



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

World Heritage

31 COM

Distribution limited

WHC-07/31.COM/24

Paris, 31 July 2007

Original: English/French

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

**Thirty-first session
Christchurch, New Zealand
23 June-2 July 2007**

**DECISIONS ADOPTED
AT THE 31st SESSION
OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE
(CHRISTCHURCH, 2007)**

2. REQUESTS FOR OBSERVER STATUS

Decision: 31 COM 2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Taking into consideration Rule 8 (Observers) of the *Rules of Procedure* of the Committee,
2. Authorizes the participation in the 31st session as observers of those representatives of the international governmental organizations (IGOs), international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), permanent observer missions to UNESCO and non profit-making institutions having activities in the fields covered by the *Convention*, who have requested observer participation at the session and as listed in Section A of the document WHC-07/31.COM/2;
3. Further confirms the participation in the 31st session as observers of all those invited by the Director-General of UNESCO in accordance with Rule 8.4 of the *Rules of Procedure* of the Committee and as listed in Section B of the document WHC-07/31.COM/2.

3A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Decision: 31 COM 3A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/3A.Rev.3,
2. Adopts the Agenda included in the above-mentioned Document.

3B. ADOPTION OF THE PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Decision: 31 COM 3B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/3B.Rev,
2. Adopts the timetable included in the above-mentioned Document.

4. REPORT OF THE RAPPORTEUR OF THE 30TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (VILNIUS, 2006)

Decision: 31 COM 4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Rapporteur of its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006).

5. REPORT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE ON ITS ACTIVITIES AND ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Decision: 31 COM 5.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/5,
2. Takes note with appreciation of the report from the World Heritage Centre on its activities and the implementation of the World Heritage Committee's decisions;
3. Requests the World Heritage Centre to support the States Parties of the African, Arab and Pacific regions to establish and update their tentative lists and further improve the management, documentation and conservation of properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List in order to ensure that the outstanding universal value of the heritage of those regions is more fully represented on the World Heritage List.
4. Also requests the World Heritage Centre to intensify its capacity building activities ;
5. Further requests the World Heritage Centre to make its future annual Reports of activities more results-oriented.

Decision: 31 COM 5.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/5.2,
2. Recalling the decision adopted by the Executive Board at its 176th session (176 EX/Special Plenary Meeting/Decision), which "requests the Director-General within the framework of the *World Heritage Convention*, to propose to the World Heritage Committee at its forthcoming session a mechanism to ensure the proper implementation of the World Heritage Committee decisions",
3. Affirming that nothing in the present decision shall affect each State Party's primary duty to ensure the identification, protection and conservation of World Heritage properties, as stipulated in Article 4 of the *World Heritage Convention*;

4. Adopts with immediate effect, the reinforced monitoring mechanism proposed by the Director-General to ensure the proper implementation of the World Heritage Committee's decisions and requests the World Heritage Centre to refine the operational aspects of this mechanism in close consultation with the Advisory Bodies, and with the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee;
5. Acknowledges that the verification process under the reinforced monitoring mechanism may be activated in exceptional and specific cases either by the World Heritage Committee or the Director-General and underlines that reinforced monitoring is a constant cooperative process with the State Party concerned, which will always be undertaken in full consultation and with its approval;
6. Calls on the States Parties to contribute to resource mobilization with a view to reinforcing the monitoring of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, as foreseen in the *World Heritage Convention*;
7. Requests the World Heritage Centre to present to the World Heritage Committee, at its 33rd session in 2009, a report regarding the implementation of the reinforced monitoring mechanism with a view to assessing the lessons learned during this period, prior to institutionalizing the reinforced monitoring mechanism in the *Operational Guidelines*.

6. SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES (UNESCO, OCTOBER 2007)

Decision: 31 COM 6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/6,
2. Takes note with appreciation of the Report;
3. Decides to authorize the Chairperson of the Committee to vet the report of the 31st session and, as appropriate, to consult members of the Committee by e-mail, and other means, as necessary;
4. Requests the Director of the World Heritage Centre to transmit the Report, as amended, to the Secretariat of the General Conference, so that it can be submitted to the General Conference of UNESCO at its 34th session (UNESCO, 2007);
5. Also decides to establish a mechanism for consultation with Committee members for future reports on the Committee's activities;
6. Further decides in accordance with Rule 14.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention*, to reserve one seat in the World Heritage Committee to be elected by the General Assembly at its 16th session (UNESCO, 24-25 October 2007), for a State Party which does not have any properties on the World Heritage List.

7. EXAMINATION OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES

7.1 ISSUES RELATED TO THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES : THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES

Decision: 31 COM 7.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7.1,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7.1** adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Thanks the Government of the Netherlands for having funded the development of the policy document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties, including a meeting of the Working Group of Experts, (5 - 6 February 2007 at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris), and also thanks the experts and representatives of organizations who contributed to the meeting;
4. Endorses the “Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties” as described in Document WHC-07/31.COM/7.1, and decides to authorize the Chairperson of the Committee to vet the Policy Document, incorporating views expressed at the 31st session, and, as appropriate, to consult Committee members by email and other means;
5. Decides to transmit the revised Policy Document for discussion and adoption at the 16th General Assembly of States Parties in 2007;
6. Recommends that the Policy Document be read in conjunction with the report on “Predicting and managing the impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage” and the “Strategy to assist States Parties to implement appropriate management responses” - endorsed by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) – together with other relevant conventions such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification, and other UNESCO initiatives, and further thanks the Government of Spain for supporting their publication as World Heritage Paper No. 22;
7. Urges the World Heritage community to integrate actions pertaining to climate change in risk preparedness policies and action plans, making use thereby of the Policy Document and the Strategy for Risk Reduction at World Heritage properties, so as to protect their outstanding universal value, authenticity and/or integrity.
8. Also urges States Parties to participate in the United Nations Climate Change conferences with a view to achieving a comprehensive post-Kyoto agreement, and to fund and support the research needs as identified in Annex 1 of the Policy Document;
9. Encourages the World Heritage Centre to sensitize States Parties, as appropriate, to the need to establish inter-disciplinary mechanisms to deal with policy and governance issues relating to the effect of climate change on World Heritage properties;
10. Recommends that the World Heritage Centre strengthen its relations with all organizations working on climate change, particularly with the UNFCCC and IPCC

secretariats, and specifically with regard to the effect of climate change on World Heritage properties;

11. Welcomes the excellent publication on “Case Studies on Climate Change and World Heritage” and thanks the United Nations Foundation (UNF) and the Government of the United Kingdom for having supported its production;
12. Encourages UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to disseminate widely the Policy Document, and other related publications through appropriate means to the World Heritage community and the broader public, and promote their application;
13. Adopts the specific research priorities indicated in the Policy Document and recommends to the UNESCO Forum – Universities and Heritage to prioritize these subjects and to open discussions on the effects of climate change on World Heritage properties;
14. Requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to develop in consultation with States Parties criteria for the inclusion of those properties which are most threatened by climate change on the List of World Heritage in Danger, for use in prioritizing vulnerability assessment, mitigation and adaptation activities;
15. Decides, for future sessions of the World Heritage Committee, to add to the working document on State of Conservation reporting, a section on those properties most affected by climate change;
16. Commends the Government of New Zealand for making the 31st session "carbon neutral" and adopts a carbon neutral policy for all future sessions, to the extent feasible.

7.2 ISSUES RELATED TO THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES : STRATEGY FOR RISK REDUCTION AT WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES

Decision: 31 COM 7.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7.2,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7.2**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Takes note of the important outcome of the Davos International Conference on Disaster Reduction as reflected in its final Declaration, on the role of heritage within disaster risk reduction;
4. Approves the revised Strategy for Risk Reduction at World Heritage Properties with its prioritized list of actions;
5. Encourages States Parties, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre to implement the Strategy for Risk Reduction at World Heritage properties within their spheres of activities;

6. Requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to integrate policies and strategies established by the World Heritage Committee on the issue of climate change in the implementation of the strategy for risk reduction at World Heritage properties;
7. Recommends that a risk management component be incorporated in the Management Plan for World Heritage properties in accordance with Paragraph 118 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

7.3 OUTCOMES OF THE « BENCHMARKS » MEETING (PARIS, 2-3 APRIL 2007)

Decision: 31 COM 7.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7.3,
2. Recalling Decisions **29 COM 7C** and **30 COM 9** adopted at its 29th (Durban, 2005) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions respectively,
3. Thanking the Government of the Netherlands for having hosted the meeting of experts, which took place from 2 to 3 April 2007 in Paris, as well as all the experts who contributed to it,
4. Noting the results and recommendations of the expert meeting,
5. Decides to formally adopt a monitoring framework for World Heritage properties;
6. Decides to integrate the monitoring framework into the next revision of the *Operational Guidelines* and to ensure cross referencing for all World Heritage processes;
7. Specifically requests for the revision of the *Operational Guidelines* to ensure the link between outstanding universal value and the format for nominations (Annex 5: 4a on present state of conservation and 4b on factors affecting the property);
8. Further requests the States Parties, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre to establish desired state of conservation in all state of conservation reports to facilitate sound decisions, specifically for inclusion in / removal of properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
9. Urges the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre to provide technical guidance on how to draft statements of significance / outstanding universal value and requests ICCROM to use the funds, already allocated, for a focussed guidance manual, in consultation with IUCN and ICOMOS, to be published by the end of 2007;
10. Noting the prioritised implementation strategy with focus on the application of the monitoring framework to properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger, requests States Parties with properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger to prepare a draft Statement of outstanding universal value for these properties,
11. Further requests all States Parties, with the Advisory Bodies, to prepare a draft Statement of outstanding universal value for their properties prior to the arrival of a

reactive monitoring mission, and to ensure that the draft statements of outstanding universal value be prepared in advance for the next cycle of Periodic Reporting;

12. Requests that stakeholders be involved in preparing all reports required under the *World Heritage Convention* (nomination documents, state of conservation reports, periodic reports) in order to ensure full participation in the definition of the values and desired state of conservation of a property;
13. Recalls the requirement that at the time of inscription the Committee decision should entail a clear Statement of outstanding universal value with authenticity and/or integrity and decides to add the requirements to describe the desired state of conservation;
14. Notes confusion around the term “benchmarks” and requests instead the use of the terms “desired state of conservation” and “corrective measures” in all state of conservation documents relating to the List of World Heritage in Danger, and adopts in principle the format for state of conservation reports in Annex II.

7A. STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

NATURAL HERITAGE

AFRICA

1. Manovo-Gounda St. Floris National Park (Central African Republic) (N 475)

Decision: 31 COM 7A.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.1**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Expresses its utmost concern on the security situation in northern Central African Republic and its impact on the property, in particular the continued large scale poaching of its wildlife, which could lead in the near future to the loss of the Outstanding Universal Value for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List;
4. Regrets that the planned joint UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission again had to be postponed as a result of the deterioration of the security situation;
5. Reiterates its request to organize the monitoring mission as soon as the security situation allows in order to assess if the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and the potential for its rehabilitation still exists and to develop an emergency action plan for the property with all concerned stakeholders;
6. Urges the State Party to take all measures possible to halt poaching in the property;

7. Calls on the State Parties of Central African Republic, Chad and Sudan to develop transboundary cooperation to address the issue of wildlife poaching;
8. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property, including the conditions of integrity, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
9. Also requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a clear set of corrective measures and draft statement of the desired state of conservation for the property based on its Outstanding Universal Value to guide future decisions by the Committee on whether or not to retain the property on the World Heritage List;
10. Further requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2008** on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
11. **Decides to retain Manovo-Gounda St. Floris National Park (Central African Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

2. Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) (N 227)

Decision: 31 COM 7A.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.2** adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes that the State Party has started to implement the corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), but that it has not yet been able to establish an effective system of control and patrolling for the whole property;
4. Urges the State Party to implement in accordance with the adopted timeframe the corrective measures, in particular emergency measures linked to the surveillance of the whole property, as well as the other recommendations of the 2006 UNESCO-IUCN monitoring mission;
5. Calls again upon international donors to continue to support the efforts of the State Party in the preparation and implementation of the action plan and management plan;
6. Requests the State Party to collect, as soon as the situation allows, necessary ecological data to assess the conservation status of the property and help to define the boundaries of the management zones;
7. Encourages the State Party to continue its efforts to develop a transboundary wildlife migration corridor with Burkina Faso and Ghana in cooperation with IUCN;
8. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property, including the conditions of integrity, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;

9. Further requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a draft statement of the desired state of conservation for the property based on its Outstanding Universal Value;
10. Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2008** on the state of conservation of the property and on progress with the implementation of the corrective measures set by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) as well as the other recommendations of the 2006 monitoring mission, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
11. **Decides to retain Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

3. Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea) (N 155 bis)

Decision: 31 COM 7A.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.3** adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Regrets that the 2007 World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission was unable to visit the part of the property situated in Côte d'Ivoire;
4. Expresses concern about the continued threats to the integrity and values of the part of the property situated in Guinea, in particular by poaching and uncontrolled fires and the limited progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the 1993 mission;
5. Takes note of the fact that the on-going exploratory activities in the mining enclave have no significant impact on the World Heritage property but that activities will increase as the project enters its next pre-exploitation stages and requests the mining company SMFG to present a plan of the forthcoming planned activities and measures taken to limit their impact;
6. Also notes the efforts of the mining company SMFG and the State Party of Guinea to clarify the limits of the mining enclave and requests the State Party of Guinea with the assistance of SMFG and the UNDP/GEF project to finalize the delimitation of the enclave and geo-reference the boundaries of the rest of the property before the 32nd session of the Committee in 2008, taking into account the recommendations of the 2007 mission;
7. Requests the mining company SMFG and the State Party of Guinea to continue the process of the environmental impact assessment of the mining project and the collection of the necessary baseline data in order to clarify and quantify the potential impacts of the planned mining exploitation on the property, in close consultation with all stakeholders, the Centre and IUCN, and submit to the Committee any intermediary results;

8. Urges the State Party of Guinea to clarify the legal status of the property, the mining enclave as well as the two other core zones and the buffer zone of the biosphere reserve, taking into account the recommendations of the 2007 mission, before the 33rd session of the Committee in 2009;
9. Further urges the State Party of Guinea to implement immediately the recommendations of the 2007 Centre/IUCN mission, which can be considered as corrective measures in order to safeguard the integrity and outstanding universal value of the property, in particular:
 - a) Strengthen the capacities of the management authority CEGENS in the field, in particular by providing the necessary financial and technical resources to accomplish its mission;
 - b) Strengthen the surveillance of the property in cooperation with the local communities, in particular by recruiting the ecoguards necessary for the surveillance of the property and by strengthening the capacities of the newly created Village Surveillance Committees;
 - c) Define a buffer zone for the property, in consultation with local stakeholders, with an appropriate legal status and strengthen the conservation of the property through sustainable management of the natural resources within this buffer zone;
 - d) Put in place an ecological monitoring system and a geo-referenced database for all scientific data collected on the property;
 - e) Conduct a feasibility study to define a sustainable finance mechanism for the property;
 - f) Develop a strategy for the conservation of the Déré Forest and Bossou Hills;
 - g) Prepare a management plan for the property and the biosphere reserve;
10. Encourages the State Parties of Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea to meet and resume tripartite discussions with Liberia to enhance the required coordination which will be essential to implement the recommendations from the 2007 mission. The States Parties may wish to request international assistance from the World Heritage Fund to organize a new tripartite meeting before the 32nd session of the Committee;
11. Requests the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission to assess the State of Conservation of the part of the property situated in Côte d'Ivoire and if possible coinciding with the proposed tripartite meeting;
12. Also requests the State Parties, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property, including the conditions of integrity, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
13. Further requests the State Parties, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a draft statement of the desired state of conservation for the property based on its Outstanding Universal Value;
14. Requests the State Parties to submit a report by **1 February 2008** on the state of conservation of the property, in particular on the implementation of the recommendations of the 2007 monitoring mission to the Guinean part of the property, progress with the delimitation of the property, the clarification of the legal status of the

property and the implementation of the environmental impact assessment process as well as the impact of the civil conflict on the Ivorian part of the property for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;

15. **Decides to retain the Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

4. Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 63)

Decision: 31 COM 7A.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.7**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Expresses its sincerest condolences to the families of guards who were killed during operations related to the protection of the property;
4. Regrets that the continued insecurity in and around the property continues to hamper conservation activities, leading to limited progress on the implementation of the corrective measures set by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
5. Urges the State Party in cooperation with the United Nations Organization Mission in DRC (MONUC), in view of the extremely negative consequences of the presence of armed groups in and around the park, to urgently take measures to disarm and evacuate the armed groups and to reduce significantly the number of military positions inside the property ;
6. Also urges the State Party and the protected area agency ICCN to implement as soon as possible the corrective measures set by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
7. Strongly regrets that in spite of promises by the Minister of Defence, the Nyaleke army reunification and training camp inside the property was not closed down and reiterates its request for an immediate closure and removal of the camp from the property;
8. Expresses its concern about the map produced by the Ministry of Mines, showing that exploratory concessions were granted inside the property, calls on the holders of any concessions to respect international standards with respect to mining in World Heritage properties, as outlined in the International Council on Mining and Metals Position Statement on Mining and Protected Areas (2003), and further urges the State Party to immediately revoke any concessions that might have been granted, as mining operations are incompatible with the World Heritage status of the property;
9. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property, including the conditions of integrity, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;

10. Also requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a draft statement of the desired state of conservation for the property based on its Outstanding Universal Value;
11. Further requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2008** on the state of conservation of the property and on progress with the implementation of the corrective measures set by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
12. **Decides to retain Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

5. Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 137)

Decision: 31 COM 7A.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.6**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Expresses its sincerest condolences to the families of guards who were killed during operations related to the protection of the property;
4. Regrets that the continuing insecurity in particular in the lowland sector continues to hamper conservation activities, including the implementation of the corrective measures set by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
5. Urges the State Party, in cooperation with the United Nations Organization Mission in DRC (MONUC), to urgently take measures to disarm and evacuate the armed groups present in and around the park, in particular of the Rwandese militia and uncontrolled units of the DRC army (FARDC);
6. Notes that some progress was made in the implementation of the corrective measures, in particular the re-installation of park staff in the lowland sector, the organization of mixed patrols with the army and the start of survey work on key animals in the lowland;
7. Requests the State Party and the protected area agency ICCN to implement as soon as possible the corrective measures, in close cooperation with the local communities around the park;
8. Notes the draft report on the Environmental Impact Assessment undertaken for the planned rehabilitation of the RN3, which documents the potential direct impacts of the road crossing the property on the gorilla populations with a significant increase in the traffic as well as other potential indirect impacts on the property, in particular increased deforestation, bush meat trafficking and illegal mineral exploitation in the property;
9. Recommends that the stretch of road crossing the property will only be rehabilitated as a local road and that the rehabilitation programme includes a continual monitoring

component to determine the effect of the road on gorilla populations, habitat and their behaviour as well as other measures to limit the indirect impacts mentioned above;

10. Also urges the State Party and the European Union to include in the final report clear recommendations on the measures proposed to limit the indirect impacts on the property as well as a detailed evaluation of expected increase in traffic volume and set clear indicators as to what traffic volume should trigger the construction of an alternative route which avoids crossing the property;
11. Expresses its concern about the map produced by the Ministry of Mines, showing that mining concessions were granted inside the property, calls on the holders of any concessions to respect international standards with respect to mining in World Heritage properties, as outlined in the International Council on Mining and Metals Position Statement on Mining and Protected Areas (2003), and also urges the State Party to immediately revoke any concessions that might have been granted, as mining operations are incompatible with the World Heritage status of the property;
12. Also requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property, including the conditions of integrity, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
13. Further requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a draft statement of the desired state of conservation for the property based on its Outstanding Universal Value;
14. Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2008** on the state of conservation of the property, including an update on the road rehabilitation project and the issue of the mining concessions and on progress with the implementation of the corrective measures set by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
15. **Decides to retain Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

6. Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 136)

Decision: 31 COM 7A.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.4**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Commends the park management authority and African Parks Foundation (APF) for their efforts to regain control over the property and effectively address poaching in the property;
4. Expresses its utmost concern over the status of the remaining population of northern white rhino and reiterates its request to organize as soon as possible a scientific

workshop in cooperation with the IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group to clarify the viability of the remaining population and determine management options for the population, involving all relevant stakeholders, including the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;

5. Urges the Government and the protected area agency to implement as soon as possible the corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
6. Calls on the United Nations Organization Mission in DRC (MONUC) to cooperate closely with the park authorities in its planned deployment around the property and assist the conservation of the property in particular in the field of disarmament;
7. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property, including the conditions of integrity, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
8. Also requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a draft statement of the desired state of conservation for the property based on its Outstanding Universal Value;
9. Further requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2008** on the state of conservation of the property, including a report on the results of the meeting to clarify the viability of and determine management options for the remaining population of northern white rhino and on progress with the implementation of the corrective measures set by the Committee at its 30th session;
10. **Decides to retain Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

7. Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 280)

Decision: 31 COM 7A.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.5**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Expresses its concern about the serious threats to the outstanding universal value and integrity of the property as documented by the 2007 monitoring mission, in particular the large scale poaching of large mammals, illegal fishing and the impact of villages within its boundary;
4. Commends the conservation NGO and international donors for their support to the Park authority ICCN which have allowed to gradually put in place a management mechanism for the property;
5. Urges the State Party to implement immediately the corrective measures identified by the 2007 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission in order to safeguard the outstanding universal value and integrity of the property:

- a) Organize urgently a large scale joint operation between ICCN and its conservation partners and the Congolese army (FARDC), in cooperation with MONUC and the National Disarmament Commission (CONADER) to evict the armed poaching gangs from the property, and conduct a disarmament campaign in the villages around the property. This operation should capitalise on the experiences of a similar successful operation in the Okapi Wildlife Reserve. The State Party might want to submit an international assistance request to help fund this urgent operation;
 - b) Establish a permanent consultation mechanism between ICCN and the political and military authorities in the 4 provinces covered by the property, in order to address in a coordinated way the illegal activities in the property, in particular the large scale poaching;
 - c) Implement urgently the anti-poaching strategy developed recently, in particular by reinvigorating park staff and improving their efficiency through specialised training and introducing law enforcement monitoring;
 - d) Continue and strengthen the recent efforts to resolve longstanding conflicts with the local communities on the use of the natural resources in the property, using a participatory approach and capitalising on traditional control mechanisms. A clear demarcation of the boundaries of the park will be an important first step;
 - e) Develop and implement a strategy to minimize and mitigate the negative impacts of activities associated with villages located within the property;
 - f) In the framework of the development of a management plan, establish an ecological corridor between the two sectors of the Park;
 - g) Establish a trust fund for the rehabilitation of the DRC World Heritage properties, to which the Government of the DRC committed itself to contribute at the 2004 UNESCO conference on Heritage in Danger in DRC;
6. Calls on international donors to support the efforts of the State Party to rehabilitate the property;
 7. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property, including the conditions of integrity, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
 8. Further requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a draft statement of the desired state of conservation for the property based on its Outstanding Universal Value;
 9. Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2008** on the state of conservation of the property and progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures developed by the 2007 monitoring mission, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
 10. **Decides to retain Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

8. Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 718)

Decision: 31 COM 7A.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.8**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Expresses its satisfaction with the significant progress made in the implementation of some of the corrective measures set by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), in particular closing down of illegal mining operations in the property, curbing poaching by uncontrolled military and other organized groups and in securing the property;
4. Requests the Government and the protected area agency to implement as soon as possible the other corrective measures;
5. Reiterates its request for a proper Environmental Impact Assessment of the rehabilitation of the RN4 road crossing the property to identify necessary mitigating measures to reduce direct and indirect impact, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
6. Expresses its concern about the map produced by the Ministry of Mines, showing that mining concessions were granted inside the property, calls upon the holders of any concessions to respect international standards with respect to mining in World Heritage properties, as outlined in the International Council on Mining and Metals Position Statement on Mining and Protected Areas (2003), and also urges the State Party to revoke any concessions that might have been granted, as mining operations are incompatible with the World Heritage status of the property;
7. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property, including the conditions of integrity, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
8. Further requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a draft statement of the desired state of conservation for the property based on its Outstanding Universal Value;
9. Further requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2008** on the state of conservation of the property, including an update on the road rehabilitation project and the issue of the mining concessions and on progress with the implementation of the corrective measures set by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
10. Decides to retain Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

9. Simien National Park (Ethiopia) (N 9)

Decision: 31 COM 7A.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.9**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Commends the Amhara Regional Government for its decision to re-align the planned Bwahit – Dilyibza road in order to avoid it crossing the proposed extension of the park in the Silki Yared – Kiddis Yared mountains and requests the State Party, in particular the Amhara Regional Government, to closely monitor the impact of the new road on the traffic through the park;
4. Welcomes the efforts by the State Party and in particular the park authority to have initiated the implementation of the corrective measures set by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
5. Encourages the State Party, with the assistance of UNESCO and IUCN, to approach potential donors to allow for the implementation of the alternative livelihoods project and calls on international donors to support this project and other activities to rehabilitate the property;
6. Request the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to continue to provide financial and technical assistance to the State Party, in cooperation with relevant partners, to implement the recommendations of the 2006 monitoring mission, in particular the finalisation of the management plan and of a Tourism Master Plan for the property;
7. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property, including the conditions of integrity, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
8. Further requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a draft statement of the desired state of conservation for the property based on its Outstanding Universal Value;
9. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN monitoring mission to the property to assess its state of conservation and the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 30th session in view of a possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
10. Further requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2008** on the state of conservation of the property, including an update on progress with the implementation of the corrective measures set by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) as well as the other recommendations of the 2006 monitoring mission for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
11. Decides to retain Simien National Park (Ethiopia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

10. Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) (N 573)

Decision: 31 COM 7A.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A;
2. Recalling its Decision **30 COM 7A.10**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
3. Welcomes the start of the COGERAT project, funded by the Global Environmental Facility, which will assist the State Party in implementing the corrective measures set by the Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005) in order to address the threats to the integrity and outstanding universal value of the property;
4. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property, including the conditions of integrity, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
5. Also requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a draft statement of the desired state of conservation for the property based on its Outstanding Universal Value;
6. Further requests the State Party to monitor the status of resources and trends in resource use in the property, in particular the status and distribution of threatened species, levels of poaching, and extent and degree of wood and thatch harvesting, in order to facilitate monitoring of progress towards the desired state of conservation;
7. Urges the State Party to continue to implement the corrective measures, in close cooperation with the COGERAT project, whilst at the same time take urgent action to address poaching and illegal commercial activities;
8. Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2008** on the state of conservation of the property, and on progress with the implementation of the corrective measures set by the Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005) for examination and for consideration of a possible removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
9. Decides to retain the **Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

ASIA-PACIFIC

11. Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India) (N 338)

Decision: 31 COM 7A.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A;
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.13**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
3. Notes that the State Party has conducted a rapid assessment of wildlife values and made progress on re-building infrastructure and filling vacancies in the property;
4. Requests the State Party to invite as soon as possible a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission to the property to assess progress in achieving the corrective measures and implementing the remaining recommendations from the 2005 monitoring mission, and to indicate a definite timeframe for their completion;
5. Also requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property, including the conditions of integrity, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
6. Further requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a draft statement of the desired state of conservation for the property based on its Outstanding Universal Value;
7. Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2008** on the state of conservation of the property and on progress in addressing the corrective measures set by the Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005) and the other recommendations of the 2005 mission report, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
8. **Decides to retain Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

12. Everglades National Park (United States of America) (N 76)

Decision: 31 COM 7A.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.14** adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Commends the State Party for the considerable efforts and investments made in the restoration and conservation of the Everglades National Park;
4. Notes the progress made in implementing the corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
5. Encourages the State Party to continue its commitment to the restoration and conservation of the property and to provide the required financial resources for the full implementation of activities associated with the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP);
6. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a draft statement of the desired state of conservation for the property based on its Outstanding Universal Value;
7. Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2008** on the progress made in the restoration and conservation of the property, including the progress towards the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
8. **Decides to remove Everglades National Park (United States of America) from the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

13. Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras) (N 196)

Decision: 31 COM 7A.13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **28 COM 15A.13** and **30 COM 7A.15**, adopted at its 28th (Suzhou, 2004) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions respectively,
3. Commends the State Party for making significant progress in implementing the corrective measures set by the World Heritage Committee at its 28th session;
4. Notes that a few outstanding issues remain to be resolved in relation to dealing with illegal logging and land clearing activities, and in relation to multi-stakeholder involvement in the management processes;
5. Urges the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2006 monitoring mission to assure the consolidation of gains and progress achieved to date, in particular:

- a) Assure swift and strict enforcement of the law regarding illegal settlement, land use and logging, particularly by ensuring the implementation of the full cycle of the law;
 - b) Complete the cadastral process of all lands surrounding the property, and provide legal titles to the owners of these lands;
 - c) Demonstrate effective participation of local organizations and communities in the management processes of the property;
 - d) Demonstrate that decommissioned wood is not re-entering the market, but disposed of in a manner that eliminates all profit incentives;
 - e) To quickly identify any new intrusions into the property and to deal with them swiftly, so as to further discourage this practice;
6. Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2008**, with a report on the implementation of the recommendations made by the 2006 monitoring mission, and a map clearly indicating the boundaries of the property and buffer zone, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008, and
 7. Decides to remove the **Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras)** from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

AFRICA

14. Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin) (C 323)

Decision: 31 COM 7A.14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,
2. Also recalling Decisions **28 COM 15A.14**, **29 COM 7A.13** and **30 COM 7A.16**, adopted during its 28th (Suzhou, 2004), 29th (Durban, 2005) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions respectively,
3. Congratulates the State Party for having carried out almost entirely the programme of corrective measures elaborated by the World Heritage Committee in its Decision **28 COM 15A.14**,
4. Notes with satisfaction, that there are no longer any threats or risk of loss of outstanding universal value, integrity and/or authenticity of the property;
5. Requests the State Party to submit by **1 February 2008**, at the latest, a report on the state of conservation of the property and specifically on the progress made in the conservation work undertaken concerning the elements still at risk;

6. **Decides to remove the Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin) from the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

15. **Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (United Republic of Tanzania) (C 144)**

Decision: 31 COM 7A.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.15**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Commends the State Party for its continued efforts to strengthen measures for the conservation and rehabilitation of the property; and particularly the improved mechanisms for community participation and local involvement in basic maintenance and conservation work;
4. Notes the revised Statement of Significance submitted as part of the state of conservation report and requests the State Party to formally submit this statement, altogether with the statements of authenticity and integrity, and the justification for criterion (iii), as a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, in line with the recommendations of the Periodic Report;
5. Approves proposals for surveys of the two islands and the development of a land-use plan and delineated core and buffer zones, and requests the State Party to submit for approval, boundaries for core and buffer zones linked to land-use plans and appropriate protection;
6. Urges the State Party to use the Management Plan as the main vehicle for managing the property;
7. Encourages the State Party to submit an International Assistance request for support in developing a Conservation Plan for the main monuments that could form a cost-estimate ten-year Action Plan that might mobilise additional funding ;
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2008**, a report on the state of conservation of the property including the following information, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008:
 - a) Follow-up actions on the recommendations of the ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission of 2004;
 - b) Progress on delineating boundaries and buffer zones, and on updating of the statement of Outstanding Universal Value for formal approval by the World Heritage Committee ;
 - c) Clarification of its intention to submit a proposal for an extension of the property to include Kilwa Kivinje and Sanje ya Kati and possibly indicate associated revised criteria;
9. Also requests the State Party to invite a World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS joint reactive monitoring mission to assess the progress made in improving the state of conservation

- of the property, to define the corrective measures and to prepare a draft statement of the desired state of conservation for the property that will enable the Committee define a timeframe for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
10. Also requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
 11. **Decides to retain the Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (United Republic of Tanzania) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

ARAB STATES

16. Abu Mena (Egypt) (C 90)

Decision: 31 COM 7A.16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.19**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Congratulates the State Party for its efforts in addressing the issue of the rising water table;
4. Adopts the following, identified by the 2005 reactive monitoring mission, as the desired state of conservation for the property:
 - a) Consolidated structures;
 - b) Water table lowered and monitoring system established in and around the property;
 - c) Management plan implemented;
5. Urges the State Party to implement the necessary corrective measures, by 2010, as follows:
 - a) Carry out a rapid condition survey of all excavated remains and urgent conservation measures in order to provide protection to structures against earth trembling and other forms of damage likely to result from the use of heavy earth-moving equipment;
 - b) Lower the water table by means of drainage ditches and pipes, inside and around the archaeological area;
 - c) Establish an efficient system for monitoring the water table in the archaeological site and in the surrounding zones;
 - d) Prepare a conservation plan, defining short-, medium-, and long-term objectives and establishing technical parameters (materials, techniques, etc);

- e) Undertake consultations with stakeholders with the objective of preparing a management plan, to include research, presentation and interpretation, the role of stakeholders (e.g. the Mar Mena community), staffing, sponsorship, visitor facilities, access, etc.
6. Requests the State Party to identify a buffer zone surrounding the core area of the property, together with protection regulations and to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** the relevant information and map for consideration by the World Heritage Committee;
7. Also requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit, by **1 February 2008**, a detailed progress report on the implementation of the above measures, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
9. Decides to retain Abu Mena (Egypt) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

17. Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) (C 1130)

Decision: 31 COM 7A.17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.20** adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes with great concern the deterioration of the situation in Iraq and deplores the loss of human lives;
4. Requests the international community, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to continue their efforts in assisting the responsible Iraqi authorities in the protection of the natural and cultural heritage in the country;
5. Also requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
6. Also requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, to develop a draft statement of the desired state of conservation for the property based on its Outstanding Universal Value;
7. Further requests the State Party, should the situation allow it, to establish an on-site management unit and to initiate the preparation of a Conservation and Management Plan for the property, and to present a report to the World Heritage Centre by **1**

February 2008 for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;

8. Decides to retain Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

18. Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan) (C 148 rev)

Decision: 31 COM 7A.18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/7A.Add.2, WHC-07/31.COM/7A.Add.3, WHC-07/31.COM/INF.7A.1, WHC-07/31.COM/INF.7A.2 and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.7A.3,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.34**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Further recalling 176 EX/Special Plenary Meeting/Decision, adopted at the 176th session of the UNESCO Executive Board (April 2007),
4. Also recalling the relevant provisions on the protection of cultural heritage including, as appropriate, the four Geneva Conventions (1949), the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 1954, the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage of 1972, the inscription of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls at the request of Jordan on the World Heritage List (1981) and on the List of World Heritage in Danger (1982), and the recommendations, resolutions and decisions of UNESCO,
5. Affirming that nothing in the present decision, which aims at the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls, shall in any way affect the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, in particular the relevant Security Council resolutions on the legal status of Jerusalem,
6. Welcomes the Action Plan for the Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem developed in the context of the Director-General's comprehensive initiative for the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls and strongly supports its implementation in coordination with the concerned parties;
7. Also welcomes the information provided by the Israel National Commission for UNESCO in its letter dated 8 June 2007, indicating that the archaeological excavations at the Mughrabi ascent have stopped and urges the Israeli authorities to limit on-going activities at the Mughrabi ascent to consolidation and stabilization works;
8. Asks the World Heritage Centre to facilitate the professional encounter at the technical level between Israeli, Jordanian and Waqf experts to discuss the detailed proposals for the proposed final design of the Mughrabi ascent, prior to any final decision;

9. Requests the Israeli authorities, in addition to the above encounter, to provide the World Heritage Centre, as soon as possible, with the proposed final design of the Mughrabi ascent, whose principle aim should be to maintain the authenticity and integrity of the site;
10. Further asks the World Heritage Centre to make technical expertise and assistance available for the future conservation works at the Mughrabi ascent, as needed;
11. Calls on the international donor community to support, through extra-budgetary funding, activities aimed at the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls, in particular in the context of the Action Plan;
12. Further requests the World Heritage Centre to report on the state of conservation and on the progress in the implementation of the Action Plan for the Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem at its 32nd session in 2008;
13. Decides to recommend the application of the reinforced monitoring mechanism subject to the procedures in Document WHC-07/31.COM/5.2 and Decision **31 COM 5.2** in monitoring the state of conservation of the Mughrabi ascent and requests a report every two months from the World Heritage Centre until its 32nd session in 2008;
14. **Decides to retain the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

19. Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) (C 611)

Decision: 31 COM 7A.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.21**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Regrets that the main recommendations made by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th (Durban, 2005) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions - notably the completion of an urban conservation plan, and a socio-economic revitalization action plan – have not been implemented;
4. Notes with great concern the continuing decline of the city, the lack of a conservation framework, the loss of possibly up to 50% of the traditional urban fabric within the city walls, the lack of active maintenance and the poor quality and uncontrolled nature of modern construction;
5. Urges the State Party to consider how the Urgent Action Plan set out by the mission could be implemented and in particular how the activities foreseen for the first year can be completed:
 - a) Adequate legal and institutional framework set up in one year:
 - (i) Re-issuance of Cabinet Decree No.425 – 2006;

- (ii) Government provision to GOPHCY in Sana'a and Zabid of adequate budget to stabilise the degradation of the World Heritage property;
 - (iii) Completion of heritage protection laws;
 - (iv) Completion of the draft Conservation Plan, with translation into Arabic. Provision of short version for wide dissemination;
- b) Physical degradation stopped immediately and reversed within two years:
- (i) Stopping of poor new construction and further degradation of protected heritage assets,
 - (ii) Approval of contractors and individual specialists for carrying out emergency conservation works,
 - (iii) Appropriate house improvement design – bathrooms and kitchens, infrastructure and air conditioning,
 - (iv) Good designs for new houses within Zabid,
 - (v) Starting demolition of the concrete walls on the streets and other public spaces and replacing with brick walls,
 - (vi) Planned, costed and programmed schedule of medium and long-term actions,.
 - (vii) Prescription rules and regulations to be followed by inhabitants and owners,
 - (viii) Adoption of Zabid Urban Development Plan,
6. Requests the World Heritage Centre to contact the German Development Agency to explain the outstanding universal value of the property and encourage the protection of these values in the urban development plan;
 7. Calls upon the States Parties to the *Convention*, especially from the region, to consider extra-budgetary funding to implement urgent action to ensure retention of the outstanding universal value of the property;
 8. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
 9. Also requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, to develop a draft statement of the desired state of conservation for the property based on its Outstanding Universal Value;
 10. Further requests the State Party to submit, by **1 February 2008**, a progress report on the implementation of the above activities, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
 11. **Decides to retain the Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger** for a further two-year period, subject to regular reporting on the part of the State Party as to the progress in the implementation of the activities listed in paragraph 5 above. The State Party reports shall be reviewed by the Committee on a yearly basis. The Committee shall consider the possibility of eventual deletion of the property from the World Heritage List at its 33rd session in 2009.

