

**CONTRIBUTION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM ORGANIZATIONS TO THE
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF CULTURAL
AND NATURAL HERITAGE IN AFRICA**

*Prepared by
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Joint Inspection Unit*



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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is the third in a series prepared by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) on the contribution of the United Nations system to the management and conservation of cultural and natural heritage. The first two reports dealt with Latin America (JIU/REP/82/5) and Asia and the Pacific (JIU/REP/83/10). Two reports were devoted to regional training programmes in African wildlife management in particular at Mweka, Tanzania and Garoua, Cameroon (JIU/REP/79/1 and JIU/REP/83/3). The present report is devoted to cultural and natural heritage in the African continent.

2. For the preparation of the present report we corresponded and held discussions with a number of organizations and departments of the United Nations system, including UNESCO, FAO, UNEP, UNDP, the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

3. By this means we assembled relevant documentation and had exchanges of views on the programmes and plans of the organizations in the field of conservation and management of cultural and natural heritage in the African countries. These programmes will be highlighted in chapter II.

4. We also visited projects and established direct contact with senior government officials in several African countries. This enabled us to discuss the problems encountered in carrying out cultural heritage projects (chapter III) and projects relating to natural heritage (chapter IV).

5. We also visited several donor countries and some non-governmental organizations (NGOs). We were thus able to learn about the assistance they are giving to the conservation of Africa's heritage. We should like to thank the authorities of these countries and the officials of these organizations for all the information they obtained for us and for the exchange of views and ideas which we had with them.

6. We also should like to express our thanks to all the governmental authorities and to their permanent representatives to the United Nations, to the UNDP resident co-ordinators and to the secretariats of the organizations of the United Nations system, who kindly obtained documentation for us and took the time to discuss with us the questions dealt with in this report.

7. Finally, we should like to express our regret that the late Inspector Toman Hutagalung was not able to participate in the final stages of preparation of this report.

II. PROGRAMMES FOR THE PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

8. This chapter reviews the programmes of the organizations of the United Nations system concerned with the conservation and management of cultural and natural heritage in Africa. Certain organizations, such as UNESCO, FAO and UNEP, have programmes which are devoted entirely to this subject. Other organizations (ECA, IBRD and DTCD) take an indirect interest in the subject. We shall deal in the first place with the former.

A. UNESCO

9. For UNESCO, the conservation of natural and cultural heritage are both of equal importance. In some cases these two aspects are dealt with separately while in others they are dealt with simultaneously, an example being the work undertaken in the framework of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. This Convention is one of the few which include a financing mechanism. It has established a World Heritage Fund administered by a committee which is responsible for drawing up the World List of heritages which need to be preserved. The list currently include 40 heritages situated in some 15 African countries (see Annex I). UNESCO is making a considerable effort to help more African States to ratify the Convention and join the Fund.

10. Another aspect of UNESCO's programme is the launching of international campaigns for the preservation and safeguarding of archaeological sites. The number of UNESCO supported campaigns rose from three in 1972 to 26 in 1984 and the funds allocated by UNESCO for the financing of activities in support of these campaigns rose during the same period from \$0.3 to \$2 million. This programme has enabled UNESCO to act as a catalyst for NGO and bilateral aid activities aimed at safeguarding world-famous archaeological monuments and sites in African countries.

11. In the area of preservation of natural heritage, UNESCO's programme includes, inter alia, the compilation of systematic inventories of animal and vegetable species threatened with disappearance and of representative ecological zones (Man and the Biosphere Programme, MAB). Some 40 ecological zones and biosphere reserves have so far been identified in a score of African countries (see Annex II).

12. In carrying out its programme of conservation and management of cultural and natural heritage, UNESCO undertakes numerous support activities: training of specialists, including through some African institutions such as the Jos Centre for Museum Studies (Nigeria) and the Niamey Regional Centre for Museology and Museography (Niger), provision of equipment and advisory services, organization of seminars, meetings and conferences such as Africacult (Ghana), 1975 and Mondiacult (Mexico), 1982, dissemination of know-how, publication of documents and other material, strengthening of institutions, assistance in drawing up legislation and regulations, conduct of research programmes such as those relating to the structure and functioning of ecosystems and to optimum management of reserves and protected areas through UNEP.

B. FAO

13. FAO's programmes are more specifically concerned with the conservation and management of natural heritage, considered in the broadest sense, i.e. all natural resources (fauna, flora, soil, water, the oceans, etc.).

14. Geographically FAO's programmes are largely centred on Africa. More than 40 per cent of the regular programmes (RB), special action programmes (SAP) and technical co-operation programmes (TCP) go to Africa. These programmes help in achieving the natural resource conservation and management objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action (LPA) and of the Africa Food Plan (AFPLAN). They cover a wide field: use of fertilizers; improvement and development of seeds; security of food supplies; action to prevent loss of crops and to combat certain diseases of cattle; plant protection, protection of pasture land in arid and semi-arid areas; helping in developing communal and village forests; strengthening of the institutional infrastructure in rural areas and of agricultural credit, etc.

15. The identification and formulation of projects for the implementation of these programmes constitutes one of FAO's major tasks. For this purpose the organization has sent out missions to virtually all the African States to help them to identify and formulate their projects. FAO's Investment Centre has identified and prepared rural and agricultural development projects dealing with both the conservation and the management of natural resources in several African countries.

16. FAO's programme for the conservation of genetic resources is helping to establish crop advisory committees for rice, sorghum, millet, maize and beans. Expert groups which have been set up have done work on crops of particular interest to Africa: banana, plantain, coconut, sesame, cassava, etc.

17. In several African countries FAO has assisted in protecting crops against disease, making rational use of pesticides, supervising plant treatment operations, locust control operations and campaigns against crop-destroying birds.

