditional land owners of the area.
- Such statements confirm the current status of the mine on standby and environmental management for at least 8 years.
- The Supervising Scientist has advised that the current delay does not trigger an immediate assessment of the status of the Jabiluka site. Whilst assessment of the site is not required, options for the possible future rehabilitation of Jabiluka continue to receive the utmost consideration by the Supervising Scientist as part of his assessment and supervisory program.

IUCN recommend the Bureau commends the State Party on its efforts to implement the Independent Scientific Panel (ISP) of ICSU recommendation by establishing the ISAC in such a way that it will be able to report openly, independently and without restriction. It recommends the Bureau urge the State Party to:

- a) invite a representative from the conservation NGO community to join the ISAC**
- b) refer as a matter of urgency the two issues - the urgent rehabilitation of the Jabiluka mine and the water management problems – to the next meeting of the ISAC**
- c) provide a report, by 1 February 2002, on these two issues.**

TASMANIAN WILDERNESS, AUSTRALIA

IUCN has received information on the proposed **Basslink** project. The project involves constructing an electricity connector between Tasmania and the Australian mainland in order to connect the Tasmanian hydro power system with the mainland grid. The project involves changed operating regimes at the current Gordon River Hydro Electric Scheme. Changes to the regime involve changes in the utilisation of the turbines (both number of turbines and the time of their activation) and associated changes in water release. The Gordon River Hydro Electric scheme is entirely within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA).

IUCN notes that at the time of World Heritage Listing, the World Heritage Committee expressed concern about the impact of the Gordon power scheme on the Gordon River and imposed a set of conditions including monitoring of riverbank erosion and the health of the meromictic lakes, that are key features of this World Heritage site.

There are numerous concerns with the **Basslink** proposal, including its impact on the World Heritage site. Concerns raised by different experts include:

- The maintenance of meromixis in the meromictic lakes depends on saline recharge as a result of salt wedge intrusion in the Gordon River upstream of the lakes. Analysis shows that suitable flow conditions for extensive salt wedge intrusion have been limited by the Gordon Power station. The changed flow regime required by **Basslink** will exacerbate the effects on the meromictic lakes.
- Under **Basslink**, the middle Gordon is forecast to develop an even more extremely to highly variable flow. Thus impacting ecological processes in the intertidal zone and causing degradation to the riparian vegetation.
- The proposed mitigation and adaptation measures will not stop the increased erosion due to scour, increased seepage erosion, acceleration of riparian vegetation decline, the loss of mid tidal macro invertebrate communities or further loss of snag habitat.

IUCN has also received a report on a proposed ecotourism resort at Planters Beach, Cockle Creek in the South West National Park. The resort will comprise of a lodge, 60-80 accommodation units, an 800 metre extension of the current road into the Park, a jetty, walking tracks, spas, a tavern, 92 car parking spaces and four bus bays. Water will be sourced from ground water and all waste including

treated sewage will be disposed of by seepage into the dune system. It is reported that the development will impact on the collection site of a shell used by indigenous communities.

The resort is sited within the boundaries of the South West National Park, but outside the World Heritage site. It is however within the area covered by the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan 1999 (WHA Plan), and thus in order for the development to proceed, the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment is proposing the WHA Plan be amended to allow for addition of a new 'Visitor Services Site'.

The proposal and proposed amendment to the WHA Plan were publicly announced and submissions called for in April 2001.

IUCN believes the proposed *Basslink* project may impact negatively on the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area and the reasons why it was inscribed on the World Heritage List. It is concerned that the existing impacts associated with the Gordon River Hydro Electric Scheme will be exacerbated by the *Basslink* proposal.

IUCN recommends that the Committee request the State Party provide detailed information on this proposal as well as on the proposed ecotourism resort to be developed at Cockle Creek, for consideration by the next Bureau meeting, including outcomes of any EIAs prepared for these projects.

TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK, NEW ZEALAND

IUCN has received a report on proposed works on the Crater Lake within the Tongariro National Park. This relates to the changes that occurred at the site with the 1995/1996 eruptions of Mt Ruapehu. A series of eruptions deposited a barrier at the outlet of the Crater Lake which increased the size and probability of a laval flood from the Crater Lake once the Lake is full.

It is proposed to install an early warning system and to construct a bund to prevent the lahar overflowing into the Tongariro River Catchment from the Whangaehu Valley. A report was prepared by the Department of Conservation, and following extensive and wide ranging consultation and reviews of various aspects of the Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) the Conservation Minister has approved the installation of the early warning system and construction of the bund. The Minister is currently preparing a final decision on whether engineering works at the Crater Lake are also a necessary measure for the mitigation of the lahar hazard.

There are concerns that the proposed engineering, in the form of major earthworks, is an over-reaction to the degree of threat, but also that it is an inappropriate measure that will significantly harm both the cultural and natural values associated with the crater rim. In the nomination to establish Tongariro as a World Heritage site, the Crater Lake on Mt Ruapehu was specifically identified as one of the three volcanological features that justified this status.

It is felt by a number of experts that proposed engineering works may establish a dangerous precedent within Tongariro and other national parks. Eruptions within the Crater Lake are a regular and ongoing natural feature. Continual follow-up engineering works would be required following subsequent eruptions. Further, the mountains of Tongariro National Park are sacred icons to the Maori people of New Zealand. It is consistent with National Park legislation and principles to allow natural process to function and to develop and implement measures that will protect both public safety and infrastructure.

IUCN recommends the Committee request the State Party to report on this site and to specifically outline alternative options to the proposed engineering works so as to maintain natural and cultural values of the site.