ASIA-PACIFIC

20. Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) (C 211 rev)

Decision: 31 COM 7A.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,
2. Recalling its Decision **30 COM 7A.22**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes the efforts made by the State Party and the international community for the safeguarding of this property and the important progress achieved in the consolidation of the Minaret of Jam in 2006;
4. Reiterates its strong encouragement to the State Party to construct a footbridge and a ford across the Hari River, in order to facilitate villagers' access from the Bedam Valley to the Jam Valley, as well as allowing a limited number of vehicles to cross the river, as set out in the recommendations of the UNESCO mission in February 2004;
5. Adopts the following as the desired state of conservation for the property in view of its future removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger:
 - a) Increased capacity of the staff of the Afghan Ministry of Culture and Information in charge of the preservation of the property ensured;
 - b) Precisely identified World Heritage property and clearly marked boundaries and buffer zones;
 - c) Long-term stability and conservation of the Minaret of Jam ensured;
 - d) Site security ensured;
 - e) A comprehensive management system including a long-term conservation policy developed and implemented.
6. Encourages the State Party to implement the following corrective measures for:
 - a) Development of adequate capacity of the staff of the Afghan Ministry of Culture and Information in charge of the preservation of the property by developing and implementing an adequate training programme in conservation and management;
 - b) Precise identification of the World Heritage property and clearly marked boundaries and buffer zones by:
 - (i) Undertaking topographic and archaeological surface surveys and re-defining core and buffer zones, as well as identifying zones affected by illicit excavations;
 - (ii) Marking of the core zone as "World Heritage protected area";
 - (iii) Officially revising the boundaries of the World Heritage property according to the results of the relevant surveys in order to complement the already identified Outstanding Universal Value.
 - c) Long-term consolidation and conservation of the Minaret of Jam and the archaeological remains by:

- (i) Completing the documentation and recording of the Minaret and the archaeological remains;
 - (ii) Undertaking soil investigation in the vicinity of the monument in order to obtain information on the cause of the inclination of the Minaret and to define the long-term consolidation measures;
 - (iii) Regular and systematic monitoring of the Minaret's inclination;
 - (iv) Establishing a full inventory of decoration including digitalisation and reference system for all eight sides of the base of the Minaret;
 - (v) Implementing emergency restoration of the surface decoration of the Minaret.
- (d) Ensured site security by:
- (i) Exerting strict control of illicit excavations and protecting the site against looting, notably through hiring of adequate number of trained site guards;
 - (ii) Implementing measures enforcing the 2004 Preservation Law for Cultural and Historical Monuments ensured.
- (e) Development and implementation of management system by undertaking appropriate training for the staff of the Ministry of Information and Culture in charge of the property;
7. Invites the international community, in co-operation with the World Heritage Centre, to continue its technical and financial support, in particular to achieve the above indicated desired state of conservation;
8. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** a progress report on the implementation of corrective measures, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008; and
10. **Decides to retain the Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

21. Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) (C 208 rev)

Decision: 31 COM 7A.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.23**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes with satisfaction the efforts and commitment of the State Party and the international community for the safeguarding of this property;

4. Adopts the following as the desired state of conservation for the property in view of its future removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger:
 - a) ensured site security,
 - b) ensured long-term stability of the Giant Buddha niches,
 - c) adequate state of conservation of archaeological remains and mural paintings, and
 - d) implemented Management Plan and Cultural Master Plan (the protective zoning plan);
5. Encourages the State Party to implement corrective measures for:
 - a) ensured site security by
 - (i) exerting strict control of illicit excavations and looting through hiring of adequate number of trained site guards, and
 - (ii) clearing unexploded ordinances and anti-personnel mines from the property;
 - b) ensured long-term stability of the Giant Buddha niches by installing a permanent monitoring system;
 - c) adequate state of conservation of archaeological remains and mural paintings by
 - (i) completing the conservation of the fragments of the Giant Buddha statues and
 - (ii) completing the conservation of the mural paintings in the prioritized buddhist caves;
 - d) the Management Plan and the Cultural Master Plan (the protective zoning plan) both implemented by developing institutional capacity, notably for the Ministry of Culture and the intersectoral Bamiyan Cultural Landscape Coordination Committee (BCLCC);
6. Invites the international community to continue its technical and financial support, in particular to achieve the above indicated desired state of conservation;
7. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** the Management Plan and a progress report on the implementation of corrective measures, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008; and
9. Decides to retain the **Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

22. Bam and its Cultural Landscape (Islamic Republic of Iran) (C 1208)

Decision: 31 COM 7A.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.25**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes the commitment of the State Party and the international community to the safeguarding of this property;
4. Adopts the following as the desired state of conservation for the property to be achieved by 2010, in view of its removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger:
 - a) Conservation of the Arg-e-Bam and other cultural heritage assets within the World Heritage property;
 - b) Completion of necessary scientific studies for the recognition, registration, and legal protection of properties with historical, cultural, and natural significance within the cultural landscape zone, as well as marking the protective boundaries around each property within this zone;
 - c) Implementation of Management Plan;
 - d) Precise understanding and definition of the outer boundaries of the heritage areas surrounding the property;
 - e) Adequate security of the heritage areas within the World Heritage property in addition to the Arg-e Bam.
5. Encourages the State Party to implement corrective measures for:
 - a) Stabilisation and protection of the Arg-e-Bam and other significant cultural heritage assets within the World Heritage property by:
 - (i) Stabilisation of both the lower and upper parts of the citadel;
 - (ii) Removal and documentation of debris;
 - b) Completion of necessary scientific studies for the recognition, registration, and legal protection of properties with historical, cultural and natural significance within the cultural landscape zone, as well as marking the protective boundaries around each property within this zone;
 - c) Management Plan implemented by:
 - (i) Approval at final stakeholders meeting;
 - (ii) Legal Adoption by late 2007;
 - d) Precise definition of the outer boundaries of the heritage areas surrounding the property by completing the mapping of the archaeology and geomorphology of Bam and its Cultural Landscape;
 - e) Adequate security of the heritage areas within the World Heritage property in addition to the Arg-e Bam by increased number of guards and vehicles;

6. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** a progress report on the implementation of corrective measures, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
8. **Decides to retain Bam and its Cultural Landscape (Islamic Republic of Iran) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

23. Kathmandu Valley (Nepal) (C 121 bis)

Decision: 31 COM 7A.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.26**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes the information provided by the World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS joint mission in April 2007,
4. Further notes with satisfaction the efforts of the State Party to complete the Integrated Management Plan by the goal of June 2007 established at the 30th session of the Committee;
5. Acknowledges the establishment of an integrated conservation management system for the property, as requested by the Committee, focused on the completed Integrated Management Plan (itself including key guiding conservation principles linked to the completed categorized inventories in the seven Monument Zones, revised building by-laws and effective monitoring measures);
6. **Decides to remove the Kathmandu Valley (Nepal) from the List of World Heritage in Danger, based on the results achieved;**
7. Strongly encourages the State Party to continue its efforts in sustaining the integrated management system for the conservation of the outstanding universal value of the property, by implementing the Integrated Management Plan;
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** a progress report on the state of implementation of the IMP and the state of conservation of the property as a whole, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

24. Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan) (C 171-172)

Decision: 31 COM 7A.24

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.27**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes the progress made by the State Party in the overall preservation and conservation of Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens;
4. Requests the State Party to invite a World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS joint reactive monitoring mission so as to assess the progress made towards the desired state of conservation as proposed below and to recommend, on this basis, whether the property can be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger:
 - a) Approval and implementation of Master Plans for Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens;
 - b) Protection and consolidation of the foundations of the water tanks of the hydraulic works at Shalamar Gardens as archaeological relics;
 - c) Protection and preservation of external walls of Shalamar Gardens and Lahore Fort;
 - d) Redefinition and extension of the boundaries of the core and buffer zones of Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens;
 - e) Adequate control of encroachments and the urban pressure;
 - f) Safeguarding programme with corresponding timeframe and financial resources elaborated;
5. Recommends that the State Party submit to the World Heritage Committee a formal request for the modification of the boundaries of the property;
6. Also requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** a report with detailed documentation of the works carried out at Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
8. **Decides to retain the Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

25. Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines) (C 722)

Decision: 31 COM 7A.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.28**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes the setting up of the Ifugao Cultural Heritage Office (ICHO) with the objective of safeguarding the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of the Ifugao people;
4. Also notes the initiative to run a Workshop at the University of Santo Tomas, Center for Conservation of Cultural Property in the Tropics, in Spring 2007, in order to develop infrastructure guidelines for the property;
5. Encourages the State Party to implement the corrective measures identified by the Committee, notably as regards the development of a resource strategy, of zoning and land-use plans and of a specific plan for the promotion of community based tourism at the World Heritage property;
6. Requests the State Party to support the ICHO with necessary funds to allow it to begin implementing the Conservation and Management Plan which should become the key document for the management of the property;
7. Requests the State Party in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
8. Also requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, to develop a draft statement of the desired state of conservation for the property based on its Outstanding Universal Value;
9. Further requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2008**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, and on progress in implementing the corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
10. **Decides to retain the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

26. The Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and the Meidan Tower (Azerbaijan) (C 958)

Decision: 31 COM 7A.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.29**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes the significant progress made with setting up management systems, the development of an "Integrated Area Management Action Plan" and welcomes the implementation of the Presidential Decree by the Director of the Historical-Architectural Reserve Icheri Sheher (SDHARIS), aiming at halting demolition and building construction in the Walled City area;
4. Requests the State Party to submit the completed "Integrated Area Management Action Plan" to ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre for review, to adopt it and integrate it into the urban planning system of the City of Baku, together with a draft statement of outstanding universal value and updated boundaries for the property;
5. Also requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
6. Further requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, to develop a draft statement of the desired state of conservation for the property based on its Outstanding Universal Value;
7. Requests furthermore the State Party to ensure that the new management structure is made fully operational and adequately resourced as soon as possible;
8. Recommends that the building inventory be further elaborated and maintained as a digitized information database for management and planning purposes;
9. Encourages the State Party to elaborate guidelines for the rehabilitation and restoration of historic buildings, as well as the design of new constructions and street furniture, preferably as part of the "Integrated Area Management Action Plan"; and that a training strategy as well as a risk preparedness plan be prepared for heritage conservation in the Walled City area;
10. Decides to evaluate the possibility for removing the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger when the corrective measures have been carried out and the desired state of conservation has been achieved;
11. Further requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2008**, on the state of conservation of the property, and progress

with the implementation of the “Integrated Area Management Action Plan” and the new management structure, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

12. **Decides to retain the Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah’s Palace and Maiden Tower (Azerbaijan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

27. Dresden Elbe Valley (Germany) (C 1156)

Decision: 31 COM 7A.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.77**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), and in particular that the construction project of the Waldschlösschen Bridge would irreversibly damage the values and integrity of the property in accordance with Paragraph 179 (b) of the *Operational Guidelines*,
3. Notes with satisfaction that extensive consultation took place in 2006 and 2007 between different stakeholders, including the State Party authorities, the Land Sachsen, the city of Dresden as well as international experts, ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre;
4. Also notes the decision of the City Council of Dresden to immediately halt the bridge project after the receipt of Decision **30 COM 7B.77** as well as the court case between the City of Dresden and the Land Sachsen about this matter;
5. Taking into account the fact that the judicial process has been exhausted, requests the State Party to continue its efforts to find an appropriate solution to protect the outstanding universal value and integrity of the World Heritage property, taking up the alternative proposals discussed at the moderated workshop of May 2007, and others, and to submit these proposals for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies by, at the latest, **1 October 2007**;
6. Decides to apply the reinforced monitoring mechanism in monitoring the state of conservation of the property, subject to the procedures in Document WHC-07/31.COM/5.2 and Decision **31 COM 5.2**;
7. Also decides to delete the property from the World Heritage List, in conformity with Paragraphs 192-198 of the *Operational Guidelines*, in the event that the construction of the bridge has an irreversible impact on the outstanding universal value of the property, as discussed at the 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), and further decides, in the event that an alternate proposal is adopted by the State Party, to request the State Party, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre, to submit a report that examines the impact of such a proposal on the outstanding universal value of the property, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
8. **Decides to retain the Dresden Elbe Valley (Germany) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

28. Medieval Monuments of Kosovo (Serbia) (C 724 bis)

Decision: 31 COM 7A.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 8B.53**, and **30 COM 8B.54**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Acknowledges the difficulties to monitor the property due to political instability, post-conflict situation and notes the assessment by the intersectoral mission carried out in January 2007 to some parts of the property, and in particular that:
 - a) The KFOR troops are patrolling at the property;
 - b) The medium-term plan for the restoration of wall paintings and conservation and rehabilitation of the property is being prepared;
 - c) The Executive Decision No 2005/5 of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) of United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK) on the Special Zoning Area was issued for Dečani Monastery;
 - d) The required works on the roof of Ljeviša are completed.
4. Recalls its request for a risk preparedness study, in conformity with Paragraph 118 of the *Operational Guidelines* and Decisions **28 COM 10B.4** and **30 COM 7.2**;
5. Urges the State Party, in cooperation with UNESCO programmes, UNMIK and Provisional Institutions of Self Government in Kosovo, as well as future European arrangements to continue to take the following long-term corrective measures:
 - a) Ensure the adequate long-term legislative, regulatory protection and management of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 97 of the *Operational Guidelines*, including strong protective regimes for the buffer zones;
 - b) Adequately delineate boundaries (e.g. extend the boundaries of the Patriarchate of Peć to include more of its riverside-valley settings) and submit revised boundaries in accordance with the provisions of the *Operational Guidelines*;
 - c) Ensure appropriate and timely implementation of the Management Plan.
6. Requests the State Party to continue its efforts in completing the short-term and long-term corrective measures to achieve the desired state of conservation;
7. Also requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
9. **Decides to retain the Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Serbia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

29. Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile) (C 1178)

Decision: 31 COM 7A.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.31**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Takes note of the efforts made by the State Party in the implementation of the Management Plan;
4. Invites the State Party to provide by **30 November 2007** details of a project for structural consolidation of the 30 main projects identified in the Programme of High Priority Interventions for industrial and urban buildings, and the timeframe envisaged for its implementation and the establishment of technical teams, according to Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* to be examined by ICOMOS;
5. Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Committee with the information concerning the specific regulations of the buffer zone;
6. Also requests information on the identification of an alternate route for the road A-16 and the achievements concerning the measures taken to control access of vehicles to the Humberstone Office;
7. Encourages the State Party to take advantage of the Workshop to improve the participatory process for the implementation of the Management Plan and to include a public use plan to be developed on the basis of the experience of the Saltpeter Week;
8. Urges the State Party to carry out a more comprehensive study of potential structural risks and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS as soon as possible;
9. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the relevant Advisory Body, to develop a draft statement of outstanding universal value including indicators of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
10. Also requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, to develop a draft statement of desired state of conservation for the property based on its Outstanding Universal Value;
11. Further requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2008**, a progress report on the implementation of the Management Plan, to be examined by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
12. **Decides to retain the Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

30. Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) (C 366)

Decision: 31 COM 7A.30

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.32**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes the efforts made to date to mitigate the rate of decay of earthen structures, particularly in respect to lowering the phreatic levels at the property and the conservation interventions in different sectors;
4. Notes with concern the urban development around the site and requests the State Party to strengthen the implementation of protective legislative frameworks and regulatory measures, specially in regard to the creation and funding of institutional arrangements for the implementation of the management plan;
5. Endorses the recommendations of the reactive monitoring mission of February 2007 and recommends their implementation by the State Party following the prioritized corrective measures identified to achieve the desired state of conservation for the property and meet the timelines for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
6. Requests the State Party in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
7. Also requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, to develop a draft statement of desired state of conservation for the property based on its Outstanding Universal Value;
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2008**, a report on the progress made on the above points for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
9. **Decides to retain Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

31. Coro and its Port (Venezuela) (C 658)

Decision: 31 COM 7A.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM.7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **29 COM 7B.92** and **30 COM 7A.33** adopted at its 29th (Durban, 2005) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions respectively,

3. Requests the State Party to verify whether the materials used for restoration works are compatible with accepted intervention techniques;
4. Requests the State Party to invite a World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS joint reactive monitoring mission to assess the progress made in improving the state of conservation of the property, and accordingly define the corrective measures and the desired state of conservation that will enable the Committee to define a timeframe for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, that could include :
 - a) Presidential signature of the PLINCODE (Integral Plan for the Conservation and Development of Coro, La Vela and its areas of influence), submitted to the authorities on August 2006;
 - b) Effective functioning of the management structure and institutional arrangements foreseen in the PLINCODE, with sufficient allocated resources;
 - c) Comprehensive drainage systems completed as well as underground networks, public spaces, sidewalks and streets in the historical area rehabilitated;
 - d) Prioritized implementation of a comprehensive conservation plan;
5. Encourages the State Party to continue implementing the following corrective measures:
 - a) Obtain the official approval of the PLINCODE;
 - b) Reinforce the Framework Agreement for Emergency Intervention in the area of Coro and La Vela that the IPC signed with the mayors of the municipalities of Miranda and the regional government on 14 February 2006;
 - c) Create a Council to assist the Technical Office (OTAE) to plan the investment of resources, formulate and revise intervention projects on infrastructure, buildings and public spaces in the property;
 - d) Formulate and prioritize a comprehensive conservation plan to complement the existing PLINCODE, by defining a precise course of action with intervention criteria and monitoring mechanisms to assess its effective and adequate implementation;
 - e) Strengthen capacity building for conservation and restoration through the existing available opportunities in workshops with the schools of conservation in La Vela and in Coro;
 - f) Create awareness in the local community through exhibitions and community involvement;
6. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity for examination Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit a progress report by **1 February 2008** for review by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008 that should include the time-bound plan for the implementation of the recommendations of the 2002, 2005 and 2006 missions and the progress made in their implementation;
8. **Decides to retain Coro and its Port (Venezuela) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

32. Decision related to the state of conservation of the World Heritage properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Decision: 31 COM 7A.32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having evaluated the state of conservation reports of the properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) presented in Documents WHC-07/31.COM/7A and WHC-07/31.COM/7A.Add,
2. Calls upon the Director-General of UNESCO and the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee to convene a meeting with the DRC authorities, together with representatives of the African Union and appropriate sub-regional organizations and the President of IUCN, to discuss progress in addressing the deteriorating state of conservation of the DRC World Heritage properties with the assistance of the World Heritage Fund. In this context, the future role of the UN for preserving the natural and cultural World Heritage properties and Biosphere Reserves of the DRC will be reviewed , including the future role of UNESCO in the “One UN” exercise in the DRC;
3. Requests that a comprehensive approach for all the DRC properties in Danger be adopted by the State Party to take the necessary corrective measures, supported by a phased programme, with the active assistance of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
4. Calls upon the international community to support the above mentioned initiative;
5. Decides to recommend the application of the reinforced monitoring mechanism subject to the procedures in Document WHC-07/31.COM/5.2 and Decision **31 COM 5.2** in monitoring the state of conservation of the 5 properties in DRC to assist the State Party in achieving these goals.

7B. STATE OF CONSERVATION OF WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES

NATURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

1. Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal) (N 153)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.1**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),

3. Notes with utmost concern the degradation of the property and the imminent threats to its Outstanding Universal Value, in particular the critically low mammal populations, the ongoing management problems and the impacts of the proposed construction of a new dam on the Gambia river a few kilometres upstream of the park;
4. Welcomes the initiative by the State Party and the African Parks Foundation to start discussions on an innovative public-private partnership for the conservation of the property;
5. Urges the State Party to develop and start the implementation of an emergency action plan to address urgent threats to the outstanding universal value and integrity of the property. The action plan developed recently by the African Parks Foundation is an excellent basis for this plan;
6. Further urges the State Party to implement within the next 12 months the following urgent corrective actions:
 - a) Implement urgent steps to halt poaching, using the Department of National Park's aircraft for surveillance, with ground support provided by a mobile 'strike force';
 - b) Provide urgent training to the newly-recruited staff in the park, focussing on park security procedures and general 'orientation' to integrated management approaches;
 - c) Survey and demarcate the park boundary;
 - d) Explore the possibility of creating boreholes outside the Park to minimize illegal movements of livestock and local population inside the Park in search of water;
 - e) Introduce a long-term moratorium on the hunting of giant eland, and also a hunting quota system in buffer areas surrounding the park based on reliable animal census statistics;
 - f) Modify the park ecological monitoring programme to focus on a limited number of indicators and benchmarks which can be measured in a cost effective manner;
7. Also requests the State Party to implement the following additional urgent measures:
 - a) Prioritise conservation of the property in national policy, planning and budgets, and take pro-active measures to solicit donor support for management of the property;
 - b) Develop Species Survival Plans for Giant Eland, Elephant, Hartebeest and Chimpanzee and other threatened species in close collaboration with international experts, including the relevant parts of the IUCN Species Survival Commission;
 - c) Enhance trans-boundary co-operation, and measures to protect buffer zones and ecological corridor areas outside the park;
 - d) Revise the 2000 Management Plan, and begin implementation of the revised plan.
8. Further urges the State Party to reconsider its plans to build a new dam on the Gambia river at Mako, and to explore other alternatives, as it could alter the hydrological regime in the property and lead to the loss of its Outstanding Universal Value;
9. Encourages the State Party to urgently submit an international assistance request to address some of the above corrective actions;

10. Calls on international donors to provide funding for the implementation of the emergency action plan currently being developed by the State party and the African Parks Foundation;
11. Further requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** a report on the state of conservation of the property, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, a draft statement of desired state of conservation, progress in implementing the emergency action plan and the corrective measures mentioned above, together with information on the current status of the proposed dam on the Gambia river as well as any potential mining activities in the region, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
12. **Decides to inscribe Niokolo Koba National Park (Senegal) on the List of World Heritage in Danger;**
13. Further notes that any further significant wildlife extinctions from the property, as well as the construction of the Mako dam without adequate provisions to mitigate its impact on the flooding regime and the hydrological cycles in the park could result in the loss of its Outstanding Universal Value and could lead to a deletion of the property from the World Heritage List.

2. Ngorongoro Conservation Area (United Republic of Tanzania) (N 39)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add;
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.2**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
3. Commends the State Party for measures already taken and requests the implementation of the following recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN monitoring mission undertaken in April-May 2007:
 - a) The process for encouraging voluntary relocation of the identified immigrant population to areas outside the property should be continued and completed by June 2008;
 - b) The census and study of carrying capacity within the conservation area be implemented as quickly as possible, and completed by no later than June 2008, and should be based on both the needs of the Maasai population and an assessment of the ecological impact of human populations on the ecology of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area;
 - c) The recommendations of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) relating to traffic congestion within the crater should be implemented, as quickly as possible, and their effectiveness be carefully monitored and assessed with regard to the impact on the ecology of the crater and also the impact on visitor satisfaction, which should be assessed through appropriate visitor surveys;
 - d) All existing gravel pits used to source material for road maintenance within the conservation area, including the one within the Ngorongoro crater, be closed and rehabilitated as soon as possible and that gravel material be sourced from

outside the property, under the supervision of NCA staff to avoid the spread of invasive species;

- e) A freeze on any new lodge development within the conservation area, particularly on the crater rim. As recommended by the EIA report, the proposal for a new Kempinski Lodge on the rim of the crater should not be approved, in view of its adverse impact on the outstanding universal value and integrity of the property and the potential for the property to be included in the List of World Heritage in Danger;
 - f) All existing Lodges within the conservation area should provide exemplary models of best practice in relation to protection and appreciation of the environment, and they should undertake an environmental audit to ensure they are conforming to and exceeding international best practice in relation to environmental management, including strategies to reduce the consumption of water and electricity;
 - g) Continue the existing programmes for the control of invasive species and particular emphasis should now be placed on the eradication of *Azolla filiculoides* (red water fern) from all fresh-water bodies within the crater and the conservation area;
 - h) The program to relocate NCA and lodge staff outside the conservation area at the Kamyn Estate site should be implemented and completed as quickly as possible, and other major infrastructure (such as the shops) should also be progressively relocated outside the conservation area;
 - i) A high level technical forum should be established involving staff from the NCAA, the Serengeti National Park (TANAPA), and the relevant Wildlife Management Areas (Wildlife Department) to ensure better cooperation in relation to the joint management of the Ngorongoro-Serengeti ecosystem;
4. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN monitoring mission in April 2009 to assess the state of conservation of the property, with special reference to implementing the recommendations of the 2007 mission;
 5. Also requests the State Party to implement the above recommendations of the 2007 monitoring mission and to report on progress in their implementation by **1 February 2009**, for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

3. Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania) (N 199)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.3**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes that the State Party did not provide the documents requested at the 30th session of the World Heritage Committee and requests it to provide them immediately, including:
 - a) State of Conservation Report

- b) Management Plan
 - c) Environmental Impact Assessment for dams and mining;
4. Notes the findings of the joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission carried out in June 2007;
 5. Urges the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2007 monitoring mission as soon as possible; and in particular to include:
 - a) Regular independent evaluations of the progress towards implementation of the Selous GMP starting in January 2008;
 - b) Full analysis of the 2006 Aerial Census of Selous ecosystem by an independent team of experts and submission of results of the analysis to the World Heritage Centre and IUCN before February;
 - c) Assessment of the potential impact of proposed dams that could have negative impact on the integrity of the property;
 - d) Development of a strategic tourism plan for the property that should include an analysis of the carrying capacity of the existing (and proposed) blocks designated for photographic tourism;
 - e) Assessment of infrastructure required to support the growing tourism sector in the northern Selous Game Reserve before any further allocation of camp/lodge sites;
 6. Requests the Government of Tanzania, particularly its Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism and the international donor community to establish mechanisms, including renewing the Revenue Retention Scheme, to ensure that the Selous Game Reserve management team has the resources required to maintain the integrity of Selous Game Reserve
 7. Noting the large area of the Selous World Heritage site and aware that the UNESCO/IUCN mission had the opportunity to interact with only the northern, mainly tourism sector of the Reserve, and considering that the hunting sector has most of the wildlife and provides the vast majority of the revenues of the reserve,
 8. Recommends that the next joint UNESCO/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to focus on the management and operations of the hunting activities in the Selous Game Reserve be undertaken in 2009, during the dry season to ensure better access;
 9. Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a detailed report by **1 February 2008** on the state of conservation of the property, in particular the measures taken to implement the recommendations of the June 2007 joint UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission, together with the above reports and progress made with the management plan for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

4. Mosi-oa-Tunya / Victoria Falls (Zambia / Zimbabwe)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.8**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Expresses its concern about uncontrolled urban development, unplanned tourism development, noise and water pollution, and invasive species, which continue to threaten the integrity of the property;
4. Regrets that the recommendations of the 2002 bi-lateral workshop have not yet been implemented;
5. Notes with satisfaction some progress made in the development of a Joint Integrated Management Plan and national management plans;
6. Also notes the State Party of Zambia's moratorium on some construction and tourism infrastructure projects;
7. Urges both States Parties of Zambia and Zimbabwe to urgently implement the recommendations of the 2002 bilateral workshop and those of the 2006 monitoring mission as follows:
 - a) Establishment of a Joint Ministerial Committee (including appropriate technical sub-committees) for effective transboundary coordination,
 - b) Implementation of the Joint Integrated Management Plan for the World Heritage property and secure necessary approvals and funding for its implementation. All issues related to development of infrastructure, tourism facilities and services, eradication of invasive species, control of pollution and extraction of water from the Zambezi should be fully considered and addressed in the Joint Integrated Management Plan, consistent with the recommendations of the 2002 bilateral workshop,
 - c) Pending action by the two States Parties on these points, there should be a complete moratorium on the construction and development of all tourism infrastructure, facilities or services within the World Heritage property,
 - d) Development of a draft statement of desired state of conservation which can be assessed during the monitoring of the property's state of conservation and better address management and protection concerns;
8. Commends the State Party of Zambia for the immediate cessation of the Mosi-oa-Tunya Hotel and Country Club Estate project and the tethered balloon project;
9. Invites both States Parties to work closely with IUCN and the World Heritage Centre for development of the Joint Integrated Management Plan and for building the capacity needed for its implementation;
10. Requests both States Parties to provide to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** detailed reports on the state of conservation of the property, including information on the potential impact of all new tourism developments, as well as progress made in implementing the Joint Integrated Management Plan and the other recommendations of the 2006 monitoring mission for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

5. Dja Wildlife Reserve (Cameroun) (N 407)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.4**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Commends the State Party for its efforts to start implementing the recommendations of the 2006 monitoring mission adopted by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), in particular the establishment of a Conservation Coordination Unit and of village committees;
4. Requests the State Party to implement as soon as possible the other recommendations of the 2006 monitoring mission, in particular to issue urgently the Ministerial decree for the enforcement of the Management Plan;
5. Commends the State Party for its decision to phase out the Provisional Operation Permits for the Forest Development Units adjacent to the Reserve and also requests the State Party to provide a timeline for this phase-out;
6. Urges the State Party to monitor closely the operations of the mining concessions adjacent to the Reserve and operated by the company GEOVIC in order to ensure highest standards of environmental mitigation;
7. Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, with a report on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations outlined above, and those of the 2006 monitoring mission, for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

6. Taï National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) (N 195)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **28 COM 15B.3** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Commends the State Party for its on-going efforts for the protection of Taï National Park, and resumption of management and research within the park;
4. Notes with concern that population pressure and illegal activities, particularly poaching, continue to affect the integrity and values of the property;
5. Urges the State Party to implement the following emergency actions recommended by the 2006 UNESCO-IUCN monitoring mission:

- a) Strengthen surveillance and improve data collection while controlling poaching;
 - b) Conduct ecological and wildlife surveys based on the new protocols from the Management Plan for the park;
 - c) Extend the socio-economic and educational activities currently to the east of the park also to the west;
 - d) Assess the feasibility of ecological corridors;
6. Requests the State Party to implement also the other recommendations of the 2006 UNESCO-IUCN monitoring mission within the 10 year timeframe proposed by the mission;
 7. Encourages the State Party to expand its cooperation with the neighbouring communities particularly with respect to micro-enterprise development and educational activities;
 8. Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, with an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, in particular on progress made in implementing the emergency actions, and the other recommendations of the 2006 monitoring mission for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

7. Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary (Senegal) (N 25)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.11**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Welcomes the progress achieved by the State Party in implementing the priority actions requested by the Committee, particularly relating to water supply and invasive species;
4. Urges the State Party to continue to fund and seek additional funding to support the property, and to work closely with the GEF to promote good practices in management and in conservation activities;
5. Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, with an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, in particular on further progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan and in addressing the threats to the property for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

8. Cape Floral Region Protected Areas (South Africa) (N 1007 Rev)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add;
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.5**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
3. Commends the State Party for their continued support of programmes to manage fire and invasive species, in particular in the Table Mountain part of the property;
4. Notes with concern the high frequency of fires in the property and the associated impact on ecosystems, as well as challenges in the control of invasive alien plants;
5. Urges the State Party to continue pursuing efforts towards establishing a single coordinating authority for the property that would eventually facilitate the buffering and extension of the property to include adjoining protected areas;
6. Also urges the State Party to ensure that the budgets and staffing for its public works programmes are increased to meet the needs of these programmes, and that CapeNature and the other relevant management authorities are adequately funded, in particular to ensure that invasive plant clearance targets are achieved, and that the effects of burning are monitored;
7. Encourages the State Party to pursue rigorous monitoring programmes and feedback mechanisms for adaptive conservation and management strategies, particularly for fire control;
8. Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, with a report on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations outlined above, including information on the budgets allocated to the property for each of its programmes, and in each component park of the serial property, for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

9. Rwenzori Mountains National Park (Uganda) (N 684)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B;
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.6**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
3. Notes with appreciation the progress made by the State Party in dealing with the main threats to the property and the implementation of the management plan;
4. Commends the State Party for the cooperation maintained in conservation issues with its neighbouring countries;

5. Calls on Kilembe Mines Ltd. to respect international standards with respect to mining in World Heritage properties, as outlined in the International Council on Mining and Metals Position Statement on Mining and Protected Areas (2003);
6. Requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre updated on the status of the mining activities and other threats to the property and measures to address them as well as on the implementation of Environmental Impact Assessments for any proposed developments;
7. Also requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009** a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, including information on the state of implementation of the management plan and the action taken to address threats from illegal logging, poaching, harvesting and mining, as well as information on efforts made for monitoring the melting of glaciers, for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

10. Serengeti National Park (United Republic of Tanzania) (N 156)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.7**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes with concern the potential impact of lodge development on the water resources in the property;
4. Urges the State Party to ensure that the water resource studies recommended by the EIA studies are carried out as quickly as possible; and to provide copies of these studies to the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
5. Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009** with an updated report on the state of conservation of the property including information on water mitigation measures, progress in following the EIA recommendations, and visitor management for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

ARAB STATES

11. Arabian Oryx Sanctuary (Oman) (N 654)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **30 COM.7B.10** adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Recalling that, according to Article 6.1 of the *Convention*, the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List constitute World Heritage, the protection of which is the duty of the international community as a whole and recalling further the duty of the international community to assist and to cooperate with States Parties in their endeavour to conserve such heritage,
4. Recalling that States Parties have the obligation under the *Convention* to protect and conserve the World Cultural and Natural Heritage situated on their territory, notably, to ensure that effective and active measures are taken for the protection and conservation of such heritage,
5. Further recalling the results of the vote by which the Committee decided not to delete the Arabian Oryx Sanctuary from the World Heritage List,
6. Noting with alarm that despite several years of intensive efforts, the wild population of Arabian Oryx in the property is in serious decline and its future viability is uncertain,
7. Also noting that most recommendations from the 2000 monitoring mission as well as from previous Committee decisions, in particular Decision **30 COM 7B.10**, have not been implemented,
8. Notes with deep regret that the State Party failed to fulfill its obligations defined in the *Convention*, in particular the obligation to protect and conserve the World Heritage property of the Arabian Oryx Sanctuary;
9. Regrets that the State Party has proceeded to significantly reduce the size of the Arabian Oryx Sanctuary, in violation of Paragraph 165 of the *Operational Guidelines*, thus destroying the property's Outstanding Universal Value and integrity;
10. Regrets that the entreaties of the World Heritage Committee, at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007) failed to protect the property;
11. Further regrets that the State Party is seeking to pursue hydrocarbon exploration activities within the original boundaries of the property, as recognized by this Committee, thus contributing to the loss of Outstanding Universal Value;
12. Concludes with regret that, having further consulted IUCN and being convinced that as a result of the reduction of the Sanctuary under Omani Law, the property has deteriorated to the extent that it has lost its Outstanding Universal Value and integrity;
13. **Decides to delete the Arabian Oryx Sanctuary (Oman) from the World Heritage List.**

12. Banc d'Arguin National Park (Mauritania) (N 506)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC 07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.9**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Welcomes that the State Party has completed the Management Plan, begun to implement an Ecotourism Strategy, and has passed several key laws necessary for the effective management and protection of the property;
4. Notes with concern that the State Party reports that illegal activities are threatening the integrity of the marine portion of the property;
5. Regrets that the State Party did not report on progress made in addressing many of the recommendations as requested in the 29th (Durban, 2005) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions, nor on the mitigation measures for the new Nouadhibou-Nouakchott road;
6. Reiterates its request to implement the above mentioned recommendations and in particular:
 - a) to seek “particularly sensitive sea area” (PSSA) status from the International Maritime Organisation as soon as possible, and to pass a law that prevents prospecting, exploration or exploitation of mineral or petrochemical resources within the property;
 - b) to implement a programme to monitor the threats to marine resources,
 - c) to produce and implement an Oil Spill Emergency Response Plan in consultation with IUCN and the petrochemical industry, using international best practice;
7. Further requests that the State Party submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** a report on the state of conservation of the property and on progress made in achieving the recommendations from the 29th (Durban, 2005) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions, as well as those mentioned above, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

13. Ichkeul National Park (Tunisia) (N 8)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.12**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes with satisfaction that the State Party has successfully organised the workshop requested by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) to discuss the

recommendations of the 2006 monitoring mission, and made progress in planning for the management of resources;

4. Requests the State Party to complete and submit the Management Plan of the property to the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, together with the annual report of scientific monitoring, information on the Agenda 21 Committee and the establishment of the autonomous and permanent management structure;
5. Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2008** on the implementation of the recommendations of the 2006 monitoring mission and the recommendations of the 2007 workshop, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

ASIA-PACIFIC

14. Macquarie Island (Australia) (N 629 Rev)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Notes with concern the impact of populations of invasive rabbits and rodents on the values and integrity of the property;
3. Takes note, with satisfaction, of the decision taken by the Federal Government of Australia and the Government of Tasmania to jointly fund and implement a comprehensive rabbits and other rodents eradication plan;
4. Requests the State Party to ensure the implementation of the eradication plan as a matter of urgency and to report on the impact of eradication activities on non-target species as eradication begins;
5. Further requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a copy of the final eradication plan as soon as possible to include a detailed implementation timetable, and a report by **1 February 2008** on the state of conservation of the property, in particular on the progress made on the implementation of the eradication plan, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

15. Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas (China) (N 1083)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.11**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Urges the State Party to ensure that on-going planning of hydroelectrical dams, in particular in the middle reaches of Nu and Lancang Rivers takes into account the need to avoid any direct or indirect impact on the values and integrity of the property, and ensures that all Environmental Impact Assessments relevant to the property should be made public and subject to an open and transparent review, including full public consultation with all stakeholders;
4. Reiterates its request to the State Party to amend the boundaries of the property to exclude major cleared encroachments and to add critical habitats for conservation, ensuring the establishment of linkage between different parts of the property via biological corridors or other options for ecological connectivity, and to submit all proposals for boundary changes for consideration by the Committee in line with paragraph 165 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
5. Also urges the State Party to take measures to halt all illegal mining activities within the property;
6. Requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2008**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, as well as any Environmental Impact Assessment documents of hydroelectric dam projects relevant to the integrity of the property, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

16. Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia) (N 1167)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.12**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Commends the State Party for the decisive action taken in relation to addressing the threats of illegal logging and road construction, increasing the budget in 2007, and improving the staffing structure of all three component national parks in the property;
4. Notes however that the property continues to face severe threats to its outstanding universal values and integrity;
5. Urges the State Party to implement as a matter of urgency, the recommendations of the 2006 and 2007 UNESCO/IUCN monitoring missions, in particular to:
 - a) Further elaborate the Emergency Action Plan, through a broad consultation process involving all key stakeholders to include details of activities proposed for each strategy, together with the estimated budget and time required for each activity;
 - b) Seek assistance from the World Heritage Fund to support the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan, and to submit the finalised Emergency Action Plan by **1 February 2008**;

- c) Continue to monitor, control and restore areas with illegal logging, illegal saw mills and road construction within the three national parks, and finalise and implement the law on illegal logging;
 - d) Effectively enforce the laws to deal with encroachments;
 - e) Strengthen the boundaries of all the three national parks as well as to review and develop the zoning systems and to complete this process within a period of two years – in time for the 33rd session of the Committee in 2009;
 - f) Establish an effective coordination mechanism between the three management units of the property so that it functions as one integrated World Heritage property, and for effective cooperation amongst different organisations and agencies involved in the property;
 - g) Establish clear signposting which recognizes the World Heritage status at all main entry points to the three national parks and at other strategic locations;
6. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission in 2009 to the property to assess progress in addressing the severe threats to the outstanding universal value of the property and in implementing the recommendations of the 2007 and 2006 UNESCO/IUCN missions;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, covering all the points mentioned in point 5 and other recommendations of the 2006 and 2007 monitoring missions for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

17. Keoladeo National Park (India) (N 340)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B;
2. Recalling Decisions **29 COM 7B.8** and **30 COM 7B.13**, adopted at its 29th (Durban, 2005) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions, respectively;
3. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission in 2008, to the property to assess the state of conservation, in particular progress made in addressing water management and other recommendations made by the 2005 monitoring mission, for examination by the Committee at the 32nd session in 2008;
4. Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a detailed report by **1 February 2008** on the state of conservation of the property and in particular on the progress made in resolving the water scarcity situation and indicating when the long-term measures being implemented will be completed, on controlling invasive species, and furnishing time-series monitoring data on the species diversity and populations of water birds, for examination by the Committee at the 32nd session in 2008.