18. Under its Forestry for Local Community Development programme (FLCD), FAO has carried out in Africa 66 projects designed to protect forests and rationalize crop growing in burnt areas, produce fuel for cooking, strengthen forestry services and integrate forests, livestock raising and cultivation.
19. FAO also has a programme of assistance in the preparation of laws and regulations concerning the protection of fauna, flora, and natural resources. Many African countries have sought the organization's help in preparing appropriate legislation.
20. The organization's ecological management of arid and semi-arid rangelands programme (EMASAR) is particularly important for Africa, where drought and desertification are affecting a number of countries. FAO has carried out several projects in a number of African countries under this programme.
21. FAO is co-operating with organizations of the United Nations system in the execution of a number of programmes in Africa. Within the Ecosystem Conservation Group (ECG), it is co-operating in the despatch to African countries of missions to assist in the development of national conservation and natural resource management strategies.
22. In co-operation with UNEP, FAO has prepared desertification control projects in the Inter-Agency Working Group on Desertification and in the group established to find sources of financing for desertification control activities (DESCON).
23. FAO is co-operating with UNESCO in the execution of the MAB programmes and of marine research programmes. It has also established working relations with ECA, through the establishment of a joint FAO/ECA Division.

C. Other organizations of the United Nations system

24. UNEP. As the body which catalyzes United Nations system activities in the fields of improvement of the human environment and conservation and development of the physical and biological resources of the biosphere, UNEP is carrying out many programmes in Africa: preparation of studies, provision of advice, strengthening of institutions, organization of meetings and conferences and the initiation, in co-operation with African member States, the NGOs and governmental organizations, of specific activities such as the conservation of river basins, tropical forests and regional seas (Regional Seas Programme). UNEP has so far co-operated in the preparation of 21 regional sea projects in Africa.
25. UNEP has exercised its catalytic and co-ordinating role in the implementation of the World Conservation Strategy by providing continuing secretariat services to the Ecosystem Conservation Group (ECG) consisting of FAO, UNESCO, UNEP and IUCN. Special attention was devoted to the preparation of national conservation

strategies: expert missions were sent to a number of countries at the request of the governments concerned, resulting in a series of recommendations and plans of action, and UNEP and IUCN proceeded with the preparation of a national conservation strategy in Uganda.

26. UNEP continued its support to the IUCN Conservation Monitoring Centre, which is continuing to develop a data base for Africa on the status of, and trade in, wild fauna and flora included in the red data book and directories on protected areas. This information is disseminated to interested organizations and groups to assist them in pursuing conservation activities. Among more recent UNEP supported conservation activities in Africa is a project in co-operation with IUCN to ensure that proper guidance is available to governments on existing protected area coverage of habitats and species and their management in the afro-tropical realm. With support from UNEP, specific draft action plans were also produced for groups of species.

27. UNEP, in co-operation with FAO, UNESCO and IUCN, continued its assistance to governments in the implementation of international and regional measures for conservation of wild animals and plants and their habitats through international and national legislation and administration. Following a request by the states parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES), the secretariat of the convention has, since November 1984, been administered under the direct supervision of the Executive Director of UNEP and fully financed from the Trust Fund established for this purpose. The fourth meeting of the conference of the parties (currently numbering 88 states out of which 29 are in Africa) took place in Gaborone, Botswana in April 1983 followed by the fifth meeting in Buenos Aires in April 1985.

28. A training seminar, for African parties, on the implementation of the CITES convention was organized by the CITES secretariat and held in Brussels in June 1984. The seminar dealt with individual countries' problems in implementing the Convention and with methods of improving the Convention both regionally and globally. The CITES Technical Committee met in Brussels in July 1984 to address several problems of interpretation and implementation of the Convention in Africa with particular emphasis on the ivory trade. The discussions were enhanced by the participation of most of the African parties.

29. UNEP's fellowship programme in wildlife and national parks management in English speaking Africa facilitated during 1977-1980 at a cost of US\$ 180.000 the participation of 246 students from 13 countries at the training offered at the College of African Wildlife Management in Mweka, Tanzania. UNEP intends to continue assisting concerned governments through a fellowship programme directed at the training institutions in Mweka, Garoua (Cameroon) and Naivasha (Kenya).

30. In the context of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, a protocol concerning mediterranean specially protected areas was adopted in Geneva in 1982, and a regional center for protected areas was established in Tunisia. A new protocol concerning protected areas and wild fauna and flora in the Eastern African region is expected to be adopted by a conference of plenipotentiaries in Nairobi in June 1985.

31. ECA. In collaboration with UNEP, UNSO, UNESCO, UNDP, WMO and FAO, ECA has prepared a Regional Plan of Action to Combat the Impacts of Drought in Africa, adopted at its Conference of Ministers meeting in May 1984 by its resolution 499 (XIX). Implementation of the Plan of Action will enhance the conservation of the biosphere, particularly in the semi-arid and arid zones of Africa, within the context of drought and desertification control activities. This has become necessary because of the current prolonged drought and the rapidly spreading desert which are destroying the biosphere reserves in these zones of the African region. Another activity is the integration of tourism with the environment through the incorporation of local traditional architecture into tourist centers. Furthermore on the African wildlife as a natural heritage, ECA is very much concerned that the wildlife training centres at Garoua (Cameroon) and Mweka (Tanzania) should continue to train wildlife conservation personnel at the regional level, and so it is cooperating with FAO, UNESCO, UNEP and UNDP for continuing support to these centres for the benefit of the ECA member States.

32. DTCD is cooperating with African countries in the execution of programmes designed to strengthen the means of subsistence of rural populations: provision of water supply in rural areas; construction of highways and roads providing access to villages; construction of small bridges for villages, etc.

