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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

Item 7A of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of the properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

SUMMARY

In accordance with Section IV B, paragraphs 190-191 of the *Operational Guidelines* (WHC.05/2), the Committee shall review annually the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. This review shall include such monitoring procedures and expert missions as might be determined necessary by the Committee.

This document contains information on the state of conservation of thirty four natural and cultural properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies therefore submit herewith reports for review by the Committee. Where appropriate, the World Heritage Centre or the Advisory Bodies will provide additional information during the session of the Committee.

Decision required: The Committee is requested to review the following state of conservation reports. The Committee may wish to adopt the draft Decision presented at the end of each state of conservation report.

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II. State of conservation reports

NATURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1988

Criteria:

(ix) (x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

1997

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) Illegal grazing;
- b) Uncontrolled poaching by heavily armed groups and subsequent loss of up to 80% of the Park's wildlife;
- c) Deteriorating security situation and the halt of tourism.

Benchmarks for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger:

Benchmarks have yet to be set.

Corrective measures identified:

No corrective measures were adopted by the Committee. However, the 2001 UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission did propose an emergency rehabilitation plan. Main components of this plan were:

- a) Zoning of the park, materialization of its limits;
- b) Development of a management plan;
- c) Inventory of wildlife in the park together with a cartography of major habitats;
- d) Management actions to conserve biodiversity and protect fragile ecosystems;
- e) Development of cooperation mechanism with all stakeholders, in particular local communities, government services, projects and hunting concessionaires;
- f) Strengthening law enforcement in the property.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

No timeframe was set so far.

Previous Committee Decisions:

28 COM 15A.1; 29 COM 7A.1; 30 COM 7A.1

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 296,653 for emergency assistance and technical cooperation.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission in May 2001

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Insecurity;
- b) Poaching;
- c) Mining;
- d) Transhumance and illegal grazing;
- e) Illegal fishing;
- f) Lack of resources.

Current conservation issues:

A report was received from the State Party on February 5, 2007. The report highlights some progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2001 UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission but unfortunately does not provide information on the current state of conservation of the property. The report mentions the following results: realization of a wildlife survey (of which the results were presented to the Committee at its 30th session), the erection of signs at the entry points to the park in Manovo and Gordill, cartography of the rivers and surveillance tracks, efforts to sensitize the local communities, the construction of a surveillance camp near the Gata swamp, efforts to strengthen law enforcement, the development of a new wildlife law which takes into account the establishment of village hunting areas, and the development of a cooperation with the hunting tourism companies and local communities for the management of communal hunting areas.

It needs to be noted that many of these activities were implemented before 2006 with support of the EU funded ECOFAC programme, of which a component is operating in northern Central Africa Republic (CAR) to develop the communal hunting areas as an economic activity allowing local development and the conservation of biodiversity. Although not focusing on the protection of the park but on the adjacent communal hunting areas, ECOFAC has contributed to conservation activities in the property, in particular by supporting vital anti-poaching activities. Unfortunately, the third ECOFAC phase ended in 2005 and the new fourth phase is not expected to start before the end of 2007. As reported at the 30th session, the World Heritage Centre has provided equipment support to the property in 2006 (a vehicle, two motor bikes and communication equipment), as well as USD 76,653 to support anti-poaching activities and to bridge the funding between the third and fourth ECOFAC phases. A further USD 30,000 as international assistance from the World Heritage Fund was approved by the Chairperson in January 2007 and could be released pending closure of the previous contract.

Unfortunately, the security situation in the region has again deteriorated since the previous session, mainly as a result of the spilling-over of the Darfur conflict in Sudan into neighboring

Chad and northern CAR. It is important to note that the international borders in this region do not reflect the ethnic realities, with major ethnic groups present in the region across all 3 borders. Tensions in one country, therefore, quickly affect the other countries. In November 2006 a rebel group in opposition to the current CAR Government, the UFDR (Union des forces démocratiques pour le rassemblement), seized several towns in northern CAR, allegedly with backing from Sudan. The Government, with backing from French troops was able to recapture the towns one month later but the incidents further fuelled insecurity in the region. In Gordill, situated at the north of the property, 15 school children were killed in an air raid. As a result of the insecurity, crop production was halted and many families now depend on the natural resources for survival, leading to increased poaching pressure on wildlife. The rampant insecurity has seriously affected anti-poaching operations.