18. Lorentz National Park (Indonesia) (N 955)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **29 COM 7B.12** and **30 COM 7B.14**, adopted at its 29th (Durban, 2005) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions respectively,
3. Regrets that the report submitted by the State Party does not provide all the information requested by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
4. Notes that there are ongoing significant threats to the values and integrity of the property which require concerted effort and adequate resources to address;
5. Commends the State Party on the establishment of the park management authority “Balai Taman Nasional Lorentz”;
6. Requests the State Party to implement the Strategic Plan 2005-2010 and to proceed with the urgent development and implementation of the management plan;
7. Calls on the international donor community to accord high priority to funding the implementation of the Strategic Plan, once it has been formally approved by the State Party, and the development and implementation of the management plan for the property;
8. Reiterates its request to commission an independent environmental audit of the proposed Lake Habema Road, as already requested at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004);
9. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission to assess the state of conservation of the property, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders;
10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2008**, a detailed report on state of conservation of the property and on progress made in addressing the different issues noted above, as well as the identification and marking of the boundaries of the property and the threats from illegal logging and mining activities, in particular those associated to the discharge of water from the mine tailings, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

19. Sagarmatha National Park (Nepal) (N 120)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B;
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.15**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
3. Requests the State Party to provide information on the outcome of the decision of the Supreme Court of Nepal in relation to the Kongde View Resort as soon as a decision is made, and the steps it plans to take in relation to the resort;
4. Urges the State Party to study the impact of any development on the outstanding universal value and integrity of the property; and to carry out consultation with stakeholders on mitigation measures before any development operations begin, as requested by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
5. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009** a report on the state of conservation of the property including progress on the issues outlined above, in particular on the measures that will be taken to maintain the integrity and outstanding universal value of the property, for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

20. Tubbataha Reef Marine Park (Philippines) (N 653)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.16**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes with appreciation the results and recommendations of the National Workshop on the Management of the Tubbataha Reefs and the Greater Sulu Sea;
4. Commends the State Party for the efforts made in expanding the boundary of Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park;
5. Requests the State Party to submit a re-nomination of the property as a result of the significant boundary modifications for Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park in accordance with Paragraph 165 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
6. Urges the State Party to implement recommendations adopted by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), in particular ensuring sufficient funding for the management of the property and enacting the Tubbataha Protected Areas Bill as soon as possible, taking into account the concerns of the Tubbataha Protected Area Management Board;

7. Also requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, including information on the implications of mining operations on the property, and progress made with the implementation of the above mentioned recommendations for examination by the Committee at its 33 session in 2009.

21. East Rennell (Solomon Islands) (N 854)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7B.10**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Welcomes that the State Party has produced a Management Plan and established a community organisation with the responsibility for the administration and management of the property;
4. Notes with concern that the draft World Heritage Protection Bill, to support the protection of the property as well as other potential World Heritage properties, has not yet been passed into legislation, and that additional financial and technical capacity are needed;
5. Requests the State Party to approve the World Heritage Protection Bill as soon as possible, and develop the Management Plan further by including:
 - a) more specific management policies addressing threats such as mining, logging, over-exploitation of coconut crab, over-exploitation of marine resources, and invasive species; and
 - b) budget and timeline for implementation;
6. Calls upon the international donor community to provide further financial and technical support for the conservation and management of the property;
7. Recommends the State Party to consider requesting International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund to implement the actions above-mentioned;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009** a report on the state of conservation of the property and on progress in implementing the recommendations of the 2005 mission adopted by the Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005), including the timeline and budget for the Management Plan, and a copy of the World Heritage Protection Bill for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

22. Dong Phrayayen Kaho Yai Forest Complex (Thailand) (N 590)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B;
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 8B.11**, adopted as its 29th session (Durban, 2005);
3. Commends the State Party for the progress made in addressing the recommendations adopted by the Committee at the time of inscription of the property to enhance its integrity, and in particular the elaboration and adoption in November 2006 of a Management Plan for Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex (DPKY-FC) and the development of ecological corridors;
4. Notes with concern the proposal to widen Road 304 highway from two lanes to four lanes, which would create additional problems for the integrity of the ecosystems and species of this property;
5. Request the State Party to carry out an environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the proposed Road upgrading and ensure that there is no negative impact on the integrity of the property from such project;
6. Also request the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** with a report on the state of conservation of the property, in particular on the environmental impact assessment of the proposed upgrading of Road 304 and progress with the implementation of the corridor project, for the examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

23. Ha Long Bay (Vietnam) (N 672 bis)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.17**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Commends the State Party and Ha Long Bay Management Authority for their continued efforts in addressing key issues in and around the property;
4. Notes that the State Party has submitted a request for international assistance from the World Heritage Fund for capacity building of staff of Ha Long Bay Management Authority to strengthen their management capacity;
5. Calls upon the international donor community to provide further financial and technical support for the conservation and management of the property;

6. Urges the State Party and Ha Long Bay Management Authority to continue their efforts to ensure better planning and management of the property and its surrounding as to address growing urban, industrial and tourism development pressures on the property, and to closely monitor ongoing projects that could potentially affect the outstanding universal value and integrity of the property;
7. Requests the State Party to withdraw permission granted to operate jet-skis within the core-zone of the property, and to reconsider and cancel the plans to develop a tourism resort on Lam Bo Island and major infrastructure in the Cua Van floating village;
8. Also requests the State Party to prepare, in consultation with IUCN and the World Heritage Centre, a report by **1 February 2009** on the state of conservation of the property, focusing in particular on the extent and effectiveness of implementation of the existing policies and plans as well as the capacity building project, and any direct or indirect impacts of the construction of the new coastal highway, for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

24. Isole Eolie (Aeolian Islands) (Italy) (N 908)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.24

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.23**, adopted as its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Welcomes the positive activities undertaken by the State Party, in particular, the development of clear boundaries for the proposed Lipari Reserve and closer collaboration between the two relevant regional authorities;
4. Notes with concern that the PUMEX rehabilitation plan for the mining area is likely to threaten the integrity of the property, and that the World Heritage status is not taken into account in this document;
5. Notes with serious concern the conservation and management issues affecting the outstanding universal value and integrity of the property as assessed by the March 2007 World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission, in particular the lack of a management plan and management structure, continued mining activity at the PUMEX site within the World Heritage property, the lack of a deadline for completion of stockpiled material removal, as well as the lack of regulatory and other mechanisms to control port developments and coastal infrastructure;
6. Urges the State Party to implement the following key recommendations of the March 2007 mission immediately:
 - a) Stop all mining extractive activity in areas within and adjacent to the World Heritage property, and prohibit new mines from being opened;
 - b) Set a deadline for removal of stockpiled pumice material;

- c) Prepare a Management Plan making use of the most updated scientific data available and including the identification of funding resources to implement it, as well as staffing, monitoring, and awareness-raising;
 - d) Designate an appropriate management entity and ensure appropriate funding;
 - e) Undertake a thorough and comprehensive environmental impact assessment of the proposed enlargement of the port of Lipari, including an analysis of the impact on the World Heritage property by cruise ships;
 - f) Institute a science-based project of vegetation restoration using native plants and a sound, creative plan for conversion of the mining infrastructure to serve educational and ecotourism needs, in conjunction with a programme of reemployment and/or retraining of the affected mining workers;
 - g) Ratify the redrawn boundaries for the proposed Lipari Reserve and submit a proposal for a corresponding boundary modification of the World Heritage property in line with the *Operational Guidelines*;
 - h) Carefully consider the creation of a Regional Park for all the Aeolian Islands; and
 - i) Consider, in light of the availability of updated scientific data on the islands' natural values, to submit a re-nomination of the World Heritage property to include additional natural criteria and to protect important coastal and marine habitats;
- 7) Requests the State Party to submit by **1 February 2008** a progress report including all issues indicated above for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session in 2008, at which the Committee **will consider the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger** if the State Party does not take effective measures to address the key recommendations of the 2007 monitoring mission and to prevent the loss of the outstanding universal value and integrity of this property.

25. Golden Mountains of Altai (Russian Federation) (N 768 Rev)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.19**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes that the State Party has developed comprehensive monitoring and education programmes for the property and that development of a transboundary biosphere reserve is ongoing;
4. Regrets that the State Party has not provided the specific information on its plans for the development of the gas pipeline as requested by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) and in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
5. Urges the State Party to assess, in consultation with the local communities, any impact of proposed development projects on the outstanding universal value and integrity of the property before implementing such development projects and to submit as soon as

they are available to the World Heritage Centre the planning documents, including the Environmental Impact Assessment and a map showing the location of the planned routing of the pipeline in relation to the boundary and zones of the property;

6. Also notes that construction of a gas pipeline through this World Heritage property would represent a clear case for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
7. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission to the property to assess the state of conservation of the property;
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** a report on the state of conservation of the property including information on the status of the planned pipeline project for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

26. Volcanoes of Kamchatka (Russian Federation) (N 765 bis)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.25**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes that the State Party has not reported on some of the specific issues raised in the 2004 UNESCO/IUCN mission report, as requested by the Committee at its 29th and 30th sessions;
4. Welcomes the increase in the number of inspectors working in the property, whilst encouraging the State Party to fill-up all vacant positions of inspectors, particularly in the Kronotsky Reserve, so as to enhance patrolling and control in the property;
5. Requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre and IUCN copies of the management plans for the different components of the property, as well as specific information on the status of salmon populations and habitats, interagency cooperation to control illegal logging and hunting activities, and the implications on the conservation of the property of the Kamchatka Regional Court decision, which has cancelled the programme Ecology and Nature Resources of the Kamchatka Region (2005-2010);
6. Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2008** on the state of conservation of the property, including progress made in implementing the recommendations of previous Committee decisions, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

27. Pirin National Park (Bulgaria) (N 225)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **28 COM 15B.21** and **29 COM 7B.23**, adopted at its 28th (Suzhou, 2004) and 29th (Durban, 2005) sessions respectively,
3. Commends the State Party for the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the joint 2004 World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission and urges the authorities to continue to fully implement all recommendations including developing and implementing a long-term monitoring programme;
4. Notes that the State Party has submitted, for evaluation by the 32nd session of the Committee in 2008, a re-nomination to extend the property which is expected to help to better define the boundaries of the property based on its outstanding universal value and issues of integrity;
5. Requests the State Party to ensure that no further development of ski facilities or extension of the tourism zones is allowed within the property;
6. Also urges the State Party to ensure that all existing and new concessions given to private companies operating in the property are compatible with the conservation objectives, to closely monitor the ongoing developments and implementation of mitigation measures, and to explore options for limiting the private motor traffic inside the property;
7. Requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre and IUCN informed of progress made in implementing the recommendations of the joint 2004 mission and of any important changes in the state of conservation of the property.

28. Ilulissat Icefjord (Denmark) (N 1149)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **28 COM 14B.8**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Commends the State Party for the measures taken to implement the recommendations adopted by the Committee at the time of inscription of the property on the World Heritage List;

4. Notes that a revised Management Plan and new Monitoring Plan will soon be completed and requests the State Party to provide copies of these plans as soon as possible to the World Heritage Centre;
5. Also requests the State Party, to continue improving and monitoring tourism management to reduce its impact on the property and to implement clearer restrictions on hunting;
6. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009** a report on the state of conservation of the property and progress on the implementation of the above mentioned recommendations for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

29. Durmitor National Park (Montenegro) (N 100 bis)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7B.21**, adopted at its 29th (Durban, 2005) session,
3. Welcomes the confirmation by the State Party of Bosnia and Herzegovina that no concession has been granted for the hydro power plants of Buk Bijela and Srbinje;
4. Notes that progress is being made in the implementation of the recommendations of the joint 2005 UNESCO/IUCN mission;
5. Urges both States Parties to continue to fully implement all recommendations of the joint 2005 UNESCO/IUCN mission;
6. Requests the State Party of Montenegro to ensure that no further development of ski facilities or other development that threatens the integrity of the property is allowed within the property;
7. Also requests the State Party of Montenegro to provide the World Heritage Centre with a copy of the Management Plan for Durmitor National Park;
8. Further requests both States Parties to keep the World Heritage Centre and IUCN informed on progress made in implementing the recommendations of the joint 2005 UNESCO/IUCN mission and of any important changes, particularly those related to tourism development, in the state of conservation of the property.

30. Belovezhskaya Pushcha / Białowieża Forest (Belarus / Poland) (N 33-627)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.30

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **28 COM 15B.20**, **29 COM 7B.15** and **30 COM 7B.20**, adopted at its 28th (Suzhou, 2004), 29th (Durban, 2005) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions respectively,
3. Notes with concern the slow progress made in implementing the recommendations of the joint 2004 World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission as confirmed by the findings of the 2006 mission of the Council of Europe for the renewal of the European Diploma;
4. Reiterates its request to both States Parties of Belarus and Poland to ensure that the management of the areas surrounding the World Heritage property does not adversely impact on the values and integrity of the property and to include in the management plans of both national parks jointly agreed sections dedicated to the management of the transboundary property;
5. Urges the State Party of Belarus to clarify in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN the exact extent of the Belarusian part of the transboundary World Heritage property and its buffer zones;
6. Encourages both States Parties of Belarus and Poland to continue their efforts to improve transboundary cooperation; and requests that a copy of the bilateral agreement concluded on 15 November 2006, as well as details on its implementation be submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
7. Also requests both States Parties of Belarus and Poland to provide the World Heritage Centre with updated reports by **1 February 2008** on the state of conservation of the property, in particular in relation to the points mentioned above, and on further progress made in implementing the recommendations of the joint 2004 mission for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

31. Lake Baikal (Russian Federation) (N 754)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.18**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Welcomes the decision to establish the boundaries of the Central Ecological Zone to coincide with the boundaries of the World Heritage property, as well as the

establishment of a clear timeline to convert the Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill to a closed water cycle;

4. Urges the State Party to strengthen its efforts on implementing the other recommendations of the 2005 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission, in particular to:
 - a) diminish and control other sources of pollution affecting the property, and
 - b) cooperate with the State Party of Mongolia, to include other chemical elements in the 1995 agreement on the water quality of the Selenga river;
5. Requests the State Party to provide detailed information and expert legal advice to clarify potential conflicts associated with the new amendments to the Federal Law “On Environmental Impact Assessment”, as well as those related to the implementation of the Federal Law “On Special Economic Zones in the Russian Federation” and the special Federal Law “On Protection of Lake Baikal”, which might lead to reducing the protective status of Lake Baikal;
6. Further requests the State Party to clarify measures available and being put in place to control the sale of land within the World Heritage property;
7. Urges the State Party to set up a legal and administrative framework to manage recreation and tourism within the property to ensure adequate funding of the monitoring of the property, including water pollution, and to further develop the current monitoring effort into a comprehensive monitoring system to support the implementation of the management plan;
8. Also urges the State Party to complete, as soon as possible, the re-establishment of the Baikal Commission and to finalise the implementation of the re-conversion plan for the Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill within the proposed timeframe;
9. Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property addressing the points above and further progress made in implementing the remaining recommendations of the joint 2005 World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

32. Western Caucasus (Russian Federation) (N 900)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decisions **28 COM 14B.15** and **28 COM 14B.16**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Notes that the State Party has submitted new detailed information on the state of conservation of the property;

4. Welcomes the invitation extended by the State Party to a joint UNESCO – IUCN monitoring mission to the property to assess its state of conservation, for consideration by the 32nd session of the Committee in 2008;
5. Decides to postpone the discussion of the state of conservation of the Western Caucasus until its 32nd session in 2008;
6. Requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** a copy of the management plan of the property, including a visitor management plan and a clear policy on tourism development for this area, as requested by the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004).

33. Dorset and East Devon Coast (United Kingdom) (N 1029)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.33

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Regrets the MSC Napoli accident in the English Channel impacting on the World Heritage property of the Dorset and East Devon Coast;
3. Welcomes the rapid response by the British authorities and the detailed reports and briefings provided to the World Heritage Centre;
4. Requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed on any further potential impact on the property and on lessons learnt in the implementation of the Risk Preparedness plan;
5. Also requests the State Party to consider requesting designation as an Area to be Avoided (ATBA), and precautionary measure associated with Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) under the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

34. Henderson Island (United Kingdom) (N 487)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.34

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7B.26**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not provide the information on the implementation of the management plan required to assess the state of conservation of the property and as requested by the Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005), in particular on alien fauna and flora, sustainable use of timber, turtle nesting beaches and the reef, extinctions, ex situ conservation and translocation, visitor numbers and how site management is being implemented;

4. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, including on the status of all objectives of the management plan together with information on the status of the bids for funding for bird monitoring and rat eradication and a copy of the Environmental Strategy for the Pitcairn Islands when it is available, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

35. Galapagos Islands (Ecuador) (N 1 bis)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.35

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.29**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes that the serious threats identified in the previous missions have intensified;
4. Commends the State Party of Ecuador, for the decisive action taken through the Presidential Decree issued on 10 April 2007 declaring the conservation and environmental management of the Galapagos ecosystem in a state of risk and national priority, and outlining an agenda to systematically address the various factors affecting the state of conservation of the property;
5. Appeals to the international donor and conservation community to work with the Government of Ecuador in a fully coordinated and complementary manner to support the effective and urgent implementation of the reform agenda outlined in the Presidential Decree, as prioritised in the recommendations of the World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission of 2006 and encourages the State Party to arrange a donor's conference with the objective of identifying and coordinating support for the conservation of the property under a common conservation framework;
6. Reminds States Parties of their obligation under Article 6.3 of the World Heritage *Convention* not to take any deliberate measures which might damage World Heritage properties situated on the territory of other States Parties;
7. Takes note of the comprehensive action plan developed by the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador to deal with the 15 issues highlighted by the Committee in its Decision **30 COM 7B.29** and strongly recommends that its implementation be harmonised and coordinated with the process outlined in the Presidential Decree;
8. Encourages the State Party to assess the structure, finances and operations of the Galapagos National Park Service, with the objective of ensuring that it is well positioned to carry out its full range of responsibilities;

9. Requests the State Party to submit a report to the World Heritage Centre by **1 November 2007** on progress made in implementing the agenda outlined in the Presidential Decree, and a plan of action for completing all the decreed actions;
 10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, a draft statement of desired state of conservation and a comprehensive report on the state of conservation of the property, including the implementation of the corrective measures identified in the action plan, and the various measures tasked by the Presidential Decree, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
 11. **Decides to inscribe the Galapagos Islands (Ecuador) in the List of World Heritage in Danger.**
- 36. Talamanca Range – La Amistad Reserves / La Amistad National Park (Costa Rica and Panama) (N 205 bis)**

Decision: 31 COM 7B.36

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **28 COM 15B.33**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Regrets that plans for hydroelectric dams adjacent to the property's boundaries have not been communicated to the World Heritage Centre, as per Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
4. Notes with concern that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property may be at risk from these dams, from poaching, and from encroachment by local farmers on both sides of the international boundary;
5. Requests the States Party of Panama and Costa Rica to jointly invite a World Heritage Centre/IUCN monitoring mission in 2008 to assess the state of conservation of the property with a particular focus on evaluating the status and impacts of hydroelectric dam construction, of assessing the extent of incompatible land uses and measures in place to deal with them, and assessing other conservation threats to the property.
6. Also requests the States Party of Panama and Costa Rica to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** a report on the state of conservation of the property, including the implications of the proposed hydroelectric dams on the aquatic biodiversity of the Changuinola /Teribe watershed, the presence of incompatible land uses within the property's boundaries, updated information on poaching activities, and on the measures taken to deal effectively with these issues, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

37. Alexander von Humboldt National Park (Cuba) (N 839 Rev)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.37

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Reiterates its previous position that mining and oil/gas exploration and exploitation should not occur within the boundaries of a World Heritage property, endorsed by the International Council on Mining and Metals in its Position Statement on Mining and Protected Areas (2003);
3. Reminds the State Party that any proposals for significant modifications to the boundaries of the property must be done in accordance with the provisions under Paragraph 165 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
4. Taking note of the verbal clarification provided by the State Party at the 31st session of the Committee, requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, including on the issues raised in its letter dated 18 January 2007 for clarifying the status of the proposed reactivation of mining concessions, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

38. Iguazu National Park (Argentina) (N 303)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.38

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.31**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Commends the State Party for its decision to deny authorization for the operation of a fixed hot-air balloon at the property;
4. Urges the State Party to carry out a joint comprehensive public use planning process, in cooperation with the management authority of Iguazu National Park (Brazil) to ensure that the property's Outstanding Universal Value and conditions of integrity, particularly in regards to criterion (vii) is adequately conserved;
5. Requests the State Party of Argentina, in coordination with the State Party of Brazil, to invite a joint UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008, with a particular focus on:
 - a) developing a framework to assess the carrying capacity for the two adjacent properties ;
 - b) identifying solutions to problems associated with public use; and

- c) obtaining detailed information on plans for hydro-electric developments in the region.

39. Iguaçu National Park (Brazil) (N 355)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.39

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.31**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Commends the State Party for its decision to deny authorization for the construction of the proposed Baixo Iguaçu hydroelectric dam;
4. Urges the State Party to carry out a joint comprehensive public use planning process, in cooperation with the management authority of Iguazú National Park (Argentina) to ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and its conditions of integrity, particularly in regard to criterion (vii), are adequately conserved;
5. Requests the State Party of Brazil, in coordination with the State Party of Argentina, to invite a joint UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008, with a particular focus on:
 - a) developing a framework to assess the carrying capacity for the two adjacent properties ;
 - b) identifying solutions to problems associated with public use; and
 - c) obtaining detailed information on plans for hydro-electric developments in the region.

40. Sangay National Park (Ecuador) (N 260)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.40

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Having noted that the report submitted to the World Heritage Centre is labelled as a draft report, and regretting that the report submitted to the World Heritage Centre was not in one of the two working languages of the World Heritage Committee,
3. Commends the State Party for the progress made in some fields such as staffing, the development of economic alternatives and environmental education;
4. Requests the State Party to provide full details on the apparent proposed reduction of the area of the property, in accordance with Paragraphs 163-165 of the *Operational*

Guidelines, along with an updated map illustrating clear boundaries, by **1 February 2008**, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

41. Manu National Park (Peru) (N 402)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.41

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Requests the State Party to provide an updated map of the property including clear boundaries;
3. Also requests the State Party to submit a request for a minor boundary modification to reflect the extension of the property, in accordance with Paragraphs 163 and 164 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
4. Notes with concern reported threats to the conservation and integrity of the property including significant deforestation, agricultural encroachment, and hydrocarbon concessions affecting the property;
5. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2008**, a report clarifying the extent and impacts associated with the reported threats and the measures being taken to stop and reverse these threats within and near the property's boundaries together with an updated map of the boundaries of the property.

42. Pitons Management Area (St. Lucia) (N 1161)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.42

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Notes with concern the proposed hotel development that may compromise the superlative natural beauty of the property if not considered in light of the need to preserve the property's Outstanding Universal Value;
3. Welcomes the State Party's request to the World Heritage Centre for guidance in dealing with development pressures, and the proposed development of an Integrated Development Plan;
4. Urges the State Party to provide information on the status of any developments planned in the property and to ensure that the consulting firm consults with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN in developing the plan;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2008**, an updated report on the measures it has taken to manage and mitigate any impact on

the property's Outstanding Universal Value and integrity from hotel and other land development, a map showing the location of the any proposed developments and a copy of the Integrated Development Plan.

MIXED PROPERTIES

ASIA-PACIFIC

43. Tasmanian Wilderness (Australia) (C/N 181)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.43

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.32**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes with concern the issues raised by NGOs in relation to the impacts of logging adjacent to the World Heritage property and the commencement of the North Weld Road which compromises options for future extensions to the World Heritage property;
4. Urges the State Party to consider the extension of the World Heritage property to include critical old-growth forests to the east and north of the property, or at least to manage these forests in a manner which is consistent with a potential World Heritage value;
5. Expresses its concern about the risk from fire related to forest regeneration and natural events, and its possible adverse impact on the World Heritage property, and requests the State Party to prepare a Risk Management Plan and to consider distancing the logging operations from the boundary of the property;
6. Taking into account the clarification provided orally by the State Party at the 31st session, also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN/ICOMOS mission to assess the state of conservation of the property, focusing on:
 - a) appropriate management of areas of heritage value which are currently outside the property,
 - b) an assessment of the degree of risk related to regeneration fires in areas adjacent to the World Heritage property as well as of the effectiveness of the fire management system in place,
 - c) impacts of proposed forestry operations (including the construction of new roads) on the outstanding universal value of the property,

7. Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2008** on the state of conservation of the property and the above mentioned issues for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

44. Pyrénées – Mont Perdu (France / Spain) (C/N 773 bis)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.44

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **28 COM 15B.36**, **29 COM 7B.31** and **30 COM 7B.33** adopted respectively during its 28th (Suzhou, 2004), 29th (Durban, 2005) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions,
3. Regrets that the last report provided by the French State Party did not give information on the progress achieved with regard to transboundary cooperation, or on the preparation and implementation of the management plan for the French part of this transboundary property, in conformity with the legislation of National Parks and of the need identified during the analysis of the Periodic Reporting for Europe;
4. Notes with concern that ten years after inscription of the property, the issue of the transfer of the Gavarnie Festival has not yet been resolved and that this event has once again been authorized for 2007 while 2006 should have been the last year ;
5. Notes with satisfaction the proposal made by the French State Party for an alternative site for the Gavarnie Festival and for the invitation of an international expert mission to evaluate this new location and the overall management of the property;
6. Requests the French State Party to receive the World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN mission to examine the current site of the Festival as well as the proposed alternative site in view of a final transfer of the Gavarnie Festival, as was initially announced at the time of the inscription of the property;
7. Urges the States Parties of France and Spain to strengthen their transboundary cooperation to ensure the conservation and management of this property;
8. Further requests the French State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a progress report before **1 February 2008** specifically on the transfer of the Gavarnie Festival, transboundary cooperation and the preparation and implementation of the management plan for the French part of the property for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

45. Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru) (C/N 274)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.45

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.35**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2007),
3. Requests the State Party to submit a single integrated annual report for this mixed site, as of 2007, in one of the working languages of the *Convention*;
4. Takes note of the many advances made by INC and INRENA in implementing the Master Plan, particularly with respect to reforestation, fire control, monitoring of key species, management of the main Inca trail, cadastral surveys, information and communication, rehabilitation of the botanical garden, maintenance of the citadel, reintroduction of native plants, development of a site museum and awareness programmes for children;
5. Further notes:
 - a) the ineffectiveness of the Integrated Sanctuary Management Unit,
 - b) the uncontrolled growth of Machu Picchu Village accompanied by an ever-increasing level of risks from landslides, fires, structural failure, health threats, and social crisis,
 - c) the absence of a public use plan and associated analysis of access and risks,
 - d) the difficulties in getting budgetary approval for maintenance work on the archaeological structures of the Sanctuary, and
 - e) the lack of control of the western access to the property;
6. Expresses its deep concern about the consequences of the construction of the Carrilluchayoc bridge and the access road in the buffer and core zone of the Sanctuary and the lack of due process and governance related to this issue, and also requests the State Party, as per Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, to submit any project proposal that could affect the values of the site, to be submitted for evaluation to the Advisory Bodies;
7. Urges the State Party to take immediate action to act upon the serious consequences of the recent landslides, and to finalize by **1 February 2008**, and begin implementation of a comprehensive Risk Preparedness Plan with adequate budget, as outlined in the recommendations proposed by the 2007 mission report;
8. Takes note of the positive results of the Cusco Workshop, commends the major stakeholders and national institutions for developing a common vision towards the

future and further requests the State Party to submit an official response to the recommendations outlined by the Cusco Workshop;

9. Also urges the State Party to give priority to the reorganization of the Sanctuary Integrated Management Unit and consequently requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **30 September 2007** an updated Annual Operations Plan prepared by the Management Unit;
10. Encourages the State Party to undertake the actions required to develop and implement the above mentioned Participatory Emergency Strategy for Control of the Western Access and to address the concerns and threats outlined in the mission report, and to submit a draft Strategy document by **30 November 2007** to be evaluated by the Advisory Bodies;
11. Invites the State Party to produce and widely distribute by **30 November 2007**, authoritative information for visitors and tour operators regarding the considerable risks associated with overnight stays at Machu Picchu Village;
12. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2007 mission report for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

46. Rock-Hewn Churches, Lalibela (Ethiopia) (C 18)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.46

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.40**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes with satisfaction the success of the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Government and the European Commission in changing the design of the shelters for the churches, making them both smaller and reversible and commends the Ethiopian Government for its cooperation;
4. Takes note of the development of a conservation action plan through the work of the World Heritage Centre and ARCCH;

5. Acknowledges the welcome support of the Norwegian Government and the World Monuments Fund for the development of a pilot conservation project and background surveys and analysis;
6. Urges the Ethiopian Government as a first priority to prepare an integrated management plan followed by a conservation plan for the sustainable development of the site and its setting, as a framework for assessing long-term solutions to the protection and conservation of the churches, their surface finishes, their rock hewn surroundings and their associated landscapes and settlements;
7. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission to Lalibela, to review progress with the construction of the shelters and progress towards the immediate development of a management plan and identifying and planning long-term approaches for the property;
8. Requests the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies to build capacity for the State Party to manage the property and also requests the World Heritage Centre to involve Ethiopian personnel during the planning and implementation.
9. Also requests the Ethiopian authorities to submit a report to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2008**, on progress with the shelters and forward planning for examination by the Committee in its 32nd session in 2008.

47. Timbuktu (Mali) (C 119 rev)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.47

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.36**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Takes note of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan of Timbuktu-Mali (2006-2010);
4. Regrets that the State Party has undertaken construction work for the new Ahmed Baba Cultural Centre without having provided new technical documents permitting an objective evaluation of the envisaged modifications to the Centre, as the construction is foreseen adjacent to the Sankoré Mosque ;
5. Urges the State Party to urgently transmit the technical documents, before **31 August 2007**, showing the modifications made to the architectural project for the Ahmed Baba Cultural Centre and collaborate with the World Heritage Centre in order to allow for an analysis of the impact of the envisaged modifications to the Sankoré Mosque ;
6. Requests the State Party to transmit to the World Heritage Centre all the technical information on the current restoration projects, and particularly for the restoration of the Djingareyberre Mosque initiated with the assistance of the Aga Khan Foundation ;

7. Requests the State Party to urgently invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission, before **31 October 2007**, with the aim of evaluating the impact of the construction work of the Ahmed Baba Cultural Centre, and make recommendations to the Committee regarding the threats to the property ;
8. Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a report on the state of conservation of the property before **1 February 2008**, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

48. Island of Mozambique (Mozambique) (C 599)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.48

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.42** adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Thanks the State Party for its report submitted in February 2007, particularly on the progress made in the creation of a cabinet for the restoration and conservation of the property, the rehabilitation of the San Sebastian Fortress, the development of the UNESCO-AfDB Programme, and the finalization of the conservation and management plan;
4. Notes the results of the ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission undertaken in February 2007 to the property;
5. Also notes with appreciation the technical support provided by UNESCO Maputo and the World Heritage Centre which enabled the rehabilitation project of the San Sebastian Fortress to progress significantly;
6. Congratulates the State Party for the satisfactory progress made in implementing the San Sebastian rehabilitation project funded by UCCLA, and the Governments of Japan and Portugal and requests that future funds be allocated to the completion of the restoration project and the conservation of the urban structure, and developing local capacity;
7. Reaffirms its great concern that the Island of Mozambique continues to be threatened by serious degradation of its historical monuments and urban structure and is in danger of losing its authenticity;
8. Further notes the lack of capacity to put in place mechanisms to ensure houses and town walls do not collapse, the lack of appropriate infrastructure for sewage and roads, the lack of a completed management plan, and the lack of a site manager;
9. Urges the State Party to give priority to the elaboration of an emergency Action Plan to address the most severe degradation and short-term remedial actions in collaboration with all the stakeholders;

10. Requests the World Heritage Centre to continue its technical back up of the rehabilitation project of the San Sebastian Fortress in order to ensure its full implementation;
11. Also urges the State Party to:
 - a) Complete the Management Plan as a basis for sustainable development of the property in collaboration with all the stakeholders and through a structured approach involving national and local authorities;
 - b) Produce a timetable for the completion of the restoration of the San Sebastian Fortress;
 - c) Raise awareness of the significance of the World Heritage site and the responsibilities arising from it.
12. Also requests the State Party to submit a report to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2008**, on the progress made in the implementation of the emergency Action Plan, on the rehabilitation of the San Sebastian Fortress, the completion of the management and conservation plan, and the necessary actions taken for an effective work of the Cabinet for Restoration and Conservation of the Island (GACIM) administrative structures, for consideration by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

49. Stone Town of Zanzibar (United Republic of Tanzania) (C 173 Rev)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.49

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Notes with concern the potential impact of the proposed European Commission-funded port development project on the state of conservation of the property and requests the World Heritage Centre to contact once again the European Commission at Commissioners level on this issue;
3. Calls on the State Party to provide details of the proposed Malindi Stone Town Port development project and its rationale, and to co-operate with ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre to organise an independent environmental and cultural impact assessment study prior to any consideration or approval of the proposed project;
4. Calls on the Director-General of UNESCO to discuss with the World Bank, European Commission and other relevant bodies that projects in World Heritage sites should be developed in consultation with the World Heritage Centre.
5. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the property and factors affecting its Outstanding Universal Value, and progress made in implementing the impact assessment of the port project;
6. Requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre a progress report on the implementation of the above recommendations by **1 February 2008** for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

50. Lamu Old Town (Kenya) (C 1055)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.50

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.41**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Congratulates the State Party for the production of a Management Plan which has involved stakeholders and the local community and addresses well the challenges and issues that need to be met as formulated in ten objectives;
4. Considers that there is a need to prioritise these objectives to reflect the key activities already identified by the Committee: buffer zone extension (including preliminary surveys), improvement of sanitation, water supply, and waste management;
5. Calls on the State Party to augment the Management Plan with a more detailed Action Plan identifying key stakeholders for the various objectives;
6. Urges the State Party to ensure that the State funds can be provided through the current Lamu Development Plan to address the sewage and water supply objectives as a matter of urgency; and for adequate posts in the World Heritage Secretariat;
7. Calls upon international donors to provide financial and technical support to the State Party to improve the state of conservation of the property in line with the objectives of the Management Plan;
8. Requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2008**, a progress report on the implementation of these recommendations for review by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

51. Old Towns of Djenné (Mali) (C 116 Rev)

Decision: 30 COM 7B.51

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.38**, adopted during its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Noting that the request for international assistance for the preparation of a management plan submitted by the State Party has been approved in November 2006,
4. Expresses its concern that little progress has been made to set out how the recommendations of the 2006 World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission might be addressed,

5. Urges the State Party urgently to provide details for the scope and the timetable for the elaboration of the Management and Conservation Plan,
6. Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre, before **1 February 2008**, with a state of conservation report of the property and progress achieved in the implementation of a management and conservation plan, delineation of boundaries, creation of a buffer zone and establishment of regulatory tools, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

52. Island of Gorée (Senegal) (C 26)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.52

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.43**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Takes note of the efforts undertaken by the State Party to improve the state of conservation and accessibility to the property ;
4. Encourages the States Parties of Senegal and Qatar to finalise the proposed coastal rehabilitation project for the Island of Gorée, and requests the World Heritage Centre to provide technical support to the two parties ;
5. Notes with concern the installation of small businesses and the illegal occupation of the protected areas ;
6. Requests the State Party to urgently appoint the site manager, and apply the regulations in force throughout the territory of the property, notably with regard to the illegal occupation of the protected areas;
7. Recalls Decision **28 COM 15B.42**, in which the State Party was invited to elaborate strategies aiming to initiate corrective measures to limit the negative impact of the replica of the Gorée-Almadies Memorial, and after having studied the different possibilities, considers that satisfactory measures would not have any significant positive impact ;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, before **1 February 2009**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009, in particular on progress achieved in the implementation of the coastal rehabilitation project for the Island of Gorée, and the rehabilitation of the architectural heritage.

53. Robben Island (South Africa) (C 916)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.53

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.3**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes that the State Party has made substantial efforts in complying effectively with all its requests, particularly in producing a comprehensive and integrated management plan, and encourages it to initiate without further delay activities leading to its implementation;
4. Requests the State Party to submit, by **1 February 2009**, a detailed progress report taking into account the proposals of the 2004 mission, for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

ARAB STATES

54. Tipasa (Algeria) (C 193)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.54

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.18**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Takes note of the positive measures undertaken and the actions carried out by the State Party to improve the protection of the property, notably with regard to institutional, legal and management issues ;
4. Commends the State Party for the improvement in the protection of the property through the measures undertaken.
5. Requests the State Party to harmonize the Management Plan of the property with the Protection and Presentation Plan of the archaeological site and its buffer zone and encourages it to submit a request for international assistance from the World Heritage Fund to provide support during the different stages in the preparation and implementation of this project;
6. Urges the State Party to transmit to the World Heritage Centre additional information concerning all the ongoing development work in Tipasa Port;

7. Further requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre, before **1 February 2008**, with a report on the progress and implementation of the recommendations contained in points 5 and 6 of the present decision.

55. Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis (Egypt) (C 87)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.55

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.46**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Takes note of the State Party's efforts to put in place a Master Plan to enhance the life of residents and the experience of tourists within the Luxor region.
4. Regrets that the State Party did not take into account the previous recommendations of the Committee to carry out studies and impact assessments in Gurnah and those of the 2006 mission regarding notably the design of the Karnak plaza;
5. Encourages the State Party to revise its Master plan 2030 to directly integrate commitment to maintaining the outstanding universal value of the property within all - projects, notably:
 - a) To call urgently for an international consultation for the plaza in front of the Karnak temple as well as for the Avenue of the Sphinxes and Gurnah.
 - b) to abandon the project of building a landing stage for tourism cruise boats on the Western Bank of the Nile close to the new bridge and to limit all such developments to the Eastern Bank;
 - c) to ensure that proper investigations are carried out in the West Bank before the dewatering trench delineation is finalized;
 - d) to provide relevant information on projects foreseen within the property;
6. Urges the State Party to prepare management plans for Karnak, Luxor and the West Bank and to set up a co-ordinated management instrument;
7. Requests that the State Party invites a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission to the property to review the implementation of the above recommendations;
8. Also requests the State Party to provide a progress report to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

56. Islamic Cairo (Egypt) (C 89)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.56

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **29 COM 7B.42** and **30 COM 7B.50**, adopted at its 29th (Durban, 2005) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions respectively,
3. Takes note of the continuous efforts of the State Party to improve conservation of the property in the recent years;
4. Urges the State Party to implement the main recommendations of the 2002 Symposium report, subsequently endorsed by the World Heritage Committee in 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006, notably:
 - a) To designate Islamic Cairo as a Special Planning District, and
 - b) To prepare a comprehensive Urban Plan for the Conservation and Development of the Old City, whereby the conservation of historic buildings would be accompanied by appropriate development regulations;
5. Also urges the State Party to put an immediate halt to the construction works of the Cairo Financial Centre close to the Citadel and to revise the project, once the plans and model have been provided for a thorough assessment;
6. Requests the State Party, considering the historic value of the project area, to envisage an international consultation to define an alternative to the existing project, notably by limiting its height to the level of the highway, so as to mitigate its impact on the urban landscape;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2008**, a report on the implementation of the above recommendations for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

57. Um er-Rasas (Kastrom Mefa'a) (Jordan) (C 1093)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.57

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **29 COM 7B.41** and **30 COM 7B.51**, adopted at its 29th (Durban, 2005) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions respectively,
3. Notes the communication of the State Party regarding the progress report and the suspension of the works of the planned shelter pending consultation with the World Heritage Centre;

4. Requests the State Party to give urgent consideration to the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission of November 2006 and accelerate their implementation;
5. Urges the State Party to finalise the management and conservation plans in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS;
6. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission in order to assess the situation, assist in evaluating solutions and consider whether the property should be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit a progress report to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** on the above issues for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

58. Ancient City of Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 20)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.58

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add,
2. Notes with satisfaction that the State Party has prepared an Action Plan for the conservation of the property;
3. Encourages the State Party to implement the Action Plan provided that:
 - a) Any ring road around the property must respect the integrity of the property;
 - b) Infrastructure works are planned and implemented under high quality archaeological supervision;
 - c) The legal framework for the protection of the property is improved and detailed;
 - d) The use of traditional restoration techniques within the property becomes compulsory to guarantee the preservation of the property's integrity;
4. Urges the State Party to refrain from undertaking any demolition work within the property and its buffer zone, in case such work impacts on the integrity of the property;
5. Invites the State Party to consider extending the boundaries of the property in order to include its valuable historical neighbourhoods and requests the State Party to define the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone and to officially provide a map of this zone to the World Heritage Centre for approval by the Committee;
6. Requests the State Party, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, to inform the World Heritage Centre in advance of any planned changes and any foreseen project within and around the property;
7. Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission in order to assess the situation and to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2008**, a progress report on the above recommendations and on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

59. Kasbah of Algiers (Algeria) (C 565)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.59

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7B.44**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Notes the information provided by the State Party on the actions undertaken for the implementation of the first phase of the Permanent safeguarding plan;
4. Urges the State Party, in accordance with paragraph 5 of Decision **29 COM 7B.44**, to pursue the measures for the rehabilitation of the Kasbah of Algiers;
5. Requests the State Party to transmit to the World Heritage Centre a topographic or cadastral map clearly indicating the boundaries and the surface of the property inscribed, as well as a buffer zone;
6. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a thorough report on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the safeguarding plan and rehabilitation actions, as well as on the Documentation Centre financed by the World Heritage Fund, for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session, in 2009.

60. Qal'at al-Bahrain – Ancient Harbour and Capital of Dilmun (Bahrain) (C 1192)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.60

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.49**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes with satisfaction the progress achieved by the State Party in the implementation of a series of important measures aiming at conserving and protecting the property;
4. Invites the State Party, as mentioned in Decision **30 COM 7B.49**, to submit, before **1 February 2008**, a proposal for a modification of the boundaries of the inscribed property according to the procedures indicated in Paragraphs 163 to 165 of the *Operational Guidelines*, for revising the core zone to include the ancient channel and the sea tower, and for revising the buffer zone to include the visual corridor, for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
5. Requests the State Party to send to the World Heritage Centre:
 - a) the written official decisions and explanatory documents (maps, graphics, photos) concerning the relocation of the North Star Project and fishing harbour, as well as the final decisions related to the re-housing of part of the local community,

- b) the decision to replace the portion of the connecting road located off the northern coast by an appropriate bridge,
 - c) the approved National Planning and Development Strategies for the implementation of the revision of the urban development and zoning plan,
 - d) the legislative framework for the protection of the World Heritage property,
 - e) the draft management and conservation plans;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit, by **1 February 2009**, a progress report on the implementation of the above recommendations to be examined by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

61. Memphis and its Necropolis – the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur (Egypt) (C 86)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.61

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **28 COM 15B.50** and **29 COM 7B.45**, adopted at its 28th (Suzhou, 2004) and 29th (Durban, 2005) sessions respectively,
3. Notes the State Party's intention to begin the preparation of a management plan for the town of Memphis;
4. Urges the State Party to establish a similar management plan for the entire property and to transmit it to the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS as soon as it is completed;
5. Reiterates its previous decisions requesting the abandon of the road project, tunnel or trench, crossing the Pyramid Plateau of Giza and requests the State Party to officially confirm this cancellation ;
6. Also requests the State Party to keep the Committee informed through the World Heritage Centre, of any important projects foreseen in the periphery of the property, according to the provisions contained in the *Operational Guidelines*.

62. Tyr (Lebanon) (C 299)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.62

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.52**, adopted by its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Deploring the loss of human life and degradation caused by the summer conflict of 2006, while expressing its relief for the absence of damage to the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List;
4. Takes note of the fact that due to this conflict, and to the priorities, both humanitarian and rehabilitation, the State Party was unable to concentrate its efforts on the requests expressed by the Committee in its Decision **30 COM 7B.52** ;
5. Encourages again the State Party to extend the three-year building restriction period, which has come to term, in the sectors presenting a potential archaeological interest, and the completion of the construction of the motorway adjacent to the property until the completion of the archaeological map recordings;
6. Renews its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission to evaluate the progress and the impact of the projects in progress and envisaged;
7. Also requests the State Party to provide a detailed topographical map indicating the boundaries of the property, and if possible those of the buffer zone for the protected area and to submit a progress report on its recommendations before **1 February 2008**, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

63. Archaeological Site of Cyrene (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (C 190)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.63

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.53**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Expresses its satisfaction that the State Party has made considerable headway in the implementation of a number of requests made by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
4. Requests the State Party to take action relating to the recommendations made by the Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission of January 2007 relating to:
 - a) Rapidly completing, adopting and implementing the Management Plan;
 - b) Transmitting the precise delineation of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone, to the World Heritage Centre;
 - c) Augmenting the Department of Antiquities scientific, technical, and surveillance staff at the property by introducing training programmes and technical specialization;
 - d) Informing the World Heritage Centre of all new projects, such as the establishment of a new urban settlement near Shahat;
 - e) Avoiding harsh cleaning treatments and over restoration of monuments that might adversely impact the authenticity and integrity of the property;

- f) Reinforcement of the information programme aimed at raising public awareness of the importance and fragility of the property .
5. Further requests the State Party to submit a progress report on these activities to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009** for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.
- 64. Ancient Ksour of Ouadane, Chinguetti, Tichitt and Oualata (Mauritania) (C 750)**

Decision: 31 COM 7B.64

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.54**, adopted during its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes with satisfaction that Master Plans have now be approved for all four cities and that the State Party is committed to raise an agreed amount of funds for the next five years to support rehabilitation and restoration works in the property;
4. Regrets that no progress has been made in putting in place legal protection;
5. Urges the State Party to establish appropriate local management mechanisms, with the adequate financial and human resources;
6. Encourages the State Party to submit an International assistance request for further capacity-building of the technical and managerial staff of the FNSVA;
7. Requests the State Party to submit, before **1 February 2009**, a progress report on the implementation of the above recommendations for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

65. Ksar Aït Ben Haddou (Morocco) (C 444)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.65

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.45** adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes with satisfaction the continuing commitment of the State Party to the implementation of the decisions of the Committee;
4. Also notes that progress has been made in completing the Management Plan, and that this is likely to be adopted in the near future;

5. Expresses its concern that, although progress has been made in establishing consultative committees, a satisfactory overall resourced management structure on the property is not yet functioning and there are no sustainable funding arrangements for conservation and management of the property;
6. Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with the adopted Management Plan as well as an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, and on the progress achieved in implementing the identified measures by **1 February 2009** for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

66. Archaeological site of Volubilis (Morocco) (C 836)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.66

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **29 COM 7B.100** and **30 COM 7B.55**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban,2005) and 30th sessions (Vilnius, 2006) respectively,
3. Notes with satisfaction that the State Party has taken into account the recommendations of the Committee in order to maintain the visual integrity of the property, notably by modifying the development project on the periphery of the property;
4. Urges the State Party, in accordance with paragraph 5 of Decision **30 COM 7B.55**, to prepare a management plan for the property, including a programme for the management of new installations, and to transmit it to the World Heritage Centre;
5. Requests the State Party, in accordance with Decisions **29 COM 7B.100** and **30 COM 7B.55**, to define the boundaries of the area of the proposed buffer zone and to officially provide a map of this zone to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** for approval by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

67. Bahla Fort (Oman) (C 433)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.67

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31 COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **29 COM 7B.46** and **30 COM 7B.56**, adopted at its 29th (Durban, 2005) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions,

3. Notes the efforts of the State Party in undertaking rehabilitation works and reminds the State Party that international standards of conservation and restoration should be applied;
4. Regrets that no progress has yet been achieved with respect to the previous decisions and recommendations of the Committee on the finalization of the Management Plan, taking into account the recommendations of the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, on its official adoption and implementation;
5. Urges the State Party to finalise and adopt the Management Plan, to establish the legal framework and set up the administrative structure for its implementation;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008**, the adopted Management Plan and a detailed progress report on its implementation, the legal framework and administrative structure as well as the Souq project, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

68. Aflaj Irrigation Systems of Oman (Oman) (C 1207)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.68

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 8B.37**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes that the State Party has drafted new protection laws for the property;
4. Requests the State Party to provide further details as to when these laws will become effective;
5. Congratulates the State Party on the development of a relevant short-term Management and Action Plan for the property, as a preliminary to a medium term Management Plan, and on putting in place an inter-disciplinary Management Committee, to oversee the development of the Management Plan;
6. Also requests the State Party to follow-up this Action Plan with the necessary resources and to submit to the Committee the medium term Management Plan when it is developed;
7. Also notes with approval the support for community involvement in the management of the Aflaj and the emerging local initiatives in the development of local plans for specific water management systems;
8. Further requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a progress report on the new laws and the medium term Management Plan, for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

ASIA-PACIFIC

69. Old Town of Lijiang (China) (C 811)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.69

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add,
2. Notes with concern the uncontrolled tourism and other development projects being carried out at the property, which might have a negative impact on its heritage values;
3. Requests the State Party to review the current comprehensive Management Plan of the property by:
 - a) Preparing a proposal for the boundaries of the core and buffer zones of the areas of Baisha and Shuhe, and submit it to the Committee for its examination according to paragraphs 163-165 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
 - b) Developing a Master Plan for the property and its surrounding area, which includes the Management Plan and allows a strategic approach to development, tourism and conservation in order to maintain the integrity of the property and its setting;
 - c) Strengthening its effectiveness in protecting the heritage values of the property, notably by developing appropriate land-use regulations and impact assessment procedures for proposed development projects;
 - d) Continuously providing support to local homeowners in their efforts to maintain their houses in accordance with traditional building practices.
4. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property to assess its state of conservation and assist in addressing the issues raised in paragraph 3 above;
5. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2008**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, including information on the progress made in implementing the actions mentioned above, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

70. Sangiran Early Man Site (Indonesia) (C 593)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.70

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add,

2. Expresses its appreciation to the State Party for organizing a Stakeholders Consultation Workshop on the Conservation and Management of Sangiran World Heritage property;
3. Noting however with concern the potential risks associated to the lack of a functioning site management authority as well as of appropriate land-use regulations, combined with on-going development projects within the property, which might have a negative impact on its heritage values,
4. Requests the State Party to review and strengthen the management of the property by:
 - a) Restructuring and reactivating the Coordinating Board for the Protection and Management of Sangiran World Heritage property;
 - b) Re-enforcing the effectiveness of the Master Plan in protecting the heritage values of the property, notably by developing appropriate land-use regulations and impact assessment procedures for proposed development projects; by considering the possible revision of the core zone, taking into account recent archaeological discoveries; and by defining an appropriate buffer zone for the property with the relative appropriate legal provisions and land-use regulation for consideration by the Committee;
 - c) Improving the presentation and interpretation of the property and its Museum, and developing awareness-raising programmes addressed to the community, and particularly the young people.
5. Also requests the State party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property to assess its state of conservation and assist in addressing the issues raised in paragraph 4;
6. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2008**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, including information on the progress made in implementing the actions mentioned above, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

71. Meidan Emam, Esfahan (Islamic Republic of Iran) (C 115)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.71

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.57**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes the steps taken by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to implement the recommendations of the Committee related to the reduction of the height of the Jahan Nama Commercial Complex tower;
4. Requests the authorities of Iran to continue with the planned modifications to the Jahan Nama Commercial Complex to ensure minimum negative impacts upon the Outstanding Universal Value of, and important views associated with the property;

5. Notes with satisfaction the decision taken by the authorities to divert the subway route in Esfahan to safeguard the historic structures located near the Chahar Bagh avenue;
6. Urges the Iranian authorities to elaborate mechanisms for undertaking systematic cultural, social and environmental impact assessments prior to designing large scale development projects close to World Heritage and Tentative List properties in Iran;
7. Also notes the progress made in drafting the nomination dossier for the extension of the Meidan Emam World Heritage property to include the historical and cultural axis of Esfahan;
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2008**, a detailed report on the progress made in reducing the height of the Jahan Nama Commercial Complex tower and in minimizing the negative impact upon the visual integrity of the property for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

72. Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara (Japan) (C 870)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.72

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **28 COM 15B.64** and **30 COM 7B.67**, adopted at its 28th (Suzhou, 2004) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions respectively,
3. Takes note of the information provided by the State Party concerning the modalities for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed Yamato-Kita express highway and the traffic management plan under development;
4. Also takes note, with satisfaction, that the route selected for the proposed express highway runs outside the core and along the periphery of the buffer zones of the property;
5. Requests the State Party to consider very carefully all existing opinions and technical studies in the process of preparing the EIA for the final proposal, so as to ensure that the express highway will not cause any alteration to the water table levels in areas of archaeological significance, which could result in loss of precious relics;
6. Also requests the State Party to share with the World Heritage Centre the final version of the EIA as soon as finalised and before a final decision is taken by the Urban Planning Council of the Nara prefecture;
7. Considering that the use for large-scale events of the archaeological area of the Heijo Palace within the core zone of the property, including the building of structures, presents a potential risk for the conservation of the fragile remains buried underground, and should normally be avoided,
8. Further requests the State Party to carefully review the plans for the commemorative events for the 1300th Anniversary of Nara in 2010 on the site of the Heijo palace and pay its utmost attention to ensure that they will not cause any negative impact on the

archaeological remains buried underground, or on the visual integrity of the landscape of the property;

9. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, with particular regard to the progress made in the EIA for the Yamato-Kita express highway and the review of the plans for the 1300th anniversary of Nara, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

73. Town of Luang Prabang (Lao People Democratic Republic) (C 479 Rev)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.73

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7B.60**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Notes the considerable efforts made by the Heritage House in the exercise of its functions and calls for a better definition of the Heritage House's mandate and the strengthening of local capacities and involvement.
4. Recommends to the State Party the creation of a buffer zone, to mitigate the pressures on the World Heritage property, and requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission, at the end of 2007, to evaluate the property's state of conservation and to make recommendations concerning the establishment of a buffer zone, in the form of a revision of the Urban Development Plan and based on the recommendations formulated in the Territorial Coherence Plan (SCOT);
5. Notes with satisfaction the efforts undertaken by the State Party for the creation of a biosphere reserve in the catchment area of the Nam Khan and encourages it to pursue this process which would contribute to improving the equilibrium between the World Heritage site and the region;
6. Calls the attention of the State Party to the need for implementing measures for the prevention of natural risks, flooding in particular, and requests it to carry out a study on risks involved with the urbanisation of the flood run-off zones and the impact of the hydraulic projects envisaged on the Mekong and the Nam Khan ;
7. Also recommends to the State Party to carry out an evaluation of the quality of the development projects and on developments noted since the inscription of the property, especially in terms of overpopulation and use;
8. Also requests the State Party to pursue the strict application of the Safeguarding and Enhancement Plan (PSMV), and especially:
 - a) to preserve the non-constructible status of the natural zones within the inscribed perimeter,
 - b) to control the densification of the site in application of the provisions of the PSMV,

- c) to pursue the survey of illicit constructions.
9. Further recommends the organization of a coordination meeting of the funding agencies at the end of 2007, with the participation of the World Heritage Centre, to coordinate the projects envisaged in the property and its periphery by bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies, in the framework of principles established in the SCOT ;
 10. Also encourages the State Party to call upon support, if necessary, from decentralised cooperation between Luang Prabang Province, the city of Chinon and the Central Region, as well as from Technical Assistance provided by UNESCO in the framework of the France-UNESCO Convention, to facilitate the implementation of the recommendations above ;
 11. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** a report on the state of conservation of the property and on the steps taken to implement all of the above recommendations, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

74. Samarkand – Crossroad of Cultures (Uzbekistan) (C 603 Rev)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.74

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.59**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes with satisfaction the State Party's production of a draft Management Plan for Samarkand which aims to address the concept of the overall development of the city and considers not only the main architectural and archeological monuments, but also historical residential areas and traffic and tourism management and notes the timetable, 2007-2010 for the development of the final detailed Management Plan;
4. Requests the State Party to submit for approval, as available:
 - a) Draft rules and standards including approaches to reconstruction,
 - b) Revised draft road schemes for the city, and
 - c) Details of proposed zoning;
5. Also requests the State Party to confirm that no further road building will be undertaken until the revised road scheme for the city has been approved, and that this will include proposals to close the new road between Afrosiab and Timurid city to through-traffic;
6. Further requests the State Party to consider the development of a Conservation Strategy for the city for both monuments and residential areas, that acknowledges the wealth of conservation expertise, experience, and documentation that exists in the city and covers both on-going maintenance and major restoration projects;

7. Suggests that a Coordinating Committee for the property be put in place to bring together all partners currently involved in the conservation and development of the property;
8. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS monitoring mission to evaluate progress in the development of the Management Plan and the implementation of the revised road schemes for the City;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2008**, a detailed report on progress made in developing the management plan and on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

75. Complex of Huế Monuments (Vietnam) (C 678)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.75

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.71**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes the progress made by the State Party in relation to the removal of illegal housing and the preparation of inventories of significant cultural heritage elements in the Huế area, and requests it to continue efforts to relocate people to safer areas ;
4. Requests the State Party to give urgent consideration to the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission of October 2006 and their phased implementation, including the possible suspension of major infrastructure and building activities in the newly defined core and buffer zones (Zones I and II) until the necessary regulatory framework is approved ;
5. Urges the State Party to prepare, in consultation with and with assistance from the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, a management plan that includes wider core and buffer zones covering the significant geomantic elements associated with the inscribed monuments, that provides a stronger level of protection for the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and that foresees the eventual re-nomination of the property as a cultural landscape based on a revised statement of its Outstanding Universal Value. A draft management plan should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre by the end of 2009, for consideration by the Committee at its 34th session in 2010;
6. Also requests the State Party to prepare, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, an action plan of necessary works to minimize the negative impact of noise pollution on the Minh Mang and Khai Dinh tombs;
7. Encourages the State Party to make a request through the International Assistance Programme under the World Heritage Fund for a training workshop on the development of conservation and management plans for staff of the Huế Monuments Conservation Centre;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit a progress report to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009** for consideration by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

76. The Ruins of the Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur (Bangladesh) (C 322)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.76

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7B.48**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Notes the positive steps taken by the State Party to remove the telephone transmission tower to a location not visible from the site, and to increase security at the property through provision of additional guards and site attendants;
4. Encourages the State Party to carry out the proposed analysis of the drainage problems and to report to the World Heritage Centre in due course about the outcome and the possible need for further assistance from the Centre and/or ICOMOS;
5. Strongly urges the State Party, on an urgent basis, to redefine and document, through the appropriate cartographic documentation, the limits of the core and buffer zones of the property based on a stronger and more complete statement of Outstanding Universal Value, and to submit these changes to the Committee for approval;
6. Invites the State Party to request International Assistance in order to develop a management plan for the property in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS;
7. Requests the State Party to provide a progress report to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** on the drainage studies, and the efforts undertaken to redefine and document the limits of the core and buffer zones, and the new statement of Outstanding Universal Value, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

77. Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa (China) (C 707 ter)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.77

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7B.50**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Notes the efforts made by the State Party in improving the state of conservation of the property, particularly on the progress made in extending the boundaries of the property's buffer zones and the conservation activities for Potala Palace, Jokhang Temple and Norbulingka;
4. Requests the State Party to continue the revision of the Urban Development Plan and the elaboration of conservation plans for the three areas of the property ensuring that

they are coherent and complementary and include conservation policies for the traditional buildings within the historic areas of the City. The Plans should be prepared based on an assessment of the foreseeable socio-economic impacts of the conservation policies adopted by the State Party for the property on the local communities, as well as proposed mitigation measures;

5. Also requests the State Party to share drafts of the above-mentioned Plans with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, before their finalisation and enactment by the competent authorities;
6. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, **by 1 February 2009**, a report on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

78. World Heritage Properties in Beijing (China) (C 880 – C 881 – C 439 bis)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.78

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.63**, adopted at its 30th session (Vinius, 2006),
3. Notes the State Party's great efforts towards the restoration and enhancement of the World Heritage properties in Beijing, as well as for the organization of a Regional Symposium on Concepts and Practices of Conservation and Restoration of Historical Buildings in East Asia;
4. Expresses the wish that the outcome of the Symposium might contribute to strengthening the theoretical framework on which are based conservation decisions, notably as regards issues of authenticity, at the World Heritage properties;
5. Reiterates its request to the State Party to implement the recommendations made by the reactive monitoring mission of October 2005, and in particular to:
 - a) Develop appropriate Conservation Master Plans, in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM, integrating components on risk-preparedness and tourism management, for the World Heritage properties of the Temple of Heaven and the Summer Palace in Beijing,
 - b) Carry out a comparative study on the restoration of polychromy and ways to ensure its authenticity within East Asia in collaboration with countries such as Japan, Korea and Vietnam;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, **by 1 February 2009**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the World Heritage properties in Beijing, including information on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations mentioned in paragraph 5 above, for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

79. Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park (India) (C 1101)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.79

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7B.51**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005);
3. Notes the efforts of the State Party on its action in setting up the site-management authority proposed at its 29th session (Durban, 2005);
4. Taking note of the initiative taken by the State Party to finalize the draft Management Plan by **December 2007**;
5. Requests the State Party to submit a progress report on the preparation of its Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009**, for consideration at its 33rd session in 2009.

80. Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri (India) (C 251 – C 252 – C 255)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.80

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7B.59**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Endorses the State Party's Decision to develop two separate management plans, one for the Taj Mahal and the Agra Fort, and another one for Fatehpur Sikri;
4. Notes the progress that has been made by the State Party in the development of an integrated management plan for the Taj Mahal and the Agra Fort and for a Visitors Facilitation Centre;
5. Endorses the State Party's position not to re-nominate the three World Heritage properties in the Agra district as a single World Heritage property, and encourages it to continue its effort to ensure both site-specific as well as integrated management of the three properties;
6. Requests the State Party to provide the information to the World Heritage Centre concerning the boundaries and area of the three World Heritage properties in the Agra District, as requested by the World Heritage Centre within the framework of the Retrospective Inventory project in 2006;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit a progress report to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2010** for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

81. Group of Monuments at Hampi (India) (C 241)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.81

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.24**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes with satisfaction the substantial progress made by the State Party in strengthening management of the Hampi World Heritage property and in co-ordinating its innovative Integrated Management Plan with the Master Plan being developed for the property;
4. Requests the State Party to implement the full set of recommendations of the January 2007 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission report, especially as these pertain to the finalisation and implementation of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP), and the role, authority and necessary reinforcement of staffing and funding of the Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority;
5. Also requests the State Party, as stipulated by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), to appropriately address the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value as an amendment to the finalised IMP and to report on its progress to the Committee by **1 February 2008**;
6. Further requests the State Party to provide information to the World Heritage Centre on the limits and area of the World Heritage site of Hampi, as requested by the World Heritage Centre within the framework of the Retrospective Inventory project in 2006;
7. Finally requests the State Party to provide a report to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** concerning its progress in meeting the above-listed requests for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

82. Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodhgaya (India) (C 1056 Rev)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.82

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B;
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.64**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
3. Notes with satisfaction that the State Party has adopted the site management plan and the "Heritage led perspective development plan for Bodhgaya, Vision 2005-2031" and its continuing efforts to develop management mechanisms which fully and effectively integrate all stakeholders in protecting the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property;

4. Encourages the State Party to inform the World Heritage Committee concerning the following aspects of the implementation of the site management plan:
 - a) confirmation of the adoption of the Vision 2005-2031 development plan by the Gaya Region, in integrating relevant provisions of the site management plan;
 - b) commitment of the authorities to continue to enforce the ban on construction at the property;
5. Strongly urges the State Party to re-submit the property for inscription as a cultural landscape at the very earliest opportunity before the character of this important landscape, directly associated with both the life and wanderings of Buddha and the Mahabodhi Temple, is irretrievably lost;
6. Suggests that the State Party use the occasion of the resubmitted nomination to ensure national protection of the entire extended property;
7. Requests the State Party to submit a report to the World Heritage Centre on **1 February 2009** on its progress in responding to the requests made above, for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

83. Prambanan Temple Compounds (Indonesia) (C 642)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.83

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.60**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes with satisfaction the efforts made by the State Party towards the rehabilitation of the property, in co-operation with UNESCO and other international partners, following the earthquake of May 2006;
4. Recommends to the State Party to continue these efforts, in close co-ordination with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM, including by organizing periodical experts' meetings to review the progress of the rehabilitation works and identify appropriate strategies;
5. Encourages the international community to support the implementation of the Action Plan defined at the International Expert Meeting of March 2007;
6. Requests the State Party to submit a report on the state of conservation of the property by **1 February 2009**, with information on the progress made in the implementation of the above-mentioned Action Plan, for the consideration of the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

84. Borobudur Temple Compounds (Indonesia) (C 592)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.84

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.65**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes the State Party's strong commitment to the conservation of the property of Borobudur, particularly for its actions in preventing the adverse impact of development projects; improving interpretation and presentation of the site and developing strengthened conservation policies for the stone of the Temple;
4. Urges the State Party to continue its efforts towards a revision of the legal and institutional framework for the protection and management of the property and its surrounding area, notably by the elaboration of a new Presidential Decree developed through a preliminary consultation among all concerned parties, according to the concept outlined in the report of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission of 2006;
5. Requests the State Party to discontinue the practices that appear to have a negative impact on the stone of the Borobudur temple, notably the use of epoxy resin, steam cleaning and water repellents, and to continue the monitoring and research activities initiated in co-operation with the World Heritage Centre, with a view to incorporating a conservation/restoration strategy as part of the Management Plan;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, including information on the progress achieved in the implementation of paragraphs 4 and 5 above, for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

85. Historical Monuments of Thatta (Pakistan) (C 143)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.85

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.68**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Requests the State Party to submit a report which takes into account the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission, as well as on the progress made in the implementation of these recommendations to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009** for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

86. Archaeological Ruins at Moenjodaro (Pakistan) (C 138)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.86

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.69**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes with concern the significance of conservation and rehabilitation works still to be carried out at Moenjodaro and identified by the joint WHC/ICOMOS mission (December 2006), in particular the lack of clearly defined core and buffer zones of the property;
4. Requests the State Party, in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, to revise the Action Plan for Moenjodaro according to the recommendations made by the mission and to address as a matter of urgency all of the recommendations, giving priority to the following:
 - a) Redefine the core and buffer zones of the property and submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009** all necessary documentation for the extension of the property according to Paragraphs 163-166 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
 - b) Ensure the implementation of the conservation and rehabilitation programme;
 - c) Develop an excavation strategy for approval by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS before any further archaeological interventions are undertaken;
5. Requests the World Heritage Centre and, where appropriate, the Advisory Bodies ICOMOS and ICCROM, to assist and guide the State Party with the activities identified in the Action Plan;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit a detailed report on the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009** for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

87. Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz (Uzbekistan) (C 885)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.87

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.70**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes the steps taken by the State Party to prepare a framework for the “Management Plan for the Conservation and Rehabilitation of the Historical Centre of Shakhrisyabz”;
4. Requests the State Party to regularly report to the World Heritage Centre on the development and implementation of the management plan for the Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz, based on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and if necessary, to request expert assistance from ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

88. Kizhi Pogost (Russian Federation) (C 540)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.88

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.72**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes the two reports submitted by the State Party responding well to many of the requests made by the Committee over the last several years, as well as the results of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission to the Kizhi Pogost from 8 to 17 April 2007;
4. Notes the significant progress made in the management of the Kizhi Museum Reserve and the preparation of the restoration works of the Church of Transfiguration and encourages the State Party to continue its efforts;
5. Strongly requests the State Party to start immediately with the repair and restoration works of the Church of Transfiguration and to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **September 2007**:
 - a) The multi-year (2007 to 2014) financial plan;
 - b) The confirmation of fund systematically available for restoration works for the duration of the project;
 - c) The confirmation of necessary administrative arrangements concerning the delegation of authorities for the restoration works;
 - d) Information on the results of tender;
 - e) Information on finalization of working project documents including completed and approved conservation/restoration project schedule and selected working drawings;
 - f) The date of the beginning of the restoration works.
6. Requests the State Party to take into account all recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission;
7. Also requests the State Party to provide a statement of outstanding universal value, and commit itself to use this statement as a basis for developing an Integrated Management Plan for the property to incorporate in the framework of World Heritage property status, the outstanding universal value and its protection in the decision making framework for the restoration project;

8. Urges the State Party to revise and approve documents concerning protected areas of the Kizhi Museum Reserve including the boundaries of the World Heritage property of the Kizhi Pogost and its buffer zone;
9. Also urges the State Party to prepare and implement an integrated management plan, including a tourism strategy, risk preparedness measures and clear boundary and buffer zone definitions, and to co-ordinate the activities of the many different stakeholders and agencies involved with the overall management of the World Heritage property;
10. Recommends the World Heritage Centre, in coordination with ICOMOS and ICCROM, as well as the UNESCO Moscow Office, to establish a direct permanent contact with the Direction of the Kizhi Museum Reserve in order to develop capacity building programmes for local experts involving restoration and management activities in the Kizhi Museum Reserve; and continue a dialogue on the monitoring of the on-going development and progress of the project in order to ensure a smooth decision making and implementation process;
11. Further requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a progress report by **1 February 2008**, on all issues mentioned above including the draft of the integrated management plan for Kizhi Pogost and maps indicating the boundaries of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

89. Historic Areas of Istanbul (Turkey) (C 356)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.89

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.73**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Commends the efforts, progress and commitments made by the State Party in the implementation of the corrective measures to reduce threats to the site and improve management and conservation practices and for the preparation of the World Heritage Management Plan;
4. Welcomes the appointment of a Site Manager and Steering Committee for the property as a first step, and the establishment of a "UNESCO World Heritage Coordination Unit" in the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and a Focal Point for the World Heritage issues, as well as for the holding of the two international symposiums;
5. Regrets, however, that the State Party report does not provide information on impact studies for the new large-scale development projects, and information on effective measures for the safeguarding of the Ottoman-period timber structures in the core area of Zeyrek, which was one of the main concerns of the previous Committee sessions;
6. Requests the State Party:

- a) to continue to implement the Decision **30 COM 7B.73** as well as the recommendations and corrective measures to achieve the desired state of conservation established by the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission;
 - b) to finalise the integrated and comprehensive World Heritage management plan in compliance with the *Operational Guidelines*, including details of a new and effective management structure and buffer zone to protect the integrity of the property, by **1 February 2008** at the latest;
 - c) to provide the World Heritage Centre with information on impact studies, including Visual Impact Assessment, according to international standards for all new large-scale projects which may threaten the important views to and from the property and its buffer zone, including the Halic bridge across the Golden Horn, the proposed development project at Hydarpaşa, the Galataport project, the Dubai Towers, as well as the extension project for the Four Seasons Hotel over the archaeological remains of the Great Palace;
 - d) to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission in early 2008 to assess the state of conservation of the property and progress made in the finalisation of the World Heritage Site Management Plan and in the implementation of the corrective measures addressing the desired state of conservation, as requested by the Committee and the joint mission recommendations in 2006;
- 7) Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2008** a progress report including all issues indicated above to enable the World Heritage Committee to consider inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 32nd session in 2008.

90. Tower of London (United Kingdom) (C 488)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.90

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.74**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Expresses its appreciation for the actions taken by the State Party in response to the Committee's earlier requests; and takes note that a London View Management Framework will come into effect on 13 July 2007, while recognizing that the visual impact study requested by the Committee has not yet been finalized;
4. Encourages the State Party to adopt the policies set out in the Heritage Protection White Paper and urges the State Party to vigorously apply the concept of clustering of tall buildings so that they do not impact adversely on the Outstanding Universal Value of London World Heritage sites and by updating the site boundaries and buffer zones;

5. Requests the State Party to prepare and present to the World Heritage Committee a dynamic visual impact study for the World Heritage property in order to facilitate thorough and rapid assessment of future planning applications;
6. Acknowledges that the State Party has finalized the Management Plan for the Tower of London World Heritage property;
7. Requests, given the recent finalization of the Management Plan and of the London View Management Framework, that the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS review these documents to assess their effectiveness in ensuring the proper protection of the site's settings and vistas and report to the Committee at its 32nd session;
8. Takes note that the State Party has demonstrated its commitment to comply with the requests of the Committee (Decision **30 COM 7B.74**) to protect the World Heritage property, its setting and its vistas;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit a progress report to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

91. Westminster Palace, Westminster Abbey and Saint Margaret's Church (United Kingdom) (C 426)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.91

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.74**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Expresses its appreciation for the actions taken by the State Party in response to the Committee's earlier requests, and takes note that a London View Management Framework will come into effect on 13 July 2007, while recognizing that the visual impact study requested by the Committee has not yet been finalized;
4. Encourages the State Party to adopt the policies set out in the Heritage Protection White Paper and urges the State Party to vigorously apply the concept of clustering of tall buildings so that they do not impact adversely on the Outstanding Universal Value of London World Heritage sites and by updating the site boundaries and buffer zones ;
5. Requests the State Party to prepare and present to the World Heritage Committee a dynamic visual impact study for the World Heritage property in order to facilitate thorough and rapid assessment of future planning applications;
6. Also urges the State Party to review and adjust three proposed development schemes on the South Bank of the River Thames so as to ensure the visual integrity of the World Heritage property;

7. Acknowledges that the State Party has finalized the Management Plan for the Westminster World Heritage property;
8. Requests, given the recent submission of the Management Plan and of the London View Management Framework, that the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS review these documents to assess their effectiveness in ensuring the proper protection of the site's settings and vistas and report to the Committee at its 32nd session;
9. Takes note that the State Party has demonstrated its commitment to comply with the requests of the Committee (Decision **30 COM 7B.74**) to protect the World Heritage property and its setting and related vistas;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit a progress report to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

92. Butrint (Albania) (C570 bis)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.92

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **29 COM 7A.27** and **30 COM 7B.75**, adopted respectively at its 29th (Durban, 2005) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions,
3. Notes the up-dated report and the document "Management Plan 2007-2012" provided by the State Party and the results of the joint UNESCO-World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission of April 2007 and requests the Management Plan be completed to include proper plans for implementation;
4. Acknowledges the considerable efforts by the State Party to contribute to the improvements of the state of conservation of the property and its legal protection;
5. Endorses the recommendations made by the UNESCO-World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission of April 2007 and calls upon the State Party to give appropriate attention to their timely implementation;
6. Requests the State Party:
 - a) to ensure that a draft of the completed management and conservation plan of the area is submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review together with an interim report not later than by the end of 2008,
 - b) to take all necessary measures to prevent any illegal developments or inappropriate construction and uncontrolled growth within the proposed new boundaries, its buffer zone and the vicinity by closely collaborating with other relevant planning and development agencies.

7. Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a detailed implementation report on the issues addressed by the April 2007 joint mission, by **1 February 2009** for examination by its 33rd session in 2009.

93. Old Bridge Area of the Old City of Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina) (C 946 Rev)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.93

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.82**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Acknowledges that the works for the construction of the hotel were suspended immediately upon receipt of Decision **30 COM 7B.82**;
4. Encourages the State Party to continue the efforts towards identifying appropriate solutions to protect the Outstanding Universal Value and the integrity of the property;
5. Urges the State Party to continue examining the situation in order to find alternative solutions for the volume and the design of the hotel, in the spirit of the Vienna Memorandum "World Heritage and Contemporary Architecture, Managing the Historic Urban Landscape" (2005) and to minimize the negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and in conformity with the Management Plan of the World Heritage property, in collaboration with UNESCO and ICOMOS;
6. Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2008** on the state of conservation of the property and progress made with an alternative design of the construction project, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

94. Historic Centre of Prague (Czech Republic) (C 616)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.94

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add,
2. Expresses its serious concern about the proposed high-rise building projects within the buffer zone which potentially could impact on the visual integrity of the Historic Centre of Prague;
3. Requests the State Party to reconsider current building projects as to their impacts on the World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value, and also requests that any new construction projects respect the Outstanding Universal Value and important views to and from the property.