33. UNDP has contributed, under its country and regional programmes, to the conservation and management of the African heritage. It has financed in African countries projects whose execution has been entrusted mainly to UNESCO and FAO and sometimes to the beneficiary governments. In recent years, however, UNDP has shown a tendency to have recourse increasingly to governments as executing agencies and to use local experts.

34. The World Bank. Environmental problems are not one of the World Bank's priority concerns. The Bank recently began to pay more consistent attention to them, in particular, in its Forest Sector Policy Paper, which emphasized the role of forests in protection of the environment and their contribution to rural development, and in its Energy Policy Paper, which recommended expansion of the production of wood in order to meet energy requirements and the substitution of this practice for forest felling and clearing.

D. OAU

35. OAU feels that the lack of funds constitutes one of the major obstacles to policy of heritage conservation. In order to contribute to raise more funds, it has just established an inter-African cultural fund, which endeavours to supplement the financing provided by States. Another major obstacle, in OAU opinion, is the inadequacy of training. As a remedy for this situation the organizations have recommended strengthening regional training centres such as the Museum Conservators Training Institute at Niamey.

36. The OAU is also endeavouring to establish working relations with UNESCO, FAO, UNEP and ECA, as well as with other United Nations system organizations with a view to undertaking joint activities with them. In this context, it supports the decision taken by the general conference of UNESCO to recommend to the General Assembly of the United Nations the proclamation of a world decade for cultural development.

37. The OAU plans to hold a festival of traditional African music for the purpose of inventorying, preserving and disseminating this heritage. One should also mentioned the role of OAU as depository for the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Algiers, 1968) and particularly its recent initiatives to update the Convention.

E. The NGO's and bilateral co-operation

38. NGOs. In Africa NGOs such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) have participated in the establishment of national parks and fauna and flora reserves, in action to combat drought and desertification and in protection of the environment.

39. Many NGOs have also been active in the field of conservation of cultural heritage in Africa. These include, in particular: the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), the International Council of Monuments and Sites (COMOS), the International Council of Museums (ICOM), the International Federation of Landscape Artists (IFLA) and the Organization for Museums, Monuments and Sites of Africa (OMMSA).

40. The NGOs are assisting the African countries in many ways that are highly appreciated and are co-operating actively with the United Nations system. They are helping to mobilize appreciable financial resources and to arouse public opinion.

41. Bilateral co-operation. Because of their magnitude, bilateral financial contributions constitute a very valuable form of financing cultural and natural heritage conservation programmes and projects in Africa.

42. Some donor countries maintain close relations with countries of central Africa, are co-operating with them in the establishment of national parks and museums and are offering assistance, in the form of fellowships, experts and equipment. Their museums regularly receive technicians and experts from countries of central Africa and provide them with further training. Other donor countries are participating in the financing of national parks in East Africa and/or regional projects in Sub-Saharan Africa. They are co-operating with several universities and government services in these countries in carrying out studies, in preparing projects and in training personnel, either directly or through the implementation of joint programmes with UNEP (Environmental Management Guidelines), WHO (Training on Water Quality) and other organizations.

43. Bilateral co-operation of many different kinds is made possible because of the interest which developed countries are showing in preserving the African cultural heritage which forms an integral part of human civilization. The great number of museums, experts and research and training institutes which they possess provide the developed countries with the means of helping the African countries to benefit from this infrastructure.

44. The organizations of the United Nations system must help to ensure that the co-operation of the NGOs, bilateral co-operation and United Nations assistance function in a complementary and harmonious manner in the interest of the beneficiary countries. Co-ordination of these different forms of co-operation, the organization of projects to ensure their complementarity, the follow-up of their execution and action to ensure their continuation are of the highest importance if resources, which can be obtained for these purpose only with some difficulty, are to be effectively employed.

III. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT AND PRESERVATION PROJECTS

45. Visits which we made to cultural heritage conservation and management projects being carried out by organizations of the United Nations system in African countries showed us how the programmes of these organizations described in the preceding chapter are being carried out.

46. The projects cover a variety of different fields. They range from the launching of international campaigns to the safeguarding of ancient cities, religious monuments, libraries, national archives and galleries, the preservation of oral traditions (songs, literature, history, languages), the training of personnel (archivists, conservators, restorers, librarians, excavators, archaeologists), the strengthening of institutions (ministries, municipalities, universities), the supply of miscellaneous equipment, the holding of seminars and conferences and the establishment of museums.

A. Safeguarding of monuments and sites

47. States are now familiar with the procedure for launching international campaigns to save monuments and sites. It begins with the placing of the monument or site on the World Heritage List and then follows the preparation of a plan of action, the launching of an appeal by the Director-General of UNESCO, the establishment of an executive committee and an advisory committee and the establishment of a special fund.

48. International campaigns to safeguard monuments, archaeological sites, medinas, the construction of museums, etc. have already been undertaken or are in preparation. On the African continent international campaigns concern the following monuments: Monuments of Nubia (Arab Republic of Egypt); Nubia Museum in Aswan and National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Cairo (Arab Republic of Egypt); Fez (Morocco); The Cultural Heritage of East Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda); Carthage and Sidi Bou Said (Tunisia); The Architectural Heritage of Gorée (Senegal); Sites of the Ancient Towns of Chinguitti, Tichitt, Oualata and Ouadane (Mauritania). A comparison of the international campaigns undertaken to safeguard monuments in certain African countries reveals a number of phenomena. What is most striking is the enormous difference between the sums collected in the various campaigns. It would seem that one of the main reasons for the small amounts collected in some of them is the inadequacy of the publicity carried out: articles, films, travelling exhibitions, propaganda in all the media, etc.

