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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 7B of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of World Heritage properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

SUMMARY

As per Decision **7 EXT.COM 4B.1, paragraph 9**, this document contains information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, and is separated in three categories:

1. State of conservation reports for adoption requiring discussion by the Committee, and concerning properties considered for in-Danger listing;
2. State of conservation reports for adoption requiring discussion by the Committee;
3. State of conservation reports for adoption requiring no discussion by the Committee;

Decision required: The Committee is requested to review the reports on the state of conservation of properties contained in this document. In certain cases, the Committee may wish to decide to discuss in detail the state of conservation reports which are submitted for adoption without discussion. The Committee may wish to adopt the draft Decision presented at the end of each state of conservation report.

The full reports of Reactive Monitoring missions requested by the Committee are available at the following Web address in their original language:
<http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2007/>

Table of content

I.	INTRODUCTION	7
II.	STRUCTURE OF THE DOCUMENT	9
III.	REPORTS ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST	11
	NATURAL PROPERTIES	11
	AFRICA	11
	FOR CONSIDERATION FOR IN-DANGER LISTING	11
	1. Niokolo-Koba (Senegal) (N 153).....	11
	FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION	15
	2. Ngorongoro Conservation Area (United Republic of Tanzania) (N 39)	15
	3. Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania) (N 199).....	15
	4. Mosi-oa-Tunya / Victoria Falls (Zambia / Zimbabwe) (N 509).....	15
	FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING NO DISCUSSION	19
	5. Dja Wildlife Reserve (Cameroun) (N 407)	19
	6. Tai National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) (N 195)	21
	7. Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary (Senegal) (N 25)	24
	8. Cape Floral Region Protected Areas (South Africa) (N 1007 rev).....	27
	9. Rwenzori Mountains National Park (Uganda) (N 684).....	27
	10. Serengeti National Park (United Republic of Tanzania) (N 156)	29
	ARAB STATES.....	32
	FOR CONSIDERATION FOR IN-DANGER LISTING	32
	11. Arabian Oryx Sanctuary (Oman) (N 654)	32
	FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING NO DISCUSSION	35
	12. Banc d'Arguin National Park (Mauritania) (N 506).....	35
	13. Ichkeul National Park (Tunisia) (N 8).....	38
	ASIA-PACIFIC.....	41
	FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION	41
	14. Macquarie Island (Australia) (N 629 rev)	41
	15. Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas (China) (N 1083)	43
	16. Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia) (N 1167)	45
	17. Keoladeo National Park (India) (N 340).....	49
	18. Lorentz National Park (Indonesia) (N 955)	52
	FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING NO DISCUSSION	55
	19. Sagarmatha National Park (Nepal) (N 120).....	55
	20. Tubataha Reef Marine Park (Philippines) (N 653).....	57

21. East Rennell (Solomon Islands) (N 854)	59
22. Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex (Thailand) (N 590).....	61
23. Ha Long Bay (Viet Nam) (N 672 bis)	63
EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA	67
FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION	67
24. Isole Eolie (Aeolian Islands) (Italy) (N 908)	67
25. Golden Mountains of Altai (Russian Federation) (N 768 rev)	67
26. Volcanoes of Kamchatka (Russian Federation) (N 765 bis).....	69
FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING NO DISCUSSION	69
27. Pirin National Park (Bulgaria) (N 225)	69
28. Ilulissat Icefjord (Denmark) (N 1149).....	72
29. Durmitor National Park (Montenegro) (N 100 bis)	74
30. Belovezhskaya Pushcha / Białowieża Forest (Belarus / Poland) (N 33-627)	74
31. Lake Baikal (Russian Federation) (N 754).....	77
32. Western Caucasus (Russian Federation) (N 900).....	81
33. Dorset and East Devon Coast (United Kingdom) (N 1029)	83
34. Henderson Island (United Kingdom) (N 487).....	84
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	87
FOR CONSIDERATION FOR IN-DANGER LISTING	87
35. Galapagos Islands (Ecuador) (N 1 bis).....	87
FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION	91
36. Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves / La Amistad National Park (Costa- Rica and Panama) (N 205 bis)	91
37. Alexander von Humboldt National Park (Cuba) (839 rev)	91
FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING NO DISCUSSION	93
38. Iguazu National Park (Argentina) (N 303).....	93
39. Iguaçu National Park (Brazil) (N 355).....	95
40. Sangay National Park (Ecuador) (N 260)	97
41. Manu National Park (Peru) (N 402)	99
42. Pitons Management Area (St. Lucia) (N 1161).....	101
MIXED PROPERTIES	103
ASIA-PACIFIC	103
FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION	103
43. Tasmanian Wilderness (Australia) (C/N 181)	103
EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA	107
FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION	107
44. Pyrénées – Mont Perdu (France / Spain) (C/N 773 bis).....	107

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	110
FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION	110
45. Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru) (C/N 274)	110
CULTURAL PROPERTIES	111
AFRICA	111
FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION	111
46. Rock-Hewn Churches, Lalibela (Ethiopia) (C 18)	111
47. Timbuktu (Mali) (C 119 rev)	114
48. Island of Mozambique (Mozambique) (C 599).....	117
49. Stone Town of Zanzibar (United Republic of Tanzania) (C 173 Rev).....	117
FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING NO DISCUSSION	119
50. Lamu Old Town (Kenya) (C 1055).....	119
51. Old Towns of Djenné (Mali) (C 116 rev)	122
52. Island of Gorée (Senegal) (C 26).....	124
53. Robben Island (South Africa) (C 916).....	127
ARAB STATES.....	130
FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION	130
54. Tipasa (Algeria) (C 193)	130
55. Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis (Egypt) (C 87)	133
56. Islamic Cairo (Egypt) (C 89)	133
57. Um er-Rasas (Kastrom Mefa'a) (Jordan) (C 1093).....	133
58. Ancient City of Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 20)	136
FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING NO DISCUSSION	136
59. Kasbah of Algiers (Algeria) (C 565)	136
60. Qal'at al-Bahrain – Ancient Harbour and Capital of Dilmun (Bahrain) (C 1192)	138
61. Memphis and its Necropolis – the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur (Egypt) (C 86).....	140
62. Tyr (Lebanon) (C 299)	142
63. Archaeological Site of Cyrene (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (C 190)	144
64. Ancient Ksour of Ouadane, Chinguetti, Tichitt and Oualata (Mauritania) (C 750)	147
65. Ksar Aït Ben Haddou (Morocco) (C 444).....	147
66. Archaeological site of Volubilis (Morocco) (C 836).....	150
67. Bahla Fort (Oman) (C 433).....	152
68. <i>Aflaj</i> Irrigation Systems of Oman (Oman) (C 1207)	154

ASIA-PACIFIC.....	157
FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION	157
69. Old Town of Lijiang (China) (C 811)	157
70. Sangiran Early Man Site (Indonesia) (C 593).....	157
71. Meidan Emam, Esfahan (Islamic Republic of Iran) (C 115).....	157
72. Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara (Japan) (C 870).....	157
73. Town of Luang Prabang (Lao People Democratic Republic) (C 479 rev).....	160
74. Samarkand - Crossroad of Cultures (Uzbekistan) (C 603 rev).....	160
75. Complex of Hué Monuments (Viet Nam) (C 678).....	160
FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING NO DISCUSSION	161
76. The Ruins of the Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur (Bangladesh) (C 322).....	161
77. Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa (China) (C 707 ter).....	163
78. World Heritage Properties in Beijing (China) (C 880 - C 881 -C 439bis).....	166
79. Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park (India) (C 1101)	166
80. Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri (India) (C 251- C 252 - C 255).....	166
81. Group of Monuments at Hampi (India) (C 241)	166
82. Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodhgaya (India) (C1056 rev)	166
83. Prambanan Temple Compounds (Indonesia) (C 642).....	169
84. Borobudur Temple Compounds (Indonesia) (C 592).....	171
85. Historical Monuments of Thatta (Pakistan) (C 143).....	174
86. Archaeological Ruins at Moenjodaro (Pakistan) (C 138).....	176
87. Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz (Uzbekistan) (C 885)	178
EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA	181
FOR CONSIDERATION FOR IN-DANGER LISTING	181
88. Kizhi Pogost (Russian Federation) (C 540)	181
89. Historic Areas of Istanbul (Turkey) (C 356)	181
90. Tower of London (United Kingdom) (C 488).....	184
91. Westminster Palace, Westminster Abbey and Saint Margaret's Church (United Kingdom) (C 426)	188
FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION	192
92. Butrint (Albania) (C 570 bis)	192
93. Old Bridge Area of the Old City of Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina) (C 946 rev)	192
94. Historic Centre of Prague (Czech Republic) (C 616).....	194
95. Historic centre (Old Town) of Tallin (Estonia) (C 822).....	194
96. Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) (C 708)	194
97. Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery (Georgia) (C 710)	194
98. Old Town of Regensburg with Stadtamhof (Germany) (C 1155).....	194

99. Historic Centre of Riga (Latvia) (C 852).....	196
100. Natural and Culturo-historical Region of Kotor (Montenegro) (C 125).....	199
101. Auschwitz Concentration Camp (Poland) (C 31).....	199
102. Historic Centre of St Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments (Russian Federation) (C 540)	199
103. Kremlin and Red Square, Moscow (Russian Federation) (C 545).....	202
104. Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites (United Kingdom) (373)	204
FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING NO DISCUSSION	205
105. Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg (Austria) (C 784)	205
106. City of Graz – Historic Centre (Austria) (C 931)	208
107. Fertö / Neusiedlersee Cultural Landscape (Austria/Hungary) (C 772 rev)	210
108. Belfries of Belgium and France (Belgium/France) (C 943bis)	213
109. Historic Centre of Cesky Krumlov (Czech Republic) (C 617)	215
110. Cologne Cathedral (Germany) (C 292 rev).....	217
111. Classical Weimar (Germany) (C 846).....	218
112. Rock Drawings in Valcamonica (Italy) (C 94)	219
113. City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto (Italy) (C 712 bis)	222
114. Curonian Spit (Lithuania / Russian Federation) (C 994).....	224
115. The Megalithic Temples of Malta (Malta) (C 132 bis)	226
116. Cultural Landscape of Sintra (Portugal) (C 723).....	228
117. Historic Centre of Sighisoara (Romania) (C 902)	230
118. Old Town of Avila with its Extra-Muros Churches (Spain) (C 348 rev)	233
119. Old City of Salamanca (Spain) (C 381 rev)	235
120. L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre (Ukraine) (C 865)	237
121. Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City (United Kingdom) (C 1150).....	240
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	244
FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION	244
122. Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo, (Panama) (C 135).....	244
123. Historical Centre of the City of Arequipa (Peru) (C 1016).....	246
FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING NO DISCUSSION	248
124. San Agustín Archaeological Park (Colombia) (C 744).....	248
125. Colonial City of Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic) (C 526)	251
126. Maya Site of Copán (Honduras) (C 120)	253
127. Pre-Hispanic City of Teotihuacan (Mexico) (C 414)	256
128. Historic Centre of Mexico City and Xochimilco (Mexico) (C 412)	259
129. Chavín Archaeological Site (Peru) (C 330).....	261
130. Lines and Geoglyphs of Nasca and Pampas de Jumana (Peru) (C 700).....	263

I. INTRODUCTION

This document deals with reactive monitoring as it is defined in paragraph 169 of the *Operational Guidelines*: "The reporting by the World Heritage Centre, other sectors of UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to the Bureau and the Committee on the state of conservation of specific World Heritage properties that are under threat". Reactive monitoring is foreseen in the procedures for the inclusion of properties in the List of World Heritage in Danger (paragraphs 177-191 of the *Operational Guidelines*) and for the eventual removal of properties from the World Heritage List (paragraphs 192-198 of the *Operational Guidelines*).

By its Decision **7 EXT.COM 4B.1**, the Committee had requested that the Director of the World Heritage Centre, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, propose at its 29th session:

- a) Criteria to present State of Conservation reports before the Committee;
- b) Criteria orienting the inclusion of a property in the category "for adoption requiring discussion" and the category "for adoption requiring no discussion";

These criteria were proposed by the World Heritage Centre in 2006 and are reiterated within this introductory section.

The properties to be reported on have been selected, among all those inscribed on the World Heritage List, in consultation between the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. In making the selection, the following have been considered:

- Properties inscribed on the World Heritage List in Danger (Cf. Documents *WHC-07/31.COM/7A* and *WHC-07/31.COM/7A.Add*);
- Properties for which state-of-conservation reports and/or reactive monitoring missions were requested by the Committee at previous sessions;
- Properties which have come under serious threat since the last session of the Committee and which require urgent actions;
- Properties where, upon inscription, follow-up was requested by the Committee.

The draft decisions prepared by the World Heritage Centre, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, reflect an attempt, wherever possible, to establish a two yearly reporting cycle for most of the World Heritage properties under consideration. This would reduce the number of state of conservation reports to be examined by the Committee (which this year have reached the record number of 161), starting from next year, and provide to States Parties a more realistic timeframe to report on progress achieved on the recommendations by the Committee. Exceptions to this approach have been made when special circumstances demanded annual review.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies have also agreed to study the possibility of setting-up a regional review of the state of conservation of World Heritage properties on a regular basis (combined with the Periodic reporting process). This would allow consideration of properties which have never been subjected to the reporting process, or which have not been considered for many years, and the possible "phasing-out" of others as appropriate.

Finally, it is important to clarify the nature of the different types of missions referred to in the state of conservation reports. Whereas all missions conducted to World Heritage properties and mentioned in the reports should be considered as "official" UNESCO missions, they can be grouped in various categories as follows:

- Reactive Monitoring missions requested by the Committee;

- Monitoring and advisory missions carried out by UNESCO staff or consultants in the framework of projects;
- Visits to World Heritage properties by UNESCO staff on the occasion of workshops or other events.

II. STRUCTURE OF THE DOCUMENT

Decision **27 COM 7B.106.3** requested

“...that the reports are categorized as follows:

- a) Reports with recommended decisions which, in the judgment of the World Heritage Centre in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, require discussion by the World Heritage Committee,
- b) Reports which, in the judgment of the World Heritage Centre in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, can be noted without discussion,”

In line with this request, and taking also into account the increasing attention paid by the Committee to the review of state of conservation reports, and notably the provisions of Decision **29 COM 7C** concerning improved reporting standards, the World Heritage Centre had proposed in 2006 to introduce a new category for properties which are considered by the Committee (former Decisions) and/or the Advisory Bodies/World Heritage Centre for possible inclusion on List of World Heritage in Danger. This category entitled “For consideration for in-Danger listing” is the first to be presented.

Therefore, the State of Conservation reports of specific properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and presented in this document are divided in three categories, as follows:

Category I: For consideration for in-Danger listing;

Category II: For adoption requiring discussion by the Committee;

Category III: For adoption requiring no discussion by the Committee;

Reports in the last category (Category III) will not be discussed unless a request is made to the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee in advance of the discussion of this agenda item.

The reports have been categorized according to the following criteria, established in consultation between the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies:

Properties are included in the category for discussion when, in the view of the Secretariat and Advisory Bodies:

- The threat is serious and urgent
- The possible solution to the conservation problem requires the involvement of more than one State Party;
- A decision from the Committee is likely to have an impact on the situation;
- A debate / discussion is required on the general issue raised by the report;
- The Committee has specifically asked information for decision.

All other properties will be in the last category.

To facilitate the work of the Committee, a standard format has been used for all state of conservation reports. This format has been adapted taking into account Decision **29 COM 7C** as well as Decision **27 COM 7B 106.4**:

“Invites the World Heritage Centre to present all information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List in the following manner:

- a) the report on each property should start on a new page,
- b) the identification number of the property allocated at the time of its nomination should be used in the document,
- c) an index of all properties should also be included,
- d) the decisions should have a standard layout, draft recommendation, and should be concise and operational; ”

Therefore the standard format includes:

- a) Name of the property (State Party) (ID number);
- b) Year of inscription on the World Heritage List;
- c) Inscription criteria;
- d) Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger ;
- e) Previous Committee Decisions;
- f) International Assistance;
- g) UNESCO Extra budgetary Funds ;
- h) Previous monitoring missions ;
- i) Main threats identified in previous reports ;
- j) Current conservation issues;
- k) Draft Decision.

The information contained in this document was prepared in consultation with the Advisory Bodies and other UNESCO Divisions and Field Offices.

In this document, the state of conservation reports of World Heritage properties will be presented in English alphabetical order by region, as follows: Africa, Arab States, Asia-Pacific, Europe and North America, and finally Latin America and the Caribbean. For practical reasons, as in previous years, each report will not start on a new page (130 reports are presented in this document). However, each region will start on a new page.

III. REPORTS ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

NATURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

FOR CONSIDERATION FOR IN-DANGER LISTING

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1981

Criteria:

(x)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions:

25 COM VIII.96; 30 COM 7B.1

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 39,580 for technical cooperation and the preparation of a transboundary extension to the property.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

UNESCO / IUCN monitoring missions in 2001 and 2007

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Capture and relocation of wildlife;
- b) Road construction.

Current conservation issues:

From 21 to 27 January 2007, a joint UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission visited the property, as requested by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006). The State Party did not submit a further report but accompanied and made available all necessary information and documents to the mission team.

The mission reviewed the following threats impacting the state of conservation of the property:

a) *Poaching and impact on wildlife populations*

The mission noted that the most significant threat to the OUV of the property is commercial poaching for the bushmeat trade. The mission reviewed the results of a detailed census of wildlife populations, carried out by the African Parks Foundation (APF) in 2006. The census recorded poaching throughout the property and revealed a dramatic decline of key species from 1990 to 2006. Populations of hartebeest, buffalo, kob, waterbuck and roan had all declined by more than 90% compared to a population census of 1990/91. Elephants, which at the time of inscription of the property on the World Heritage List were estimated to number in the hundreds, have declined by 66% from 30 to a maximum of 10 individuals. The population of Giant Eland, of which the park harbours the only remaining viable population for the western race, seems to be stable and estimated around 171 individuals, although this figure might not be reliable as it is based on a single sighting of a herd of 67 animals.

b) *Illegal logging of *Borassus palm* and other trees*

The *Borassus palm* is a highly valued tree, providing durable timber, palm wine and products from its fruit and leaf fibres. The tree is harvested extensively in the park, impacting one of the principle habitats. Recovery will be problematic, as its regeneration depends on elephants, which are on the verge of extinction.

c) *Grazing by domestic animals*

During the census, 6,000 domestic animals (cattle, sheep and goats) were counted, outnumbering the 2,115 large and medium sized wild ungulates. Grazing by domestic animals together with the presence and impact of the herders poses a significant threat to the integrity of the property.

d) *Habitat Degradation*

Habitat degradation is driven mainly by the use of fire by poachers and pastoralists leading to degradation of forest areas. The seasonally flooded grasslands, which provide a source of water in the dry season, are at risk due to bush encroachment as numbers of large mammal populations are insufficient to prevent woody growth. Agricultural encroachment remains limited but can be observed in some areas along the periphery of the park where the boundary has not been demarcated.

e) *Dam construction*

The proposed dam on the Gambia River at Mako, a few kilometres upstream from the property, threatens the seasonally flooded grasslands needed to sustain wildlife during the dry season. The dam would also affect the seasonal dynamics of wildlife distribution due to the river becoming impassable as a result of the constant flow from the Dam.

f) *Road construction*

Two road developments are impacting the park. The Tambacounda to Kedougou road, which was upgraded in the mid-1990s, bisects the property creating a barrier to wildlife and easy access to poachers. A proposed alternative route north of the park, which had been recommended by the 15th session of the Bureau in 1991, was unfortunately not realized.

At its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), the Committee also requested information on a second proposed road project linking Medina Gounas in Senegal with Koundara in Guinea. The mission was informed of the EIA which was undertaken and the route chosen which takes the road away from the boundary of the park. The mission therefore considered that this road which is currently under construction no longer is a major threat to the park.

The mission also reviewed the management of the property. It noted that the high standards of management of the property, which existed at the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List, had not been sustained, despite the best efforts of the Department of National Parks and recent support from the donor community. The park's location close to

international borders, regional insecurity and the proliferation of automatic weapons during the 80s and 90s resulted in unrelenting poaching pressure at a time when park budgets and staffing levels were being cut. Furthermore, the park has not yet gained the trust and support of local communities, many of whom were evicted from park lands when it was established, and still feel alienated. For many years there was a progressive deterioration in park infrastructure, withdrawal of staff from critical security posts, and general deterioration in management capacity.

A significant recent development has been the invitation by the State Party to the Dutch-based NGO the African Parks Foundation (APF) to conclude a partnership arrangement for conservation of the property. Based on an extensive needs assessment, APF submitted a proposal for the establishment of a new autonomous foundation to oversee management of the park under a 25-year contract.

Discussions and identification of funding sources are on-going, and have already led to the development of a three- year emergency rehabilitation plan. However, additional and adequate sources of funding remain to be found.

In the mean time, the Department of National Parks has made significant changes in its management operations at the park level. Staffing levels have been doubled over the past three years, staff has been re-deployed to the field, salaries and operational budgets have been substantially increased; and several new vehicles deployed to help with anti-poaching patrols.

The mission concluded that the integrity of the property had suffered a dramatic decline since its inscription on the World Heritage List. Unless remedial actions are taken urgently, further degradation would lead to an irreversible loss of the values for which the property was inscribed. The mission therefore concluded that the property be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The mission further noted that any further extinctions within 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, would result in the loss of its Outstanding Universal Value and could lead to deletion of the property from the World Heritage List.

The mission further proposed a series of urgent corrective measures to secure the property, including urgent actions to be implemented in the next 12 months and the development and implementation of a 3 year emergency action plan. These are included in the draft Decision. The mission considers that if these actions are implemented, recovery of the values could be well under way within 5 years and hence, proposed the following indicators of recovery:

- (i) a 90% reduction in the number of signs of human activity encountered within the park;
- (ii) an extension of the area in which signs of large ungulates are encountered, from the present 34% to 85% of the area of the park;
- (iii) an increase in counts of all species of larger ungulate for three consecutive years; and
- (iv) a reduction in animal flight distances along selected sections of road in the park interior.

The State Party in a letter dated 27 March 2007 confirmed its agreement with the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

In addition, IUCN and the World Heritage Centre have learnt from international media reports in February 2007 that the State Party has signed a mining agreement with Arcelor Mittal to operate in the Faleme region in which the property is located. The State Party is requested to provide information on its plans relating to mining in the region, in particular the location of any prospecting, exploration or exploitation surrounding the property.

Draft 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, 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 (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 would result in the loss of its Outstanding Universal Value and could lead to a deletion of the property from the World Heritage List

FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION

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

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

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

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

4. Mosi-oa-Tunya / Victoria Falls (Zambia / Zimbabwe) (N 509)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1989

Criteria:

(vii) (viii)

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 7B.8

International Assistance:

USD 78,000 in 2001 and 2002 under technical cooperation and training, USD 16,500 in 2001 under training, and USD 30,000 in January 2007 under technical cooperation.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

Joint UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission in November 2006

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Unplanned tourism development;
- b) Uncontrolled urban development leading to significant human population increase and pollution (water, air and visual);
- c) Reduced water flows over the falls due to drought and/or upstream hydropower production.

Current conservation issues:

As requested by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), the World Heritage Centre and IUCN conducted a monitoring mission to the property in November 2006 in cooperation with both States Parties in Zambia and Zimbabwe. The mission found that continuing developmental pressures within and adjacent to the property are adversely impacting on its values and integrity, mainly as a result of failure to implement recommendations made in the past Committee decisions for effective management.

In the reports submitted in January 2007, both States Parties identified the lack of Joint Management Framework and Joint Management Plan, as well as the lack of implementation of the recommendations of the 2002 Bi-national workshop as the main management obstacles for conservation of the property. The State Party reports and the 2006 monitoring mission confirmed that unplanned tourism development continues to affect the integrity of the property. This has also been the topic of several recent media reports.

Key issues identified by the monitoring mission and State Party reports include:

a) Unplanned tourism development

The report by the State Party of Zimbabwe has identified tourism development as a factor which affects to the loss of wilderness and aesthetic value on the property. The report of Zambia also identified development pressures to include, specifically, the plan for a hotel and country club, and the highflier balloon in the North East of the property, 3km from the falls.

The mission raised serious concerns with Zambia about the Mosi-oa-Tunya Hotel and Country Club Estate project. The project is anticipated to not only destroy the riparian vegetation, but also interfere with the catchment function and wild animal movement, and contribute to the pollution load of the river, thus, adversely impacting on the outstanding universal value and integrity of the property. According to media reports in December 2006, Zambia has reconsidered the project due to concerns of negative impact on the property. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN continue to have concerns about the project and would welcome further information from the State Party as to its current status.

b) Visitor carrying capacity of the property:

Both State Party reports confirm that visitor numbers are growing and note that increasing visitor numbers is part of their policy. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN observed during the mission that high visitor rates are causing noise pollution from helicopters, microlight aircraft, and boats. In addition, aquatic wildlife is constantly disturbed by riparian activities.

The mission also noted that the Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe is currently expanding the Victoria Falls Airport and the authorities anticipate increased visitor numbers, particularly with the 2010 Football World Cup in South Africa. Also, the Zambian government has prioritized tourism as a key economic growth sector, as is evident from the proposed hotel and golf complex project. The expected increase in visitors necessitates the rapid establishment of a Joint Ministerial Committee so that the State Parties can incorporate management of carrying-capacity in the Joint Management Framework and Plan.

c) Ecological priorities for the Joint Management Plan:

Both the States Parties reports and the monitoring mission highlighted additional factors affecting the property that need to be addressed by the Joint Management Plan.

These include:

- (i) Risk to flood-reliant riparian vegetation from low flow caused by drought and low flow that is linked to climate change and upstream water abstraction;
- (ii) Fragmentation of the habitat as a result of fencing, development, deforestation and grazing, leading to increased human-wildlife conflicts, in particular by blocking elephant corridors;
- (iii) Invasive plant species which are putting indigenous plant biodiversity and herbivore carrying capacity at risk. In Zambia, *Lantana camara* has colonised the cliff faces and palm grove;
- (iv) Risk to fish biodiversity from invasive fish species;
- (v) Deforestation from illegal timber extraction;
- (vi) Water pollution as a result of riverbank development and increased raw sewage discharge.

d) Obstacles to management:

Zambia has identified a need to review the current legislation to provide adequate protection and management for the property because there is currently no framework at the national level which focuses on World Heritage issues. It has also identified the limited management framework as preventing monitoring and requests additional assistance to review the boundaries and to aid management of the property.

e) Progress by the States Parties and next steps

The two States Parties have joined the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area that promotes integrated river basin management. Bilateral meetings and joint operations at site level are being periodically carried out.

The Zambian State Party expects to form a national Committee on World Heritage issues by March 2007. It is also using the 1996 Strategic Environmental Assessment guidelines in the control of developments in the property and has signed a MOU between National Heritage Conservation Commission and Zambia Wildlife Authority to harmonize conservation and development imperatives in the property.

The Joint monitoring mission concludes that a series of urgent actions should be undertaken, particularly the "Development of a Joint / Integrated Management Plan for the World Heritage property". The State party of Zimbabwe (with support from Zambia) had submitted an International assistance request to the World Heritage Centre, for an amount of USD 30,000, to implement this recommendation. The request was approved by the Chairperson in

January 2007. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN sent an international consultant to liaise and support the State parties in the preparation of the Joint Integrated Management Plan for the property. The Draft management plan is expected to be finalized by May 2007, before the 31st session of the Committee.

Draft 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. *Urges both States Parties of Zambia and Zimbabwe to urgently implement, within a definite timeframe, the recommendations of the 2002 bi-lateral workshop and those of the 2006 monitoring mission and in particular:*
 - a) *Establishment of a Joint Ministerial Committee (including appropriate technical sub-committees) for effective transboundary coordination.*
 - b) *Development of a 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, abstraction of water from the Zambezi, etc should be fully considered and addressed in the Joint 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) *In particular, the State Party of Zambia should reconsider the project under implementation to erect a tethered balloon, as it will adversely impact the visual integrity of the property, because when raised, the balloon is likely to appear within the viewing corridor of the falls, thus adversely impacting on the outstanding universal value of the property.*
 - e) *Development of specific benchmarks and indicators, with reference to the statement of significance of the property, which can be assessed during the monitoring of its state of conservation and better address management and protection concerns.*
6. *Also urges the State Party of Zambia to immediately halt the development of the Mosi-oa-Tunya Hotel and Country Club Estate project along the bank of the Zambezi River and within the World Heritage property, which would seriously impact its outstanding universal value and integrity. In case the development proceeds, the property will be automatically inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger;*

7. *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;*
8. *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.*

FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING NO DISCUSSION

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1987

Criteria:

(ix) (x)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions:

28 COM 15B.2; 29 COM 7B.2; 30 COM 7B.4

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 81,700 for technical assistance and training activities.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 60,000 from the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust to UNESCO. The Dja Faunal Reserve also benefits from part of the USD 193,275 allocated to the South-eastern Cameroon region by the Central Africa World Heritage Forest Initiative (CAWHFI).

Previous monitoring missions:

UNESCO monitoring mission March 1998; UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission June 2006

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Lack of implementation and full approval of management plan;
- b) Industrial mining activities proposed adjacent to the property;
- c) Industrial farming proposed in the buffer zone;
- d) Threats from commercial hunting; deforestation around the property.

Current conservation issues:

In February 2007, the State Party submitted a report documenting the following progress towards the implementation of the recommendations of the 2006 monitoring mission:

a) *Management Plan*

The Management Plan has been completed but still awaits a Ministerial Decree for approval. The State Party implemented some management initiatives outside the property such as the creation of hunting zones, some of which are managed by the community. A number of management suggestions have also been made to guide the work of the Forestry Development Units bordering the property. In its 2007 budget, the State Party has also included funding for park equipment, for anti-poaching activities and for an elephant inventory.

b) *Financial Autonomy*

To assist in achieving financial autonomy for the property the State Party has included in its budget for 2007 the cost of a study on funding mechanisms which could be used to support the management of the Reserve.

c) *Establishment of a Conservation Coordination Unit and of village committees for the Reserve*

The State Party has created a Conservation Coordination Unit, which incorporates the Conservation Service and personnel from the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife; this includes four surveillance posts which operate under the head of the unit. The State Party has also set up village committees which are incorporated into the coordination unit. Financial support for the functioning of these committees is part of the 2007 budget and includes rewards for ivory and trophy animal seizures.

d) *Provisional Operation Permits of the Forest Development Units*

The State Party plans to phase out, progressively, the Provisional Operation Permits of the Forest Development Units adjacent to the Reserve and replace them by annual logging permits. The Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife has signed a partnership agreement with Global Forest Watch, a project of the World Resources Institute, which allows independent monitoring of forest exploitation using satellite imagery.

e) *GEOVIC mining concession*

The State Party solicited public comments on the provisional Environmental Impact Assessment report for the GEOVIC mining concession located in the Lomie sector near the property. As a result of this consultation GEOVIC was requested to conduct a new wildlife risk assessment as the original assessment underestimated the impacts of its activities. The Department of Wildlife and Protected Areas will be involved in the production of the "Conservation and biodiversity development plan" before GEOVIC begins work. The State Party has requested GEOVIC to evaluate resources available for the implementation of the conservation plan and to compensate the reserve. The funds will be secured before work begins. In order to carry out these activities GEOVIC and WWF have signed a partnership agreement.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the Ministerial decree for the enforcement of the Management Plan has not been issued since its interdepartmental validation (2004) and updating (2006), and recognise the necessity of its issuance as soon as possible in order to make further progress on the implementation of the management plan. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note the importance of ensuring adequate funding for the implementation of the management plan.

The State Party is also encouraged to report on the impact of commercial hunting in the designated hunting zones leased near the park. It is also important to assess the impact of the bush meat trade, including levels, distribution and apprehension of poachers.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN welcome the partnership with Global Forest Watch, which will be very useful in monitoring long-term and large-scale changes in land-use and forest cover. However, the response time from this method of monitoring for on ground intervention is too slow to prevent and stop illegal activities. Therefore, the village committees and voluntary networks of observers should be used where possible to report on illegal activities to facilitate prompt action.

Draft 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. Tai National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) (N 195)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1982

Criteria:

(vii) (x)

Previous Committee Decisions:

26 COM 21 (b) 6; 27 COM 7B.2; 28 COM 15B.3

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: technical co-operation USD 30,000; preparatory assistance USD 7,500; training assistance USD 60,154,

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

N/A

Previous Monitoring Missions:

UNESCO-IUCN monitoring mission in 2006

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Poaching
- b) Agricultural encroachment
- c) Mining for gold

Current conservation issues:

In June 2006, UNESCO and IUCN conducted a mission to the property, in conjunction with the mission to Comoé National Park. The mission found that the recent national political crisis had not impacted the site as seriously as it had affected Comoé National Park. The number of park rangers and scientists had been reduced but the remaining staff continued their activities during this period. Human population pressure and encroachment due to the loss of lands in the region caused by the Buyo dam construction and the presence of refugees from neighboring countries were the main problems observed by the mission,.

The mission confirmed that the property continues to maintain its outstanding universal value (OUV) and that the main threats to the latter are commercial poaching and illegal activities taking place close to the park's borders. In particular the villagers living between the Cavally River and Liberian border feel unjustly deprived of the fertile lands within the park.

The mission report proposed the following key recommendations:

- (i) Strengthen surveillance and improve the collected data during poaching control;
- (ii) Conduct ecological and wildlife surveys based on the new protocols from the Management Plan for the park;
- (iii) Extend the socio-economic and educational activities of the east of the park also to the west;
- (iv) Assess the feasibility of ecological corridors
- (v) Harmonize the zoning system;
- (vi) Re-launch international cooperation;
- (vii) Approve and implement the Management Plan;
- (viii) Study park resource use and park resource use conflict;
- (ix) Enlarge research on the functioning of the ecosystem;
- (x) Prepare an interpretation and education scheme, and an ecotourism strategy.

The mission proposed to address the 4 first recommendations on an emergency basis and suggested a 10 year timeframe for the implementation of all overall list of recommendations.

A report was received from the State Party dated December 2006, which describes the progress in park management for the period June 2005 to June 2006. Management efforts are ongoing despite the political situation, with assistance from international partners

including the German KfW/GTZ, WWF, and the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation. Although ecotourism has been affected, the infrastructure for ecotourism is being maintained. The State Party reports that poaching continues to be a problem and plans to apply for International Assistance to address this issue. The report includes information on the following issues:

a) Surveillance of the park

Patrolling of the park is intensive with both sectoral guards and a mobile brigade, achieving an average of 84% of the planned patrol days per month. Patrolling takes place in all sectors of the park with a coverage of 65% of the total area. The main target species for poaching are duikers and primates, which account for 80% of seizures by guards who apprehended 91 poachers, 28 illegal gold miners and 4 farmers. The apprehensions resulted in 51 convictions, 27 reprieves and 50 non-convictions.

b) Local community and the peripheral zone

The programmes to raise awareness among the local population and the permanent activities of the forestry police suggest a decrease in the use of bush meat based on the following observations:

- (i) Local eateries are increasingly serving beef, poultry and fish;
- (ii) Traffickers of bush meat are increasingly discrete;
- (iii) Primates, buffalos and even elephants can be observed in the area east of the park, which previously had a reputation as the empty zone;
- (iv) The local population, particularly young people, are involved in the micro-enterprise projects initiated by the park; and
- (v) Poachers are spending less time in the park by using artisanal animal traps.

However, these are qualitative observations and there has been no structured study to confirm these trends.

c) Degraded areas

An ecological monitoring unit was established in 1998 to study the evolution of degraded areas and the dynamics of wildlife populations in the Park. The State Party has used comparisons of satellite imagery to confirm that the forest area and degraded area remain the same, demonstrating that conservation and restoration activities have been successful in the park.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recognize the many positive activities being undertaken in the park and in particular the efforts in controlling illegal activities and raising awareness with the communities neighbouring the park. The Centre and IUCN encourage the park authorities to monitor the distribution and size of its major wildlife populations in order to establish their trend as well as conduct further studies on the status of the park's forest ecosystem and the habitat as a whole.

Draft 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 Tai 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1981

Criteria:

(vii) (x)

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

1985-1988 and 2000-2006

Previous Committee Decisions:

28 COM 15A.7; 29 COM 7A.7; 30 COM 7A.11

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 253,567 for emergency assistance, technical assistance and training

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

UNESCO/IUCN/Ramsar mission in 2000 and 2001; UNESCO/IUCN mission in 2005; UNESCO and IUCN participation in multi-stakeholder workshop, April 2006.

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Invasive species;
- b) Systematic water management system not operational;
- c) Lack of hydrological monitoring;
- d) Salinisation of soils;
- e) Cattle grazing;
- f) Hunting;
- g) Lack of management plan and sustained funding;
- h) Poor management capacity and constant changes in staff;
- i) Poor visitor management.

Current conservation issues:

On 17 February 2007, the State Party submitted a report on progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2005 monitoring mission. The report covered the following areas:

a) Management Plan

The 2006-2008 Action Plan was completed in 2006 and includes a three-year budget. The State Party has received funding from the government of the Netherlands to improve the property's southern track, for which topographic surveying has already taken place. The private company "Sahel Group" is waiting for the finalisation of the contract with the Ministry of the Environment to begin the restoration of the pelican nesting area. The State Party has also incorporated the priority actions of the Action Plan into the annual work plan and the Management and Scientific Committees have met in March 2007.

b) Park Management

Changes to personnel include three new guards, a new warden/curator, and plans to recruit more staff from the National Parks Administration to be involved in surveillance funded through the Ministry of the Environment. The biological station is increasing its research capacity with the increase of monitoring equipment and has organised a tagging campaign for aquatic warblers. GEF (Global Environment Facility) funded Park volunteers from the surrounding villages conducting patrols with Park officers. The warden coordinates and supervises these patrols, which are carried out regularly. The warden also organises, with the support of the Park volunteers, bird counts on the 15th of every month to monitor and identify seasonal bird variations.

c) Control of invasive species

The report noted that since May 2006, activities have been ongoing to control invasive vegetation in particular *Tamarix senegalensis* with a focus on unblocking the main waterways, particularly those flowing into the property. The focus for clearing invasive vegetation has been on the central waterways of the Djoudj, Thieguel, Khoyoye, and the water bodies of the Lacs Gainth, Khar and Grand Lac. The Park management carried out the

removal of invasive plants with the support of local villagers who were supervised by the Park officers and funded through GIRMAC (Integrated Coastal and Marine Resource Management), an integrated marine and coastal ecosystem management programme, and strategic partner of the Park. GIVAQUE, an integrated invasive aquatic vegetation management project, funded by the African Development Bank, has identified Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary as one of its new intervention sites. The project is scheduled to start during the first quarter of 2007. In addition, a research project on *Typha* is planned to begin during 2007.

d) *Water supply*

The Park has produced a calendar for managing the water supply of the Sanctuary. The release of water through the sluices will be carried out with the assistance of the fishermen using an alert system to warn on the flood periods. It will be timed to coincide with the flood waters of the Senegal River. This water management mechanism should improve the migration of fish for breeding, and the availability of food for piscivorous birds. The water supply in the park has improved since the implementation of the water management initiatives particularly since the clearing of rushes having blocked the channels.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the State Party has made good progress in establishing management priorities and in addressing invasive species and water supply problems. However, as the invasive species *Typha* was one of the key reasons for listing on the List of World Heritage in Danger, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN request the State Party to provide more information on the status of managing *Typha*. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN urge the State Party to continue to provide financial support and seek additional funding for the ongoing management activities. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN also note that the State Party is working with GEF and that this partnership offers an opportunity for greater community engagement, particularly with regards to anti-poaching activities and raising public awareness. The RENPEM, Northern Network for the Protection of the Global Environment, helps to better coordinate the management and the activities in the protected area.

Draft 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)

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

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1994

Criteria:

(vii) (x)

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

1999 – 2004

Previous Committee Decisions:

28 COM 15A.8; 29 COM 7B.4; 30 COM 7B.6

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 116,239 (USD 32,249 for technical support activities; USD 64,000 for emergency assistance; and USD 19,990 in 2005 for Technical Cooperation for the implementation of the Annual Operations Plan)

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

Joint UNESCO-IUCN mission in 2003

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Mining activities inside the property;
- b) Staffing and budgetary deficiencies;
- c) Degradation of buffer zone;
- d) Impact of tourism and climbing expeditions.

Current conservation issues:

In February 2007, the State Party submitted a detailed report on the conservation and management status of the Rwenzori Mountains National Park (RMNP) covering the following issues:

a) Park operations and maintenance of infrastructure:

RMNP offices have been established with support from Hima Cement Factory Ltd., WWF, MacArthur Foundation and UNESCO. The outstanding issues are the construction of outposts, staff accommodation, gates, signage, visitor information, education centres and a museum. UWA (Uganda Wildlife Authority), PAMSU (Protected Area Management and

Sustainable Use Project), UNESCO and WWF have supported transport facilities for the park. The park has 72 staff members, and further training and capacity building is required.

RMNP collaborates with the Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF) and other security agencies in intelligence, information gathering, and joint patrols to maintain security in the mountains. This collaboration has reportedly improved the involvement of communities, local government and other stakeholders in site conservation activities.

The revenue internally generated by the UWA currently meets about 47% of recurrent costs. A business plan developed with the help of the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) will help to address the issue of sustainable financing for this property.

b) Resource conservation and protection:

The main threats to the area remain illegal logging, wildlife poaching for domestic consumption, and illegal resource harvesting, especially of bamboo.

During 2006, 62% of the scheduled patrols were executed, covering about 70% of the park's patrolable areas. These activities intensified protection of park resources resulting specifically in a 20% increase in confiscated items.

Other threats include pollution along the central circuit due to poor waste disposal facilities, and the destruction of bogs due to a lack of boardwalks. A comprehensive waste-management plan is being developed. The number of tourists in the park has steadily increased by about 20% since its re-opening in 2003, and has reached about 40% of the level before the closure of the park. Tourism in the park is managed under concession by Rwenzori Mountaineering Services (RMS).

Kilembe Mines Ltd. has a land title for kaolin mining in the park. The State Party requests the assistance of UNESCO to negotiate with Kilembe and encourages the company to honour the commitment of the International Council for Metals and Minerals (ICMM) not to mine in World Heritage properties, made at the World Parks Congress 2003 (Durban).

Park boundary marking has been accomplished, and encroached areas have been reclaimed. However, no Environmental Impact Assessments have been carried out for developments inside and around the park.

UNDP, in collaboration with UWA, UPDF and Anti-mine Trust, is planning to remove mines in the southern sector of the park and the affected locations have been identified.

c) Local community and conservation:

RMNP conducts outreach programmes on soil conservation, water and environmental protection, and income generating projects such as bee keeping and fish farming, in collaboration with relevant government departments, community-based organisations and institutions. The park is cooperating with Wildlife Clubs of Uganda to encourage and support schools in the Rwenzori region to assist forest restoration.

Communities are demanding access to resources such as bamboo, smilax, acalpha, honey and medicinal plants. According to UWA policy, resources up to 3km inside the park boundaries can be used sustainably by the communities. Experts are conducting surveys to determine sustainable levels of resource use, in order to prepare MOUs to be signed with local communities. Five Collaborative Community – Park Boundary Management Agreements have been negotiated and signed by 200 farmers, who are permitted to sustainably utilize the live boundary markers *Eucalyptus grandis* and *Spathodea campanulata*.

RMNP has engaged in a deliberate attempt to involve local political leadership in park management.

d) Transboundary collaboration:

WCS has supported a trans-boundary collaboration initiative, which holds quarterly coordination meetings and joint coordinated patrols with Parc National des Virunga (in DRC) along 50 km of the contiguous boundary. Problems include language barriers, movement restrictions at the border, failure to interpret the respective wildlife laws and suspicion because of the security situation.

e) *Monitoring and Research:*

Data collected by rangers is stored and analysed using a tailor-made program called the Management Information System (MIST). A number of independent research projects have been carried out since 2005. The State Party has identified a need to develop an ecological monitoring plan for the park.

IUCN and the World Heritage Centre appreciate the significant progress made by the State Party in dealing with various threats to the property and in implementing the management plan.

Recently, considerable media attention has been drawn to the melting of glaciers on the Rwenzori Mountains which are reportedly under threat due to global warming. The State Party should consider working with appropriate scientific organisations to monitor this process.

Draft 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. *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;*
6. *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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1981

Criteria:

(vii) (x)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

26 COM 21 (b).23; 30 COM 7B.7

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 42,000 in 1990 under technical cooperation.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

No monitoring missions, but various activities under the “*Enhancing Our Heritage*” project have been undertaken, including a field visit in September 2005.

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Potential impacts of a hydro-electric project in Kenya;
- b) Poaching.

Current conservation issues:

A report was received from the State Party in February 2007, providing information on the status of a lodge development in Bilia, as requested by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006). The report clarified that because the Bilia lodge development is in a protected area a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is mandatory under Tanzanian law. The Institute of Resource Assessment of the University of Dar es Salaam completed the final EIA report in April 2006, which suggested options for mitigation measures and the report was provided to the World Heritage Centre and IUCN. The lodge is currently under construction. The Serengeti National Park is closely monitoring the construction to ensure that there is no violation of the EIA recommendations, and has not observed any adverse impact of the project on the environment.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the summary and conclusions of the EIA report, page 19, identify key potential issues of the lodge development to include changes in surface and ground water quality, and incompatibility with the property’s General Management Plan and the Tanzanian National Park’s policies. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are particularly concerned that the issue of the lodge drawing on limited water resources in a region of water scarcity may threaten wildlife and functioning of the ecosystems. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the EIA report recommends studying these impacts, and would welcome copies of the recommended study reports, in particular those related to water:

- (i) detailed hydrological survey to ascertain the quantity of water available in the aquifers before allowing more lodges to drill more boreholes (EIA, page 13)
- (ii) detailed study to determine amount of water that will be left for environmental flows (as a result of the expansion of water intake at the Borogonja springs - EIA, page 13)

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN would also welcome further information on the mitigation measures to be implemented and a timetable for their implementation and how the park management is ensuring sustainable levels of visitors and preventing overcrowding, particularly in sensitive areas.

The State Party also commented on the value of the General Management Plan of the Park in providing useful guidance in daily operations and management decisions. The managers of the property continue to work closely with the UNESCO-IUCN-UNF *Enhancing our Heritage* project.

Draft 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

FOR CONSIDERATION FOR IN-DANGER LISTING

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1994

Criteria

(x)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 15B.8; 29 COM 7B.6; 30 COM 7B.10

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 95,000 for preparatory and training assistance (1995-2003)

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

IUCN mission in 2000; IUCN/World Heritage Centre mission in 2007

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Poaching
- b) Gas and oil exploration
- c) Overgrazing by domestic stock
- d) Boundary marking, management planning and management regime

Current conservation issues

As requested by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN monitoring mission visited the property from 21 to 25 January 2007, including a 2 day field visit. The full mission report is available on the website of the World Heritage Centre. In addition, the State Party submitted a report, received by the World Heritage Centre on 14 March 2007.