According to information received by the World Heritage Centre, Sudanese poachers are active in the entire region, hunting down the last remaining elephants. Poaching caravans arrived much earlier than other years and poachers have been operating openly in many areas. Taking into account the dramatic results of the wildlife survey of 2005, which documented a 95% reduction of elephant populations (estimated at approximately 500 elephants) and several other species such as Buffon's Kob, Defassa Waterbuck and Topi Hartebeest nearing extinction, it seems increasingly likely that the Outstanding Universal Value of this property might be lost in the near future. This dramatic decline can only be reversed through efficient transboundary cooperation with Cameroon, Chad and Sudan to tackle the large scale poaching and a large scale anti-poaching effort. With the conflict in Darfur on-going, resulting in continuing tensions between the countries, such transboundary cooperation seems unlikely to happen. On the positive side a peace agreement was reached between the UFDR rebels and the CAR Government on 13 April 2007, but so far it is unclear how this will affect the security situation.

In view of the above mentioned security problems, the State Party of CAR informed the World Heritage Centre at the beginning of April 2007 that the joint UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission had to be postponed until later. In response, the Centre requested an additional report on how the current situation is affecting the State of Conservation of the property. At the time of writing of this report, no response was received from the State Party.

Draft 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 Africa Republic, Cameroon, Chad and Sudan to develop transboundary cooperation to address the issue of wildlife poaching;
8. Requests the State Party together with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to develop a clear set of corrective measures and indicators to guide future decisions by the Committee on whether or not to retain the property on the World Heritage List;
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 for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
10. Decides to retain **Manovo-Gounda St. Floris National Park (Central African Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1982

Criteria:

(ix) (x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

1996

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) Iron-ore mining concession inside the property in Guinea;
- b) Arrival of large numbers of refugees from Liberia to areas in and around the Reserve;
- c) Insufficient institutional structure.

Benchmarks for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Benchmarks have yet to be set.

Corrective measures identified

No formal corrective measures were adopted by the Committee. However, the 1993 monitoring mission developed a series of recommendations:

- a) Develop a revised nomination based on the exclusion from the property of an enclave for the mining project;
- b) Create a "Protection Office of Mount Nimba" in charge of managing the property;
- c) Develop an environmental convention with the mining company to minimize environmental impacts of the mine on the property;
- d) Ensure that the mining project provides financial support for the promotion of integrated rural development activities and the protection of the property;

- e) Conduct a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the proposed mining before the start of exploitation activities;
- f) Ensure that the northern part of the Pierré-Richaud range included in the mining zone be left in its current state from the north latitudinal coordinate 850,300;
- g) Ensure that all debris from mining be disposed in Zie Valley and that no debris be placed near the eastern slope;
- h) Place the boundary of the property on the ridge line of Zougne;
- i) Develop and implement a management plan for the property and larger biosphere reserve;
- j) Develop integrated development activities to limit impacts of the local communities on the natural resources of the property and provide better access to the villages.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

No specific timeframe has been set by the Committee or State Party.

Previous Committee Decisions:

28 COM 15A.1; 29 COM 7A.3; 30 COM 7A.3

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 473,349 for project preparation, equipment and training.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous Monitoring Missions

UNESCO mission in 1988; UNESCO/IUCN mission in 1993; IUCN mission in 1994; UNESCO mission in 2000; UNESCO/IUCN mission planned for May 2007.

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Mining;
- b) Influx of refugees;
- c) Agricultural encroachment;
- d) Deforestation;
- e) Poaching;
- f) Weak management capacity;
- g) Lack of resources;
- h) Lack of boundary cooperation.

Current conservation issues:

Reports were received from the State Parties of Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea State on 23 January 2007 and 3 February 2007, respectively. The joint UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission requested by the Committee at its 30th session had to be postponed several times as a result of security concerns. The mission is currently planned for May 13-22. The results of the mission will be presented orally at the 31st session.

The property continues to be threatened by the limited control of the property caused by the presence of rebel forces in the Côte d'Ivoire portion of the property. In Guinea, the encroachment and potential negative impacts of the mining operations by the company SFMG (Société des Mines de Fer de Guinée), which are resuming, threaten the property.

a) *Côte d'Ivoire:*

The State Party report notes that management activities in the property are still suspended because of the occupation by rebel forces but that the natural resources of the property have been little affected by the crisis and the conditions are in place to allow restoration of the property. Poaching is highlighted as the largest threat. Timber exploitation, which was occurring in the buffer zone until October 2006, has been halted in all areas following a decision by the rebel authorities to ban this activity. There is no agricultural encroachment in the property and the neighbouring village of Yéalé continues to contribute to the protection of the property. The Ivorian Parks and Reserves Authority (OIPR) is still unable to access the property due to the inaccessibility caused by degraded roads. Park buildings (its offices and guard housing) are completely degraded and are occupied by the former members of the rebel forces. A meeting on Mount Nimba to produce a collaboration plan for improved transboundary management planned for 2006 between Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, and Guinea was postponed until later in 2007.

b) *Guinea:*

The Guinea State Party provided a detailed state of conservation report, emphasizing its lack of financial resources to improve the management of the property. The report also provides details on the state of implementation of some of the recommendations of the 1993 mission:

- (i) While the limits of the property as proposed by the 1993 mission are recognized by all parties and stakeholders, they have not yet been fixed by law;
- (ii) A management institution for the property was created (CEGENS) but it lacks financial and technical resources;
- (iii) There has been no progress in the implementation of the environmental convention with the mining company;
- (iv) So far the mining company SMFG has not contributed financially neither to the development of the region nor to the management of the property;
- (v) No additional impact study was undertaken since the 1990 Environmental Impact Assessment. However, the mining company is currently developing the terms of reference for an Environmental Impact Assessment;
- (vi) Since 2004, important preparatory infrastructure works were undertaken in the mining enclave, such as the re-opening of the road to the Pierré-Richaud range and the construction of a water retention facility. The report expresses concern that these works might have an impact on the critically endangered and endemic viviparous toad, whose distribution includes part of the enclave and that negative effects of the mining company's activities are already observed in the wildlife, vegetation and water even before iron exploitation has actually begun;
- (vii) No progress was made on the re-formulation of the management plan;
- (viii) The local communities continue to depend on the natural resources of the property, resulting in further degradation of the property. The only road accessible if the road Lola – Gbakoré – N'Zoo, rehabilitated recently by the mining company.

The report acknowledges that efforts are underway to address certain recommendations as part of the UNDP/GEF project, but notes that the managing authority CEGENS is insufficiently involved in the implementation of the project.

The report also notes that a large portion of the property is affected by bush fires. Research has yet to be carried out on the cause but poachers are the likely reason. The forest of Bossou, which is chimpanzee habitat, is being degraded with pressure from the neighbouring farming communities whose lands are no longer fertile. In addition, the rebel Ivorian forces are causing serious management problems in Guinea. Along the Ivorian border, indigenous and non-native communities inhabit 2700 ha of cleared forest land, 1 300 ha of degraded open forested land, 4 000 ha of agricultural encroached land, and 1 500 ha of completely degraded land.

To assist in addressing the threats to the property the Guinea State Party requests assistance from the international community to carry out the necessary management activities for the benefit of the property.

The State Party of Guinea emphasizes its political will and support for the property but notes that it is severely hampered by lack of financial resources and capacity and seeks increased support from the international community. Such international assistance is required, in particular, as Mount Nimba covers a transboundary region shared with Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Guinea where all countries suffer from the same lack of resources, poverty of communities neighboring the property, and illiteracy of these communities, and a common pressure for mineral exploitation. The State Party would like assistance in promoting and negotiating concerted efforts to implement the institutional mechanisms in each of the three countries to allow sustainable development to benefit the local stakeholders and the natural resources.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN acknowledge the difficulties of managing the site with the crisis situation in Côte d'Ivoire but emphasize the need for Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Guinea to continue to work together to try and resolve the problems. The implementation of the recommendations of the 2007 monitoring mission will be integral to protecting the property, and will require enhanced cooperation among all the State Parties involved as well as financial and technical assistance from the international community.

On 17 December 2006, a delegation of SMFG, composed of its President and Environment and Communications manager visited the Director of the World Heritage Centre. In this meeting, SMFG stressed that the company and its shareholders BHP Billiton and Newmont, both member of ICMM, take environmental concerns around the Nimba mining project seriously. They agreed that only careful design will make it possible to limit the impacts of the mining project within the enclave and announced that they had started the design of a comprehensive and thorough environmental and social impact assessment to analyze all potential impacts, direct and indirect, within and outside the immediate footprint of the mine and related infrastructure.

As the monitoring mission is scheduled for May, it is likely that a revised draft decision will be proposed at the 31st session to include the findings and recommendations of the mission.

Draft 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. *Notes with concern that the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire continues to have limited control of the property due to rebel forces causing increased pressure on the natural resources of the property through encroachment and poaching;*

4. Also notes that the report from the State Party of Guinea highlights potential negative impacts of the ongoing preparatory works in the mining enclave on the property;
5. Urges the State Party of Guinea and the mining company SMFG to cooperate closely to stop any negative impact from mining on the property, including those from preparatory infrastructure works;
6. Reiterates its request to conduct a detailed and thorough Environmental Impact Assessment of the mining project, detailing all potential negative impacts on the property as well as possible mitigating measures and to submit the results of this study to the Committee before starting the mining activities, in accordance with article 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. 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;
8. Requests the State Parties to submit a report by **1 February 2008** on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
9. **Decides to retain the Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1980

Criteria

(vii) (x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger

1997; previously inscribed 1984-1992

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Increased poaching ;
- b) Pressure as a result of civil conflict, threatening flagship species within the property

Benchmarks for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Benchmarks have yet to be set. Discussions are underway with the State Party.