49. Another fact which is striking is that the same number of international experts is not to be found at the different sites. It ranges from several experts at certain sites to an associate expert only at others. It is quite

obvious that the quality of the work done and the speed with which it is performed depend in large measure on the size of the United Nations agency teams in the field. It is very difficult for a single associate expert to ensure proper coordination between several bilateral missions, several ministries (culture, planning, public works, etc.) and the headquarters. Representation of the United Nations system in terms of experts responsible for different tasks, from preparation of a plan of action to project execution, should be strengthened, particularly in those countries where the institutional infrastructure is weakest.

50. The lack of self-financing is another characteristic feature of most of the projects for the safeguarding of archaeological sites and parks. Admission fees to the sites, which should logically constitute the main source of funds for their maintenance and development, are either nil, or are so low as to be only symbolic. The agencies of the United Nations system should help in developing a policy on charges for admission to sites and monuments which, without discouraging visitors, would result in a reliable and major sources of self-financing.

51. It would also be useful to analyse the factors which have contributed to the success of certain international campaigns, with a view to drawing lessons which could be applied in other campaigns. If, in the course of this analysis, a direct exchange of experience and of experts among the African countries concerned were to take place, this would give a practical content to technical co-operation among the developing countries concerned. It should be possible for UNESCO and the other organizations of the United Nations system directly concerned to facilitate such co-operation.

B. Safeguarding and renovation of medinas

52. What distinguishes the medinas from other monuments is that, while they are old and of artistic value, they are still used and are lived in or occupied. This is an important difference from the standpoint of safeguarding and renovation operations. While, in the case of archaeological monuments and sites, safeguarding operations involve primarily excavation, restoration and conservation, the renovation of medinas calls for the solution of problems which directly affect the everyday life of the populations concerned. In order to safeguard the historical monuments within medinas (palaces, schools, markets, mosques, libraries, etc.) it is necessary to reduce the human occupation density of these zones by providing suitable alternative accommodation for the persons displaced, to restore the fabric of economic and social activities for those remaining within the medinas: to repair drainage systems, to provide a

water and electricity supply, to develop urban transport, to build schools, hospitals and shopping facilities and to develop handicrafts, industrial and tertiary activities, etc. It is the multiplicity of these activities and their interconnection which makes the work difficult and prolongs the execution of such projects.

53. Most of the projects appear to have achieved important objectives that had benefited the medinas populations, which had been suffering from endemic problems. Nevertheless, there are still certain problems whose solution would help to shorten the time required for renovation of medinas and improve the financing of such projects.

54. In medina renovation projects, special attention should be given to clarification of the many complex legal questions which arise (private ownership; property in mortmain, public property, private property and Church property; property inherited in various ways) which sometimes takes a number of years, and thus delay the start of work on the project. UNESCO and the United Nations agencies concerned should lend assistance, at the request of the States concerned, to enable them to clarify legal situations as rapidly as possible during the stage of preparation of the project document.

55. Another difficulty encountered in most of the medina renovation projects is that of securing substantial and reliable funding. In view of the importance of the work to be carried out and the considerable funds needed for these projects, it appears necessary to consider several sources of financing, rather than a single one. UNESCO and the United Nations agencies concerned should therefore make available to States, at their request, such expertise as will enable them to set up suitable internal and external financing mechanisms.

56. To this end, whenever the renovation of a medina is contemplated, UNESCO should help to establish an ad hoc fund. This fund should be able to call on substantial local resources and guarantees which would ensure that the renovation is carried out on a continuous basis and without interruption. This would mean renovating "usefully", as it were; in other words giving priority to the renovation of buildings to be used as dwellings, to the financing of which the future beneficiaries would contribute through house-purchase savings schemes. Palaces and other structures which could be used to house administrative offices or cultural centres and for which a rent would be paid, should be given priority in the renovation work. The income from the first house-purchase savings accounts and the first rents should go into the renovation fund and thus make

it possible to undertake further profitable renovations that will ensure further and increasing income.

57. Another very important step is the establishment of non-revenue-producing associations for the safeguarding of medinas, to deal with all aspects of planning and supervising the renovation work and, particularly, with co-operation between the various ministries and bilateral, multilateral and international agencies. The role of such associations is enhanced if they first of all set an example by establishing their office within the medina concerned, in a renovated building. Also of importance is the establishment of planning offices equipped to carry out studies and prepare technical, economic, legal and financial documentation. Such offices can be established by the renovation associations and staffed by national experts. UNESCO and the United Nations agencies concerned should lend assistance for the strengthening of such associations and offices.

C. Construction of archaeological museums, libraries and national archives and galleries; handicrafts development

58. These projects are all of real value for the countries concerned. Those we were able to visit or concerning which we had discussions with various authorities in the course of our mission (museums, libraries, archives, galleries, etc.) have been or are at present recipient of technical co-operation provided by Organizations of the United Nations system, particularly UNESCO, and they all meet a primary requirement of the country concerned.

59. For the newly-independent countries in particular, national archives constitute an essential working tool. In many cases, these countries have to establish their archives from scratch, which involves recovery of documents, their restoration, indexing, reproduction and distribution. As in so many other cases, the main problem is the shortage of personnel: restorers, reproduction specialists, experts in administration, diplomacy, international relations, sociology, etc. There are never sufficient funds to cover the cost of travel, acquisition of equipment and documents and the maintenance of the premises and areas in which the collections are housed, some of which require special air-conditioning.

60. The role of national galleries, although different, is just as important. In some countries they involve artistic activities which generally include a number of different disciplines. Thus, under the same roof, one may find films, sculpture, paintings, handicrafts, literary works, etc.

61. In addition to performing a recreational function, national galleries constitute a powerful instrument for the revival of national production, the

encouragement of artistic creation and the development of the gifts and tastes of the younger generations, through organization of school visits and travelling exhibitions.