The mission noted the efforts and commitment made since 1996 by the State Party to increase the capacity and resources available to address illegal activities in the property. However other problems are significantly jeopardizing the integrity of this property and the values for which it was inscribed on the World Heritage List, in particular:

- a) *Boundaries of the property:*

On 12 December 2006, the State Party sent the World Heritage Centre a draft version of a map on the new Arabian Oryx Sanctuary (AOS) boundaries, as requested in previous Committee decisions. The map and accompanying letter indicated an overall proposed new AOS protected area consisting of a 10,503 km² buffer zone (where hydrocarbon extraction would be permitted) surrounding the proposed newly defined core zone and World Heritage property of 2,824 km² (where hydrocarbon extraction would not be permitted). These new boundaries would represent a major (90%) size reduction from the current inscribed area of the property (27,500 km²), though retaining a sizeable buffer zone partially dedicated to biodiversity conservation, but allowing other uses which would not be permitted in the World Heritage property. The reduction in size and the change to a buffer zone with uses prohibited in World Heritage properties would not be compatible with wildlife conservation.

The mission was informed that the final and legal new boundary for the property would in fact be formally defined by a Royal Decree to be imminently passed into law. However, the exact nature of the decree was not communicated to the mission, making it impossible to evaluate it against the requirements of *World Heritage Convention* and *Operational Guidelines*. Royal Decree No 11/2007 took effect on 28th January 2007, three days after the departure of the mission from Oman and was formally communicated to the World Heritage Centre on 14 March. It reduces the AOS to an area of 2,824 km², and formally identifies these new boundaries as those of the World Heritage property. There is no mention of a buffer zone, as had been proposed in the draft map provided to the World Heritage Centre. It needs to be pointed out that the procedure followed by the State Party is in violation of the *Operational Guidelines*, which requires the Committee to review and approve any proposed boundary changes before they become effective, based on an assessment by IUCN on how the proposed changes might affect Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and integrity of the property. In particular, any significant boundary modification requires the State Party to submit a new nomination for consideration by the Committee through the regular nomination process (*Operational Guidelines* paragraph 165).

In the current situation, the entire area of 27,500 km² continues to be a World Heritage property, as inscribed by the Committee, whereas under Omani law, the AOS now consists of only an area of 2,824 km², while the lands previously considered as the AOS World Heritage property are now under no particular conservation regime and open to other uses.

The new boundaries for the AOS closely reflect the boundaries of surrounding hydrocarbon concession blocks. No evidence has been provided to IUCN or to the World Heritage Centre that the boundary redefinition takes into consideration key ecological, species or protected area management requirements as per the original nomination dossier of the property which was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1994. Such a drastic reduction in area is no longer adequate to guarantee the conservation of the values for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List and also raises serious questions as to the continuing integrity of the property and consequently, the potential for deletion from the World Heritage List.

b) Arabian Oryx and other key species status and management:

The mission observed a general declining trend in the status of key species, including the Arabian Oryx, the Arabian Gazelle and the Houbara Bustard, but with exception of the Nubian Ibex. The broader causal factors appear to be a combination of reduced availability of food sources due to poor regeneration caused by intense off-road traffic (the AOS is extremely flat and accessible almost in its entirety by off-road vehicles – resulting in fairly intense use, as evidenced by many tyre tracks in all sectors visited by the team); competition for food sources from domestic camel and goat herds, and continued on-site poaching, particularly for the Arabian Gazelle, the Arabian Oryx (the latter driven by collectors of live animals within the broader peninsular region), and the Houbara bustard throughout its large migratory range. The Centre was later informed of the draft Agreement on the Conservation of the Asian Houbara Bustard, developed by the range states of this species under the

auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species, which remains un-ratified after several years. The mission was informed that aerial anti-poaching surveillance would soon be implemented in the area, and that the agreement under consideration between Oman and neighbouring states on environmental matters, which in part related to the trafficking of Arabian Oryx, was an internal issue, and did not provide further details.

The most recent monitoring results of the Arabian Oryx reveals a total wild population of 65 animals, but there is only one wild breeding herd comprising 4 females and 4 males. This contrasts to the situation of a wild Oryx population of 450 at the time of inscription.

Given the reduced protected range, the very low number of females of breeding age, the intense browsing pressure from domestic livestock and the on-going threat of poaching, the probability of extinction in the medium-term of this isolated wild population of Arabian Oryx is high. It must be noted that the Arabian Oryx Project maintains a population of approximately 250 Arabian Oryx, mostly female, within a well guarded 2 km² enclosure in the heart of the AOS.

c) *Property management, and institutional issues:*

Many of the management issues affecting the property noted in the 2000 mission report are continuing or have increased in significance. These included the rapidly evolving settlement infrastructure along main road networks within the existing AOS boundaries, evidence of high livestock grazing-browsing pressure and the pervasive impacts throughout much of the AOS as a result of use by off-road vehicles. These aspects are both indicative of the rapidly changing socio-economic and development realities of the country and symptomatic of the urgent need to address these changes in a planning and adaptive management framework that involves the various agencies and local communities living in the area.

Management of the property is nominally under the responsibility of the Ministry of Rural Municipalities, Environment and Water. However, it appears that this Ministry has not prioritized the protected area component of its mandate and as a result, is not capable of fielding any staff to the property and effectively providing any control on activities there. On the other hand, the Arabian White Oryx Project, under the jurisdiction of the Royal Diwan, which originally focused on captive breeding and re-introduction of Arabian Oryx into the wild, has enjoyed long standing and strong support from the Royal Diwan and from external donors. Over time, it has expanded its range of activities to include broader management issues and currently has a staff of over 50 people and an important fleet of vehicles.

The 2000-2005 management plan was never formally approved and remained largely unimplemented. There is no current management plan in effect. A 5-year self-imposed moratorium on hydrocarbon exploration and drilling has come to an end.

d) *Deletion from the World Heritage List:*

The mission was informed that oil and gas exploration activities were planned to begin imminently on land immediately outside the newly proposed (2,824 km²) boundaries, but within the (27,500 km²) property as inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1994. The mission informed the State Party representatives that the original 1994 property boundaries remain the only formal boundaries recognized by the Committee and added that any incompatible activities within these original boundaries would be considered a violation of the *Convention* and its *Operational Guidelines*. The World Heritage Centre followed this up by formal letter sent on 22 March 2007.

A response from the State Party, received by the Centre on 12 April 2007, invites the Committee to delete the property from the World Heritage List during its 31st session, and commits itself to conserve the Arabian Oryx and ensure the viability of the sanctuary. Also in this correspondence, the State Party states that once new boundaries (including buffer zone) and a comprehensive management plan have been established, a new nomination can be submitted, if this is acceptable.

Draft 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 as its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes with alarm that despite several years of intensive efforts, there is currently no viable wild population of Arabian Oryx in the property;
4. Also notes 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;
5. Regrets that the State Party has proceeded to significantly reduce the size of the Arabian Oryx Sanctuary in a manner contrary to the provision of paragraph 165 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, thus seriously compromising the property's outstanding universal value and integrity;
6. Further regrets that the State Party is seeking to pursue hydrocarbon exploration activities within the original boundaries of the property, as it continues to be recognized by this Committee;
7. Concludes that the protected area has been drastically reduced and the property has deteriorated to the extent that it has lost its outstanding universal value and integrity, and that the State Party is not able to ensure the conservation of the property, as per Article 4 of the World Heritage Convention;
8. **Decides to delete the Arabian Oryx Sanctuary from the World Heritage List.**

FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING NO DISCUSSION

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1989

Criteria

(ix) (x)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 15B.7; 29 COM 7B.5; 30 COM 7B.9

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 35,000 for technical cooperation.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

No formal monitoring missions. World Heritage Centre missions in the framework of activities in Mauritania in 2002, 2003 and 2004.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Illegal fishing;
- b) Mechanical shellfish harvesting;
- c) Oil exploitation;
- d) Tourism and increased accessibility due to the new Nouadhibou-Nouakchott road;
- e) Lack of management capacity and resources.

Current conservation issues:

As requested by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), the State Party submitted in February 2007 the finalised Development and Management Plan (2005-2009), and a progress report on implementation of the legal mechanisms.

The State Party is in the process of preparing the Marine Environment Code (MEC) in collaboration with other government ministries, which is to be coherent with the Framework Law on the Environment (Law 2000/45). The State Party has ratified the 1992 Conventions on Compensation and Civil Liability (CLC 92, FUND 92); adopted Decree 2006/058, which specifies the organisation regulations and management of the property; and adopted Decree 2006/068, which implements the Special Law (Law 2000/24) for the Banc d'Arguin National Park.

The State Party did not report on the recommendation of the Committee to request "particularly sensitive sea area" (PSSA) status from the International Maritime Organisation for the waters of the property; or on the request to apply Law 2000/025, which prohibits any use of dragnets in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

The report further provides information on its efforts to curb illegal fishing and poaching. The State Party has established a marine surveillance system in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries Surveillance and Marine control (DSPCM) and the local residents, and tripled the funding for the department's budget in marine surveillance. The State Party also reported that illegal fishing using motorised vessels is better controlled, but continues to be a problem and threatens the integrity of the marine portion of the property. The State Party's campaign to raise awareness has reduced poaching by local populations however, marine resource use, in particular fishing, has increased. On the positive side, camel populations within the property have recovered recently.

The State Party also carried out the first phase of activities of the Ecotourism Development Strategy in 2006, but did not provide information on the other recommendations adopted by the Committee at its 29th (Durban, 2005) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions, including:

- a) the mitigation measures relating to the new Nouadhibou-Nouakchott road
- b) taking the necessary precautions against oil spills;
- c) reporting on the outcome of the independent panel which reviewed the social and environmental aspects of the agreement between the Government and Woodside;
- d) providing the documents on the Environmental Impact Assessment studies by oil companies operating near the property;

- e) taking due account of the measures needed to alleviate the threats to the livelihood of the local population;
- f) integrating into the Public Sector Capacity Building Project, in partnership with the World Bank, a pilot project which includes the property;
- g) considering the creation of a biosphere reserve to include the property and the Cap Blanc Satellite Reserve and other appropriate areas;
- h) progress with the preparation of the Marine Environment Code;
- i) Accession of the State Party to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, (MARPOL).
- j) progress on the implementation Law 2000/45

The report also provides limited information, and no quantifiable data, that can be used for assessing and monitoring the threats to the property.

Draft 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 2009** 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 33rd session in 2009.*

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1980

Criteria

(x)

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

1996 - 2006

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 15A.9; 29 COM 7A.8; 30 COM 7A.12

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 100,000 for technical assistance, training activities and emergency assistance.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1999: UNESCO/IUCN/Ramsar mission; 2000: IUCN/Ramsar mission; 2002: IUCN mission; June 2006: UNESCO/IUCN mission

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Adverse impacts of dam construction;
- b) Inadequate water flows for maintaining biological system;
- c) Inadequate management structure;
- d) No management plan.

Current conservation issues

A joint UNESCO/IUCN mission took place from 31 May to 2 June 2006. The results of the mission were presented orally to the 30th session of the Committee (Vilnius, 2006). The mission reported excellent progress in improving the State of Conservation of the property and in the implementation of the corrective measures. The significant increase in the direct inflow of water into the lake ecosystem had resulted in a reduction in the level of salinity and permitted a gradual restoration of the ecosystem. Whilst the increase in water inflow so far had been mainly the result of increased rainfall over the past 4 years, the State Party had recognized the need to provide Ichkeul with fresh water, recognizing it as a net water consumer. As a result, the Committee decided to remove the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The mission noted however that there was still a need to develop an integrated and autonomous and adequately funded management structure, and to finalize and adopt the management plan.

As requested by the Committee, the State Party organised in January 2007 a workshop to discuss the recommendations of the 2006 mission, in which UNESCO and IUCN participated. The workshop made the following recommendations:

- a) Management structure:

- (i) Create a management structure with decision-making powers;
 - (ii) Establish a Consultative Scientific Council with the goal of guiding the discussion on the structure of management;
 - (iii) These two elements should form an integral part of the Management and Operations Plan;
- b) Water management:
- (i) Integrate water management as a principal and fundamental element of the Management and Operations Plan (MOP);
 - (ii) Ensure the objectives of the MOP focus on the conservation measures by taking into account the Outstanding Universal Value of the site;
 - (iii) Ensure the careful use of water discharging from the Sidi Barrak Dam;
 - (iv) Ensure that measures are put in place to restore the ecological functioning of the Joumine Wadi inside the Park;
- c) Scientific research and monitoring:
- Collect and store scientific data and reports relating to Ichkeul in a central location to enable their analysis; in particular, for the census of winter waterfowl and for mountain birds;
 - Continue and complete monitoring, in particular relating to lake sedimentation;
- d) Social aspects:
- (i) Ensure that there are public campaigns to raise awareness of the values of the Park (above all with the inhabitants of the Park and its surroundings);
 - (ii) Facilitate the production of both accessible and scientific documents in Arabic.

The State Party submitted on 31 January 2007 a report on the state of conservation of the property and on progress with regard to the completion of the corrective measures.

Despite having a year of below average rainfall, favourable conditions for the ecosystems were maintained, for the fourth consecutive year. This has had a positive impact on the wetland vegetation, resulting in a significant return of wintering migratory birds over 120,000. These results are presented in the Park's 2005/2006 scientific report.

The State Party has reported the following progress in implementing the recommendations of the 2006 monitoring mission:

- a) Management plan: a joint Tunisian-German research group is developing a participatory Operations and Management Plan for Ichkeul National Park. This plan was discussed during the January 2007 workshop;
- b) The first results from the updated mathematical models for management and forecasting will be available in June 2007, and the models will be re-launched to be operational for the next annual hydrological cycle;
- c) The population of the park has actively participated in the identification of pressures and proposed actions for the Community Development Plan;
- d) Existing scientific monitoring activities continue to be carried out by the National Agency for the Protection of the Environment (ANPE);
- e) Measures to strengthen institutional capacity for park managers and those involved in community development were carried out in 2005;

- f) Research contracts have been signed with university departments and research institutions in order to improve the scientific and ecological knowledge of wildlife and vegetation in the park; and
- g) A plan of action has been prepared to raise public awareness, which includes plans to produce educational materials, promote ecotourism, and establish five-environmental clubs.

The State Party has yet to complete the establishment of the autonomous and permanent management structure, and the participatory management plan. Although the State Party reported that the wetland ecosystems were functioning and that migratory bird numbers have increased, there was no information on the volume of annual inflow achieved.

Draft 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. *Urges the State Party to report on the annual flow received by the property to ensure that the average annual range from the benchmarks of 80-120 cubic metres is achieved;*
5. *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;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2009** 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 33rd session in 2009.*

ASIA-PACIFIC

FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1997

Criteria:

(vii)(viii)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions:

N/A

International Assistance:

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

N/A

Main threats identified in previous reports:

N/A

Current conservation issues:

IUCN and World Heritage Centre have received reports from various sources on the devastating impacts of non-native feral rabbits and rodents on the vegetation and wildlife of Macquarie Island. The rabbit population has increased from 10,000 to 100,000 rabbits since the 1980s. The negative impacts of this overpopulation are in particular the destruction of hillside vegetation such as Tall Tussock (*Poa foliosa*) and Macquarie Island Cabbage (*Stilbocarpa polaris*), which in turn leads to more frequent and severe landslides and erosion gullies. This has significantly impacted on the aesthetic values for which the island was inscribed, and poses a severe threat to various species of seabirds inhabiting the site. The nesting habitat of three Albatross species is under threat from slope degradation. On Petrel Peak in the island's south, the only known breeding site of the Grey-headed Albatross (listed as Vulnerable under Australian environmental legislation), almost the entire slope habitat has been cleared of tussock. As a consequence, landslides have occurred, and nest loss is expected if not already occurring. In a mudslide affecting Lusitania Bay in September 2006, an unknown number of King Penguins was buried under the mud. Rats pose an additional direct threat to seabirds by killing chicks in their nest.

The World Heritage Centre received a letter from the State Party in January 2007, which explains the measures taken by the Australian Government to tackle the problems associated with invasive species on the island, including:

- The Australian Government has contributed over AUS\$ 1.5 million (approximately USD 1.2 million) to the Tasmanian Government to support vertebrate pest management on the island, including support for a project officer in the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, who is involved in planning the program for the eradication of rabbits and rodents on the island.
- *A Draft Plan for the Eradication of Rabbits and Rodents from Subantarctic Macquarie Island* has been developed, which an independent scientific review has found to be satisfactory and it has been approved. The report is online on the State Party's website: <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/publications/draft-macquarie-rabbit-eradication-plan.html>
- Recognizing its responsibilities for the protection of the World Heritage values of the island, the Australian Government is currently in discussion with the Tasmanian Government regarding funding the proposed eradication plan (estimated cost: USD 20 million).

IUCN and the World Heritage Centre note with great concern the devastating impact of invasive species on parts of Macquarie Island, and stress the urgent need for action to prevent further, potentially irreversible damage to the property. It is essential that the Governments of Australia and Tasmania agree on funding the eradication programme as soon as possible, to ensure its implementation can be commenced in 2007. It appears that the implementation of the eradication plan would require around two years of planning and preparations, from the moment when the funding is ensured. Moreover, it is reported that for the eradication activities to be most effective, they must take place during the winter season (summer in the northern hemisphere). For this reason, unless a decision for the funding of the plan is formalized as early as possible in 2007, the actual eradication might be delayed until winter 2010, when the number of rabbits will have substantially increased. If it is formalised before mid 2007 then the eradication can take place in winter 2009, a whole year earlier.

Draft Decision: 31 COM 7B.14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,*
2. *Notes with great concern the impact of unchecked populations of invasive rabbits and rodents on the values and integrity of the property;*
3. *Commends the State Party for the measures taken, including the development of an eradication plan, but regrets that the implementation of the eradication plan has not yet started;*
4. *Requests the State Party to ensure that the necessary funding is provided in 2007 to enable the urgent implementation of the eradication plan in winter 2009;*
5. *Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the property;*

6. Further requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a report by **1 February 2008** on the state of conservation of the property, in particular the status of the eradication plan and all measures taken to eradicate the populations of rabbits and rodents, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2003

Criteria

(vii) (viii) (ix) (x)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 15B.9; 29 COM 7B.7; 30 COM 7B.11

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission in April 2006

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Proposed development of network of dams and large copper mine adjacent to property;
- b) proposed relocation of resident populations;
- c) future tourism development.

Current conservation issues

As requested by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), the State Party submitted a report on 30 January 2007 with information on the plans for hydro-power and dam construction in the Nujiang, Lancang and Jinsha River Valleys, the boundaries of the serial property and proposed changes to these boundaries, and detailed information on impacts of ongoing and proposed mining operations within and near the World Heritage site. The report includes the following information:

a) Dam Construction

The State Party report outlines the procedures involved in the examination of hydroelectric power generation projects, including the requirement for detailed planning, comprehensive assessment for river basins and specific plans for their use. Specific plans for river basins include plans for hydroelectric power generation. China has established legal procedures for major construction projects, including Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

In relation to dams within and near the property, the State Party notes:

- (i) that there are no dam construction plans within the World Heritage property;
- (ii) that the preparation of a comprehensive plan for river basins and specific plans for hydroelectric power generation in the middle reaches of Nu River and Lancang River (including some areas adjacent to the property) are currently underway and no dams so far have been approved by the central government; and
- (iii) that the relevant State agency did not approve any dam project near the World Heritage property at the middle reaches of the Jinsha River, for which the comprehensive plan for the river basin has been approved.

The report concludes that at the end of 2006 no dam construction is planned adjacent to the property. The report also notes that the State Party will avoid any direct impact to the property from dam construction and that the issue of indirect effects, and how to prevent or reduce such effects, is currently under investigation.

IUCN and the World Heritage Centre note that plans for hydroelectric construction are currently underway including in some areas adjacent to the property and urge such plans to take into account the values and integrity of the World Heritage property and the need to avoid any direct and indirect impacts. IUCN further notes that indirect impact of dam construction can be significant and can include migration of people, road construction and a range of associated impacts, and urges that all indirect impacts be clearly identified, and measures taken to ensure that any impact on the property is avoided.

IUCN and the World Heritage Centre take note of the information provided by the State Party that the final decision on any hydroelectric plan development will not be made until the EIA of the comprehensive plan for river basin and specific plan for hydroelectric power generation is finished, and request that these documents be submitted to the World Heritage Centre and IUCN when they are available. It is further urged that any EIA relevant to the World Heritage property should be made public and subject to an open and transparent review process, including full public consultation with all stakeholders, in particular the local community.

b) Boundary modifications

The State Party report provides details on laws governing the protection and management of the property, particularly in relation to Scenic Areas, Nature Reserves and the Regulations on Conservation of Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas. In addition, the legal procedures for boundary modifications of the World Heritage property are outlined in the report.

At the time of inscription, the need to modify the boundary of the property to include other important areas outside of the current reserve boundaries was noted. A number of specific proposals for boundary modifications were discussed with the UNESCO/IUCN Mission of April 2006. The report clarifies that the agencies in charge of scenic areas and nature reserves of Yunnan Province have only recently studied the boundaries of the property and have not yet submitted to the central government an official application report and plan on boundary modifications for review and approval. Options for boundary review and adjustment are currently under consideration but not yet approved by the central and local governments. The State Party notes that any boundary modifications will be communicated in advance to the World Heritage Centre.

IUCN reiterates its view that there is a need to consider additional areas that could be added to the property, particularly those of high conservation value, and that linkages between the different parts of the property should be established via biological corridors or other options for ecological connectivity. Any changes of boundaries should be presented for consideration by the Committee in line with paragraph 165 of the Operational Guidelines.

c) *Mining activities within the property*

The State Party report clarifies that mining is prohibited within scenic areas and nature reserves. Mineral resource developments in areas outside the reserves must go through EIA and be approved by law. The report notes that Chinese scientists have found some large to medium- sized mineral resources within and near the World Heritage property, and that since the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List, the Central and local governments have not approved any mining operations within the property. However, it is noted that the property covers a vast area where local ethnic groups hold some land property rights and that there exist some small-scale illegal mining activities. The report affirms that these are currently being closed down.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN reiterate that mining within natural World Heritage properties is not compatible with their status, and urges that State Party to close-down all mining activities within the property, as soon as possible.

Draft 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

2004

Criteria

(viii) (ix) (x)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 14B.5; 29 COM 7B.9; 30 COM 7B.12

International Assistance

USD 66,600 in July 2005 for Emergency Assistance on rehabilitation of management facilities of the Gunung Leuser National Park, which is a part of the property

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 1,800,000 for the 3-year UNF/UNFIP Project (2005-2007) - Partnership for the Conservation of Sumatra Natural Heritage.

Previous monitoring missions

UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission in 2006

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Agricultural encroachment;
- b) Illegal logging; poaching;
- c) Road construction and institutional and governance issues.

Current conservation issues

As requested by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), the State Party submitted an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) in February 2007 to address the trend in loss of value and integrity of the property. The EAP covers a period of 5 years (2007 to 2011), and includes considerations on institutional and governance issues, land encroachment, illegal logging, road construction, wildlife poaching and trading, and promotion and presentation issues. For each of these, the main programmes, strategies, performance indicators, broad time-frames, and responsible stakeholders have been identified in the EAP.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN have reviewed the EAP and feel that although it provides a good framework for action, it needs to be further elaborated by outlining specific activities under each of the identified strategies and the estimated budget and specific time-lines for each of those activities. This process should be completed in consultation with, and inputs from, all relevant stakeholders, including the civil society. Only then would it become a strategic and useful document for fund-raising and implementation purposes. The State Party is encouraged to seek assistance from the World Heritage Fund to support this effort.

Following the request of the Committee at its 30th session, a joint UNESCO/IUCN mission visited Jakarta and Sumatra from 5 to 11 March 2007. In Jakarta the mission held discussions with the Ministry of Forestry and other Central Government agencies, and in Sumatra it travelled to the Gunung Leuser and Kerinci Seblat National Parks and held discussions with the local authorities and stakeholders concerned. The full mission report is accessible at: <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2007>

Overall, the mission noted some positive developments and significant improvements since the 2006 mission, these and other observations are briefly summarised as follows:

- a) *Illegal logging*

- (i) Pressures relating to illegal logging have been a major issue in all three parks constituting this property. However, the recent Presidential Decree on Illegal Logging has made a clear impact. This Decree further involves 18 ministries and requests the Heads of District Administrations to establish integrated inter-agency Task Forces to address illegal logging issues.
- (ii) The positive impact of action to address illegal logging can be seen in the the Kerinci Seblat National Park, where decrees have been issued at the district level in some cases, mirroring the Presidential Decree. In both Gunung Leuser and Kerinci Seblat the mission team was advised that illegal logging has been halted and illegal sawmills and logging roads closed down.
- (iii) The mission was also informed that a law to deal with illegal logging throughout Indonesia had been drafted and is under finalization.
- (iv) The action by the State Party in establishing a Forest Rangers Quick Response System (SPORC) is also a positive initiative that should be expanded and applied to address illegal logging and encroachment problems in a more strategic and regular manner.

b) Encroachment

- (i) Encroachment is by far the most serious ascertained threat affecting the property and is widespread along the boundaries of the property, particularly within the Kerinci Seblat National Park and Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park. There are two broad types of encroachments: first, those dealing with industrial interests such as the expansion of commercial oil palm plantation (and coffee, particularly in Bukit Barisan National Park); second those associated with agricultural activities of local communities.
- (ii) The Mission noted the effective action taken by the Park Manager of the Gunung Leuser National Park to remove part of an oil palm plantation within the park. This has involved the cutting down of oil palms previously planted within the boundary of the national park. It is important that examples such as this, which highlight the willingness of the park authorities to take action, are widely promoted to discourage further encroachments within park boundaries.
- (iii) The options for dealing with encroachments will require a firmer stand and approach than has previously been taken. The options include: voluntary relocation of people illegally living inside the boundaries of the site and rehabilitation of recovered areas; or rationalization of park boundaries to exclude encroachments which are impossible to deal with.
- (iv) Given the effectiveness of the Presidential Decree in addressing illegal logging it is strongly recommended that a similar Decree be issued urgently to address the important issue of encroachment.

c) Road development

- (i) The development of roads within the property has been a particular issue within the Kerinci Seblat National Park where a total of 34 roads had been proposed, including a number through the core zone of the property. The Mission noted that these proposals had been stopped and applauds this decision.
- (ii) AKAR, which is a consortium of 20 local NGOs who were given a grant under the Rapid Response Facility (RRF) project of UNF-FFI-UNESCO, has played a crucial role in supporting park management in Kerinci Seblat and blocking the construction of these roads.
- (iii) The mission noted the instruction issued by the Directorate-General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation (PHKA) in September 2006 prohibiting the

construction of roads inside conservation areas has been effective, but the situation on the ground has to be closely monitored for taking immediate preventive and corrective action. There are a number of pressures for development of roads and it is important that any such future proposals are firmly resisted.

d) *Governance and capacity*

- (i) The Mission Team noted that the management units in TRHS have been upgraded from Echelon III to II, which means the Park Managers are now upgraded as Directors, so that they can better interface with counterparts at the local and national levels. Each management unit will have 4-5 Divisions with 8 sections, and the number of staff has also been increased significantly. In addition, the budget has been doubled. These measures have been taken with the involvement of the Ministry of Administrative Reforms. This upgrading of the organizational structure is fully supported. It is important that the appointment of these positions be implemented as a matter of priority and that the selection process for these positions is open, transparent and based on merit.
- (ii) The mission was informed that Debt-for-Nature Swap (DNS) with the Government of Germany worth 63 million euros had been finalized which will bring significant resources for the TRHS up to 2009, and if funds are still available, this assistance will continue until 2012. The Government should strive to sustain this level of budgetary increase.
- (iii) All 3 parks should function as one cohesive world heritage property. There needs to be closer cooperation between Park Directors and to establish an effective coordination mechanism. There should also be an exchange of staff between the three sites, and where possible joint program development, so as to share experience and enhance capacity in addressing encroachment.

e) *Promotion and Interpretation*

- (i) The Mission noted very limited promotion of the world heritage status of the property, particularly in relation to signposting and the preparation of promotional materials. More attention needs to be given to the promotion of the world heritage status of the property and that all main entry points to the national parks have clear signposting which recognizes world heritage status.

The mission concludes that the property continues to face severe threats to the values for which it was inscribed, as well as to its integrity and these must be addressed as a matter of urgency. The recommendations of the mission are included in the draft decision.

Draft 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, particularly the civil society, 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 elaboration and finalisation 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) Issue a Presidential Decree to deal with encroachments, on the pattern of the Presidential Decree on illegal logging and operationalise it urgently;
 - e) Revise the boundaries of all the three national parks to exclude encroached land that is impossible to recover, and to add important habitat identified by IUCN at the time of inscription of the property, 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1985

Criteria

(x)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 7B.8 ; 30 COM 7B.13

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

World Heritage Centre site visit 2005.

Main threats identified in previous reports

Inadequate water supply.

Current conservation issues

In February 2007, the State Party submitted a report in the periodic report format, which responds briefly to only some of the recommendations made by the Committee at its 29th (Durban, 2005) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions. However, additional information was provided by the State Party on 11 April 2007.

a) *Water management*

The State Party reports that the Keoladeo National Park has suffered in the last few years due to a diminishing water supply, but it is fully committed to ensuring that the outstanding universal value of this property is not diminished due to water scarcity. In 2006 the monsoon had also failed causing the Park to dry up and the continuing paucity of water is significantly threatening its outstanding universal value and integrity. Over the years, the habitat quality has degraded significantly and invasion of the weed species *Prosopis juliflora* has outpaced the reclamation effort in all ecosystems of the Park. The report adds that if the trend of declining water continues, the National Park would be bereft of its conservation and economic value within the next 8 years.

The State Party is considering various options to resolve the water supply issues that threaten the values for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List. As part of the short-term measures to deal with this problem, 8 shallow and 1 deep bore-wells have been dug to pump water to partially fill some of the important lake areas. Two heavy duty diesel generator sets have been purchased recently for this purpose. In addition, the Government of Rajasthan has sanctioned Rs. 2,400,000 (USD 54,295) for digging 4 more deep bore-wells in the Park and the work is reportedly in progress. The 2005 World Heritage Centre mission to the property noted that water from shallow and deep wells is not suitable for rejuvenating and maintaining the complex wetland ecosystem of the park, as this water does not contain micro-organisms, fish fingerlings, turtles, etc which flow with the river water and are essential to the functioning of the wetland.

The State Party is also considering several long-term measures to ensure adequate water supplies to the Park. One of these projects is the Chambal Dholpur – Bharatpur Water Supply Project, which is basically a drinking water supply project for the people of Bharatpur. However, the National Board for Wildlife, Government of India has stipulated that 310 million cubic feet of water from this project should be supplied annually to the National Park. The work on this project is reportedly under execution, but is occurring at a slow pace due to some contractual dispute. The State Party report does not mention when this project is likely to be completed and water will become available to the Park. The report also informs about three other project proposals, but funding has so far not been secured for any of them.

The State Party describes a significant lack of funding for the implementation of long-term solutions of the water supply issue and the eradication of invasive species and notes the need to receive funding from international sources.

b) Bird monitoring

The State Party reports that there is a bird-monitoring programme in place that includes Siberian crane and other migratory Palaearctic migratory birds, herons and waterfowl. However, the State Party did not provide time-series data, as requested by the Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005) to be able to assess bird species diversity and population trends.

c) Invasive species

Regarding the management of invasive species, the State Party is reportedly translocating feral cattle from within to areas outside the Park. The 2005 mission had gathered that at that time there were about 2,000 feral cattle inhabiting this 29 km² Park. The *Paspalum distichum* (knotgrass) has been checked by fast flooding and controlling water levels, and water hyacinth is regularly removed. The invasive species *Prosopis juliflora* has not been tackled successfully, as the regeneration / seed dispersal outpaces the removal efforts made by the park staff. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that in view of the water scarcity the effectiveness of these invasive species control measures will be minimal, particularly in relation to *Paspalum* weed, while *Prosopis* spreads rapidly as the wetlands dry-up.

d) Tourism

The State Party notes that there are currently over 110,000 visitors per year. A programme has been established, with the support of WWF India and Swarovski Company to address visitor management issues at this property.

IUCN and World Heritage Centre note the need to examine a range of options to solve the problem of water scarcity and to address conflict with surrounding communities, which rely on the same water sources as the Park, as recommended by the 2005 UNESCO mission.

Draft 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. Notes with concern that the water scarcity continues to threaten the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and that the short-term measures proposed may not be sustainable;
4. Calls upon the international donor community to provide further financial and technical support to the State Party to develop long term solutions for the water scarcity in the park and for an invasive species management programme;
5. 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;

6. Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a detailed report, in the correct format, 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1999

Criteria:

(viii) (ix) (x)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions:

28 COM 15B.10; 29 COM 7B.12; 30 COM 7B.14

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 45,000 for preparatory assistance and technical cooperation

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

IUCN mission in 2004

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Mining;
- b) Security limitations;
- c) Development threats;
- d) Exploitation of marine resources;
- e) Absence of a co-ordinating agency;
- f) Absence of a finalized strategic management plan;
- g) Absence of physically designated Park boundaries;
- h) Inadequate financing.

Current conservation issues:

The State Party submitted a report on 9 November 2006 with information that the Strategic Plan 2005-2010 for Lorentz had been developed, in cooperation with Australia's Department of the Environment and Heritage and the Wet Tropics Management Authority, through a participatory process involving relevant stakeholders in local and national workshops. The State Party further submitted an electronic copy of the Strategic Plan in early 2007. However, the State Party did not report on the human and financial resources required to implement the Strategic Plan as requested by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006).

The State Party reports that the park management authority "Balai Taman Nasional Lorentz" has been established in 2006 and the new park manager appointed in October 2006. In March 2007, IUCN received information that the new park manager had assumed duties in Papua and that two or three district rangers had been appointed and also assumed their duties, including in Timika in the south of the park.

According to the State Party, a number of park management activities have been implemented in 2006 through the Papua Regional Conservation Agency with support from WWF-Indonesia, including regional spatial planning, participatory mapping, buffer-zone and community development, awareness-raising, and a study on environmental services, park protection and prevention of illegal wildlife trade.

The State Party further reminds the Committee that the WWF Rapid Assessment and Prioritisation of Protected Areas Management (RAPPAM) methodology was used at a workshop supported by WWF-Indonesia in early 2006 to evaluate the management effectiveness of the park. The workshop resulted in recommendations such as addressing economic pressures and threats in the region, improving management effectiveness, especially in relation to funding and staffing, and ensuring support from local government and international donor agencies.

According to the State Party report, the proposed government budget for the park in 2007 is USD 1,126,186. This budget will be used to finance a range of management activities, based on current management issues as well as the Strategic Plan and RAPPAM recommendations. A significant part of the budget for 2007 will also be used for constructing an office for the park management authority.

UNEP's Rapid Response Assessment (RRA) of threats to Indonesia's national parks, launched in February 2007, indicates that pressure on Lorentz from illegal logging and mining activities has been comparably low in the past, but is projected to increase rapidly and become a serious threat during the period 2005-2010. In 2005, logging concessions on 11.6 million hectares of forests in Papua province were granted to 65 different logging companies, highlighting the increased pressure on Papua's natural resources and the potential for impacts on this property.

Reports received by IUCN in March 2007 also highlighted the multiple threats to Lorentz and the lack of clearly determined and marked boundaries as well as the absence of an effective management plan and management body. Illegal logging is reportedly taking place in Mimika and community logging continues in Timika and Wamena, within the property. Also, concerns reportedly continue over the potential impacts of the tailings of the Freeport gold and copper mine adjacent to the western boundary of the property as well as Conoco's oil and gas exploration permit/plan adjacent to the eastern boundary of the property (and inside the national park). Further threats cited include poaching and an administrative reform creating new districts, and thus new potential development pressures, in and around the park area. Reports have previously noted that protest activities continued around the controversial Freeport mine in Timika with a blockade by traditional gold miners in October 2006.

IUCN and the World Heritage Centre commend the State Party for finalising the Strategic Plan 2005-2010 as requested by the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004). It is understood, however, that this Strategic Plan has yet to be formally approved and

implemented. The State Party also needs to be commended for the important steps taken in developing the management body for the property and encourages the State Party to allocate the necessary resources to “Balai Taman Nasional Lorentz” to enable it to manage the property and address the threats to its values and integrity. The proposed budget for 2007 is encouraging but needs to be secured and sustained. It is regretted that no progress has been reported on the elaboration of the management plan. However, it is noted that the Strategic Plan is a key step in the ongoing participatory planning process leading to the management plan, and that WWF-Indonesia is supporting the State Party in developing the management plan and is currently building local capacity amongst communities, government and local NGOs for their future participation in the management of Lorentz.

It may be noted that the State Party has again not reported, as requested by the Committee at various sessions, on the actual and potential impacts of the Freeport mine, in particular the mine tailings, and the independent environmental audit of the Lake Habema Road requested by the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004). In addition, the progress of determining and marking of the boundaries of the property has not been reported on.

The Freeport mine continues to be a frequent source of controversy, and the environmental and socio-economic issues surrounding it may threaten the property if they remain unresolved. Of particular concern remains the pollution of the marine and estuary areas of the property resulting from the water discharged from the mine tailings into the Ajkwa River estuary, near the boundary of the property, and its potential longshore drifting into the marine part of the property.

Draft 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”; and urges the State Party to ensure its necessary staffing and funding in order to enable it to effectively manage the property and address the threats to its values and integrity;*
6. *Requests the State Party to formally approve and 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.*

FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING NO DISCUSSION

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1979

Criteria

(vii)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

27 COM 7B.10; 29 COM 7Ba; 30 COM 7B.15

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 71,995 Technical Co-operation.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

IUCN (The World Conservation Union) Monitoring Mission in December 2002.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Pressure and degradation from increasing tourism and mountaineering;
- b) Airstrip development;
- c) Climate change;
- d) Development of tourism resort in core area.

Current conservation issues

As requested by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), the State Party submitted a brief report on 30 January 2007, informing the World Heritage Centre that while the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation and Sagarmatha National Park are against the land registration by Kongde View Resort, and that the final decision will be made by the Supreme Court of Nepal. While awaiting the outcome of the court case, the State Party has rejected a proposal submitted by the resort owner to build a trail to the resort.

The World Heritage Centre has been informed that the Government of Nepal has recently endorsed the new management plan for the National Park and that the Kongde View Resort has been constructed and is operational. The owner of the resort is trying to mobilise pressure to build the trail leading to the resort, which would pass through one of the core wildlife habitats of the national park.

IUCN and the World Heritage Centre encourage the State Party to continue monitoring the state of conservation of the park while the court case is ongoing, and to follow up on the Decision of the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006).

The Kathmandu Office of UNESCO is conducting an applied research on the impact that climate change is having on the glaciers ecosystem of the Sagarmatha National Park. This is a joint effort of the UNESCO Office in Kathmandu, World Wildlife Fund, the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology and Tribhuvan University. The study aims to provide current data on glaciers water discharge and flow, and will try to measure the snow melting rate at the basin, the diurnal variations in water flows and an analysis of the snow.

Draft 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 in 2006 (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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1993

Criteria:

(vii) (ix) (x)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions:

28 COM 15B.18; 29 COM 7B.13; 30 COM 7B.16

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 100,000 for preparatory, training and technical assistance.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

N/A

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Over-exploitation of marine resources;
- b) Illegal and destructive fishing.

Current conservation issues:

As requested by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), the State Party has submitted the proceedings and report on the "National Workshop on the Management of the Tubbataha Reefs and the Greater Sulu Sea", which took place in December 2006, in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. The most important outcomes of the conference are the following:

- a) The Tubbataha Declaration of Support by participating agencies, expressing their commitment, responsibilities and contributions towards the effective conservation of the TRNP; and
- b) Three action plans drawn out of three simultaneous workshops on the following issues:
 - (i) Improving law enforcement coordination and effectiveness
 - (ii) Addressing risks from energy exploration and potential oil spills
 - (iii) PSSA (Particularly Sensitive Sea Area) designation for the Sulu Sea

The action plans identify major activities, outcomes, lead agencies, time frames, resources needed and potential funding sources.

Other issues discussed at the conference included the following:

c) Status of the TRNMP Bill

At the time of the Conference, the Bill was pending in both Chambers of Congress. Important provisions of the Bill were changed during a second reading in November 2006,

without the concurrence of the Tubbataha Protected Area Management Board. There are concerns that the new Bill, known as House Bill No. 3772 (HB3772), might undermine the principles and the spirit of the original draft bill, especially concerning management.

d) Law enforcement

Problems concerning the enforcement of fishery and protected area laws were identified in two studies conducted by the Environmental Legal Action Centre (ELAC), including:

- (i) Continuing weakness of law enforcement efforts;
- (ii) Inadequate knowledge of law enforcement personnel about the enforcement process;
- (iii) Unclear or undefined prosecution strategies;
- (iv) Delays in the prosecution of cases;
- (v) Inadequacy of sanctions and penalties; and
- (vi) Filing of harassment suits or countersuits against law enforcers.

Better education and training of law enforcement and other personnel is a priority. It should be noted that due to lack of information, environmental laws are not taken seriously, especially by the fishers. Most of the time the fines imposed are small and inadequate. Furthermore, international poachers are protected by their consulates and not prosecuted. Tubbataha Management is working with the judiciary to solve these issues.

e) Other issues and concerns in protecting TRNMP

- (i) Lack of long term financial security for the park;
- (ii) Need for capacity building among marine park rangers who are recruited from the Philippine Navy and replaced on a regular basis, due to the remoteness and isolation of the site;
- (iii) The use and values of the status of PSSA for the TRNMP and Greater Sulu Sea;
- (iv) Oil exploration in the Sulu Sea. The Department of Energy and its private contractors should compensate communities for all damages from oil exploration and inform the public about their contingency plans on oil spill and other disasters.

According to the Presidential Proclamation 1126 issued on 23 August 2006, Tubbataha Reef Marine Park has been extended to include Jessie Beazley Reef, as recommended by the World Heritage Committee (Decision **28 COM 15B.18**). It is now officially named Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park and comprises 96,828 ha. IUCN and World Heritage Centre note that this nearly threefold increase in size of the original site (33,200 ha) is very positive and represents a significant boundary modification requiring a re-nomination by the State Party according to paragraph 165 of the *Operational Guidelines*. Additional information received by IUCN from different sources indicates continuing significant threats to the property by illegal international fishing and poaching activities. IUCN notes with concern indications of weak enforcement of the existing applicable law in these cases.

Damaging mining operations under the government's Mining Revitalization Programme have been reported as negatively impacting the property. The State Party should inform the World Heritage Centre about any existing or proposed mining within the property and any associated impact.

IUCN and World Heritage Centre appreciate the outcomes of the National Workshop. The State Party should keep the World Heritage Centre informed on the state of implementation of action plans elaborated during the workshops.

Draft 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)

Year of Inscription on the World Heritage List:

1998

Criteria

(ix)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

27 COM 7B.12; 28 COM 15B.12; 29 COM 7B.10

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 26,350 for the preparation of management plan in 2006

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring mission(s)

Joint UNESCO/IUCN mission, 25 March to 12 April 2005.

Main threat(s) identified in previous report(s)

N/A

Current conservation issues

In March 2007, the State Party submitted a report and a copy of the Management Plan. The report provides information on the progress made in implementing the recommendations made by the Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005):

a) Finalisation of the World Heritage Protection Bill

Currently East Rennell is protected as a conservation area on customary land under customary law. It is not protected under national law, as there is no national legislation to designate protected areas. At the time of the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List, a draft World Heritage Protection Bill was outlined by an international consultant. In its report, the State Party reports that it lacks the funds and expertise to finalize the draft Bill and process for the formal adoption of this Bill.

b) Preparation of the Management Plan

The State Party received assistance from the World Heritage Fund to develop a management plan in 2006, which involved holding workshops on East Rennell. National and provincial representatives, as well as local communities including landowners and traditional leaders have now endorsed the Management Plan. However, during the process the State Party has identified a lack of appropriate protective legislation and capacity within the government to manage the property sustainably. Proposals have been developed to recruit technical advisors but the State Party has not yet obtained external funding to support such recruitment. The Management Plan identifies several potential threats to the property, which include mining, logging, over-exploitation of coconut crab, over-exploitation of marine resources, and invasive species. Although these do not appear to be occurring within the park, the property could still be affected by them. The Management Plan prepared by the State Party, in this respect, does not appear to contain specific management provisions to deal with these issues.

c) Supporting customary owners in the management of the property:

The State Party has given the *East Rennell World Heritage Site Trust Board (ERWHTB)* the role of administration and management of the property. The organisation is broadening its constitution to include support for income-generation programmes and has agreed to appoint women in positions of leadership to make the organisation more representative.

d) Threats

The State Party's efforts to improve the management of the site should be recognized. However, the lack of funding and technical expertise to implement the Management Plan, and of the necessary legislation to protect the property need to be addressed as soon as possible. It is suggested that the State Party establishes a budget and timeline for the implementation of the Management Plan and the development of relevant legislation. It is also suggested that the State Party apply for additional international assistance to support the implementation of these recommendations.

Draft 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 2004 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-Khao Yai Forest Complex (Thailand) (N 590)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2005

Criteria

(x)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 8B.11

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Main threats identified in previous reports

N/A

Current conservation issues

Dong Phayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2005 based on criterion (x) due to its biodiversity richness and its role in conserving a number of globally threatened and endangered species. The IUCN evaluation noted the risk to the integrity of the property associated with ecological fragmentation and in particular the problem associated with road 304 that separates Khao Yai National Park and Thap Lan National Park. This road limits the effectiveness of this forest complex for ecosystem conservation and wildlife protection. When inscribing this property on the World Heritage List at its 29th session (Durban, 2005), the Committee requested the State Party to carry out a design study for the construction of ecological effective wildlife corridors to better link the different sectors of this forest complex. The Committee also recommended a number of actions to enhance the integrity of the property.

In response to a letter from the World Heritage Centre, the State Party submitted a report on State of Conservation of the property on 30 January 2007. The report provides information on progress made in implementing the recommendations of the Committee to enhance the integrity of the property, including detailed information on:

- a) The preliminary study of Khao Yai-Thap Lan National Parks Ecological Corridor Project;
- b) The Khao Yai-Thap Lan National Parks Complex Biodiversity Corridor Project;
- c) The Management Plan for Dong Phayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex, and;
- d) The Plan on Public Cooperation in the conservation of Dong Phayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex.