Corrective measures identified

- a) Ensure the protection of the border between DRC and Sudan within and adjacent to the property ;
- b) Improve the efficiency of the military brigade posted around the property to secure the Park and adjacent hunting areas by replacing the current brigade by a brigade that

went through the reunification and retraining programme and by ensuring they are adequately equipped ;

- c) Ensure that the ICCN guard force is properly equipped and, in particular, has adequate arms and ammunition;
- d) Undertake in cooperation with the United Nations Organization Mission to DRC (MONUC) a disarmament campaign within the communities living around the property whilst at the same time improving the security situation in the region;
- e) Reinforce cooperation with the Government of Sudan to better control incursions of armed groups into DRC and the property;
- f) Continue and strengthen anti-poaching efforts, in particular in the southern sector of the Park where the presence of northern white rhino was confirmed by the 2006 survey;
- g) Strengthen efforts to improve relations with the local communities surrounding the Park, particularly through developing and implementing a community conservation programme;
- h) Take urgent measures to reinforce and reinvigorate the Garamba guard force;
- i) Reinststate detailed monitoring of the rhino population in the property through a specialized monitoring team, building on the know-how available in ICCN and AfRSG;
- j) 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.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

No timeframe has been set so far.

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 15A.3; 29 COM 7A.4; 30 COM 7A.4

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 157,845 for equipment and staff allowances.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

First phase of the UNF and Belgium funded programme for the Conservation of the DRC World Heritage properties ("DRC programme"). (2001–2005): approximately USD 400,000 for staff allowances, equipment, community conservation, monitoring and training activities. Current phase (2005-2008): USD 300,000 for the implementation of the emergency action plan with funding from Italy complemented by funding for the inventory and monitoring component by UNF. A further USD 30,000 was made available through the Rapid Response Mechanism as a contribution for guard training activities.

Previous monitoring missions

UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission in 2006. Several UNESCO missions in the framework of the project.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Armed conflict and political instability;
- b) Poaching by local and Sudanese poachers;

c) Inadequate management capacity.

Current conservation issues

On February 12, 2007 a report of the state of conservation of the five DRC World Heritage properties was submitted by the State Party. The report provides a short overview of on-going park management activities, but unfortunately does not provide detailed information on the implementation of the corrective measures.

Since November 2005, African Parks Foundation (APF) and the park management authority ICCN have been implementing an emergency action plan to regain control over the property and restore the management. The plan comprises many activities included in the recommendations of the 2006 UNESCO/IUCN mission and supports the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 30th session. As a contribution to the implementation of the action plan, a 2-year budget of USD 300,000 is made available through the second phase of DRC programme. The contribution of the DRC programme has been focused on guard training, community conservation, infrastructure development and inventory work.

Since the start of the partnership between APF and ICCN, the situation of the park has continued to improve. Important investments were made in infrastructure rehabilitation, guard training and necessary equipment. A new anti-poaching strategy was developed with the creation of an elite guard regiment, well trained and equipped and composed of the best guards and new recruits as well as the installation of a permanently manned advance ranger base inside the property. The progress noted by the 2006 mission in regaining control of the property was further consolidated, in spite of the continued poaching pressure and insecurity in the region.

This is clearly demonstrated by the results of a recent aerial survey, conducted in April 2007. The objectives of the survey were to determine the status of the northern white rhino population as well as the status of other flagship species, in particular the giraffe, elephant and buffalo and to assess the signs of poaching activity. During the survey only four signs of hunting camps were found in the property, all of which were more than six months old. Other important indicators for the significant improvement of the situation are the complete absence of recent carcasses of elephants, rhino or buffalo, the discovery of the presence of elephants in the northern sector of the park, from where elephants had completely disappeared as a result of the intense poaching pressure and the closure of an open bushmeat market in the nearby town of Dungu.

The survey also was part of the efforts to establish the viability of the remaining population of northern white rhino, as requested by the Committee at its 30th session. Together with the aerial survey, an intensive terrestrial survey was organised in March 2007 in the areas where the presence of rhino's was confirmed during and since the 2006 survey. During the aerial survey, no white rhino were seen. The terrestrial survey also did not make any direct observations of rhino but made seven indirect observations, six cases of spoor and 1 fresh urine mark. It is important to note that during both surveys, no new rhino carcasses were found. In fact, since November 2005, no new rhino carcasses have been found in the property. All traces of rhino were found in an area of extreme dense vegetation, where the grass had not been burned for three consecutive years. The results of the recent surveys seem to confirm that the remaining rhino population is extremely small and possibly limited to the four individuals observed since April 2006. This raises important questions about the continued viability of the population. A workshop including experts of the African Rhino Specialist group to discuss the viability of the population based on the current knowledge of the remaining individuals and using genetic modelling and to discuss possible management options was originally planned for May 2007 but had to be postponed because of the conflicting agendas of some of the experts. The meeting is now planned in September 17 to 18, 2007.