62. The same may be said of archaeological museums which, in addition to offering a means of preserving national treasures, have become training centres and centres for the dissemination of culture and civilization. Formerly establishments visited only by a small number of persons, museums have now become major centres of influence through better organization, better equipment and, above all, a systematic policy of welcoming school children and students. The organizations of the United Nations system and UNESCO in particular, in co-operation with ICOM, have contributed to this development.

63. The contribution of the United Nations system has served as catalyst and starting point for a number of other campaigns of restoration, preservation and dissemination of very old books. Thousands of books on medicine, mathematics, astronomy and other sciences, have been saved, preserved and made available to scientists and research workers.

64. The co-operation of the United Nations system is also playing a substantial role in the modernization and the survival of various handicraft sectors, both artistic and utilitarian. The economic and social usefulness of handicrafts in Africa cannot be over-emphasized since, in some countries, one family out of five still depends on handicraft work for its livelihood.

65. Such co-operation which takes many forms and involves all aspects of culture, is nevertheless quantitatively below the level required. The number of local experts needed, in particular, is enormous. In order to help to overcome this shortage, the organizations of the United Nations system should do more to co-operate with African countries concerned in expanding activities aimed at training more experts in all fields (archivists, restorers, librarians, conservators, historians, linguists, film directors, cameramen, archaeologists, archaeologists assistants, etc.), preferably in their own country, by making use of available resources and incurring the minimum of expenditure. As a means of solving the problem, evening courses and optional courses should be organized in existing institutions: faculties concerned with the humanities, law, economics, history and geography and institutes concerned with architecture, cinematography and art. This would be one means of meeting the demand for specialists and would offer for teachers of the humanities and general subjects, work opportunities that are at present lacking. The organizations of the United Nations system are invited to assist in such activities and in others of the same type by encouraging their experts, in addition to performing their advisory role, to assist in such training.

D. Strengthening of the institutional infrastructure

66. The organizations of the United Nations system have been playing a part in strengthening institutions concerned with preservation and management of cultural heritage that are attached to ministries of culture, the local governments of large cities, archaeology and art associations, institutes and universities. They are helping to develop policies and strategies for the conservation and management of cultural heritage and to organize conferences and seminars on cultural heritage.

67. The contribution they are making, although modest in absolute terms, is nevertheless highly appreciated by the beneficiary countries, particularly since it goes towards projects that are perhaps unlikely to pay their way for some time to come. This contribution may also need to be strengthened in the following areas:

(a) The organizations of the United Nations system should co-operate in the establishment of the necessary institutional infrastructure, where this is lacking, and in strengthening it where it does exist, for without such infrastructure there can be no effective policy nor any co-ordinated action.

(b) The organizations of the United Nations system should co-operate with African countries to work out a strategy for the preservation and management of cultural heritage in those countries where such a strategy is at present lacking. Without it, there is a great risk that the limited financial and human resources available will be earmarked for a few major projects, to the detriment of many more important activities having a real human and social impact.

(c) Finally, priority should be given by the United Nations system organizations to projects which will enable the preservation and management of cultural heritage to play a part in creating sources of income for local populations, in renovating dwellings or government or community offices, in training specialists and in job creation, in encouraging local savings and in strengthening development activities generally. This will encourage the public to consider preservation and management of cultural heritage as a useful activity and will ensure its continuation and development.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF NATURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT AND PRESERVATION PROJECTS

68. As was indicated in chapter II, the term "natural heritage" is used here in a broad sense and covers not only the management of parks, reserves and protected zones and the conservation of wild life, but also the management of all natural resources, such as waters, forests, soils and oceans. All these constitute wealth which, for thousand of years, has been passed from one generation to the next and which the present generation must manage, without exhausting or polluting it, so that it may continue to remain, for future generations, an eternal source of life.

A. Management of parks, reserves and controlled areas

69. Some African countries have parks and reserves which cover an immense extent of their territory and are a substantial source of income. Some countries of East Africa have animal parks that cover more than a sixth of their area. The income derived, directly and indirectly, from these parks constitutes an important revenue source.

70. Although the United Nations system makes a far from negligible contribution towards the establishment and maintenance of these parks and reserves, the latter nevertheless experience considerable difficulties in recruiting specialists (ecologists, botanists, zoologists, and intermediate and senior level personnel) and in obtaining funds.

71. Financing. The shortage of funds for operations and equipment is a major obstacle to the harmonious development and management of parks and reserves. Although they provide a considerable income, either directly or indirectly, most of this goes to the over-all budget and only a small fraction is returned for use by the facilities themselves. In order to help the African countries concerned to augment their sources of financing for parks and reserves, the organizations of the United Nations system should co-operate in improving the financial management of these facilities. With particular reference to the financial contributions of the United Nations system, they should be allocated in priority mainly for the purchase of equipment and supplies and for training. The use of experts, and particularly of resident experts, which is very costly, should be authorized only when it is justified.

72. Motivation of the population concerned: Immense efforts are being made to associate the populations living in the vicinity of parks, reserves and protected areas, in particular, as well as the general population, with the operation of these facilities, through a number of measures:

(a) The surrounding populations are allowed an annual game hunting quota. This improves their food supply and discourages poaching.

(b) Repressive legislation is being replaced by legislation which aims to encourage the inclusion of wild life protection in development objectives.

(c) Relations of trust between park, reserve and protected area authorities and the local population are cultivated and developed through such activities as the organization of guided visits for schoolchildren and students, the showing of films and the holding of travelling exhibitions followed by discussions and the founding of clubs.

73. The organizations of the United Nations system should lend assistance (help in preparing suitable legislation and provision of material such as films and documents) in order to strengthen these activities, which are the best means of ensuring the preservation of wild life.