The State Party reported that a preliminary Study of Khoa Yai-Lan National Parks Ecological Corridor Project was completed. The report also includes reference to some key management actions which have been developed to address the different conservation issues raised in the 2005 IUCN evaluation report. Of special importance is the elaboration and adoption, in November 2006, of a Management Plan for Dong Phayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex (DPKY-FC) and the recruitment of a manager for the whole complex. It is also noted that the proposed projects on ecological corridors will be supported through the implementation of a larger Asian Development Bank (ADB) initiative to establish nine transboundary forest complexes in the Greater Mekong Subregion which encompasses DPKY-FC. The Corridor Feasibility Study for the property, to be implemented as part of this initiative, is expected to be completed by end of 2007.

The State Party has not provided detailed information on the resources available to ensure long term management across the complex.

Moreover, IUCN has received information on the plan to widen Road 304 from a two lane highway to a four lane highway, further fragmenting DPKY-FC. This will create additional and significant integrity problems to the ecosystems and species of this property. At present, the Division of National Parks of Thailand is planning to conduct a feasibility study on this proposed development project in order to find alternative options for maintaining wildlife corridors within this forest complex.

Draft 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 Phayayen-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 (Viet Nam) (N 672 bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1994; extended in 2000

Criteria

(vii) (viii)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

27 COM 7B.13; 28 COM 15B.13; 30 COM 7B.17

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property (up to 2004): USD 87,207 for management planning support, equipment and training.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount recently provided to the property: USD 100,000 under the Youth Volunteers for Cultural Heritage Preservation project (2003-2006); USD 519,000 for Cua Van Floating Cultural Centre, a component of the Ha Long Ecomuseum (funded by the Government of Norway, for the period of 2003-2006).

Previous monitoring missions

Joint UNESCO-IUCN visit in December 2006

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Population growth;
- b) Increased tourism pressure and development;
- c) Urban and industrial development;
- d) Lack of financial and technical resources;
- e) Absence of an integrated planning approach.

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2006, the State Party submitted a report on the actual and potential impacts of the Cam Pha cement plant project and Cai Lan port project on the property, as well as other issues relevant to the state of conservation of the property.

The State Party reports that the Cam Pha cement plant project adjacent to the property's buffer zone, was subject to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), and a number of measures are being taken to mitigate impacts on the environment during both the construction and operation of the plant. For example, a retaining wall has been built on the coastal side of the project site, whose visual impact will be minimized by planting mangroves. The limestone required for the cement plant will be exploited at a quarry about 4-5 km away from the coast and will be transported to the plant by a conveyor belt. The clay required will be exploited at a quarry about 25 km away from the plant and transported by waterway. Of all other raw materials only gypsum and ore will be transported by waterway. All transporting and handling of materials has been designed in such a way as to minimise impacts on air and water.

The State Party further reports that the Cai Lan port project is far away from the coastal area of the World Heritage property. Phase 1 of the project has been implemented in two stages since 1996 and was subject to an EIA undertaken by a team of international and national experts. Stage 1, including the construction of three berths, was basically completed at the end of 2003. Mitigation measures included, for example, the use of nets and floats to prevent silt spreading and oil spilling. Construction has been strictly supervised by experts, including by monitoring air, water and noise pollution, and approved by the relevant environment authorities. Operation of Cai Lan port started in mid 2004 and mitigation measures are in place to deal with waste water, waste as well as spilled oil. There is also a plan to treat bilge water from vessels. Implementation of Stage 2, including the construction of three more berths, is planned and will include the same mitigation measures as Stage 1.

The State Party also reports on other threats to the property and ongoing efforts to address them. In order to review the management, conservation and development of Ha Long Bay's heritage values, Quang Ninh Provincial People's Committee held a meeting with relevant authorities in September 2006, and the State Party report provides an overview of all the policies and plans in place. For example, a number of policies and plans have been developed to control, limit and monitor the impacts of development projects in the coastal areas, also to protect remaining mangrove forests. The National Coal and Mineral Industries Group has been instructed in 2006 to implement various measures to minimise or mitigate environmental impacts of the coal industry, and coal loading and transshipping on the bay has been banned in 2006.

Similarly, there are policies and plans to address the issue of the 3 floating fishing villages in the property, with a population of about 1400. While solid waste from these villages is collected, there is no collection of liquid waste and waste food at present, which contribute to pollution of the bay. Thus, it is proposed to control and limit the number of floating houses on the bay. Aquaculture activities, which increasingly impact on the bay, are subject to various regulations enforced by the Ha Long Bay Management Authority (HLBMA) in cooperation with other relevant authorities. Strict enforcement has basically stopped coral trading and the use of illegal fishing methods in the property.

There are already 449 tourist boats on Ha Long Bay, and this number is increasing rapidly. Almost all boats are reported to collect waste water and waste, and all 73 "bed and breakfast" boats must meet environmental standards to receive a business license. Regulations are in place for tourism activities and services, and HLBMA is responsible for managing an inter-organisational team to supervise, monitor and strictly enforce existing regulations.

The State Party report concludes with priority projects planned until 2010 and a call on the National Commission of Vietnam for UNESCO, World Heritage Centre, IUCN and international community for additional financial and technical support to address the environmental issues at Ha Long Bay and to assist with training and capacity building of HLBMA staff and other relevant authorities.

The State Party submitted in March 2007, with support from IUCN Vietnam, a revised request for international assistance from the World Heritage Fund to strengthen the management capacity of HLBMA. The request is submitted for approval of the Committee in Document *WHC-07/31.COM/18A*.

On the invitation of the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN visited the property in December 2006, as they were already in Vietnam for a transboundary consultation workshop between Vietnam and Lao PDR. The mission noted the considerable commitment of the local authorities by the various policies and plans that have recently been put in place. However, the extent and effectiveness of the implementation of these will have to be closely monitored.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that although the Cai Lan port and the Cam Pha cement plant projects are located at some distance outside the buffer zone of the property, it would be necessary for the State Party to closely monitor these projects to ensure that all mitigation measures required by the EIAs are strictly followed to protect the outstanding universal value and integrity of the property, including from potential local acid precipitation from the cement plant's emissions plume. It is not clear if there are contingency plans in place to deal with accidents, spills, etc. which could directly or indirectly affect the property. The State Party may also wish to consider assessing the inter-visibility of the proposed cement plant from different points within the property and/or its buffer zone.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that unprecedented increases in visitor numbers (from 850,000 in 2000 to 1,400,000 in 2005) have resulted in high tourism pressure on the property, and that there are plans for developing a tourism resort on Lam Bo Island within the core zone of the property. However, the State Party is strongly advised to reconsider and

cancel this development, as it is totally incompatible with the management objectives of the core zone of the Bay. The mission also visited the Cua Van floating village and cultural centre and noted that plans for its further development by erecting large billboards, establishing a sound system, building additional infrastructure, including a bridge and road to the Doi Cave, should not be undertaken.

The other issue of concern relates to the recent introduction of water jet-skis near Titop Island which not only cause noise pollution, but are inappropriate in the tranquil setting of the core zone of the Bay. The mission learnt that there had also recently been an accident involving a jet-ski causing three human deaths. Such water sport facilities should be provided outside the property and the permission for their use within the World Heritage property should be withdrawn.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN further note the ongoing construction of a new coastal highway and are concerned that major sediment movements could contribute to excessive sedimentation of the vulnerable seafloor and corals in Ha Long Bay.

Draft 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

FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION

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

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

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1998

Criteria:

(ix)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions:

22 COM A.1; 25 COM/III.120-121; 30 COM 7B.19

International Assistance:

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

UNESCO-UNDP mission in 2001

Main threats identified in previous reports:

Impacts of a road project across the property

Current conservation issues:

In March 2007 the State Party provided a report on monitoring, risk management and education programmes in the property. The authorities are monitoring threats, which include forest fires, poaching of fish and wildlife, illegal construction adjacent to lakes, and oil pollution. Extensive monitoring programmes are ongoing for the wildlife and vegetation in the property. For the Katunsky Reserve the State Party has extensively promoted the World Heritage values through an education program targeting schools neighbouring the property. The report also covers the following issues:

- a) *Consideration for transboundary extension*

In response to the Committee's request at its 22nd session (Kyoto, 1998), the State Party is developing a partnership with Mongolia with the aim to develop a transboundary UNESCO Biosphere Reserve between Russia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan and China. The Ukok Quiet Zone would be the core of this area. The State Party has also created an interdisciplinary planning team of specialists to prepare a management plan for the Ukok Quiet Zone, which is part of the property.

b) Gas pipeline from Russia to China

The State Party report also provides information on the current status of the proposed gas pipeline to China, which would cross the zone of Ukok Quiet Zone Nature Park where economic activities are strictly limited. The Ministry of Nature Resources and its Federal Ecological Inspection Service so far have not received any documentation or correspondence relating to this project even though the Park Administration has sent an request for further information to the company in charge of developing the gas pipeline, a company called Giprospeftgaz, a subsidiary of GAZPROM.

In addition to this information, IUCN has learnt that the State Party has produced a draft gas pipeline report on this region which has been made available to the public. According to the Official Website of the International Coordinating Council "Our Common Home Altai," President Putin has been discussing building a new gas pipeline across the western borderline between Russia and China which will supply China with 60-80 billion cubic meters of gas annually and is to be launched by 2011. The field surveys for the pipeline are due to begin in 2007 and an agreement has already been signed between the Government of the Altai Republic and GAZPROM. The investment proposal made public did not include any information on the Status of the World Heritage property and its protection. There is also a possibility of the access road for the construction of the pipeline becoming a public road.

As required under paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the State Party should provide information on this project, but so far no information was received

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN request the State Party to clarify the status of this project and the potential impact on the property. The State Party information should include a copy of the documents relating to this development in English, including the Environmental Impact Assessment, together with a map with the exact location of the pipeline in relation to the boundaries of the property and its management zones. IUCN notes that GAZPROM states on its website that it is committed to ensuring that the Altai project will undergo all statutory public and ecological impact assessments and (industry and state) hearings, independent environmental auditing, and that the project will be prepared and executed with maximum transparency in partnership with the scientific and ecological community and mass media. However, IUCN is concerned that the construction works and the potential for leakage or accidents may threaten the outstanding universal value and integrity of the property.

It is noted that building 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.

The Government of the Republic of Altai is actively promoting tourism in the area which should be addressed as a management issue in the management planning documents of the property. IUCN requests that the State Party provide summaries of these documents which should include a strategy for managing increasing tourism pressure and ensuring that tourism is consistent with the natural values of the property.

Draft 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 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 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)

See Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add

FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING NO DISCUSSION

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1983

Criteria

(vii) (viii) (ix)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

27 COM 7B.15; 28 COM 15B.21; 29 COM 7B.23

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 15,000 for preparatory assistance;

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

World Heritage Centre / IUCN missions 2002 and 2004

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Developments in the Bansko ski zone;
- b) Lack of effective management mechanisms;
- c) Boundary issues;
- d) Illegal logging.

Current conservation issues

In 2006, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN received a report from the NGO Coalition "Save Pirin" assessing legal issues as well as environmental and socio-economic impacts of the developments in the Bansko ski zone in Pirin National Park. This ski zone is currently located within the property. The NGOs reported that the ski zone, with 100ha built "legally" and 150 ha built "illegally", has been expanded three times since 2000. According to the report, the ski resort includes in its current form 12 ski slopes (of which only 6 were submitted to an EIA), 21 cable ways (of which only seven were submitted to an EIA), buildings and other infrastructure as well as three ski roads.

In September 2006, the State Party provided following information in response to the NGO report in a letter to the World Heritage Centre: A ski resort with six ski runs was first constructed within the property near the town of Bansko in 1986. A new Territorial Arrangement Plan (TAP), subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment approved in 2000, envisaged a development of further ski runs and other facilities in the 99.55 ha ski zone as well as the rehabilitation of two former ski runs abandoned in the meantime. A concession contract for the construction and exploitation of the ski zone was given to Yulen Company in 2001 and the company's activities have been monitored at national and local level. Until the end of 2005, 12 violations of the concession agreements were registered, resulting in sanctions of more than USD 30,000. There was no violation since then. An amendment to the TAP was approved in 2005 on the request of the concessionaire. This amendment allows for changes in the development of the ski runs and other facilities in the 99.55 ha ski zone. The 10-year Management Plan for Pirin National Park approved in 2004 prohibits the construction of further ski zones and the expansion of existing ski zones in the park. The concessionaire is currently undertaking measures to mitigate the erosion caused by the development of the ski runs. The Ministry of Environment and Water is monitoring these activities.

In January 2007, the World Heritage Centre received a complete re-nomination of Pirin National Park, which now includes the important central high mountain zone which was not

part of the national park at the time of its inscription. With this re-nomination, which is being evaluated for the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee in 2008, the State Party proposes to extend the 27,400 ha World Heritage property by about 13,000 ha. However, in contrast to previous recommendations to exclude the Bansko ski zone from the World Heritage property and include it in an extended buffer zone, it proposes to retain the Bansko ski zone within the extended World Heritage property. The 2004 World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission had confirmed that the extension of the ski zone had been realized within the existing World Heritage property. In principle, major infrastructure should not be located within the boundaries of natural World Heritage properties.

IUCN and the World Heritage Centre are concerned about the reported environmental and socio-economic impacts of the developments in the Bansko ski zone, in particular due to the policy of giving concessions to private companies that are incompatible with the conservation objectives of the property, including the concession for the development of the Bansko ski zone. The lack of control of the concessionaires has resulted in their failing to operate in accordance with concession agreements, leading to adverse impacts on the values of the property. The State Party should closely monitor the ongoing developments and implementation of mitigation measures.

Other concerns relate to the continued hotel developments in the town of Bansko, outside the property, which have led and will continue to lead to a large increase in the town's accommodation capacity, which is not matched by the capacity of the current ski zone. This creates additional pressure for future development of ski facilities in the area. The State Party should ensure, as stipulated in the 2004 Management Plan, that no further development of ski facilities or extension of the tourism zones is allowed within the property and confirm its commitment in relation to this issue. Furthermore, tourism pressure, especially during peak season and on weekends, has resulted in heavy motor traffic on the main road inside the property. It is urgently required to monitor the impacts of this motor traffic and to take actions to minimize any adverse impacts to the property. The State Party may therefore wish to explore options such as establishing a shuttle service during peak season and on weekends in order to limit private motor traffic, following the example of Vitosha National Park.

Finally, it is noted that recent activities in relation to the implementation of the Management Plan included the establishment of both a Scientific Council and Consultative Council. IUCN notes, however, that the property could still benefit from developing and implementing a comprehensive long-term monitoring programme with indicators that could easily be monitored by the park staff in order to objectively measure impacts of tourism developments and progress made in the implementation of the Management Plan.

Draft 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)

Year of Inscription on the World Heritage List

2004

Criteria

(vii) (viii)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 14B.8

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Main threats identified in previous reports

N/A

Current conservation issues

As requested by the Committee at the time of inscription at the 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), the State Party has reviewed the protection and management of the property, particularly in relation to hunting, fishing, and tourism activities. The State Party has responded to this

request through a revised Executive Order on the protection of the property, by revising the Management Plan, and by developing a Monitoring Plan.

a) Executive Order

The 2003 Executive Order on the protection of the Ilulissat Icefjord is under revision, with a public hearing scheduled for June 2007. An English copy will be forwarded to the World Heritage Centre when it is finalised. Already, the State Party has limited tourism activities to particular areas determined by a local expert group, which advises on control and monitoring of tourism activities. Since 2000, tourism has increased from 9,000 visitors per year to 12,000, with most visitors arriving on cruise ships. The zoning of the property now limits tourism activities to three zones and includes designation of only two helicopter landing sites and one area for tourism cabins. The zoning also restricts sailing and hiking in the property.

In relation to the Committee's concerns on the sustainability of hunting and fishing, the State Party reports that terrestrial hunting within the property, which is on a very small scale and is mainly of ptarmigan (grouse), is currently restricted to a limited number of areas accessible by foot and sledge and alternative hunting sites outside the property are more easily accessible and more often used. The State Party is also setting halibut fisheries quotas according to the recommendations of the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization.

b) Management Plan

The State Party is revising the management plan to address guidelines on stricter regulation and improved monitoring of helicopter flights, terrestrial hiking pressure, and zoning of the property's marine area.

c) Monitoring Plan

The State Party has carried out a first baseline study to feed into the development of the monitoring plan. Three levels of monitoring have been identified: scientific monitoring of the features of the calving ice front, local monitoring of biological resources related to tourism pressures; and data collection on tourism such as numbers and activities. The final plan is due to be published in May 2007.

The State Party has identified growing cruise ship traffic requiring stricter legislation and closer monitoring. This will be reflected in legislation and the management plan.

IUCN and the World Heritage Centre recognise the improvements made by the State Party in the protection of the property and encourage the authorities to engage with cruise ship operators to ensure that their operations, including solid waste, bilge water, and emissions are properly controlled and monitored. While it is noted that hunting within the property is currently limited, the State Party is encouraged to continue monitoring to ensure that this limited hunting is properly managed, as recommended by the Committee at the time of inscription. In particular, IUCN has received information on the over-harvesting of nesting seabirds. The State Party's adoption of the recommendations of the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization Scientific Council should be commended.

Draft 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)

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

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1979; extension 1992

Criteria

(vii)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 15B.20; 29 COM 7B.15; 30 COM 7B.20

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

World Heritage Centre / IUCN missions 1999 and 2004

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Illegal logging;
- b) Excess commercial logging;
- c) Bark beetle infestation of forest;
- d) Alterations of the hydrological regime;
- e) Border fence impeding mammal movements;
- f) Lack of transboundary cooperation.

Current conservation issues

The State Party of Poland submitted a report on 1 February 2007 in response to the Committee's request. It indicates that Poland is undertaking a number of activities in the areas surrounding the World Heritage property to reduce the adverse impacts of human activities on the natural values of the property. In 2006, the President of Poland appointed an expert team to develop a draft Act Regulating the Status of the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Bialowieza Forest, to ensure the best possible natural and social solutions for the benefit of the forest and local communities. It also reported that a management and protection plan with provisions for the protection of the natural values of the property, as well as principles for the transboundary management of the property (to be agreed with Belarus), is currently being developed. In 2006, Poland has also submitted an updated Tentative List including the proposal to extend the property, and with the planned re-nomination the State Party plans to clarify the boundaries and buffer zone of the property.

In relation to the recommendations of the 2004 mission, Poland notes that their implementation would take time, especially due to the socio-economic dimensions involved. The State Party reports however that the above mentioned initiative by the President of Poland places the property in a broader context, as it aims to establish an integrated management structure for the whole territory. Transboundary cooperation has been improved through the biannual meetings of the Scientific Councils of the two national parks in Poland and Belarus as well as joint actions, visits and regular exchange of experiences between the staff of both national parks. In 2006, these included a meeting of the "Forest of Hope" project experts, which resulted in a list of priority actions for maintaining and upgrading the natural environment on both sides of the border, as well as a scientific conference with researchers from both national parks to celebrate the 85th anniversary of the Bialowieza National Park. Furthermore, a bilateral agreement was concluded between both national parks concerning transboundary cooperation in research, education, exhibition, tourism, management and protection. Within the framework of the "Forest of Hope" project, a concept for the gradual removal of the fence on the Polish / Belarusian border has been developed, to create effective migration corridors allowing for cross-border movements of large mammals.

Concerning the international assistance request submitted by the State Party of Belarus to address the issue of large mammal movements by developing a project on the creation of effective migration corridors, some clarifications and additional information were sought by the World Heritage Centre, which have so far not been received.

The State Party of Belarus has not submitted an updated report in time as requested by the Committee's Decision **30 COM 7B.20** (Vilnius, 2006). By e-mail dated 20 March 2007 the Director General of the National Park "Belovezhskaya pushcha" submitted a brief report, which does not address the transboundary cooperation issues. The report states that there is no human activity (such as forest cutting and creation of forest plantation, melioration, hunting and others), in the strictly protected area (including within the World Heritage property), except scientific research and special measures to protect populations of rare species. Due to unfavorable climatic conditions in 2000-2002, and a huge number of bark

beetles mass drying of middle-aged and old-aged spruce forests was observed. More favorable climatic conditions in 2005-2006 stopped this process. Overall the National Park forest has reportedly lost about 1.3 millions cubic metres of spruce trees over the 2001-2004 period, which constitutes about one third of the spruce population. A new forest inventory detected that between 1993 and 2005 the spruce forest decreased two times. Furthermore, mass drying of ash trees was noted aggravated by mushrooms infestation of weakened trees. One of the reasons for this process appears to be the fluctuation of ground water level.

The report submitted by Poland indicates that the implementation of the recommendations of the joint 2004 mission is progressing slowly. IUCN notes however that the anticipated transboundary Coordination Council for both national parks has not been constituted yet and that a number of the reported activities, for example in relation to the development of the Natural and Cultural Heritage Act, management and protection plan and migration corridors, are still at the concept stage. IUCN reminds the States Parties of the need to urgently clarify the exact boundaries and buffer zones of the property.

The World Heritage Centre through its collaboration with the Council of Europe has received a report concerning the property prepared as a part of the appraisal process for renewal of the site for the European Diploma carried out in summer 2006. The report urges the Polish government to halt further logging of old growth forest and conversion of relict stands to commercial plantations in the Bialowieza Forest. It notes that a strong decline in species that are dependent on old growth and standing dead wood has already been documented. It also underlines that both the EU and European governments are challenged to help provide the means for the Bialowieza Forest to become a model for the successful implementation of nature conservation and the development of local communities. The report questions the renewal of the European Diploma for both National Parks of this transboundary World Heritage property. A decision is expected to be taken by the end of 2007. It finally urges the ratification, before the end of 2008, of a bilateral conservation agreement between the responsible Ministries in Poland and Belarus confirming the principles and budgets needed for transboundary co-operation between the Bialowieza and the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Parks, related to priorities for research, management, tourism and education, based on sustainable forestry and taking into account the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee.

Draft 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 2009** 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 33rd session in 2009.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1996

Criteria

(vii) (viii) (ix) (x)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 15B.22; 29 COM 7B.19; 30 COM 7B.18

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 63,528 for Preparatory Assistance and Training

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

World Heritage Centre monitoring mission 1998; World Heritage Centre/IUCN monitoring missions in 2001 and 2005.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Pollution;
- b) Illegal timber harvesting;
- c) Gas and oil pipeline project across the World Heritage property;
- d) Lack of adequate management regime;
- e) Illegal construction on the lake shore.

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a report on 7 March 2007, which responded to some of the recommendations of the Committee's Decisions made at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006).

a) Baikal Law and the Central Ecological Zone

The State Party report provided information on the laws protecting the property, which include protection from pollution and restrictions on changing the physical characteristics of the lake, such as water level. In 2006, the State Party issued several decrees:

- (i) The Decree of 27 November 2006 № 1641-p approved the boundary of the Baikal Natural Area and its ecological zones. As requested by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) and previous sessions, the boundary of the central ecological zone now coincides with the boundary of the World Heritage property.
- (ii) Alteration of Decree of 1 May 1999 № 94-Ф3 "On protection of Lake Baikal", which states that the boundary of the water protection zone should minimise negative influences over Lake Baikal. The exact coordinates are in process of approval by the Federal Government.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN have received additional information in early April 2007, noting that on 1 January 2007, new amendments to the Federal Law "On Environmental Impact Assessment" came into force. Under these amendments investments considered of priority interest for technical and economic reasons, as well as projects of construction and re-construction of industrial and other facilities would not require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). It is unclear how this new regulation will operate in the context of the Baikal Law and it could potentially be used to propose and develop projects of negative influence on the property.

In addition, it has been reported that the protection regime of the Central Ecological Zone based on Resolution of the Russian Federation Government No. 643 of 30 August 2001, which establishes the list of activities prohibited in the Central Ecological Zone, is now going through a series of amendments that could lead to reducing the protection regime of this zone. Whilst the proposed amendments are considered necessary to allow for a number of traditional and sustainable socio-economic activities there is concern on using these amendments to promote projects which might have a negative impact on the property. There is also concern and lack of clarity on potential conflicts between 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.

b) Baikal Commission

The State Party also issued the Decree 29 August 2006 № 1205-p on the establishment of the Intergovernmental Committee, as a coordinating body for providing concerted action in the field of Lake Baikal protection. The constitution of the Intergovernmental Committee for the protection of Lake Baikal is in progress, but no information is provided on when this process will be completed.

c) Improvement of the Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill (BPPM)

The State Party reports that a closed water cycle for the turbo-blowers of the treatment facilities has been completed and that the design and plans for the transferral of the compressor station to a closed loop water cycle were finalised and are being implemented. The State Party provided a work plan and timeline for the completion of the mill's improvement works, with a trial of the closed water cycle planned for July 2007. Work on the the Baikalsk city sewage treatment facility is also ongoing.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN welcome the decision to establish the boundaries of the central ecological zone coinciding with the boundaries of the World Heritage property, as well as the establishment of a clear timeline to convert the BPPM to a closed water cycle,

but note that the State Party has not yet provided a copy of the management plan or any information on its adoption, a copy of the tourism strategy and associated funding mechanisms, or information on the monitoring system as recommended by the 2005 monitoring mission.

The other recommendations from the 2005 monitoring mission for which a response was requested but so far have not been provided by the State Party include:

- (i) review the activities prohibited within the Central Ecological Zone to allow for development of ecologically sound and sustainable tourism;
- (ii) inform UNESCO about the Terms of Reference, its members and its functioning mechanisms for the new Baikal Commission;
- (iii) cooperate with the State Party of Mongolia, to include other chemical elements in the 1995 agreement on the water quality of the Selenga river;
- (iv) diminish and control other sources of pollution affecting the property, in particular pollution associated to the Chitwa region; pollution in the areas of the lake used by mass recreation and tourism; and to take appropriate measures to diminish atmospheric pollution and monitor its effects on the property;
- (v) guarantee funding for the on-going modernization of sewage clearing systems in the Baikal watershed and for the planned construction of 6 sewage collecting systems to be used by boats navigating the lake;
- (vi) contingency plans, supported by adequate resources for their implementation, in case of an accident on the Trans-Siberian Railway and BAM railway that might lead to pollution of the lake;
- (vii) enhance patrolling activities to reduce the level of illegal hunting of Baikal Seals, ensure a rigorous application of the existing regulations on seal hunting, enhance the licensing system for commercial hunters, and put in place a systematic inspection on compliance with hunting regulations; and
- (viii) halt illegal constructions on the shores of the lake.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN acknowledge the importance of the recent Federal Decrees to support the protection of the property, and request further information on how these will be implemented through a Management Plan and Tourism Plan.

According to the Federal Law of the Russian Federation "On the protection of Lake Baikal", Ref. No. 94-FZ of 1 May 1999, Art. 20, an annual unified government environment monitoring of the "Unique Ecosystem of Lake Baikal" is required. Referring to the 12th annual report for the year 2005, IUCN notes that the report contains extensive scientific data on the hydrological state of Lake Baikal. The chemical analyses refer to the North Baikal adjacent to the Baikal-Amur-Rail-Track, some central parts of the lake, in the vicinity of the wastewater discharge pipe of the BPPM, and on a 1339 km transect, covering about 3.8 % of the lake's surface. However, in contrast to former years, only samples during the period of ice cover and only down to a water depth of 290 m were collected, due to the breakdown of the monitoring vessel and missing equipment. IUCN is concerned about this because the 2004 report states that in some zones around the BPPM outlet the main direction of distribution of polluting substances is towards deeper parts of the underwater slopes of the lake. This requires further clarification.

For the area adjacent to the BPPM the report notes similar values for most of the parameters as in previous years. However, the suspended substances content increased from 2003 to 2005, and exceeds the maximum permissible concentration (PDK) as given by law - 4 % of the samples exceeded the PDK for total mineral substances. In addition, volatile phenols and non-sulphate sulphur contents increased, the latter exceeding the PDK by up to 5.9 times. Mercury content at maximum concentrations was twice PDK. The report concludes that the zone of non-sulphate sulphur pollution reached 32 km² (2003: 2.5 km², 2004: about 15.7 km²).

While the parameters in the pelagic zone of the western shores remained at 2004 levels, higher values of permanganate oxidation and increased COD (Coloration degree) values were registered at parts of the eastern coastline. There is also an increase in concentrations related to background concentrations published in 2001 at the Selenga River delta and in the vicinity of some settlements.

Recent scientific publications repeatedly highlight an increase of organochlorines, among them dioxins and furans, in the Lake Baikal food chain. One study proves high values of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) in human milk. In Onguron, a small village on the western shore of the lake where diets include a high percentage of fish, levels of PCBs in human milk were higher than those registered in 18 regions of the world except Serpukhov (near Moscow). There, higher levels were noted in human milk in women formerly working in a transformer plant where Sovol was used in production.

The 2005 mission noted that the State Party has started a survey of all illegal private properties, and that already some legal procedures had begun to control this problem. However, IUCN has received reports that websites continue to offer the sale of property on the shore of Lake Baikal and that there are ongoing discussions for a "Special Economic Zone," with a first stage reported to have been approved by the Federal Government. There is a need for a clear policy on addressing the ownership of land and development along the shore of the lake.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN request the State Party to address the lack of tourism regulation, particularly relating to campsites where the absence of infrastructure leads to littering and increase in waste management problems.

Draft 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. *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;*
7. *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;*
8. *Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2009, 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 33rd session in 2009.*

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1999

Criteria

(ix) (x)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 14B.15; 28 COM 14B.16

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Lack of management plan;
- b) weakening of conservation controls;
- c) impacts of proposed tourism infrastructure development;
- d) construction of a road;

Current conservation issues:

No information has been received from the State Party on the preparation and implementation of a management plan for the property, including a visitor management plan and a clear policy on tourism development, requested by the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004).

Media reports, and information received from community groups and NGOs in the region indicate that the State Party is bidding for the 2014 Winter Olympic Games to be held in Sochi, located close to the property.

In October 2006, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to UNESCO concerning the 2014 Winter Olympics, and a second letter in February 2007 concerning road construction projects at the property. A reply was received from the Ministry of Natural Resources on 1 February 2007. The Minister advised that the planned location of the Olympic facilities in the territory of the Sochi National Park is in compliance with the Federal Programme 2006-2014 for the Development of Sochi as a Mountain Skiing Resort and that the territory of Sochi National Park does not lie within the boundaries of the World Heritage property of the Western Caucasus. The letter confirmed that the property is not subject to any intrusion by construction plans. The final documents determining the location of the Olympic facilities will undergo the State Ecological Expertise (EIA) process. Currently, the General Plan of Sochi's development is being finalized including the location of the Olympic facilities in the territory of the Sochi National Park and that upon completion a copy of the map will be transmitted to the World Heritage Centre.

Furthermore, on 9 February 2007, the Director-General of UNESCO met with the Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation. During the meeting, the candidature of the town of Sochi to accommodate the Winter Olympics of 2014 was discussed. The Director-General underscored the need to respect the values and integrity of the World Heritage property during the construction of any infrastructure related to such an event. He welcomed the resolve of the Russian authorities, to take meticulous care to safeguard the property and the biodiversity of the area, as well as to conform rigorously to the opinions of the experts and the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee.

IUCN and the World Heritage Centre note the need for the State Party to provide a map of the exact location and extent of the proposed development and associated infrastructure in relation to the boundaries of the property.

Draft Decision: 31 COM 7B.32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,*
2. *Notes the report provided by the State Party, stating that the proposed location of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, which could pose potential threats to the property by development, is not within the boundaries of the World Heritage property;*
3. *Urges the State Party to consult with local stakeholders and carry out the planned Social and Environmental Impact Assessment to determine the potential secondary impacts on the property of the developments needed to support the State Party's bid for the Winter Olympics ;*
4. *Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a map of the exact location and extent of the proposed development for the 2014 Winter Olympic Games, and all associated developments, in relation to the boundaries of the property;*

5. Also 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); and a report on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2001

Criteria

(viii)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

25 COM IIIA

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Main threats identified in previous reports

N/A

Current conservation issues

In reply to a request by the World Heritage Centre, the State Party by its letter of 7 February 2007 provided information about the accident of the container vessel MSC Napoli (registered in London) in the English Channel. The ship ran into difficulties on 18 January 2007 and a decision was taken to beach it under emergency conditions in Lyme Bay within the World Heritage property on 20 January 2007 to minimise further damage to the vessel and limit further environmental impacts.

The report analyses the impact of the accident. The main impacts reported are the leakage of an estimated 200 tons of heavy fuel oil (a small but significant portion of the 3,500t on board), loss of 103 containers overboard of which 50 beached until end of February, leakage from intact and damaged containers and scavenging on the beached containers. Local environmental impacts were also noted, including impacts on access and tourism reputation as well as cost and time involved in response both for local and national authorities. The report concludes that the preparedness arrangements have worked well and can be

considered as a model. Major impacts have been minimised through rapid response and by good weather conditions. However, lessons have to be learned on security, and possibly on alternatives to beaching in the event of a similar accident, as well as improvements to the response by the property management and the authorities. The State Party notes that the international aspects of the case need to be recognised and that it could provide a messages to sensitize State Parties on shipping standards, response arrangements and more generally on marine litter, in particular for coastal and marine World Heritage properties.

Draft 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1988

Criteria

(vii) (x)

Previous Committee Decisions

27 COM 7 B. 22; 28 COM 15B.30; 29 COM 7B.26

International Assistance

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Main threats identified in previous reports

Absence of a Management Plan

Current conservation issues

At its 29th session (Durban, 2005) the Committee requested the State Party to provide a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property. In January 2007, the State Party submitted a brief report that presents the activities of the Management Committee for Henderson Island, established in 2004. The Management Committee is responsible for implementation of the 2004-2009 Management Plan and for reviewing the legal framework protecting the island. It has produced a brochure on Henderson Island which is available to yachts departing for Henderson Island from nearby ports. The brochure promotes Henderson Island as a World Heritage property, provides information for visitors, and advocates responsible tourism. The Management Committee has also produced a code of conduct for visitors, which restricts visitors to the beach area on the island.

The State Party also reported that the Overseas Territories Environment Programme scheme made funds available to develop an Environmental Strategy for the Pitcairn Islands which will take into account the specific needs of Henderson Island as a World Heritage property and will be used for future funding applications. Bids for funding are underway for bird monitoring and rat eradication. If the bid for the rat eradication scheme were to be successful the project would likely benefit Henderson Petrels and Gadfly Petrels.

IUCN and the World Heritage Centre note that it is not clear from the State Party report as to how the Management Plan has been implemented. The report does not provide information on progress for all objectives stated in the Management Plan, as presented to the Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005).

In particular, the State Party has not reported on the following aspects of the Management Plan:

- a) 7.2 Alien fauna and flora
- b) 7.3 Miro and Tou (sustainable use of timber)
- c) 7.5 Turtle nesting beaches and the reef
- d) 7.7 Extinctions, ex situ conservation and translocation

Regarding 'Objective 7.1 Management', it is not clear how the management has been carried out, how often the Management Committee meets, what activities have been undertaken, or what legislation has been reviewed. Regarding 'Objective 7.4 Tourism' and 'Objective 7.8 Education' no information has been presented on how many visitors have gone to Henderson Island or how many brochures were published and distributed.

Regarding the bids for funding IUCN has learnt that the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) prepared the project proposals for bird monitoring and rat eradication and that Henderson Island is explicitly excluded from the proposal to the Darwin Initiative for bird monitoring due to the high cost and lack of monitoring capacity within the Pitcairn Island community. RSPB is seeking separate 'add-on' funding to launch an expedition to Henderson Island but this funding has not yet been received. The second proposal is for a feasibility study for rat eradication, rather than rat eradication itself.

More information from the State Party is required on the implementation of the Management Plan, details of the Management Committee's activities, and any monitoring taking place. This will help to assess if the outstanding universal value and integrity of the property are being maintained and if threats are being effectively monitored.

Draft 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

FOR CONSIDERATION FOR IN-DANGER LISTING

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1978

Criteria:

(vii) (viii) (ix) (x)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions:

28 COM 7B.31; 29 COM 7B.29; 30 COM 7B.29

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 466,250 for emergency, training and technical support

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 3.5 million

Previous monitoring missions:

UNESCO-IUCN mission (including Chairperson) June 1996; UNESCO mission June 2003; UNESCO informal visit April 2005; UNESCO-IUCN mission February-March 2006; UNESCO-IUCN mission (including Chairperson) April 2007

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Inadequate implementation of the Special Law on Galapagos and lack of enforcement;
- b) Poor governance;
- c) Inadequate and ineffective quarantine measures;
- d) Illegal fishing;
- e) Instability of Park Director's position;
- f) High immigration rate;
- g) Unsustainable tourism development;
- h) Educational reform not implemented.

Current conservation issues:

As requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) and at the invitation of the State Party, a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission, including the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, visited the Galapagos Islands from 8 to 13 April 2007. The mission participated in the multi-stakeholder meeting organised by the State Party, as requested by the Committee, held discussions with various stakeholders and on that basis, assessed the state of conservation of the property.

The mission noted that all the factors affecting the property, which were described comprehensively in the 2006 UNESCO/IUCN mission report continue to be relevant and of concern, and that none of the 15 specific issues listed in Decision **30 COM 7B.29** had been addressed by the State Party. On the contrary there were clear indications that the situation was getting worse, as exemplified by the following:

- a) On 17th March 2007 the Galapagos National Park Director and her staff were assaulted by members of the Ecuadorian Armed Forces stationed on Baltra Island, while carrying out their responsibilities of enforcing park regulations;
- b) An additional entry point to the Islands has been created with the commissioning of an airport on Isabella Island;
- c) The number of commercial flights to Galapagos, each a potential agent for the introduction of harmful alien species, has nearly doubled since 2001, while at the same time, the number of quarantine agents and phytosanitary inspectors mandated to reduce the risk of alien species introduction has reportedly diminished by 20%;
- d) The World Heritage Centre has received reports of large-scale illegal cutting of protected mangroves forests on Isabella Island, under municipal government patronage.

Multi-stakeholder meeting:

The multi-stakeholder meeting which was held on Santa Cruz Island on 9 April 2007, to advance the development of the vision 2020 for Galapagos process, also highlighted a number of continuing problems, as follows:

- a) The piece-meal approach to regional planning, the lack of inter-agency coordination, and the continuing lack of political will, leadership and authority is proving inimical to the development and effective implementation of a common vision for Galapagos. It is also a limiting factor in the full application and enforcement of the Special Law for Galapagos. Consequently, there is a weakening of institutions, conflicts over jurisdiction and generally a lack of effective governance.
- b) The risks from alien invasive species are rapidly increasing, mainly as a result of increased visitation, while the Agricultural Health Service of Ecuador (SESA) and the and Inspection and Quarantine System for Galapagos (SICGAL) has inadequate staff and capacity to deal with the nature and scale of the problem. As there is no practice of fumigating aircraft and ships, SICGAL estimates that 779 invertebrates entered the islands through aircraft in 2006.
- c) The rapid growth of the tourism sector is haphazard and unsustainable and some activities, such as sport fishing, have been promoted and implemented despite the fact that the existing regulatory framework does not provide for such activities. Tourism is also not equitable and much of the benefits do not accrue to the local communities. There was a 26% increase in planes and 15% in ships arriving to the islands in 2006. Other reports indicate that in the past 15 years, the number of cruise ship passenger days has increased by 150%, and the number of hotels has doubled. It is this growth that fuels immigration to the islands, which in turn leads to inter-island traffic, exacerbating the already very serious threat from introduced species.

- d) Despite clear laws restricting migration to Galapagos, the National Institute for Galapagos (INGALA) is unable to control the arrival of illegal immigrants, as there is no effective migratory control system at all of the entry points. While the population growth rate in continental Ecuador is 2.1%, it is 6.1% in the Galapagos Islands, with the population doubling every 10 years. About 20% of the resident population is reported to be illegal immigrants. This is putting pressure on the limited civic services, facilities and natural resources.
- e) The staff of the National Park and Marine Reserve lack job security, stability of tenure, and the capacity and facilities for effective law enforcement.
- f) The education system has not been reformed as required under the Special Law for Galapagos, and as yet does not incorporate elements of environmental management and heritage preservation, and natural resources conservation development, further delaying the critical need to develop an insular culture focused on sustainable development.

Following the multi-stakeholder meeting, the Ministry of Environment prepared and submitted (on 24 April 2007 and in Spanish) to the World Heritage Centre a report of the meeting, and a table (hereafter referred to as the 'action plan') showing the activities proposed to be undertaken in relation to each of the 15 issues listed in Decision **30 COM 7B.29**, the time-frame for their completion, the indicators to measure progress, and the institutions responsible for implementing these activities. Additionally, the action plan includes specific activities proposed for the Agriculture and Health sectors.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that this action plan, with indicators and time-frames constitutes the programme of corrective measures to overcome many of the serious threats confronting the property, and can also be used as a tool for monitoring the progress of implementation.

Decree issued by the President of Ecuador

While the joint mission was in the Galapagos Islands on 10 April 2007, the President of Ecuador issued a Decree declaring the conservation and environmental management of the Galapagos archipelago ecosystem in a state of risk and national priority. The Decree requires the Governor of the Galapagos Province to convene a meeting of the INGALA Council within 15 days to address and make policies on the following issues:

- a) To determine the current status of conservation, development and health (sanitation) of the archipelago and its marine reserve;
- b) To determine the efficacy of the total control of introduced species;
- c) To study the possibility of temporarily suspending the issuance of new tourism patents and air operation permits;
- d) To study the possibility of temporarily suspending residence permits;
- e) To prioritise compliance with the provisions of Articles 4 (functions of INGALA) and 6 (powers of the INGALA Council) of the Special Law for Galapagos;
- f) To coordinate fulfillment of the powers and responsibilities of each of the institutions with activities in the Galapagos province;
- g) To order the performance of the population census on the archipelago and devolution to the continent of inhabitants living illegally on the islands.

The Presidential Decree also calls upon the SESA-SICGAL, in coordination with the Ministry of the Environment, to submit within 30 days a proposal for the eradication of the primary introduced species and the financial and technical requirements to do so. It also orders the Ministry of Economy and Finance to allocate the financial resources required to enforce the decree and any resolutions made on the status of the Galapagos province by the INGALA

Board, the Ministry of Environment, SESA, SICGAL, and the Ministry for the Coordination of Internal and External Security (CIES).

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that the Galapagos Islands World Heritage property is clearly plagued by several dangers, as clearly assessed during the mission, which are adversely impacting its outstanding universal values and integrity, and therefore, recommend that it be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft 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, 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. *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;*
7. *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;*
8. *Requests the State Party to submit a report to the World Heritage Centre and IUCN by **1 November 2007** on the progress made in implementing the agenda outlined in the Presidential Decree, and a plan of action for completing all the decreed actions;*
9. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** 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;*
10. ***Decides to inscribe the Galapagos Islands (Ecuador) in the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION

36. Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves / La Amistad National Park (Costa-Rica and Panama) (N 205 bis)

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

37. Alexander von Humboldt National Park (Cuba) (839 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

2001

Criteria

(ix) (x)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

N/A

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Main threats identified in previous reports

N/A

Current conservation issues

The original nomination file for this property was considered by the World Heritage Bureau during its 23rd session in July 1999. In the IUCN evaluation report presented at that session, the existence of old and inactive mining concessions located near the area originally nominated by the State Party was clearly identified, and it was indicated that any activation of these concessions could lead to serious impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and its conditions of integrity, should it eventually be inscribed. Based on this, and other information, the Bureau: "... noted that Alejandro de Humboldt National Park is considered to meet natural criteria (ii) and (iv) but decided to defer the nomination to allow approval of the law expanding the Park and approval of an expanded boundary which links

the currently isolated core zones. Until this law and this boundary is in place, the integrity of the site cannot be guaranteed.”

A revised nomination was presented in 2001, including the legally adopted expanded park boundaries. The new boundaries of the inscribed property included the former mining concessions.

In 2005, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN received information indicating that the State Party was considering re-activating the mining concessions within the property. Based on this information, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party dated 23 August 2005 requesting information on this matter, making reference to Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. In its response dated 9 September 2005, the State Party indicated that should mining activities be carried out on the property, it would inform the World Heritage Centre so that adequate measures could be taken.

Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* clearly requests that a State Party should inform the World Heritage Centre of any intention to carry out activities that may prejudice the Outstanding Universal Value of a property, before these activities begin so that the Committee may assist the State Party in seeking appropriate solutions guaranteeing the preservation of its Outstanding Universal Value.

The ambiguous response from the State Party prompted the World Heritage Centre to respond with a second letter dated 12 October 2005, clarifying the nature of Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* and further requesting that the World Heritage Centre be informed of any specific plans for re-activating the mining concessions. No response having been received from the State Party, the World Heritage Centre re-iterated its request in a letter dated 18 January 2007. The World Heritage Centre has not yet received a response to this most recent request. In the mean time the World Heritage Centre and IUCN continue to receive information from several sources of the intention of the State Party to reactivate the mining concessions within the property.

Draft 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,*
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. *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.*

FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING NO DISCUSSION

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1984

Criteria

(vii) (x)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 7B.31 (Iguaçu, Brazil – but with reference to Iguazu, Argentina)

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: 2001: USD 20,000: Oil spill impact evaluation; 2003: USD 30,000: Joint integrated management workshop with Iguaçu NP authorities (Brazil)

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

September 2006 UNESCO

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Proposed development of hydropower dams;
- b) Uncoordinated developments, mainly tourism development;
- c) Lack of transboundary cooperation;
- d) Lack of sustainable financing.

Current conservation issues:

The State Party of Argentina submitted on 29 January 2007 the report requested by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) describing the status of the building of hydroelectric power generating infrastructure that could affect both the Iguazu (Argentina) and Iguaçu (Brazil) World Heritage properties. The report states that information on plans to divert 20% of the Iguazu river waters was unfounded. It goes on to state that although a 1979 tri-partite agreement is in place to develop hydroelectric power in the vicinity of these properties between the governments of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay, there are no new works under imminent consideration at this time, beyond the completion of the Yaciretá hydro-electric complex expected in 2008. The report does not provide details on the potential impacts of this complex on the concerned properties. Once the Yaciretá complex is completed, there are plans to enter into bilateral discussions with Paraguay on moving forward with the Corpus Christi hydro-electric project. The report states that it is too early at this time to assess the possible implications for the World Heritage properties in question,

though it emphasizes that strict conservation requirements of the World Heritage Convention would be incorporated into any plans.

At the request of the State Party, the World Heritage Centre visited the property from 1 to 3 September 2006, following concerns expressed by Iguazu National Park staff over inappropriate tourism development plans, triggered by the intention of installing a fixed hot air balloon near the falls. Permission for this project has since been denied by State Party authorities. The World Heritage Centre mission report notes the high intensity public use of the park concentrated at the falls area, and how tourism infrastructure developed in response to visitation appears to be largely disregarding the need to consider the property's exceptional natural beauty (criteria vii) and integrity on both the Argentinian and Brazilian side of the falls. It points to concrete walkways that have fallen into the river bed, large hotels that disrupt the viewscape, and the haphazard placement of large numbers of concession stands located throughout the area, catering to visitors' needs.