4. Recommends the State Party to conduct comparative studies in terms of sustainable management of historic towns in cooperation with the relevant Scientific Committees of the Advisory Bodies;
5. Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the property;
6. Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a detailed report by **1 February 2008**, on the state of conservation of the property, including the visual impact study and describing any steps undertaken in view of high-rise development for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

95. Historic Centre (Old Town) of Tallin (Estonia) (C 822)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.95

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.84**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Commends the State Party on its efforts to provide a comprehensive overview of all issues raised by the Committee during its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
4. Strongly encourages the State Party to prepare the comprehensive management plan for the property and its buffer zone requested by Decision **30 COM 7B.84**;
5. Urgently requests the State Party to challenge the State Court's decision to permit construction of new buildings on the section of the town wall between Suurtüki and Rannamäe Streets, on the basis of the obligations incurred through ratification of the *World Heritage Convention*;
6. Urges the City of Tallinn to halt any new construction projects and to modify its municipal planning mechanisms to ensure that planning proposals which may threaten the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property be rejected;
7. Also requests the State Party to provide a progress report to the World Heritage Centre on **1 February 2008** providing a response to the above requests for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

96. Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) (C 708)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.96

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7B.64**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Regrets the late submission of the state of conservation report by the State Party but notes substantive efforts in defining and establishing clear zones of protection;
4. Encourages the State Party to continue implementation of the integrated multi-stakeholder approach to the conservation of Jvari Monastery and urges the State Party in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to develop similar work programmes over the next ten years for the other monument complexes of the property;
5. Strongly urges the State Party to give highest priority to development of an integrated management plan for the site to be built with the full involvement and collaboration of all stakeholders based on the 2003 Masterplan;
6. Requests that the State Party invite a joint UNESCO-ICOMOS mission to assess the state of conservation of the property, including reconstructions, new developments and any impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value, authenticity and integrity of the property;
7. Also requests the State Party to provide a progress report to the World Heritage Centre on **1 February 2008** for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

97. Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery (Georgia) (C 710)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.97

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7B.75**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Regrets the late submission of the state of conservation report but notes the efforts of the State Party in reviewing the values, integrity and authenticity of the property;
4. Expresses serious concern about the continuing urgency of the problems described by the State Party report, and its inability to respond to these issues with appropriate managerial, institutional and financial measures;
5. Encourages the State Party to prepare, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS/ICCROM a 5 year work programme designed to address the major problems identified, for presentation to potential donors;
6. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission to assess the state of conservation of the property;
7. Strongly urges the State Party to initiate preparation of an integrated management plan for the World Heritage property, with the assistance of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

8. Also requests the State Party to provide a progress report to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

98. Old Town of Regensburg with Stadtamhof (Germany) (C 1155)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.98

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 8B.45**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), and that the property was inscribed in 2006 for its outstanding universal value as a trading, institutional and religious historic centre of the Holy Roman Empire,
3. Noting the Mayor of Regensburg's formal statement of July 2006 to ensure that the values of the property will be preserved,
4. Regrets that procedures in compliance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* were not taken into account;
5. Requests the State Party to provide details on the projects before any decisions have been taken;
6. Recommends that the Outstanding Universal Value and important views to and from the property be taken into account for any further decisions and planning processes regarding urban development in Regensburg;
7. Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2009**, on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

99. Historic Centre of Riga (Latvia) (C 852)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.99

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling its Decisions **28 COM 15B.74** and **29 COM 7B.78**, adopted at its 28th (Suzhou, 2004) and 29th (Durban, 2005) sessions respectively,
3. Acknowledges the information provided by the Latvian authorities on the adoption of the Preservation and Development Plan and the Building Regulations for the Historic Centre of Riga and its buffer zone, as well as on progress made in the "Conception Project" for regulating development of the left bank of the river Daugava;

4. Notes the State Inspection efforts for the on-going visual impact analysis of planned high-rise buildings in the buffer zone and urges the State Party to fully implement its results in order to prevent any negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and its buffer zone, as well as on important views to and from the property;
5. Also urges the State Party to further reinforce the current law on the preservation and protection of the Historic Centre of Riga by limiting the height of new constructions in the World Heritage core and buffer zones, and beyond, if necessary, in order to limit negative visual impacts on the Historic Centre's landscape;
6. Further urges the State Party, in close co-operation with the City authorities, to reinforce upstream planning and to carefully review all current and future projects in the core area and its buffer zone, and in particular to halt ongoing high rise projects and further inappropriate planning for the left side of the river Daugava, until a thorough and independent analysis of potential impacts on the values, authenticity and integrity of the Historic Centre has been undertaken and the "Conception Project" has been thoroughly revised;
7. Requests the State Party to undertake an overall visual impact study of the property and its setting in order to provide a framework for proposed new developments to ensure that they fully respect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
8. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the property, including the archaeological values of the site, in particular with regard to the proposed new development projects in the buffer zone on the left bank of the river Daugava;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit a report to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** on progress made with the "Conception Project" for the left side of the river Daugava, and to provide details on any projects which may have an impact on the visual integrity of the property, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008 **in view of the possibility of inclusion of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

100. Natural and Culturo-historical Region of Kotor (Montenegro) (C 125)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.100

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7B.84**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Noting with appreciation the results of the January 2006 workshop to assist in the management planning process and the collaboration between the State Party, ICOMOS, ICCROM, the World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Venice Office;
4. Acknowledging the finalization of the site management plan by the State Party in 2007;

5. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS mission with natural heritage expertise to the property to examine the suitability of the proposed bridge at Verige and its impacts on the cultural and landscape values of the property;
6. Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a state of conservation report on the property and a progress report on the implementation of the management plan by **1 February 2008** for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

101. Auschwitz Concentration Camp (Poland) (C 31)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.101

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.88**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes the progress made in the preparation of the Management Plan for the World Heritage property and in particular the international consultations undertaken in November and December 2006;
4. Commends the State Party for the high level of historic documentation of the site and its landscape, prepared by the local experts, as a basis for the Management Plan, together with the conservation efforts of the Site Director;
5. Expresses its concern for the lack of planning guidelines for the approved site and buffer zones, and the resulting deterioration of buildings associated with the Outstanding Universal Value of the site;
6. Regrets the delay in the submission by the State Party of the Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre as requested both at its 29th and 30th sessions;
7. Urges the State Party to take up its responsibilities at all levels of government and the local authorities to ensure the full implementation of the Management Plan;
8. Requests the State Party to provide an updated statement of Outstanding Universal Value and site boundaries reflecting this statement;
9. Also requests the State Party to provide the approved Management Plan and details of its implementation, including timeframe and responsibilities, to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

102. Historic Centre of St Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments (Russian Federation) (C 540)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.102

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.78**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes the results of the International Conference on the “Application of Scientific and Technological Achievements in Management and Preservation of Historic Cities Inscribed on the World Heritage List”, St Petersburg, 28 January – 3 February 2007;
4. Regrets that the maps submitted by the State Party dated 18 January 2007 and 5 March 2007, did not comply with the Committee’s request as they did not provide detailed boundaries and buffer zones of all components of the property, including Leningrad Region and urges the State Party to provide these maps by **1 February 2008** at the latest;
5. Strongly urges the State Party, at the earliest opportunity, to provide a detailed report on the Gazprom tower development project in order for the World Heritage Committee to evaluate the impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
6. Requests the State Party to stop any development, including the issuing of building permits, until all relevant materials have been reviewed and its impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property has been fully assessed;
7. Also requests the State Party to provide a state of conservation report, including details on the Gazprom project, which may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, to the World Heritage Centre on **1 February 2008** for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008 **in view of the possibility of inclusion of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

103. Kremlin and Red Square, Moscow (Russian Federation) (C 545)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.103

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **18 COM IX.20**, adopted at its 18th session (Phuket, 1994), and in particular “to be kept informed on any development in this World Heritage site”;
3. Urges the State Party to halt all demolition works within the boundary of the World Heritage property of the Kremlin and Red Square in Moscow or its buffer zone until a detailed assessment of any threats to the outstanding universal value, authenticity and integrity of this property is being carried out;

4. Requests the State Party to invite a World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM joint mission to the property to assess its state of conservation;
5. Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a detailed report by **1 February 2008** on the state of conservation of the property, including the information on the status and the likely impact on the authenticity and integrity of the property, of any demolition, reconstruction, and restoration works within the boundary of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone, as well as technical details concerning the structural stability of the historic buildings at the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

104. Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites (United Kingdom) (C 373)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.104

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7B.88**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Commends the national authorities for having improved the protection of archaeological sites by reversion of arable to grassland;
4. Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with the approved project for the visitor centre, and encourages the State Party to advance the implementation of the visitor centre in order to preserve and improve the integrity of the property;
5. Regrets that there has been no progress made in the implementation of the “A303 Stonehenge Improvement” scheme, and urges the State Party to find an appropriate solution compatible with the outstanding universal value of the property;
6. Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a detailed report by **1 February 2008** on progress made in the selection process of the “A303 Stonehenge Improvement” scheme, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

105. Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg (Austria) (C 784)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.105

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7B.72**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Noting the progress made in the preparation of the management plan for the property,

4. Recalls the need to enforce specific policies aimed at protecting the historic urban fabric and structure at the national level;
5. Encourages further consultation processes for the train station project and other urban development projects that may affect the outstanding universal value of the property;
6. Recommends that the Vienna Memorandum on “World Heritage and Contemporary Architecture, Managing the Historic Urban Landscape” (2005) be taken into account for any further decisions and planning processes regarding urban development in Salzburg;
7. Requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of any new construction and renovation and to provide two copies of the management plan to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** for review.

106. City of Graz – Historic Centre (Austria) (C 931)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.106

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.76**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes with satisfaction that the State Party has submitted a management plan and a master plan for the World Heritage property;
4. Encourages the State Party to continue the implementation of the mission’s recommendations, in accordance with the Vienna Memorandum “World Heritage and Contemporary Architecture, Managing the Historic Urban Landscape” (2005);
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre an updated report on the current situation and on any major development projects by **1 February 2009** for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

107. Fertő / Neusiedlersee Cultural Landscape (Austria/Hungary) (C 772 Rev)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.107

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Notes the results of the February 2007 mission to the World Heritage property, and in particular the positive outcome with a compromise to lower the height of the proposed hotel project near Parndorf from 73m to 47.2m;

3. Also notes that even at this lower height the hotel should not set a precedent for future development;
4. Welcomes the proposed introduction of new zoning regulations to protect the setting of the World Heritage property from adverse development and further notes that such regulations will be based on an appraisal of the visual and cultural qualities of the property's setting;
5. Also welcomes the organisation of a seminar on management and protection for stakeholders;
6. Requests the States Parties to provide the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, with a state of conservation report on the property and progress achieved in the implementation of zoning regulations and the introduction of supplementary strategies for the development and protection of vernacular buildings in the Management Plan, for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

108. Belfries of Belgium and France (Belgium/France) (C 943 bis)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.108

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling the provisions set out in paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, as well as those of the Vienna Memorandum on « World Heritage and Contemporary Architecture – Management of the Historic Urban Landscape » (2005),
3. Expresses its concern with regard to the construction project for a covered market at the foot of the World Heritage property of the Béthune Belfry (France) and located in the buffer zone of the property;
4. Requests the French State Party to improve the existing legislation in order to guarantee satisfactory legal protection and authorization procedures adapted to the status of the World Heritage property;
5. Also requests the French State Party to provide as soon as possible but at the latest by **1 February 2008**, detailed information demonstrating that this project does not affect the Outstanding Universal Value, as well as the visual integrity, of the Belfry and its surroundings (visual impact evaluation) before any irreversible decision is taken, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

109. Historic Centre of Cesky Krumlov (Czech Republic) (C 617)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.109

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.83**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes the State Party's commitment of 24 January 2007 to move the theatre from the garden of the summerhouse, as well as to revise the timetable for this transfer;
4. Notes with serious concern that the work of dismantling the revolving stage is scheduled to end only in 2016, and that the State Party plans to continue using this space for open-air theatre activities, and to ensure the continuity of the summer theatre life while awaiting the installation that will completely replace the existing revolving amphitheatre;
5. Requests the State Party to review the work plan timetable in order to considerably advance the date for dismantling the theatre in the summerhouse garden and its transfer to the adjacent buffer zone;
6. Recalls that in accordance with paragraph 119 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the State Party and its partners must ensure that a sustainable use has no negative impact on the outstanding universal value, integrity and/or authenticity of the property;
7. Also requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, an up-dated report on the progress made on the measures taken in this regard and on the state of conservation of the property, including guidelines for the use of the monuments within the Historic Centre of Cesky Krumlov, for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

110. Cologne Cathedral (Germany) (C 292 Rev)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.110

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **29 COM 7A.29** and **30 COM 7A.30**, adopted at its 29th (Durban, 2005) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions respectively,
3. Notes with satisfaction the urban planning consultation process undertaken for the development of the Deutz area and recalls the need to take into account the recommendations of the Vienna Memorandum on World Heritage and Contemporary Architecture, Managing the Historic Urban Landscape (2005);

4. Takes notes that a buffer zone, including the right bank of the river, has been proposed, and urges the State Party to submit it officially in accordance with the *Operational Guidelines* by **1 February 2008**;
5. Also urges the State Party to present details of appropriate protective measures for the buffer zone;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre an updated report by **1 February 2008** on the final decision concerning the proposals of urban development in the Deutz area for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

111. Classical Weimar (Germany) (C 846)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.111

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7B.76**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Notes with appreciation the considerable effort made by the German Authorities to restore the Duchess Anna Amalia Library;
4. Encourages the State Party to define an appropriate risk prevention strategy for the property, and requests that it keep the World Heritage Centre informed on any progress made in this regard.

112. Rock Drawings in Valcamonica (Italy) (C 94)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.112

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7B.65**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Welcomes the finalisation of the management plan for the World Heritage property;
4. Regrets that the State Party did not provide the requested progress report;
5. Urges the State Party clearly to define the core and buffer zones of the property and submit them to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with the *Operational Guidelines*;
6. Requests the State Party to provide an updated report by **1 February 2009** on the state of conservation of the property and on all actions taken in response to the

recommendations of the 2004 mission for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

113. City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto (Italy) (C 712 bis)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.113

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **29 COM 7B.66** and **30 COM 7B.85**, adopted at its 29th (Durban, 2005) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions respectively,
3. Acknowledges the efforts made by the authorities to establish specific protection measures and in preparing the management plan;
4. Welcomes the progress made in addressing concerns raised by the 2005 mission with a series of technical solutions proposed for the minimization of the visual impacts of the highway project;
5. Recalls its previous requests for finalizing the management plan and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009**, the final version of the management plan for the World Heritage property, including conservation plans and buffer zones, as well as an updated report for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

114. Curonian Spit (Lithuania / Russian Federation) (C 994)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.114

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7B.67** and **30 COM 7B.87** adopted at its 29th (Durban, 2005) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions respectively,
3. Notes with appreciation the report submitted by the Lithuanian State Party on the general state of conservation of the property, including information on the Lithuanian and Russian cooperation with regard to the implementation of the joint post-project Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), the signing of the bilateral Agreement Concerning Co-operation in Case of Pollution accidents, Pollution Prevention/Mitigation and Compensation Measures, and the Joint Lithuanian and Russian Action Plan for Co-operation Plan in case of pollution accidents in the Baltic Sea;
4. Deeply regrets that after having recognised the necessity of bilateral agreements and increased bilateral co-operation between Lithuania and the Russian Federation in

response to threats from the D-6 oil field project, and despite the commitment of both States Parties in 2006, the co-operation has drastically slowed down;

5. Urges both States Parties to sign as soon as possible the Agreement Concerning Co-operation in Case of Pollution Accidents, Pollution Prevention/Mitigation and Compensation Measures, and the Joint Lithuanian and Russian Action Plan for Co-operation Plan in case of pollution accidents in the Baltic Sea;
6. Requests both States Parties to provide the World Heritage Centre with a joint and updated report, by **1 February 2008**, on the status of implementation of the joint post-project EIA and activities agreed to under the Action Plan, especially regarding the signature of the bilateral Agreement Concerning Co-operation in Case of Pollution Accidents, Pollution Prevention/Mitigation and Compensation Measures, and the Cooperation Plan in Case of Pollution Accidents in the Baltic Sea, as well as a detailed analysis of the impact of the sewage spill incident, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

115. The Megalithic Temples of Malta (Malta) (C 132 bis)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.115

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7B.80**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Commends the State Party for the continuing efforts to improve the state of conservation of the Megalithic Temples, and in particular in enhancing monitoring activities, conservation actions at the sites, and advances made for adequate visitor facilities, and asks that actions to address illegal construction be continued and enforced;
4. Requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre with detailed designs and drawings of the visitor centres, protective shelters, as well as of walkways, before the implementation of any of these projects;
5. Urges the State Party to finalise the Management Plan in accordance with Decision **29 COM 7B.80** paragraph 4, and also requests the State Party to submit three copies of the plan by **1 February 2008** to the World Heritage Centre.

116. Cultural Landscape of Sintra (Portugal) (C 723)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.116

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.89**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Welcomes the State Party's decision to clearly designate a management entity (Parques de Sintra-Monte da Lua - PSML) that is supported both politically and financially by all public territorial institutions concerned;
4. Commends the State Party for having provided a concise Action Plan for the period 2007-2009;
5. Requests the State Party to adopt improved measures to control urban encroachment in the core and buffer zones of the World Heritage property;
6. Also requests the State Party to ensure the continuous political and financial support of the site management entity so as to advance the preparations and elaboration of the World Heritage Site Management Plan for 2010-2014;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre an updated report by **1 February 2009** on the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

117. Historic Centre of Sighisoara (Romania) (C 902)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.117

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7B.82**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Takes note of the information from the State Party concerning the restoration and rehabilitation works accomplished, as well as the current projects and studies;
4. Regrets the very late submission of the report and that the State Party has not provided detailed information on the state of conservation of the property as a whole;
5. Urges the State Party to finalise and establish the Protection and Management Plan for the property, including the Technical Manual for Restoration, Rehabilitation and Construction;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** an updated and detailed report, including the Protection and Management Plan for the site, to be examined by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

118. Old Town of Avila with its Extra-Muros Churches (Spain) (C 348 Rev)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.118

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.79**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Acknowledges the progress made to improve the level of legal protection for World Heritage properties in Castilla y Leon so as to ensure that the values and integrity be better conserved and repetition of similar threats to the integrity and authenticity of the World Heritage property be avoided in the future;
4. Notes that the State Party has submitted detailed maps presenting the boundaries of the property and its buffer zones, and is preparing a proposal to modify these in order to give greater coherence to the property;
5. Also notes that the State Party has now presented a time-frame for the creation of an integrated management plan for the property and has indicated that, in developing this plan, it will take fully into account the "Vienna Memorandum on World Heritage and Contemporary Architecture, Managing the Historic Urban Landscape" (2005);
6. Urges the State Party to ensure that all stakeholders, including the local community, are encouraged to take part in the consultation process for the integrated management plan for the property;
7. Requests the State Party to submit a progress report and the draft integrated management plan to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2010** for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

119. Old City of Salamanca (Spain) (C 381 Rev)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.119

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **29 COM 7B.86** and **30 COM 7B.92**, adopted at its 29th (Durban, 2005) and its 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions respectively,
3. Regrets that the State Party's report on the state of conservation of the property was not submitted in time in one of the working languages;
4. Notes that efforts are being made to ensure better coordination and control of the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* through agreements between the responsible national, regional and local levels;

5. Also notes the preparation of terms of reference for a future integrated management plan;
6. Further regrets that the General Plan for Urban Development (Plan General de Ordenacion Urbana) was adopted without prior informing the World Heritage Centre and recalls the State Party's obligations under Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
7. Encourages the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of all urban development projects in the core and buffer zone of the World Heritage property that may affect its outstanding universal value, authenticity and integrity, and urges the authorities to halt the refurbishment project at the Huerto de las Adoratrices until the results of an international consultation process are available;
8. Requests the State Party to ensure as soon as possible the organisation of the training and information seminar on management of Spanish World Heritage cities (Decision 30 COM 7B.92);
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre an updated report by **1 February 2009** on the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan and the seminar for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

120. L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre (Ukraine) (C 865)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.120

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7B.87**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Notes the State Party's efforts in improving the management structure and planning process;
4. Urges the State Party to complete the revision of the Master Plan for the World Heritage property;
5. Also notes the State Party's proposal to create a Training Centre on the protection, preservation and promotion of cultural heritage and encourages the authorities to cooperate with ICCROM in this regard taking into account the Global Training Strategy;
6. Requests the State Party to submit the topographic maps indicating the exact boundaries of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone as inscribed on the World Heritage List;
7. Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2009** for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

121. Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City (United Kingdom) (C 1150)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.121

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.93**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes the conclusions of the World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission to the property of October 2006 and in particular that the outstanding universal value of the site is not threatened although a number of visual integrity as well as management issues have been raised, including the:
 - a) Overall management of new developments;
 - b) Lack of analysis and description of the townscape characteristics relevant to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and important views related to the property and its buffer zone;
 - c) Lack of clearly established maximum heights for new development, for the backdrops of the World Heritage areas as well as along the waterfront;
 - d) Lack of awareness of developers, building professionals and the wider public about the World Heritage property, its outstanding universal value and requirements under the *World Heritage Convention*;
4. Also notes the State Party's report and its reference to the Management Plan of 2004 and specifically requests the State Party to:
 - a) clearly establish and respect prescribed heights;
 - b) adhere to the townscape characteristics, wider values (building density, urban patterns and materials) and sense of place;
 - c) inform the general public about the outstanding universal value of the property and its management;
5. Regrets that the Design Briefs for new development do not take into account the Outstanding Universal Value, integrity and authenticity of the property, and requests the State Party to fully take them into account in future briefs;
6. Further notes that further guidance is required on the definitions of the conditions of integrity for cultural properties as indicated in Chapter II E (Paragraph 89 footnote) of the *Operational Guidelines*, and requests the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to work together towards the explanatory text for inclusion at the next revision of the *Operational Guidelines*;
7. Welcomes the offer of the United Kingdom to support the elaboration of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Conservation of the Historic Urban Landscape with a case study analysis;
8. Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an update report by **1 February 2008** on progress made on a stricter planning control, a set of supplementary planning documents and a timetable for the implementation of the works for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

122. Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo (Panama) (C 135)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.122

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **28 COM 15B.118** and **29 COM 7B.94**, adopted at its 28th (Suzhou, 2004) and 29th (Durban, 2005) sessions respectively,
3. Urges the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Committee a comprehensive progress report of the state of advancement of the interventions implemented, and foreseen, in the framework of the World Monuments Fund project by **1 February 2008**;
4. Reiterates its invitation to the State Party to submit a request for International Assistance, in particular to support the development of a management plan for the World Heritage property;
5. Thanks the Spanish Government for undertaking the American Fortifications Programme and thanks the Government of Mexico for its offer to assist technically the Panamanian authorities in improving the state of conservation of the property through bilateral cooperation assisted by the World Heritage Centre.
6. Requests the State Party to submit the territorial planning project mentioned in the report by **1 February 2008**;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a progress report by **1 February 2008** for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

123. Historical Centre of the City of Arequipa (Peru) (C 1016)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.123

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7B.97**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Regrets that the State of Conservation report was not submitted in one of the working languages of the *World Heritage Convention*;
4. Urges the State Party to finalise and fully implement the Disaster Preparedness Plan;

5. Invites the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Committee details of proposed projects affecting historic buildings such as Casa Andina, Tambo de la Cabezona and Casa Polar by **1 October 2007**, according to Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, for consideration by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS;
6. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property, if appropriate, following the assessment of project plans;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2008**, a progress report on the advances made in the implementation of the Disaster Preparedness Plan for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

124. San Agustín Archaeological Park (Colombia) (C 744)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.124

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Endorses the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission of November 2006;
3. Requests the State Party to implement the recommendations made by the reactive monitoring mission and particularly to:
 - a) Develop an effective management plan within the framework of a participatory, value-driven approach
 - b) Identify precise limits and buffer zones for the sites inscribed in the World Heritage List and requests the State Party to formally submit the proposed new boundaries to the buffer zone for approval by the World Heritage Committee. Such submission should include appropriate cartography as well as the legal framework;
 - c) Define adequate uses for the existing infrastructure at the properties;
 - d) Close down the built road and forbid vehicular traffic, developing an interpretative walkway to communicate the indigenous settlement and promote its visitation and invites the State Party to submit alternative options to improve the road system for local communities;
 - e) Continue work and close collaboration with national and municipal authorities, as well as involved stakeholders, to control development at the site and anticipate potential impacts on the World Heritage Property.
4. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the progress made on the above points for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

125. Colonial City of Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic) (C 526)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.125

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.94**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes the progress in the development of a fully integrated approach to risk management;
4. Requests the State Party to formally submit any proposed modifications to the buffer zone for approval by the World Heritage Committee. Such submission should include appropriate cartography as well as the legal framework;
5. Invites the State Party to provide the current draft of the new law for the protection of immovable heritage for consideration by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS;
6. Requests the State Party provide a progress report to the World Heritage Centre on the details of development control for the new buffer zone by **1 February 2009**, for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

126. Maya Site of Copán (Honduras) (C 120)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.126

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **29 COM 7B.90** and **30 COM 7B.95**, adopted at its 29th (Durban, 2005) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions respectively,
3. Also recalling the recommendations of the previous monitoring missions of 1999, 2003 and 2005,
4. Notes with satisfaction that the State Party has decided not to proceed with the construction of the planned airport at Rio Amarillo Valley, and invites the State Party to submit by **1 February 2008** details of plans for the alternative airport site for consideration by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS;
5. Encourages the State Party to identify funding in order to conduct the Public Use Study for the conservation, presentation and management of the future Rio Amarillo Archaeological Park and to complement the already existent management plan for the Archaeological site of Copán, which is under review,
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2008**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and on the progress made

in the review of the management plan for the property, for the examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

127. Pre-Hispanic City of Teotihuacan (Mexico) (C414)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.127

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7B.91**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Committee a detailed progress report of the state of progress of the participation process within the framework of the development of the Management Plan by **30 October 2007**, with pertinent information on the institutions and agents involved, as well as the methodology applied in the process;
4. Invites the State Party to integrate the outcomes of the activities undertaken within the framework of the Awareness Raising Campaign and the tourism planning activities designed for the spring equinox, as a basis for the development of a Public Use Plan of the property, and to take into consideration these aspects in the preparation of the Management Plan;
5. Expresses its concern at the apparent uncontrolled urban development in and around the protected area and urges the State Party to set up an intersectorial working group at local, federal and national levels to analyze the archaeological, environmental and social impacts related to uncontrolled urban development, as well as the developments in the Valley of Teotihuacan;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a progress report on the urban development plan for the Valley, as well as on the progress in the preparation of the Management Plan by **1 February 2008** for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

128. Historic Centre of Mexico City and Xochimilco (Mexico) (C 412)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.128

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.96**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes the impressive efforts the State Party has made for the completion of the Management Plan for the property, which helps to address key issues for its conservation and management, through a participatory process;

4. Also notes with satisfaction the role played by the UNESCO Office in Mexico as the facilitator of negotiations among the various stakeholders as a catalytic tool for the harmonious momentum and the agreement reached;
5. Urges the State Party to create a Management Unit in Xochimilco to implement the Management Plan by **1 November 2007** and requests the UNESCO Mexico Office to continue facilitating the exchange of advice and providing continuity for the participatory process until this new unit is set up;
6. Requests the State Party to increase collaboration with the Advisory Bodies of the *Convention* within the framework of the implementation of the studies undertaken by Mexican universities;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009**, a progress report from the State Party on the implementation of the Management Plan for examination at its 33rd session in 2009.

129. Chavín Archaeological Site (Peru) (C 330)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.129

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Regrets that the State of Conservation report was not submitted in one of the working languages of the *World Heritage Convention*;
3. Notes that in light of Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, no detail has been submitted for the construction of the Chavín National Museum project, in order that the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS might evaluate its potential impact on the property and therefore, invites the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the draft Emergency Plan and the Chavín Conservation project;
4. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, the completed Management Plan for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

130. Lines and Geoglyphs of Nasca and Pampas de Jumana (Peru) (C 700)

Decision: 31 COM 7B.130

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **29 COM 7B.98** and **30 COM 7B.99**, adopted at its 29th (Durban, 2005) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions respectively,

3. Encourages the State Party to implement the new Integrated Plan, and in particular, the Management Plan for completion by **2008**, within the framework of the National Programme for the Recuperation of Historic and Archaeological Monuments with a view to ensuring the conservation of the integrity of the World Heritage property;
4. Requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the details of the construction of the roads, provisional or not, as well as of developments concerning the Project for the construction of a National Airport in the area, in accordance to Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
5. Also requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre, by **30 October 2007**, of the progress achieved concerning the illegal settlements in the area of La Pascana;
6. Further requests the State Party to submit a detailed report on the progress achieved in the implementation of the above recommendations to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

FORMAT FOR THE SUBMISSION OF STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS BY THE STATES PARTIES

Decision 31 COM 7B.131

The World Heritage Centre,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/7A, WHC-07/31.COM/7A.Add, WHC-07/31.COM/7A.Add.2, WHC-07/31.COM/7B, WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add, WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decisions **27 COM 7B.106** and **29 COM 7C**, adopted at its 27th (UNESCO, 2003) and 29th (Durban, 2005) sessions respectively,
3. Invites the States Parties to use the following format for the submission to the World Heritage Centre of their report(s) on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties:

Format for preparing a State Party's Report for World Heritage properties
Designed following the Advisory Bodies / World Heritage Centre meeting
of 25-26 January 2007

Name of World Heritage property (State Party) (Identification number)

1. Response from the State Party to the World Heritage Committee's Decision, paragraph by paragraph
[Note: this information has to refer to developments over the past year or since the last decision of the Committee for this property]

or

1. In case the property is inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:
 - a) Corrective measures taken by the State Party in reply to the World Heritage Committee's Decision(s)
 - b) Progress towards the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
 - c) If needed, please describe the success factors or difficulties in implementing the corrective measures identified
[Note: please, provide factual information, including exact dates, figures etc. and provide comments separately]
 - d) Is the timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures suitable? If not, please propose a justified alternative.

In all cases:

2. Other current conservation issues identified by the State Party
[Note: conservation issues which are not mentioned in the Decision of the World Heritage Committee or any information request from the World Heritage Centre]
3. In conformity with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, please describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) within the protected area (core zone and buffer zone and/or corridors) that might be envisaged.

8. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST AND THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

8A TENTATIVE LISTS OF THE STATES PARTIES SUBMITTED AS OF 31 MARCH 2007 IN CONFORMITY WITH THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

Decision: 31 COM 8A.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/8A,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 9**, paragraph 9, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Decides to approve the amended format and the new procedure for Tentative Lists as presented in Annex 1 and in paragraph I.6 of this document.

Decision: 31 COM 8A.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/8A,
2. Takes note of the Tentative Lists as amended in Annexes 3 and 4 of this document,
3. Recognizing the importance of Comparative Analysis and Transnational Serial nominations, requests the Advisory Bodies to continue to develop thematic studies to guide the States Parties in their tentative listing and nominations. The pro-active ICOMOS Report on Cultural Landscapes of the Pacific Islands is a model for this assistance.

Decision: 31 COM 8A.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31COM/8A,
2. Reaffirming that Tentative Lists are instrumental for planning purposes and for comparative analysis of properties to be nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List,
3. Stressing the importance of assistance by the World Heritage Centre, at countries' request, in the development of Tentative Lists,
4. Requests the World Heritage Centre, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, to propose a revision of Part II. C ("Tentative Lists") of the *Operational Guidelines*, in order to clarify the procedures of technical analysis by the World Heritage Centre and to ensure that properties proposed on the Tentative Lists are consistent with properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List;
5. Further requests the World Heritage Centre to present to the World Heritage Committee, at its 32nd session in 2008, a proposal in this regard.

8B. NOMINATIONS OF PROPERTIES TO THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

8B.I. CHANGES TO NAMES OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

Decision: 31 COM 8B.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/8B,
2. Approves the proposed name change to the Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves (Australia) as proposed by the Australian authorities. The name of the property becomes **Gondwana Rainforests of Australia** in English and **Les forêts humides Gondwana de l'Australie** in French.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/8B,
2. Approves the proposed name change to Islamic Cairo as proposed by the Egyptian authorities. The name of the property becomes **Historic Cairo** in English and **Le Caire historique** in French.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/8B,
2. Approves the proposed name change to the Archaeological Site of Epidaurus as proposed by the Greek authorities. The name of the property becomes **Sanctuary of Asklepios at Epidaurus** in English and **Sanctuaire de Asklepios en Epidaure** in French.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/8B,
2. Approves the proposed name change to Archaeological Site of Vergina as proposed by the Greek authorities. The name of the property becomes **Archaeological Site of Aigai (modern name Vergina)** in English and **Site archéologique de Aigai (nom moderne Vergina)** in French.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/8B,
2. Approves the proposed name change to Mystras as proposed by the Greek authorities. The name of the property becomes **Archaeological Site of Mystras** in English and **Site archéologique de Mystras** in French.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/8B,
2. Approves the proposed name change to Monasteries of Daphni, Hosios Loukas and Nea Moni of Chios as proposed by the Greek authorities. The name of the property becomes **Monasteries of Daphni, Hosios Loukas and Nea Moni of Chios** in English and **Monastères de Daphni, de Hosios Loukas et Nea Moni de Chios** in French.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/8B,
2. Approves the proposed name change to I Sassi di Matera as proposed by the Italian authorities. The name of the property becomes the **The Sassi and the park of the Rupestrian Churches of Matera** in English and **Les Sassi et le parc des églises rupestres de Matera** in French.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/8B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 8B.12**,
3. Taking note of the renewed request for a name change for Auschwitz Concentration Camp (Poland) by the Polish authorities,
4. Welcoming the international consultation meeting which brought together eminent personalities and international experts on 12 March 2007 at UNESCO Headquarters,
5. Noting the results of the international consultation meeting and in particular the proposed statement of significance and the recommended name change,
6. Approves the following Statement of Significance for the property:

Auschwitz-Birkenau was the principal and most notorious of the six concentration and extermination camps established by Nazi Germany to implement its Final Solution policy which had as its aim the mass murder of the Jewish people in Europe. Built in Poland under Nazi German occupation initially as a concentration camp for Poles and later for Soviet prisoners of war, it soon became a prison for a number of other nationalities. Between the years 1942-1944 it became the main mass extermination camp where Jews were tortured and killed for their so-called racial origins. In addition to the mass murder of well over a million Jewish men, women and children, and tens of thousands of Polish victims, Auschwitz also served as a camp for the racial murder of thousands of Roma and Sinti and prisoners of several European nationalities.

The Nazi policy of spoliation, degradation and extermination of the Jews was rooted in a racist and anti-Semitic ideology propagated by the Third Reich.

Auschwitz-Birkenau was the largest of the concentration camp complexes created by the Nazi German regime and was the one which combined extermination with forced labour. At the centre of a huge landscape of human exploitation and suffering, the remains of the two camps of Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II-Birkenau, as well as its Protective Zone were placed on the World Heritage List as evidence of this inhumane, cruel and methodical effort to deny human dignity to groups considered inferior, leading to their systematic murder. The camps are a vivid testimony to the murderous nature of the anti-Semitic and racist Nazi policy that brought about the annihilation of more than 1.2 million people in the crematoria, 90% of whom were Jews.

The fortified walls, barbed wire, railway sidings, platforms, barracks, gallows, gas chambers and crematoria at Auschwitz-Birkenau show clearly how the Holocaust, as well as the Nazi German policy of mass murder and forced labour took place. The collections at the site preserve the evidence of those who were premeditatedly murdered, as well as presenting the systematic mechanism by which this was done. The personal items in the collections are testimony to the lives of the victims before they were brought to the extermination camps, as well as to the cynical use of their possessions and remains. The site and its landscape has high levels of authenticity and integrity since the original evidence has been carefully conserved without any unnecessary restoration.

Criterion (vi) - be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal value

Auschwitz – Birkenau, monument to the deliberate genocide of the Jews by the Nazi regime (Germany 1933-1945) and to the deaths of countless others bears irrefutable evidence to one of the greatest crimes ever perpetrated against humanity. It is also a monument to the strength of the human spirit which in appalling conditions of adversity resisted the efforts of the German Nazi regime to suppress freedom and free thought and to wipe out whole races. The site is a key place of memory for the whole of humankind for the holocaust, racist policies and barbarism; it is a place of our collective memory of this dark chapter in the history of humanity, of transmission to younger generations and a sign of warning of the many threats and tragic consequences of extreme ideologies and denial of human dignity.

7. Based on the Statement of Significance, further approves the name change to the following: **Auschwitz Birkenau** as title and **German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp (1940-1945)** as subtitle;

8. Taking into account Decision **31 COM 7B.88**, urges the State Party to ensure the implementation of the management plan for the property by authorities at all levels;
9. Appeals to all States Parties to send web-links of their educational and information material to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in order to enhance understanding of its significance in the collective memory of humanity as a sign of warning of the many threats and consequences of extreme ideologies and the denial of human dignity.

8B.II NOMINATIONS OF NATURAL, MIXED AND CULTURAL PROPERTIES TO THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

Decision: 31 COM 8B.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.2,
2. Inscribes the **Rainforests of the Atsinanana, Madagascar**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ix) and (x)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

The Rainforests of the Atsinanana are a serial property comprising six components. They contain globally outstanding biodiversity and have an exceptional proportion of endemic plant and animal species. The level of endemism within the property is approximately 80 to 90 percent for all groups, and endemic families and genera are common. The serial property comprises a representative selection of the most important habitats of the unique rainforest biota of Madagascar, including many threatened and endemic plant and animal species.

Criterion (ix): The Rainforests of the Atsinanana are relict forests, largely associated with steeper terrain along the eastern escarpment and mountains of Madagascar. The protected areas included in this serial property have become critically important for maintaining ongoing ecological processes necessary for the survival of Madagascar's unique biodiversity. This biodiversity reflects Madagascar's geological history and geographic placement. It is the world's fourth largest island and has been separated from all other land masses for at least 60-80 million years and thus most of its plant and animal life has evolved in isolation. These forests have also offered important refuge for species during past periods of climate change and will be essential for the adaptation and survival of species in the light of future climate change.

Criterion (x): The level of endemism within the property is approximately 80 to 90 percent for all groups, and endemic families and genera are common. Madagascar is among the top countries known for their "megadiversity" and features an extraordinarily high number (circa 12,000) of endemic plant species. The property is also globally significant for fauna, especially primates, with all five families of Malagasy primates, all endemic lemur families, seven endemic genera of Rodentia, six endemic genera of Carnivora, as well as several species of Chiroptera represented. Of the 123 species of non-flying mammals in Madagascar (72 of which are on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species), 78 occur within the property. The critical importance of the property is underlined by the fact that deforestation has left eastern Madagascar with only 8.5

percent of its original forests and the property protects key areas of this remaining habitat.

All components of the serial property are formally protected as national parks and have management plans in place. Key management issues include effective control of agricultural encroachment and resource exploitation from logging, hunting, and gem mining. These issues require the implementation of clear and coordinated management strategies to manage the components of this serial property as a single entity. Also, coordinated planning and management of this serial property with adjacent protected areas and forest corridors is required, for which additional financial and human resources need to be obtained. There is potential for further extension of the property to include adjacent protected areas and forest corridors once they meet the conditions of integrity.

4. Commends the State Party for its significant and encouraging efforts to protect the rainforests of Madagascar;
5. Requests the State Party to submit a detailed topographic map showing the revised boundary of the property following the exclusion of identified components originally included in this serial nomination;
6. Recommends the State Party to:
 - a) Consider this as Phase 1 of a larger World Heritage nomination which could be brought forward when conditions of integrity are adequately met. Subsequent phases should be based on a review of potential future addition of appropriately protected areas of high nature conservation value to the property, with priority to those major tracts of land presently forming corridors of natural forest between existing reserves within the property;
 - b) Progressively increase the level of staffing and resources within all reserves within the property and also develop a long term strategy for financing of all reserves within a larger World Heritage nomination, as well as adequate financing for management of corridors between existing reserves within the property;
 - c) Develop a proactive community development programme, which would support socio-economic activities outside of the existing reserves to reduce pressures for resource exploitation within the property; and
 - d) Further develop and implement strategies to reduce the impact of illegal logging and small scale gem mining within the property.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.10

The nomination of **Prince Edward Islands, South Africa**, was withdrawn at the request of the concerned State Party.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.2,

2. Inscribes the **South China Karst, China**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (vii) and (viii)**:
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

South China is unrivalled for the diversity of its karst features and landscapes. The property includes specifically selected areas that are of outstanding universal value to protect and present the best examples of these karst features and landscapes. South China Karst is a coherent serial property comprising three clusters, Libo Karst and Shilin Karst, each with two components, and Wulong Karst with three components.

Criterion (vii): South China Karst represents one of the world's most spectacular examples of humid tropical to subtropical karst landscapes. The stone forests of Shilin are considered superlative natural phenomena and the world reference site for this type of feature. The cluster includes the Naigu stone forest occurring on dolomitic limestone and the Suyishan stone forest arising from a lake. Shilin contains a wider range of pinnacle shapes than other karst landscapes with pinnacles, and a higher diversity of shapes and colours that change with different weather and light conditions. The cone and tower karsts of Libo, also considered the world reference site for these types of karsts, form a distinctive and beautiful landscape. Wulong includes giant collapse depressions, called Tiankeng, and exceptionally high natural bridges between which are long stretches of very deep unroofed caves. These spectacular karst features are of world class quality.