B. Management and conservation of soils, forests, waters and oceans and action to combat drought and desertification

74. The co-operation of the organizations of the United Nations system with the African countries covers a wide range of activities aimed at ensuring better management and conservation of forests, soils, waters (rivers, lakes, seas, oceans). In those countries which are severely affected by drought and desertification, the help provided by the United Nations system also takes many forms: well-drilling, construction of access roads, creation of green belts, anchoring of sand dunes, protection of forests, strengthening of laboratories carrying out research to identify the most suitable plants and seeds, better management of common and pasture land, energy conservation, strengthening of institutions, training of personnel, provision of advisers and experts, assistance in collecting funds and contributions, preparation of policies and strategies such as plans for combating desertification, drought or pollution, settlement of populations, etc.

75. African countries are deploying immense efforts to combat drought and desertification effects. However their needs are so large and the tasks confronting them so varied that the contribution of the United Nations system can be of a complementary nature only, the bulk of the effort being furnished by the African countries themselves and by bilateral co-operation.

76. Management and preservation of oceans Africa is surrounded by many thousands of square kilometres of seas and oceans which contain inestimable wealth and present a source for food that must be managed rationally if excessive exploitation and disastrous pollution are to be avoided.

77. The United Nations system, and FAO in particular, are co-operating with certain African countries in the preparation of legislation designed to curb over-exploitation of the resources of the sea. The United Nations system is also assisting in the study of fish migration and in the preparation of maps of the ocean floor. The training of fisheries specialists is another field in which United Nations co-operation is playing a useful role.

78. Several African countries have had to face over-exploitation of fish and crustacean resources, as well as pollution of their coasts that is attributed to the absence of legislation or the inadequacy of means of enforcement. While important efforts are being made by the United Nations system in several African countries to co-operate with them in the establishment of regulations and the provision of human and physical resources for better conservation of their seas and oceans, it would be useful if such co-operation were extended to all maritime countries of Africa which desire it.

79. Soil management and conservation. The United Nations is co-operating with African countries in the preparation of master plans for land use, in the establishment of land planning and land use departments and in the making of aerial photographs via satellite for determination of soil deterioration.

80. The United Nations, and UNDP in particular, is helping to collect data on pluviometry and climatic variations, in relation with agricultural production, for the purpose of determining the most appropriate crops. Surveys are being made for a census of dry area and irrigated zone crops, pasture and livestock raising areas, forest areas and wild life. Through a comparative study of these data it is possible to identify the most suitable groups of crops, having regard to soil properties and environmental characteristics. Lists are being prepared of the most suitable crops for irrigated land, on the basis of land and water resources, and of the most promising animals for raising, on the basis of the available pasture land. The forest areas to be protected and those suitable for industrial use are also being identified. The result of all these studies is making possible the development of rational land use strategies based on better knowledge of what the land contains. In order to put these strategies into practice and to test their assumptions and conclusions, pilot projects are being developed in co-operation with FAO, which is participating in their execution.

81. On the other hand, UNEP has presented a World Soils Policy and a Plan of Action for its implementation to help governments address the soil problem derived from land use.

82. ECA and WMO have carried out a feasibility study to establish an African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) which will assist African countries affected or prone to drought to plan their food and agricultural production activities according to the variation patterns of the weather.

83. Although the preparation of these strategies calls for complex, costly and long-term action, once the work is done, the countries concerned will have an irreplaceable instrument for soil management and conservation. The United Nations system should make available to those African countries which so desire the resources and expertise needed for drawing up a master plan for land use aimed at making the best possible use of land and ensuring its conservation.

V. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

84. The present report is the third in a series devoted to the contribution of the United Nations system to the preservation and management of cultural and natural heritage. This contribution consists in the preparation of programmes at the headquarters and in the implementation, in the field, of projects for raising funds (international campaigns, UNDP funds, voluntary contributions, regular programme and special funds), safeguarding archaeological monuments, building museums, restoring libraries, safeguarding medinas, establishing national archives and national galleries, collecting and developing oral traditions and making them known (literature, songs, dances, folklore), safeguarding, preserving and developing flora and fauna, conserving natural resources, combating desertification and drought and protecting the environment.

A. Programmes for the preservation of cultural and natural heritage

85. Chapter II briefly describes the programmes which are being carried out by the organizations of the United Nations system, the NGOs and donor countries. It shows that the areas of United Nations system intervention are extensive and cover virtually all the sectors of preservation of cultural and natural heritage. What does need, however, to be strengthened and developed is the effort being made to raise additional funds, train more national personnel, provide more equipment and co-ordinate and harmonize the United Nations system activities with those of the NGOs and the donor countries (paragraphs 8 to 44).

RECOMMENDATION No. 1

86. The organizations of the United Nations system should co-operate among themselves and with the African countries, the NGOs and the donor countries in preparing, carrying out and following-up programmes and projects for the preservation of natural and cultural heritage in order to ensure greater coherence, greater longevity and greater effectiveness of these activities.

B. Implementation of projects for the preservation of cultural heritage

87. The implementation of projects of the conservation and management of cultural heritage involves several organizations of the United Nations system. However, UNESCO, by virtue of its mandate, is the body most directly concerned and is the one which, in practice, is carrying out the most projects and the most significant ones. Consequently, our recommendations in this field are addressed to all the organizations concerned and, more particularly, to UNESCO (paragraphs 45 to 67).

1. Safeguarding of monuments and sites

88. The campaigns launched by UNESCO to safeguard archaeological monuments and sites in Africa have constituted some of the most important activities of that organization and have sometimes been among the most successful. Treasures of civilization have been saved for the benefit of all mankind. Nevertheless, it would seem that the activities of the United Nations system in this field could be more effective if greater efforts were made to ensure increased publicity prior to the launching of the campaigns, and to ensure a more effective presence in the field (paragraphs 47 to 51).