As explained in the Virunga report, the implementation of the corrective measures has been hampered by the organisation of the first multiparty elections in DRC, which dominated the public agenda since the 30th session. As many corrective measures require political decisions and commitments, little progress has been made so far on these issues.

Ensure the protection of the border between DRC and Sudan within and adjacent to the property;

Improve the efficiency of the military brigade posted around the property to secure the Park and adjacent hunting areas by replacing the current brigade by a brigade that went through the reunification and retraining programme and by ensuring they are adequately equipped ;

Undertake in cooperation with the United Nations Organization Mission to DRC (MONUC) a disarmament campaign within the communities living around the property whilst, at the same time improving the security situation in the region;

Little progress was made towards the implementation of these three recommendations. As a result of the election period, the priority for MONUC was on the facilitation of the organisation of the elections. Although no particular additional efforts were reported to secure the border areas in the property, the DRC army regiment stationed in Aba continues to ensure border security. The presence of the Uganda rebel group LRA in the region has increased vigilance at both the Sudanese and DRC side of the border. Recently, the Centre was also contacted by MONUC officials, seeking contact with the park authorities in view of the planned deployment of MONUC forces in and around park. This deployment, planned by the end of May 2007, will provide an excellent opportunity to develop a closer cooperation with MONUC in the area, including in the field of disarmament.

The recommendation to improve the efficiency of the military brigade posted around the property to secure the park was not followed up on by the State Party. In fact, following some important incidents with the local communities in which elements of the brigade were involved, ranging from theft to rape, the park authorities decided to halt all collaboration with the brigade in September 2006, as it was damaging the relations between the park and the communities. The military brigade was pulled out shortly afterwards.

Reinforce cooperation with the Government of Sudan to better control incursions of armed groups into DRC and the property;

With the new DRC Government only installed in February 2007, it was not yet feasible for UNESCO to undertake an initiative to organise a highlevel meeting between the concerned States Parties. However, it is important to note that recently an agreement was brokered between the Government of Uganda and the Regional Government of South Sudan to improve transboundary cooperation for the conservation of some protected areas in their border zones. The Centre has initiated contacts with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), who brokered the above mentioned agreement, to develop a similar agreement with DRC for the region of the property. WCS has already contacted the authorities of South Sudan in charge of Wildlife and Conservation, which have expressed their willingness to tackle transboundary poaching. WCS is currently carrying out aerial surveys across the whole of south Sudan and has included Lantoto National Park, situated north of Garamba, on their list of priorities.

Ensure that the ICCN guard force is properly equipped and, in particular, has adequate arms and ammunition;

Take urgent measures to reinforce and reinvigorate the Garamba guard force;

Continue and strengthen anti-poaching efforts, in particular in the southern sector of the Park where the presence of northern white rhino was confirmed by the 2006 survey;

In the framework of the emergency action plan, important efforts were undertaken to strengthen the anti-poaching efforts in Garamba and in particular in the areas where the presence of rhino was confirmed. Twenty new guards were recruited, increasing the number

of operational elements to 119. In cooperation with Frankfurt Zoological Society, the newly recruited guards and another twenty existing guards were trained in the guard training centre in Ishango in Virunga National park. In October 2006, an intelligence unit was also created and trained, which allows a much more pro-active approach in anti-poaching activities. The anti-poaching team was equipped with new uniforms, camping equipment and personal equipment. Anti-poaching services now dispose of two Land Cruisers and three Unimog trucks (of which, one funded through the DRC programme). Radio communications between anti-poaching teams were improved and aerial surveillance in support of their operations is carried out daily. Access to the park was improved through the re-opening of 291 km of tracks, including 39 km in the northern sector, which had been abandoned for more than 20 years, facilitating a quick deployment of the guards. Whilst most anti-poaching activities concentrated on the southern part of the park, since September, increasingly patrols are also covering the hunting areas and the northern sector. A problem remains that of the presence of many guards past the age of retirement, incapable of continuing the strenuous anti-poaching work, because of the inability of the State Party to cover their retirement benefits and as well as the lack of adequate arms and ammunition.

Strengthen efforts to improve relations with the local communities surrounding the Park, particularly through developing and implementing a community conservation programme;

A community conservation initiative was set up by the park authorities. So far, ten rural development projects were funded and another 11 projects are awaiting final approval. With assistance from the DRC programme, Fauna and Flora International (FFI) developed a community conservation strategy for the park. Based on this strategy, the Centre and FFI prepared a proposal for a 2-year community conservation project in Garamba. The proposal was submitted to the Government of Italy and the Centre is currently awaiting its approval. 15 local conservation and development committees (Comités Locaux de Conservation et Développement) were installed, as a constant concertation framework between the park and local communities. A dialogue committee ("Comité de dialogue"), consisting of the members of the administrative board of the park, the person in charge of the community conservation programme and the three local traditional leaders was also set up.