In addition, the quality of visitation to the property continues to be affected by helicopters flying overhead of the Falls operated from the Brazilian side despite previous recommendations from the WH Committee on the need to stop these operations. There is also a need to enhance and formalize the level of cooperation between the State Parties of Argentina and Brazil to enhance the conservation of the Iguazu National Park and Iguazu National park with respect to tourism planning and development as well as hydroelectric development projects.

Draft 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, 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 with a particular focus on*
 - a) *assessing and defining solutions to problems associated with public use;*
 - b) *developing a common framework to assess the carrying capacity for the property; and*
 - c) *obtaining more detailed information on the hydro-electric plans in the region.*

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1986

Criteria

(vii) (x)

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

1999- 2001

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 15B.32; 29 COM 7B.28; 30 COM 7B.31

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 30,000 for training.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: Approximately. USD 50,000 under the Brazilian World Heritage Biodiversity Programme for fire fighting planning.

Previous monitoring missions:

UNESCO/IUCN mission March 1999 and March 2005.

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Proposed development of hydropower dams;
- b) Pressure to re-open illegal road;
- c) Illegal logging and hunting;
- d) Uncoordinated developments;
- e) Lack of transboundary cooperation;
- f) Lack of sustainable financing.

Current conservation issues:

As requested in decision **30 COM 7B.31**, the State Party of Brazil provided on 1 December 2006 an official report on the proposed hydroelectric dam project of Baixo Iguaçu, to be built in the vicinity of the property. The results of the Environmental Impact Assessment prepared for this project by the State of Paraná's Environment Agency, along with the negative comments delivered by IBAMA (Brazilian Institute of the Environment) resulted in the denial of the project's authorization by Paraná State authorities, based on significant projected negative effects on Iguaçu National Park.

The State Party report also noted the existence of 5 other hydroelectric dams on the Iguaçu River, the closest to the property located 30km upstream. The report explains that these dams have already resulted in a modification of the volumes and nature of the river's water flow to the property, though it goes on to state that measuring the precise nature and extent of such effects would require intensive research and monitoring work.

The Iguaçu and nearby Paraná River systems, marking the boundaries of Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay, continue to attract significant interest on behalf of hydroelectric dam

construction proponents. Given the complex engineering and hydrological nature of such initiatives, it is difficult with the information received to determine to what degree the property's Outstanding Universal Value and its integrity may be at risk without detailed knowledge of the hydrological system and of the various project proposals under consideration.

During a mission to Iguazú National Park (Argentina) from 1 to 3 September 2006, the World Heritage Centre noted the high intensity public use of the Park concentrated around the falls area, and that tourism infrastructure developed in response to visitation appears to be largely disregarding the need to put in place measures and restrictions to maintain the exceptional natural beauty (criteria vii) for both the Argentinean and Brazilian properties.

A second report, received by the World Heritage Centre on 26 April 2007, provided information on the additional points raised in Decision **30 COM 7B.31**. The report explains that the Estrada do Colono Road, a subject of on-going management difficulties in the property, remains closed. Formerly traversing the property, it was closed in 1986, and forcibly re-opened by in 1998 by local users, prompting the Committee to inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1999. The State Party closed the road again in 2000, leading to the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2001. A new incursion in October 2003, this time lasting only a few weeks, renewed concerns over the commitment to keep the road closed. A judicial process, still underway, is expected to rule shortly on the closure of the road, at which point the Centre will be informed. In the meantime, the report provided by the State Party indicates that political pressure to re-open the road has diminished in part due to the implementation by the Park administration, of various initiatives, including by providing Park-related job opportunities. The report notes that 24,000 people, mostly students and teachers, participated in various activities designed to increase their appreciation of the Park

The report also provides details on park financing. The park budget in 2006 was R\$9,200,000 (approximately USD 4,500,000), of which R\$2,600,000 are provided by the federal government for operations, which also covers personnel costs separately. Other financing sources include a portion of park entrance fees and private foundations. The State of Paraná is cited as a pioneer in the use of the proceeds from an environment tax, allowing municipalities surrounding the Park to finance conservation related activities.

Agricultural runoff into waterways which make their way into the Park is noted as a pollution threat in the report. Programmes to improve riparian zones outside the Park are underway, with the participation of Park staff.

Park staff has carried out a management effectiveness assessment to help identify management gaps and opportunities. They are considering a framework of state of conservation indicators, as recommended in Decision **30 COM 7B.31**.

In addition, IUCN notes that information has been received on the visual and sonic impacts associated to the operation of helicopters flying over the property; an issue on which the World Heritage Committee had previously noted its concern, as this affects the quality of visitation of this property particularly on the Argentinean side. IUCN also notes reports on the continued lack of cooperation between the States Parties of Brazil and Argentina in relation to the conservation and management of this property and in particular in relation to tourism development.

Draft 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 Iguazu 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 World Heritage Centre/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) assessing and defining solutions to problems associated with public use;
 - b) obtaining more detailed information on the hydro-electric plans in the region.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1983

Criteria:

(vii) (viii) (ix) (x)

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

1992 - 2005

Previous Committee Decisions:

28 COM 15A.12; 29 COM 7A.11; 30 COM 7B.30

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 58,500

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 80,000

Previous monitoring missions:

IUCN mission 1999; IUCN mission 2005

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Poaching,
- b) Illegal livestock grazing,
- c) Encroachment along the Park's perimeter,
- d) Unplanned road construction.

Current conservation issues

The World Heritage Centre received a draft report from the State Party in Spanish in response to the World Heritage Committee Decision **30 COM 7B.30**. No final version of this report has been received. The report focuses on advances in the implementation of the updated management plan for Sangay National Park, with particular attention on land tenure and economic development alternatives for communities in the property's buffer zone.

Nine new park conservation officers have been hired by the management authority in the past year, with support from a project financed by Gordon and Betty Moore. This project will also provide financing in 2007 for the construction of five monitoring stations, the acquisition and maintenance costs of four vehicles along with basic conservation officer field equipment, and radio communication equipment, the latter provided following an in-depth analysis of communication needs. Upgrading of signage and existing monitoring stations has also been carried out, with the support of the Peruvian National Environment Fund.

An analysis of environmental changes in a 24,000 hectare quadrant along the Guamote-Macas road area (most of which is near, but outside of the property), from 1987-2003 was carried out with support from the United Nations Foundation financed Enhancing our Heritage project. (administered by the World Heritage Centre). Results using remote sensing, show that road construction has led to a 4% loss of forest cover in this zone (1,069 hectare loss), but also indicate forest regrowth along the road. Lands being used for agricultural and pastoral activities have increased by 10% in this zone, resulting from activities centered on two settlements in the area.

Economic development alternatives have been sought through the "Sangay Project" in both high and low altitude areas and with different ethnic groups (Quecha, Shuara and Mestizo). The project is focusing on training for local guides, grassland management, agroforestry development and support for the creation of local handcrafts. The report states that results are limited due to the relatively small scale of the project and the large expanse of the park.

Environmental education and institutional strengthening activities involving these communities, and local organizations are also being carried out. These included guided visits for locals, the broadcasting of films, traveling exhibits and the publication of leaflets. There has been a strong emphasis on reaching out to people within the Amazon zone of the park, with the development of a manual for environmental Education for school children, financed by Fundacion Natura.

In regards to land use tenure issues, the report states that there is very little human presence in the World Heritage property, with a total of 600 hectares, or approximately 0.2% of the property lands having been attributed to communities or families by way of historical grants. The Ministry of the Environment has focused attention on the Guamote-Macas road in relation to land tenure issues in an effort to ensure that further migration to this zone is halted. A cadastre was produced for lands bordering the road and the information so gathered was also used by the National Institute for Agricultural Development to resolve land use conflicts. Alternative land use regimes are now being promoted in this area, focusing on sustainable resource use and the control of deforestation. The report notes that 15,659 ha along the road have been formally removed from national park status following a negotiation process with local communities. As the road passes through both the World Heritage inscribed and non-inscribed portions of the park, it is not clear from the report how much of this is affecting the actual property. This requires clarification.

The Enhancing our Heritage project has also supported the design and implementation of a monitoring system for watersheds and lake systems in the property. This work will lead to the proposal for inscription of portions of the property under the Ramsar convention for wetlands.

Draft 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,
3. Regrets that the report submitted to the World Heritage Centre was not in one of the two working languages of the World Heritage Committee,
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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1987

Criteria

(ix) (x)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

N/A

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Main threats identified in previous reports

N/A

Current conservation issues

The World Heritage Centre received a report (in Spanish) entitled “Towards a Standardized Remote Environmental Monitoring System for the National Natural Protected Areas System of Peru – Pilot V”, Published in August 2006 by the National Natural Resources Institute

(INRENA), the Frankfurt Zoological Society, and the La Molina University. The report provides an update on the legal status of the property, along with detailed and updated figures on land-use changes that have occurred in Manu National Park and in several adjacent conservation areas and buffer zones.

The report notes that the park was enlarged on July 14, 2002, by adding 257,000 ha of what had been previously known as the Manu Reserved Zone (Supreme decree # 045-2002-AG), resulting in a current GIS determined area of 1,696,803 ha. The nomination file at the World Heritage Centre indicates a total surface area of 1,532,806 hectares, though the map provided with the nomination appears hand drawn with boundaries that do not conform to the boundaries illustrated in the report. A 1985 management plan was updated in 2002, covering both the World Heritage property and the Biosphere Reserve for which the property forms the core zone.

Based on remote sensing data, the report notes increases in non-conservation land uses within the property between 2000 and 2005. There has been an overall 57% increase in land use for agriculture and a 10.3% increase for cattle ranching. These growth rates are significant and if left unchecked could soon lead to major irreversible impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of the property.

The report notes that most land conversion is occurring along the southwestern boundary of the park due to encroachment from adjacent cattle ranching operations, and around the four human settlements within the property (three of which are indigenous communities). Deforestation rates have accelerated markedly in the indigenous community of Mameria and in Callanga. Given that waterways are the means for transporting logs and sawn wood, and the configuration of the main rivers in this area, this deforestation could soon result in the fragmentation of what is currently a large contiguous area.

It is also clear that high rate of land conversion outside the park boundaries along the Rio Mapacho corridor and near the town of Pilcopata is beginning to spill over into park. North of this town, the report illustrates deforestation running directly into the park via the Rio Tono valley. The configuration of the park boundaries in this region (e.g. a narrowing point of land extending southwards, surrounded by corridors of human settlement and improving road networks) makes it particularly vulnerable to encroachment.

The report also indicates the presence of hydrocarbon concessions surrounding the property, and in one case (lot 76), overlapping with the property. However, national hydrocarbon concessions map, available on Peruvian state petroleum company website does not corroborate this claim.

The opening of lands surrounding Manu National Park to hydrocarbon exploration, and the construction of roads, particularly in the area to the south and southwest of the park (including the Brazil-Peru intercontinental road link under construction) are contributing to important socio-economic changes in the region. In conservation terms, these changes are leading to rapidly increasing pressures in the park through agricultural encroachment and illegal logging. Unless the State Party can implement effective measures to counter these threats, there is a serious concern that they will accelerate further in the coming years and negatively impact the property. It is clear that agricultural encroachment and deforestation constitute major threats to the property and may constitute a case for listing of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

2004

Criteria:

(vii) (viii)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions:

N/A

International Assistance:

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

N/A

Main threats identified in previous reports:

N/A

Current conservation issues:

This property comprises significant tracts of privately owned lands. Current land uses include a small number of hotels strategically located between the two volcanic pitons that contribute to the property's Outstanding Universal Value. There is increasing pressure on government authorities to provide the necessary permits for considerable expansion of this hotel development. Such expansion, if not considered in the context of preserving the property's

Outstanding Universal Value and integrity, could have important negative consequences. This is particularly important for such a small property, whose superlative natural beauty could be easily upset by just one inappropriately conceived hotel or real estate development project. The World Heritage Centre received communications from the State Party in 2006 requesting assistance and advice in dealing with this matter.

The World Heritage Centre has responded to the State Party's request for assistance to help find a solution to this issue. The World Heritage Centre, in coordination with the Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage property authorities (who have a cooperation agreement with the Pitons Management Area), has proposed the development of a land use / public use plan which would set out clear development regulations for the property, taking fully into account the property's Outstanding Universal Value. Funds for this initiative have been identified, both within the Centre and with the United Kingdom authorities.

On 14 March 2007, the World Heritage Centre received a letter from the State Party, which gave assurances of the State Party's dedication to the preservation of the property. The letter indicated that the State Party had proceeded in engaging the services of a consulting firm to prepare an Integrated Development Plan for the property and the region surrounding it. It was not clear however, how the hotel expansion would be dealt with through this plan. This issue remains a concern.

Draft 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

FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1982 / 1989

Criteria:

(iii) (iv) (vi) (vii) (viii) (ix) (x)

Previous Committee Decisions:

23 COM X.29; 30 COM 7B.32

International Assistance:

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

N/A

Main threats identified in previous reports:

Commercial logging in areas adjacent to the World Heritage property.

Current conservation issues:

Concerns have been previously raised in relation to logging adjacent to the property which has the potential to impact on the values of the property. Recent concerns have focussed on the development of a new road to access two logging areas (coupes) close to the World Heritage property, logging coupes BB021c and WR015F. Another related issue is a recent Australian court case. In late December 2006, the Federal Court of Australia handed down a judgement relating to forestry operations on the east coast of Tasmania and the protection of nationally endangered species. Although this area is not in the vicinity of the property there may be implications for the current logging operations which are adjacent to the World Heritage property. The decision is currently being appealed.

Differing perspectives on issues at this property have been put forward by NGOs and the State Party.

The Australian NGO, the Huon Valley Environment Centre has noted that work has commenced on construction of a logging road adjacent to the World Heritage property and specifically noted: "on 15 November 2006 [...], roading commenced with bulldozers cutting a track through pristine forest near the Weld River. Several logging camps will be opened up in this area. On the southern side of the valley, a Forest Practices Plan for coupe WR015F has

been approved. This is an old growth and rainforest coupe adjacent to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA). According to logging plans, harvesting and high intensity burning will occur to within 100m of the World Heritage boundary. There is a serious risk of fire escape into the World Heritage area from high intensity burning following harvesting at this site."

In particular, the NGO reports noted that clear-felling logging operations, road construction and burning of logged areas directly threaten pristine, old-growth forests in areas outside the eastern boundaries of the World Heritage property. The NGOs argued that critical areas of the Tasmanian Wilderness have not been included in the World Heritage property due to pressure from resource-extractive industries. Further, that the loss of these areas due to commercial forestry activities will impact on the wilderness value and integrity of the property itself. NGO reports called for comprehensive and independent assessment of the threats and their direct and indirect impacts on the World Heritage property. In conclusion, the NGOs feel that logging operations and associated roading activities constitute a major threat to the integrity of the World Heritage Property.

The State Party submitted a very well documented report in response to the Decision adopted by the 30th session of the World Heritage Committee (Vilnius, 2006), which responds in detail to the concerns of NGOs raised before the Committee in relation to forestry operations in the vicinity of the property. The State Party report outlines tools that are used to conserve and manage various values of the property, including the Management Plan for the property and the Regional Forest Agreement reporting process. The Report notes that Federal Legislation: the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999* provides for the protection of the World Heritage values of Australian World Heritage properties. Further, it is noted that the 2004 State of the TWWHA report concluded that management under the 1992 management plan delivered major achievements and that sound progress was made against all the management objectives. The report provides considerable additional detail and specifically rebuts points made in the claim by the NGOs. In conclusion, the State Party is confident that the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area is well protected and managed, and that there is no threat to its integrity.

IUCN notes that the issues at this property are controversial and opinions are divided between NGO and government. Commercial forestry activities on the boundary of the World Heritage property have been the focus of on-going debate between the State Party and the Australian conservation NGOs over a number of years. In the evaluation report of this property, IUCN noted that there is forested land outside the property which may have World Heritage values and which would contribute to the integrity of the property. In addition, a number of other reports, mainly from NGOs, have raised concerns over forestry operations, including the associated risks of increased fire frequency and have called for an extension of the World Heritage property.

The 1997 Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) between the Federal and State Governments was designed to balance conservation needs with sustainable forestry needs. IUCN notes that important steps had been made by the RFA toward developing a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system, but urges the State Party not to foreclose any options related to future extension of the World Heritage property. In particular, IUCN recommends that areas of the dedicated RFA reserve system with potential World Heritage value should be managed in a manner consistent with potential World Heritage status and should ideally be added to the World Heritage property as originally recommended in the IUCN evaluation report.

IUCN notes that there are different views from NGOs and the State Party as to which areas outside the boundary of the property actually are of World Heritage value. IUCN considers further assessment of areas outside the property that have the potential to meet the criteria for Outstanding Universal Value is required. This should be undertaken in conjunction with an EIA on the impacts of the proposed forestry operations on the World Heritage property.

The Director and Chief of the East Asia and Pacific Unit of the World Heritage Centre visited the property on 13 and 14 February 2007, including the areas outside the eastern boundary of the property, which are being logged or have been identified for logging. Although the visit was not in the context of a reactive monitoring mission, the staff from the World Heritage Centre had the opportunity to meet with various officials from the Federal and Tasmanian Government, from the Agency managing the World Heritage property, as well as with representatives from various NGOs expressing different concerns related to the logging operations.

The World Heritage Centre notes that on-going and planned logging operations outside the boundary of the World Heritage area affect portions of old-growth forest, of the same heritage value of that which is presently included in the listed property. At the time of the extension of the property, in 1989, the Committee had already noted the existence of these areas of natural heritage significance, and had expressed the hope that they could be added in the future to the World Heritage property. At the same time, the Committee had strongly welcomed the 78% increase in the area of the site (which now totals approximately 1,383 million hectares), which it considered, with its new boundaries, fully satisfactory in terms of value and integrity. For this reason, while maintaining that it would be desirable to have these areas of old-growth forest identified for logging preserved and added to the World Heritage property one day, the World Heritage Centre considers that they may not be "critical" for the safeguarding of Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property. However, the World Heritage Centre concurs with the view that it would be good to manage these areas in a manner which is consistent with a potential World Heritage value.

Risk of fire from forest regeneration activities appeared a more immediate concern. It seems, indeed, that on a couple of instances, a fire set for regeneration purposes to areas adjacent to the World Heritage property got out of control and affected some minor portions of the listed forest. Fire is actually a major issue for the managing authority, especially natural fires from lightning, and a complex system of fire prevention and management has been established. The World Heritage Centre considers therefore that what is required at this stage is a thorough 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.

Draft 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 the concerns expressed 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 consider distancing the logging operations from the boundary of the property;

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, 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, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.*

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1997 ; extension in 1999

Criteria

(iii) (iv) (v) (vii) (viii)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 15B.36; 29 COM 7B.31; 30 COM 7B.33

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Impacts of the Gavarnie Festival and request for its permanent transfer;
- b) Insufficient transboundary cooperation.

Current conservation issues

Following reminders from the World Heritage Centre, the French State Party transmitted a report dated 23 February 2007.

In a letter dated 12 June 2006 addressed to the World Heritage Centre, the Mayor of Gavarnie expressed willingness to receive an expert mission to evaluate the proposal for an alternative location to the current one for the Gavarnie Festival. In its letter of 24 August 2006 to the Permanent Delegation, the World Heritage Centre proposed to explore the possibility of such a mission to the competent national authorities and to initiate an invitation as soon as possible. Furthermore, in a second letter dated 24 July 2006, the Mayor of Gavarnie informed that an alternative solution for the holding of the Festival had been approved by the Gavarnie Municipal Council on 29 June 2006.

In a letter dated 23 February 2007, the Deputy Permanent Delegate of France to UNESCO confirmed that a mission had been carried out in November 2006 by the Inspection Services of the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development. This mission examined two

alternative sites to the current location of the Festival. The first one was not retained as, according to the State Party, it presented major inconveniences incompatible with the conservation of the property. The second, at Part Ber, could be envisaged following a feasibility study concerning the nature and cost of the necessary installations.

The Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development further supported the dispatch of an international expert mission led jointly by ICOMOS and IUCN. This mission would examine the present location of the Festival as well as the alternative sites, and would moreover permit an evaluation of the overall and transboundary management of the property.

The Permanent Delegation further confirmed the wish of the French authorities to achieve a consensual and sustainable management of this outstanding property and respond to the justifiable expectations of the World Heritage Committee in this regard.

Despite the fact that the French authorities had promised to hold the Festival at La Courade for the last time in 2006, the World Heritage Centre has received information indicating that the Departmental authorities have once again authorized this event for 2007 and that it will last longer than usual.

In the absence of tangible proof provided by the State Party, it is difficult to evaluate progress achieved in the preparation and implementation of the management plan for the French part of this transboundary property, as well as regards transboundary cooperation. However, the French World Heritage Mont Perdu Association, in collaboration with the Boltana authorities, organized an associative meeting on 24 March 2007 in Boltana, Aragon (Spain) on the theme of transboundary cooperation and management of the property. An IUCN expert was also invited. However, the national authorities and the Directions of the National Parks did not participate.

Furthermore, the Deputy and the Vice-President of the General Council for the Hautes-Pyrénées informed the World Heritage Centre by letter of 28 March 2007, that a report on the state of conservation of the site had been prepared by the Director of the Pyrénées National Park. This report makes special mention of development perspectives for the French part of the property, as well as transboundary management. However, to date this report has not been transmitted for evaluation to the World Heritage Centre. The letter also informed of the creation of a mixed syndicate, associating territorial communities, the Midi-Pyrénées Regional Council and the Hautes-Pyrénées General Council, as an interlocutor with the World Heritage Centre.

Draft 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. *Notes with satisfaction the proposal made by the French State Party for an alternative site for the Gavarnie Festival and for the dispatch of an international expert mission to evaluate this new location and the overall management of the property;*
4. *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;

5. *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 ;*
6. *Urges the States Parties of France and Spain to strengthen their transboundary cooperation to ensure the conservation and management of this property;*
7. *Requests the French State Party to invite a 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;*
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

FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION

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

see Document *WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add*

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1978

Criteria:

(i) (ii) (iii)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions:

21 COM VII.46; 30 COM 7B.40

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: 1996 – USD 6,500 Restoration studies in Lalibela; 1980 – USD 57,386 Photogrammetric equipment

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: 2007– USD 300 000 Norway Funds in Trust for the implementation of a restoration pilot project

Previous monitoring missions:

Experts' missions to assess the European Union (EU) funded Project in Lalibela were conducted in April 1997, July 2004 and March 2005; World Heritage Centre mission October 2005; joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission June 2006; joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission 7-14 March 2007.

Main threats to the property identified in previous reports:

- a) Rainfall, water infiltration and water run off;
- b) Lack of conservation and management plans;
- c) Inappropriate design and construction details of large shelters for churches.

Current conservation issues:

At its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), in the light of concern at the potential adverse impact of proposed large shelters over the churches, part of an EU funded project, the World Heritage Committee requested a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission to visit the property to:

- a) Ensure that the State Party has revised the project in order to:

- (i) Provide reversible, temporary shelters with minimal environmental impact
- (ii) Improve the water collection system to avoid the effects of direct water fall and humidity in the proximity of the monuments
- b) Review the detailed Impact Assessment Study of the proposed project
- c) Review progress with an Action Plan, prepared by the Ethiopian Authorities, as requested by the Committee, to be undertaken before any work on the shelters commences and to include:
 - (i) Detailed description of the project activities;
 - (ii) Detailed investigation into the causes of deterioration of the structure of the churches;
 - (iii) A monitoring system for the site;
 - (iv) Development of an overall Management Plan with the participation of the local communities.

Shelters:

The mission reported that in spite of the complex EU administrative framework, the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Government and the European Commission, had succeeded in changing to the design of the shelters, making them both smaller and reversible. While maintaining the key elements of the architectural design that had won the 1997 architectural competition, the new project is reversible and presents no physical threat to the World Heritage site. In addition, the project has been designed to mitigate risks and minimise environmental damage to the site and its surroundings during the construction period. Finally, the Ethiopian Government has also managed to include in the contract of the construction company a maintenance plan for the shelters. The construction elements of the shelters will be manufactured in Italy, in the first half of 2007 and shipped to Lalibela via Djibouti. The mounting of the modular metallic structure is expected to start in June 2007 and end in December 2007.

The changes to the project, displayed in the revised project drawings are:

- d) *Foundations:* The foundations will sit on top of the bedrock around the churches: there will be no excavation. Prefabricated parts in reinforced concrete will be used.
- e) *Roof structures:* The elements composing the roof structure have been reduced in weight from 200 kg to between 30 to 70 kg. This allows easy handling and access, and the use of lighter construction machinery and transportation equipment and provides jobs for local workers.
- f) *Rainwater drainage:* Drainage of rain water will be gutters and water pipes in peripheral drainage trenches.
- g) *Maintenance:* The Construction Company will provide the Ethiopian Government with a maintenance plan for the shelters. The Ethiopian authorities will ensure the required maintenance.
- h) *Dismantling:* The Construction Company will provide the Ethiopian Government with a dismantling plan for the shelters.
- i) *Environmental impact:* The revised project has minimized the environmental impact of the construction works on the site and the landscape. No new roads will be created to transport construction materials to the site; the recently built main road in the village will not be used for moving heavy machinery and the storage area has been chosen to minimize the visual impact on the site and its surroundings.

Conservation Action Plan:

Since the mission of June 2006, the World Heritage Centre has developed in cooperation with the Ethiopia Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage (ARCCH), a conservation action plan for the churches. This action plan is based on the various mission reports since the 1980s as well as the results of restoration campaigns carried out in Lalibela in the 1950s and 1960s. In addition, the World Heritage Centre organized in September 2006 an experts' meeting to help define this action plan. ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre have requested that the Plan should be extended to include the historical and archaeological study of the wider setting of the churches, analysis of rock excavation and carving techniques, analysis of mortars, structural analysis of churches, cleaning and restoration of rock paintings, respect for the patina of hewn rock faces, and the integration of archives from restoration work in the 1950s and 1960s.

The resulting plan is a tool to plan and prioritize actions and for fundraising. As a result, in addition to one million dollars matching funds allocated by the World Monuments Fund, the Norwegian Government has allocated USD 300,000 for the implementation of a pilot project on the small church of Biet Mercurios. The pilot project will address structural failure of the rock around Biet Mercurios, the conservation of mural paintings, and the affect of climate factors. Funds of USD 150,000 from the World Monument fund (as matching funding for the Norwegian Funds) will be used to undertake surveys, an archaeological study, a structural study and an analysis of decay factors. These studies were requested by the Committee at its 30th session. They will be implemented in 2007 and 2008.

The Environmental impact assessment study

This study was not undertaken by the Ethiopian authorities. Nevertheless, many of the potential impacts have been addressed in the revised plan. The on-going impacts such as effects on micro-climate of the churches need to be addressed through on-going maintenance.

Long-term solutions

The shelters as now revised are temporary and they will allow time to identify more permanent arrangements for protection measures that will optimise the lifespan of the buildings and their surfaces.

Management Plan

The need for a detailed site Management Plan, as requested by the Committee, has been identified in the Conservation Action Plan.

The Plan should create a mechanism to address the long-term sustainable development of the churches and their surrounding landscape and villages. The World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS consider that as background research for such a plan, there is a need for a hydrological assessment of the water catchments' area around the churches and an assessment of the changing agricultural and other land management practices over the past half century as a means of identifying whether the changes in decay in the fabric of the churches might be linked to environmental changes such as the speed of water run-off. The Plan could also address options for improving services to the traditional village in the site. In advance of the Management Plan, there is a need for better mapping and documentation of the site, and definition of the boundaries and the buffer zone as these were not included in the initial nomination file.

Draft 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 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;
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 to plan for the preparation of an integrated management 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 identifying and planning long-term approaches for the property and the development of a management plan;
8. 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List :

1988

Criteria :

(ii) (iv) (v)

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

1990-2005

Previous Committee Decisions

29COM 7A.14; 29COM 8C.3; 30 COM 7B.36

International Assistance:

Total amount allocated to the property: 1989, USD 5,500, Preparatory Assistance; 1991-1995-1996-2004-2006: USD 150,000, Technical Cooperation;

UNESCO Extrabudgetary Funds :

Total amount allocated to the property: USD 85,000 (Italian Funds-in-Trust at UNESCO)

Previous monitoring missions:

World Heritage Centre missions: 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Inappropriate construction project in the buffer zone of the Sankoré Mosque;
- b) Urban development pressure;
- c) Flooding and rubbish disposal.

Current conservation issues

During its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), and following the information regarding the Management and Conservation Plan established for the period 2006-2010, the Committee reiterated its decision not to reinscribe Timbuktu on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Having been informed of a construction project on the land opposite the Sankoré Mosque, for a Cultural Centre to safeguard the ancient manuscripts of Timbuktu, the Committee drew the attention of the State Party to the impact this could have on the outstanding value of this important property on the World Heritage List. In its Decision **30 COM 7B.36**, the Committee had invited Mali to review this architectural project taking into consideration the recommendations of the March 2006 World Heritage Centre mission.

On 7 February 2007, the State Party submitted its report on the state of conservation of Timbuktu to the World Heritage Centre. This report gave information regarding progress made in the implementation of the management and conservation plan, and provided the following information:

- a) Djingareyber Mosque: The problems regarding the evacuation of rainwater have been resolved by paving work around the mosque, thanks to funding under Timbuktu's "Third Urban Project". The façades and the minaret of the Mosque were rough-casted on the occasion of the Maouloud Festival in April 2006, and a building for toilets was constructed. The latter is currently undergoing corrective measures as its architecture does not fit in with the Sudano-Sahalien architecture of the Mosque. The report also mentions a big restoration project between the Mali authorities and the Aga Khan Foundation for a duration of four years.
- b) Sidi Yahia Mosque: Thanks to conservation work carried out in 2005, the state of conservation of the Mosque has remained satisfactory. Only the paving work at the main entrance and the evacuation of rainwater of the prayer courtyard were carried out in 2006.
- c) Mausoleums : The seven large cemeteries (Diamane Hamane, Sidi Mahamoud, Alpha Moya, Sidi Elmoctar, Idje Tchina Sarey, Sidi El Wafi, Cheik Sidi Ahmed ben Amar) were fenced in.
- d) The old town faces some problems, as follows: degradaton of buildings, increase of dwellings in ruins, 280 of which require attention for their safeguarding, stagnant waters in the rainy season and finally a progressive shift of earthen covered houses towards those of alhor stone.

- e) Sankoré Mosque: The construction of the Ahmed Baba Centre, which began in July 2006, is located in the buffer zone, at about 25m north of the Mosque. This construction site is experiencing delays in the execution of the work due to contractual problems with the South African building company Xaler. The report indicates that the different actors of the project are committed to respecting the UNESCO recommendation regarding the size, typology, construction technology and building materials, as the present state of the architectural project would allow for a modification of its main façade. The seeking of solutions for this modification was consequently entrusted to the Xaler Company. But it is already foreseen that only one wall in the Sudano-Sahélien style be built on the main façade in such a way as to hide the structural posts of the building and limit the visual impact. Moreover, the development of the historic square of Sankoré, taking into account the integration of the new building of the Ahmed Baba Centre, is one of the priority projects in the framework of the “Fourth Urban Project” of Mali which will be executed in agreement with the World Bank. Consequently, the report considered it difficult and even impossible to envisage at this stage a negative impact of the new site for the Ahmed Baba Institute.

The World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS draw the Committee’s attention to two important matters which result from the report of the State Party. With regard to the revision of the architectural project of the Ahmed Baba Cultural Centre, the commitment of the State Party to modify the main façade of the project would not be sufficient to limit the negative visual impact of this project on the Sankoré Mosque. To date, the State Party has not yet provided the new technical documents allowing an objective evaluation of this modification. Taking into consideration the commencement of the work since July 2006, there is an urgent need for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission to visit the site and evaluate the progress of the work and advise the Mali authorities on the urgent provisions to be undertaken at the start of the work. With regard to the new restoration project for the Djingareyberre Mosque, and in view its scape envisaged by the Aga Khan Foundation, the Mali authorities are requested to provide all the technical documents on the restoration work foreseen to the World Heritage Centre as quickly as possible, so that they may be studied by ICOMOS; and the Committee should ensure that the said work is in line with the strategic conservation plan and the management plan.

Draft 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. *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, especially as the construction is foreseen adjacent to the Sankoré Mosque ;*
4. *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 to halt the construction work in order to allow for an analysis of the impact of the envisaged modifications to the Sankoré Mosque ;*
5. *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 ;*

6. 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 ;
7. 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)

See Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

2000

Criteria:

(ii) (iii) (vi)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions:

N/A

International Assistance:

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

N/A

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Development pressures;
- b) Environmental pressures;
- c) Natural disasters and lack of risk-preparedness;
- d) Visitors/ tourist pressures;
- e) Lack of resources;
- f) Lack of legal framework.

Current Conservation issues:

The World Heritage Centre received information in November 2006 on the proposed European Commission-funded project amounting to USD 31million to rehabilitate the Malindi Stone Town Port part of the Zanzibar Island, World Heritage site. In the course of the rehabilitation initiative, the World Heritage Centre was informed that the project included plans to “fill the voids between the piers of the port after cutting them off completely with dredged material from the port area”. The e-mail report pointed out the danger that the proposed port rehabilitation would result in a raised water level throughout the sea front with the likelihood of endangering the property through hydrodynamic impacts such as overtopping and water splash, and would alter the entire sea front of the property. The report further informs the World Heritage Centre of the existing national regulations that state that “any feature that has been in place for the last 50 years should be preserved, and when necessary, replaced rather than removed”. The same report states that a full environmental and cultural impact assessment concerning this major project has not been undertaken.

The World Heritage Centre together with the UNESCO Office in Dar-es-Salaam requested the State Party in an e-mail dated 14 November 2006 to ascertain whether the above information received from Stone Town was correct. In an e-mail dated 27 November 2006 addressed to the World Heritage Centre, the Stone Town Authority, while confirming the proposed EU project for the Stone Town Port Rehabilitation Project, informed the Centre that they had expressed concern to the EU during several meetings, stating that the project “would compromise the cultural values for which Stone Town was inscribed in the World Heritage List” and had proposed to restore the Port as it is.

The World Heritage Centre received an e-mail dated 4 January 2007 from a consultant “appointed by the European Commission delegation” in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, to “detail the environmental investigations to prepare the rehabilitation project of the port in Stone Town” Zanzibar. In the e-mail, the European Commission (EC) appointee promised the World Heritage Centre to further detail the rehabilitation plans, but this has not been received at the time of preparing this report. In a reply to the EC representative dated 15 January 2007, the World Heritage Centre expressed the following: an interest to work with the EC in order to establish the Terms of Reference for an independent environmental and cultural impact assessment of the project for the rehabilitation of the Malindi Port Project in Stone Town, on the World Heritage property, (a similar request emphasising the importance of involving the World Heritage Centre was made to the EC by the Stone Town Authority); the Environmental Impact Assessment should not be used to justify the implementation of the project regardless of its consequences, but as a tool to determine whether the project should go forward or not, and/or depending on the level of the potential impact how these can be avoided; and that the World Heritage Centre was ready to co-operate with the EC and its consultant on these issues in the interest of the property. The World Heritage Centre has yet to receive a reply to this e-mail letter from the EC representative.

The World Heritage Centre received a report entitled “Zanzibar Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (ZSGRP)” that was launched on 15 March 2007. The ZSGRP document forms part of the strategies to implement the long-term development plan, the Vision 2020. The focus is on ensuring the attainment of sustainable growth that will reduce both the income and non-income poverty to the majority of Zanzibaris. The strategy is in line with the international goals, commitments, and targets, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Among the operational targets highlighted in its goals are the promotion and preservation of Stone Town Cultural Heritage sites and tourist attraction areas, and improving attractions of other historical sites. The report recognises that efficient exploitation of natural and cultural heritage has not yet been achieved, partly due to inadequate resources such as human capacity and equipment, and partly due to a weak promotional strategy. In order to achieve the operational targets, the State Party proposes to put efforts into developing and implementing policies and institute an enabling legal

framework for the restoration and exploitation of the Stone Town and other heritage sites, and to promote ecotourism through cultural activities and historical sites.

Draft 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;*
3. *Calls on the State Party to provide as soon as possible full details of the proposed project and its rationale;*
4. *Also calls on the State Party 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 Malindi Stone Town Port development;*
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 the progress report on the implementation for the above recommendations by **1 February 2008** for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.*

FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING NO DISCUSSION

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

2001

Criteria:

(ii) (iv) (vi)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions:

28 COM 15B.39; 29 COM 7B.35; 30 COM 7B.41

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: Technical co-operation for the rehabilitation of the Lamu Waterfront, 2004: USD 6,932

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS mission from 22 to 27 March 2004

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Lack of management plan;
- b) Lack of risk preparedness, especially in the case of fire;
- c) Sewerage situation;
- d) Lack of resources.

Current Conservation issues:

The World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) commended the State Party for the successful small improvements in conservation and particularly the establishment of a World Heritage secretariat for Lamu; and invited the State Party to implement the principal recommendations of the World Heritage Committee at its 28th (Suzhou, 2004) and 29th (Durban, 2005) sessions which have not yet been implemented:

- a) No progress has been made in the preparation of the management plan;
- b) No measures have been taken to improve water sanitation and waste disposal;
- c) Although the buffer zone has been extended to include the Shella water catchments, it does not include the two complementary areas of Ras Kitau and Manda Island, and the Shella water catchment area is marred by illegal sales of over 20 parcels of land to private investors.

The State Party submitted a further report in January 2007 in the form of a management plan, which was submitted to ICOMOS for review. The plan has been undertaken through collaboration with key stakeholders and the local community. This plan is a huge step forward. It identifies the assets of Lamu, its weaknesses, threats and opportunities, and sets out ten objectives to address the key issues. These issues include the recommendations listed above: buffer zone, sanitation, water supply and waste management, as well as better co-ordination of planning, development and tourism activities and the need for a separately resourced World Heritage Unit. However, as yet few details are provided as to how the objectives will be resourced, given that currently the World Heritage secretariat only has a part-time co-ordinator who is also the curator of the Museum.

The following is a summary of the objectives:

- (i) Review Conservation Plan and include the proposed buffer zone and the related nearby ancient towns such as Pate and Siyu. To be achieved by end of 2012; no details of resources for this project.
- (ii) Comprehensive infrastructural development of Lamu and its associated archipelago and coastline; this includes sewage, water system and roads; to be carried out by Central Government under the 2003-2012 Lamu Development Plan; it is not clear whether resources are available.

- (iii) Condition Survey of proposed buffer zone by June 2009; this will include the buildings of Pate and Siyu and the costing of rehabilitation and stabilisation; survey to be carried out by National Museums of Kenya (NMK); grants to be applied for subsequent work.
- (iv) Draw up an extension of the World Heritage site to include Pate, Manda Island, Shella and the adjoining coastline by December 2007; no details of resources or responsibilities.
- (v) Review resource management coordination at regional level; and separate functions local representative of NMK and the World Heritage co-ordinator (currently one person); no resources or timetable given.
- (vi) Create community education awareness programme by 2008; employ full-time community education officer; no resources given.
- (vii) Develop an integrated marketing strategy for Lamu; no resources or timescale given.
- (viii) Review building by-laws; no details of who would achieve this or timetable.
- (ix) Improve site presentation by December 2008; this includes garbage collection system by December 2007, web-site by June 2007; visitor management strategy by December 2007; revolving fund for house-owners by December 2009; no detail of resources or responsibilities.
- (x) Prepare Disaster Management Plan by December 2007; no detail of who could do this.

ICOMOS strongly supports the objectives as set out in the plan. It also believes that realistically these need to be prioritised and responsibilities for their implementation identified from the partners associated with the Plan. Furthermore, it encourages the State Party to commit resources to those which have the highest priority. ICOMOS considers that these are the activities already identified by the Committee: buffer zone extension (including preliminary surveys), improvement to sanitation, water supply, and waste management, together with adequate resources for the World Heritage Secretariat.

ICOMOS also considers that the Management Plan should be augmented by an Action Plan that sets out in more detail how the objectives are to be met and which of the many organisations involved in the World Heritage site has the lead role in carrying forward actions.

Draft 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1988

Criteria:

(iii) (iv)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions:

29 COM 7B.36; 30 COM 7B.38

International Assistance:

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount allocated to the property: USD 85,000 (Italian Funds-in-Trust with UNESCO)

Previous monitoring missions:

2002, 2005, World Heritage Centre missions; 2006, World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) No management and conservation plan;
- b) Urban development pressure;
- c) Housing dilapidation;
- d) Waste management problem;
- e) Encroachment of archaeological sites

Current conservation issues:

Following Decision **29 COM 7B.36**, a World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission visited the World Heritage property in 2006 to assess the state of conservation of the property and propose solutions to ease urban development pressure and to make recommendations to the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006). The mission confirmed that the World Heritage property was suffering from intense urban development pressure, which was threatening the integrity of the overall earthen architecture and archaeology of the city and for which urgent development and management measures were needed. The mission made the following recommendations:

- a) Prepare an accurate map of the boundaries of the World Heritage property;
- b) Establish urban and planning regulatory tools developed through a participative approach;
- c) Create a buffer zone;
- d) Prepare urgently both management and conservation plans, to include archaeological sites.

At the 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), the Committee requested the State Party to undertake all necessary measures to implement the recommendations of the mission; encouraged the State Party to submit a request for international assistance for the preparation of a management plan; and also encouraged the State Party to define a project aiming at identifying and promoting good practices in house rehabilitation and adaptation of traditional architecture for modern uses.

In its report submitted in January 2007, the State Party has provided details of a specific project initiated by the Ministry for the Culture of Mali and Rijksmuseum voor Volkenkunde, Leiden. Under the second and final phase, 2005-2006, 30 houses have been restored in the tourist areas of the city; adding to the 100 houses restored in the first phase from 1997 to 2003.

The report further outlines many ongoing threats to the site connected to the lack of resources amongst the local inhabitants to carry out regular maintenance of buildings, inappropriate service installation (such as 58 new water fountains which add to water pollution in the streets), inappropriate work in streets carried out without authorization by the municipal authority; use of inappropriate materials such as burnt bricks, cement, metal windows and doors; plundering and illicit traffic of cultural goods, 'anarchic' urbanization, and encroachment on archeological sites, all projecting a situation that is dire and not under control.

The State Party reported that an international assistance request had been submitted for funds to develop a Management and Conservation Plan. As a preliminary to this, an initial meeting to launch work on a Management Plan had been held for all relevant stakeholders on July 13, 2006. This meeting was said to have created a bond between those present but that more efforts were needed to bring about strong support for the ideals of management and conservation. No details are provided on the process to be followed to develop a management plan, nor a timetable. In order to address how the existing buildings might provide acceptable homes relevant for the 21st century and be maintained in line with the residents' requirements, ICOMOS and World Heritage Centre consider that the Management and Conservation Plan will need to address far more than the fabric of the building and does in effect need to be a sustainable development plan for the Old City. A synopsis of this plan needs to be developed as soon as possible.

Finally, the report does not address the three remaining areas of work identified by the mission, namely boundaries, regulatory tools, and buffer zone. ICOMOS and World Heritage Centre are concerned that no details are provided as to how the other mission recommendations are to be addressed. Given the short timeframe since the last Committee

meeting, no firm actions could be expected, but it would have been desirable for a timeframe to have been provided for when these matters would receive attention. In the face of the continuing major deterioration of the fragile urban fabric, as acknowledged by the State Party, there is an urgent need for an action plan to set out how the structural problems identified by the mission might be addressed, and for which donor support might be sought. With the approval of the international assistance in November 2006 the State Party could use the opportunity of the elaboration of the management plan to address some of these other issues.

Draft 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 2009**, 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 33rd session in 2009.*

52. Island of Gorée (Senegal) (C 26)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1978

Criteria:

(vi)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions:

28 COM 15B.42; 29 COM 7B.37; 30 COM 7B.43

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 33,071 in 1981 – Emergency Assistance to strengthen the threatened western fortifications; USD 19,529 in 1981 – Training of technicians responsible for the rehabilitation of the Island.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

2004 : Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Mission; 2006 : World Heritage Centre Mission

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Delay in the appointment of a site manager ;
- b) Risk of collapse of historic buildings;
- c) Marine erosion;
- d) Construction of the replica of the Gorée Memorial.

Current conservation issues:

During its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), the World Heritage Committee had noted with concern the potential negative impact of coastal and marine erosion on the Island of Gorée. In the report submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 15 March 2007, the State Party informed the World Heritage Centre that the following activities had been undertaken at the property to improve its state of conservation:

a) Restoration and rehabilitation

Together with development cooperation partners (World Bank), an amount of 205 million CFA Francs had been allocated in 2006 for rehabilitation and the equipping of a medical block and socio-cultural centre. Moreover, in 2007, the rehabilitation of the ancient Roume Palace or Relais de l'Espadon, the Ancient House of Sudan and the Headquarters of the ex-University des Mutants is foreseen with the support of the Presidency of the Republic

b) Appointment of a site manager

The Minister for Culture passed a decree n° 00 6260/MCPHC/DPC/DIR/oke dated 14/09/2006 concerning the creation of posts for managers of Senegal's World Heritage properties. The Deputy Conservator of the House of Slaves who has over twenty years of experience in the field of conservation, and who has followed the Programme Africa 2009 regarding the management and conservation of African cultural built heritage, will be nominated to the post for the Island of Gorée.

c) Management of populations and tourists

A constant stream of visitors from across the world, and an increase in the number of visiting Senegalese school pupils in the framework of school outings was noted in 2006. This flow of visitors is not without consequences on the daily management of the site, with the appearance on the Island of illegal souks for commercial purposes as well as restaurants. The situation has therefore led the Municipality of Gorée to introduce a standby medical service, which includes: a Municipal dispensary comprising a maternity ward with a resident midwife, the Order of Malta Dispensary; and a fast ambulance motorboat service for emergency evacuations. A Police Station and a firefighter unit have also been set up. Furthermore, to contribute towards the accessibility of the Island, the State Party in its report informed of the acquisition of a new boat which will ensure the Dakar/Gorée maritime liaison. In order to better observe the standards decreed in the framework of the *World Heritage*

Convention, the Minister for Culture decided to instigate a short-term consultation between the different stakeholders (Ministry for Culture and Listed Historic Heritage, Mayor of Gorée, UNESCO Dakar Office, public and private institutions installed in Gorée, Syndicate of Initiative and Tourism, Dakar/Gorée Maritime Liaison, schools and representatives of the public, etc.)

d) Illegal occupation of the Castel

Tourism development has also been the cause of illegal occupation, along the entire length of the Artillery Cart Track. In places, wooden shacks built by squatters can be observed, despite the summons issued by the Cultural Heritage Directorate. This situation, which resembles a tentative to transform the Castel into a shanty town will, if one is not vigilant, cause the deterioration of the site. According to the State Party, this situation is being evaluated and requires the support of the World Heritage Committee to raise awareness among the different stakeholders in order to reach a satisfactory solution. The report further indicates that due to the transfer of some responsibilities to the communities, the Mayor of Gorée was invited to apply the regulations in force in order to correct this situation.

e) Replica of the Gorée Memorial

Whilst reiterating its willingness to implement the corrective measures to limit the negative impact of the replica of the Gorée Memorial on the property, the State Party wished to have the final opinion of the World Heritage Committee on the desirability of retaining this replica of the Gorée Memorial.