HIERAPOLIS-PAMUKKALE, TURKEY

IUCN has received preliminary worrying reports on the state of Hierapolis-Pamukkale World Heritage Site. The reports note that the limestone cliffs are becoming discoloured. Further, that despite the authorities prohibiting visitors from entering the travertines, and the placement of signs explaining the fragility of the site, many visitors continue to enter the travertines. Collection of limestone souvenirs is also occurring. Few guards patrol the site, and there is little enforcement.

IUCN recommends the Committee request a report from the State Party prior to the April 2002 meeting of the Bureau on threats to the site.

IV. CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

CURONIAN SPIT, LITHUANIA/RUSSIAN FEDERATION

IUCN noted the monitoring mission report prepared by ICOMOS for the Curonian Spit and the concerns raised over the oil exploration by a Russian enterprise in the Baltic Sea from a platform 22km from the coast of the Spit.

IUCN supports the ICOMOS recommendations.

V. APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: CENTRAL AFRICA, LOGGING AND WILD MEAT

Links Between Biodiversity Conservation, Livelihoods and Food Security and the Use of Wild Meat

At the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Amman in October 2000, a resolution was passed on the unsustainable commercial trade in wild meat. This is to be found at:

<http://iucn.org/amman/content/resolutions/res64.pdf>

As a first step in implementing the resolution, and in recognition of the need to bring together conservation and development communities as partners in addressing the issue effectively, IUCN, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and TRAFFIC, the wildlife monitoring programme of IUCN and WWF, convened a technical workshop in Yaounde, Cameroon between the 17th and 20th September 2001. The workshop, entitled "Links Between Biodiversity Conservation, Livelihoods and Food Security and the Use of Wild Meat", aimed to:

- Provide a forum for representatives of the conservation, development, private and government sectors to describe and discuss their concerns regarding the over-exploitation of wild animal species for food;
- Identify shared and divergent concerns relating to the decline in the populations of wild species used for food, and opportunities to collaborate more effectively in addressing priority areas of concern;
- Establish the initial framework of a plan of action and begin the forging of functional links among the various sectors to address priorities identified, leading to broader participation and consultation in the coming months;
- Identify key issues to be brought to the attention of the World Food Summit (November 2001); and
- Provide input for a proposal on the use of wild animals for food in Central Africa to the Global Environment Facility (the financial mechanism for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity).

Among the issues examined during workshop sessions were the contribution of wild animal species to food security and livelihoods; hunting sustainability and impacts on biodiversity; and the current and potential responses of private, non-governmental and inter-governmental institutions to concerns regarding unsustainable harvests.

The full communique issued at the end of the workshop can be found at:

http://iucn.org/info_and_news/press/wildmeat3.html

The workshop participants agreed that:

"Wildlife populations and the livelihoods of people in many countries are threatened by escalating unsustainable use of wild meat, driven by increasing demand due to human population growth, poverty and consumer preferences, and aggravated by problems of governance."

The workshop agreed on the following issues to address:

- Poor management of wild meat resources
- Lack of incentives for resource conservation
- Lack of inter-sectoral collaboration for sustainable use of wild meat to improve livelihoods/food security

To address these problems, the group agreed that activities should be implemented on three fronts:

- A holistic approach to the issue including improved inter-sectoral co-operation
- Improved management of wild meat resources
- Effective incentives for sustainable use of natural resources

Africa Working Group of the CEO Forum

IUCN received an update on activities of the Africa Working Group of the CEO Forum from the NGO co-chair. The Forum, initiated by the World Bank in 1998, comprises chief executives of the major logging firms worldwide. The CEO Africa Working Group (CEO-AWG) comprises the chief executives of the major European logging firms active in Central Africa, representatives from various conservation NGOs (WCS, IUCN, WWF) and officials from the World Bank and the European Union.

It was reported that the logging companies had produced a code of conduct, which included a clause for independent monitoring. The code of conduct and associated operational work programme is to be finalised on the 5th October 2001. The Forum was working on developing some additional clauses to add to the code, notably:

- A clause on sub-contracting and environmental responsibilities of the sub-contractor
- A clause on the establishment of small totally protected areas within logging concessions
- A clause on bush meat

The latter includes two key sub-clauses requiring logging companies to make available alternative protein supplies for all its employees and families, and requiring them to ban the use of their facilities and transport for illegal hunting operations.

The Code of Conduct and implementation of the operational workplan will be subject to independent third party monitoring. It is planned that the Code, workplan and monitoring results will be published on the World Bank website, starting in 2002.

It was noted that most companies involved in the CEO-AWG were actively improving their practices. It represented a diverse range of interests and hence degrees of commitment to the principles of the CEO-AWG. One problem facing the effectiveness of the CEO-AWG was the increasing number of Asian logging companies entering Central Africa, and their general lack of interest in environmental protection measures.

IUCN recommends that the Committee commend the CEO Africa Working Group for its initial efforts in bringing stakeholders together to tackle the environmental problems associated with logging operations. The code of conduct is to be supported - particularly the latest additions - especially in light of the Cameroon bush meat workshop and the reports continuing to come out of the country. IUCN recommends that the Committee:

- **Urge the CEO-AWG to strengthen its efforts to involve Asian companies in the work of the group**
- **Urge the CEO-AWG to make all efforts to include logging companies working in Cameroon**

IUCN recommends that the results of the bush meat workshop be taken on by the CEO AWG. It recommends that CEO-AWG forge concrete links with a broader range of environmental and developmental NGOs working on the problem of bush meat and poverty, with the aim of implementing concrete activities on-the-ground in concessions.

APPENDIX B: LAKE BAIKAL MISSION REPORT

APPENDIX C: MAP OF THE SUNDARBANS: BLOCK 5, SPECIAL RESERVED FOREST AND WORLD HERITAGE SITE