Criterion (viii): Both Shilin and Libo are global reference areas for the karst features and landscapes that they exhibit. Major developments in the stone forests of Shilin occurred over some 270 million years during four major geological time periods from the Permian to present, illustrating the episodic nature of the evolution of these karst features. Libo contains carbonate outcrops of different ages that erosive processes shaped over millions of years into impressive Fengcong (cone) and Fenglin (tower) karsts. It contains a combination of numerous tall karst peaks, deep dolines, sinking streams and long river caves. Wulong represents high inland karst plateaus that have experienced considerable uplift, and its giant dolines and bridges are representative of South China's Tiankeng landscapes. Wulong's landscapes contain evidence for the history of one of the world's great river systems, the Yangtze and its tributaries.

The property is well managed, with clear management plans in place and the effective involvement of various stakeholders. There are strong international networks in place to support continued research and management. Of the three clusters, Wulong has suffered the least human impact by virtue of its remoteness and retains natural values that have been reduced in other comparable areas. Continued efforts are required to expand and refine buffer zones to protect upstream catchments and their downstream and underground continuation in order to maintain water quality at a level that ensures the long term conservation of the property and its subterranean processes and ecosystems. At Wulong the boundaries of the core zone should be considered for extension, and a single landscape-scale buffer zone would be a significant improvement to encompass all of the Tiankeng elements to the north of the Furong gorge. Traditional management by minority peoples is an important feature of both clusters, and the relationship between karst and the cultural identity and traditions of minority groups including the Yi (Shilin) and the Shui, Yao and Buyi (Libo) requires continued recognition and respect in site management. Potential for further extension of the property requires development of a management framework for effective coordination between the different clusters.

4. Recommends the State Party to consider this as Phase 1 of a larger World Heritage nomination, and to consider whether the extent of subsequent phases of the entire series

could be rationalized into a smaller number of sites and a single phase of nomination rather than two phases (see section 5.2 of the IUCN evaluation of the South China Karst). The potential application of criterion (ix) should be considered in relation to the entire series that is eventually proposed;

5. Requests the State Party to reconsider the boundaries of the Wulong cluster to address the relevant observations contained in the IUCN evaluation of the nomination;
6. Urges the State Party to continue its efforts to expand and refine buffer zones to protect catchments upstream of the nominated property, and in particular to ensure that the necessary long-term protection and management of catchments be put in place;
7. Welcomes the recognition of the importance of the meaningful involvement of local people in the management of the nominated property; and requests that particular consideration and attention is given in developing Phase 2 of the nomination to the further involvement of local people and the maintenance of the traditional practices of the indigenous communities concerned;
8. Also welcomes the intention of the State Party of China to discuss transnational aspects of the nomination with the State Party of Vietnam.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.2,
2. Inscribes the **Jeju Volcanic Island and Lava Tubes, Republic of Korea**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (vii) and (viii)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Jeju Volcanic Island and Lava Tubes is a coherent serial property comprising three components. The unequalled quality of the Geomunoreum lava tube system and the exhibition of diverse and accessible volcanic features in the other two components demonstrate a distinctive and important contribution to the understanding of global volcanism.

Criterion (vii): The Geomunoreum lava tube system, which is regarded as the finest such cave system in the world, has an outstanding visual impact even for those experienced with such phenomena. It displays the unique spectacle of multi-coloured carbonate decorations adorning the roofs and floors, and dark-coloured lava walls, partially covered by a mural of carbonate deposits. The fortress-like Seongsan Ilchulbong tuff cone, with its walls rising out of the ocean, is a dramatic landscape feature, and Mount Hallasan, with its array of textures and colours through the changing seasons, waterfalls, display of multi-shaped rock formations and columnar-jointed cliffs, and the towering summit with its lake-filled crater, further adds to the scenic and aesthetic appeal.

Criterion (viii): Jeju has a distinctive value as one of the few large shield volcanoes in the world built over a hot spot on a stationary continental crust plate. It is distinguished by the Geomunoreum lava tube system, which is the most impressive and significant series of protected lava tube caves in the world and includes a spectacular array of secondary carbonate speleothems (stalactites and other decorations), with an abundance and diversity unknown elsewhere within a lava cave. The Seongsan Ilchulbong tuff cone

has exceptional exposures of its structural and sedimentological characteristics, making it a world-class location for understanding Surtseyan-type volcanic eruptions.

The property is well managed and resourced, with a management plan in place for the period 2006-2010 and resources for its implementation. Key management issues include avoiding potential agricultural impact on the underground environment and managing the high number of visitors to the property. There is potential for further extension of the property to include other significant lava tube systems and volcanic features of Jeju.

4. Commends the State Party for the quality of the comparative studies carried out in support of the nomination and for obtaining widespread support and commitment for the nomination from all key stakeholders including international expert organisations;
5. Also commends the State Party for establishing the Jeju Island Biosphere Reserve under the UNESCO MAB Programme, and urges the State Party to manage the World Heritage property in close collaboration with this Biosphere Reserve;
6. Recommends the State Party to:
 - a) Complete at the earliest opportunity the purchase of private land within the nominated property;
 - b) Ensure effective management of the high number of visitors to the nominated property and any commercial activities associated with it;
 - c) Implement strict measures in the buffer zone of the Geomunoreum Lava Tube System to prevent agricultural practices on the surface impacting the underground environment;
 - d) Give further consideration and attention to the management of the significant volcanic features in the wider area of Jeju, and to the management of the biodiversity values of Jeju; and
 - e) Consider the potential for extension of the nominated property to include other significant lava tube systems and volcanic features on Jeju;
7. Notes that volcanic systems are relatively well represented on the World Heritage List and that there is increasingly limited potential for further inscriptions of volcanic sites on the World Heritage List, and recommends States Parties considering further nominations of volcanic sites to take into account the principles suggested in section 5.2 of the IUCN evaluation of Jeju Volcanic Island and Lava Tubes.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.2,
2. Defers the examination of the nomination of **Ba Be National Park, Vietnam**, to the World Heritage List to allow the State Party to consider submitting a new nomination of a larger property and with a focus on criterion (x);
3. Commends the State Party and Bac Kan Province for the clear commitment that has been made to the protection of Ba Be National Park and the efforts to improve research

and understanding of park values, management planning, community participation and awareness raising in collaboration with international organisations;

4. Recommends the State Party to:
 - a) Enhance the management capacity of the park (and the adjoining protected areas) in relation to management planning, community development and monitoring;
 - b) Enhance the management arrangements for the buffer zone and develop clearer plans, including on ecotourism development, that are supportive of the protection requirements of the core zone of the park (and the adjoining protected areas);
 - c) Establish effective programmes of habitat management and ecological monitoring, in order to confirm the status of key species and habitats of conservation importance; and
 - d) Maintain strong programmes to regulate development within the core zone of the park to both protect the natural environment and maintain the traditional architectural character and appearance of the settlements,
5. Also recommends the State Party to consider the potential use of other international designations such as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and/or UNESCO Global Geopark in order to strengthen the international recognition of the property's values and balance protection of natural and cultural heritage,
6. Also notes that karst systems are relatively well represented on the World Heritage List and that further guidance to States Parties would be beneficial to indicate the increasingly limited potential for further inscriptions of karst sites on the World Heritage List; and therefore requests IUCN to carry out a global theme study of karst systems, including the potential to recognise the most significant meteoric karst sites of the world, to better guide new nominations in this area.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.14

The nomination of **Speleothems of French Limestone Caves, Outstanding Records of Karst Processes and Archives of Palaeo-climates, France**, was withdrawn at the request of the concerned State Party.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.2,
2. Decides not to inscribe **The Dolomites, Italy**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (ix) and (x);
3. Defers the examination of the nomination of **The Dolomites, Italy**, to the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (vii) and (viii) to allow the State Party to consider submitting a new nomination, more focused and coherent, that meets the conditions of integrity;
4. Recommends the State Party to consider the following issues in the revision of the nomination:

- a) Refocus the nomination around the aesthetic, geological and, in particular, geomorphological values of the Dolomites (criteria (vii) and (viii)). These values should be confirmed through a global comparative analysis of the geomorphological, geological (stratigraphy, carbonate systems, palaeontology) and aesthetic aspects that can be regarded as being of Outstanding Universal Value in comparison to mountains already inscribed on the World Heritage List, and other comparable mountains elsewhere in the world; and
 - b) Make a new selection of a site or a much more coherent series of sites to convey those values at a landscape scale, and avoid including very small sites that represent very locally specific values. IUCN has suggested in its evaluation report a more appropriate configuration.
5. Further recommends the State Party to address the following specific areas of concerns to meet the conditions of integrity in relation to the requirements for protection and management:
- a) Ensure that transparent, effective and coordinated legal protection is in place for the entire series that is eventually proposed;
 - b) Establish a management framework for the entire series, as a legally approved document to coordinate the management authorities concerned, with clear objectives and a realistic implementation strategy; and
 - c) Consider the need for more effective planning, management and regulation of tourist facilities and activities that are consistent with the carrying capacity of the nominated property. Tourist facilities have reached, or even exceeded, the limits of tolerance for natural World Heritage properties in a number of the core and buffer zones of the nominated property.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.2,
2. Inscribes the **Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians, Slovakia and Ukraine**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (ix)**:
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

The Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians are a serial property comprising ten components. They represent an outstanding example of undisturbed, complex temperate forests and exhibit the most complete and comprehensive ecological patterns and processes of pure stands of European beech across a variety of environmental conditions. They contain an invaluable genetic reservoir of beech and many species associated and dependent on these forest habitats.

Criterion (ix): The Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians are indispensable to understanding the history and evolution of the genus *Fagus*, which, given its wide distribution in the Northern Hemisphere and its ecological importance, is globally significant. These undisturbed, complex temperate forests exhibit the most complete and comprehensive ecological patterns and processes of pure stands of European beech

across a variety of environmental conditions. Beech is one of the most important elements of forests in the Temperate Broad-leaf Forest Biome and represents an outstanding example of the re-colonisation and development of terrestrial ecosystems and communities after the last ice age, a process which is still ongoing.

The individual components of this serial property are of sufficient size to maintain the natural processes necessary for the long-term ecological viability of the property's habitats and ecosystems. Effective implementation of the integrated management plan is required to guide the planning and management of this serial property. Key management issues include forest fire control and conservation of monumental old trees, conservation and management of mountain meadows, river corridors and freshwater ecosystems, tourism management, research, and monitoring.

4. Commends the States Parties of Slovakia and Ukraine for addressing IUCN's previous recommendation to work together and bringing forward a transboundary nomination of the Beech Primeval Forests of the Carpathians;
5. Recommends the States Parties of Slovakia and Ukraine to:
 - a) Enhance implementation of the existing Integrated Management Plan and establish a functional Joint Management Committee as proposed by the States Parties;
 - b) Include in the Integrated Management Plan provisions for input from local citizens, NGOs and other interest groups;
 - c) Give priority in the Integrated Management Plan to research and monitoring as this, considering the volume and relevance of existing baseline data and information for the sites included in this serial nomination, can provide a valuable contribution to understanding the potential impact of global climate change;
 - d) Explore options to provide additional funds to support the effective implementation of the Integrated Management Plan and the work of the Joint Management Committee; and
 - e) Clearly mark on the ground the boundaries of all the sites included in this serial nomination.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.2,
2. Inscribes the **Teide National Park, Spain**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (vii) and (viii)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Teide National Park, dominated by the 3,781 m Teide-Pico Viejo stratovolcano, represents a rich and diverse assemblage of volcanic features and landscapes concentrated in a spectacular setting.

Criterion (vii): Mount Teide is a striking volcanic landscape dominated by the jagged Las Cañadas escarpment and a central volcano that makes Tenerife the third tallest volcanic

structure in the world. Within this landscape is a superlative suite of landforms that reveal different phases of construction and remodeling of the volcanic complex and highlight its unique geodiversity. The visual impact is emphasized by atmospheric conditions that create constantly changing textures and tones in the landscape and a 'sea of clouds' that forms a visually impressive backdrop to the mountain.

Criterion (viii): Teide National Park is an exceptional example of a relatively old, slow moving, geologically complex and mature volcanic system. It is of global importance in providing diverse evidence of the geological processes that underpin the evolution of oceanic islands, and these values complement those of existing volcanic properties on the World Heritage List, such as the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. It offers a diverse and accessible assemblage of volcanic features and landscapes in a relatively limited area. The area is a major centre for international research with a long history of influence on geology and geomorphology especially through the work of von Humboldt, von Buch and Lyell which has made Mount Teide a significant site in the history of volcanology.

The property is well managed and resourced, with a six-year management plan in place which is due for renewal in 2008. The property is afforded the same legal protection as other national parks in Spain and is surrounded by a buffer zone. Key management issues include the management of tourism, the potential impact of climate change, and effective coordination of management responsibility between national and regional levels of government.

4. Commends the State Party for its continued efforts to conserve this protected area and for establishing impressive educational and awareness raising programmes in the park;
5. Recommends the State Party, as part of the process to review and update the management plan for Teide National Park, to:
 - a) Strengthen harmonization between strategic tourism planning and development in the Canary Islands and the use of Teide National Park to ensure that use does not adversely impact the outstanding universal value of the property;
 - b) Strengthen mechanisms to monitor visitor use and develop management approaches that balance the protection of park values with enhanced visitor experience;
 - c) Encourage improved research and monitoring of the potential impact of global climate change and the need for adaptive management strategies;
 - d) Strengthen coordination and cooperation between the Spanish State and Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands to share responsibility and to guarantee central funding; and
 - e) Encourage exchange of management experience and joint promotion between the Teide National Park and other World Heritage properties in the Canary Islands (Garajonay National Park and San Cristóbal de La Laguna);
6. Requests IUCN to evaluate the volcanic systems inscribed on the World Heritage List and on the Tentative Lists of States Parties and to present a thematic study for consideration of the Committee.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.2,
2. Approves the extension of the **Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschhorn, Switzerland**, on the basis of **criteria (vii), (viii) and (ix)**:
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

The Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschhorn region is the most glaciated part of the European Alps, containing Europe's largest glacier and a range of classic glacial features, and provides an outstanding record of the geological processes that formed the High Alps. A diverse flora and fauna is represented in a range of habitats, and plant colonization in the wake of retreating glaciers provides an outstanding example of plant succession.

Criterion (vii): The impressive landscape within the property has played an important role in European art, literature, mountaineering and alpine tourism. The area is globally recognised as one of the most spectacular mountain regions to visit and its aesthetics have attracted an international following. The impressive north wall of the High Alps, centred on the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau peaks, is a superlative scenic feature, complemented on the southern side of the Alpine divide by spectacular peaks and a valley system which supports the two longest glaciers in western Eurasia.

Criterion (viii): The property provides an outstanding example of the formation of the High Alps resulting from uplift and compression which began 20-40 million years ago. Within an altitude range from 809 m to 4,274 m, the region displays 400 million-year-old crystalline rocks thrust over younger carbonate rocks due to the northward drift of the African tectonic plate. Added to the dramatic record of the processes of mountain building is a great abundance and diversity of geomorphological features such as U-shaped glacial valleys, cirques, horn peaks, valley glaciers and moraines. This most glaciated part of the Alps contains the Aletsch glacier, the largest and longest in Europe, which is of significant scientific interest in the context of glacial history and ongoing processes, particularly related to climate change.

Criterion (ix): Within its altitudinal range and its dry southern/wet northern exposures, the property provides a wide range of alpine and sub-alpine habitats. On the two main substrates of crystalline and carbonate rocks, a variety of ecosystems have evolved without significant human intervention. Superb examples of plant succession exist, including the distinctive upper and lower tree-line of the Aletsch forest. The global phenomenon of climatic change is particularly well-illustrated in the region, as reflected in the varying rates of retreat of the different glaciers, providing new substrates for plant colonization.

The property is well managed, with a management strategy and plan in place which have been developed through an exemplary participatory process. Almost all of the property is under some form of legal protection. Key management issues include the potential impact from climate change, the management of tourism, and the need to ensure effective coordination of management responsibility between federal, cantonal and communal levels of government.

4. Commends the State Party for preparing a comprehensive management plan and strategy to ensure the effective conservation and management of the property;
5. Recommends the State Party to consider changing the name of the property to better reflect its extended area and notes that the State Party has already initiated a process to identify a suitable name.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.2,
2. Defers the examination of the nomination of **Banco Chinchorro Biosphere Reserve, Mexico**, to the World Heritage List to allow the State Party to consider submitting a new nomination of the site as a mixed property taking into account the underwater cultural heritage of the site.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B, WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.1 and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.2,
2. Inscribes the **Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape, South Africa**, on the World Heritage List as a living, evolving cultural landscape on the basis of **criteria (iv) and (v)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value :

The extensive communal grazed lands of the Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape are a testimony to land management processes which have ensured the protection of the succulent Karoo vegetation and thus demonstrates a harmonious interaction between people and nature. Furthermore, the seasonal migrations of graziers between stockposts with traditional demountable mat-roofed houses, |haru oms, reflect a practice that was once much more widespread over Southern Africa, and which has persisted for at least two millennia; the Nama are now its last practitioners.

Criterion (iv): The rich diverse botanical landscape of the Richtersveld, shaped by the pastoral grazing of the Nama, represents and demonstrates a way of life that persisted for many millennia over a considerable part of southern Africa and was a significant stage in the history of this area.

Criterion (v): The Richtersveld is one of the few areas in southern Africa where transhumance pastoralism is still practised; as a cultural landscape it reflects long-standing and persistent traditions of the Nama, the indigenous community. Their seasonal pastoral grazing regimes, which sustain the extensive bio-diversity of the area, were once much more widespread and are now vulnerable.

The cultural landscape comprises all the elements linked to the transhumance lifestyle of the Nama pastoralists. The authenticity of the grazing areas and stockposts is incontrovertible. The authenticity of the traditional domed houses is mainly intact, despite

the incorporation of some new materials along with the finely braided traditional mats. There are increasing numbers of young people interested in continuing the traditions.

The Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape has full legal protection. The process of declaring the property as a Heritage Area was completed in early 2007. The traditional land-use system of the Nama should be seen as part of the protection system. A buffer zone has been established. The two key areas for conservation measures are sustaining the grazing areas and sustaining the tradition of building portable mat-roofed houses. The Richtersveld Community Conservancy (RCC) is managed by a Communal Property Association (CPA) with a Management Committee (company without profit) and a participative Management Plan is in place to manage the identified Heritage Area. The Management Plan, addresses management structures, infrastructure development, awareness raising, tourism development and monitoring and evaluation. It should provide support to the traditional management system rather than replacing it

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 - a) Extend the boundary of the nominated area into the south of the Richtersveld National Park where necessary to facilitate sustaining the values of the cultural landscape.
 - b) Ensure that the proposed Tourism Plan adequately recognises the vulnerable character of the cultural and natural elements of the property in any future developments and activities.
 - c) Develop the proposed Management of Cultural Assets Plan in order to identify effective ways to sustain the grazing traditions of the Conservancy, to give cultural matters an even higher profile in the Management Plan, and to allow grazing and traditional management systems to underpin the management arrangements.
 - d) Allocate a sufficient recurring budget for conservation and management of the cultural aspects of the landscape to ensure an appropriate balance between management of the cultural and natural attributes of the Conservancy.
 - e) Develop cultural monitoring indicators related to Nama culture and the long-standing grazing and house building traditions.
 - f) Study in cooperation with the State Party of Namibia the potential to submit an enlarged nomination based on the natural values of the Succulent Karoo.
5. Further recommends the State Party to consider re-naming the property to distinguish it more clearly from the Richtersveld National Park.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.1,
2. Refers the nomination of the **Sacred Mijikenda Kaya Forests, Kenya**, to the World Heritage List back to the State Party to allow it to:
 - a) Carry out documentation and surveys of the cultural and natural aspects of the kayas, and historical research from oral, written and archaeological sources, in order to

reconsider and justify the inclusion of the selected sites in the nomination and to justify the application of the criteria.

- b) Designate all kayas as National Monuments.
 - c) Further develop the draft management plan to integrate the conservation of cultural and natural resources and traditional and non-traditional conservation and management practices, and to support sustainable development initiatives which allow full participation of, and benefit to, local communities.
 - d) In the short term, consider how further protective measures may be put in place to ensure no further erosion of the kayas in the face of threats from development, extraction and poaching.
 - e) Consider ways to identify and protect the settings of the kayas from major developmental threats, particularly mining.
3. Recommends the State Party to consider, in the future, a renomination of this property to add criterion (vi) to represent the sacred spaces and traditional knowledge and practices of the Mijikenda people.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.1,
2. Inscribes **Twyfelfontein or /Ui-//aes, Namibia**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (iii) and (v)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

The rock art forms a coherent, extensive and high quality record of ritual practices relating to hunter-gather communities in this part of southern Africa over at least two millennia and, eloquently reflects the links between ritual and economic practices of hunter-gatherers in terms of the value of reliable water sources in nurturing communities on a seasonal basis.

Criterion (iii): The rock art engravings and paintings in Twyfelfontein form a coherent, extensive and high quality record of ritual practices relating to hunter-gather communities in this part of southern Africa over at least two millennia.

Criterion (v): The rock art reflects links between ritual and economic practices in the apparent sacred association of the land adjacent to an aquifer as a reflection of its role in nurturing hunter-gather communities over many millennia.

The integrity of the property is generally intact. The Twyfelfontein Country Lodge was permitted by the Conservancy in 1999/2000 within the Seremonienplatz rock engraving site in the buffer zone. This has severely compromised the integrity of the rock engravings in this area.

All the rock engravings and rock paintings within the core area are without doubt the authentic work of San hunter-gatherers who lived in the region long before the influx of Damara herders and European colonists. The setting of the Twyfelfontein rock art is also

authentic as other than one small engraved panel which was removed to the National Museum in Windhoek in the early part of the 20th century, no panels have been moved or re-arranged.

The core area was designated a national monument in 1948 and is now protected by the National Heritage Act 2004. A buffer zone has been established and proclaimed. The overall state of conservation of the property has improved over the past few years, particularly in terms of the way visitors are managed. Implementation of the Management plan began in 2005.

4. **Recommends** that the State Party give consideration to the following issues:
 - a) Giving higher priority to monitoring and documentation as a means of sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.
 - b) Considering the possibility of appointing a rock art specialist to the site who could have a monitoring role at other similar sites in the Region.
 - c) Exploring ways to allow San participation in the site.
 - d) Giving serious consideration to ways of changing the entrance to the Twyfelfontein Lodge in order to better conserve and manage the nearby rock art.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. **Having examined** Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.1,
2. **Inscribes** **Samarra Archaeological City, Iraq**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv)**.
3. **Adopts** the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

The ancient capital of Samarra dating from 836-892 provides outstanding evidence of the Abbasid Caliphate which was the major Islamic empire of the period, extending from Tunisia to Central Asia. It is the only surviving Islamic capital that retains its original plan, architecture and arts, such as mosaics and carvings. Samarra has the best preserved plan of an ancient large city, being abandoned relatively early and so avoiding the constant rebuilding of longer lasting cities.

Samarra was the second capital of the Abbasid Caliphate after Baghdad. Following the loss of the monuments of Baghdad, Samarra represents the only physical trace of the Caliphate at its height.

The city preserves two of the largest mosques (Al-Malwiya and Abu Dulaf) and the most unusual minarets, as well as the largest palaces in the Islamic world (the Caliphal Palace Qasr al-Khalifa, al-Ja'fari, al Ma'shuq, and others). Carved stucco known as the Samarra style was developed there and spread to other parts of the Islamic world at that time. A new type of ceramic known as Lustre Ware was also developed in Samarra, imitating utensils made of precious metals such as gold and silver.

Criterion (ii): Samarra represents a distinguished architectural stage in the Abbasid period by virtue of its mosques, its development, the planning of its streets and basins, its architectural decoration, and its ceramic industries.

Criterion (iii): Samarra is the finest preserved example of the architecture and city planning of the Abbasid Caliphate, extending from Tunisia to Central Asia, and one of the world's great powers of that period. The physical remains of this empire are usually poorly preserved since they are frequently built of unfired brick and reusable bricks.

Criterion (iv): The buildings of Samarra represent a new artistic concept in Islamic architecture in the Malwiya and Abu Dulaf mosques, in the form of a unique example in the planning, capacity and construction of Islamic mosques by comparison with those which preceded and succeeded it. In their large dimensions and unique minarets, these mosques demonstrate the pride and political and religious strength that correspond with the strength and pride of the empire at that time.

Since the war in Iraq commenced in 2003, this property has been occupied by multi-national forces that use it as a theatre for military operations.

The conditions of integrity and authenticity appear to have been met, to the extent evaluation is possible without a technical mission of assessment. After abandonment by the Caliphate, occupation continued in a few areas near the nucleus of the modern city but most of the remaining area was left untouched until the early 20th century. The archaeological site is partially preserved, with losses caused mainly by ploughing and cultivation, minor in comparison with other major sites. Restoration work has been in accordance with international standards.

The boundaries of the core and buffer zones appear to be both realistic and adequate. Prior to current hostilities, the State Party protected the site from intrusions, whether farming or urban, under the Archaeological Law. Protective procedures have been in abeyance since 2003 and the principal risk to the property arises from the inability of the responsible authorities to exercise control over the management and conservation of the site.

4. Inscribes **Samarra Archaeological City, Iraq**, on the List of World Heritage in Danger and requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, to develop a draft statement of the desired state of conservation for the property based on its Outstanding Universal Value;
5. Recommends that all possibilities offered by the *World Heritage Convention* be used to engage immediately in preventive measures and, when the situation makes this possible, in conservation work for Iraq's cultural heritage generally and for all properties inscribed on Iraq's Tentative List in particular.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.24

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.1,
2. Having taken note of the following statement by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee which has been agreed to by the Delegation of Cambodia and the Delegation of Thailand:

“The State Party of Cambodia and the State Party of Thailand are in full agreement that the Sacred Site of the Temple of Preah Vihear has Outstanding Universal Value and must be inscribed on the World Heritage List as soon as possible. Accordingly, Cambodia and Thailand agree that Cambodia will propose the site for formal inscription on the World Heritage List at the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee in 2008 with the active support of Thailand.

They also agree that the site is in need of urgent attention and requires international financial and technical assistance and close cooperation between them.

They further agree that it is essential to strengthen conservation and management at the site including by the development of an appropriate management plan, as required under paragraph 108 of the *Operational Guidelines*, that will ensure the future protection of this property.

They understand, following consultation with the World Heritage Centre, that financial and technical assistance for the development of a management plan will be available through the World Heritage Centre’s International Assistance programme.”

3. Recognizes that the **Sacred Site of the Temple of Preah Vihear** is of great international significance and has Outstanding Universal Value on the basis of criteria (i), (ii) and (iv), agrees in principle that it should be inscribed on the World Heritage List and notes that the process for inscription is in progress;
4. Requests the State Party of Cambodia to strengthen conservation and management at the site by making progress in developing an appropriate management plan, which progress will enable its formal inscription by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
5. Further requests the State Party of Cambodia to submit a progress report to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2008**.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.1,
2. Inscribes the **Kaiping Diaolou and Villages, China**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

The Diaolou and their surrounding villages demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value for their complex and confident fusion between Chinese and western architectural styles, for their final flowering of local tower building traditions, for their completeness and unaltered state resulting from their short life span as fortified dwellings and their comparative abandonment and for harmonious relationship with their agricultural landscape.

Criterion (ii): The Diaolou represent in dramatic physical terms an important interchange of human values – architectural styles brought back from North America by returning Chinese and fused with local rural traditions - within a particular cultural area of the world.

Criterion (iii): The building of defensive towers was a local tradition in the Kaiping area since Ming times in response to local banditry. The nominated Diaolou represent the final

flourishing of this tradition, in which the conspicuous wealth of the returning Chinese contributed to the spread of banditry and their towers were an extreme response.

Criterion (iv): The main towers, with their settings and through their flamboyant display of wealth, are a type of building that reflects the significant role played by émigré Kaiping people in the development of several countries in South Asia, Australasia, and North America, during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and the continuing links between the Kaiping community and Chinese communities in these parts of the world.

The wholeness and intactness of the nominated properties are evident insofar as all the elements that express their values are still in place; the size of each of the properties is adequate as the features and processes that convey the significance are fully represented in the towers and their surrounding villages of small houses and farmland. The nominated Diaolou, their surrounding village houses, and the agricultural landscape are all authentic, apart from certain houses in Sanmenli Village.

Since 2001, all the Diaolou are protected as national monuments under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Relics, 1982 and also covered by Provincial and Municipal Regulations. A buffer zone has been established. The overall state of conservation of the Diaolou is good; the state of conservation of village houses and the agricultural landscape is reasonable. No extensive conservation works have been undertaken. Nevertheless minor repair works, are carried out where necessary, and inappropriate building interventions have been reversed. A Management Plan for the nominated property has been drawn up by Beijing University under the auspices of the People's Government of Kaiping City. It has been implemented since 2005.

4. Requests the protection of the wider setting of the Diaolou and their surrounding villages through sustaining their agricultural, pastoral and forestry uses;
5. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 - a) Reinforced preventive measures to address the main threats from decay, uncontrolled tourism and development.
 - b) Research into appropriate repairs for the massed concrete of their construction.
 - c) Introduction of active preventive conservation measures in towers open to the public.
 - d) Proactive encouragement for the use of traditional building materials and techniques for village houses.
 - e) Monitoring of the condition of building interiors and associated moveable elements as well as the visual setting of the Diaolou.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.1,
2. Inscribes **Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine and its Cultural Landscape, Japan**, on the World Heritage List under **criteria (ii), (iii) and (v)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine pioneered the development of silver mines in pre-Modern Asia. It had contributed to exchange of values between East and West by achieving the large-scale production of high quality silver through the development of the Asian cupellation techniques transferred from China through Korea and the Japanese unique assemblage of numerous labor-intensive small businesses based upon manual techniques in the 16th century. The exceptional ensemble, consisting of mining archaeological sites, settlements, fortresses, transportation routes, and shipping ports represents distinctive land use related to silver mining activities. As the resource of silver ore was exhausted, its production came to an end, leaving behind, in the characteristically rich nature, a cultural landscape that had been developed in relation to the silver mine.

Criterion (ii): During the Age of Discovery, in the 16th and early 17th centuries, the large production of silver by the Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine resulted in significant commercial and cultural exchanges between Japan and the trading countries of East Asia and Europe.

Criterion (iii): Technological developments in metal mining and production in Japan resulted in the evolution of a successful system based on small-scale, labor-intensive units covering the entire range of skills from digging to refining. The political and economic isolation of Japan during the Edo Period (1603 to 1868) impeded the introduction of technologies developed in Europe during the Industrial Revolution and this, coupled with the exhaustion of commercially viable silver-ore deposits, resulted in the cessation of mining activities by traditional technologies in the area in the second half of the 19th century, leaving the site with well-preserved archaeological traces of those activities.

Criterion (v): The abundant traces of silver production, such as mines, smelting and refining sites, transportation routes, and port facilities, that have survived virtually intact in the Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine Site, are now concealed to a large extent by the mountain forests that have reclaimed the landscape. The resulting relict landscape, which includes the surviving settlements of the people related to the silver production, bears dramatic witness to historic land-uses of outstanding universal value.

The elements of the property showing the original mining land-use system remain intact; the organic relationships among the individual elements exhibit the full expression of the mechanism of the original land-use system. They are a living part of the contemporary lives and livelihoods of the local society in unity with the abundant mountain forests and hence the integrity as a cultural landscape is maintained. The elements of the property that show the whole process ranging from silver production to shipment, in a good state of preservation and retain a high level of authenticity. In the mining settlements, there remains a group of traditional wooden buildings of 17th-20th century with careful maintenance, treatment, and repairs, retaining authenticity in terms of design, materials, techniques, functions, setting and environment.

The property and its buffer zone are adequately protected under the domestic laws and a municipal ordinance. A comprehensive management system for the whole property has been implemented under the strategic preservation and management plan. Monitoring measures are carried out annually.

4. Recommends that attention is given to putting in place the proposed management arrangements, completing the tourism and interpretation plan, and continuing with conservation work on historic structures;

5. Further recommends that a more detailed archaeological strategy is developed to address the consolidation of underground remains vis a vis the encroaching tree cover, and the investigation of water pollution, and that strategies to address new motorways and possible clay mining are adopted;
6. Also requests that, in accordance with paragraph 147 of the *Operational Guidelines*, a thematic study of the Iwami site and other mining sites in the region be done in collaboration with such concerned States Parties and the Advisory Bodies.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.1,
2. Refers the nomination of **Sulaiman-Too Cultural Landscape (Sacred Mountain), Kyrgyzstan**, back to the State Party to allow it to:
 - a) Complete the Management Plan.
 - b) Complete the protection of the nominated property by incorporating the zone of planning control and zone of protected natural setting into the city plan to give it effect, and in order to preclude new interventions on the mountain, including tree planting.
 - c) Extend the Buffer Zone to incorporate part of the adjoining unbuilt plain as a means of protecting the setting of Sulaiman-Too.
 - d) Consider how sites on the neighbouring peaks might be incorporated in a revised buffer zone.
 - e) Complete the survey of the network of paths around the mountain.
 - f) Put in place a Tourism Strategy which addresses the issues of visitor access.
3. Recommends that the name of the property be changed to 'Sulaiman-Too Sacred Mountain'.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.1,
2. Refers the nomination of the **Batanes Cultural Landscapes, Philippines**, back to the State Party in order to allow it to provide additional information on the basis of further survey and research on:
 - a) The evolution of the landscape as a holistic reflection of history and cultural traditions, and of the interaction between culture and nature;

- b) The chronological history of the landscape, the way the landscape has been shaped by farming, forestry and fishing practices, and the natural resources that have been used;
 - c) More detailed assessments and recording of archaeological sites and settlement patterns;
 - d) The intangible associations between people and their surroundings, practices, rituals, belief systems and occupations, in order to understand better how the landscape is a physical reflection of a culture;
 - e) Ways of actively supporting traditional agricultural, forestry and other landscape practices;
 - f) Whether there is potential for the islands to hold a significant place in the scientific study of Austronesian migrations;
 - g) The natural values of the islands.
3. Recommends, pending further research, that the State Party consider, in the future, a renomination of this property to include all the islands of the archipelago either in a core zone or in a buffer zone.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.1,
2. Defers the examination of the nomination of **Sarazm, Tajikistan**, to the World Heritage List to allow the State Party to consider submitting a new nomination, in order to:
 - a) Explore further the values and significance of the property;
 - b) Give consideration to extending the installation of protective covers to all the excavated features on the site;
 - c) Reduce the level of excavation on the site and to divert the emphasis to the use of non-invasive techniques of geophysical prospecting for further exploration of the property;
 - d) Give consideration to setting up a conservation unit on the site.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.30

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.1,
2. Inscribes the **Parthian Fortresses of Nisa, Turkmenistan**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii) and (iii)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Nisa was the capital of the Parthian Empire, which dominated this region of central Asia from the mid 3rd century BCE to the early 3rd century CE. As such it formed a barrier to Roman expansion, whilst at the same time serving as an important communications and trading centre, at the crossroads of north-south and east-west routes. Its political and economic power is well illustrated by the surviving remains, which underline the interaction between central Asian and Mediterranean cultures.

Criterion (ii): Nisa is situated at the crossroads of important commercial and strategic axes. The archaeological remains vividly illustrate the significant interaction of cultural influences from central Asia and from the Mediterranean world.

Criterion (iii): The Parthian Empire was one of the most powerful and influential civilizations of the ancient world, and a brilliant rival of Rome which prevented the expansion of the Roman Empire to the east. Nisa, the capital of the Parthian Empire, is the outstanding symbol of the significance of this imperial power.

The integrity and authenticity of the property, and also of the surrounding landscape, in terms of the size of the two tells and the siting of the capital at the foot of the Kopet-Dag mountains, are unquestionable. The two tells do not in any sense represent the original appearance of the Parthian capital, but their present appearance is due solely to natural erosion.

The site is gazetted as one of the 1,300 historical and cultural monuments of Turkmenistan. Nisa is also one of the eight State Historical and Cultural Parks (SHCP) that have been created to protect the most significant sites in Turkmenistan. A buffer zone has been established. The property comes within the provisions of the Bagyr town development plan. Serious efforts are still needed to set up an efficient preventive maintenance scheme that will ensure the survival of recently excavated parts of the site. A five-year plan has been formulated for 2006-2010, in order to ensure a better balance between the different activities (e.g. archaeology vis-à-vis conservation) and to combine and harmonize all the existing documents and strategies relating to the site.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following points:
- a) replacement, using more appropriate materials and a more sympathetic design, of the present access stairs and viewing platform at Old Nisa;
 - b) improvement of the facilities for visitors, and more particularly the viewing platforms;
 - c) the need to pay attention in future planning to the conservation of excavated sites, the allocation of financial resources, and the implementation of its Management Plan. This should include a work plan covering the coordinated maintenance, monitoring, and presentation of both sites;
 - d) requiring all excavation proposals, as a condition for granting permits, to include allowances, in terms of time and funding, for the conservation of excavated structures;
 - e) the creation on site of a comprehensive documentation programme and an accessible database;
 - f) the formulation of plans for conservation, interpretation, and visitor management as subsidiary elements of the overall Management Plan;

- g) extension of the buffer zone to the south-east of both tells, to include the foot of the Kopet-Dag mountain, and that to the east of New Nisa, which should be increased from 200m to at least 500m.
5. Requests the State Party to provide annual reports by **1 February** to the Committee **for the next three years** on progress with respect to the implementation of the Management Plan.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.1,
2. Inscribes the **Sydney Opera House, Australia**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (i)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

The Sydney Opera House constitutes a masterpiece of 20th century architecture. Its significance is based on its unparalleled design and construction; its exceptional engineering achievements and technological innovation and its position as a world-famous icon of architecture. It is a daring and visionary experiment that has had an enduring influence on the emergent architecture of the late 20th century. Utzon's original design concept and his unique approach to building gave impetus to a collective creativity of architects, engineers and builders. Ove Arup's engineering achievements helped make Utzon's vision a reality. The design represents an extraordinary interpretation and response to the setting in Sydney Harbour. The Sydney Opera House is also of outstanding universal value for its achievements in structural engineering and building technology. The building is a great artistic monument and an icon, accessible to society at large.

Criterion (i): The Sydney Opera House is a great architectural work of the 20th century. It represents multiple strands of creativity, both in architectural form and structural design, a great urban sculpture carefully set in a remarkable waterscape and a world famous iconic building.

All elements necessary to express the values of the Sydney Opera House are included within the boundaries of the nominated area and buffer zone. This ensures the complete representation of its significance as an architectural object of great beauty in its waterscape setting. The Sydney Opera House continues to perform its function as a world-class performing arts centre. The Conservation Plan specifies the need to balance the roles of the building as an architectural monument and as a state of the art performing centre, thus retaining its authenticity of use and function. Attention given to retaining the building's authenticity culminated with the Conservation Plan and the Utzon Design Principles.

The Sydney Opera House was included in the National Heritage List in 2005 under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and on the State Heritage Register of New South Wales in 2003 under the Heritage Act 1977. Listing in the National Heritage List implies that any proposed action to be taken inside or outside the boundaries of a National Heritage place or a World Heritage property that may have a significant impact on the heritage values is prohibited without the approval of the Minister for the Environment and Heritage. A buffer zone has been established.