ICOMOS has studied the request of the State Party based on the previous decisions of the Committee and the report of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission of 2004. During its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), the Committee invited the State Party to undertake corrective measures. After reviewing the different options possible, ICOMOS considered that whatever reliable interventions be undertaken, this would not significantly reduce the impact of this Memorial that has since acquired high symbolic value.

f) Marine erosion

Following initial exchanges and tripartite discussions between UNESCO, the Ministry for Culture of Senegal and the Qatar Foundation, a joint UNESCO/Senegalese Culture and Education Sector meeting was held in Doha, Qatar on 6 and 7 September 2006, to meet officials of the Qatar Foundation and to discuss the Project and the modalities for the execution of its two phases: coastal protection and capacity building in the fields of conservation and heritage protection through the technical and professional training of the Island's inhabitants. Following this, UNESCO specialists and Qatar Foundation experts carried out a mission to Senegal and the Island of Gorée from 18 to 23 September 2006 to continue discussions regarding cooperation and to develop concrete proposals in support of an improved management of the Island of Gorée. Monitoring of the bilateral project envisaged between Senegal and the Qatar Foundation to combat erosion of the littoral of Gorée will be carried out by UNESCO. The main objectives contained in the project document for the safeguarding of the Island of Gorée of Senegal, property inscribed on the World Heritage List are:

- (i) The establishment of a unit responsible for project management ;
- (ii) Rehabilitation of selected historic buildings;
- (iii) Management and presentation of the environment ; and
- (iv) Education and professional training and capacity building in the field of conservation and heritage protection.

The total cost of the project, is estimated at USD 4,385,530, to be funded by the Qatar Foundation in the framework of Funds-in-Trust to cover all external and local expenses

linked to the rehabilitation of the buildings and professional training activities and community training.

Draft 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1999

Criteria

(iii) (vi)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 15B.40; 29 COM 7B.39; 30 COM 7B.44

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2004, ICOMOS/ICCROM/IUCN mission; 2005, ICOMOS/IUCN mission

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Visitor pressure;
- b) Lack of comprehensive Conservation Management Plan;
- c) Lack of specific annual plans of operation;
- d) Lack of human resources;
- e) Difficulties with operational aspects of maintenance and conservation implementation including lack of preventive maintenance funding and programming;
- f) Lack of appropriate conservation of the built heritage;
- g) Lack of proactive management of tourism pressure;
- h) Lack of integration of natural values in management of site.

Current conservation issues

At its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), the Committee regretted that the recommendations of the 2004 ICOMOS/ICCROM/IUCN joint mission had not yet been fully implemented and that the State Party support necessary to ensure their fulfilment had been still lacking. The Committee also recommended that the State Party work closely with the Advisory Bodies and Robben Island Management Authority (RIM) to develop an action plan to address priority management issues already established for the property;

At the end of January 2007 the State Party submitted a series of documents to the World Heritage Centre which complied with most of the Committee's requirements. The Management Plan has the following objectives: retain the significance of the property; gather and curate the heritage resources; provide excellence in heritage management; manage the visitor experience; communicate and interpret heritage values; institute appropriate governance; strengthen institutional capacity; provide necessary staffing and infrastructure; ensure financial sustainability; improve public awareness; and promote the World Heritage property. The Action Plan proposed in the Management Plan outlines the activities that will be implemented to achieve these objectives.

After a careful examination of the Management Plan, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS consider that the document produced is comprehensive and well designed, covering the main components of the property, including priority activities for the prison, the Sobukwe interpretive centre complex, cemeteries, quarries and natural heritage. The Robben Island Museum has involved a wide range of stakeholders in the formulation of the Management Plan, and they should continue to play an important participatory role.

Draft 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

FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION

54. Tipasa (Algeria) (C 193)

Year of Inscription on the World Heritage List

1982

Criteria

(iii) (iv)

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

2002-2006

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 15A.16; 29 COM 7A.16; 30 COM 7A.18

International Assistance

Total amount allocated to the property: USD 99,231 for Emergency Assistance, Technical Cooperation and Training.

UNESCO Extrabudgetary Funds

Total amount allocated to the property: USD 9,564 from Italian Funds.

Previous monitoring missions

February 2002: mission of two experts from the World Heritage Centre; September 2002: World Heritage Centre mission; March 2006: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Natural degradation caused by littoral erosion, marine salt and vegetation covering part of the inscribed sectors;
- b) Deterioration of the remains due to "vandalism", theft and uncontrolled visitation causing accumulation of rubbish;
- c) Urbanization on the outskirts of the property where, in the absence of a defined buffer zone, illegal construction provokes land disputes;
- d) In the absence of a drainage network, open sewers in the bed of an old oued that crosses the eastern part and flows directly into the sea;
- e) Little support for site conservation, unsuitable restoration techniques, and poor conservation conditions for the archeological remains.

Current conservation issues

Following the March 2006 reactive mission to study the possibility of removing the property from the List of World heritage in Danger, and the firm commitments taken by the State

Party, the Committee decided to remove Tipasa from the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), whilst emphasizing the need for the State Party to implement its commitments.

On 7 February 2007, the World Heritage Centre received a management plan, concerning the 2007-2012 period, prepared in January 2007 under the legal and technical direction of the Algerian Ministry of Culture. Certain chapters of this Plan included measures to satisfy the conditions set by the Committee for the withdrawal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006). Notably, Decision **30 COM 7A.18** requested the State Party to undertake the following measures:

a) *Delimitation of the official boundary of the sectors inscribed and the buffer zone based on the new cadastral survey:*

This question is dealt with in the chapter concerning sustainable management and a map accompanies the report with an indication of the three buffer zones in three different colours (but only two zones in the key). The Mausoleum of Mauretania, which is part of the inscribed property, does not figure on the map, or in the document. The text makes mention of the « buffer zone foreseen » and « special directives » but there is no mention of their official adoption. It is important to have confirmation that all the legal texts cited in the document are applicable to these particular zones.

b) *The relocation procedure for families installed within the property boundaries::*

This is dealt with in the chapter entitled "Reparation measures following the end of the threats », without any explanatory details. It is indicated that the relocation of the inhabitants in social housing by the local council will be carried out over a 2-year period, between 2007 and 2009. However, at the time of the writing of this report, the World Heritage Centre received complaints from the inhabitants indicating their expulsion from the site within a few days. This information has not yet been confirmed by the Algerian authorities.

c) *Strengthening of human and financial resources:*

The staff responsible for the management of the property number 53 persons, including just one archaeologist (sometimes assisted by those of the Préfecture) and a high-level technician. There is no conservator architect. The document provided by the State Party mentions the financial grants made to the property without any indication of an eventual increase. This information does not provide the wherewithal to judge whether the recommendation of the Committee has been followed or not.

d) *The establishment and application of the Protection and Presentation Plan (PPMVSAZP) :*

It would appear from the document provided that the preparation of this plan has not progressed since 2003, date of the "decree describing modalities for the establishment of the protection and presentation plan". The stages indicated are still of a preparatory nature, the choice of the technical office following the invitation to tender – indicted as recent but already announced in the report prepared by the State Party in 2005 – has not been made, and the date foreseen for the publication of the Plan is end-2008.

e) *The formulation of a management plan for the property:*

The plan submitted by the State Party does not constitute a real "management plan" as such, but rather, as indicated elsewhere in the title of Chapter 2, "Management Guidelines". It deals with the Tipasa area as a whole, including the property inscribed and its buffer zones.

Only a few paragraphs are devoted to the administrative structure which is divided into two levels: national, with three institutions under the Ministry of Culture, and regional in the framework of the Prefecture of Tipasa. The hierarchy and liaison between these bodies is not clear.

Moreover, some confusion seems to exist between the conception of a management plan and that of a Protection and presentation plan. Most of the measures recommended in one are applicable to the other. It would perhaps be advisable to prepare only one plan through the integration of elements from both the plans.

Apart from the above-mentioned points, the document presented by the State Party makes mention of various projects on the periphery of the property or nearby, notably a large development project for the port, in the buffer zone, comprising the installation of breakwaters, the construction of two jetties and landing stages, the installation of a marina and protective work of the cliff. The filling-in of the open sewer drainage, indicated as one of the threats affecting the property, will be carried out after the construction of the purification plant. The area thus gained is proposed to be transformed into an "entertainment area" of the property.

Mention is also made of an urban plan intended to transfer several activities to the south, where a new town will be sited. In the chapter entitled « Risk Prevention », measures for the protection of the environment and the littoral are indicated as ongoing or foreseen for the whole of the area. In particular, important decontamination work has been undertaken to combat water damage and pollution (purification plant, collectors). In order to resolve the problems linked to heavy traffic, an express road three kilometres from the city and circling around the archaeological areas, thus protecting them, has been decided upon.

Draft Decision: 31 COM 7B.54

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A18**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),*
3. *Takes note of the 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. *Nevertheless, regrets that despite its firm commitments, the State Party had not completed all the actions that were requested during the 30th session of the Committee;*
5. *Requests the State Party to officially submit the new boundaries of the property and the buffer zones before **1 February 2008**, together with a topographical or cadastral map indicating the scale, the geographical coordinates and the protection regulations applicable in the different areas;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to complete the management plan and integrate the Protection and Presentation Plan, and encourages it to submit a request for international assistance to the World Heritage Fund in this respect.;*
7. *Urges the State Party to transmit to the World Heritage Centre, without delay, as indicated in paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, all the plans for the work envisaged in or around Tipasa Port, that is part of the buffer zone of the inscribed property as well as for the future entertainment area of the property ;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre, before **1 February 2008**, with a report on the state of conservation and the implementation of*

the above recommendations for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

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

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

56. Islamic Cairo (Egypt) (C 89)

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

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2004

Criteria

(i) (iv) (vi)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 14B.22; 29 COM 7B.41; 30 COM 7B.51

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: 16,000 USD for technical cooperation in 2007

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

ICOMOS mission in March-April 2005; Joint UNESCO World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission in November 2006.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Unstable structures and lack of security;
- b) Lack of comprehensive conservation plan;
- c) Lack of management structure and plan.
- d) Important tourism development project with new constructions.

Current conservation issues

In its decision **30 COM 7B.51**, the Committee recommended that the State Party concentrate its efforts on the implementation of a series of eight priority measures. The joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission, that took place in November 2006, made the following assessment of the implementation of these measures:

a) Clearly identify the boundaries of the area(s) to be protected and fenced if necessary, even temporarily;

With regard to protection of the property, no progress has been done since the last mission in April 2005. It is urgent that the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone be exactly defined and delineated, and indicated on updated topographic scale maps, while assessing the legal status of the land and addressing ownership issues. The inventory data base elaborated by the Management Plan team should be completed and integrated within the Geographical Information System of the Department of Antiquities. The archaeological areas should be fenced in order to ensure that the property is adequately protected from potential urban encroachment; guardianship against looting and illegal digs should be strengthened.

b) Address the security issues, notably by prohibiting access of visitors to potential dangerous areas and carrying out the necessary works to cover the trenches and archaeological soundings; and

c) Isolate and preserve the most endangered and damaged archaeological and architectural components by establishing a temporary restricted plan of visit paths;

No security measures have yet been taken to safeguard workers and tourists: neither physical barriers nor specific paths are established, trenches and soundings are not re-filled. Furthermore, compared with the situation noticed in 2005, dangerous areas have expanded because of illegal digs and excavations and because of general degradation of structures' stability. In addition, due to the lack of an adequate guardian system, visitors walk freely around the site and climb upon very fragile structures of the archaeological site.

d) Preserve the mosaics with adequate temporary and protective materials (special geotextile layers and draining sand layers);

e) Consolidate the most endangered architectural elements using temporary but secure structures;

f) Stop restoration works and reconstruction of collapsed elements; and

g) Resolve, when possible, using simple and temporary solutions, the humidity problems, notably for the mosaic floor of the sheltered St. Stephen Church;

With respect to the state of conservation, the mission observed that damaged archaeological structures and decorative elements had not been isolated or preserved with adequate and temporary measures. Consolidation works necessary to prevent further collapsing need to be carried out urgently. The humidity problems were not addressed either and mosaics in the St. Stephen Church show an increase of saline efflorescence damage.

An International Assistance Request, submitted by the State Party for assistance in restoring the Stylite tower was recently approved and the work should start in the near future.

h) Define the future management structure and financial system, which will be adopted in the management plan for the site.

A first draft of a Management Plan for Um er-Rasas was prepared by a team within the Department of Antiquities. However, despite the efforts, constraints led to a delay in its submission to the World Heritage Centre. The main issue is related to the difficulties in

addressing the current conservation situation because of the lack of funds and human resources.

In its Decision **30 COM 7B.51**, the Committee had also requested the State Party “to engage, possibly with the support of the World Heritage Centre, in discussions in order to make sure that the European Commission funded project be redesigned so as to integrate the above mentioned priority measures and adapt its work-plan and schedule accordingly”.

The mission confirmed the opinion that many of the components of the European Commission funded project are not adapted to the present situation of the property and that they could affect the site instead of contributing to its improvement. On the grounds of the assessment of the general situation, the mission stressed the need to reconsider the initiative in the framework of a global conservation and management approach and to redesign the project, notably the St. Stephen complex shelter.

Finally, the mission underlined that, as mentioned in the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* (paragraphs 178 and 179), a World Heritage property - as defined in Articles 1 and 2 of the *Convention* - can be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger by the Committee in the cases of ascertained danger due to “serious deterioration of materials” and/or “serious deterioration of structure and/or ornamental features”, or potential danger because of “lack of conservation policy” and/or “threatening effects of regional planning projects”. Concern is indeed raised by the above assessment which, compared to the ICOMOS evaluation at the time of the inscription, shows no improvement.

At the time of drafting this document, no report has been provided by the State Party. Should any information be received by the World Heritage Centre prior to the 31st session of the Committee, it will be reported orally.

Draft 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. *Regrets that the State Party has not submitted a progress report as requested in Decision **30 COM 7B.51**;*
4. *Also regrets that the State Party did not engage in the revision of the European Commission funded project as recommended in Decisions **29 COM 7B.41** and **30 COM 7B.51**;*
5. *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;*
6. *Urges the State Party to finalise the management and conservation plans in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission in order to assess the situation and consider whether the property should be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger;*

8. 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 31st session in 2008.

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

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

FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING NO DISCUSSION

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1992

Criteria

(ii) (v)

Previous Committee Decisions

27 COM 7B. 35; 28 COM 15B. 43; 29 COM 7B. 44

International Assistance

Total amount allocated to the property: USD 87,600

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

September 2001: World Heritage Centre reactive monitoring mission; October 2003, February-March and November 2004: three expert missions in the framework of the implementation of activities for training assistance to set up a workshop-school specializing in traditional building skills at the Kasbah of Algiers.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Natural erosion;
- b) Poor upkeep of the dwelling places;
- c) Loss of traditional conservation techniques;
- d) Uncontrolled land use;
- e) Existing but non-operational safeguarding plan;
- f) Lack of coordination of activities.

Current conservation problems

As requested by the Committee in paragraph 6 of its decision **29 COM 7B.44**, the State Party transmitted, on 31 January 2007, a report on safeguarding and enhancement actions for the Kasbah of Algiers. This report reviews the actions undertaken in 2003 and 2006 as follows:

- a) The restoration project for the Citadel of Algiers, sponsored by the President of the Algerian Republic, received significant funding which enabled the Ministry of Culture to proceed to a limited international consultation.
- b) A specific architectural Office, chaired by the Director of Cultural Heritage, was set up, notably to draw up the specifications required to launch the restoration operation for the Citadel of Algiers.
- c) Priority actions were defined with a view to the implementation of the first phase of the Permanent Plan for the Safeguarding and Enhancement of the Protected Areas (PPSMV), including emergency and diagnostic measures. A recapitulation of all these interventions was prepared in March 2006 by the local authorities concerning:
 - (i) The condition of the built structures following the 2003 earthquake, and operations for the evaluation and rehousing of the populations in order to undertake the emergency work;
 - (ii) Progress achieved on the restoration projects for the listed historic monuments;
 - (iii) Interventions on the various road works, outdoors development features and sanitation.

This phase will be updated and submitted by the architectural Office on 14 June 2007 to the contracting authority.

Phases 2 (historical and typological analysis) and 3 (final draft of the plan: presentation report, regulations, annexes and typological manual) of the project are well under way. The time needed for updating and standardising the plan is evaluated at 15 months, as from 15 November 2007.

In the framework of an International Assistance request under the World Heritage Fund, a Documentation and information centre was to be set up in an old building of the Kasbah. The report of the State Party makes no mention of this centre or possible activities that could be undertaken there.

However, this report is too brief to provide an accurate picture of the state of conservation of the property and to enable a precise evaluation of the current situation.

Draft 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 1er 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 33nd session, in 2009.*

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2005

Criteria

(ii) (iii) (iv)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 8B.26 ; 30 COM 7B.49

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

January-February 2006: World Heritage Centre; June 2006: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Project of land reclamation (“North Star”) in the bay in front of the site, as well as the project of a fishing harbour;
- b) Physical and visual integrity threatened by the urban and architectural development projects around the protected area;
- c) Visual integrity threatened by a project of a causeway foreseen off the northern coast as part of the global response to the traffic congestion in this part of the country.

Current conservation issues

With respect to the issues raised by the Committee in its Decision **30COM 7B.49**, the report submitted by the State Party on 26 March 2007 provided the following information:

- a) The North Star project has, according to the final version of the development master plan, been shifted to an entirely different location which no longer threatens the visual integrity of the property. Two of the three causeway projects which were also considered as potentially compromising the immediate environment of the property have been abandoned. The temporary fishing harbour project has been shifted eastwards to the edges of the visual corridor. At its new location, the 2 metre above sea-level structure has a minimal visual impact
- b) Development pressures on land are not yet fully solved, but a general agreement of the various authorities concerned on the need for an integrated planning and zoning concept for the surroundings of Qal'at al-Bahrain has been achieved. The discussion about the zoning plans is still in process. A continuing revision of the urban planning regulations for this district is pending until the National Planning and Development Strategies have been formally approved. Priority can then be given to the finalisation of the zoning plan as a step towards implementing the general strategies defined. A temporary practice established for the intermediate period until the finalisation of the zoning plan, is that all building permission requests which concern the core and buffer zones as well as their wider surroundings are forwarded to the Sector for Culture and National Heritage.
- c) The connecting road off the northern coast proposed as a causeway should be constructed as a bridge, its design to be co-ordinated in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre according to the Decision **30 COM 7B.49** when crossing the visual corridor to allow natural water movement and maintain the tidal flow at the coast.
- d) Three different surveys are planned for the coming two years, one of which has started recently. The geophysical survey requested by ICOMOS in order to better define the extensions of the archaeological site has been accommodated in the budget and will be carried out by the French archaeological mission by the end of 2007. A laser scanning survey of the excavated archaeological structures in the central excavation area and the coastal fortress has already started. The Sector of Culture and National Heritage is planning to attribute a budget for an underwater archaeological survey, of the bay to the north of Qal'at al-Bahrain in 2008.
- e) According to the recommendation of the World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS 2006 mission, special attention is being given to the local community living at the southern edge of the property. The relocation of this community at its specific request, is envisaged and land properties less than one kilometre away from the present village have been identified as a future location. The Ministry of Works and Housing is currently investigating the requirements and needs of the new housing units to be provided and will develop a design proposal to be discussed with the community later this year. According to the results achieved, the budget and time schedule of the relocation programme will have to be established and communicated.

Draft 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)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1979

Criteria

(i) (iii) (vi)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

27 COM 7B.37; 28 COM 15B.50; 29 COM 7B.45

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 63,450 (between 1991 and 1995)

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 100,000 for the Sphinx of Giza

Previous monitoring missions

1993, 1995, 1998, 1999, 2001

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Urban sprawl;
- b) Tourism infrastructures;
- c) Development projects (highway or tunnel).

Current conservation issues

At the time of preparation of this document, the State Party had not submitted a state of conservation report on the property. By letter of 23 February 2007, a list of projects, in synoptic table form, was transmitted, concerning the archaeological excavations, restoration work and other activities carried out or foreseen between 1981 and 2008. No description or documentation was attached.

In response to the request expressed in the framework of the *Retrospective Inventory*, the State Party transmitted to the World Heritage Centre on 27 March 2007, a topographical map and a cadastral map representing the two components of the property. The map of the town of Memphis, however does not indicate a clear boundary. Furthermore, there is no buffer zone for the property.

On 4 April 2007, a three-page document was provided, entitled « Management Plan for the Town of Memphis », concerning a project for the preparation of a management plan for the site of the Town of Memphis (and not for the inscribed property), describing the methodology that should be applied for this “training exercise”. The duration of the exercise is foreseen for sixteen weeks and would be carried out in accordance with the model of the management plan prepared in 2007 for the Medinet Habou Temple, one of the components of the World Heritage property of Thebes and its Necropolis.

It was in 1990 that for the first time, the Committee requested that a management plan be prepared for the entire property. Assistance from the World Heritage Fund was provided for this purpose in 1991, then in 1993. During the 23rd session of the Committee in 1999, this request was reiterated, as well as in 2001, 2003, 2004 and 2005. The transmission of this project document indicates the intention of the responsible authorities to initiate the preparation of the management plan.

Moreover, in another letter, the State Party indicated the preparation of *National Guidelines for Site Management*, as well as the creation of a training centre for this purpose and expressed its intention to prepare management plans for the six Egyptian properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Since the 29th session of the Committee (Durban, 2005), the State Party announced the reactivation of the road project to cross the Pyramid Plateau, rejected since 1995 by President Mubarak, and which had been the subject of several Committee recommendations in 1998, 2002 and 2003, until confirmation of the abandon of the project in 2005. Despite assurance from the Supreme Council of Antiquities of its rejection of the project, no additional official information has been transmitted to date.

Draft 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)

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage

1984

Criteria

(i) (iii)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 15B.48 ; 29 COM 7B.102 ; 30 COM 7B.52

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 20,000 for Technical Assistance in 2001.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 19,173 from 1997 to 2001 for the International Safeguarding Campagne.

Previous monitoring missions

2004 : Evaluation mission by the UNESCO Beirut Office ; September 2006 : UNESCO mission following the 2006 summer conflict (the World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission was postponed until further notice due to this situation).

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Major, and often illegal, urban development;
- b) Public works, tourism development;
- c) No management and conservation plan;
- d) Insufficient maintenance.

Current conservation problems

In September 2006, the Director-General of UNESCO sent an expert mission to Lebanon to examine the state of conservation of the World Heritage sites that might have suffered from Israeli bombing during the recent conflict in July-August 2006.

The mission visited in turn Baalbek, Anjar, Tyr and Byblos and ascertained that these sites had not suffered major damage from direct bombardment, with the exception of the oil slick affecting a major part of the Lebanese littoral north of Jiyeh, and in particular polluting the archaeological vestiges bordering the seashore at Byblos (a financial contribution from the Japanese Government was allocated to clean up the damaged structures).

At the two main preserved and enclosed archaeological sites of Tyr, the mission noted that no direct damage had been recorded for the shoreside. However, at the El Bass site (Necropolis and Hippodrome), the bombardment of a building approximately 150 m from the site had caused damage to a part of the frescoes of a Roman funerary cave. The mission also examined certain structures that required consolidation work, such as the columns and palestra of the shoreside, as well as the Roman road of the El Bass site. The mission also inspected the future south Lebanon motorway route, and recommended that the geophysical prospections already undertaken by the General Direction of Antiquities be continued and that preventive excavations be carried out before the establishment of the final route, foreseen in five years' time.

The priority measures recommended by the mission, for all the Lebanese sites, are the following :

- a) The establishment of a risk map identifying all the conditions likely to cause alarming structural disorders;
- b) Consolidation activities for the most threatened structures;

On 23 March 2007, the World Heritage Centre received a letter transmitting an updated report of 2006 on the state of conservation of Tyr and the actions requested by the Committee in its Decision **30 COM 7B.52**, which were delayed due to the conflict situation. Amongst which were:

- c) The decree for the protection of the marine zone of the site is still in abeyance with the Ministry of Transport;
- d) The request for an extension of the three-year moratory concerning constructions in the potential archaeological zones was made to the Urbansim Department, with no response to date;
- e) The boundaries of the property and its buffer zone will be defined following the evaluation of the ongoing geophysical prospection work;
- f) Studies undertaken regarding the conversion of the commercial port to a marina will be integrated into the final project;
- g) The digital card for the establishment of the complete archaeological card for the site is being updated on a geographical information system with available geographical data. The prospection results will also be integrated;
- h) Prospections have been undertaken on the proposed motorway route using classic and geophysical means, to identify the zones at risk and, if need be, to request changes in the execution of the motorway. At the time of the preparation of this report, the results of the work indicated in the document transmitted have not yet been received by the World Heritage Centre.

Draft 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. Deplores 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 is coming to term shortly, in the sectors presenting a potential archaeological interest, until the completion of the archaeological map recordings and the completion of the construction of the motorway adjacent to the property.;
6. Renews its request to the State Party to invite a joint ICOMOS/World Heritage Centre 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1982

Criteria

(ii) (iii) (vi)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 15B.49; 30 COM 7B.53

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission 18-28 January 2007

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Need to complete the Management Plan in order to co-ordinate actions in the short and medium term;
- b) Need to provide a detailed map at the appropriate scale showing the boundaries of the core and buffer zones;
- c) Threat to rock-cut monumental tombs as a result of inadequate protection, leading to vandalism and the development of agricultural activities in the rural zone and urban constructions;
- d) Rectification of inappropriate earlier restoration work ;
- e) Problem of discharge of sewage from the modern town into the Wadi Bel Ghadir;
- f) Inadequate on-site security and control systems;
- g) Need for a presentation and interpretation system for visitors and the local population.

Current conservation issues

The Management Plan for the property, and in particular the component Conservation Plan, must be completed as a matter of urgency.

More effective on-site security and control is urgently needed, so as to protect monuments against vandalism, particularly the rock-cut tombs located at the periphery of the ancient city.

Much of the earlier restoration work is unacceptable in contemporary conservation terms and is in some cases inimical to the preservation of the site; it needs progressive replacement using acceptable modern techniques and materials.

The reactive monitoring mission's report expressed its satisfaction with a number of actions that had been undertaken since the 30th session of the World Heritage Committee (Vilnius, 2006):

- a) The boundaries of the core zone and the buffer zone have been delineated.
- b) An emergency plan for 2006 has been prepared and most of its objectives have been realized.
- c) The on-site staff of the Department of Antiquities has been reinforced.
- d) The work of foreign archaeological missions has been reorientated, providing assistance in the development of a Geographical Information System (GIS), conservation and restoration of finds from excavations, and training of young Libyan archaeologists.
- e) The clearance of undergrowth and general cleaning on the ancient city and the Northern Necropolis has been completed and the most heavily affected tombs have been cleared of graffiti.
- f) Minimal signage has been installed on the site.
- g) Major restoration work has begun at the Temple of Demeter.
- h) The entrances of the site has been renovated and strengthened.
- i) The installation of signs, the organization of programmes and courses, and a workshop in Arabic have been organized for local people, with the assistance of the University of Al Baïda.

- j) The first Association of Volunteers of Cyrene has been set up and is very active and motivated, in particular in the clearance and surveillance of the property.

A number of longer-term measures have been launched, including:

- a) A project for the creation and equipping of a museum, which would also be available for research teams, for training, and for restoration studios.
- b) The progressive implementation of purification stations in order to assist in solving problems of pollution that affect the property.
- c) The creation of a coordination committee reporting to the Prime Minister, to implement large-scale projects in the Djebel El Akbar area.

The mission report identified some problems that still persist:

- a) Although the technical staff has been increased, there is a need to provide training in certain specialized areas, such as surveillance and monitoring personnel and young conservation specialists.
- b) The Management Plan remains to be completed: it should be recognized that the 2006 emergency plan is only the first step in the implementation of this vital tool.
- c) Monitoring of facilities work (VRD) and of construction should be improved. This will require the establishment of a consultative mechanism between urban planners in New Shahat and the management team at the property.
- d) The Management Plan should take account of natural threats, mainly of climatic origin.
- e) Efficient collaboration should be established with the University of Al Baïda in the fields of archaeological research and the training of archaeologists for site management.
- f) Computer training programmes provided by foreign missions must be strengthened by a genuine transfer of technical knowhow to Department of Antiquities staff so as to reduce external dependence.

The recommendations of the mission were as follows:

- a) The capacities of the Department of Antiquities staff should be strengthened by the introduction of training programmes and technical specialization.
- b) The Management Plan should be completed and implemented as a matter of urgency.
- c) The State Party should transmit the precise delineation of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone to the World Heritage Centre.
- d) 'Visit itineraries' should be prepared to favour better comprehension and preservation of the property.
- e) The State Party should inform the World Heritage Centre of all new projects that might have an adverse impact on the property, such as the establishment of a new urban settlement near Shahat.
- f) An international technical committee should be set up to monitor architectural projects proposed for the property and for the museum.
- g) Harsh cleaning treatments and over restoration of monuments that might adversely impact the "authenticity and integrity" of the property should be avoided.
- h) Reinforce the information programme aimed at raising public awareness of the importance and fragility.

Draft Decision: 31 COM 7B.63

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.3**, 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 presentation to the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd Session in 2009.

64. Ancient Ksour of Ouadane, Chinguetti, Tichitt and Oualata (Mauritania) (C 750)

See Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1987

Criteria

(iv) (v)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 15B.46; 29 COM 7B.43; 30 COM 7B.45

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 49,833

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

Reactive monitoring mission in September 2003; World Heritage Centre mission in November 2003; UNESCO-Rabat mission in March 2005; Joint World Heritage Centre - ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission in April 2006; joint World Heritage Centre -ICOMOS Reactive monitoring mission in February 2007

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Near total abandonment of the property;
- b) Gully erosion;
- c) Rock falls due to erosion;
- d) Increased offences in old *Ksar* and degradation;
- e) Delays in the establishment of a technical and administrative structure responsible for the site;
- f) Lack of a management plan for the property;
- g) Uncontrolled tourism and visitor pressure.

Current conservation issues

As requested by the Committee, the State Party submitted a report in January 2007, in which it provided information about the progress made regarding conservation and management of the property. Work on the site was guided by a multi-sectoral committee, presided by the Governor of Ouarzazate and composed of CERKAS (*Centre de Conservation et de Réhabilitation du Patrimoine Architectural des Zones Atlasiques et Subatlasiques*), a delegation of the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Housing, division of Urbanism and local authorities.

The Ministry of Culture and CERKAS, assisted by CRATerre (*Centre International de la Construction en Terre*) had started drafting a site management plan through International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund. It contains a vision of the future state of the site in 2012, a comprehensive SWOT analysis and an Action Plan for 2007-2012. Several crucial sections then remained to be completed on resources, visitor management, and monitoring. The Plan includes details of a request for human and financial resources made to the Prime Minister and to be allocated to CERKAS to strengthen local management.

In February 2007 a joint World Heritage Centre /ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission visited the property at the invitation of the Moroccan authorities. The mission reviewed the implementation of the decision 30 COM 7B.45 of the World Heritage Committee, evaluated the overall state of conservation of the site.

The mission noted that conservation activities and standards continue to improve but are held back by lack of resources. The mission was concerned that CERKAS is still underfunded and as an example, has no vehicle to allow access to the many sites for which it responsibility. No overall programme of conservation has yet been prepared. However the mission was encouraged by news of the development of earth building codes through collaboration between the State Party and the Getty Conservation Institute and others. Furthermore, a partnership between the Getty and CERKAS on a project at Ksar Ait-Ben-Haddou is under negotiation.

The mission noted that plans for the construction of a bridge connecting the Ksar to the opposite bank of the *wadi* were now at an advanced state and construction is expected to begin during 2007. The mission urges caution during the completion of designs and implementation phases of the bridge and recommends that the visual impact remains as low as possible. Further, the mission recommends that no development should occur on the Ksar side of the bridge and that proper controls should be in place to strictly limit the access of people and of animals, and of fire and ambulance vehicles.

Despite the improvements, the World Heritage property is not yet managed by a single authority with legal powers and financial autonomy. Two committees have been established: at the local level, a committee is in operation that comprises representatives of CERKAS, the Municipality, the president of the rural community, delegation of Culture of Ouarzazate, Public Works, Tourism, Urbanism, Housing, Environmental Inspection, Health, National Education, Directorate of Drinking Water, Maroc Telecom and the Delegation of Arts & Crafts. A second committee operates at an inter-ministerial level, focusing on improving cooperation at the highest level. Both of these committees are now active and fully operational. A management structure is now emerging from meetings held by these Committees at local and at ministerial levels, but further progress and resources are still needed.

The mission identified the following measures to be effectively implemented by 1 February 2009:

- a) Establishment of an effective and transparent management structure, on site, with legal powers, adequate decentralised financing and technical staffing. The mission noted that CERKAS should be given this role and be strengthened;
- b) Establishment of regular decentralized financial allocations by the Government of Morocco to reinforce CERKAS and its conservation activities;
- c) Establishment of a special decree or by-laws to mandate interventions regarding ownership issues in relation to planning activities, particularly for structures in a critical state;
- d) Finalisation of the draft and formal adoption of the Management Plan;
- e) Continuation of preventive conservation measures with increased programming in respect to the buildings requiring urgent intervention to prevent further decay and deterioration, to be developed simultaneously with setting up the Management Plan.

Draft 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1997

Criteria

(ii) (iii) (iv) (vi)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 7B. 100; 30 COM 7B. 55

International Assistance

Total amount allocated to the property : USD 7,500 for Technical cooperation.

UNESCO Extrabudgetary Funds

Total amount allocated to the property: USD 3,700 for an expert technical mission.

Previous monitoring missions

2003: World Heritage Centre mission; April 2005: expert mission; February 2007: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Pressures linked to development and the need to preserve the landscape;
- b) Implementation of a large-scale construction project at the entrance to the property;
- c) Lack of a management plan.

Current conservation problems

Since 2005, large-scale development projects undertaken on the property of Volubilis are cause for concern. These new, large-scale constructions have a serious visual impact on the surrounding landscape. The State Party was urgently requested to review the project and consider its modification. To this end, the Ministry of Culture, contracting authority for the development work, created an expert committee responsible for the implementation of the recommendations of the World Heritage Centre experts and the decision taken by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006).

As requested by the Committee in paragraph 7 of its Decision **30 COM 7B.55**, the State Party transmitted a report on the state of conservation of the property to the World Heritage Centre in January 2007. It gives a detailed description of the Development Plan for Volubilis, containing the modifications made according to the recommendations of the Committee in paragraph 4 of its Decision **30 COM 7B.55**. Thus, the idea to build a theatre on the property has been abandoned; there will be no built construction, and the choice of a lightweight, temporary structure for the duration of the events was adopted. The area reserved for the interpretation centre has been reduced: 420 square metres instead of 520. In its “lower part” (covered area, but open to the outside), the interpretation centre will house the stelae and statues. In its “upper part”, there will be an area for the promotion of regional heritage, an area for the presentation of Volubilis, a large aerial photo of the property and a temporary exhibition area. An important attention is given to the use of natural materials for the project (wood and stone).

The updated management plan of the property, requested by the Committee in its Decision **30 COM 7B.55**, paragraph 5, is under preparation. Its main points are presented in the above-mentioned report. A drafting committee, comprising representatives of all the departments concerned, supported by multidisciplinary experts, has been created for this purpose. The management plan will take into consideration the national laws in force and will conform to the charters and international conventions dealing with the conservation and management of cultural heritage. However, in view of the evolution of the different specifications, this will require periodical updating and reevaluation. A request for international assistance could be submitted by the State Party for the provision of expertise for the preparation of this plan. The reactive monitoring mission sent to the property in February 2007 noted the property management ensured by a conservator, an assistant conservator and archaeologists, amongst whom were teachers from the National Institute of Archaeological Sciences and Heritage. Staff responsible for guarding and property surveillance, as well as staff in charge of ticketing and guide services are present at the property. However, there is still an urgent need for a management plan for the property.

The Ministry of Culture, in the State Party's report of January 2007, proposed that the buffer zone, requested by the Committee in its Decisions **29 COM 7B.100** and **30 COM 7B.55**, correspond to the extremely vast zone of protection, defined by the *Dahir* of 19 Novembre 1920.

Draft 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1987

Criteria

(iv)

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

1988-2004

Previous Committee Decisions:

28 COM 15A.19; 29 COM 7B.46; 30 COM 7B.56

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 66,772 for technical co-operation.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 25,000 (private funding).

Previous monitoring missions

World Heritage Centre expert missions in 2001, 2002 and 2003.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Deterioration of the earthen structures of the Fort;
- b) Lack of appropriate conservation techniques;
- c) Urban pressure essentially due to the project for a new market near the Fort, including proposals for the urban development of the area;
- d) Lack of management mechanisms, including legislation.

Current conservation issues

In Decision **30 COM 7B.56**, the State Party had been requested to submit the following:

- a) A comprehensive report on the restoration works carried out at Bahla Fort, including graphic documentation and pictures;
- b) The final adopted version of the Management plan;
- c) The legal framework being established for the implementation of the Management plan;
- d) The administrative structure established for the execution of the Management Plan;
- e) A summary of the seminars which took place concerning the Management Plan and their outcomes;
- f) A progress report on the work already undertaken for Souq Bahla.

On 21 March 2007, the Omani authorities transmitted to the World Heritage Centre a report which gives a summary of the restoration works and the archaeological excavations carried out since 1992. The World Heritage Centre notes the extensive works for the preservation and presentation of the property, including the efforts made to maintain or revive the craftsmanship skills (carpentry, blacksmith and brick production).

Concerning the works on the Souq Bahla, the State Party report refers to consultations held in March 2006 with shopkeepers, based on which a project is currently being developed.

On the other hand, in 2004 the property had been removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger on the basis of the commitment of the State Party towards the preparation of a Management plan, besides the implementation of conservation measures. The cover letter from the State Party announces the final Management Plan. However, the document attached to the report is the Management Plan dated 2005, being the replica of the one of 2003, that did not take into account, as requested in Decision **30 COM 7B.56**, the recommendations of the World Heritage Centre and of ICOMOS.

In the report submitted by the State Party, it is declared that some important provisions of the Management Plan, proposed in 2005 but not officially adopted, are already operational, such as the control on any development initiative. However, the report does not provide any detailed information on how this controlling mechanism functions in practice. It would appear that no official progress has been achieved in this regard and that the concerns expressed by the World Heritage Committee on the possible negative impact of the development in the oasis have not yet been addressed. Neither is any indication given on the legal framework nor on the administrative structure for the execution of the Management plan.

Draft 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 respectively,*
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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2006

Criteria

(v)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 8B.37

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Main threats identified in previous reports

N/A

Current conservation issues

At the 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), the Committee inscribed the property on the World Heritage List and requested the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2007, for examination at its 31st session in 2007:

- a) Documentation confirming that the enlarged areas are given adequate legal protection;
- b) A management plan or system for the settlement areas, to complement traditional management arrangements, which addresses the restoration, and conservation of the traditional structures such as mosques, watchtowers, forts, houses, and wash places, the re-introduction of traditional mortars, the control of development, the management of visitors, and the presentation of the property.

In January 2007, the State Party submitted documents on legal protection and on the management plan.

Legal Protection:

The State Party submitted:

- c) A list of existing laws applying to the *Aflaj* systems and details of some of these (Water Wealth Protection Law, 2000, the Law on Conservation of the Environment and Prevention of Pollution, 2001, the Law on Protection of Sources of Drinking Water from Pollution, Laws to Protect Natural Heritage, 1980). These laws apply to parts of the property, as established at the time of inscription.
- d) A document entitled 'Proposed New Laws and Regulations'. The document defines what the laws will apply to including agricultural land, monuments, wells, protection zones, etc, lists 35 Articles which define appropriate uses and uses not permitted, and provides a chart of Guidelines for the *Aflaj* Protection Zone (this covers the use of water). The Articles cover heritage properties, new building and the use of land watered by the irrigation channels. No details are given as to when these proposed new laws will come into force.
- e) A 'Ministerial Decree on the creation of a National Committee for management and development of the Nominated *Falaj*'. This Committee which was set up by Ministerial Decree on 4 October 2006 is headed by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Water Resources and includes the Directors or Director-Generals of all the relevant Departments in the Ministries of Heritage and Culture, the Interior, Tourism, Environment and Water Resources, Agriculture, Housing, Water and Electricity. The Committee is tasked with the management and development of the five inscribed *Aflaj*.
- f) A Ministerial Decree, date 30 October 2006, on the creation of a Section belonging to the Directorate of *Aflaj* named 'Section for *Aflaj* which are listed as World Heritage'. The section's main functions are to:
 - (i) Prepare a management and development plan for the *Aflaj* World Heritage property;
 - (ii) Develop and maintain a database for the *Aflaj* World Heritage property;
 - (iii) Supervise and manage a permanent exhibition about the *Aflaj* World Heritage property.

Management Plan

The State Party submitted a document entitled '*Aflaj* Irrigation System of Oman World Heritage property Management Plan: Action Plan'. The first sections of this document provide a description of the site and its importance; details of the legal protection, both in force at the time of inscription and being developed, and examples of the involvement of local communities and the booklets they have prepared.

Section 3 sets out an overall vision for the World Heritage property, details of the main issues to be addressed, policies and objectives and a list of actions to deliver those objectives. As the Plan was produced in a very short space of time, only a few selected issues were addressed. What has so far been achieved is seen as the groundwork for a five-year plan. Nevertheless the Plan has made very considerable progress in highlighting the scope of the issues, the need to work toward sustainable development of the *falaj* communities and the potential to harness the energy and enthusiasm of local communities.

What has emerged from this initial plan is the urgent need for data-gathering, particularly in the downstream areas, before starting to formulate policies or conservation work. There is also a need to ensure that there are realistic means of implementing the short-term Action Plan. The size and complexity of the inscribed sites with their wide range of technical, architectural and archaeological attributes highlighted the need for an inter-disciplinary approach and this was addressed with the setting up of an *Aflaj* Committee.

Simultaneously with the implementation of the short-term Action Plan, it is envisaged that the Medium-Term Management Plan will be developed. An outline of this document is submitted and this includes addressing the development of a conservation philosophy, specialist approaches to mud-brick villages, palm plantations, capacity building, conservation of the natural environment, education, research and knowledge, and economic development of the property.

Draft 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 inscribed 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 perceptive and 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

FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1998

Criteria

(ii) (iii) (iv)(vi)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 15B.64; 30 COM 7B.67

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Main threats identified in previous reports

Potential negative impact of an express highway on the World Heritage property

Current conservation issues

Over the past years, the World Heritage Centre had received several letters and reports from an NGO called "Society for Protecting the Heijyokyo Capital Site", expressing strong concerns for the possible negative impact of the proposed Yamato-Kita express highway on the heritage value of the property.

By letters dated 29 January 2007, the State Party of Japan has transmitted to the World Heritage Centre a report on the progress concerning the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed Yamato-Kita express highway, as well as information regarding the plans for the celebrations foreseen on the occasion of the 1300th anniversary of Nara, in 2010. With regard to the points raised by the Committee in its Decision **30 COM 7B.67**, the State Party provided the following information.

The EIA, which is still under way, is under the supervision of three independent committees, established by the Government of Japan and composed of university professors and other experts in various relevant fields, as well as of the Urban Planning Council of Nara and Kyoto Prefectures. These structures, it is stated in the State Party report, are completely independent from the Government. Meetings of the three expert committees were open to the public and their proceedings disseminated through various media, including the internet. Public surveys were also carried out on seven occasions (collecting opinions received from 4,693 persons) as well as "explanatory assemblies". Moreover, throughout the process for the identification, formulation, design and execution of this project, no consultant involved at one stage will be reused at a later stage. These provisions, according to the State Party, ensure the independence, objectivity and transparency of the process "to the same level that would be obtained by entrusting the EIA to an independent consultant".

The process for the EIA, which is still underway, involved the initial examination of ten alternative options, which were assessed in terms of costs and benefits against various criteria including consideration for impact on archaeological remains and landscape integrity, and traffic congestion. After careful evaluation, the three expert committees identified from these a preferred route for the express highway (i.e. the so-called Saikyo-Saho Line). This underground route runs outside the core and buffer zones of the World Heritage property, thus avoiding any possible impact on its archaeological and visual integrity values. Concerning the issue of the possible fluctuation of the ground water level resulting from the construction of the highway, a study conducted by a group of experts has determined that this would be limited to a few centimetres, i.e. much less than the average seasonal fluctuation. Finally, careful soundings and preventive excavations will be carried out in the areas concerned by the access ramps of the highway, where strata of potential archaeological interest would be affected.

At present, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared for the selected route, and comments have been received by the public and experts. Based on these comments, the expert committees will review and finalise the EIS which will be eventually submitted to the Urban Planning Council for approval. No final decision will be made until then.

As regards the issue of traffic congestion, the Nara Prefecture has established an additional expert group tasked with the elaboration of a traffic management plan. The express highway is expected to ease the traffic through the historic areas of the city, but an easier access to the town centre might result in strong congestion at peak times. For this reason, the State Party is considering the establishment of a series of "park and ride" facilities to encourage visitors to the World Heritage area to use public transportation.

The State Party has also provided information on the extensive plans being prepared for the 1300th anniversary celebrations that will take place in 2010. These are going to be held, among other locations, at the site of the Heijo Palace in Nara, extending over some 130 hectares within the core area of the World Heritage property. Here, the current plan foresees the construction of several temporary structures including nine wooden pavilions; two overpasses across the existing railway and the Miyato Street; gardens; other visitors' facilities such as food areas, first aid and washrooms; and a route network to link all of the above.

These pavilions are meant to attract visitors and provide them with an introduction to the Japanese heritage as well as to World Heritage in general and the need to protect it. The Nara Prefecture, responsible for the events, has established two experts' committees to investigate issues related to the structural design and landscaping of these temporary structures, which will be removed after the end of the celebrations.

These two committees have produced technical reports identifying, among other aspects, the main conservation issues related to the erection of the proposed facilities, and defining a series of design principles that are meant to minimize or avoid completely any risk of damage to the unexcavated archaeological remains which are buried under the surface of the area of the Heijo palace, at a depth ranging from -0.5 to -1.5 Mts. Through a series of soundings, it has been shown that the distribution of the archaeological remains and the nature and structure of the soil varies from one location to another across the area of the former Palace.