RECOMMENDATION No. 2

89. In order to ensure greater success for the international campaigns, UNESCO should co-operate with the African countries concerned in intensifying publicity concerning these campaigns, prior to their launching, and in increasing, as far as possible, the number of experts responsible for carrying out the campaign in the field.

2. Safeguarding and renovation of medinas

90. The safeguarding of the inner precincts of ancient cities (Medinas) is a major area of co-operation between many African countries and UNESCO. Significant results have been obtained in this field where complex activities have had to be undertaken simultaneously: renovation of palaces, medersas, oukalas, fonduks, souks and libraries; repairing of drainage systems; provision of drinking water and electricity supplies; and establishment of schools, hospitals, dwellings, etc. These are obviously large-scale, costly, and lengthy operations. We believe that co-operation by the United Nations system in this field would be strengthened and would have greater impact if the organizations concerned were to co-operate with the countries involved, not only in securing additional external financing and in finding reliable and substantial sources of self-financing, but also in helping to clarify the legal status of property in the medinas (paragraphs 52 to 57).

RECOMMENDATION No. 3

91. In order to secure substantial and reliable sources of financing for the renovation of medinas, UNESCO should co-operate with the African countries concerned through provision of the necessary expertise, in establishing renovation funds which would receive not only external contributions, but also the proceeds of self-financing operations such as those suggested in the body of this report.

In addition, in order to shorten the time required for renovation work, UNESCO should co-operate with African countries which so desire in clarifying the complex legal problems of property holdings in the medinas, by placing trained experts at their disposal.

3. Construction of archaeological museums, libraries, archives and galleries; development of handicrafts

92. Co-operation by the United Nations system in the construction of museums, in the establishment of national archives and art galleries and in the development of traditional handicrafts meets one of the vital objectives which several African countries have set themselves. In several cases, the contribution of the United Nations was the catalyst and starting point for major activities. All these activities would be further facilitated if the organizations of the United Nations did more to co-operate with the African countries concerned with a view to training more national specialists in all fields: archivists, restorers, librarians, conservators, historians, linguists, etc. (paragraphs 58 to 65).

RECOMMENDATION No. 4

93. The organizations of the United Nations system should co-operate with the African countries concerned in training a considerable number of experts in the conservation and management of cultural heritage, by using available resources to the greatest possible extent and by helping to organize evening and optional courses in national universities. The organizations of the United Nations system are invited to assist by encouraging their experts and advisers working in the field to help with such training, in addition to performing their normal tasks.

4. Strengthening of the institutional infrastructure

94. The organizations of the United Nations system are co-operating with several African countries in strengthening institutions responsible for the preservation and management of cultural heritage (ministries of culture, archaeological institutes, universities, etc.). They are also co-operating in the development of strategies for the preservation and management of cultural heritage (paragraphs 66 to 67).

RECOMMENDATION No. 5

95. The organizations of the United Nations system should co-operate with interested African countries in the establishment of institutional infrastructures for the preservation and management of cultural heritage, where these do not exist, and in strengthening those which have already been established and they should assist in developing strategies for the preservation and management of cultural heritage in those countries lacking such a strategy.

RECOMMENDATION No. 6

96. In identifying projects in African countries, the organizations of the United Nations system should give high priority to those whose object is, not only the preservation and management of cultural heritage, but also the creation of sources of income for their populations, the renovation of dwellings and of administrative or cultural premises, the training of specialists, the creation of employment opportunities, the encouragement of local saving and the strengthening of development activities generally.

C. The implementation of natural heritage management and preservation projects

97. The contribution of the United Nations system to the conservation and management of natural heritage is understood here in a broad sense and covers fauna, flora and natural resources. Several organizations of the United Nations system are co-operating in the implementation of major projects in African countries. A special role is being played by FAO, which is the principal executing agency in this field. Our recommendations are therefore addressed, generally, to all the organizations concerned and, in particular, to FAO (paragraphs 68 to 83).

1. Management of parks, reserves and controlled areas

98. In addition to providing recreation areas and helping to protect wild life, parks and reserves are a substantial source of income for several African countries (tourism, hunting, etc.). The co-operation of the United Nations in this field is welcomed by the African countries. This co-operation could, however, be strengthened in the area of financing (paragraphs 69 to 73).

RECOMMENDATION No. 7

99. To assist the African countries in improving the financing of their parks and reserves, the organizations of the United Nations system should earmark their financial contributions, in priority, for the purchase of equipment and supplies and for the provision of training fellowships. The use of experts, and particularly of resident experts, which is very costly, should be replaced, as far as possible, by the dispatch of headquarters officials on short-term missions.

2. Conservation and management of seas and oceans

100. Several African countries have had to face over-exploitation of fish and crustacean resources, as well as pollution of their coasts, caused, inter alia, by the absence of suitable legislation and the inadequacy of monitoring facilities. The organizations of the United Nations system are making substantial

efforts to co-operate with the African countries in the establishment of regulations and in the provision of human and physical resources for better conservation of their seas and oceans (paragraphs 74 to 78).

RECOMMENDATION No. 8

101. The organizations of the United Nations system should extend their co-operation in the field of protection and management of the resources of the seas and oceans, to all coastal African countries which request it.

3. Soil management and conservation and action to combat drought and desertification

102. The preparation of master plans for land use based on: identification of areas suitable for forestry, non-irrigated cultivation, irrigated cultivation and pasture; selection of the best animal and vegetable species; study of local environmental conditions and human settlements; investigation of erosion factors and other activities, makes possible better protection and use of land resources. The United Nations is helping many countries to draw up such plans and to strengthen national services capable of carrying them out. It is co-operating with these countries in the preparation of strategies based on these plans and in the execution of pilot projects designed to test their working assumptions and results. It is also co-operating with the African countries, which are among those most severely affected by drought and desertification, in efforts to overcome their effects (paragraphs 79 to 83).