The present state of conservation is very good. The property is maintained and preserved through regular and rigorous repair and conservation programmes. The management system of the Sydney Opera House takes into account a wide range of measures provided under planning and heritage legislation and policies of both the Australian Government and the New South Wales Government. The Management Plan for the Sydney Opera House, the Conservation Plan and the Utzon Design Principles together provide the policy framework for the conservation and management of the Sydney Opera House.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following in order to ensure the optimisation of the management system for the property and its buffer zone:
 - a) Define and implement construction regulations for the buffer zone, especially in relation to the conservation of the current skyline of the shore landscape of Sydney Harbour;
 - b) Consider how to reconcile the increase of visitor numbers with the proper functioning of the performing arts centre and with the preservation of the property's outstanding universal value, integrity and authenticity. Management of the property could be further enhanced by increased interpretation of its values to visitors;
 - c) The interior spaces and material components should be considered as important as the exterior form and materials. They bear testimony to the specific history and process of design and construction of the building. It is thus recommended that conservation measures include original interior components as well as the consideration of different stages of construction and interior design as a part of the history of the property.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.1,
2. Inscribes the **Red Fort Complex, India**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii), (iii) and (vi)**;
3. Adopts the following statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

The planning and design of the Red Fort represents a culmination of architectural development initiated in 1526 AD by the first Mughal Emperor and brought to a splendid refinement by Shah Jahan with a fusion of traditions: Islamic, Persian, Timurid and Hindu. The innovative planning arrangements and architectural style of building components as well as garden design developed in the Red Fort strongly influenced later buildings and gardens in Rajasthan, Delhi, Agra and further afield. The Red Fort has been the setting for events which have had a critical impact on its geo-cultural region.

Criterion (ii): The final flourishing of Mughal architecture built upon local traditions but enlivened them with imported ideas, techniques, craftsmanship and designs to provide a fusion of Islamic, Persian, Timurid and Hindu traditions. The Red Fort demonstrates the outstanding results this achieved in planning and architecture.

Criterion (iii): The innovative planning arrangements and architectural style of building components and garden design developed in the Red Fort strongly influenced later buildings and gardens in Rajasthan, Delhi, Agra and further afield. The Red Fort Complex also reflects the phase of British military occupation, introducing new buildings and functions over the earlier Mughal structures.

Criterion (vi): The Red Fort has been a symbol of power since the reign of Shah Jahan, has witnessed the change in Indian history to British rule, and was the place where Indian independence was first celebrated, and is still celebrated today. The Red Fort Complex has thus been the setting of events critical to the shaping of regional identity, and which have had a wide impact on the geo-cultural region.

The Red Fort Complex is a layered expression of both Mughal architecture and planning, and the later British military use of the forts. The most dramatic impacts on the integrity of the Red Fort Complex come from the change of the river into a major road, which alters the relationship of the property to its intended setting; and from the division of the Salimgarh Fort by a railway. Nevertheless the Salimgarh Fort is inextricably linked to the Red Fort in use and later history. The integrity of the Salimgarh Fort can only be seen in terms of its value as part of the overall Red Fort Complex. The authenticity of the Mughal and British buildings in the Red Fort Complex is established, although more work is needed to establish the veracity of the current garden layout. In the specific case of the Salimgarh Fort, the authenticity of the Mughal period is related to knowledge of its use and associations, and of the built structures dating from the British period.

The nominated property has been declared a monument of national importance under the Ancient Monument and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1959. A buffer zone has been established. Although the state of conservation of the property has improved over the past ten years, much more work is needed to put the overall state of the property into a stable condition and to ensure visitors do not contribute to its decay. The Red Fort Complex is managed directly by the Archaeological Survey of India, which is also responsible for the protection of all national level heritage sites in India and Indian cultural properties included in the World Heritage List.

4. Recommends that the State Party submit the completed and agreed Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan to the Committee for approval at its 32nd session, in 2008.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.33

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.1,
2. Defers the examination of the nomination of the **Bregenzerwald Cultural Landscape, Austria**, to the World Heritage List to allow the State Party to consider submitting a new nomination, in order to:
 - a) Consider the full significance of the Bregenzerwald as part of the wider Alpine Region;
 - b) Consider whether, possibly in collaboration with other States Parties, the property with other sites could reflect the Alpine landscape farming traditions and their association with the development of ideas about landscape appreciation;

- c) Create an integrated Management Plan or system that could integrate the cultural and natural components, and address, amongst other issues: landscape surveys, historical development of the cultural landscape, inventory of properties and ensembles, options for protecting the farming systems, hay meadows and pastures, support for forestry regeneration, support for traditional building practices, ways to achieve protection of the wider landscape and involvement of local communities;
- d) Put in place enhanced protection for the landscape and its various elements.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.34

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.1,
2. Inscribes **Mehmed Paša Sokolović Bridge in Višegrad, Bosnia and Herzegovina**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii) and (iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

The universal value of the bridge at Višegrad is unquestionable for all the historical reasons and in view of the architectural values it has. It represents a major stage in the history of civil engineering and bridge architecture, erected by one of the most celebrated builders of the Ottoman Empire.

The bridge particularly bears witness to the transmission and adaptation of techniques in the course of a long historical process. It also bears witness to important cultural exchanges between areas of different civilizations. It is an exceptional representative of Ottoman architecture and civil engineering at its classical apogee. Its symbolic role has been important through the course of history, and particularly in the many conflicts that took place in the 20th century. Its cultural value transcends both national and cultural borders.

Criterion (ii): Located in a position of geostrategic importance, the bridge bears witness to important cultural exchanges between the Balkans, the Ottoman Empire and the Mediterranean world, between Christianity and Islam, through the long course of history. The management of the bridge and repairs made it to have also involved different political and cultural powers: after the Ottomans came the Austro-Hungarians, the Yugoslav Federation, and the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Criterion (iv): The Višegrad bridge is a remarkable architectural testimony to the apogee of the classical age of the Ottoman Empire, whose values and achievements mark an important stage in the history of humankind.

The property, principally consisting of the bridge, the access ramp and the two river banks upstream and downstream, is protected by its buffer zone on each bank of the Drina river. The integrity of the bridge is vulnerable but is now adequately protected by the buffer zone and appropriately expresses the values it embodies.

The Drina is a mountain river, drawing water from the mountains of the Balkans towards the Sava and the Danube Rivers. It is prone to flooding and the bridge parapets were destroyed in an exceptional flood in 1896. In addition, the bridge was

severely damaged during both World Wars and, after temporary repairs, reconstructed in stone in the early 1950s.

Despite these historical events, authenticity has generally been maintained through the course of the bridge's successive restorations. It remains fragile, its foundations being particularly threatened by the use of the two hydro-electric power stations, one in Bosnia and one in Serbia, that affect the water levels of the river.

To allay this threat, the Serbian Ministry of Mines and Energy wrote to the Bosnian Commission to Preserve National Monuments on 27 June 2007. It supports the inscription of the bridge on the World Heritage List and also supports the formation of a bi-national working group to analyse the impact of power generation operations on the river in order to preserve the bridge. This initiative will complement the legal protection and management plan already in place.

4. Recommends the State Party to:
 - a) Carry out the urgent work of restoring the foundations and piers, and more generally the technical organization of the structural reinforcement of the bridge and then of its restoration-conservation in the long term;
 - b) Strengthen the concerted management of water levels by the power stations of Bajina Bašta and Višegrad, from the viewpoint of: flooding management; the return of the water level to a level compatible with the expression of the outstanding universal value of the property; the integrity of the structural bases of the bridge, which are currently being affected by the management of the dams;
 - c) Plan for the ultimate replacement of the current parapets, which are heavy and do not conform to the original, by fine stone slabs, matching the documentation on the ancient bridge, prior to the flooding of 1896;
 - d) Continue and enforce the activities on protection, restoration and conservation that the State Party has been undertaking in accordance with the Management Plan.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.35

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.1,
2. Inscribes the **Rideau Canal, Canada**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (i) and (iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

The Rideau Canal is a large strategic canal constructed for military purposes which played a crucial contributory role in allowing British forces to defend the colony of Canada against the United States of America, leading to the development of two distinct political and cultural entities in the north of the American continent, which can be seen as a significant stage in human history.

Criterion (i): The Rideau Canal remains the best preserved example of a slackwater canal in North America demonstrating the use of European slackwater technology in North America on a large scale. It is the only canal dating from the great North American

canal-building era of the early 19th century that remains operational along its original line with most of its original structures intact.

Criterion (iv): The Rideau Canal is an extensive, well preserved and significant example of a canal which was used for a military purpose linked to a significant stage in human history - that of the fight to control the north of the American continent.

The nominated property includes all the main elements of the original canal together with relevant later changes in the shape of watercourses, dams, bridges, fortifications, lock stations and related archaeological resources. The original plan of the canal, as well as the form of the channels, has remained intact. The Rideau Canal has fulfilled its original dynamic function as an operating waterway without interruption since its construction. Most of its lock gates and sluice valves are still operated by hand-powered winches.

All the elements of the nominated area (canal, associated buildings and forts) are protected as national historic sites under the Historic Sites and Monuments Act 1952-3. A buffer zone has been established. Repairs and conservation of the locks, dams, canal walls and banks are carried out directly under the control of Parks Canada. Each year one third of the canal's assets are thoroughly inspected by engineers. A complete inventory thus exists of the state of conservation of all parts of the property. A Management Plan exists for the canal (completed in 1996 and updated in 2005), and plans are nearing completion for Fort Henry and the Kingston fortifications. The Canal Plan is underpinned by the Historic Canals Regulations which provide an enforcement mechanism for any activities that might impact on the cultural values of the monument.

4. Recommends that following the completion of the study of the visual setting of the canal, consideration is given to strengthening its visual protection outside the buffer zone, in order to ensure the visual values of the setting are protected alongside environmental values.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.36

The nomination of **Hand Paper Mill at Velké Losiny, Czech Republic**, was withdrawn at the request of the concerned State Party.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.37

The nomination of **Paimio Hospital (former Paimio Sanatorium), Finland**, was withdrawn at the request of the concerned State Party.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.38

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.1,
2. Inscribes **Bordeaux, Port of the Moon, France**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii) and (iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Bordeaux, Port of the Moon, is an outstanding example of the exchange of human values over more than two thousand years, due to its role as capital city of a world-famous wine production region and the importance of its port in commerce at regional and international levels. The urban form and architecture of the city are the result of continuous extensions and renovations since Roman times up to the 20th century. Urban plans and architectural ensembles stemming from the early 18th century onwards place the city as an outstanding example of classical and neo-classical trends and give it an exceptional urban and architectural unity and coherence.

Criterion (ii): Bordeaux, Port of the Moon, constitutes an exceptional testimony to the exchange of human values over more than two thousand years. These exchanges have provided this cosmopolitan town, in the age of Enlightenment, an unparalleled prosperity that provided for an exceptional urban and architectural transformation that continued through 19th century up to present time. The different stages of construction and development of the harbour town are legible in its urban plan, especially the big transformations carried out from the early 18th century onwards.

Criterion (iv): Bordeaux, Port of the Moon, represents an outstanding urban and architectural ensemble, created in the Age of Enlightenment, whose values have continued up to the first half of the 20th century. Bordeaux is exceptional in the unity of its urban and architectural classical and neo-classical expression, which has not undergone any stylistic rupture over more than two centuries. Its urban form represents the success of philosophers who wanted to make towns into melting pots of humanism, universality and culture.

Due to its port, the city of Bordeaux has retained its original functions since its creation, as a city of exchange and commerce. Its history is easily legible in its urban plans from the Roman castrum to the 20th century. The city has retained its authenticity in the historic buildings and spaces created in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The City of Bordeaux has 347 listed buildings, referred to the law of 31 December 1913. The historic town is protected by the "Plan de sauvegarde et de mise en valeur" (PSMV), approved in 1988 and revised in 1998 and 2002. A buffer zone has been established. Management structures for the protection and conservation of the nominated property include the shared responsibilities of national, regional and local governments. Interventions on buildings declared Monuments historiques (classés) must have the support of the Ministry for Culture. Several plans ensure the management and conservation of the property and take into account the following aspects: preserving the historic and heritage character, allowing the controlled evolution of the historic centre, unifying the various planning rules and contributing to the international significance of metropolitan Bordeaux.

4. Recommends that the State Party gives consideration to the following in order to optimise the management system for the property and its buffer zone:
 - a) Special attention should be given to projects in the city and its surrounding area that could affect the city's qualities, and in particular the significance of the historic areas of Bordeaux as testimonies of the development of the city over two thousand years and the unity and coherence of the classical and neo-classical monumental ensembles;
 - b) Identify and apply indicators for the condition and qualities of public spaces as an essential component in monitoring the nominated property over time.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.39

The nomination of **The Mediterranean Shore of the Pyrenees, France/Spain**, was withdrawn at the request of the concerned States Parties.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.40

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.1,
2. Inscribes the **Old Town of Corfu, Greece**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

The ensemble of the fortifications and the Old Town of Corfu is located in a strategic location at the entrance to the Adriatic Sea. Historically, its roots go back to the 8th century BC and to the Byzantine period. It has thus been subject to various influences and a mix of different peoples. From the 15th century, Corfu was under Venetian rule for some four centuries, then passing to French, British and Greek governments. At various occasions, it had to defend the Venetian maritime empire against the Ottoman army. Corfu was a well thought of example of fortification engineering, designed by the architect Sanmicheli, and it proved its worth through practical warfare. Corfu has its specific identity, which is reflected in the design of its system of fortification and in its neo-classical building stock. As such, it can be placed alongside other major Mediterranean fortified port cities.

Criterion (iv): The urban and port ensemble of Corfu, dominated by its fortresses of Venetian origin, constitutes an architectural example of outstanding universal value in both its authenticity and its integrity.

The overall form of the fortifications has been retained and displays traces of Venetian occupation, including the Old Citadel and the New Fort, but primarily interventions from the British period. The present form of the ensemble results from the works in the 19th and 20th centuries. The authenticity and integrity of the urban fabric are primarily those of a neo-classical town.

The responsibility for protection is shared by several institutions and relevant decrees. These include the Hellenic Ministry of Culture (ministerial decision of 1980), the Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Public Works (Presidential decree of 1980) and the Municipality of Corfu (Presidential decree of 1981). Also relevant are: the Greek law on the shoreline of towns and of islands in general; the law on the protection of antiquities and cultural heritage in general (n° 3028/2002) and the establishment of a new independent Superintendence for Byzantine and post-Byzantine antiquities, in 2006. A buffer zone has been established. The proactive policies of restoration and enhancement of the fortifications and of the citadel have resulted in a generally acceptable state of conservation. Many works however have still to be completed or started. A management plan has been prepared. An urban action plan, which is in line with the management plan of the nominated property, has just been adopted (2005) for the period 2006-2012.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.41

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.1,
2. Considers, bearing in mind the nature of the nomination, its eligibility for recognition of its Outstanding Universal Value on the basis of criterion (vi).
3. Refers the nomination of **Bahá’i Holy Places in Haifa and the Western Galilee, Israel**, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:
 - a) Re-consider the scope of the nomination; and
 - b) Put in place stronger protection, particularly for the buffer zones and settings of the sites which comprise the nominated property.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.42

The nomination of **Valnerina and the Marmore Cascade, Italy**, was withdrawn at the request of the concerned State Party.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.43

The nomination of **Gdańsk - The Site of Memory and Freedom, Poland**, was withdrawn at the request of the concerned State Party.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.44

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.1,
2. Defers the examination of the nomination of **Sibiu, the Historic Centre, Romania**, to the World Heritage List to allow the State Party to consider the possibility of linking this property in a serial nomination with other already inscribed properties related to the Saxon presence in Romania.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.45

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.1,
2. Inscribes **Gamzigrad–Romuliana, the Palace of Galerius, Serbia**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (iii) and (iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Gamzigrad-Romuliana is a Late Roman palace and memorial complex built in the late 3rd and early 4th centuries, commissioned by the Emperor Galerius Maximianus. The strong

fortifications of the palace are an allusion to the fact that the Tetrarchy Emperors were all senior military leaders. The spatial and visual relationships between the palace and the memorial complex, where the mausoleums of the Emperor and his mother Romula are located, are unique.

Criterion (iii): The fortifications, the palace, and the memorial complex are a unique testimony of the Roman construction tradition pervaded by the ideological programme of the Second Tetrarchy and Galerius himself as their builder.

Criterion (iv): The group of buildings comprising the architectural complex of the Emperor Galerius is unique in that it intertwines the ceremonial and the memorial programme. The relation between two spatial ensembles is stressed by placing the Tetrapylon on the crossroads between the worldly fortification with the palace and the other-worldly mausoleums and consecration monuments.

The integrity and authenticity of Gamzigrad-Romuliana are clearly demonstrated: relatively few excavations have been carried out to date and there has been no attempt to reconstruct the much degraded remains. There are no plans for reconstruction beyond what is needed for conservation and can be substantiated through research, as these would diminish the level of authenticity.

The property is protected by: the Decision by the Institute for the Preservation and Scientific Examination of the Cultural Goods of the PR of Serbia (No 407/48, 19 March 1948); the Decision on the Identification of Immovable Cultural Goods of Outstanding and of Great Importance (Official Gazette 14/79); the Cultural Properties Law (The Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No 71/94). A buffer zone has been established. The conservation of the remains is satisfactory. The property is managed at the level of the Republic of Serbia by the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Serbia.

4. Requests that the State Party further develop its management system and allocate sufficient resources to its implementation.
5. Recommends that the State Party immediately give consideration to the following:
 - a) Give priority to the analysis of the data from previous excavations and conduct any new investigations using non-destructive means and targeted surgical incisions.
 - b) Adopt measures to avoid any negative impact of increased visitor numbers on the property.
6. Recommends the State Party to consider the possibility of linking this property in a serial nomination with the Historical Complex of Split with the Palace of Diocletian and Villa Romana del Casale.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.46

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.1,
2. Inscribes **Lavaux, vineyard terraces, Switzerland**, on the World Heritage List as a cultural landscape on the basis of **criteria (iii), (iv) and (v)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

The Lavaux vineyard landscape is a thriving cultural landscape that demonstrates in a highly visible way its evolution and development over almost a millennia, through the well preserved landscape and buildings, and also the continuation and adaptation of longstanding cultural traditions, specific to its locality. It also illustrates very graphically the story of patronage, control and protection of this highly valued wine growing area, all of which contributed substantially to the development of Lausanne and its Region and played a significant role in the history of the geo-cultural region; and, has prompted, in response to its vulnerability next to fast-growing settlements, exceptional popular protection.

Criterion (iii): The Lavaux vineyard landscape demonstrates in a highly visible way its evolution and development over almost a millennium, through the well preserved landscape and buildings that demonstrate a continuation and evolution of longstanding cultural traditions, specific to its locality.

Criterion (iv): The evolution of the Lavaux vineyard landscape, as evidenced on the ground, illustrates very graphically the story of patronage, control and protection of this highly valued wine growing area, all of which contributed substantially to the development of Lausanne and its Region and played a significant role in the history of the geo-cultural region.

Criterion (v): The Lavaux vineyard landscape is an outstanding example that displays centuries of interaction between people and their environment in a very specific and productive way, optimising the local resources to produce a highly valued wine that was a significant part of the local economy. Its vulnerability in the face of fast-growing urban settlements has prompted protection measures strongly supported by local communities.

The nominated boundaries include all the elements of the wine growing process, and the extent of the traditional wine growing area since at least the 12th century. The terraces are in continuous use and well maintained. They have evolved over several centuries to their present form; there is now agreement that change needs to be tempered by respect for local traditions.

Strong protection has evolved as a reaction to the creeping urbanization from the growing towns of Lausanne to the west and the Vevey–Montreux conurbation to the east. This Protection is provided by: the Federal Loi sur l'aménagement du territoire (LAT), the Inventaire fédéral des paysages, sites et monuments naturels (IFP) resulting from the LAT, its Inventaire fédéral des sites construits (ISOS), the cantonal Loi sur le plan de protection de Lavaux (LPPL), the cantonal Inventaire des monuments naturels et des sites (IMNS), and the cantonal land-use plan (Plan général d'affectation – PGA) and its building regulations (RPGA). A buffer zone has been established. The state of conservation of the villages, individual buildings, roads and footpaths, and vineyard plots within the nominated area is high. A Management Plan has been approved for the property. It provides an analysis of socio-economic data, and a series of management strategies for research and culture, economy, land-use planning and tourism.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.47

The nomination of **Darwin at Downe, United Kingdom**, was withdrawn at the request of the concerned State Party.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.48

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.1,
2. Taking into account that ICOMOS considers that the town of Berat is an example of the specific architectural and urban values of the Balkans region, in a context of great historical continuity. It also has its own specific architectural value and overall aesthetic quality,
3. Referring to paragraph 137, sub-paragraphs a) and b) of the *Operational Guidelines*, related to serial properties and considering that the two towns of Gjirokastra and Berat belong to the same historico-cultural group and the same type of property which is characteristic of the geographic zone,
4. Recognizing the strong potential for the site to be included in a serial nomination along with Gjirokastra which was already inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2005,
5. Refers the nomination of **The Historic Centre of Berat (City of 25 Centuries Cultural Continuity and Religious Coexistence), Albania**, back to the State Party to allow it to consider preparing, on an exceptional basis, a serial nomination based on previous ICOMOS evaluations, including a joint management plan for the two cities, for consideration by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.49

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.1,
2. Inscribes **Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape, Azerbaijan**, on the World Heritage List under **criterion (iii)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Gobustan has outstanding universal value for the quality and density of its rock art engravings, for the substantial evidence the collection of rock art images presents for hunting, fauna, flora and lifestyles in pre-historic times and for the cultural continuity between prehistoric and mediaeval times that the site reflects.

Criterion (iii): The rock engravings are an exceptional testimony to a way of life that has disappeared in the way they represent so graphically activities connected with hunting and fishing at a time when the climate and vegetation of the area were warmer and wetter than today.

The most remote and undisturbed landscapes are the Jinghirdag Mountain-Yazylytepe hill and Kichikdash Mountain. These areas need to be fully protected in order to ensure they keep their authenticity. The most visited site, Boyukdash, has more disturbances in the form of installations such as a prison and stone quarry, which should be managed as part of the Management Plan.

The knowledge of the site does not extend evenly across the whole rock art reservation. It would be desirable for a large-scale survey of the wider environment to be carried out

to ensure the extent of protection needed to ensure the overall integrity of the rock art corpus.

The legal protective measures for the property are adequate. There is a need to complete the documentation, put in place active conservation measures and improve the technical competence of staff to carry out necessary urgent conservation work.

4. Recommends the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed on the implementation of the action plan and measures defined in the Presidential decree according to their time frame;
5. Encourages the State Party to give high priority to international cooperation within the proposed joint project for the conservation of the site;
6. Recommends the State Party to consider a possible renomination of this property also under criterion (vi).

Decision: 31 COM 8B.50

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.1,
2. Defers the examination of the nomination of **Heidelberg Castle and Old Town, Germany**, to the World Heritage List in order to allow the State Party to consider submitting a new nomination in order to:
 - a) Demonstrate the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, by means of a more comprehensive comparative analysis, including not only German cities but other European cities inscribed on the World Heritage List; and also to demonstrate how the spiritual or intangible values are expressed in material components by strengthening the arguments used for the appliance of the proposed criteria;
 - b) Highlight the main importance of the Castle and to refer to the universal significance of the debates over preserving or reconstructing Heidelberg Castle that raged during the last third of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century;
 - c) Highlight the outstanding significance of the university tradition;
 - d) Check whether the protection, conservation and management measures need revision based on any further justification of the Outstanding Universal Value as an ensemble.
3. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 - a) Continue with plans to build the tunnel along the Old Town Neckar riverfront so as to link the Old Town again with the river and limit the visual impact of the highway;
 - b) Incorporate in the monitoring process indicators concerning restoration and renovation techniques, and the forces of development and change in order to maintain the city's historic character and functions;
 - c) Organise a programme for improving the knowledge and understanding of traditional building techniques and materials (with special attention for plaster, paint

and maintenance of windows), and appropriate information sessions for property owners.

- d) For the castle area, develop an archaeological research programme for the Hortus Palatinus and the recording of sub-surface remains through non-destructive archaeological investigations.
4. Recommends the State Party to consider the possibility of linking this property in a serial nomination with other already inscribed properties related to university towns.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.51

The nomination of **Foundational City of La Plata, Argentina**, was withdrawn at the request of the concerned State Party.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.52

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.1,
2. Inscribes the **Central University City Campus of the *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México* (UNAM), Mexico**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (i), (ii) and (iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

The Central University City Campus of UNAM bears testimony to the modernisation of post-revolutionary Mexico in the framework of universal ideals and values related to access to education, improvement of quality of life, integral intellectual and physical education and integration between urbanism, architecture and fine arts. It is a collective work, where more than sixty architects, engineers and artists worked together to create the spaces and facilities apt to contribute to the progress of humankind through education.

The urbanism and architecture of the Central University City Campus of UNAM constitute an outstanding example of the application of the principles of 20th Century modernism merged with features stemming from pre-Hispanic Mexican tradition. The ensemble became one of the most significant icons of modern urbanism and architecture in Latin America, recognized at universal level.

Criterion (i): The Central University City Campus of UNAM constitutes a unique example in the 20th century where more than sixty professionals worked together, in the framework of a master plan, to create an urban architectural ensemble that bears testimony to social and cultural values of universal significance.

Criterion (ii): The most important trends of architectural thinking from the 20th century converge in the Central University City Campus of UNAM: modern architecture, historicist regionalism, and plastic integration; the last two of Mexican origin.

Criterion (iv): The Central University City Campus of UNAM is one of the few models around the world where the principles proposed by Modern Architecture and Urbanism were totally applied; the ultimate purpose of which was to offer man a notable improvement in the quality of life.

Since all the fundamental physical components of the original ensemble remain and no major changes have been introduced, the property satisfies the required conditions of integrity and authenticity. The campus conserves unaltered its essential physical components: urban design, buildings, open spaces, circulation system and parking areas, landscape design and works of art. . Functions have not changed over time. The existing physical components therefore express the historic, cultural and social values of the ensemble, and its authenticity of design, materials, substance, workmanship and functions.

At the national level, the Central University City Campus of UNAM was listed as a National Artistic Monument in July 2005, in the framework of the Federal Law on Archaeological, Artistic and Historic Monuments and Zones. At the local level, the UNAM Campus and the Olympic stadium are defined as heritage conservation zones in the framework of the District Programme for Urban Development (1997) of Coyoacán Delegation, one of the administrative units of Mexico City. Since the University is an autonomous organisation, it has its own offices in charge of maintenance and conservation of the campus. Among them, the Governing Plan for University City (1993) rules the future growth of the University facilities, uses of land and maintenance of the campus. The Integral Plan for the University City (2005) constitutes the current management plan for the campus. The physical components are in a good state of conservation, and the process of ageing is controlled by means of plans of maintenance and preservation of both free and constructed spaces. The Office for Special Projects of UNAM developed and implements the Integral Plan for the University City (September 2005). With the aim of implementing and monitoring the Plan, the University will create the University City Management Programme (PROMACU).

4. Requests the State Party to promote a closer relationship between the University and the government of the Federal District, in order to ensure better management of the property and its buffer zone and the appropriate development of neighboring urban areas, so that potential risks to the campus can be better controlled.
5. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 - a) The University authorities should formalize the Programme of Management of the University City (PROMACU) as a means of ensuring the proper implementation of the Integral Plan for the University City;
 - b) The University authorities should also implement strategies for improved arrangements and information for visitors, in order to ensure a better interpretation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the campus;
 - c) The identification of parts of the University with authentic interiors, for their preservation;
6. Recommends the State Party to consider a possible renomination of this property also under criterion (vi);
7. Requests that ICOMOS in consultation with DoCoMoMo and other relevant experts prepare an evaluative framework for a thematic study on Modern Architecture.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.53

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/8B.Add,
2. Approves the minor modification of boundaries to include the Islas Marietas National Park and the Archipelago de San Lorenzo National Park as an extension to the serial property of the **Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California, Mexico**, already inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (vii), (ix) and (x)**;
3. Recommends the State Party to plan and manage these two sites in line with the Integrated Management Programme for the entire serial property and to give particular attention to controlling tourism development and fisheries;
4. Commends the State Party as well as the NGOs, other institutions and private partners working in this property, for their continued efforts in conserving this important property and in creating and managing new marine protected areas to enhance the conservation and integrity of this property;
5. Reiterates its request included in Decision **29 COM 8B.9** to keep the Committee informed on progress achieved towards the development and implementation of the Marine Ecological planning of the Sea of Cortes.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.54

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B.Add, WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B1.Add and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Inscribes the **Ecosystem and Relic Cultural Landscape of Lopé-Okanda, Gabon**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (iii), (iv), (ix) and (x)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

The Ecosystem and Relic Cultural Landscape of Lopé-Okanda represents an unusual interface between dense and well conserved tropical rainforest and relict savannah environments. A greater number of threatened species of large mammals find their last refuge in Lopé-Okanda than in any other comparable rainforest area in the Congo Rainforest Biogeographical Province. The property also preserves a record of biological evolution over the last 15,000 years of the still extant rainforest-savannah transition zone.

The Lopé-Okanda National Park displays remarkable evidence for settlement stretching over 400,000 years from the Palaeolithic, through the Neolithic and Iron Age, to the present day Bantu and Pygmy peoples. The National Park includes the River Ogooué valley, one of the principle migration routes for the diffusion of people and languages, including the Bantu, to Central and Southern Africa, in the Neolithic and Iron Age, as evidenced in extraordinary number of substantial settlements sites and an extensive collection of rock art petroglyphs.

The Lopé-Okanda National Park provides the oldest dates for the extension of the Tshitolién culture towards the Atlantic and it has revealed evidence of the early domestication of plants and animals and the use of forest resources.

Criterion (iii): the rich archaeological ensembles of the middle stretches of the River Ogooué Valley demonstrate 400,000 years of almost continuous history. The archaeological sites have revealed the earliest date for the extension of Tshitolién culture towards the Atlantic, as well as detailed evidence for the early use of forest produce, cultivation of crops and the domestication of animals.

Criterion (iv): the collection of Neolithic and Iron Age sites together with the rock art remains appear to reflect a major migration route of Bantu and other peoples along the River Ogooué valley to the north of the dense evergreen Congo forests from West Africa to central east and southern Africa, that has shaped the development of the whole of sub-Saharan Africa. The subsidiary Iron Age sites within the forest provide evidence for the development of forest communities and their relationship with present day peoples.

Criterion (ix): The nominated property demonstrates an unusual interface between forest and savannah environments, and a very important manifestation of evolutionary processes in terms of species and habitat adaptation to post-glacial climatic changes. The diversity of species and habitats present are the result of natural processes and also the long-term interaction between man and nature.

Criterion (x): The diversity of habitats and the complex relationship between forest and savannah ecosystems have contributed to a high biological diversity particularly in relation to the property's flora, making it one of the most outstanding areas in relation to floristic diversity and complexity in the Congo Rainforest Biogeographical Province. Over 1,550 plant species have been recorded, including 40 never recorded before in Gabon, and it is anticipated that once all the floristic surveys and research are completed the number of plant species could reach over 3,000.

The property is of sufficient size to maintain the long-term ecological viability of its habitats and ecosystems. The conservation and management of the property is guided by a management plan for the period 2006-2011 which is supported by international cooperation, particularly through a number of international and national NGOs. Conservation and management of the property also benefits from a number of transboundary cooperation initiatives. Key management issues include the need to resolve conflicts from competing interests, and to raise awareness amongst local people on the importance of conserving this property and to involve them in its management. Control and regulation of commercial poaching is of priority as well as the need to fully enforce regulations banning commercial logging within the property. Additional financial, logistical and human resources need to be obtained to ensure the effective management of the property and its buffer zone.

The authenticity of the archaeological sites and rock art site is intact. There is a need for consolidation of the excavated sites to be carried out to ensure that they are not eroded by natural or human processes.

The integrity of the cultural sites lies mainly in their relationship to one another along the River Ogooué Valley corridor which facilitated waves of migrations and subsidiary, later archaeological sites which fan out along the lesser river valleys within the forest. It would be desirable if at some point in the future that part of the river valley between the north-west corner of the National Park and the historic ensemble to the north-west could be included so that the integrity of the river corridor as a whole could be protected.

The legal protective measures for the property are adequate to protect the cultural attributes of the landscape. Without a mission to the main archaeological sites in the River Ogooué Valley, details of the state of conservation of the cultural property cannot be recorded. Currently there are no active conservation measures undertaken on the archaeological sites. Although many of the sites are remote and this remoteness will help provide good protection, it would appear that over time consolidation and remedial work will be needed. High priority should be given to putting in place one or more staff with appropriate training for archaeological sites and cultural landscapes.

4. Congratulates the State Party on its efforts to secure international support for the management of Lopé National Park and commends the support provided by the EU, through the ECOFAC programme, and NGOs, in particular the Wildlife Conservation Society;
5. Requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre and IUCN on the approval of the new proposed Law on National Parks and on measures taken towards its enforcement in order to enhance the effective long-term conservation and management of the property;
6. Recommends that high priority should be given to putting in place one or more staff with appropriate training for archaeological sites and cultural landscapes;
7. Also recommends that the preventive conservation measures and remedial work for the archaeological sites should be strengthened when staff is appointed with appropriate training.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.55

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B.Add and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the proposed minor modification concerning the defined buffer zone for the **Royal Palaces of Abomey, Benin.**

Decision: 31 COM 8B.56

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B.Add and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the confirmed delineation of the inscribed property of the **Island of Saint-Louis, Senegal;**
3. Invites the State Party to provide detailed maps and areas for the proposed buffer zones as well as details of protective arrangements.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.57

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B.Add and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Refers a decision on the proposed buffer zone for the **Archaeological Site of Volubilis, Morocco**, back to the State Party to allow it to provide more details on the area of the zone and the protective policies in place.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.58

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B.Add and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Refers the minor modification to the boundaries of the **Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa, China**, back to the State Party to allow it to supplement the information provided on the proposed buffer zones for the three properties by providing:
 - a) areas and coordinates of the three buffer zones;
 - b) details of the protective policies in place;
 - c) rationale for the suggested buffer zones and whether consideration was given to enlarging the area protected.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.59

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B.Add and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the revised boundaries of the core and buffer zones of **Bam and its Cultural Landscape, Islamic Republic of Iran**.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.60

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B.Add and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the Butrint National Park as a buffer zone for **Butrint, Albania**;
3. Requests the State Party to provide documentation on the formal gazetting of the enlarged National Park.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.61

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B.Add and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the minor modification to the boundaries and the proposed buffer zone of the **Piazza del Duomo, Pisa, Italy**;
3. Requests that the State Party consider putting in place further protection to the north and west of the inscribed property.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.62

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B.Add and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Recommends that if the State Party wishes the San Salvador de Valdediós Church to be considered for inscription, it should be encouraged to undertake a comparative evaluation of the pre-Romanesque churches in the hinterland of Oviedo and submit this with a formal request for the Committee to consider a further extension of the serial property of the **Monuments of Oviedo and the Kingdom of the Asturias, Spain**.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.63

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B.Add and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the minor extension of the boundary of the **Old Town of Ávila with its Extra-Muros Churches, Spain**;
3. Requests that an adequate buffer zone be established and submitted for approval to the Committee;
4. Considers that further explanations for the choice of the boundaries to protect the setting of the town and its extra muros churches and views to and from it should be provided.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.64

The proposal to approve a revised buffer zone and the Statement of Significance of **Historic Centre of Rome, the Properties of the Holy See in that City Enjoying Extraterritorial Rights and San Paolo Fuori le Mura, Holy See/Italy**, was withdrawn.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.65

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B.Add and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the buffer zone for the **Cistercian Abbey of Fontenay, France**.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.66

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B.Add and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the buffer zone for the **Abbey Church of Saint-Savin sur Gartempe, France**.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.67

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B.Add and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the buffer zone for **Vézelay, Church and Hill, France**.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.68

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B.Add and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the buffer zone for **Mont-Saint-Michel and its Bay, France**.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.69

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B.Add and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the buffer zone for **Roman Theatre and its Surroundings and the "Triumphal Arch" of Orange, France**.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.70

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B.Add and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B1.Add,

2. Approves the buffer zone for the **Pont du Gard (Roman Aqueduct), France**.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.71

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B.Add and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Recommends that the State Party reconsider the buffer zone for **Strasbourg- Grande Île, France**, in order to delineate an area which gives more effective protection to the inscribed property and its setting.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.72

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B.Add and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the buffer zone for the **Palace and Park of Versailles, France**.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.73

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B.Add and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the following Statement of Significance for the **Rock Drawings of Valcamonica, Italy**:

Valcamonica's rock art, which consists of over 140,000 engravings on about 2,400 rocks distributed on both sides of an entire valley, constitutes an exceptional example of this kind of manifestation of human thought.

The number, duration and variety of the engravings, representing for example navigation, dance, war and ploughing and their relationship with contemporary archaeological sites, contribute to the exceptional value of this assemblage. Furthermore, the apparent continuation of the practice of engraving for a period of more than 8,000 years, from the Epipaleolithic until the Roman and Mediaeval periods, and in some cases until modern times, links this extraordinary expression of human creativity to present day communities.

Criterion (iii): The rock drawings of Valcamonica stretch back over the 8 thousand years which precede our present era. It is unnecessary to accent the conspicuously invaluable nature of human renderings which are of so great an antiquity.

Criterion (vi): The rock drawings of Valcamonica constitute an extraordinary figurative documentation of prehistoric customs and mentality. The systematic interpretation, typological classification, and the chronological study of these configurations in stone have brought about a considerable contribution to the fields of prehistory, sociology and ethnology.

Decision: 31 COM 8B.74

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/8B.Add,
2. Approves the following Statement of Significance for the **Virunga National Park, Democratic Republic of the Congo**:

Virunga National Park is notable for its chain of active volcanoes and the greatest diversity of habitats of any park in Africa: from steppes, savannas and lava plains, swamps, lowland and Afromontane forests, to the unique Afroalpine vegetation and icefields of the Ruwenzori mountains, which culminate in peaks above 5000m. The site includes the spectacular Ruwenzori and Virunga Massifs, including Africa's two most active volcanoes. The great diversity of habitats harbors an exceptional biodiversity, including endemic as well as rare and globally endangered species, such as the mountain gorilla.

Criterion (vii): Virunga National Park presents some of the most dramatic mountain scenery in Africa. The rugged Ruwenzori mountains with their snowcapped peaks and steep slopes and valleys and the volcanoes of the Virunga Massif, both with Afroalpine vegetation with giant heathers and Lobelias and densely forested slopes, are areas of exceptional natural beauty. The active volcanoes, which erupt every few years, form the dominant landforms of the exceptional scenery. The park contains several other spectacular landscapes such as the erosion valleys of the Sinda and Ishango areas. The park also contains great concentrations of wildlife, including elephants, buffalo and Uganda kob, and the highest concentration of hippopotamus in Africa, with 20,000 individuals on the shores of Lake Edward and along the Rwindi, Rutshuru and Semliki rivers.