Based on these principles, including no digging of the ground, distributing loads to avoid soil compression as well as external piping etc., the Nara Prefecture intends to develop the detailed project for the temporary structures. Currently, the Agency for Cultural Affairs of Japan is studying the above-mentioned plans and technical reports.

The World Heritage Centre received a new letter, dated 10 March 2007, from the "Society for Protecting the Heijyokyo Capital Site", contesting the validity of the explanations provided by the State Party. In particular, the NGO considers that the Urban Planning Council of Nara and appointed Experts' Committees are not independent from the Government, and that the expert study which determined the fluctuation of the water table is not reliable. Finally, the NGO questions the very need for the highway, in the light of demographic projections that predict a considerable reduction in population (and therefore car traffic) in Japan over the next 40 years.

Draft 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 29th (Durban, 2005) 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. *Takes also note, with satisfaction, that the route selected for the proposed express highway runs outside the core and buffer zones of the World Heritage property;*
5. *Requests the State Party to consider very carefully all existing opinions and technical studies in the process of preparing the EIS 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 Environmental Impact Statement 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 World Heritage property, including the erection of built 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 pay its utmost attention to ensure that the proposed temporary pavilions and other structures to be erected on the site of the Heijo palace will not cause any negative impact on the archaeological remains buried underground, or on the visual integrity of the landscape, and that the concerned area will be returned to its pristine condition following the celebrations for the 1300th Anniversary of Nara in 2010;*
9. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008**, a report on the state of conservation of this property, with particular regard to the progress made in the EIA for the Yamato-Kita express highway and the design of the temporary structures for the 1300th anniversary of Nara, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.*

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

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

74. Samarkand - Crossroad of Cultures (Uzbekistan) (C 603 rev)

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

75. Complex of Hué Monuments (Viet Nam) (C 678)

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

FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING NO DISCUSSION

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1985

Criteria

(i) (ii) (vi)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions:

27COM 7B.42; 28 COM 15B.53; 29 COM 7B.48

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 100,000 (Technical co-operation: USD 20,000; Training Assistance: USD 35,000; Technical Co-operation/Emergency assistance including the study of and recommendations on remedial actions for the drainage problems, and monitoring of the internal moisture conditions (2005): USD 45,000

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 390,000 received from UNDP, UNESCO, Japan Funds-in-Trust and NORAD for the Safeguarding Campaign Project.

Previous monitoring missions:

UNESCO missions in October 2002 and February 2003.

Main threats identified in previous reports:

General threats:

- a) Lack of capacity in conservation techniques;
- b) Lack of management mechanism;
- c) Lack of monitoring system;
- d) Lack of human and financial resources.

Specific threats:

- e) Negative impact of telephone tower built by the State Party within the property buffer zone on heritage and landscape value; Property boundaries and buffer zone boundaries not clearly defined;
- f) Inadequate statement of Outstanding Universal Value;
- g) Absence of specific and practical management plan for Paharpur;
- h) Drainage and internal moisture contents problem.

Current conservation issues

On 21 December 2006, the Department of Archaeology of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs submitted a report to respond to the decisions taken by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005). The State Party report notes the following:

1. In November 2005, four site attendants were hired to strengthen security, and the deployment of five additional guards is now being organised.
2. The Ministry of Cultural Affairs conducted an “environmental impact assessment of the telephone tower on the heritage and landscape values of the Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur” in June 2005. Their report noted that the 43 meter high telephone tower located at a distance of 613 meters from the northeast corner of the monastery was aesthetically disturbing as it was much higher than the central temple of the monastery. They proposed that it should be shifted at least 500 meters further away. Following this recommendation, the tower was removed and replaced by two lower towers outside of the buffer zone and not visible from the site.
3. The State Party will carry out a study of the property’s drainage problems for eventual consideration and review by the World Heritage Centre. This activity was delayed due to political unrest and changes within the Ministry. An international seminar on drainage problems is currently being planned to be held later this year.

However, the report provided by the State Party does not respond to the request made by the 29th session (Durban, 2005) to redefine the limits of the core and buffer zones of the property “on the basis of a stronger Statement of Outstanding Universal Value”. This was the most critical of the Committee’s requests to the State Party, given its importance for defining and sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the site, and ICOMOS is very concerned that the State Party report makes no reference to this point.

In addition, there is no specific site management plan, although this is urgently required in order to ensure the management and preservation of the property. The UNESCO Dhaka Office has suggested that assistance should be provided to the national authorities and therefore the State Party is encouraged to request International Assistance.

Draft 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 World Heritage Committee for formal approval;*

6. Requests 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. Also 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1994; 2000; 2001

Criteria

(i) (iv) (vi)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 15B.55. 29 COM. 7B. 50

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

March 2001, ICOMOS ; 20-25 April 2003, UNESCO Expert / ICOMOS ; 4-7 May 2005, World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Uncontrolled urban development and expansion of tourism-related facilities in and adjacent to the boundary of the property;
- b) Negative impact of the rehabilitation projects on the protection of the traditional urban tissue of the historic centre.

Current conservation issues

The State of Conservation report submitted by the State Party (29 January 2007) provides a detailed account of the progress made on the follow-up of the Decision of the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee (Durban, 2005) (**29 COM 7B. 50**) carried out by the Bureau of Cultural Relics of the Tibet Autonomous Region since 2005.

In response to the recommendations made by the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission of May 2005, and reflected in Decision **29 COM 7B.50**, the State Party has carried out the following activities:

a) Institutional Co-ordination on heritage protection and management

On 15 February 2006, a Steering Committee was established by the Government of Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) to improve the co-ordination of activities for the protection and management of the property. The Committee is chaired by the Vice Chairman of TAR, and its members are composed of the Mayor of Lhasa City, heads of the Construction and Culture Departments as well as of the Bureau of Cultural Heritage and Committee of Ethnic and Religious Affairs. The Secretariat to the Steering Committee is ensured by the Director-General of Cultural Relics Bureau with staff coming from relevant departments of Lhasa Municipality. The main function of the Steering Committee is to review the overall management of the whole Lhasa city and the day-to-day management of each of the World Heritage sites in Lhasa.

b) Redefinition of the World Heritage boundaries of the property:

As requested by the Committee, the State Party submitted to the World Heritage Centre detailed maps indicating the revised boundaries of the World Heritage buffer zones pertaining to Potala Palace, Jokhang Temple and Norbulingka. In the three cases, the buffer zones have been substantially enlarged. The redefined buffer zones have been formally approved and announced by the Government of Tibet Autonomous Region.

c) Reappraisal and revision of the Urban Development Plan of Lhasa and of the Conservation Plans for the World Heritage property

The Department of Construction of TAR and Lhasa Municipality are revising the Urban Development Plan of Lhasa. Moreover, as required by the existing laws and procedures, the Bureau of Cultural Relics of TAR has asked the China Institute of Cultural Property and the Henan Institute of Ancient Architecture to elaborate a master plan for the protection of Potala Palace and Norbulingka. Having completed field survey of the two places, the experts are preparing and finalizing the plan. The Bureau is also discussing the formulation of the plan for the protection of Jokhang Temple with the China Institute of Cultural Property. The revised Urban Development and Conservation Plan of Lhasa and the new plan for the protection of Potala Palace, Jokhang Temple and Norbulingka will be enacted after the examination and approval by the competent authorities.

d) Activities relating to public awareness-raising

The TAR authorities have organized activities to publicise the value of the property and the work conducted for its protection, on the occasion of the China Cultural Heritage Day. Furthermore, information meetings on the restoration and renovation projects of Potala Palace and Norbulingka were organized for the media.

The State Party's report includes also information on a renovation project being carried out at Banrao Courtyard in northwest of Jokhang Temple, as well as on the progress made on the implementation of the conservation projects which were carried out the Potala Palace (approximately USD 21.3 million) and Norbulingka (USD 8.75 million) from 2002 to 2007. Activities for the protection and maintenance project for Jokhang Temple have been scheduled to take place in 2008.

The area facing the Potala Palace has been cleared of recent buildings dating from 1970 onward, while a re-vegetation program was carried out in their place. The buildings removed included the Working People's Cultural Palace, the farmer's market, the Chief Labour Union of Lhasa and the Activity Centre for Women and Children. Similar projects (USD 7.5 million) for Norbulingka and Jokhang Temple have been planned for 2007 and 2008.

Efforts are being made also to improve site presentation and interpretation. The opening of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway, starting from 1 July 2006, has caused a significant increase in the

number of visitors to the property, particularly to the Potala Palace. The TAR Government introduced some management measures to reduce the negative impact of mass tourism on the heritage values of the property.

On 7 March 2007, China's State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH) submitted to the World Heritage Centre a Protection Plan of the Shöl Area (Snow City), prepared by the Cultural Relics Bureau of TAR. This document has been transmitted to ICOMOS for its review and comments.

The World Heritage Centre considers that the report submitted by the State Party has addressed all the points raised by the Committee in 2005. The efforts made by the Chinese authorities in this respect should be commended.

It will be important, however, that drafts of the Lhasa City Urban Development Plan, and of the new plan for the protection of Potala Palace, Jokhang Temple and Norbulingka, which are currently being revised, be transmitted to the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS for comments before final approval and enactment by the Chinese authorities. These Plans should be coherent and complementary and include conservation policies for the traditional buildings within the historic areas of the City, as well as specific provisions for land-use within the extended buffer zones. They should also be accompanied by an assessment of the foreseeable socio-economic impacts of the conservation policies adopted by the State Party for the World Heritage property on the local communities, as well as proposed mitigation measures.

Draft 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 World Heritage 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 World Heritage 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 439bis)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

82. Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodhgaya (India) (C1056 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

2002

Criteria

(i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (vi)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 15B.57; 29 COM 7B.52; 30 COM 7B.64

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

Joint ICOMOS-World Heritage Centre mission in April 2005.

Main threats identified in previous reports:

General threats:

- a) Lack of co-ordinated and integrated management system;
- b) Lack of detailed property documentation;
- c) Increasing numbers of visitors.

Specific threats:

- d) Loss of character of the cultural landscape directly associated with the property and its outstanding universal value;
- e) Lack of protection under national legislation.

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the World Heritage property on 27 January 2007. The report comments in detail on measures undertaken by the State Party to improve management of the property. These include:

- a) Creation of an "Expert Advisory Committee" to assist with implementation of the site management plan. This group has met twice and made useful recommendations on a number of technical points;
- b) Adoption of the site management plan of April 2005 by the Bodhgaya Temple Management Committee (BTMC), and ratification by the multi-stakeholder Advisory Board of the BTMC on 8 November 2006;
- c) Adoption of the "Heritage led perspective development plan for Bodhgaya, Vision 2005-2031" by BTMC's Advisory Board on 8 November 2006 and also by the Gaya Regional Development Authority on 12 December 2006. The State Party report notes that the zoning proposed in the site management plan for core, buffer and periphery zones have been included in the development plan. The State Party also notes that the Gaya Regional Development Authority has submitted the Vision 2005-2031 document to the state government of Bihar for final approval and notification, and that approval is expected by 15 February 2007;
- d) Adoption of construction ban within prescribed zones, along with legal actions;
- e) Efforts to improve security of the Temple premises by the BTMC in accordance with the provisions made in the site management plan;
- f) Further efforts to ensure technical strengthening of the BTMC committee and the establishment of a heritage reserve fund, to be utilized for the conservation and maintenance of the Temple Complex.

In relation to recommendations made by the World Heritage Committee at its 28th (Suzhou, 2004), 29th (Durban, 2005) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions to ensure the nomination of the related landscape identified with the wanderings and enlightenment of the Lord Buddha in this region as an extension to the Mahabodhi Temple Complex, the State Party notes that funds are being sought from the Government of India to develop an "information base including GIS mapping of the surrounding regions" to facilitate finalizing a proposal for the extension of the property.

In response to previous recommendations made by the World Heritage Committee that the State Party, "as a matter of priority, follow-up on the possible designation of the property under national legislation", the State Party report emphasizes that "technical support for conservation of Mahabodhi Temple and other ancient structures is extended by the Archaeological Survey of India, as and when required by the BTMC". It is also noted that the Temple is now managed under a special act of the State Government of Bihar and could also

be brought under the Archaeological act of the State Government of Bihar to further enhance the requisite protection of the site, and its authenticity, integrity and outstanding universal value.

In relation to site management, it is noted:

- (i) That the State Party should inform the Committee whether the confirmation of approval of "Bodhgaya Vision 2005-2031" by the Gaya Regional Government, expected February 2007, has been received.
- (ii) While the efforts to integrate provisions of both documents are appreciated, it is suggested that the State Party confirm the primacy of the site management plan, should there be any conflict between the Vision 2005-2031 development plan and the site management plan.
- (iii) ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre note the efforts to ban new construction until the development plan is fully adopted, and to take legal action if required. It would be appreciated if the State Party could confirm that illegal constructions which are numerous, and in many cases very offensive, will all be removed from the World Heritage site and its buffer zone.

In relation to extending the nomination to include the surrounding cultural landscape, it is noted, as last year, that the activities intended to be undertaken by the State Party prior to inclusion of the surrounding cultural landscape (2006: detailed archaeological surveys and excavations, 2007: GIS data base), are not critically important for adequately defining an associative cultural landscape of this scale and importance. ICOMOS would like to stress again that the State Party should give the extension of the site the highest priority, given that this cultural landscape is inextricably linked with the outstanding universal value of the property, and that any further delay in including the related landscape as an essential part of an extended nomination puts its survival at risk.

In relation to protecting the site under national legislation, ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre again emphasize that while recognizing the difficulties of extending national legislation to a living religious site, and the importance of strengthening protective measures at State level, that a site of World Heritage status deserves to be recognized nationally and offered the benefit of all possible national level support and protection. It is suggested that efforts in this direction be combined with efforts to extend and redefine the World Heritage property to include the associated cultural landscape.

Draft 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 World Heritage 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 inscribed Mahabodhi Temple site, 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1991

Criteria

(i) (iv)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 7B.60

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 75,000 Emergency Assistance, June 2006.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 250,000

Previous monitoring missions

Joint reactive monitoring mission World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS in February 2006 and World Heritage Centre mission in June 2006.

Main threats identified in previous reports

Earthquake

Current conservation issues

By letter dated 31 January 2007, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, following the earthquake that struck the region of Yogyakarta on 27 May 2006.

The report provides information on the activities that have taken place at the site following the mission dispatched by the World Heritage Centre in June 2006, immediately after the disaster, including through a request of emergency assistance (for USD 75,000) that had been approved by the Chairperson of the Committee. These activities were mostly aimed at documenting the situation and reducing the risks associated to the deformation of the structures of the temples, to prevent their possible collapse and the fall of unstable stone-blocks.

The Government of Indonesia established immediately a Task Force, responsible for identifying, co-ordinating and implementing the actions necessary for the protection of the temples and their visitors. Following the closure of the dangerous areas to visitors, among the first actions carried out has been a comprehensive documentation and survey of the state of the monuments, including the laser scanning of the compounds. From the preliminary observations conducted, it appeared that the foundations of the monuments are generally in good condition. The recording of cracks and deformations has shown that the degree of structural damage is higher where the stones had been glued to each other, in the framework of past restoration interventions, with a special chemical substance, called epoxy resin, such as in the Siwa Temple. The resin, indeed, had forced the structure to work as a monolith, thus reducing its capacity to absorb the horizontal thrust caused by the earthquake.

As part of the immediate measures to reduce risks at the property, fallen or dangerously leaning stones were then collected, identified and numbered, and placed in a storage area. 1600 stones were thus removed from the site, including from the balustrade of the Wisnu and Brahma Temples. Scaffoldings and other propping structures made of steel and wood were then installed, for example at the Sewu and Lumbung Temples, which had been severely damaged by the earthquake. The main tower of the Sewu Temple was also chained by means of special fibre stripes, to ensure its stability. These works and the relative equipment were paid through the emergency assistance requested under the World Heritage Fund.

In the meantime, the coordination of activities continued, including with international partners. A first national expert meeting took place on 20 July 2006, followed by the visit of a group of experts from Japan (20-26 July 2006) and aimed at identifying a possible joint project for the safeguarding of the World Heritage property. In November 2006, a new *National Consultative Meeting* was held in Yogyakarta, bringing together all the stakeholders involved in the rehabilitation efforts in the field of cultural heritage in the aftermath of the May 2006 earthquake. Following a visit to the site of its representatives, moreover, the Government of Saudi Arabia decided to make a contribution of USD 250,000, through the UNESCO Office in Jakarta, to the efforts for the rehabilitation of the site.

With an aim to ensure the coherence and compatibility of all these initiatives, and also to review the situation at ten months from the earthquake and draw recommendations for the future, an international expert meeting was then organized jointly by the Department of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Indonesia and the UNESCO Office in Jakarta, with funding from Saudi Arabia. This meeting, which took place between 5 and 8 March 2007, resulted in the elaboration of an Action Plan, for the continuation of the rehabilitation campaign at Prambanan and other affected heritage properties in the region. It gathered around 100 participants, including an interdisciplinary team of Indonesian experts from the University of Gadjah Mada in Yogyakarta as well as several international experts in the field of cultural heritage conservation and risk-management for cultural heritage, from Australia, China, India, Italy, Japan and the United States. At the time of writing the present report (12 March 2007), the Action Plan had not yet been finalised.

The efforts of the State Party and the international community to protect the World Heritage property should be highly commended. There has been indeed an extraordinary mobilisation over the past months to assist in the documentation of the state of conservation of the monuments and their temporary stabilisation. The long-term conservation of the Temples, however, will require significantly larger investments and careful consideration of the very complex technical issues arising from the special situation of the buildings, notably due to the impact of past restoration interventions on their structural nature and behaviour.

The State Party should therefore continue the ongoing effort in close co-ordination with the World Heritage Centre and other international partners, including ICOMOS and ICCROM, to ensure that the most appropriate strategy for the rehabilitation of the Temples Compound is identified and carried out. In this regard, the organization of periodical experts' meetings to review the progress of the works and advise on relevant issues appears as a necessity.

Draft 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 World Heritage 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1991

Criteria

(i) (ii) (vi)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 7B.53; 30 COM 7B.65

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 5,000 for promotional assistance in 1999.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 7,000,000 between 1972 and 1983.

Previous monitoring missions

Reactive monitoring missions: April 2003 and February 2006.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Development pressure;
- b) Uncontrolled vendors around the property;
- c) Lack of institutional co-ordination.
- d) Poor state of the stone bas-reliefs.

Current conservation issues

By letter dated 31 January 2007, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property. With regard to the points raised by the Committee in its Decision **30 COM 7B.65**, the report provides the following information.

The commercial street development along the road to the northern edge of zone 2 of the World Heritage property (i.e. the buffer zone) has been stopped and will not be implemented in the form originally proposed.

An impact assessment for the (non operational) asphalt mixing plant constructed in the vicinity of the Temple had been carried out already in 2004. This has highlighted the significant risk of adverse impact on the stone of the monument which would have resulted from the chemical agents used in the mixing plant. For this reason, the latter has been stopped by judicial Decree of the Mageland Regency, which also requested the owner of the plant to move the structure to an alternative, appropriate location.

As for the requested revision of the legal and institutional framework for the protection and management of the property, the State Party has engaged in an inter-institutional consultation process. At the same time, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism has been tasked to conduct an evaluation of the existing legal framework. While emphasising the difficulty of such an exercise, the State Party has expressed its readiness to revise the current Presidential Decree (N.1/1992) with a view to strengthening its effectiveness. The report of the State Party, however, does not provide any indication of the expected timeframe for the elaboration and possible adoption of the revised Presidential Decree.

The report of the State Party contains as well an architectural plan for the improvement of the entry area, as requested by the Committee in 2006. This appears to concentrate mainly on the execution of newly designed main gate and ticket gates, as well as on new signage posts. The plan seems to leave unchanged the layout of the parking and vendor areas, and does not include the redesign of the retail markets in pavilion style architecture, as recommended in the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission report of 2006.

The interpretation at the property, moreover, has been improved by re-arranging the collections of the so-called Ship Museum and rationalising the tourism flow. New explanatory brochures are being developed in various languages.

In cooperation with an international expert dispatched by the World Heritage Centre, and funded by the Italian Government, a comprehensive review of the current policies for the conservation of the stone of the Borobudur temple has been carried out. This review has helped clarifying the processes of the deterioration of the stone, and has led to the design of a new monitoring protocol aimed at validating the hypotheses formulated and controlling the state of conservation of the monument. The review also resulted in a series of recommendations concerning the conservation policies currently in place at Borobudur, some of which, according to the international expert, must be changed as a matter of urgency.

The practices that appear to have a negative impact on the state of conservation of the property include steam cleaning of the stone; injections of epoxy resin in cracks and alveoli; the application of layers of epoxy resin araldite on the stone; and the coating of the stone with silicon-based water repellent. All these activities seem to cause the faster deterioration of the stone and should be stopped, pending the results of further analyses and monitoring currently underway.

The State Party should be commended for the strong commitment shown in addressing the issues raised by the Committee, and the results achieved in preventing the adverse impact of development projects; improving interpretation and presentation of the property and developing strengthened conservation policies for the stone of the Temple.

On the other hand, one of the key issues for the conservation of the property, i.e. the need for a revision of the legal and institutional framework, remains a priority. As stated in the report presented by the World Heritage Centre in 2006 (see Document *WHC-06/30.COM/7B*) "The division of the responsibility for zones 1, 2 and 3 among three separate institutions with different mandates and objectives is at the root of most of the problems at Borobudur". The improvements proposed for the entry area, in this context, are welcome but not sufficient unless accompanied by a clear policy aimed at disseminating to the communities living in the area of Borobudur the benefits derived from the tourism business, while reducing pressure on the area adjacent to the Temple from vendors and cars and maintaining the visual integrity of the surrounding rural landscape. The recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission report of 2006, in this respect, are still valid.

Draft 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 World Heritage 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 World Heritage 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 Borodbudur 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 points 4 and 5 above, for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.*

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1981

Criterion:

(iii)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions:

29 COM 7B.103; 30 COM 7B.68

International Assistance:

N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission in November/December 2006.

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Significant decay of the property caused by the local climatic conditions;
- b) Included in the List of the 100 Most Endangered Sites of the World Monuments Watch in 2005.

Current conservation issues

The report provided by the State Party describes the factors affecting the property, ranging from local climatic conditions such as rain and high temperatures and high wind velocities, as well as erosion caused by harmful salts and wear and tear caused by visitors. The state of conservation of the site ranges from general states of disrepair to decay and disintegration due to these environmental factors. In addition, the property is located in an active seismic zone.

The report provides suggestions for remedial actions to be taken for the overall site protection and states that a Master Plan has been prepared which proposes short- and long-term actions and is estimated to cost approximately USD 14.25 million. However, the report

does not provide any information concerning the protective zones nor is specific reference made to the state of conservation of particular monuments.

The joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission carried out in November/December 2006 found that while the overall presentation of the property was reasonable and conservation works were in progress, particular attention should be given to the identification of the boundaries. In addition, the mission has recommended that as a first step, a register of all monuments within the site should be established, recording the state of conservation and a treatment plan for each individual monument and tomb is to be prepared. Attention should also be given to the investigation of the stability of the Nizam al-Din tomb which may need major stabilisation and conservation interventions.

The main general recommendations of the mission are the need to:

- (i) Urgently identify the boundaries of the core and buffer zone of the necropolis;
- (ii) Adjust the strategy from a one-monument concept to a serial-site strategy (cluster of many individual tombs) with individual registration and evaluation of each tomb including their historic value, state of conservation, and an individual treatment plan;
- (iii) Work out a monitoring programme in association with the treatment plan;
- (iv) Further develop the site management plan;
- (v) Further develop the didactic concept and documentation;
- (vi) Further develop capacity building.

Specific recommendations address the need to:

- (i) As a matter of urgency, carry out soil investigations to determine the stability of the foundations (earth mechanics) of the Jam Nizam al-Din tomb. Following the results of this investigation, a proposal for measures to stabilize the endangered monument should be made. The authorities are encouraged to request emergency assistance under the World Heritage Fund for the soil investigation.
- (ii) Verify the subsoil stability and foundations of Nizam al-Din's tomb;
- (iii) Prepare a condition report for all other monuments and tombs and establish a prioritized emergency intervention plan;
- (iv) Set up a weather station for data collection for monitoring the property;
- (v) Request a name change of the World Heritage property to adequately reflect its Outstanding Universal Value.

Draft Decision: 31 COM 7B.85

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **30COM 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1980

Criteria:

(ii) (iii)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions:

30 COM 7B.69

International Assistance:

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 23,500,000 (total of contributions for the International Safeguarding Campaign for Moenjodaro)

Previous monitoring missions:

Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission in November/December 2006. Following the close of the UNESCO International Safeguarding Campaign (1974-1997), numerous UNESCO and expert missions have been carried out.

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Lack of appropriate conservation work;
- b) Deterioration of structures;
- c) Suspension of management system.

Current conservation issues:

The State Party began its report by quoting the 1972 Master Plan for the Preservation of Moenjodaro, prepared by international experts. It is comprised of five schemes, covering River Training, Ground Water Control, Plantation and Landscaping, and Cultural Tourism. The huge sums needed to implement the Master Plan led to the creation of the UNESCO International Campaign in 1974. Substantial sums were collected that financed measures aimed at eliminating the threat of flooding, lowering the water table by 7m, and preserving the structural remains against the effects of salt and drainage problems. The State Party acknowledges that only the first of these objectives was achieved.

New executive and advisory structures were set up when the International Campaign came to an end. Despite this arrangement, Moenjodaro received little attention. Therefore in 2003, UNESCO and Pakistan jointly decided to create a new management structure to accelerate the conservation and rehabilitation works, financed under the National Fund for Moenjodaro. The management structure was temporarily suspended by the Secretary of Culture in January 2006, but was re-established by the Secretary's letter of 13 December 2006. The Department of Archaeology and Museums has prepared a ten-year Master Plan for Rehabilitation and Cultural Tourism at Moenjodaro that is currently being evaluated by the relevant national authorities.

The joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission carried out in November/December 2006 found that despite remaining issues concerning organization and coherence of conservation and rehabilitation works, overall progress had been made in the protection of the exposed brick structures. The action plan proposed by the mission to address the outstanding issues supplements and updates the Medium-Term Action Plan prepared in 2003. It was therefore agreed with the national authorities that the expertise, guidance and financial assistance provided by the World Heritage Centre is imperative and shall be continued. In addition, close collaboration between the Department of Archaeology and Museums in Islamabad, the Federal Secretary of Culture and the World Heritage Centre as well as ICOMOS was requested by the State Party in order to ensure and guide the implementation of the proposed ten-year Master Plan, as well as the two-year Action Plan.

The principal general recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission were the need to:

- (i) define the boundaries of the property following the archaeological investigations;
- (ii) carry out and continue activities concerning conservation and protection of the excavated and unexcavated areas jointly with scientific documentation of all activities;
- (iii) improve the management plan in connection with the recommendations of the reactive monitoring mission;
- (iv) improve and continue monitoring of the property;
- (v) identify training needs and improve capacity building.

Specific recommendations addressed the need to:

- (i) as a matter of priority, produce a topographic map of the property and record the current boundaries of the World Heritage property;
- (ii) development and approval of an excavation strategy before any further archaeological interventions are undertaken;
- (iii) carry out initial geophysical surveys to explore the actual extent of the property together with careful archaeological excavations where necessary in order to re-define the core and buffer zones accordingly;
- (iv) further develop the conservation plan for the exposed structures and continue the successfully employed protective measures;
- (v) closely monitor human encroachment and develop an action plan for the areas which have human settlements;
- (vi) further improve the management of documents and historic data through the development of a specific documentation plan;
- (vii) further develop a tourism management and development plan in order to improve tourism facilities and guidance in close coordination with the draft Master Plan for Moenjodaro to establish an archaeological park ;
- (viii) identify training needs of site staff and within the national institution in general;
- (ix) enhance the quality of the site laboratory for better scientific monitoring.

Draft 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 mission, 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 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;
6. 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;
7. 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 Shakhrisayabz (Uzbekistan) (C 885)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

2000

Criteria

(iii) (iv)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 7B.62; 30 COM 7B.70

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 30,000

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

A monitoring mission by an international expert from 23-29 October 2002; An informal site visit (21-23 October 2006) to the Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz by the World Heritage Centre.

Main threats identified in previous reports

Lack of a comprehensive conservation and management plan.

Current conservation issues

World Heritage Centre staff members visited Shakhrisyabz from 21-23 October 2006. As a result of this visit, the Board of Monuments of Shakhrisyabz has agreed to develop a site management plan based on the property's Outstanding Universal Value, reflected in three main attributes:

- a) The major monuments group, which demonstrates Timurid architecture's influence on the architecture of Central Asia;
- b) The historic centre, which has retained its original, unique features of Central Asian town-planning.
- c) The traditional historic quarters or *mahallas* of the town that offer visitors first-hand contact with a community rich in hospitality and craftsmanship.

In addition, the mission suggested that building regulations and guidelines be established to preserve traditional heritage buildings within the World Heritage boundary and the buffer zone.

On 11 February 2007, based on the aforementioned suggestions, the Uzbekistan National Commission for UNESCO submitted a report entitled "Management Plan for the Conservation and Rehabilitation of the Historical Centre of Shakhrisyabz." In this report, the State Party emphasized the outstanding value of both the monuments and Historical Centre of Shakhrisyabz, reviewed the condition of the World Heritage properties, and presented a framework for the Management Plan.

This Management Plan will be the first step in a strategy to preserve the Historical Centre of Shakhrisyabz. After it is approved by the relevant governmental parties of Uzbekistan, the Management Plan will be the basis for the *General Development Plan of Shakhrisyabz City till 2050*. All subsequent projects within the Historical Centre of Shakhrisyabz should be in accordance with the new Management Plan. The proposed timeframe for the development and implementation of the Management Plan is 2007-2020; the first stage, 2007-2015, for preliminary research, design development, organizational activities, and emergency restoration works; and the second, 2016-2020 for the execution of the plan.

Draft 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

FOR CONSIDERATION FOR IN-DANGER LISTING

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

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

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1985

Criteria

(i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 12B.80; 29 COM 7B.70; 30 COM 7B.73

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 371,357 (from 1987 to 2004).

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 211,900 (Conservation of Hagia Sophia); USD 36,686 (Convention France UNESCO); UNESCO CLT/CH USD 100,000 (in the framework of the International Safeguarding Campaign for Istanbul and Göreme).

Previous monitoring missions

World Heritage Centre missions in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and April 2006 (World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS joint mission).

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Continued degradation of the vernacular architecture within the protected areas (mainly the Ottoman period timber houses in the district of Zeyrek and Süleymaniye);
- b) Quality of repairs and reconstruction of the Roman and Byzantine Walls;
- c) Uncontrolled development and absence of a World Heritage management plan;
- d) Lack of co-ordination between national and municipal authorities, and lack of organisational relationships between decision-making bodies for the safeguarding of World Heritage at the site;

- e) Potential impacts of new buildings and development projects on the World Heritage values and integrity of the property

Current conservation issues

As requested by the World Heritage Committee, the State Party provided a progress report on the state of conservation of the Historic Areas of Istanbul on 1 February 2007. The report provides information on progress achieved in the implementation of the previous Committee decision and the main issues raised in the April 2006 World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission report and its recommendations, endorsed by the Committee.

The report describes the measures taken with regard to the management structure and coordination mechanisms between relevant national authorities, including 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. A site manager was appointed by the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality. Site management studies covering the urban, archaeological and historical areas of the World Heritage property have started. An "Advisory Council" and "Coordination and Supervision Council" will be constituted and experts for the preparation of the Management Plan are being identified by the Metropolitan Municipality. A "Steering Committee for the Historic Area of Istanbul" bringing together 22 relevant institutions, and its "Execution Council" was established. The Committee counsels for all ongoing and forthcoming conservation and protection studies, whereas the "Execution Council" determines and follows up on the implementation of these studies. The report points out that the appointment of the Site Manager and the Steering Committee constitutes the initial step in the preparation of the Management Plan for the property.

A Conservation Implementation and Control Bureau (KUDEB) was established by the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality in 2006, with 40 staff, including architects, archaeologists, urban planners and civil engineers. The staff is being trained in Regional Conservation Councils until February 2007. The Bureau analyses the recent situation of the heritage to be preserved before the restoration process, controls the implementation of the restoration and maintenance works compatible with the original style and material, and supervises the proper implementation of the projects.

Concerning the revision of the boundaries for the protection of the integrity of the urban topography and setting of the property, ICOMOS Turkey has prepared a proposal for a buffer zone around the Historic Peninsula to be presented to Conservation Council.

The Development Plan for Conservation, which was approved by the Conservation Council and Metropolitan Municipality in 2005, is being implemented. Urban Design and restoration projects for listed monuments will be completed according to this plan until the year 2008. In Suleymaniye, one of the core areas, urban design projects are being prepared by Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality in order to preserve traditional dwellings and the urban pattern in the whole area. Some listed timber houses will be also restored by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. In Zeyrek, the restoration of Seyh Suleyman mosque and the Pantocrator Cistern has started. However, the report does not mention effective measures for the safeguarding of the Ottoman-period timber structures in this core area, which was one of the main concerns raised by previous Committee sessions. An "International Symposium for Conservation of Timber Houses" was held on 20 September 2006 in Istanbul. During the symposium a declaration on the conservation of timber structures was adopted. It is hoped that the results of the symposium will be taken into consideration in the future safeguarding and restoration projects. Another international symposium and workshop on "Appropriate Methods and Approaches on the Conservation of the Land Walls" was organized in Istanbul from 20 to 22 January 2007 by the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and the Istanbul Steering Committee. The symposium aimed at determining the most appropriate method for the restoration of the Land Walls and buildings that are adjacent to the walls, like Ayvansaray and Tekfur Palace, and also to benefit from the national and international experts' experiences on this matter. The final report of the symposium proposes concrete actions for

international standard conservation, restoration, monitoring, and training for the Land Walls, which should be considered in the framework of the World Heritage site Management Plan currently being prepared.

Furthermore, in its report, the State Party presents the latest developments concerning new large-scale development projects, but does not provide the results of the impact studies as requested by last Committee and the Mission recommendations. It also provides information on the progress achieved in other important issues, such as the current state of protective legislation and financial provisions for the restoration of immovable cultural heritage properties, Rehabilitation of Fener and Balat Districts Programme, Marmaray Rail Tube Tunnel and archaeological excavations in Yenikapi and Uskudar metro stations, the Istanbul Seismic Risk Mitigation and Emergency Preparedness Plan, and the new legal arrangement to facilitate conservation activities in the scope of 2010 European Culture Capital.

In addition, the joint UNESCO/ICOMOS mission report of April 2006 was translated into Turkish and distributed in hardcopy to all relevant institutions to provide for a better understanding and wider collaboration in the preparation of the submitted Progress Report. In order to present and promote the World Heritage sites in Turkey, a book entitled "Turkey: A World Heritage", was published in Turkish by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in 2006.

Draft 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 benchmarks 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, in accordance with the Vienna Memorandum, by **1 February 2008** at the latest;*

- c) *to provide the World Heritage Centre with information impact studies, including Visual Impact Assessment, according to international standards for all new large-scale projects which may threaten the visual integrity of the Historic Peninsula and its setting, 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 benchmarks, 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, in the case of absence of tangible remedial measures to prevent the loss of World Heritage value of this property, at its 32nd session in 2008.*

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1988

Criteria

(ii) (iv)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 15B.103; 29 COM 7B.89; 30 COM 7B.74

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Mission, November 2006

Main threats identified in previous reports

At its 27th session (UNESCO, 2003), the World Heritage Committee recommended the State Party to avoid any construction in the immediate vicinity of the property that could harm the setting and integrity of the property and requested a report for examination at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004). This request was repeated at the two subsequent meetings because the

State Party had failed to provide an in-depth study on possible impacts of development projects.

Current conservation issues

At its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), the Committee noted with great concern that proposed new developments around the Tower of London and Westminster Palace, Westminster Abbey and Saint Margaret's Church World Heritage properties appeared not to respect the significance of the World Heritage properties, their settings, and related vistas. The London Plan policies to protect the World Heritage properties and their environment did not seem to be applied effectively, statutory protection for views to and from the Tower could be diminished, and the management plan had still not been finalised.

The requested in-depth study on the possible impact of development projects in the immediate vicinity of the World Heritage property had not been submitted and no detailed skyline study of the Tower, its setting, and views had yet been carried out. The Committee urged the State Party to carry out such a skyline survey as soon as possible to provide a qualitative framework for assessing the impact of new developments on the views and setting that contribute to the outstanding universal value of the Tower.

The State Party was requested to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission as soon as possible to assess the impact of current planning proposals in the spirit of the 2005 *Vienna Memorandum on World Heritage and Contemporary Architecture, Managing the Historic Urban Landscape*, and to review the possibility of inclusion of the property in the List of World Heritage in Danger, including benchmarks and timeframes for corrective action. The State Party was requested to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by 1 February 2007 on the progress of its undertakings in this area, and on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007.

In its report, the Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Mission (which visited both the Tower of London and the Westminster World Heritage properties) commented that the overall state of conservation of both properties was good, with only minor issues affecting the properties such as the planned removal of trees at the Tower. No major problems were identified inside the core zones of either World Heritage property.

A tall buildings development strategy was actively being promoted by the City of London, in harmony with the policies of the Mayor of London (Greater London Authority – GLA), of which the result had been the submission and approval of various applications for tall buildings of over 100m, several of them in the vicinity of the Tower of London, clustered in the City of London. Several such buildings were being refurbished, had recently been built, or were under construction. Several other tall buildings had received planning permission or were currently under study.

Of the two cases discussed by the World Heritage Committee in 2006, the planned construction of the 216m Minerva Tower could be considered a direct threat, as the building site was located in the eastern side of the City and therefore with a significant impact on the visual background of the Tower of London. However, the developers had cancelled the project for a tall building, owing to financial considerations. The mission concluded that it was essential for the UK authorities to close the existing gap between UK national policy on World Heritage and its interpretation at the local level. There was a need to incorporate local development policies of Boroughs and Management Plans for the World Heritage properties into the GLA strategic development plan. Absence of management plans prepared by relevant bodies despite their declarations to respect and integrate cultural heritage in development concepts needed to be overcome.

Finalization of the Management Plan of the Tower of London and its Environs was key and in this Management Plan supplementary planning guidance should be provided to statutorily protect the remaining iconic views of the Tower from the south over the River Thames.

These views had been identified in a study on the possible impact of development projects, *The London View Management Framework*, which is currently out for consultation.

- a) The mission considered Paragraphs 178–186 of the *Operational Guidelines* (List of World Heritage in Danger) and Paragraphs 192–198 (Procedure for the eventual deletion of properties from the World Heritage List), and concluded that: in terms of ‘serious deterioration of architectural or town-planning coherence’ (Paragraph 179 a. iii), ‘serious deterioration of urban space’ (Paragraph 179 a. iv), or ‘threatening effects of town planning’ (Paragraph 179 b. iv), the imminent or potential dangers to the Tower of London posed by the approved planning applications for the Minerva Tower (Houndsditch, 216m) and the London Bridge Tower (Shard of Glass, 303m) had been partially averted, because of the cancellation of the Minerva Tower, which was positioned in the iconic view from the South Bank towards the Tower of London. The “Shard of Glass” however, remains a potential danger, the impact of which is difficult to assess owing to an absence of a detailed skyline study of the Tower, its setting and views;
- b) As regards ‘modification of juridical status of the property diminishing the degree of its protection’ (Paragraph 179 b. i) or ‘lack of conservation policy’ (Paragraph 179 b. ii), improvements are under way in policies to protect London World Heritage properties, in particular the publication in March 2007 of the DCMS Secretary of State’s White Paper on Heritage Protection, the in-depth study on the possible impact of development projects with a proposal for view protection of the Tower put forward in the London Plan (*The London View Management Framework – Draft SPG*), and the advanced stage of drafting of the Management Plan for the Tower of London.

The mission made the following recommendations:

- a) The existing trees on and around the premises of the Tower, which would be removed in the short term, should be replaced with a new vegetation screen in order to create a visual buffer between the Tower and its surroundings. Together with an overall cleaning of the White Tower, this would make the monument better stand out visually against its urban backdrop;
- b) The Greater London Authority should adopt a policy of concentration of tall buildings in the City, thereby limiting the impact on the Tower of London’s surrounding urban landscape. The mission was of the firm view that establishing a statutory protection for the iconic view from the South Bank, in order to keep the last remaining visual axis unobstructed, was key to the conservation of the visual integrity of the Tower. The proposal currently put forward in the London Plan (*London View Management Framework – Draft SPG*, April 2005), to identify three limited circles from a viewpoint from City Hall to the Tower of London, improves the situation, but should be widened considerably to include a buffer zone extending up to 1km from the Tower of London over the eastern section of the City of London into the Borough of Tower Hamlets;
- c) The *Management Plan for the Tower of London* should be finalised in time for it to be available for the 31st session of the Committee. It should include a protection of the immediate surroundings of the Tower through an adequate buffer zone, which would allow better protection and guidance as regards height and volume of future planning applications. This plan and the development plans for the Boroughs must be incorporated into the GLA Development Strategy.

The State Party submitted a detailed report to the World Heritage Centre in January 2007, responding to the Committee’s Decision in 2006. It reported that the following actions had been taken:

- a) Revised guidance on tall buildings prepared by English Heritage and the Commission for Architecture and Built Heritage, statutory advisers to the Government on the historic environment, was out for public comment;

- b) The Further Alterations to the London Plan would contain new references to strengthen the protection of World Heritage properties;
- c) A working group was in place and at work on the Management Plan for the Tower of London;
- d) A new protected view of the Tower would be included in the *London View Management Framework*, the first time the Tower would have such protection. Details remained to be finalized and a detailed plan would be submitted to the Committee.

The Heritage Protection White Paper (consultation paper), entitled *The UK Heritage Protection Review*, published in March 2007, proposes that:

- a) Statutory protection would be provided within the planning system for World Heritage properties in order to control development within properties and their settings;
- b) Planning policy would be updated to enhance protection of World Heritage properties within the planning system;
- c) Specific call-in notifications would be introduced in respect of significant developments affecting World Heritage properties;
- d) World Heritage properties would, where appropriate, be given buffer zones.

World Heritage properties would become equivalent in planning terms to other protected areas, such as Conservation Areas, National Parks, and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).

The mission concluded that the property would meet criteria for Danger Listing (according to Paragraphs 178-182 of the *Operational Guidelines*) if either a statutory protection for the iconic view from the South Bank towards the Tower, which is key to the conservation of the visual integrity of the Tower, has not been established by the time the World Heritage Committee meets for its 31st session, or the Management Plan, including a protection of the immediate surrounding of the Tower through an adequate and commonly agreed buffer zone, has not been finalized by the time the World Heritage Committee meets for its 31st session.

The statutory protection of the iconic view and the management plan could be considered the benchmarks also for a potential removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

On 16 March 2007 the State Party responded to the mission report and assured the World Heritage Centre of the UK's commitment to the protection of the World Heritage property. A substantive response to the issues raised in the mission report will be available in time for the 31st session of the World Heritage Committee.

Draft 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. Notes the actions taken by the State Party in response to the Committee's earlier requests; and takes note that a London View Management Framework is being discussed, while recognising that this plan does not fully comply with the request of the Committee for an in-depth study on the possible impact of development projects in the immediate vicinity of the World Heritage property;

4. Encourages the State Party to adopt the policies proposed in the Heritage Protection White Paper;

5.

*Option 1: Considers that the State Party has not complied with the request expressed by the Committee in Decision **30 COM 7B.74**, and that therefore the property is in danger in conformity with Operational Guidelines chapter IV.B and decides to inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;*

*Option 2: 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 related vistas and defers consideration of Danger listing to its 32nd session in 2008;*

6. 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1987

Criteria

(i) (ii) (iv)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 7B.74

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Mission, November 2006

Main threats identified in previous reports

At its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), the Committee noted with great concern that proposed new developments around the Tower of London and Westminster Palace, Westminster Abbey and Saint Margaret's Church World Heritage properties appeared not to respect their significance, settings, and related vistas. The London Plan policies to protect the World Heritage properties and their environment did not seem to be applied effectively, statutory

protection for views to and from the properties could be diminished, and the management plans had not been finalised.

Current conservation issues

The State Party was requested to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission as soon as possible to assess the impact of current planning proposals in the spirit of the 2005 *Vienna Memorandum on World Heritage and Contemporary Architecture, Managing the Historic Urban Landscape*, and to review the possibility of inclusion of the property in the List of World Heritage in Danger, including benchmarks and timeframes for corrective action. The State Party was requested to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by 1 February 2007 on the progress of its undertakings in this area, and on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007.

In its report, the Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Mission (which visited both the Tower of London and the Westminster World Heritage properties) commented that the overall state of conservation of both properties was good, with only minor issues affecting the property, such as structures recently erected for security reasons at Westminster. No major problems were identified inside the core zones of either World Heritage property.

The mission concluded that it is essential for the UK authorities to close the existing gap between UK national policy on World Heritage and its interpretation at the local level. There is a need to incorporate local development policies of Boroughs and Management Plans for the World Heritage properties into the GLA (Greater London Authority) strategic development plan. Absence of commitment to management plan proposals by relevant bodies despite their declarations to respect and integrate cultural heritage in development concepts needed to be overcome.

For the Westminster World Heritage property, the comprehensive skyline study currently in preparation should determine which views to and from the property were critical for maintaining the property's integrity and for appreciating its setting to the fullest. Until this and further protective measures are in place, proposed new development could impact adversely on the values of the property.

The mission recommended the following:

- a) Since developments were under consideration for several tall buildings, there is a need to confine development of tall buildings to the financial district of the City of London;
- b) The proposed schemes of 'The Three Sisters' adjacent to Waterloo Station (a redevelopment of Elizabeth House in a cluster of three tall buildings of 140m), Beetham Tower in Southwark (226m), and Doon Street Tower in Lambeth (168m) in the surroundings of Westminster, including the South Bank, should be reviewed, so as to adjust them in order to ensure the visual integrity of the World Heritage property;
- c) A report should be submitted on progress in the development of a dynamic visual impact study for the site in order to facilitate a thorough and rapid assessment of future planning applications;
- d) The Management Plan for Westminster should be finalized by June 2007, in time for it to be available for the 31st session of the Committee. This should include protection of the immediate surroundings of the site guaranteed through the establishment of an adequate agreed buffer zone, which would allow better guidance as regards the height and volume of future planning applications and the protection of key views. This plan and the development plans for the Boroughs should be incorporated into the GLA Development Strategy.