Reinstate detailed monitoring of the rhino population in the property through a specialized monitoring team, building on the know-how available in ICCN and AfRSG;

Following the 2006 monitoring mission, the park authorities created a research and monitoring unit, headed by an assistant conservator with experience in rhino monitoring. Two 3 week training sessions on monitoring techniques with a special emphasis on rhino monitoring were undertaken. Two teams of rhino monitoring rangers are now operational, regularly surveying the southern sector of the park. In March 2006 and 2007, intensive terrestrial ground surveys were done in the Gangala na Bodio hunting area and the rhino sector of the park. Furthermore, in 2006 the APF plane flew 118 hours for aerial survey work. Further efforts will be deployed to improve the data analysis skills of the survey team.

Establish a trust fund for the rehabilitation of the DRC World Heritage properties;

See report Virunga National Park.

As requested by the Committee, the Centre contacted the CITES secretariat requesting their assistance in investigating the trading networks and countries of destination of ivory poached in the Park and other DRC sites. Details are provided in the report on Okapi Wildlife Reserve.

So far no benchmarks or timeframe were established. UNESCO in cooperation with IUCN is currently discussing with ICCN the development of benchmarks. It is proposed that these benchmarks will be developed after the planned workshop on the viability and management of the remaining population of northern white rhino.

In relation to funding for the property, the conservation work in the park is currently supported through APF, the European Union, UNESCO and the government of Italy as well as FFI and

the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). Further funding is expected through the planned World Bank GEF programme for DRC.

Draft 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 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 organise 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 new Government and the protected area agency ICCN 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 together with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to develop a clear set of benchmarks based on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property together with a Statement of Significance for the property;*
8. *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 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;*
9. ***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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1984

Criteria

(ii) (ix)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger

1999

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Impact of conflict;
- b) Increased poaching and illegal encroachment.

Benchmarks for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Benchmarks have not yet been set.

Corrective measures identified

No corrective measures were identified before the 2007 monitoring mission.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

No timeframe has been set so far.

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 15A.3; 29 COM 7A.4; 30 COM 7A.5

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 85,000 for project planning, guard training and infrastructure.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

First phase of the UNF and Belgium funded programme for the Conservation of the DRC World Heritage properties ("DRC programme"). (2001–2005): approximately USD 320,000 for staff allowances, equipment, community conservation, monitoring and training activities. Current phase (2005-2008): limited funding for the inventory and monitoring component by UNF.

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Armed conflict, insecurity and political instability;
- b) Poaching by military and armed groups;
- c) Conflicts with local communities on the boundaries of the park;
- d) Impact of villages included in the property.

Current conservation issues

On February 12, 2007 a succinct report on the state of conservation of the five DRC World Heritage properties was submitted by the State Party. The report provides a short overview of on-going park management activities, but unfortunately does not provide detailed information on the implementation of the corrective measures.

As requested by the Committee at its 30th session, a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission visited the property and held consultations with various authorities and stakeholders in the field and in Kinshasa from 12 February to 10 March 2007. The full report of the mission can be consulted at the following web address <http://whcunesco.org/archive/2007>.

The mission concluded that whilst the outstanding universal value of the property has been maintained, the decrease of wildlife populations has reached alarming levels. The property remains the only protected area in DRC conserving the bonobo or pygmy chimpanzee, a great ape species endemic to DRC and genetically the closest relative to man. At present, the bonobo population in the park is estimated at 14800 animals but there are strong indications of a recent increase in poaching pressure. Many of the other wildlife species are under serious pressure. The elephant population is currently estimated at 2000 animals, whilst based on an average density 0.5 elephants / km², the park could hold a potential population of at least 16,000 animals. The alarming decrease in the populations of large mammals could in the long term affect the ecology and biological structure of the ecosystem and therefore threaten the outstanding universal value of the property.

The mission found that the main threats to the property are illegal poaching and fishing activities for commercial purposes and the presence of villages within the limits of the property.

The mission noted that over the last 2 years, poaching pressure on the park's wildlife has increased significantly and is now practised on a quasi industrial scale to supply large urban centres with bushmeat, including large cities such as Kinshasa and Kisangani, located several hundreds of kilometres from the property. Members of the military and civilians (both from the local villages and from far away urban centres) are involved in the poaching activities and bushmeat trade, which is facilitated by the breakdown of law and order, the wide availability of weapons and ammunition as a result of the war as well as the limited management capacity of the park authority ICCN and the weakness of local institutions. The economic collapse of the region, with a complete breakdown in trading routes for agricultural produce and rampant poverty has further pushed large numbers of people into the bushmeat trade, considered together with fishing as one of the few viable economic activities. A study by the Wildlife Conservation Society estimated that 18,000 tons of bushmeat are extracted annually from the property. In spite of the immensity of Salonga (which is larger than Belgium), its apparent inaccessibility and low population densities, signs of human activity and poaching are found throughout the park. Access is facilitated by the large navigable rivers running through the park, but an extensive network of footpaths also exists. Bushmeat is being transported to urban centres on foot, by dugout canoe or bicycle for distances of up to 1000 km, as selling prices in the cities are 4 to 10 times higher than in the local villages. Whilst so far, commercial hunting has been primarily targeting elephants as well as large ungulates and small primates, there are indications that as a result of a rarefaction of these animals, smaller primates and even bonobos are increasingly targeted.