Criterion (viii): Virunga National Park is situated at the heart of the Albertine Rift sector of the Great Rift Valley. In the southern section of the park, tectonic activity resulting from crustal extension of this area gave rise to the Virunga Massif, composed of eight volcanoes, of which seven are situated or partly situated in the park. These include Africa's two most active volcanoes, Nyamuragira and the neighbouring Nyiragongo, which alone account for two-fifths of the historical volcanic eruptions on the African continent. They are especially notable because of their highly fluid alkaline lavas. The activity of Nyiragongo is globally significant for its demonstration of lava lake volcanism, with a quasi-permanent lava lake at the bottom of its crater, periodic draining of which has been catastrophic to the local communities. The northern section of the park includes around 20% of the Ruwenzori Massif, the largest glaciated area in Africa and the only truly alpine mountain range on the continent, and adjoins the Ruwenzori National Park World Heritage Site in Uganda, with which it shares Mount Margherita, the third highest peak in Africa (5109m).

Criterion (x): Due to its variation in altitude (ranging between 680m and 5109m), rainfall and soils, Virunga National Park contains a very high diversity of plants and habitats, resulting in the highest biological diversity of any national park in Africa. More than 2000 higher plants have been identified, of which 10% are endemic to the Albertine Rift. Approximately 15% of the vegetation are Afromontane forests. The Albertine Rift has also more endemic vertebrate species than any other region of mainland Africa, an important number of which can be found in the park. The park harbors 218 mammal species, 706 bird species, 109 reptile species and 78 amphibian species. The park is home to 22

species of primates, including three great ape species (mountain gorilla *Gorilla beringei beringei*, eastern lowland gorilla *Gorilla beringei graueri* and eastern chimpanzee *Pan troglodytes schweinfurthi*), with one third of the remaining mountain gorilla population in the world. The savanna areas of the park are home to a diverse population of ungulates, with one of the highest biomass densities of wild mammals ever recorded on Earth (314 tonnes/km²). Ungulates include the rare Okapi (*Okapi johnstoni*), endemic to the DRC, and the Ruwenzori duiker (*Cephalophus rubidus*), endemic to the Ruwenzori mountains. The park contains significant wetland areas, particularly important as wintering grounds for Palearctic bird species.

8C. UPDATE OF THE LIST OF THE WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

Decision: 31 COM 8C.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Following the examination of the state of conservation reports of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List (WHC-07/31.COM/7B, WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add and WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add.2) and of proposals for inscription of properties on the World Heritage List (WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/8B.Add.Rev),
2. Decides to **inscribe** the following property on the List of World Heritage in Danger:
 - Ecuador, Galápagos Islands (Decision **31 COM 7B.35**)
 - Iraq, Samarra Archaeological City (Decision **31 COM 8B.23**)
 - Senegal, Niokolo Koba National Park (Decision **31 COM 7B.1**)

Decision: 31 COM 8C.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Following the examination of the state of conservation reports of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger (WHC-07/31.COM/7A and WHC-07/31.COM/7A.Add, WHC-07/31.COM/7A.Add.2, WHC-07/31.COM/7A.Add.3),
2. Decides to **maintain** the following properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger:
 - Afghanistan, Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Decision **31 COM 7A.20**)
 - Afghanistan, Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley, (Decision **31 COM 7A.21**)
 - Azerbaijan, Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Decision **31 COM 7A.26**)
 - Central African Republic, Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park (Decision **31 COM 7A.1**)
 - Chile, Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Decision **31 COM 7A.29**)
 - Côte d'Ivoire, Comoé National Park (Decision **31 COM 7A.2**)

- Côte d'Ivoire / Guinea, Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Decision **31 COM 7A.3**)
- Democratic Rep. of the Congo Virunga National Park (Decision **31 COM 7A.4**)
- Democratic Rep. of the Congo Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Decision **31 COM 7A.5**)
- Democratic Rep. of the Congo Garamba National Park (Decision **31 COM 7A.6**)
- Democratic Rep. of the Congo Salonga National Park (Decision **31 COM 7A.7**)
- Democratic Rep. of the Congo, Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Decision **31 COM 7A.8**)
- Egypt, Abu Mena (Decision **31 COM 7A.16**)
- Ethiopia, Simien National Park (Decision **31 COM 7A.9**)
- Germany, Dresden Elbe Valley (Decision **31 COM 7A.27**)
- India, Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (Decision **31 COM 7A.11**)
- Islamic Republic of Iran, Bam and its Cultural Landscape (Decision **31 COM 7A.22**)
- Iraq, Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Decision **31 COM 7A.17**)
- Jerusalem, Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (Decision **31 COM 7A.18**)
- Niger, Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Decision **31 COM 7A.10**)
- Pakistan, Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Decision **31 COM 7A.24**)
- Peru, Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Decision **31 COM 7A.30**)
- Philippines, Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Decision **31 COM 7A.25**)
- Serbia, Medieval Monuments of Kosovo (Decision **31 COM 7A.28**)
- United Republic of Tanzania, Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (Decision **31 COM 7A.15**)
- Venezuela, Coro and its Port (Decision **31 COM 7A.31**)
- Yemen, Historic Town of Zabid (Decision **31 COM 7A.19**)

Decision: 31 COM 8C.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Following the examination of the state of conservation reports of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger (WHC-07/31.COM/7A and WHC-07/31.COM/7A.Add, WHC-07/31.COM/7A.Add.2, WHC-07/31.COM/7A.Add.3),
2. Decides to **remove** the following properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger:
 - Benin, Royal Palaces of Abomey (Decision **31 COM 7A.14**)
 - Honduras, Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Decision **31 COM 7A.13**)
 - Nepal, Kathmandu Valley (Decision **31 COM 7A.23**)
 - United States of America, Everglades National Park (Decision **31 COM 7A.12**)

GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR A REPRESENTATIVE, BALANCED AND CREDIBLE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

9. DISCUSSION ON THE OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

Decision: 31 COM 9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/9,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 9** adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Takes note of the progress reports by ICOMOS and IUCN on the first compendium on outstanding universal value and the inscription of proposed properties by criteria on the World Heritage List;
4. Requests ICOMOS and IUCN to harmonize their reports to include detailed analyses of criteria, lists of sites inscribed under each criterion, landmark cases as well as reflections on authenticity, integrity and management practices;
5. Requests the World Heritage Centre to:
 - (i) send electronically the draft compendium during the year to receive preliminary comments; and
 - (ii) prepare an overview introduction of the reports of the Advisory Bodies;
6. Requests ICOMOS to give consideration in the final report to archaeological sites and their threshold for inscription on the World Heritage List;
7. Requests ICOMOS and IUCN, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, to finalize the first compendium for consideration by the Committee at its 32nd session (2008);
8. Accepts the offer of the United Kingdom to host an expert meeting on the recognition of the heritage of science and technology in the *World Heritage Convention* during late 2007.

10. GLOBAL STRATEGY: EVALUATION OF THE CAIRNS – SUZHOU DECISION

Decision: 31 COM 10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/10,
2. Recalling Decision **28 COM 13.1** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. While strongly recommending that the current practice of examining up to two complete nominations per State Party per year, provided that at least one of such nominations concerns a natural property, be maintained, decides, nevertheless, on an experimental

basis of 4 years, that a State Party be permitted to decide on the nature of the nomination, whether natural or cultural, as per its national priorities, its history and geography;

4. Adopts the following order of priorities for the examination of nominations to apply in case the overall annual limit of 45 nominations is exceeded:
 - a) nominations of properties submitted by States Parties with no properties inscribed on the List;
 - b) nominations of properties submitted by States Parties having up to 3 properties inscribed on the List,
 - c) nominations of properties that have been previously excluded due to the annual limit of 45 nominations and the application of these priorities,
 - d) nominations of properties for natural heritage,
 - e) nominations of properties for mixed heritage,
 - f) nominations of transboundary/transnational properties,
 - g) nominations from States Parties in Africa, the Pacific and the Caribbean,
 - h) nominations of properties submitted by States Parties that ratified the *World Heritage Convention* over the last 10 years prior to their submission,
 - i) nominations of properties submitted by States Parties that have not submitted nominations for ten years or more,
 - j) when applying this priority system, date of receipt of full and complete nominations by the World Heritage Centre shall be used as a secondary factor to determine the priority between those nominations that would not be designated by the previous points;
5. Also decides to amend paragraph 61(c) of the *Operational Guidelines* accordingly, for a four- year period;
6. Further decides to revise paragraph 61 of the *Operational Guidelines* to confirm that the Committee will review the impact of this decision at the 35th session in 2011.
7. Recommends that the World Heritage Centre in cooperation with the Advisory Bodies organize a meeting to examine the implications of the Cairns-Suzhou decision for Africa and the question of Outstanding Universal Value in Africa;
8. Recommends further investment in capacity building through training in the preparation of nominations. Such training activities should be immediately carried out in Africa with funding provided from the World Heritage Fund in the 2008/09 Biennium (The Africa 2009 training for Francophone countries planned for July 2007 is a good example);
9. Decides to allocate the amount of USD 100 000 from the World Heritage Fund for the implementation of capacity building activities in Africa.

11. PERIODIC REPORTS

11A. FOLLOW UP ON THE PERIODIC REPORT FOR EUROPE

Decision: 31 COM 11A.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/11A.1,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 11A.1** and **30 COM 11A.2** adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Commends States Parties for updating the boundaries and statements of outstanding universal value and encourages the European States Parties to submit any changes to names, criteria, boundaries and statements of significance in a timely fashion and in accordance with deadlines outlined in the *Operational Guidelines* as a follow-up to the European Periodic Report, at the latest by **1 February 2008**;
4. Takes note of the results of the subregional meetings on the follow-up to Periodic Reporting for Western Europe, Mediterranean and South Eastern Europe and further notes training initiatives financed through extrabudgetary sources;
5. Recommends that States Parties, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre continue their collaboration in addressing any outstanding issues in particular with focused follow-up meetings and welcomes the initiative of the Austrian authorities for a second Western European meeting, the Finnish authorities for having hosted the Nordic and Baltic Europe meeting, both in May 2007, as well as the Polish authorities initiative to host a meeting for Eastern and Central Europe in September 2007 and Greece for Mediterranean Europe in March 2008;
6. Requests States Parties to provide to the World Heritage Centre updated and detailed contact information on site managers in Europe in order to establish a reliable database;
7. Further requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to prepare a progress report on the follow-up to the European Periodic Report for examination at its 32nd session in 2008.

Decision: 31 COM 11A.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/11A.2,
2. Takes note of the clarification of property limits provided by the following States Parties in the European region in response to the Retrospective Inventory:
 - Belgium: La Grand-Place, Brussels;
 - Bulgaria: Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo; Thracian Tomb of Sveshtari;
 - Italy: Church and Dominican Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie with "The Last Supper" by Leonardo da Vinci; Historic Centre of Florence; I Sassi di Matera; Historic Centre of Urbino;
 - Portugal: Historic Centre of Évora;

- Slovenia: Škocjan Caves;
 - Spain: Altamira Cave; Mudejar Architecture of Aragon; Cathedral, Alcázar and Archivo de Indias in Seville; La Lonja de la Seda de Valencia; San Millán Yuso and Suso Monasteries; University and Historic Precinct of Alcalá de Henares.
3. Requests the State Parties in the Europe Region who have not yet answered the questions raised in 2005 in the framework of the Retrospective Inventory to provide all requested clarifications and documentation as soon as possible and by **1 December 2007** at the latest;
 4. Acknowledges that the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies will not be able to examine proposals for boundary modifications for properties located in the Europe Region whenever current boundaries are unclear. The same principle applies to sites located within other Regions;
 5. Thanks the States Parties concerned for their efforts to improve the credibility of the World Heritage List.

11B. FOLLOW UP ON THE PERIODIC REPORT FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Decision: 31 COM 11B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/11B,
2. Recalling Decisions **27 COM 20B.3** and **30 COM 11D** adopted respectively at its 27th session (UNESCO, 2003) and 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes with satisfaction the significant progress achieved in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* in Asia through the implementation of the Action Plans developed within the framework of the regional programme “Action Asia 2003-2009”;
4. Commends the Asian States Parties, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for their efforts, as well as the concerned institutions and donors for their contributions to achieve these positive results;
5. Strongly commends the UNESCO Cultural Heritage Specialist Guide Training and Certification Programme as a best-practice example of an initiative aiming at integrating the conservation of World Heritage within the wider sustainable development framework for the benefit of local communities;
6. Takes note of, and welcomes the launch of the World Heritage Regional Training and Research Institute in China;
7. Invites the Asian States Parties, in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, to continue implementing the Action Plans concentrating on the priorities identified at the sub-regional workshops of 2005, and to submit revised Action Plans covering the period 2010-2015, including a budget estimate, for the consideration of the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
8. Decides to allocate the amount of USD 100,000 from the World Heritage Fund for the implementation of the activities indicated in Section IV of Document WHC-07/31.COM/11B;

9. Requests the World Heritage Centre to submit a report on the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plans, including proposals for the period 2010-2015, for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

11C. PRESENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROGRAMME FOR THE PACIFIC

Decision: 31 COM 11C

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/11C,
2. Recalling its Decisions **27 COM 20B.4** adopted at its 27th session (UNESCO, 2003), and **30 COM 11D** adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes with satisfaction the significant progress achieved in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* in the Pacific region through the execution of the Action Plan Pacific 2009;
4. Commends the States Parties of the Pacific, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, especially ICOMOS for the preparation of a thematic study on cultural landscapes, for their efforts, as well as the concerned institutions and donors for their contribution to the attainment of these positive results;
5. Takes note of, and welcomes the Appeal presented by the States Parties of the Pacific and their renewed determination to identify and protect the outstanding heritage of their region including by establishing a Pacific World Heritage Fund;
6. Invites the Member States of the Pacific to report to the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009 on progress made towards the establishment of such a Fund;
7. Encourages States Parties and international donors to make financial contributions when the Fund is established;
8. Invites the States Parties of the Pacific region to continue implementing the Action Plan Pacific-2009 concentrating on the priorities identified at the Tongariro workshop of February 2007, and to submit a revised Action Plan covering the period 2010-2015, including a budget estimate, for the consideration of the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
9. Encourages States Parties including small island territories located in the Pacific to facilitate the participation of their communities in the implementation of the Action Plan Pacific-2009;
10. Decides to allocate the amount of USD 150,000 from the World Heritage Fund for the implementation of the activities indicated in Section V of Document WHC-07/31.COM/11C;
11. Requests the World Heritage Centre to submit a report on the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan Pacific-2009, including proposals for the period 2010-2015, for the consideration of the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

11D. REFLECTION ON THE PREPARATION OF THE NEXT CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING

Decision: 31 COM 11D.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/11D.1,
2. Recalling Decisions **25 COM VII.25-27** adopted at its 25th session (Helsinki, 2001), **7 EXT.COM 5** and **7 EXT.COM 5A.1** adopted at its 7th extraordinary session (UNESCO, 2004), **29 COM 11.A** adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005), **30 COM 11G** adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
3. Recognizing the range of benefits for the World Heritage community of the new approach for Section II of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire proposed by the “Working Group on the simplification of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire and setting up of indicators” (the Working Group);
4. Welcomes the new format for Section II as presented in Document WHC-07/31.COM/INF.11D.1;
5. Requests the World Heritage Centre and the Working Group to develop a new format for Section I, incorporating the lessons learnt from the revision of the Section II questionnaire and to finalize both Sections I and II of the revised questionnaire and decides to allocate USD 75,000 from the World Heritage Fund for these activities;
6. Requests the World Heritage Centre to develop a Web-based application of the revised questionnaire as found in WHC-07/31.COM/INF.11D.1 and decides to allocate USD 50,000 from the World Heritage Fund for this task;
7. Recognizing the pivotal importance of Statements of Outstanding Universal Value in all World Heritage processes, urges States Parties, in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to prepare all missing Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for properties in their territory before the launching of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting in their Region and decides to allocate USD 10,000 from the World Heritage Fund to the Advisory Bodies to participate in the revision of the Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for the Arab States Region;
8. Requests the World Heritage Centre to ensure it has adequate capacity and resources to continue the Retrospective Inventory as the basis to prefill the questionnaire at the outset of the Second cycle of periodic reporting in each region;
9. Acknowledges the importance and complexity of adopting a consistent approach for indicators for World Heritage properties and requests the World Heritage Centre to prepare a working document on this issue to be presented at its 32nd session in 2008;
10. Invites States Parties wishing to participate in the Field Testing of the revised questionnaire to contact the World Heritage Centre before **30 September 2007**.

Decision: 31 COM 11D.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/11D.2,
2. Noting that maintaining the long established principle of public access to the Nomination Files of the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List is fundamental to achieving the strategic objectives of the Budapest Declaration, specifically the Credibility of the List, the effective Conservation of the Properties, the support for Capacity-building, and public-awareness and support of the *Convention* through Communication and also to UNESCO's founding principles,
3. Decides to approve the proposal to make the Nomination Files of the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List available electronically on the World Heritage Centre's website, starting with those from 1998 forward, and to make earlier files available as the retrospective inventory progresses;
4. Requests the World Heritage Centre to ensure that these files have both a disclaimer and are appropriately watermarked in order to discourage misuse.

12. SPECIAL REPORTS

12A. PROTECTION OF THE PALESTINIAN CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Decision: 31 COM 12A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/12A,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 11C.2** adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Takes note of the information provided by the World Heritage Centre on the progress made in the implementation of its Decisions **29 COM 11D** and **30 COM 11C.2**;
4. Commends the efforts of all professionals involved in preserving the Palestinian cultural and natural heritage despite difficult conditions;
5. Thanks the concerned States Parties, IGOs and NGOs for their substantial contributions to UNESCO's action in the Palestinian Territories, and appeals to them to continue assisting in this endeavour;
6. Regrets that the prevailing situation, besides heavily affecting the life of the communities, does not allow effective and smooth implementation of conservation programmes;
7. Urges all parties concerned with the safeguarding of the Palestinian cultural and natural heritage to take appropriate measures to prevent and avoid any damage to the Palestinian cultural and natural heritage;

8. Requests the World Heritage Centre to continue its efforts, in liaison with the concerned parties, in order to elaborate an Action Plan for the preservation and rehabilitation of this heritage, and to continue assisting the Palestinian institutions concerned in reinforcing their capacity in the protection, preservation and management of the cultural and natural heritage;
9. Invites the States Parties to contribute to the implementation of the above activities and decides to allocate an amount of USD 100,000 to this end during the 2008-2009 biennium ;
10. Further requests the World Heritage Centre to present a report on the progress made to the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

12B. NOMINATION OF QHAPAQ NAN – MAIN ANDEAN ROAD FOR INSCRIPTION ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

Decision: 31 COM.12B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/12B,
2. Congratulates the States Parties and Scientific and Juridical Committees for the results obtained thus far;
3. Recognizes the contribution of Spain to this project;
4. Encourages the World Heritage Centre to continue to coordinate the project and to develop it further as best practice for other transnational and serial nominations;
5. Also encourages the further consolidation of this work.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

13. EVALUATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Decision: 31 COM 13A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/13A,
2. Recalls the **Budapest Declaration**, adopted during its 25th session (Budapest, 2002), and more particularly its Article 5;
3. Takes note of information provided by States Parties in their responses to the questionnaire submitted by the World Heritage Centre;

4. Congratulates States Parties to the *Convention* for their commitment in the implementation of the four strategic objectives and warmly encourages them to pursue their efforts;
5. Decides to maintain credibility, conservation, capacity building and communication as strategic objectives in the implementation of the *Convention* whilst restating the different components and, recognizing the critical importance of involving indigenous, traditional and local communities in the implementation of the *Convention*, further decides to add “communities” as a fifth strategic objective;
6. Requests the World Heritage Centre to use the evaluation of the Periodic Report in the assessment of the strategic objectives for the implementation of the *Convention*;
7. Decides to consider, at its 32nd session in 2008, the establishment of a working group to study the implementation of the strategic objectives.

Decision: 31 COM 13B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/13B,
2. Welcomes the proposal by New Zealand to enhance the role of communities in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*;
3. Adds a “fifth C” for “Communities” to the existing Strategic Objectives which were adopted as the **Budapest Declaration** on World Heritage by the World Heritage Committee at its 26th session (Budapest, 2002) which should read as follows:
 “To enhance the role of communities in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*.”
4. Encourages all interested parties to promote and implement this fifth Strategic Objective.
5. Thanks New Zealand for this important contribution to the implementation of the *Convention*.

GLOBAL TRAINING STRATEGY

14. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR CAPACITY BUILDING ON NATURAL HERITAGE

Decision: 31 COM 14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/14,
2. Recalling Decisions **7 EXT.COM 11**, adopted at its 7th extraordinary session (UNESCO, 2004) and **29 COM 10**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),

3. Takes notes of the document WHC-07/31.COM/14 and, in particular, the activities undertaken from 2005 to 2007 within the Global Framework Programme for capacity building and training for Natural Heritage;
4. Requests the Director of the World Heritage Centre in close cooperation with IUCN and ICCROM to:
 - a) Define a training programme including the institutions and expertise within the States Parties;
 - b) Implement the key recommendations and strategic considerations of this document as well as the Action Plan for Fundraising for Natural Heritage Training and Capacity Building.

WORLD HERITAGE PACT

15. EVALUATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PARTNERSHIPS FOR CONSERVATION INITIATIVE (PACT)

Decision: 31 COM 15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/15,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 13**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005);
3. Expresses its appreciation for the results achieved and encourages the World Heritage Centre to continue work developed under the World Heritage Partnerships Initiative (World Heritage PACT);
4. Requests the World Heritage Centre, in preparing the next cycle of revisions to the *Operational Guidelines*, to submit to the 32nd session of the Committee, a discussion paper on new strategic directions for partnerships, with a particular emphasis on:
 - a) Developing partnerships with the corporate sector,
 - b) New modalities of generating income based on licensing,
 - c) Commercial use of the World Heritage logo,
 - d) The need to take geographical representation into account when developing partnerships;
5. Emphasizes the need to trademark the term “World Heritage”, and invites the Director-General to identify extra-budgetary funding to initiate this process ;
6. Encourages the Director-General to continue the development of new tools in support of the partnership development strategy.

WORKING METHODS AND TOOLS

16. WORKING METHODS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Decision: 31 COM 16A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/16,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 14A.9** and **30 COM 13.3** (Vilnius, 2006), and **29 COM 18B** (Durban, 2005);
3. Requests the World Heritage Centre to check, in close consultation with the Advisory Bodies, the consistency of the relevant decisions of the Committee with the *Operational Guidelines*;
4. Also requests the World Heritage Centre, in order to ensure consistency, to submit the proposed revisions for consideration by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, and to update the electronic, web-based version of the English and French text of the *Operational Guidelines*, on **1 January each year**;
5. Further requests the World Heritage Centre to edit a printed paper version of the English and French texts of the *Operational Guidelines* once every four years, starting in 2009, for distribution of the revised paper version at its 33rd session (2009).
6. Invites the General Assembly to take into account the debate on the division of responsibilities between the General Assembly and the World Heritage Committee held at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007) in examining the possibility that strategic policy issues become permanent agenda items for the Assembly, including:
 - a) Strategic Objectives for the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*,
 - b) Strategic policy issues such as the Global Strategy for a Representative, Balanced and Credible World Heritage List,
 - c) Orientations in relation to World Heritage Programmes and the World Heritage Fund,
 - d) Reflection on major themes of cultural and natural heritage,
 - e) Implementation of previous General Assembly resolutions,
 - f) the State of Conservation of World Heritage;
7. Takes note of the debate on the perception of conflict of interest.

Decision: 31 COM 16B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/16.Add,

2. Decides to allocate a budget of USD 8,000 from the World Heritage Fund for the organization of an orientation session for new Committee members to be held the day prior to the 32nd session in 2008;
3. Requests the Director of the World Heritage Centre to organize the orientation session in cooperation with the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, the Advisory Bodies, and ICCROM in particular;
4. Recognizing the benefits of promoting collegiality among new Committee members and those members currently serving on the Committee, encourages interested current Committee members to participate in the orientation session.

17. REFLECTION ON THE ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Decision: 31 COM 17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/17,
2. Recalling the Resolution adopted by the 15th session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* asking the Secretariat to initiate a process until the General Assembly in 2007 to discuss possible alternatives to the present election system;
3. Recalling Decision **30 COM 18B**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
4. Taking note that only 19 out of 183 States Parties commented on Document WHC-06/30.COM/18B;
5. Reaffirming the necessity to secure a more equitable representation of the different regions and cultures of the world, as well as a fair rotation in the membership of the Committee;
6. Recalling nevertheless the need to maintain professional expertise in the field of cultural and natural heritage amongst its members in accordance with Article 9.3 of the *World Heritage Convention*;
7. Highlighting the necessity to consider a less time-consuming and less complicated voting system to better focus on other important issues in the proceedings of the General Assembly;
8. Respecting the request by many States Parties for additional time to allow a further reflection;
9. Requests the Secretariat to include the views expressed by the Committee at its 31st session in the report to be submitted to the 16th session of the General Assembly of States Parties;
10. Taking into account the tenour of the debate and the resolutions taken by the 16th session of the General Assembly on this issue decides, if appropriate, to discuss the creation of an open-ended Consultative Body on this subject at its 8th extraordinary

session in October 2007 with a view to presenting a report at the 32nd session of the Committee in 2008;

11. Encourages the Director-General to equip one of the UNESCO Headquarters meeting rooms with a more flexible electronic balloting system, allowing the selection of several candidates at once.

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

18. INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

Decision: 31 COM 18A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/18A,
2. Decides to approve the following requests:
 - India: Regional training Workshop for conservation and management of Central Asian and Mogul architecture for an amount of USD 59,600
 - Vietnam: Ha Long Bay Management Department Institutional Strengthening Project for an amount of USD 65,780

Decision: 31 COM 18B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/18B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 14A**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Taking into account the recommendations contained in Document WHC-06/30.COM/14A,
4. Considers that the preference for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Low Income Economies (LIEs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and post-conflict countries apply when the funds available are limited and a selection has to be made;
5. Decides:
 - a) to adopt the new application form and its written guidelines presented in the above-mentioned Document, as Annexes I and II (as amended);
 - b) to adopt the selection criteria to be used in the evaluation of International Assistance requests by the Advisory Bodies presented in the above-mentioned Document as Annex III (as amended);
 - c) to dedicate 35% of the envelope foreseen for International Assistance in the World Heritage Fund budget (excluding Emergency Assistance) to natural heritage and 65% to cultural heritage;

- d) to maintain a ceiling of USD 10,000 for International Assistance requests falling under items (vii) and (viii) of the Conservation & Management category in paragraph 241 of the *Operational Guidelines*
 - e) that there will be no more earmarking of funds against the different types of international assistance, except emergency assistance, beginning in the 2008-2009 biennium;
6. Also decides that requests of less than USD 5,000 will be submitted for approval by the Director of the World Heritage Centre, within the limits set out in Paragraph 241 of the *Operational Guidelines*, without examination by the panel;
 7. Further decides that requests for Emergency Assistance of up to USD 75,000 will be submitted for approval by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee after comments by the Advisory Bodies and without examination by the panel, provided they meet the definition established for Emergency Assistance;
 8. Further decides that for requests for international assistance for the preparation of nomination dossiers, every effort will be made to recommend the use of the technical assistance of experts and to monitor the effectiveness of the international assistance in the context of future inscriptions;
 9. Requests the World Heritage Centre to include in future reports on international assistance approved by the Director and the Chairperson details about the application of the selection criteria to each project;
 10. Approves the modifications in the *Operational Guidelines*, paragraphs 233 to 257, proposed in the above-mentioned Document.

19. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT ON THE MANAGEMENT AUDIT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE

Decision: 31 COM 19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/19B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 6** and **30 COM 12** adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
3. Takes note of the recommendations presented in the Management Audit of the World Heritage Centre and the preliminary comments of the Director-General as well as the observations made by the Internal Oversight Service on the Audit;
4. Notes the assessment of the Audit which recognizes that the World Heritage Centre is a centre of excellence in its areas of competence and that the programme it implements is one of the most visible programmes of UNESCO;
5. Recalls that the main task of the World Heritage Centre is its role as Secretariat of the World Heritage Committee and to help implement the *World Heritage Convention*;

6. Notes the observations made by the Internal Oversight Service on the Audit, including the lack of precision of certain sets of data presented, the omission of the efficiency question in the use of resources, the insufficient mapping of the World Heritage Centre's workload, and the lack of information on temporary, consultant and field office staff, which are important elements to clarify in order to determine whether the World Heritage Centre is appropriately resourced to carry out its responsibilities;
7. Notes that more detailed information is needed regarding the mapping of the Centre's workload, its regional distribution and the consequences of the high proportion of personnel in temporary contracts;
8. Requests that more attention be paid to the development of a more long-term and stable workforce that reinforces the human capital of the World Heritage Centre;
9. Welcomes the Director-General's proposal to consider the World Heritage Centre as a pilot exercise to build an analytical accounting system for UNESCO as a whole;
10. Welcomes the Director-General's proposal to enable the World Heritage Centre, where appropriate, to use budgets from different sources in a complementary and efficient way to deliver the identified results;
11. Recommends strongly the Director-General, in recognition of the inter-sectoral character of the World Heritage Centre, which reflects its responsibilities for cultural and natural heritage sites, to reinstate its operational autonomy which at present does not sufficiently exist and further recommends the Director-General to take the measures necessary to ensure its operational autonomy;
12. Urges the Director of the World Heritage Centre to take action, on the basis of the Audit's findings and the views expressed at the 31st session of the World Heritage Committee, to reinforce the effectiveness and efficiency of the World Heritage Centre, in a manner consistent with Paragraph 27 of the *Operational Guidelines* that requires close co-operation with other sectors and field offices of UNESCO, and further urges the Director of the World Heritage Centre to:
 - a) improve the accounting and budgetary management and internal control mechanism,
 - b) strengthen management process,
 - c) clarify the organizational structure and personnel requirements within the World Heritage Centre, including a mapping of the workload and innovative proposals for the engagement of non permanent staff,
 - d) delineate the respective roles of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies,
 - e) develop and implement a strategy for knowledge management and information sharing,
 - f) prepare guidelines for carrying out World Heritage missions;
13. Invites the Director of the World Heritage Centre to present to the Sixteenth session of the General Assembly of the States Parties a results- based plan implementing paragraph 12;
14. Calls on the Director of the World Heritage Centre to present a progress report on the implementation of this decision to the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

20. BUDGET

20A REPORT ON THE EXECUTION OF THE 2006 TO 2007 BUDGET

Decision: 31 COM 20A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/20A,
2. Takes note of the state of implementation of the Budget for 2006-2007, and the current situation of the reserves and contributions as at 31 December 2006;
3. Requests the World Heritage Centre to present, at the next Committee session, a document on the statement of accounts of the World Heritage Fund for the period 2006-2007 as well as the provisional state of implementation of the 2008-2009 budget, as per the revised budgetary structure (Decision **6 EXT.COM 6**);
4. Decides to set the Contingency Reserve at USD 700,000;
5. Authorizes the Director of the World Heritage Centre to proceed, in liaison with the UNESCO Services, to make all necessary budgetary adjustments in the World Heritage Fund within the ceiling approved by the World Heritage Committee;
6. Urges States Parties to pay their outstanding contributions to the World Heritage Fund;
7. Invites the Director-General to encourage States Parties to make voluntary donations to the World Heritage Fund over and above their contributions.

20B PROPOSAL FOR THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND BUDGET FOR THE 2008 TO 2009 BIENNIUM

Decision: 31 COM 20B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/20B,
2. Approves the World Heritage Fund budget of USD 6,416,464 for the 2008-2009 biennium and the corresponding breakdown annexed to Tables 1 to 3;
3. Requests the World Heritage Centre to report upon the budgetary execution in accordance with the format adopted by Decision **6 EXT.COM 6**, including all funding sources, at each Committee session, in the framework of its annual report;
4. Also requests the World Heritage Centre to present audited statements of the 2006-2007 biennium to the 32nd session in 2008.
5. Further requests the World Heritage Centre to contact States Parties with properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and, in particular, least developed countries, to

urge them to apply for International Assistance to address the issues facing the properties.

21. OTHER BUSINESS

21A. COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT SUMMARY RECORD AND AUDIO RECORDING

Decision: 31 COM 21A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/21A,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 13**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Takes note of the cost-benefit analysis presented therein;
4. Commends New Zealand for its proposal relative to producing an audio recording of the proceedings of Committee sessions, but notes that it is not timely and decides to continue with the present system of Summary Records.

21B. COSTED, TIME-BOUND BUDGET FOR A NEW SERIES OF WORLD HERITAGE RESOURCE MANUALS

Decision: 31 COM 21B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/21B,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 6** and **30 COM 15.2**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
3. Endorses the proposed list of titles for the new World Heritage Resource Manuals Series, as well as the outlined timeline;
4. Thanks the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for their financial assistance in the production of the Resource Manual on Management Guidelines for Cultural Landscapes;
5. Approves the budget for the following titles to be published in 2008/2009 (see Decision **31 COM 20B**):
 - a) Guidance on Preparing World Heritage Nominations,
 - b) Preparing Management Plans for Natural World Heritage Properties,
 - c) Preparing Management Plans for Cultural World Heritage Properties, and
 - d) Tourism and World Heritage Resource Manual

6. Requests the World Heritage Centre, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, to provide the titles and costs of proposed future manuals, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

21C. WORLD HERITAGE PROGRAMME ON EARTHEN ARCHITECTURE

Decision: 31 COM 21C

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/21C,
2. Welcomes the proposal to implement an integrated programme of activities in support of earthen architectural heritage and recognizes the potential of this programme to contribute towards the sustainable development of traditional settlements which could provide considerable benefits to local communities;
3. Decides to allocate USD 80,000 from the World Heritage Fund as seed money for the implementation of Phase 1 of the Programme (namely, USD 40,000 from the 2006-2007 budget, and USD 40,000 from the 2008-2009 budget);
4. Encourages the World Heritage Centre to seek extra budgetary funds for the implementation of the proposed Programme activities;
5. Also encourages the World Heritage Centre to use local institutions and human capacity already developed in the regions to drive the programme;
6. Further encourages the World Heritage Centre to ensure the transfer of management of the programme to the regions within the first four years of the commencement of the programme; for Africa however the management of the programme should be done from the region by the School of African Heritage (EPA) and the Center for Heritage Development in Africa (CHDA), as well as established heritage institutions, with advice from CRATerre-ENSAG, ICCROM and ICOMOS;
7. Calls for potential donors and States Parties to provide financial support for the implementation of Programme activities;
8. Requests the Director of the World Heritage Centre to prepare a report on the programme objectives and a costed multi-year programme for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

CLOSING SESSION

22. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSONS AND RAPPORTEUR OF THE 32ND SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (JUNE-JULY 2008)

Decision: 31 COM 22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recalling its Decision **30 COM 16**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), which elected a Bureau whose mandate began at the end of its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) until the end of its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
2. Decides to elect, in accordance with Rule 13.1 of the *Rules of Procedure* of the Committee, a Bureau with the following composition:
 - a) Dr Christina Cameron (Canada) as Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, whose mandate will begin at the end of the 31st session of the Committee (Christchurch, 2007) until the end of the 32nd session of the Committee (July 2008);
 - b) - Kenya,
- Tunisia,
- Republic of Korea,
- Israel, and
- Peru

as Vice-Chairpersons of the World Heritage Committee, whose mandates will begin at the end of the 31st session of the Committee (Christchurch, 2007) until the end of the 32nd session of the Committee (July 2008);
3. Also decides that the Bureau of the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee (June-July 2009) will be elected at the end of the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee (July 2008) in accordance with Rule 13.1 of the *Rules of Procedure* of the World Heritage Committee;
4. Also decides, by suspending Rules 12.1 and 13.1 of the *Rules of Procedure*, to elect the Rapporteur of the 32nd session of the Committee once new members of the Committee have been elected by the General Assembly of States Parties at its 16th session (October, 2007);
5. Further decides to hold its 8th extraordinary session (UNESCO, October 2007) following the closure of the 16th session of the General Assembly of States Parties (October, 2007) with a view to electing the Rapporteur of the 32nd session of the Committee, whose mandate will begin at the end of 8th extraordinary session of the Committee until the end of the 32nd ordinary session of the Committee (July 2008).

23. PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

23A. PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE 8TH EXTRA-ORDINARY SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Decision: 31 COM 23A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Adopts the following provisional agenda for the session for its 8th Extraordinary session (UNESCO, October 2007) :

PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE 8TH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

1. Election of the Rapporteur of the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee
2. Continuation of the reflection on the elections of the members of the World Heritage Committee
3. International Assistance

23B. PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE 32ND SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (JULY 2008)

Decision: 31 COM 23B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/23,
2. Decides that its 32nd session will take place in Québec, Canada, from 2 to 10 July 2008;
3. Adopts the following provisional Agenda for its 32nd session (Québec, 2008):

OPENING SESSION

1. Opening session
2. Requests for Observer status
3. Adoption of the Agenda and the Timetable
 - 3A Adoption of the Agenda
 - 3B Adoption of the Timetable

REPORTS

4. Report of the Rapporteurs
 - 4A Report of the Rapporteur of the 31st session of the World Heritage Committee (Christchurch, 2007)
 - 4B Report of the Rapporteur of the 16th session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* (UNESCO, 2007)
5. Report of the World Heritage Centre on its activities and the implementation of the World Heritage Committee's Decisions
6. Progress reports on World Heritage Funds
 - 6.A Progress report on the African World Heritage Fund
 - 6.B Progress report on the creation of the Pacific World Heritage Fund

EXAMINATION OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION

7. Examination of the State of conservation of World Heritage properties
 - 7.1 Presentation of the Results of the Experts Meeting on Buffer Zones
 - 7.2 Presentation of the Draft Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscapes
 - 7.3 Report on the reinforced monitoring mechanism
 - 7A State of conservation of World Heritage properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
 - 7B State of conservation of World Heritage properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST AND OF THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

8. Establishment of the World Heritage List and of the List of World Heritage in Danger
 - 8A Tentative Lists submitted by States Parties as of 15 May 2008, in conformity with the *Operational Guidelines*
 - 8B Nominations to the World Heritage List
 - 8C Update of the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger
 - 8D Point of information on the preparation of serial transnational nominations

GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR A REPRESENTATIVE, BALANCED AND CREDIBLE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

9. Discussion on outstanding universal value
10. Progress report on Thematic Studies

PERIODIC REPORTS

11. Periodic Reports

- 11A Follow-up on the Periodic Report for Africa
- 11B Follow up on the Periodic Report for Arab States
- 11C Follow up on the Periodic Report for Europe and North America
- 11D Follow up on the Periodic Report for Latin America and the Caribbean
- 11E Reflection on the preparation of the next cycle of Periodic Reporting

SPECIAL REPORTS

12. Protection of the Palestinian cultural and natural heritage

WORKING METHODS AND TOOLS

13. Revision of the *Operational Guidelines*

14. Continuation of the reflection on the elections of the members of the World Heritage Committee

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

15. International Assistance

16. Report on the execution of the 2006-2007 Budget

17. Progress report on the implementation of the recommendations of the 2007 Audit

18. Other business

CLOSING SESSION

19. Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteur of the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee (June-July 2009)

20. Provisional Agenda of the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee (June-July 2009)

21. Adoption of Decisions

22. Closing ceremony