The State Party submitted a detailed report to the World Heritage Centre in January 2007, responding to the Committee's Decision of 2006. It reported that the following actions had been taken:

- a) A revised guidance on tall buildings prepared by English Heritage and the Commission for Architecture and Built Heritage, statutory advisers to the Government on the historic environment, was out for public comment;
- b) The further alterations to the London Plan would contain new references to strengthen the protection of World Heritage sites;
- c) The Heritage Protection White Paper (consultation paper), entitled *The UK Heritage Protection Review*, was published in March. This proposed that:
 - (i) Statutory protection would be provided within the planning system for World Heritage properties in order to control development within properties and their settings.
 - (ii) Planning policy would be updated to strengthen World Heritage properties within the planning system.
 - (iii) Specific call-in notifications would be introduced in respect of significant developments affected World Heritage properties.
 - (iv) World Heritage properties would, where appropriate, be given buffer zones.

World Heritage properties would become equivalent in planning terms to other protected areas, such as Conservation Areas, National Parks, and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).

In respect of the Westminster World Heritage property, the mission made the following recommendations:

- a) Since planning permissions were under consideration for several tall buildings, the new development of tall buildings should be limited to the financial district of the City of London;
- b) The proposed schemes of "The Three Sisters" adjacent to Waterloo Railway Station (a redevelopment of Elizabeth House in a cluster of three tall buildings 140m), Beetham Tower in Southwark (226m), and Doon Street Tower in Lambeth (168m) in the surroundings of Westminster on the South Bank of the River Thames, should be reviewed and adjusted so as to ensure the visual integrity of the World Heritage property;
- c) The State Party should 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;
- d) The Management Plan for the Westminster World Heritage property should be completed by June 2007. It should include protection of the key views and immediate surroundings of the property through an adequate and commonly agreed buffer zone, which would provide better guidance on height and volume in respect of future planning applications. The plan should further be incorporated into the Greater London Authority's London Plan.

The mission concluded that the criteria for Danger listing would be met if the Management Plan, based on a dynamic visual impact study, and the protection of key views and immediate surroundings of the site through an adequate buffer zone has not been finalized by the time the World Heritage Committee meets for its 31st session.

The management plan and the protection of key views could be also considered the benchmarks for a potential removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

On 16 March 2007, the State Party responded to the mission report and assured the World Heritage Centre of the UK's commitment to the protection of the World Heritage property. A substantive response to the issues raised in the mission report will be available in time for the 31st session of the World Heritage Committee.

Draft 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. *Notes the actions taken by the State Party in response to the Committee's earlier requests;*
4. *Urges the State Party to vigorously apply the policy of limiting the new development of tall buildings to the financial district of the City of London;*
5. *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;*
6. *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;*
7. *Further urges the State Party to finalise the Management Plan for the Westminster World Heritage property by **June 2007** for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session; and*
8.

*Option 1: Considers that the State Party has not complied with the request expressed by the Committee in Decision **30 COM 7B.74**, and that therefore the property is in danger in conformity with Operational Guidelines chapter IV.B and decides to inscribe the property in the List of World Heritage in Danger;*

*Option 2: 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 related vistas, and defers consideration of Danger listing to its 32nd session;*
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.*

FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION

92. Butrint (Albania) (C 570 bis)

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

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

2005

Criteria

(vi)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

27 COM 8C.33; 29 COM 8B.49; 30 COM 7B.82

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 15,000 (1995)

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 190,000

Previous monitoring missions

ICOMOS mission 21-24 June 2006

Main threats identified in previous reports

Construction of a hotel in the buffer zone of the World Heritage property, not in conformity with provisions of the Master Plan, which was part of the Management Plan included in the nomination file.

Current conservation issues

The State Party informed the World Heritage Centre on 9 January 2007 about the establishment of a group of experts to examine the situation and find alternative solutions in conformity with the *Vienna Memorandum* (2005) and the Management Plan of the World Heritage property.

The State Party informed the World Heritage Centre on 31 January 2007 that:

- a) The hotel's investor is in possession of a 2004 permit from the Municipality for reconstruction, extension, and enlargement of the hotel;

- b) The works for the construction of the hotel were suspended immediately upon receipt of Decision **30 COM 7B.82** of the World Heritage Committee;
- c) The Management Plan will be applied in the nominated area and buffer zones. The funds required to develop in detail all components of the Master Plan, which is part of the Management Plan, have been approved;
- d) The process of drafting alternative designs for the hotel has been initiated. An alternative design has been produced and was submitted to the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS for review. However, the Commission to Preserve National Monuments concluded that this design is not in accordance with the Committee's decision and would not represent a final and satisfactory solution. For that reason, the State Party requested UNESCO's assistance to fully implement Decision **30 COM 7B.82**, to continue to search for a suitable alternative solution for the hotel to be presented to the 31st session of the World Heritage Committee, and to provide further expertise and technical assistance until a final and satisfactory solution has been achieved.

The alternative design that has been produced included renovation of the green buffer zone around the construction, introduction of green areas on all the levels of the structure, enrichment of frontage walls, and changes to the frontage textures. The dimensions of the upper floors structure have been diminished, the swimming pool complex had its surface scaled down and its roof removed and a number of rooms on the last floors of two blocks were removed. The whole structure was reduced by a total of 1.766 square metres of enclosed space. These considerable efforts must be acknowledged. However, despite the reduction of space in the revised design and the introduction of green areas, the current project does not fully address the visual impacts of the structure, in conformity with the land use provisions of the Master Plan and Management Plan.

The State Party also reported on the activities of the "Stari Grad" Agency in 2006, responsible for the preservation of the World Heritage property and the implementation of the Management Plan.

Draft 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 conformity with the Vienna Memorandum (2005) and 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)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

2006

Criteria

(ii) (iii) (iv)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 8B.45

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Main threats identified in previous reports

N/A

Current conservation issues

In a letter provided during the 30th session of the Committee (Vilnius, 2006), the Mayor of Regensburg declared that the city will continue to do everything to support the conservation of the property and will refrain from any activities that would not be in accordance with the World Heritage status. A significant number of letters have been received by the World Heritage Centre from citizens and community groups on new developments. These letters were transmitted to the State Party for comments and to ICOMOS for review. In a letter dated 30 January 2007, the responsible authorities informed the World Heritage Centre on planning and urban renewal projects at the property and its surroundings.

An international design competition was organised by the town council of Regensburg in July 2006, for the new culture and convention hall on the Danube Market (Donaumarkt), situated in the core zone of the property. This project has been dismissed following the result of the citizens' vote on 17 December 2006 (following a citizens' initiative deposited on 3 August 2006). The future use of this area is still under discussion.

Others projects include the restoration of the Stone Bridge as an alternative road for buses. Parts of the Thurn and Taxis Castle will be converted into a hotel, and the use of the Karmeliten Hotel is under discussion. The Dachauplatz parking garage façade is being redesigned.

The evaluation of the mentioned projects is underway, in collaboration with the Bavarian State Office for the Preservation of Monuments and Historic Buildings. In addition, the City of Regensburg has commissioned an accompanying study of the above measures by experts from ICOMOS. In February 2007, the City of Regensburg will submit a proposal for a Steering Committee to the Bavarian State Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts.

Draft 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 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 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1997

Criteria

(i) (ii)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

27 COM 7B.69; 28 COM 15B.74; 29 COM 7B.78

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 129,500;

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: France-UNESCO co-operation Convention expertise missions in 2002, 2004, 2005 - 11,500 Euros

Previous monitoring missions

UNESCO/ICOMOS site visit in 2003; France-UNESCO co-operation missions 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 World Heritage Centre site visits;

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) High-rise building projects located in the buffer zone threatening the visual integrity of the property;
- b) Regulations for building permissions and guidelines for new construction projects within Riga and its buffer zone

Current conservation issues

As requested by the Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005), the State Party provided a report dated 24 January 2007 on the state of conservation of the Historic Centre of Riga including the progress made with regard to the implementation of the Committee's decision.

In September 2005, after a series of revisions requested by the State Inspection, the Riga City Council City Development Department introduced to the public the third draft of the Preservation and Development Plan of the Historic Centre of Riga (and its buffer zone). The Inspection approved the Plan with some provisions to be implemented, in particular, on the setting of the location of high rise buildings in the buffer zone in order to maintain the visual integrity of the Historic Centre. On 7 February 2006 the Riga City Council adopted the Preservation and Development Plan and the Building Regulations for the Historic Centre of

Riga and its buffer zone. The Inspection adopted the Plan with the condition that a "Conception Project" on the development of the left bank of the river Daugava be developed.

The Riga City Council City Development Department and the Bureau of the Riga City Architect subsequently completed the requested Conception Project, defined as the regulatory document for urban development on the left bank of the river Daugava and containing the plan that determines the construction height permitted in the buffer zone. The Conception Project mentioned that proposals will be prepared for amendments to the already adopted (2004) Regulations No. 127 of the Cabinet of Ministers, which limits the height of the high-rise buildings in the buffer zone on the left bank of the river Daugava to 121 metres, in order to allow the construction of even higher buildings. It should be noted that this Conception Project does not concern already planned construction projects, accepted preliminary or technical projects, or architectural design competitions where the winner has been designated. The State Inspection has not approved the Conception Project, arguing that in Riga historically the churches were the main vertical accents and that without appropriate maximum height limitations, the Historic Centre of Riga could be surrounded by high-rise buildings diminishing the character of the property.

The State Party report also contains visual impact studies carried out in 2006 by the State Inspection on the impact of planned high-rise buildings in the buffer zone on the Historic Centre of Riga, and concluded that there is a need for specific law provision for the height limitations. In July 2006, after the Committee session, on invitation of the National Authorities, the Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre undertook a brief visit to Riga to discuss with the authorities the plan for the demolition of a 1980s skyscraper building located in Republikas Square 2 (northern buffer zone) in the framework of the Law on the Protection of Cultural monuments (1992), allowing for assigning the status of "environment degrading object" to such a building. However, the final decision on this matter will be taken after further discussions with relevant experts and after an International Seminar scheduled from 16 to 17 April 2007. During the site visit, the Director expressed his concerns regarding the high-rise development projects inside and outside the buffer zone.

In November 2006, a Latvian delegation composed of the Chief Architect of Riga, Head of the State Inspection for Heritage Protection and Secretary General of the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO came to the World Heritage Centre. The delegation informed the Centre about the revised concepts of the silhouette development of the left side of the river Daugava. While appreciating the initiative, the World Heritage Centre expressed its serious concern about inappropriate urban development in the buffer zone of the Historic Centre and stressed that the proposed high-rise buildings in the buffer zone would not be the best possible solution for the area of Ķīpsala and could seriously endanger the status of the Historic Centre of Riga as a World Heritage property. Despite the quality of the analysis presented, and appropriate planning tools used (i.e. skyline studies; viewpoint analysis; historic character analysis and mapping per protected neighbourhood), these planning tools seem to be applied only to justify proposed plans for high-rise constructions, notably in the buffer zone, instead of being used to determine appropriate location, type and form of development.

On the other hand, the results of the Riga Concert Hall competition, judged by a jury with the participation of a UNESCO-ICOMOS expert, are to be commended.

The State Party report further mentioned that the legal enactments and the new Preservation and Development Plan provide for examination of all projects in the Historic Centre of Riga and its buffer zone. These measures are to ensure that all new buildings fully respect the visual integrity of the Historic Centre of Riga that the historical water courses are preserved as open public spaces, and that no new constructions are built. In addition, a regional seminar and workshop on "High-rise Buildings and Historic Centre (in the Baltic Countries)" was organised by the World Heritage Centre and ICCROM from 7 to 8 December 2006 in Vilnius, Lithuania, and was attended by a representative of the Latvian State Inspection.

Furthermore, the State Inspection for Heritage protection of Latvia organized an international seminar on the Preservation and Development of Historic centers of towns (16 -17 April 2007, Riga) attended by local and international experts including representatives from the Council of Europe and UNESCO. The outcome of the seminar and the site visits stressed that utmost attention should be given to the continuity between the city's silhouette, the river Daugava and its two banks. The value of Riga as a World Heritage property lies in the relationship between these elements. In order to preserve the visual integrity of this exceptional urban landscape, it is absolutely necessary to opt for an integrated approach to any urban development projects for the city based on these values and a clear vision for the city's future. In that regard, the seminar concluded that high rise buildings are incompatible for the property (core, buffer zone and beyond) and thus the ongoing high rise projects and constructions on the left bank of the river threaten the values of the property.

In a letter dated 12 April 2007, the State Inspection for heritage protection informed the World Heritage Centre of the latest visualization of the revised concept project for the proposed development of the left side of the river Daugava and requests UNESCO's assistance to evaluate this document.

Whilst the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS appreciate the updated information received, they remain extremely concerned that the previous Decisions of the Committee concerning high-rise development on the left bank of the river Daugava have not been taken into account by the State Party.

Draft 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 Old Town's historical silhouette and its setting;*
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 respects the visual integrity of the Historical Centre of Riga in accordance with the Vienna Memorandum (2005);
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, 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)

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

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

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

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1990

Criteria:

(i) (ii) (iv) (vi)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions:

30 COM 7B.78

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 17,620 for the St Petersburg International Conference January 2007;

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 18,000 for the St Petersburg International Conference January 2007;

Previous monitoring missions:

Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission February 2006 and International Conference of Eastern and Central Europe Countries on the Application of Scientific and Technological Achievements in the Management and Preservation of Historic Cities inscribed on the World Heritage List, St Petersburg, 28 January to 3 February 2007;

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Quality of new design projects in the inscribed zone;
- b) Confusion over definition and extent of inscribed zone and buffer zone;

Current conservation issues:

Following the request by 30th session of the Committee (Vilnius, 2006), an international conference was organized in St Petersburg, which also provided the opportunity for ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre to review the current state of conservation of the property. Furthermore, a session was organized as a follow-up to the 2006 reactive monitoring mission to review the boundaries of this serial property and modifications envisaged in line with the Retrospective Inventory Project. The State Party informed the World Heritage Centre that the changes to the original boundaries of the property would constitute a clarification while the provision of buffer zones (which were not foreseen at the time of inscription) would imply a boundary modification. During the meeting, the State Party provided a document to the World Heritage Centre entitled "Proposals of St Petersburg on Identifying the World Heritage Area: Historic Centre of Saint Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments".

This document refers to the recently completed Retrospective Inventory analysis by the World Heritage Centre, and the State Party's agreement with its conclusions. The State Party notes various mistakes, discrepancies and gaps in the World Heritage nomination documents originally submitted, owing to the different socio-economic and legal system in place at the time. The document includes a brief analysis of the nomination dossier, which identifies three types of components: those located within the historical centre, those situated outside of the historical centre but within the District of St Petersburg, and those located outside the District of St Petersburg and managed by a different authority, the Leningrad Region. The report also contains a table explaining how existing anomalies in the nomination dossier arose, and why. Finally, a revised Serial Nomination Table, listing all components of this serial property, is included; this table also refers to a set of 39 maps submitted with the report, indicating in which map each component is displayed. However, the boundaries of some components, as displayed in such maps, are unclear. Moreover, geographical information concerning the components of the site within the Leningrad Region is not provided, and relevant maps for such components are not attached. After examination of this document and the attached maps, the World Heritage Centre provided the State Party during the international conference with a report concerning the modifications to be made to the maps in order for them to be presented to the World Heritage Committee in Document *WHC-07/31.COM/11A.2* at its 31st session. An action plan was agreed with the local authorities, establishing that modified and missing maps should all be submitted to the Secretariat by 15 March 2007. By that date, no document had been received. On 20 March 2007, a revised version of the maps was submitted and analysed. However the delimitation of some components was still not considered satisfactory and maps for the components of the site located within Leningrad Region were still missing. The State Party's proposals concerning the boundaries and buffer zone remain ambiguous, despite considerable collaboration with the World Heritage Centre.

On 29 November 2006, the World Heritage Centre wrote to the State Party to inquire about reported plans of a tower to be constructed by Gazprom (300m tall with 77 floors) just outside the inscribed property, and reminded the State Party of its obligations under Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* to inform the Committee of any major projects which might threaten the integrity of the property inscribed. At the time of the preparation of this document, no official response to this letter had been received by the World Heritage Centre. During the formal proceedings of the St Petersburg meeting the Gazprom Tower was not discussed, nor was it mentioned in the meeting conclusions. However, a site visit was organized with representatives of the World Heritage Centre to meet with Gazprom officials as well as the Governor of St Petersburg to discuss the matter and view the various proposals from the design competition. Meeting participants, including the ICOMOS representative, were also given the opportunity to visit the site and to receive a briefing from Gazprom on the proposed project.

Serious concerns by the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and many workshop participants were raised about the potential impact of the Gazprom Tower on the outstanding universal value of the Historic Centre of Saint Petersburg. Local and national authorities are urged to refrain from issuing any building permits which would allow the project to proceed until a full independent environmental impact assessment has been undertaken which acknowledges existing height limitations, legal provisions as well as the recommendations of the International Meeting concerning the horizontal character of the historic urban landscape of St Petersburg.

The conclusions and recommendations of the International Meeting (see <http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/362>) included a number of relevant points for the conservation of St Petersburg including:

- a) the need to include all of the river and the embankments within the nominated area, given the city's image as a port city and "Venice of the North";
- b) a large buffer zone should be created in St Petersburg around its historic centre that should include an area sufficient to protect the horizontal character of the viewscape, one of the dominant characteristics of the city, in accordance with the layout of the protective zone;
- c) Based on the documentation and analysis prepared by the authorities, a set of boundaries for the outstanding universal value of the site should be presented with special reference for its role as a river city;
- d) A series of buffer zones should be prepared including, where relevant, the initiation of planning and design alternatives for current projects.

It is noted that the State Party integrated its efforts to address issues identified by the Committee during its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), with an expert meeting to review issues in St Petersburg but also to place these in the larger context of the conservation issues of the region's historic cities. This has permitted a wider understanding of the particular conservation issues being addressed by the local authorities and the ability to frame discussion of these issues within an "historic urban landscape" analysis.

Draft Decision: 31 COM 7B.102

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **30COM 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 and documentation 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, and its impact on the outstanding universal value of the World Heritage property;
6. Requests the State Party to refrain from issuing building permits for the Gazprom project 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 to the World Heritage Centre on **1 February 2008** for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1990

Criteria

(i) (ii) (iv) (vi)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

18 COM IX.20

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Main threats identified in previous reports

Erection of a monument in honour of Marshal G. Zhukov

Current conservation issues

The World Heritage Centre was informed by NGOs and press articles of the demolition/reconstruction of a historic complex called the "Middle Trading Rows". On 7 March 2007, the UNESCO Office in Moscow provided further information that this complex is a five-building ensemble built from 1891 to 1894 located opposite the Kremlin's Spasskaya Tower and near St. Basil's Cathedral. The complex has been undergoing reconstruction since 2006. It is expected that the new modern ensemble consisting of a luxury hotel, an auction house, apartments, a shopping mall and underground parking will be constructed within the preserved facades. The "Middle Trading Rows" complex has been surrounded by tall metal shields for quite some time, which make it impossible to see what is going on inside.

Based on the information from the media reports four buildings inside have been already torn down. *Novaya Gazeta* published a picture of huge piles of rubble in the middle of the quadrangle. National experts and architects say that any underground work could result in movement of the soil underneath the Red Square and could seriously affect St Basil's Cathedral, which is already in a fragile structural state.

On 16 March 2007, the World Heritage Centre, concerned that the works undertaken may threaten the integrity of the property, requested the State Party to provide detailed information concerning the current status of these demolition and reconstruction works, as well as a detailed report on the state of conservation of the Kremlin and Red Square in Moscow.

At the time of the preparation of this document, the State Party had not provided the requested information.

Draft 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 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 state of conservation of 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) (373)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1986

Criteria

(i) (ii) (iii)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

27 COM 7B.82; 28 COM 15B.102; 29 COM 7B.88

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

World Heritage Centre site visits in June 2003 and in November 2006

Main threats identified in previous reports

Controversial "A303 Stonehenge Improvement" scheme to upgrade the A303 trunk road and closure of the A344 road

Current conservation issues

a) *A303 scheme:*

The State Party submitted a state of conservation report dated 29 January 2007. According to the National Authorities, the Inspector's report published in January 2005 recommended that the A303 be improved with a 2.1 km bored tunnel within the World Heritage site, according to the lines of the scheme previously endorsed by the World Heritage Committee. Due to the costs of this scheme, the government later announced that the options for the improvement of the road would be reviewed. Five options were considered, including the preferred tunnel scheme supported by the Inspector. The results of the review were presented to the Government in July 2006 and the final decision adopting one of the proposed options is awaited.

b) *Visitor Centre:*

The first planning application for the visitor centre was refused by the Salisbury District Council, the local planning authority, in June 2005. Following the appeal by English Heritage, the Secretary of State decided to approve this proposed scheme on March 2007.

c) *Grassland reversion:*

Reversion from arable to grassland of a further 176 hectares was successfully negotiated in 2006. The total area accepted for reversion to grassland is up to 516 hectares in the Stonehenge part of the World Heritage site, which covers most of the priority areas set out in the management plan. Including the 110 hectares for the Avebury part, more than 140

archaeological sites will be protected from plough damage, protecting prehistoric sites, and improving the landscape setting and ecological value of the property.

d) *Silbury Hill:*

After the collapse of an 18th century investigative shaft in 2000, investigations have been carried out at the man-made mound in order to solve the problem of subsidence. Work of protecting the mound will start during 2007, the tunnels will be re-entered and then re-backfilled with compacted chalk, all existing backfill will be removed, and archaeological recording will be undertaken. The temporary capping on the summit will be replaced with chalk. The slumping hollows will also be covered with chalk, followed by re-seeding with grass.

Draft 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.*

FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING NO DISCUSSION

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1996

Criteria

(ii) (iv) (vi)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 7B.72

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Urban development pressure, high-rise projects with alteration of the visual integrity of the property;
- b) Train station project outside the buffer zone with potential visual impacts on the property.

Current conservation issues

On 29 January 2007, the State Party submitted a comprehensive updated report about the urban planning projects inside and outside the World Heritage property. Several projects are being processed and no final decisions have been taken.

a) *Core zone / Historic Centre*

Max Reinhardt Square: In the process of redesigning the square, the Small Festival Hall (*Kleines Festspielhaus*) and the University Hall (*Universitätsaula*) were rebuilt and transformed. In addition, the pavement of Hofstallgasse was completed. The redesign project will be followed by the rearrangement of the *Furtwängler Garden* in 2007 or 2008. *Makart Square:* since the report of 2005, the surface of the square remains unchanged, as well as the subterranean garage project, which has been scaled down to a one level garage. Nevertheless, the implementation of the project remains undetermined.

A number of projects were also mentioned, including:

- (i) *Alte Diakonie:* The renovation project (mix of apartments, and offices, complete with kindergarten and parking facilities) is scheduled to be completed in 2007;
- (ii) *Mozarteum University:* the building became unserviceable and had to be partly torn and the new wings of the Mozarteum were opened in 2006;
- (iii) *Franz-Josef Kaserne:* the army barracks erected in 1849, were adapted for the use by the university and the building was reopened in 2006 ;
- (iv) *The Schloss Arenberg* was renovated during 2005-2006 and adapted for housing the American Austrian Foundation ;
- (v) *Salzburg Museum:* the new residence was restructured and converted into the new Salzburg Museum, formerly Museum Carolino Augusteum, the museum was opened in 2006 ;
- (vi) *Museum of natural sciences:* after an international design competition, the old building of Museum Carolino was re-designed to become an extension of the neighbouring museum of natural sciences and the works will start in autumn 2007 ;

- (vii) *Kleines Festspielhaus*: this building was left totally untouched except for modernizing the internal stage machinery. The lobby and its wall paintings were renovated in 2004-2005 and the northern wall of the auditorium was taken down for structural reasons. The old wall could not have supported the necessary new gallery. The renewed building was opened in 2006 ;
 - (viii) *Old Town Hall*: the building was adapted for public function, the planned installation of an elevator and an additional emergency staircase required extensive preliminary archaeological and historical research. Work on the installation will start in autumn 2007.
- b) *Buffer zone*:
- (i) *Campus Nonntal*; an urban design competition for the area was organised to ensure the removal of the existing campus buildings. The building plans have been authorised and some works have started. An EU-wide design competition for the university buildings (height limit five stories), took place, winning designs were selected, and construction will start by the end of 2007;
 - (ii) *Railway Bridge*: the existing bridge over the river is being replaced and construction began in late 2005. Additional funds were provided by the City of Salzburg, in order to secure a design in accordance with the significance of the Historic Centre of Salzburg. The new bridge will be completed in 2008;
 - (iii) *Railway station*: the railway authorities decided to rebuild the main station of Salzburg. The existing historical steel and glass structure of the old hall will be preserved and integrated and work is expected to begin in 2010-2011;
 - (iv) *Paradiesgarten in the Nonntal*: the urban housing project for the so-called Paradiesgarten was supposed to start in 2006 and has been postponed;
 - (v) *Stern-brewery*: an international design competition for housing project on the area of the old Stern-brewery in the Riedenburg-quarter took place, winning designs were selected, and construction will start during 2007.
- c) *Beyond the buffer zone*
- (i) *Square of the Train Station*: the area to the north of the square will be redeveloped in three sections: a building next to the station (five stories) is planned; apartment buildings are proposed and an office tower for an insurance company. Construction work started in 2006. The World Heritage Centre regrets that the report sent by the Austrian authorities in January 2007 did not provide more detailed information on the consultation process for this project, nor did it consider potential visual impacts on the visual integrity of the property;
 - (ii) *Uzilinga project in Itzling* is a project of eight apartment buildings (eight stories) 1 km from the historic centre. Plans were submitted to the authorities and building permits granted in 2006. Construction was postponed until the second half of 2007.
- d) *Management plan*

The State Party informed the World Heritage Centre that a management plan for the Historic Centre of Salzburg is still being prepared. Intensive discussions took place with experts responsible for other World Heritage Cities, whose historical centres experience problems similar to those in Salzburg. Modifications to the management plan were made, which will be finalised during 2007.

No additional information has been provided to the World Heritage Centre concerning the implementation of specific legal protection of the historic urban fabric and structure.

Draft 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1999

Criteria

(ii) (iv)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 15B.82; 29 COM 7B.63; 30 COM 7B.76

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS missions in February 2005 and October 2006.

Main threats identified in previous reports

Urban development pressure

Current conservation issues

At the request of the Austrian authorities, a UNESCO/ICOMOS expert mission went to the property on 20 October 2006 to follow up on the first joint mission of February 2005. The mission evaluated the re-worked design and possible adaptation of the Department Store project of Kastner & Öhler, located in the core zone of the property. Major architectural changes for the project have been proposed (i.e. reduction of height, reduction of number of shed roofs, integrating staircases and access to the roof). These changes were welcomed by the mission, but a number of points still need to be discussed within the consultation process, particularly the impact of the air-conditioning, and other technical elements, relationships between materials, colours, design and maintenance implications.

Furthermore, the legally binding plan must be implemented by the City of Graz to ensure the quality of the Kastner & Öhler project during the subsequent planning stages. A contract between the City of Graz and the Kastner & Öhler Company should also be negotiated in order to integrate the new project into the protected urban landscape. This contract should include the following elements:

- a) At least the two highest roofs should be reduced;
- b) Consideration should be given to revising the gables by closing them;
- c) All technical equipment should be precisely defined and integrated into the shed roofs;
- d) The staircases should be taken into consideration;
- e) There should be no large window or glass elements, which are inappropriate in this context. Any larger windows should be divided or structured so as to give a homogeneous appearance.

In addition, the mission provided the authorities with two specific recommendations designed to inform local communities:

- f) To illustrate the height of the roof elements by means of scaffolding so as to permit a realistic assessment of their impact on the World Heritage historic centre;
- g) To provide an example of the materials to be used in the building so as to make it possible to evaluate the roofscape as seen from the Schlossberg in its impacts on the famous view of the city.

The State Party's report sent on 1 February 2007 clearly indicated that the City of Graz will take into account the recommendations expressed during the expert mission. In addition, a statement by representatives of the Kastner & Öhler department store was also included in the report, accepting the recommendations made by the mission.

On 31 January 2007 the State Party submitted a management plan and a master plan for the World Heritage property. While the State Party in its report informed about the elaboration of the two plans, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS regret that no additional information about on-going and new large-scale construction projects in the core and the buffer zones of the property was provided by the State Party.

Draft 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 (2005);
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre an update 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. Fertö / Neusiedlersee Cultural Landscape (Austria/Hungary) (C 772 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2001

Criteria

(v)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

27 COM 8C.2; 28 COM 15B.84

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

World Heritage Centre-ICOMOS-IUCN mission, February 2007

Main threats identified in previous reports

N/A

Current conservation issues

Early in 2007 the Austrian authorities informed the World Heritage Centre of their intention to authorise a new hotel project, which could affect the outstanding universal value of the World Heritage property of Fertö / Neusiedlersee Cultural Landscape. As a result a joint expert mission was invited by the Austrian authorities, which took place from 25 to 26 February 2007 and also met with representatives from the Hungarian authorities.

During the mission it became clear that consultations were taking place at a very late stage, as the project already had permissions and was about to proceed.

The planned hotel of 73 metres was to be located on a ridge 3.8 km from the core zone and 1.9 km from the buffer zone of the World Heritage property. The project site is located within a development zone on the outskirts of Parndorf. The location of the proposed hotel and its height meant that it would rise above the skyline of the low hills surrounding the World Heritage site. Currently the only other intrusions into the skyline are a 1950s grain silo and wind turbines, both in place at the time of inscription, and both set further back from the boundary of the site than the proposed hotel.

In the development zone high-rise building constructions are allowed. The only exception applies where there are agreed zones of constraint – for instance certain areas have been excluded to the north for their nature conservation interest, as part of bird migration routes. No areas have been excluded for cultural reasons.

The proposed hotel is the first high-rise structure in the development zone. The height was justified as being in line with the existing grain silo and wind-farms.

As part of the development of the project, the architect had carried out an environmental impact assessment of the scheme, at the request of the environmental office of the state of Burgenland. The assessment concluded that the project conformed to existing laws including those regulating nature and landscape protection. The visual impact on the World Heritage site was acknowledged in the report but not considered as sufficiently significant to justify a refusal of the building permit.

When the site was inscribed the States Parties were asked to prepare a joint Management Plan within two years. The resulting plan was assessed by ICOMOS and approved by the World Heritage Committee in 2004. The plan mentions the Regional Master Plan for Northern Burgenland, 2002, in which the setting and height of wind turbines is controlled within the setting of the property. It also mentions the Regional Landscape Policy Plan of 1994 which deals with the appearance of the landscape in general – not just in the World Heritage cultural landscape.

It is stated in the plan that there will be no intrusion into the landscape by power lines or other technical infrastructure. At the time this was written, high rise buildings were not seen as a threat – but the plan does address the need to protect the landscape from vertical structures that could impact on its setting. No mention was made in the plan of the Parndorf development zone.

The mission was in no doubt that the proposed hotel would be visible from the World Heritage site and would have an adverse impact on the skyline. The mission considered that in the open and comparatively flat landscape surrounding the Neusiedler See, tall buildings could have a major impact on the sense of enclosure of the valley.

Following detailed discussion between the mission members, the Regional authorities, the developer and the architect, compromise proposals were put forward by the architect to reduce the height of the building. The developer and the architect both stressed that, as a legal building permit was already in place, the offer was entirely voluntary. According to the new proposals the hotel would be reduced to 47.2 m. The reduction in overall height would be compensated for by two shorter blocks either side. There would be no illuminated advertisement on top or illuminated corners, and the building would be painted in subdued colours.

The mission welcomed this compromise. Although the hotel would still be visible and should not even at this lower height set a precedent for future development, the mission considered that the proposals would significantly reduce the overall impact, particularly through changing the profile from a single tower to a shorter structure with two flanking wings, which when viewed from a distance would fit more harmoniously into the landscape.

If the proposed hotel is not to set a precedent for future tall buildings in the development zone, the mission considered that zoning controls needed to be in place. Following an offer by the Regional Governor and discussion with representatives of the Regional Government,

it was agreed that zoning regulation would be put in place to protect the setting of the World Heritage site. Such regulation would be put in place in both Austria and Hungary. The mission also noted that a potentially intrusive project outside the buffer zone in Sopron (Hungary) was modified to avoid visual impacts. The mission considered that any regulation needed to be based on a cultural, environmental and visual assessment of the setting of the site. Furthermore the mission considered that the Management Plan needed to be supplemented by strategies on new development. In summary the following was agreed:

a) *Reduction in height of hotel*

The hotel will be re-designed to a maximum height of 47.20 metres (excluding the water tower). It will not include illuminated advertisement signs, or illuminated corners, and will be in a subdued colour;

b) *New zoning regulations for the entire setting of the World Heritage property*

In order to prevent further high-rise developments which could impact on the property, new zoning regulation will be introduced to protect the setting of the site from adverse development. Such regulations will be based on an appraisal of the visual and cultural qualities of the setting;

c) *Supplementary Management Plan policies*

In order to ensure that the Management Plan is fully integrated into wider land-use policies, it was agreed that supplementary strategies should be introduced on development and the protection of vernacular buildings;

d) *Planning Seminar*

The Austrian State Party offered to host a Seminar on management and protection for stakeholders within the next two months in order to enhance the understanding of the setting of the site and to strengthen the implementation of the Management Plan.

Draft 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 943bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1999; extension 2005

Criteria

(ii) (iv)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 8B.45

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Main threats identified in previous reports

N/A

Current conservation issues

The World Heritage Centre was informed by letter dated 12 October 2006 of the Association "Preserve Béthune Grand Place and its Belfry" and by the visit of representatives of this Association on 20 November 2006 to the World Heritage Centre, of the construction project for a covered market for fresh market products at the foot of the Béthune Belfry (Department of the Pas-de-Calais, France). It would be located in the buffer zone of the Béthune Grand Place property.

The Béthune Belfry is one of 23 belfries of France which were inscribed in 2005 as a transboundary extension of the Belfries of Flanders and Wallonia, which were inscribed in 1999.

According to information received by the Association and to that found on the official Internet address of the City of Béthune, an international competition for the project was launched at the beginning of 2005 (the ICOMOS evaluation mission took place in August 2004), and on 25 July 2005 the jury selected a project by a French architect. It further appears that the covered market would extend over 1100 m² (22 stallholders). It would measure 39 metres in length and 30 metres wide. The height of the project would be 7 metres. The nearest entrance to the covered market would be approximately 3 metres from the Belfry. The materials used would be steel, aluminium and glass.

The letter and annexed documents received by the Association were transmitted on 20 November 2006 to the State Party for comment. A reminder letter was sent to the State Party on 12 January 2007. Furthermore, the World Heritage Centre was informed by the same Association (letter dated 16 January 2007) that the Mayor of Béthune was going to grant the building permit end-January-beginning February 2007.

To date, the World Heritage Centre has only received comments (23 January 2007) from an official of the Ministry of Culture indicating that « *the Ministry of Culture supports the construction project for a covered market at the foot of the Béthune Belfry* », putting forward the following two arguments : « 1. *from the historical aspect, there is no contradiction in having a covered market beside a belfry as it is a perfectly normal location (see Ypres [West Flanders] with its belfry and its covered markets, idem elsewhere). 2. The project is extremely modern so as not to create a ridiculous pasticcio alongside this wonderful belfry. Moreover, the project is very modest (and intended as such)*».

The Ministry further informed that this project was "approved" by their services (General Inspection for Historic Monuments, Departmental Service of Architecture and Regional Heritage and Conservation). However, it would still be possible to intervene to discuss the project at the time of application for a building permit (the State – Departmental Service of Architecture and Heritage - is required to validate the conformity of the project).

The World Heritage Centre regrets that the French State Party has to date provided no official information (written and with graphics) regarding this project, in conformity with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, demonstrating that this project does not affect the outstanding universal value for which the Belfry was inscribed on the World Heritage List, as well as its visual integrity.

It further appears that an underground parking area located under the Béthune Grand Place (buffer zone) has also been constructed without the World Heritage Centre being informed.

Draft 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 before **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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1992

Criteria

(iv)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 7B.101; 30 COM 7B.83

International Assistance

Total amount allocated to the property: Emergency Assistance (USD 50 000) in 2003 for the restoration of the Historic Centre of Prague and the Historic Centre of Cesky Krumlov which were severely damaged by the floods of August 2002.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission, January 2005.

Main threats identified in previous reports

In the 1950s, a revolving 80-seat theatre was installed in the 17th century garden. In 1998, it was transformed into a permanent building with a seating capacity of 650 spectators.

Current conservation issues

In its report of 24 January 2007 on the state of conservation of the site, the State Party confirmed its intention to move the theatre from the garden of the summerhouse and to replace it by a new similar installation elsewhere in Cesky Krumlov.

The moving of the revolving stage requires the following actions:

- a) The signing of an agreement between the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, the National Institute for the Preservation and the Conservation of Monuments and Sites, the cities of České Budějovice and Cesky Krumlov and the Theatre Institute, for the dismantling of the existing revolving stage and its replacement by a new construction elsewhere in Cesky Krumlov, by 31 December 2007;
- b) Feasibility study for the relocation of the new revolving stage, and possibly other parts of the National Experimental Centre of the Open-air Theatre (upon approval of its construction), by 31 December 2010;
- c) Architects' competition for the project to install the new revolving stage and, possibly other parts of the National Experimental Centre of the Open-air Theatre by 31 December 2011 (upon approval of the competition);
- d) The preparatory phase of project implementation, which should be completed by 30 June 2013;

- e) Implementation of the project and the first stage of reconstruction of the Bellaria summer pavillion by 31 December 2014 ;
- f) Inauguration of the new revolving theatre and the last phase of reconstruction of the Bellaria summer pavillion by 31 August 2015;
- g) Dismantling of the current revolving stage by 31 December 2015;
- h) Public opening of the Bellaria summer pavillion by the beginning of summer 2016;
- i) Reconstruction of the part of the garden in front of the Bellaria pavillion by 31 October 2016.

The State Party plans to continue using this area for open-air theatre activities, and to ensure the continuity of the summer theatre life until the installation that would completely replace the existing revolving amphitheatre.

The World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS are not in agreement with the final work plan timetable for relocating the revolving stage. The work is scheduled to end only in 2016, which is not in accordance with the recommendations of the 2005 mission and the decisions of the Committee.

In February 2007, the World Heritage Centre received information concerning the inappropriate use of certain buildings of the Historic Centre of Cesky Krumlov from representatives of the local community (non-governmental organizations based in the Historic Centre of Cesky Krumlov).

Draft 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1996

Criteria

(i) (ii) (iv)

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

2004-2006

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 15B.70; 29 COM 7A.29; 30 COM 7A.30

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

Workshop of November 2003

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Urban development pressure through high-rise building project impacting on the visual integrity of the Cathedral as a landmark;
- b) Lack of buffer zone.

Current conservation issues

a) *Urban renewal of Deutz:*

A workshop procedure has been put in place to design a planning framework for the site of Cologne/Deutz, the ICE railway terminal and its surroundings. The report dated 20 January 2007 by the State Party presented the results of the workshop to define three solutions for the neighbourhood around the Kölnmesse/Deutz train station, which would be compatible with the World Heritage status. Based on the three proposals, framework requirements have been formulated for the planning decisions that will be adopted by the city council meeting during March 2007. The council is also waiting for a real-estate analysis to assess which project, under economic considerations, would have the greatest chance for implementation.

b) *Buffer zone:*

On 14 December 2006, the city council of Cologne adopted the decision to establish a buffer zone with extension to the east bank of the Rhine. A draft map with the new proposed boundaries for the buffer zone was received by the World Heritage Centre.

The State Party, in its state of conservation report, assured the World Heritage Centre that any future planning decisions and measures regarding the buffer zone of the World Heritage property will take into account the *Vienna Memorandum on World Heritage and Contemporary Architecture, Managing the Historic Urban Landscape* (2005).

Draft 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 update 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1998

Criteria

(iii) (vi)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 7B.76

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Main threats identified in previous reports

N/A

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted on 30 January 2007 the report on the restoration work carried out at the Anna Amalia Library following the fire of 3 September 2004. After the debris was removed all efforts focused on securing the structure. A project team, comprised of architects, structural engineers, experts on climate and wood protection as well as restorers of wood, stucco plaster and paint, was created to implement measures to secure and restore the building. During 2005, the timber structure (Grünes Schloss) and the Coudray-Annex need extensive restorative work. New wood was added to the old structure which has been dried, treated to resist the growth of fungus and technically reinforced.

Furthermore, it was decided to restore the “centre of old books” (the office of the Duchess Anna Amalia Library, the department for old books, including book restoration and a special reading room). Spaces selected to facilitate museum visits to the Rococo-Hall and the book tower will include an entrance lobby, exhibition room in the Renaissance-hall on the ground floor, as well as an introductory room on the first floor.

In early 2006, tests for developing restorative methods and obtain cost estimation and a schedule for all the restorative works were completed. In December 2006, plaster and colour of the façade were reconstructed based on reliable historic findings obtained during a period of extensive research. The reopening of the building is foreseen on 24 October 2007, the birthday of Duchess Anna Amalia.

Draft 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1979

Criteria

(iii) (vi)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 15B.73; 29 COM 7B.65

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

Joint reactive monitoring World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission, 2004;

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Construction of roads and high voltage power line in the immediate vicinity of the property;
- b) Absence of boundaries for the property;
- c) Lack of a Management Plan that addresses conservation issues, development control, tourism management, and future rock art research;
- d) Construction of metal walkway.

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2007 the State Party transmitted to the World Heritage Centre a copy of the Management Plan, a bibliography on rock art, prehistoric and protohistoric contexts, and the findings of Valcamonica.

In response to the recommendations of the joint reactive monitoring World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission of 2004, the following references are made in the management plan:

- a) Regarding the high voltage power lines in the immediate vicinity of the property, it is likely that these date from a period prior to the site's inclusion on the World Heritage List, with the exception of the new S. Fiorano-Robbia 380 kV power line, which runs between Italy and Switzerland. For this line the positioning of pylons was agreed to and accurately checked by the superintendence, who also conducted prior geophysical prospecting and excavations. On this occasion the relocation of some pylons was requested, and obtained, to protect rock art and archaeological sites.
- b) With respect to electricity lines built long ago, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities requested and obtained the transfer of some sections near areas with engraved rocks in the "Parco Archeologico Comunale di Seradina-Bedolina" and the "Parco Archeologico Nazionale dei Massi di Cemmo" (both in Capo di Ponte municipal territory). Valle Camonica is a technological corridor of primary importance, crossed by a series of high-tension lines, whose course has been altered to protect the rock engravings; however, it cannot be removed. On the other hand, these power lines cannot be buried, as this action could physically interfere with engraved rocks.
- c) With regard to the conservation of the property: The variability of locations and different state of preservation has determined the emphasis on systematic conservation studies and specific research programmes by the authority in charge, the superintendence. The problem of widespread deterioration of rocks with engravings is partly due to the

use of unsuitable methods on the part of those who first recorded the rock art (e.g. the use of chemical agents for cleaning surfaces, the making of casts and removal of covering earth). Since 1992, the agency for Archaeological Heritage of Lombardy has sought to address the problem adequately and prepare a Conservation Plan using appropriate methods on the basis of the examinations and surveys. It has therefore carried out specific analyses and studies on the state of preservation of rocks with engravings to determine the causes of deterioration and the level of pollution.

- d) During the preparation of the Management Plan, priority has been given to the definition of boundaries and relative buffer zones for the Rock Art Park, using GIS, and the creation of a database. It was also noted that the preparation of the Management Plan has provided an opportunity to validate regulations protecting areas with rock art and buffer zones; the latter were defined specifically for the Management Plan and have been included in local planning methods. These areas are subject to specific regulations. In order to facilitate the participation of local authorities in the application of measures protecting rock art and its natural surroundings, several brief rules were formulated for parks and rock art sites. These refer to national laws regarding protection, such as the most recent Legislative Decree 42/2004 and have been added to the regulations of existing Park Plans;

ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre welcome the Management Plan and in particular the detailed and extensive database system for recording the rock art in its immediate rock context, and for the comprehensive project to relate the rock art to the wider settlement patterns of the valleys. The assessment of risks and threats as well as the accessibility of the database on the intranet are also to be commended. The Plan could act as a model for other rock art sites where there is a need to integrate the rock art into the wider archaeological remains and manage it in a sustainable way to provide benefits for local communities.

The State Party did not provide the World Heritage Centre with a progress report taking into account the recommendations of the joint mission, as requested by Decision **29 COM 7B.65**.

Draft 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 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1994, extension 1996

Criteria

(i) (ii)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 15B.91; 29 COM 7B.66; 30 COM 7B.85

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

Joint reactive monitoring World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission 2005;

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Construction project of a highway extension in the vicinity of Villa Saraceno;
- b) Uncontrolled development in the Veneto region.

Current conservation issues

On 30 January 2007, the State Party submitted a detailed report responding to the decisions by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006).

- a) The report provides clarification on how the proposed buffer zone planned near the Villa Saraceno would ensure the control of development processes and the integrity of the World Heritage property and its setting. It underlines that the property is protected by three different legislative measures and by local planning regulations. The land use control law (2004) has become effective and a "Strategic Project" (2006) was issued to establish protective measures around each one of the Palladian Villas and re-create the respective environment. However, the strengthening of indirect protective measures is a step in the process of creating a wider protection zone, which will protect not only Villa Saraceno but also a group of old buildings in their natural environment. Specific protection measures will apply to the whole identified area, including a ban on construction projects above ground except works having a minimum impact. This ban would prohibit industrial constructions, trading centres, any other new construction higher than two floors above ground level and not in line with the rural environment, etc. Any intervention must be approved by the authorities. A new buffer zone will be submitted to the Committee as soon as the procedures for the new protection measures are completed.
- b) The State Party notes that the Management Plan was prepared for the serial nomination as whole, dedicating specific sections to each single component of the serial property. However, the procedures for the formal adoption of the Plan by all

involved parties are currently under way. It is foreseen that the Management Plan will be implemented in two successive phases: In the first immediate implementation the buffer zone will follow existing and effective protection laws and regulations; the second phase will be implemented within the framework of the “Strategic project” and will allow for an in-depth historical and landscape study to evaluate the environmental condition of the Villas. Wherever necessary, previously identified buffer zones will be modified and adapted on the basis of the indications emerging from this data.

- c) Concerning the new project of the motorway section close to Villa Saraceno, this project was partly revised, and a number of technical solutions have been identified to address the concerns expressed. The motorway project in the section near the Palladian Villa Saraceno has been modified to address recommendations of the 2005 World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission. There are two separate modifications relating to the Agugliaro Tollbooth to the north and the two overpasses visible from the Villa Saraceno to the south. These proposals have been transmitted to the National Road Board for incorporation. To the north the design of the tollbooth structure has been amended in favour of a simpler, less visible structure. In the south, in compliance with the request to lower the two overpasses visible from Villa Saraceno (No 18 and 19), a variant solution was created. The new plan includes a series of design modifications which eliminate overpass 19 and the “re-stitching” of the local traffic circulation network through the construction of an adjacent link road parallel to the motorway on its East side. In addition, overpass 18 has been re-designed, the road level was lowered, and a curve inserted in the layout of the west ramp. Furthermore, a significant reduction of the road surface of the overpass has been achieved. This will be completed by the creation of a green area for trees on the West ramp embankment, which when the trees are grown will be capable of completely concealing the overpass structure from the Villa.

