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31 January 2002

To: All National Focal Points for Periodic Reporting in the Asia-Pacific Region

Madam/Sir,

Subject: Distribution of CD-Rom for preparing the periodic reports on the application of the *World Heritage Convention* and on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties in the Asia-Pacific Region

As you know, the World Heritage Committee, at its twenty-second session in December 1998, decided to invite States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* to submit periodic reports every six years in accordance with the Format adopted by the Committee. The Committee also decided that it would examine the reports from the Asia-Pacific Region at its twenty-seventh ordinary session in **June 2003** in view of the changes to its working calendar.

The Committee noted that it is the prime responsibility of the States Parties to prepare the national periodic reports and to put in place on-site monitoring arrangements as an integral component of day-to-day conservation and management of the World Heritage properties. The UNESCO World Heritage Centre, as Secretariat to the World Heritage Committee, is prepared to assist you and your relevant authorities in the preparation of the reports and will synthesize the national periodic reports into a single regional periodic report for submission to the World Heritage Committee.

To this end, the Centre has produced a CD-ROM containing the available background documents and the information contained in the data sheets of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), for use by States Parties in preparing Sections I and II of the Periodic Reports. I am pleased to enclose the CD-ROM to assist your authorities in the preparation of a preliminary draft of your country's national periodic report prior to the *Regional Workshop on Periodic Reporting for World Heritage Natural & Mixed Properties* to be held from 10 to 13 March 2002 in Australia.

.../

The objective of this Workshop is to facilitate the preparation of national draft reports by the States Parties and to define guidelines for the preparation of the Regional Periodic Report. Participants are requested to prepare preliminary drafts of Section I (on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention) and of Section II for at least one property (state of conservation report), of their country's National Periodic Report, according to the Format and Explanatory Notes. These should be prepared prior to the meeting and submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and/or Department of Environment and Heritage of the Government of Australia by **1 March 2002**, preferably in an electronic form, for inclusion in the Final Report of the Workshop. During the Workshop, the participants are requested to present this report to the meeting.

I thank you in advance for your kind co-operation in supporting the World Heritage Centre in the preparation of the Asia-Pacific Regional Periodic Report on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties which will depend on the timely submission to us of the national reports.

For further information, please contact:

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Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Francesco Bandarin
Director
UNESCO World Heritage Centre

Encl: List of National Focal Points for Natural & Mixed World Heritage Properties in the Asia-Pacific Region
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