Fishing is also widely practiced in the park. While illegal, this activity has been tolerated and even taxed by ICCN for a long time. Even if the impact of commercial fishing activities on the integrity of the property is probably less important than the large scale hunting, the uncontrolled access of fishermen is severely handicapping the possibilities of ICCN to control illegal activities in the park.

Nine villages are situated within the boundaries of the property. In the northern sector of the park, a religious sect inhabits a large village called Kitawala. Its population is estimated between 3000 and 4000 people which are practising hunting and agriculture. Around the village, an area of approximately 15 km² has been deforested for agriculture. The village was created only in the seventies, around the time of creation of the park. In the southern sector, 8 villages are inhabited by the Iyaelima people. Contrary to Kitawala, these villages predate the creation of the park, as the Iyaelima settled in this region in the 19th century. At the creation of the park and contrary to other villages which existed within its boundaries, the Iyaelima refused to resettle in the area between the northern and southern sector. Around the 8 villages, the deforested area stretches for 1 to 2 km. The presence of these villages is a serious threat to the integrity of the property, mainly as a result of the impact of their uncontrolled activities, in particular from hunting and 'slash and burn' agriculture. Their

continued presence also creates tensions between ICCN and the villages that were relocated outside the park.

Since its creation, the park has never received the adequate resources to ensure proper management. Park management has been extremely weak. This was previously highlighted by the Committee at the time of inscription of the property on the World Heritage List in, 1984. Only since 2000, the park has received external support, through the UNESCO DRC programme and several NGOs. More recently, this support was increased substantially, in particular through the US-funded Central African Regional Programme for the Environment (CARPE) and a new project supported by the European Commission, both implemented by WWF. However, the vastness of the property, together with the logistical challenges and the insecurity during and after the war and the complexity of the issues involved have limited the ability of these projects to address efficiently the threats to the property. So far, several studies have been conducted to better understand the ecological and socio-economical context, several training sessions were organised for the guards, equipment has been purchased, new anti-poaching strategy developed, and certain measures initiated to start resolving the conflicts with the local communities and improve relations. Nevertheless, significant challenges remain. .

The mission developed a number of recommendations as corrective measures to address the main threats to the property. The implementation of these measures will be a first step towards its rehabilitation and ultimate removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. However, the mission noted that it will take time to reverse the current degradation and that progress towards the impact of the corrective measures will need to be monitored to adapt them to the rapidly changing situation in the field. The corrective measures proposed by the mission are included in the proposed draft decision.

Finally, it needs to be noted that Salonga is included in the fourth phase of the ECOFAC programme of the European Union, expected to start by the end of 2007. This could bring important additional funds for the conservation of the property and could facilitate the implementation of certain recommendations of the UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission

Draft 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 UNESCO/IUCN mission in order to safeguard the outstanding universal value and integrity of the property:*
 - a) *Organise urgently a large scale joint operation between the Park authority 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 address the question of the villages located within the boundaries of 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 together with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to develop a clear set of benchmarks for a possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger together with a Statement of Significance for the property;*
8. *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;*
9. ***Decides to retain Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

ARAB STATES

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

See Document *WHC-07/31.COM/7A.Add 2*

ASIA AND PACIFIC

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1979

Criteria

(iii) (iv) (vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger

2003

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Partial or significant deterioration of traditional elements of heritage in six of the seven monument zones;
- b) General loss of authenticity and integrity.

Benchmarks for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Establishment of an integrated conservation management system

Corrective measures identified

- a) Completing and adopting the integrated management plan by **1 June 2007**;
- b) Ensuring establishment of concrete conservation guidelines and their dissemination;
- c) Completing the categorized inventories in the seven Monument Zones in order to effectively link these with conservation guidelines;
- d) Implementing appropriate building regulations to control the transformation of heritage buildings within the World Heritage boundaries and in their buffer zones;
- e) Undertaking effective monitoring measures to assess the implementation of the management plan, by documenting and evaluating physical transformation of heritage buildings regularly.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

1 June 2007

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 15A.25; 29 COM 7A.24; 30COM 7A.26

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 359,775 (1980 to 2006) including the latest USD 27,000 in 2006.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 10-15 million under the International Safeguarding Campaign for the Kathmandu Valley (1979-2001). The campaign was officially closed in 2001. USD 45,000 was provided in 2005 by the Dutch Funds-in-Trust.