RECOMMENDATION No. 9

103. Within the framework of existing institutions, the organizations of the United Nations system should intensify their co-operation in efforts to overcome the effects of desertification and drought, in particular by mobilizing additional financial resources and by co-operating more closely with each other.

RECOMMENDATION No. 10

104. The organizations of the United Nations system should make available to those African countries which so desire the resources and expertise necessary for the implementation of master plans for land use aimed at making the best possible use of land and ensuring its conservation. Programmes to assist African countries in the formulation of national soil policies should be promoted to ensure sound land use and conservation.

D. Use of African experts; project execution by governments; exchange, between African governments, of information on successful experience; consciousness raising among populations

105. Throughout the preceding chapters attention has been drawn repeatedly to several important elements which are conducive to better conservation and management of cultural and natural heritage. The following factors were particularly underlined.

(a) the need for an active participation of populations based on recognition of their own interests and of realization of the value of their heritage and of the need to protect it;

(b) we have also referred to the need, in the case of heritage conservation projects, for governments to be responsible for implementation, which is more worth while than subcontracting: it enables the country concerned to accumulate a wealth of experience which it can use in subsequent projects;

(c) furthermore, we have referred to the success of certain projects in African countries and to the positive and extensive experience they have gained in several sectors of cultural and natural heritage conservation, and suggested that it would be advisable and useful to organize an exchange of such experience among the countries of the continent;

(d) finally we have noted that while heritage conservation experts are in very short supply in a number of African countries, other countries have surplus experts of international calibre.

RECOMMENDATION No. 11

106. The organizations of the United Nations system concerned with the conservation and management of natural and cultural heritage should, whenever possible and feasible:

(a) intensify programmes designed to help populations, and particularly the younger generations, to realize the importance of cultural and natural heritage and the need to preserve it;

(b) entrust more often the execution of projects to the governments concerned, so that experience gained may be retained within the country;

(c) organize more frequently, among the African countries, exchange of experier so that advantage may be taken of experience which has been successful;

(d) use more frequently the services of African experts of proven ability.

Annex I

African Properties which the World Heritage Committee has
included in the World Heritage List

Contracting State having submitted the
nomination of the property in accordance
with the Convention:

Name of Property

Algeria	Al Qal'a of Beni Hammad
"	Tassili n'Ajjer
"	M'Zab Valley
"	Djemila
"	Tipasa
"	Timgad
Egypt	Memphis and its Necropolis the Pyramid fields from Giza to Dahshur
"	Ancient Thebes with its Necrop- olis
"	Nubian monuments from Abu Simbel to Philae
"	Islamic Cairo
"	Abu Mena
Ethiopia	Simen National Park
"	Rock-hewn Churches, Lalibela
"	Fasil Ghebbi, Gondar Region
"	Lower Valley of the Awash
"	Tiya
"	Aksum
"	Lower Valley of the Omo
Ghana	Forts and Castles, Volta Greater Accra, Central and Western Regions
"	Ashante Traditional Buildings
Guinea and Ivory Coast	Mount Nimba Reserve
Ivory Coast	Tai National Park
"	Comoe National Park
Morocco	Medina of Fez
Senegal	Island of Gorée
"	Niokolo-Koba National Park
"	Djoudj Bird Sanctuary
Seychelles	Aldabra Atoll
"	Vallée de Mai Nature Reserve

Annex I (contd.)

Contracting State having submitted the
nomination of the property in accordance
with the Convention (continued)

Name of Property

Socialist People's
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

"
"

Archaeological Site of Leptis
Magna
Archaeological Site of Sabratha
Archaeological Site of Cyrene

Tunisia

"
"
"

Medina of Tunis
Site of Carthage
Amphitheatre of El Jem
Ichkeul National Park

United Republic of Tanzania

"
"
"

Ngorongo Conservation Area
Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and
Ruins of Songo Mnara
Serengeti National Park
Selous Game Reserve

Zaire

"
"

Virunga National Park
Garamba National Park
Kahuzi-Biega National Park

Annex II

LIST OF AFRICAN BIOSPHERE RESERVES

CAMEROON

1. Waza National Park
2. La Benoué National Park
3. Dja Forest and Wild Life Reserve

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

1. Basse-Lobaye Forest
2. Bamingui Bangoran Conservation Area

CONGO

1. Odzala National Park

EGYPT

1. Omayed Experimental Research Area

GABON

1. Ipassa-Makokou Nature Reserve

GHANA

1. Bia National Park

GUINEA

1. Nimba Mountains Biosphere Reserve
2. Ziamba Massif Biosphere Reserve

IVORY COAST

1. Tai National Park
2. Comoé National Park

KENYA

1. Mount Kulal Biosphere Reserve
2. Mount Kenya Biosphere Reserve
3. Malindi-Watuma Biosphere Reserve
4. Kiunga Marine National Reserve

Annex II (contd.)

MALI

1. Boucle du Baoulé National Park and adjacent reserves:
Fina-Koungossambougou and Badinko

MAURITIUS

1. Macchabée/Bel Ombre Nature Reserve

NIGERIA

1. Omo Reserve

RWANDA

1. Parc National des Volcans

SENEGAL

1. Samba Dia Scheduled Forest
2. Delta of the Sine Saloum
3. Niokolo-Koba National Park

SUDAN

1. Dinder National Park
2. Radom National Park

TANZANIA

1. Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Conservation Area
2. Lake Manyara National Park

TUNISIA

1. Djebel Bou-Hedma National Park
2. Djebel Chambi National Park
3. Ichkeul National Park
4. Zembra Islands and Zembretta National Park

UGANDA

1. Queen Elizabeth National Park

ZAIRE

1. Yangambi Flower Reserve
2. Luki Forest Reserve
3. Valley of the Lufira