Previous monitoring missions

Many missions have been carried out since 1993. The World Heritage Centre-ICOMOS High Level Mission in February 2003 led to the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The latest World Heritage Centre-ICOMOS reactive monitoring missions were undertaken in April 2005 and April 2007. UNESCO project missions were carried out in August 2005 and June 2006.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Uncontrolled urban development resulting in the loss of traditional urban fabric, in particular privately-owned houses;
- b) Lack of co-ordinated management mechanism

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2007, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report to the World Heritage Centre as requested by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006). An ICOMOS/World Heritage Centre reactive monitoring mission took place from 24 to 29 April 2007, in order to review the progress reported by the State Party above, and to review the conditions for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The mission and the State Party note the following accomplishments in their respective reports:

- a) Preparation of a draft Integrated Management Framework (IMF), designed as an instrument to give official legitimacy to the IMP, and included within the IMP, to be adopted by the Government before the end of May 2007;
- b) Completion of inventories of heritage buildings (categorized into A, B and C with grades of condition) in each of the seven World Heritage Monument Zones;
- c) Revision of all existing building bylaws in each of the seven Monument Zones;
- d) Amendment of some building bylaws conceptually linked to prescriptions for the inscribed site, buffer zone and surrounding areas;
- e) Nepalese Conservation Guidelines (*Ancient Monument Conservation Manual 2006*) set up by the Government of Nepal;
- f) Integration of the conservation of the inventorized buildings in linkage to building bylaws for each Monument Zone, as well as to the guiding conservation principles established in the IMF;
- g) Identification of the site managers for each monument zone;
- h) Establishment of a Coordinative Working Committee (CWC) for the IMP of the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage property, composed of (representatives of) the site managers of each monument zone and chaired by the World Heritage Unit of the Department of Archaeology;
- i) Establishment of the Secretariat of the CWC within the Department of Archaeology,
- j) Establishment of a database containing all collected information on the property by the Secretariat of the CWC, which would eventually become the principal shared public source of information for the conservation of heritage values in the Kathmandu Valley;

- k) Preparation of Management Handbooks and Action Plans for each of the seven Monument Zones;
- l) Monitoring measures set up to assess the implementation of the management plan by regularly documenting and evaluating physical transformation of heritage buildings.

ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre commend the State Party on the quality and completeness of the state of conservation report, and on the continued strong efforts to complete the Integrated Management Plan according to the time table set last year, in difficult work conditions and political circumstances.

The mission found the IMP to be exemplary in many respects. The IMP was completed after two and a half years of work, addressing the social, political and economic complexities and challenges of the multi-component World Heritage property. It could be considered a model for the development of integrated management plans in all regions of the world. Its excellence lies in the innovative aspects of many of its constituent instruments (such as the Integrated Management Framework for adjusting structural relations among stakeholders) and its commitment to build from the ground-up a planning approach which involved all those who will be responsible for its implementation.

Referring back to the Decision **30 COM.7A.26**, the mission reports with respect to the following five points:

- a) The integrated management plan is in place, awaiting final completion to incorporate comments provided during the mission, for the envisaged Governmental adoption by the end of May 2007;
- b) Guiding conservation principles for the Kathmandu Valley, which reflect the philosophy of the recently completed Nepalese national conservation guidelines (*Ancient Monument Conservation Manual 2006*), have been included in the IMF;
- c) The categorized inventories in the seven Monument Zones have been completed by the Department of Archaeology, and through their linkage to the conservation guidelines (and building bylaws), and are to be effectively utilized for documenting and monitoring. Categorized inventories in the "buffer zones" of Patan and Bhaktapur Durbar Square Monument Zones, with large perimeters, are still awaiting completion;
- d) The building by-laws for each Monument Zone have been revised, to control the transformation of heritage buildings within the World Heritage boundaries and in their buffer zones;
- e) Regular monitoring measures to document and evaluate physical transformation of heritage buildings are planned within the Plan of Action for each Monument Zone, for monthly reporting to the Coordinative Working Committee in order to be assessed within the framework of implementing the Integrated Management Plan as a whole.

The mission recommends, on the basis of the above, the removal of the Kathmandu Valley from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The mission further recommends, during implementation of the IMP that close attention be given to:

- a) Long-term sustainability of IMP involving identification of secure self-sustainable resources and a self-assessment mechanism within the State Party;
- b) Strengthening of cross-sectoral co-ordination around the implementation of the IMP;
- c) Increased recognition of risk preparedness as a key strategic priority in overall management of the property.

The mission further notes the importance of the official submission of the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value by the State Party.

Draft 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.*