Draft Decision: 31 COM 7B.113

The World Heritage Committee,

7. *Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,*
8. *Recalling Decisions **29 COM 7B.66** and **30 COM 7B.85**, adopted at its 29th (Durban, 2005) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions respectively,*
9. *Acknowledges the efforts made by the authorities to establish specific protection measures and in preparing the management plan;*
10. *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;*
11. *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 management plan for the World Heritage property including conservation plans and buffer zones as well as an update report for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.*

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2000

Criteria

(v)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 15B.75; 29 COM 7B.67; 30 COM 7B.87

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 60,000

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN mission in 2001 and a World Heritage Centre mission from 2 to 6 November 2003

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Potential pollution from the oil exploitation of the D-6 oil field in the Baltic Sea by the Russian Federation;
- b) Lack of bilateral cooperation between Lithuania and the Russian Federation including joint assessment of environmental impact of the D-6 project.

Current conservation issues

As requested by Decision **30 COM 7B.87**, a report was submitted by the Lithuanian authorities dated 30 January and another was submitted on 7 March 2007 by the Russian Federation.

The Lithuanian report informs that the last meeting of the “Joint Lithuanian-Russian Environmental Protection Commission” took place on 18-19 January 2006. The subsequent meeting planned for November 2006 was postponed several times by the Russian authorities. The Lithuanian proposal was to hold the meeting in March 2007, but so far no reply was received on the possible date of the meeting from the Russian authorities. The November 2006 session of the Joint Commission was supposed to discuss the issues raised by the last Committee’s decision and therefore:

- a) The signature of the bilateral “Agreement Concerning Co-operation in Case of Pollution accidents, Pollution Prevention, Mitigation and Compensation Measures”, has not taken place. Due to some differences of opinion between the two States Parties on the text of the Agreement, the Lithuanian authorities proposed to initiate official intergovernmental negotiations. Despite several contacts by the Lithuanian authorities, the position of the Russian authorities on conducting such negotiations is still unknown at the time of the preparation of this report. However, the Lithuanian State Party stressed that it attaches great importance to signing the Agreement, which is of utmost

importance for the preservation of the property and basis for joint action in case of emergencies in D-6 oil platform and pipeline;

- b) The signature of the joint “Lithuanian and Russian Action Plan for Co-operation in Case of Pollution accidents in the Baltic Sea” is still awaited. Though ready for approval, it cannot be signed since the above-mentioned Agreement, which constitutes the legal basis for the Plan, has not been finalised and signed;
- c) The joint “Lithuanian-Russian post-project Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)” of the D-6 oil platform and the continuation of bilateral environmental monitoring have only been partially implemented since the final report on post-project EIA is waiting for the final approval from the “Joint Lithuanian-Russian Environmental Protection Commission”. On the other hand, with regard to the EIA, the Russian State Party report states that the final report on the post-project EIA presented by the Lithuanian authorities reflected only the opinion of Lithuanian experts, disregarding the research results of the Russian experts. However, the Russian authorities have decided to complete the final report and to transmit the notes to the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Lithuania.

The Russian report further informed that in 2006 the States Parties held a Workgroup meeting on the creation of an environmental monitoring system of the Curonian Spit and the Baltic Sea. The aim of the meeting was the consideration of the results of the Monitoring Programme carried out in 2005, the fulfillment of monitoring research in 2006, and preparation of the suggestions for adjustment of the Monitoring System in 2007. The refined Monitoring Programme is to be confirmed at the Fifth Session of the Joint Commission.

The World Heritage Centre deeply regrets that after increased bilateral cooperation between Lithuania and Russian Federation, in response to threats from the D-6 oil field project, and despite the commitment of both States Parties last year, the cooperation has drastically slowed down.

The report submitted by the Lithuanian State Party also contained a comprehensive report on the state of conservation of the Lithuanian side of the Curonian Spit. Among other issues, the report informs that the May 2006 fires in the northern part of the property had an impact on fauna and flora but did not threaten the dunes. The affected area covered 235.6 hectares. The “Plan of Activities for Elimination of Negative Factors” elaborated in 2006 is being implemented and additional financial resources from the State Budget were allocated to this end. In addition, the World Heritage Centre received in July 2006 a letter from Lithuanian Permanent Delegation to UNESCO asking for technical support from international experts on the effects of the fires. Two international experts were identified by IUCN and their contact information provided.

The Russian State Party’s report on the state of conservation for its part of the property discussed the following: current legal regulation, measures for protection and restoration of natural complexes and zoning of the property under the Federal law “on specially protected natural areas”, the determination of the buffer zone, and site ecological monitoring system. The report also stated that the most frequent potential factors that may cause emergency situations are storms, forest fires, oil transportation, production transit traffic, and high recreational pressure on the property.

Furthermore, a news article released on 20 March 2006, announced that a major sewage spill into a body of water close to the World Heritage site was halted without apparent damage. The article also mentioned that this was caused by a leak appeared in a 30-year-old stretch of pipe linking the port city of Klaipeda to a nearby sewage-treatment facility. It seems that despite efforts to stop the flow, raw sewage began spilling into the Curonian Lagoon. By the time the leak was repaired, up to 60,000 cubic metres – around 60 tons – of raw sewage had flowed out into the narrow lagoon separating Klaipeda from the Spit. According to environmental inspectors who examined the scene, there should be no negative

impact on the shore. Furthermore, initial inspections showed that the damage to marine life was much less than expected.

The World Heritage Centre requested the State Party of Lithuania to provide additional information, including an assessment of the impact of this incident. A report was received on 26 March 2007 which reported that approximately 50,000 cubic metres of raw sewage passed into the Lagoon and that impacts to the water ecosystem of the site are being evaluated. It is estimated that the terrestrial part of the property is not affected.

Draft 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 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1980, extension 1992

Criteria

(iv)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

25 COM VIII.110-151; 28 COM 15B.76; 29 COM 7B.80

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 77,448 for the safeguarding of the monoliths at the property of Hagar Qim (1998) implemented for USD 22,779;

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

UNESCO mission 1994; ICOMOS mission 2001;

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Vandalism;
- b) Proposal for interim landfills for domestic waste near the Temples of Hagar Qim and Mnajdra in Qrendi;
- c) Illegal construction of houses close to the Grantija Temple;
- d) International competition for a Hagar Qim and Mnajdra Heritage Park.

Current conservation issues

A detailed updated report was sent to the World Heritage Centre on 7 March 2007. This report indicates:

- a) The following actions have been undertaken towards the development of a management plan of the World Heritage property: drafting of the description of Megalithic Temples and of the Statement of Significance, High-resolution 3-D documentation of Ggantija, Hagar Qim and Mnajdra Temples, first stakeholder and public consultations meetings for the Management Plan preparations. The characteristics of the six megalithic sites vary considerably in extent, state of conservation, landscape setting, management context and treatment; therefore a strategy is being developed to integrate this diversity into a single management plan;
- b) The Management Plan will also be complemented by a conservation plan, for which the following actions have been undertaken: creation of a scientific committee to advise on conservation methods for the Megalithic Temples, a condition assessment, drawing up of method statements for required conservation interventions, and implementation of most urgent conservation interventions;
- c) On the Hagar Qim and Mnajdra Conservation and Presentation Project, the following updates were submitted: one year of continuous and intensive monitoring of the environmental conditions at Hagar Qim and Mnajdra Temples was completed with European Union Pre-Accession Funds. This monitoring allows for detailed assessment of the performance of the protective shelters when these can be installed over the sites, and for a quantification of the improvement of environmental conditions. In May 2006, an ICCROM expert visited the property, in connection with the protective shelters

and the associated environmental monitoring, and advised on measures and fine-tuning of the monitoring programme. Work on the construction of the protective shelters is expected to begin during the second half of 2007;

- d) Concerning the Tarxien Temples Project, activities have been successfully launched, including an environmental monitoring programme, conservation actions at two megaliths bearing prehistoric graffiti, archaeological investigations of a site that may be used for a new visitor centre, design of a visitor centre that will provide interpretation, education, sanitary and catering facilities for visitors, and design of a 100% reversible walkway system that will facilitate access to the site and link it to the proposed visitor centre. It is anticipated that work on the construction of the visitor centre will commence before the end of 2007;
- e) Regarding the Ggantija Project, it was noted that if Structural Funds by the European Commission are confirmed, they would be used for key conservation and interpretation measures, including the creation of a discreet visitor centre on the edge of the archaeological park around the Ggantija Temples. Secured funding is currently being used to finance improved walkways and interpretation facilities that will help reduce the impact of visitors on the site;
- f) Concerning illegal development close to the Ggantija Temples on Gozo, an exhaustive list of infringements and corrective actions was provided.

Draft 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1995

Criteria

(ii) (iv) (v)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 15B.77; 29 COM 7B.81; 30 COM 7B.89

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

November 2000; March 2006

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Lack of comprehensive management plan;
- b) Lack of conservation of parks and palaces;
- c) Rapid encroachment by urban and infrastructure development;
- d) Tourism pressure;
- e) Lack of institutional coordination.

Current conservation issues

Following the recommendations of the reactive monitoring mission of March 2006, and the Committee's Decision requesting to set up a clear management structure, as well as to elaborate a comprehensive management plan with relevant benchmark documents, the State Party reported on 1 February 2007 on the following steps taken:

- a) On 22 January 2007, the Portuguese Ministries for the Environment and for Culture jointly decided to attribute the responsibility of the overall co-ordination of the World Heritage site management to the independent publicly funded society Parques de Sintra-Monte da Lua (PSML), which gathers three Ministries as well as the Municipality of Sintra in its governing Board;
- b) This newly designated site management entity (PSML) has secured the collaboration of all public institutions, including the Municipality of Cascais, which are responsible for different existing planning documents at the property, and will develop permanent co-operation with private property owners and private funding institutions in the near future;
- c) The State Party has presented a concise Action Plan for the period 2007-2009, prepared by PSML, delineating clear objectives, deadlines, performance indicators and responsibilities for 1) activities regarding the legal and institutional framework, 2) the planning activities towards a comprehensive management plan for the World Heritage site, as well as 3) continued conservation and restoration works.

In the period of 2007-2009, the following activities are to be undertaken and piloted by PSML: the review of the boundaries of the World Heritage property, a coherence analysis of land-use planning instruments, an analysis of the forest management plan, the co-ordination

of the existing land-use plans with the protection requirements of the World Heritage property, a site interpretation plan, an urban development strategy for the World Heritage cultural landscape and its buffer and transition zones, terms of reference and preparation of the World Heritage Site Management Plan for 2010-2014. Stakeholder involvement and public consultations have been identified, and form a vital part in assessing the performance of some activities.

While the short Action Plan outlines an ambitious programme touching upon all points and relevant documents requiring coordination, a continuous political and financial commitment as well as a small team of responsible representatives are required to implement the Action Plan. The State Party may wish to consider seeking external expert advice to accompany the process, and to exchange management best practice with other World Heritage cultural landscapes.

Draft 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 update 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1999

Criteria

(iv)

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

N/A

Previous Committee decisions

27 COM 7B.73; 28 COM 15B 94; 29 COM 7B. 82

International Assistance

Total amount allocated to the property: USD 20,000

UNESCO Extrabudgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

UNESCO/ICOMOS mission in 2002

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Dracula Park project;
- b) General deterioration of the monuments, and especially the fortifications;
- c) Lack of protection measures and maintenance, local responsibility and funding strategies.

Current conservation issues

The State Party report, received on 23 March 2007, provided information regarding projects and actions undertaken by the Romanian National Institute for Historic Monuments and the municipality of the City of Sighisoara since the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee, as follows :

a) Rehabilitation, restoration, construction

Rehabilitation works of the facades of the streets of Bastionului, rue Școlii, Place de la Citadelle have been completed. During 2006, the Mayor of Sighisoara granted construction permits up to a budget of 3.63 mio Euros (3.0 mio Euros private funding and 0.63 mil. Euros State funding). The feasibility study for the infrastructure works was approved in December 2006 by the National Commission for Historic Monuments, Bucharest. For the years 2007 and 2008 work has been authorized for the public drainage network. Works for the strengthening and restoration of the surrounding wall of the Citadelle on a part located in front of the Town hall were financed with 355,000 Euros (273,500 Euros from the budget of the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Tourism and local administration, and 81,500 Euros from the NGO sector. The work will be completed in three months' time. The conservation and restoration project of this wall in the eastern part, located north of the Blacksmith Tower, is ongoing. The feasibility study for the development of the public and green areas, as well as the project for the paving of the streets and the public squares, are being elaborated and will be submitted for approval to the National Commission for Historic Monuments, Bucharest, in 2007.

b) Reuse

The report mentions a trend to reuse dwellings by transforming them into hotels, guest houses, restaurants. The different living areas of these houses are adapted for new functions. Numerous projects for the conservation, restoration and transformation of historic monuments have been elaborated.

c) Protection and management of the site

In accordance with the activity-financing contract signed with UNESCO under the World Heritage Fund on 16 March 2007, the National Institute for Historic Monuments informed the World Heritage Centre that the Protection and Management Plan for the site should be drafted by the departmental and local administration during 2007. Under the same assistance, an updated topographical plan and the summary of the town planning, historic and architectural studies were transmitted to the World Heritage Centre in December 2006.

The Institute plans to elaborate this Plan, and also to organize the inspection of the site (activity included in the work plan of the Institute for 2007), in cooperation with the Departmental Direction for Culture, Cults and National Cultural Heritage.

Currently, the management is ensured under the Development Plan - Agenda 21 - which comprises three parts:

- (i) Strategy for sustainable development;
- (ii) Local action plan, and
- (iii) priority projects. The objectives of this Plan aim at updating the Town Plan for the protected area, a detailed Town Plan for the Lower City, as well as identifying funding sources and deciding upon priorities for intervention.

Furthermore, a Sustainable Development Plan for Tourism has been elaborated by the municipality and the Sighisoara Tourism Association. Also, the Tourism Management Plan should be drafted shortly.

d) Promotional activities

A press conference was organized in Sighisoara to inform the local population about specific and urgent problems for the protection of the World Heritage property of the Historic Centre of Sighisoara.

The Ministry for Culture and Cults took the initiative in 2007 of publishing an album dedicated to the historic monuments of Romania inscribed on the World Heritage List. A chapter of the album will be reserved for the Historic Centre of Sighisoara.

In 2006, the Mayor and the Sighisoara Tourism Association created a Tourist Information Centre. World Heritage property signs have been installed at each entrance to the city.

The World Heritage Centre noted the absence in the State Party report of detailed information on the state of conservation of the property, as well as details relating to completed projects. Based solely on photographic documents received together with the report, the World Heritage Centre noted the following:

- (i) the surrounding wall at the entrance to the Evangelical cemetery showed an alarming state of conservation, structural instability and lack of maintenance;
- (ii) part of the surrounding wall reposes on unstable ground; the causes and consequences of this landslide are not studied nor taken into account in the report;
- (iii) dwellings with stability problems;
- (iv) the use of unsuitable building materials not appropriate for restoration work, notably for the surrounding wall of the Citadelle on the eastern side located to the north of the Blacksmith Tower (part of the wall is repaired with concrete);
- (v) the replacement of original roofs by roofs of inappropriate materials, as well as the installation of components that did not exist before, considerably transforming the original aspect of the dwellings;
- (vi) it is difficult to judge the quality of the new paving by photographs alone ; the signposts should correspond to the standards described in the *Operational*

Guidelines, and notably the World Heritage logo should not be separated from the UNESCO logo.

The World Heritage Centre recalls the need to prepare a detailed report on the state of the property, including a study of the stability of the structures, an evaluation of the mobility of the ground and other information so as to evaluate its conservation. The need to urgently finalise and approve the Protection and Management Plan for the Historic Centre of Sighisoara, including the Technical Manual for Restoration, Rehabilitation and Construction to be used within this World Heritage site, should be emphasized.

Draft 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 before **1 February 2009** an updated and detailed report, including the Protection and Management Plan for the site, to be examined by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.*

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1985

Criteria

(iii) (iv)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 15B.97; 29 COM 7B.69; 30 COM 7B.79

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

Joint UNESCO World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission, March 2005.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Building volume of a new building and re-designing of the Plaza of Santa Teresa located between the Alcazar Gate in the town walls and the extra-muros Church of San Pedro;
- b) Lack of buffer zone and integrated management plan;
- c) Inadequate legal protection;
- d) Inadequate respect of the *Operational Guidelines* (para. 172) before construction and refurbishment were undertaken.

Current conservation issues

The State Party provided on 1 February 2007 a report in Spanish with three annexes including

- a) a reply to the retrospective inventory;
- b) cartographic documentation;
- c) clarifications of minor boundary modifications.

The document also explains legislative progress, especially concerning the passing of the *Decree 22/2004 of 29 January, establishing the Urban Planning Regulation of Castilla y Leon* and the *Agreement 37/2005 of 31 March of the Castilla y Leon Regional Government, establishing the PAHIS Plan 2004-2012 regarding Historical Heritage in Castilla y Leon*. The PAHIS Plan includes a Protection Scheme that envisages the implementation of legislation needed to fully enforce the provisions of the *Castilla y Leon Cultural Heritage Act, Law 12/2002*. The PAHIS Plan also envisages specific treatment of World Heritage properties and includes a 'series of concrete measures whose purpose is to ensure upholding of the excellence criteria on which recognition was based in the first place and to enhance conservation and management conditions'.

With regard to the request made for an integrated management plan, the report notes that a 'Territorial Heritage System' has been drafted for the management of the World Heritage property. In addition, a *Framework Collaboration Agreement between the Department of Culture and Tourism of the Castilla y Leon Regional Government and the Town Hall of Avila for the drafting of a Management Plan for the Old Town of Avila and its Extra-Muros Churches as a site included on the World Heritage List* has also been signed (27 September 2006). A Joint Committee will be formed to co-ordinate and monitor the enforcement of the Agreement and the works deriving from it. During 2007 discussions will be undertaken with stakeholders involved in heritage management and a document will be drafted in 2008 to serve as the basis for the work envisaged in implementation of protection measures, definition of specific measures required by the Convention, etc. This document will be submitted to the national Ministry of Culture and the World Heritage Centre in 2008 and, following this consultation, a text will be presented for preliminary approval in the first half of 2009.

With regard to the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, the report summarises the earlier information and maps of boundaries and buffer zones provided to the World Heritage Centre in response to clarifications sought during the Periodic Reporting exercise. A proposal to modify the boundaries is being developed to enhance the property's degree of coherence

by including six other extra-muros religious monuments within an enlarged area and with new buffer zones that are consistent with the level of protection that the new integrated management plan seeks to provide.

Furthermore, via letter dated 2 March 2007, a CD was transmitted to the World Heritage Centre concerning the state of conservation of Avila which provides a summary of the delimitations as well as protection measures in English.

Draft 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1988

Criteria

(i) (ii) (iv)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 15B.98; 29 COM 7B.86; 30 COM 7B.92

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

ICOMOS mission March 2002

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Urban development pressure;
- b) Lack of comprehensive management plan.

Current conservation issues

The State Party report submitted on 30 January 2007 in Spanish addressed the following issues:

The legal protection of the World Heritage property is based on national and regional laws for heritage protection according to which any changes to protected building or areas on the municipal level require consultation and consent of the higher hierarchy. To ensure systematic coordination, the region (Comunidad autonoma) of Castilla y Leon has set up an agreement (Convenio) with all administrative levels to create the "Castilla y Leon Cultural Heritage Commission as a corporate body with deliberation and decision-taking capacity entrusted the safekeeping of Castilla y Leon's Cultural Heritage and called upon to ensure administrative coordination". The main points to be taken into account by a future management plan are outlined, thus serving as terms of reference for the drafting of the management plan.

The State Party further informed that for organizational reasons the joint training and information seminar requested by the Committee to clarify the obligations under the *World Heritage Convention* concerning control and management of urban planning for World Heritage cities (see Decision **30 COM 7B.92**) could not be held before the 31st session. It is now planned to take place in late 2007.

The State Party report provided no information about the controversial urban development projects such as the Auditorium building project at the Huerto de las Adoratrices. The building plot, which is part of the core zone of the World Heritage property, had already been excluded in 2004 from the protection of the municipal law on heritage protection (see Decision **28 COM 15B.98**). This was confirmed when the project designs were presented to the World Heritage Centre during the visit of the Mayor of Salamanca on 3 October 2006. The latest information from the State Party dates back to a letter of 25 February 2005 which notes a "decision to defer the building of the Auditorium pending the approval of the new General Plan".

According to information from Spanish NGOs, this General Plan (Plan General de Ordenacion Urbana, PGOU) was officially adopted on 23 January 2007, including the refurbishment project for the Huerto de las Adoratrices and thus legalising its implementation. However, ICOMOS has stated on several occasions that any construction at the Huerto de las Adoratrices would seriously harm the urban fabric both in terms of the building structure and the open space.

Despite the clarifications about the legal protection of heritage sites in Salamanca, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS are unclear as to how the implementation of national and regional heritage protection legislation can be best ensured when urban planning legislation is entirely under municipal responsibility. Nevertheless, the Castilla y Leon Cultural Heritage Commission can be seen as a positive step towards a co-ordinated implementation of the heritage laws in the urban context.

Draft 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 update 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1998

Criteria

(ii) (v)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 15B.100; 29 COM 7B.87

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

ICOMOS-German World Heritage Foundation mission from 23 to 30 January 2004;

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) New constructions within the historic centre;
- b) Lack of valid detailed planning documents;
- c) Inadequate infrastructure including the sewage system.

Current conservation issues

The state of conservation report submitted by the State Party on 12 March 2007 provides the following information:

- a) The boundaries of the historical area of centre of L'viv, which define the buffer zone of the Ensemble of the Historical Centre, have been approved by decree of L'viv City Executive Committee n° 1311 dated 9 December 2005, and submitted for approval to State Service of Protection of Cultural Heritage. This comprises a territory of 2441 hectares. The following zones have also been indicated: zone of regulation of construction (4355 hectares); zone of protection of historical urban landscape; zone of special regulation of construction in adjacent villages and suburban construction on the territory of former adjacent villages. A number of projects to define the boundaries of territories and protection zones of monuments of the Ensemble of the Historical Centre have also been worked out. The list of monuments includes the ensemble of St. Yuri's Church, the ensemble of St Kazimir's Church, the ensemble of Benedictine Monastery, the ensemble of St Onufriy's Monastery, St. Voitsekh's Church. Protection zones for these areas have been approved by corresponding decrees of L'viv City Executive Committee.
- b) A working group on the coordination of work in historical areas and protection zones of objects inscribed on the World Heritage List was formed by the decree of Ministry of Construction, Architecture and Municipal Facilities n° 318 dated 25 September 2006.
- c) In 1998-2007; a comprehensive programme for the preservation of historical buildings in L'viv approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers n° 1266 dated 15 November 1997 was carried out by Directorate for Protection of Historical Environment together with other directorates of L'viv City Council. Work plans for the management and maintenance of sites are being worked out and implemented annually. The plan is to be completed in 2007.

- d) The finances from the general fund of the State Budget for 2006 were 4 281,319 Euros and from the local budget 283,047 Euros for the property; the number of tourists in 2006 was 161,000, including 41,800 foreign tourists.
- e) The following research is being carried out to ensure the successful implementation of the protection, renovation and restoration activities: Research aimed at determining the reasons of deterioration of historical buildings of the city including engineering and geological analysis of soil in the historical part of the city; geophysical analysis of influence of vibration from vehicle traffic and the creation of a monitoring system of the geological environment. The results of the research prove that vibration from vehicle traffic is one of the reasons of deterioration of buildings in the historical part of the city, are used in working out tram and automobile routes in the central part of the city. During the reconstruction of Rynok Square, vibration absorber plates were installed.

Concerning protection, conservation and restoration activities, the following is noted:

- f) A project of regeneration and restoration of five blocks within the territory of the Ensemble of the Historical Centre, which demonstrated the advantages of policy approach to processing project documentation;
- g) A project of pedestrian pavements in the central part of the city;
- h) A project of regeneration of the central part of L'viv;
- i) Stock-taking of landscape and architectural complexes of the city, including defining their territories and protection zones;
- j) A project of defining territories and protection zones of monuments of national importance including St. Kazimir's Church, and the complex of Carmelite Monastery; and historical and architectural base plans and projects for the protection of additional suburban territories around the historical centre.

Finally, the State Party considers it is necessary to create, in co-ordination with ICCROM, a Training Centre on protection, preservation and promotion of cultural heritage, as well as a school for restoration techniques. The good quality topographic maps with the boundaries of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone received from the State Party indicate different boundaries than in the nomination. The State Party should submit topographic maps indicating the exact boundaries of the property as inscribed in the World Heritage List. If required, the State Party, in compliance with Chapter III of the *Operational Guidelines*, could submit a proposal for a boundary modification.

The World Heritage Centre notes that the State Party did not provide any information concerning the revised Master Plan for the World Heritage property the Historic Centre of L'viv.

Draft 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2004

Criteria

(ii) (iii) (iv)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 14B.49; 30 COM 7B.93

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission 18-20 October 2006

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Urban development pressure;
- b) New constructions in the area surrounding the property.

Current conservation issues

As requested by Decision **30 COM 7B.93**, a World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission took place from 18 to 20 October 2006. It assessed the impact on the World Heritage property of the new Liverpool Museum building, three additional new buildings that are being planned on the waterfront next to the Three Graces, as well as the overall situation of the property of the Maritime Mercantile City with regard to the state of conservation of the site in its widest urban context, its integrity and authenticity.

The mission noted that the city's potential for development, due to the "urban renaissance" it is experiencing, is being managed through an impressive planning system with formally established Master Plans for each development site (with the exception of Pier Head) and English Heritage as a key partner in the regeneration process. Improvements should include better guidance and involve more partners, in particular local communities.

The World Heritage status should call for the introduction of a stricter regime of planning control based on a thorough analysis and description of townscape characteristics and sense of place. This should be taken as a point of departure to establish consensus upstream over the extent and range of development in and around the World Heritage site, and ways and means to achieve this. Benefits would include more consistency in decision-making and bringing more clarity to the public at large, including developers, local heritage conservation groups and the World Heritage Committee.

The mission concluded that the overall state of conservation of the World Heritage site is good as the docks and port areas, as well as the city's listed historic buildings are either restored or well-maintained, or part of a programme of rehabilitation, carefully planned, documented and executed with great respect for the authenticity of the design and materialisation. The wider urban context, which includes seriously degraded areas, is part of renovation, rehabilitation and redevelopment initiatives that essentially aim at carefully re-establishing the city's coherence through the enhancement of its numerous remaining historical features, the infill of vacant lots and the redesign of the public space.

With regard to the Museum of Liverpool Project, as well as the three new buildings of the Mann Island Project, all next to the Three Graces, the mission assessed that:

- c) With respect to height, the Museum and Mann Island projects were respectful, as they do not exceed the height of the Three Graces;
- d) With respect to these projects being complementary to the Three Graces, the City Council and its partners, including English Heritage, were of the opinion that the projects complement the Three Graces, because of their high-quality architectural design and materialization;
- e) With respect to the dominance of the Museum building in particular, the architect and City Council with partners were of the opinion that it was not challenging the "iconic Three Graces" and that the design had taken into account the sensitivity of its location, as set out in the architectural design brief. However, the mission noted that this design brief did not reflect the specific characteristics of the property, such as verticality and rhythm of the Three Graces, which should have served to harmonize the historic environment and contemporary architectural interventions and to minimize controversy.

In response, the City Council has committed itself to rapidly producing a set of Supplementary Planning Documents with the aim of introducing stricter planning control based on a thorough analysis and description of townscape characteristics (including building density, urban pattern, and materials) and sense of place.

In conclusion, the mission considered Paragraphs 178-186 of the *Operational Guidelines* (the List of World Heritage in Danger) and Paragraphs 192-198 (Procedure for the eventual deletion of properties from the World Heritage List), and in terms of threatening effects of town planning (Paragraph 179 b. iv) established that:

- a) Liverpool's inscription criteria and justification emphasize that the property consists of specific areas that are testimony to the development of modern dock technology, transport systems and port management, with significant individual commercial and public buildings grouped along a limited number of streets that showcase the wealth of the city at the height of its development. As the Liverpool Life Museum and the Mann Island projects are not towering over, nor obscuring principal views to the Three Graces on Pier Head, the site's outstanding universal value is considered not under imminent threat. Overall, the property's protected areas with related structures

and individual buildings were not under threat of significant modification or degradation, nor would any of the development proposals obstruct views to them in any significant way;

- b) However, when taking into account building density, urban pattern and historic character of the Pier Head, potential threats exist to the visual integrity of the site. As the World Heritage Committee in its current *Operational Guidelines* (Chapter II E) has not yet fully developed guidelines for the application of the condition of integrity to cultural properties, impacts on the site remain difficult to assess.

Based on the World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission report, the State Party commented on 1 February 2007 on several issues and progress made to ensure the maintenance of the outstanding universal value and integrity of the property:

- f) A Heritage Protection White Paper is being published in March. This document will serve to strengthen and clarify measures for protecting World Heritage properties;
- g) English Heritage, the Commission for Architecture and Built Environment and historic environment and architecture experts prepared a revised guidance on tall buildings. This document is out for public consultation and will be published;
- h) The Regional Spatial Strategy is under review and contains appropriate policies to protect the cultural heritage of the Liverpool's region;
- i) Liverpool City Council has begun work on the Local Development Framework. In addition, a Supplementary Planning Document to set out objectives for the property of Liverpool is being prepared;
- j) Liverpool City Council with English Heritage and Liverpool Culture Company have commissioned a World Heritage Education and Interpretation Strategy which will improve the understanding of the values of Liverpool as a World Heritage property;
- k) Concerning the implementation of the *Vienna Memorandum* (2005), they proposed to use Liverpool as a case study for the development of the World Heritage Committee's overall approach to urban properties and towards the elaboration of a UNESCO Recommendation on the Conservation of the Historic Urban Landscape.

Draft 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;
 - 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 characteristics and qualities of the historic areas and requests the authorities 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

FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1980

Criteria

(i) (ii)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 15B.118; 29 COM 7B.74

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 73,888

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

Monitoring mission in 2001

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Deterioration and destruction of the fabric of the sites by environmental factors, lack of maintenance, as well as polluted water;
- b) Erosion;
- c) Absence of management policies;
- d) Uncontrolled urban development
- e) Tourism pressures (in particular at Portobelo).

Current Conservation Issues

The State Party sent information that confirmed damage that had already been detected in 2001, without any mention of the state of progress of the project undertaken by the *World Monuments Fund*, which started in 2003.

The report states that neither San Lorenzo nor Portobelo have specific management plans.

As for the problems detected in San Lorenzo, the report mentioned:

- a) The poor state of the road leading to the Castle, with difficult access, principally in the rainy season;
- b) The lack of parking facilities;
- c) No restrooms, electricity or drinking water is available;
- d) Poor maintenance of the surrounding environment;
- e) No signage or printed information available;
- f) No tourist facilities or visitor center exists;
- g) Damage to the dock at the base of the fortress is in evidence;
- h) No safe access to the courtyard of the Castle is provided.

In the case of Portobelo, some recurrent problems are mentioned:

- i) Squatter settlements in immediate proximity to the fortifications;
- j) No implementation of the conservation regulations on culture and environment by local authorities;
- k) No housing alternatives for families, who have built their houses on the fortifications;
- l) No tourist facilities, no hotels, no docks;
- m) The drainage system in the village does not work correctly and the water supply is insufficient;
- n) No system of treatment of residual water is available, increasing pollution in the urban and archeological areas as well as in the sea;
- o) No system for collecting rain water is available;
- p) The monuments require conservation and restoration interventions;
- q) It is mentioned that a territorial plan has been developed but not implemented.

The report mentions that the National Institute of Culture is working on the development of the *Patronato de San Lorenzo* to start preservation and rehabilitation works, through a technical office in Portobello to develop a more effective and direct relationship between the different levels of government to reinvigorate efforts on the site.

The World Heritage Series N°19, published in December 2006, is devoted to Fortifications in the Americas. A chapter addresses in detail the conservation priorities and work already undertaken in San Lorenzo and Portobelo. Unfortunately, the State Party report does not include this information. The publication is available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/series/19>

Draft 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. *Requests the State Party to submit the territorial planning project mentioned in the report by 1 February 2008;*
6. *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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

2000

Criteria:

(i) (iv)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions:

29 COM 7B.97; 30 COM 7B.98

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 75,000 for Emergency Assistance, in 2001.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

Monitoring mission in 1999; ICOMOS expert mission 2000

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Frequent seismic activity in the region and flooding during the rainy season;
- b) Demolition of certain houses in the historical centre and the restoration of San Agustin Church;
- c) Material decay and abandonment of buildings.

Current conservation issues:

The World Heritage Centre received the annual conservation report in January 2007. The report details conservation and protection actions undertaken in different historic buildings by

public (National Institute of Culture, Provincial Municipality of Arequipa, Regional Government of Arequipa, National University of San Agustín) in collaboration with private institutions (Spanish Agency for International Cooperation A.E.C.I., Hotel Casa Andina). These projects range from the actual restoration of building to the rehabilitation of infrastructure, including improving vehicle traffic conditions and transit in protected areas such as the San Lázaro neighbourhood, underground cabling for public lighting, inventory of historic buildings, etc.

In addition, other projects are in process, such as the rehabilitation of the Cine Ateneo and the Coliseo Municipal. It is reported that the interiors of these buildings will be readapted for cultural activities. Remodelling is said to be limited to the interiors and not to affect the facades. Other intervention projects are in the process of being approved and will be focused towards the presentation of specific buildings. The report also mentions progress in regards to projects started in 2006 which have been finalised.

As for the Committee's request to finalise and implement the Disaster Preparedness Plan, the report mentions that the document has a 90% progress and has not been finalised due to recent changes in the Provincial Municipality of Arequipa. The State Party reiterates its commitment to finalise the plan and inform the Committee as soon as this is accomplished in 2007. In spite of not having a formal finalised plan, actions have been undertaken to mitigate potential risks, mainly in the form of emergency interventions. Similarly, new construction has been controlled to a certain extent by developing technical dossiers to grant new licences.

Regarding buildings at possible risk, two of the three have been intervened with emergency actions and have holistic restoration projects. Pending building is in process of being evaluated so a comprehensive proposal can be defined.

Concerning the demolition of historic buildings, there have been approximately 12 incidents in the past ten years and only one occurred in 2007. All of these are in judicial processes to impose sanctions on owners who proceeded with demolitions without the appropriate authorization. To address this issue, the National Institute of Culture has established a technical office to collaborate with the Municipality and the Spanish International Agency for Cooperation in regulating land use so as to conserve the Outstanding Universal Value of Arequipa.

The World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS are concerned that only basic information has been provided in relation to the architectural interventions without sufficient graphical information. The State Party did not apply paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* of the *World Heritage Convention*, nor did they submit the Restoration Plans of the *Tambo de la Cabezona*. Furthermore, Emergency Consolidation Works on the *Casa Polar* and the conversion of the *Casa Andina* into a hotel – all signature buildings of the Urban history of the city – have all taken place without consultation.

In spite of the decreasing number of demolitions on the site, one of the more emblematic houses of the *Calle San Agustín* has been partially demolished. Information supplied by a civil society organization in Arequipa complained about demolitions in the historic area dating from the end of the 1990s. Current control mechanisms seem unsuitable to stop the process.

In spite of the work carried out on the historic fabric of the buildings, some of which are older than four centuries, no archaeological work was referred to in the report provided. Taking into account the archaeological prehispanic wealth of the city, as mentioned in the case of the original *Tambos* of the area of *Calle Puente Portuguesi* an archaeological survey should be carried out before any interventions related to the consolidation of building structures or works on gas, water or electricity networks.

It is clear that more frequent monitoring and a larger commitment and participation by civil society are required to mitigate these threats in the long-term.

Draft Decision: 31 COM 7B.123

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7B.3**, 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.

FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING NO DISCUSSION

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1995

Criteria:

(iii)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions:

N/A

International Assistance:

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

Joint mission World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS November 2006.

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) State of conservation of the fabric of monolithic sculpture;
- b) Lack of management plan;
- c) Lack of buffer zone.

Current conservation issues:

A joint World Heritage centre/ICOMOS mission was undertaken in November 2006, as per the request of the Ministry of Culture of Colombia, following a series of events related to the construction of a road through the archaeological site by the Yanacona indigenous community that inhabits an area at the limit of the San Agustin property. The mission was called for so that provisions could be made that would guarantee the conservation of the property's outstanding universal value and its authenticity and integrity.

The sites that comprise the World Heritage property present decay phenomena resulting from the properties and nature of the physical fabric and its environmental conditions, though none of the effects evidenced are critical. The sites are well managed overall but presentation, interpretation and visitor services are somewhat limited. The main threats at the site are related to the lack of a buffer zone and management plan that would allow the authorities to control development of the surrounding areas that could impact the current integration of the sites with their setting.

As for the road built by the Yanacona community, there have been some impacts on the archaeological remains and these need to be attended to through additional systematic work and presentation of the area.

Participatory management planning is needed to develop a comprehensive long term plan to conserve and promote the values of the archaeological sites and to integrate tourism, social, economic and infrastructure development concerns in the area. The mission report identified several recommendations:

- a) A systematic condition survey is needed to establish baseline information to monitor the state of conservation and promptly address decay phenomena as they occur;
- b) The efficacy of sheltering and drainage systems also needs to be comprehensively assessed to address particular failures. However, if erosion is considered a significant decay factor, then additional wind breaking installations might be considered;
- c) Interventions in the burial tombs need to be consistent across the three properties inscribed on the World Heritage List;
- d) Interpretation at the sites can be enhanced;
- e) Current proposals by the authorities to initiate a management planning process need to be implemented and completed on a priority basis. Although there are management arrangements in place, several issues need to be addressed holistically, within the framework of a participatory, value-driven methodological approach. This approach will entail identifying and involving key stakeholders during the decision-making process;
- f) The existence of two municipalities that could have an impact on the inscribed properties will need to be taken into account. Actions prescribed, particularly in relation to regulating land use, will have to be integrated with urban, municipal and territorial development plans;

- g) Different interest groups associated with the sites and its setting will need to be identified, so that their levels of responsibility and commitment to the site can be ascertained for the implementation of management strategies;
- h) There is a need to establish precise limits and make maps available where use zones are clearly defined, as well as a buffer zone with regulations to limit what will be acceptable in terms of development of infrastructure. The properties are well integrated into their setting and provisions need to be taken to preserve the existing integrity of the landscape;
- i) A more operative management structure is also needed;
- j) A decision needs to be made in regards to existing infrastructure at the property;
- k) The issues of living cultures are certainly critical in regards to World Heritage. However, in the specific case of San Agustin the particular conditions of the Yanacona community, the process that led to the current settlement, warrants further studies and research in order to ascertain the legitimacy of claims to the land;
- l) The built road needs to be closed down and no vehicular traffic permitted. A walkway could be a sensible compromise to allow better access to the indigenous settlement and promote visitation to the area. Notwithstanding, there are already communication possibilities, which need to be improved, so that closing down the road would not mean leaving these communities isolated;
- m) The Yanacona community has requested several permits in different occasions to develop activities in the areas of maximum protection that are inscribed in the World Heritage List. Although there are high expectations surrounding the use of the site, there have been no precise and explicit indications of what their priorities are. Ceremonial activities, production and distribution of traditional food, sales of handcrafts, construction of a maloca (ceremonial / ritual structure), recreational spaces for the community, etc., have been mentioned, but there is no precise decision of what the priorities are and what the potential implications on the land use and the setting of San Agustin could be.

Although there is a clear and present need to improve the social and cultural conditions of the area, any project in this respect needs to be reconciled to guarantee the conservation of the values that warranted the inscription of the site in the World Heritage List. To appropriately address these issues, they will need to be integrated in a meaningful way within the framework of a planning process.

Draft 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1990

Criteria

(ii) (iv) (vi)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions:

29 COM 7B.93; 30 COM 7B.94

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 82,207

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

Monitoring missions in 1993, 1995, 1998, 2002

Main threats identified in previous reports:

General threats:

- a) Urban development pressure including inadequate land use control;
- b) Tourism pressures;
- c) Lack of capacity in conservation techniques;

- d) Lack of integrated management mechanisms (including legislation and service infrastructure);
- e) Lack of means for presentation and interpretation of the site;
- f) Ever present risk of earthquakes and hurricanes
- g) Deterioration of structures caused by natural and human hazards (including environmental pollution and lack of sensitisation of local residents)

Specific threats:

- h) Need to clearly define and control development in buffer zones associated with the inscribed World Heritage property

Current Conservation issues:

The World Heritage Centre received in early 2007 a report from the Secretary of State for Culture, National Directorate for Cultural Heritage of the Dominican Republic prepared for the World Heritage Committee/ UNESCO entitled "Report of development 2002-2006, Colonial Town of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic", dated January 2007. The report touches on developments carried out in the period 2002-2006 for:

- a) *Institutional co-ordination between the different agencies of the Dominican Republic in relation to works of restoration and rehabilitation in the Colonial Town of Santo Domingo.*

The report notes that the National Directorate for Cultural Heritage has established a system of communication involving for example the Department of Aqueducts and Sewers, the Secretary of State for Tourism, the Department of Electrical Enterprises, and above all, the Office of the Mayor of the National District.

- b) *Integrated Revitalisation Plan and related actions.*

The report notes that the Inter-American Development Bank supported development of a « Strategic Plan for the Integrated Revitalisation of the Colonial Town of Santo Domingo » prepared by a conservation consultant (Lombardi Associates), which has subsequently guided thinking about the development of a programme of follow-up actions and interventions. In essence, the main outcome has been an agreement between the Technical Secretariat of the Presidency, the Secretary of State for Culture and the Office of the Mayor of the National District to create the Steering Commission of the Colonial Town (CRCC). The functions of the CRCC have been set out to define, formulate, regulate and foresee financial support of policies, programmes, plans, projects for the development and conservation of the Colonial Town of Santo Domingo. The report also mentions a number of private sector development projects supported in this context.

- c) *Management of the property.*

The State Party report describes the many actions taken in the past four years to strengthen its professional credibility, the professionalism of its specialist divisions and the procedures for the review of technical requirements in reviewing projects.

- d) *Law for the protection and defence of cultural heritage*

The State Party report describes efforts over a period of four years (2000-2004) to develop a draft law for the protection and defence of the Immovable Heritage of the Dominican Republic. The State Party also describes current efforts to finalise the proposed new law with the aid of an experienced consultant, as well as interim measures to limit noise, use of fireworks, and the hours of alcoholic consumption.

- e) *Risk management Plan for the Colonial Town.*

The State Party report describes the many initiatives taken since Hurricane George focussed local attention on risk preparedness in 1998. In 2002, a first risk plan of the Dominican Republic for the Colonial Town of Santo Domingo was presented to the National Risk Commission. These efforts have led to the articulation of a law (147-02) intended to improve management of risks and also to the creation of a Risk Commission for the Colonial Town, integrating the efforts of all concerned local agencies, and with financial support from the national budget.

f) *Establishment of a buffer zone.*

According to Paragraph 107 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the State Party should formally submit any proposed modifications to the buffer zone for approval by the World Heritage Committee. The State Party should submit the appropriate cartography as well as the legal framework.

Draft 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1980

Criteria

(iv) (vi)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions:

28 COM 15B.115; 29 COM 7B.90; 30 COM 7B.95

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 167,825 for the elaboration of the Management Plan, nomination file, equipment, emergency measures for the protection and rehabilitation of the Maya Site of Copán, replacement of a protective canopy over the Hieroglyphic Stairway at the Maya site of Copán, seminar.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

Monitoring missions in 1999, 2003 and 2005

Main threats identified in previous reports:

The projected construction of an airport in the archaeological area of Rio Amarillo, 17 km from the protected area of the World Heritage property.

Current conservation issues:

After transmitting to the State Party the Committee's Decision **30 COM 7B.95**, taken at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), the Secretary of State for Culture of Honduras requested the Director-General to organize a meeting with the State Party at UNESCO Paris. This meeting took place at UNESCO on 27 November 2006 and was attended by four representatives of Honduran ministries and by two archaeologists, during which the State Party submitted an important amount of documentation on the Maya Site of Copán to UNESCO. The State Party requested that these reports be studied and brought to the attention of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Committee and that a new technical expert mission be sent to the World Heritage Property. The Honduran authorities informed UNESCO that the President of the Republic of Honduras attached particular importance to the Decision taken by the Committee at its 30th session and said that he would not go ahead with the airport construction project until UNESCO and ICOMOS had studied the documentation given to them during the meeting.

Decision **30 COM 7B.95** requested the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2007, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and on the progress made in implementing its other recommendations, e. g. to elaborate a Public Use Study for the future Rio Amarillo Archaeological Park and the continued monitoring of the state of conservation of the Copán Hieroglyphic stairway. This State of Conservation Report was received by the World Heritage Centre on 20 March 2007, and reports, in point 6.3.3.2, that "the project of an airport at Rio Amarillo has been definitely cancelled".

The State Party report, however, further states that the cancellation of the Rio Amarillo project led to the suspension of the funding for its collateral projects, including the creation of the Archaeological Park of Rio Amarillo and the formulation of Public Use Plans. However, in prior reports progress had been mentioned in this respect for the inscribed property and this should be included in the existing Management Plan. The report also states that the funding could be reinstated, if the airport project at the alternative site, Concepción, is approved.

The Getty Conservation Institute has completed the Copán Hieroglyphic Stairway Conservation Plan and its report on Study Results and Conservation Proposals is currently under publication. It was requested that the monitoring equipment remain in place and that monitoring of the stairway continue. In addition, the State Party prepared a report, with the

cooperation of the INAH (Mexico) on the state of conservation of the underground stuccoes throughout the site, the state of which is considered to be fair.

There are concerns that as temples and buildings of the Copán archaeological site are constructed of volcanic tuff, a type of stone that has deterioration mechanisms and factors that have not been fully studied, that the stone may contain expansive clay elements that could cause extensive stone deterioration. It is critical that a systematic condition assessment of the site is carried out to develop a comprehensive, long-term intervention programme.

Previous archaeological excavations exploring the different layers of construction of the moments have left tunnels, some of which could be visited, however the tunnels are fragile and there is a risk of collapse. The State Party reports that these tunnels have been provided with metallic reinforcement and metal doors with aeration holes. A comprehensive survey of these tunnels needs to be undertaken to assess the adequacy of keeping these areas open to the public and the need for structural reinforcement in others.

Biological growth in this tropical site, which has in the past led to the use of biocides and chemical cleaning agents may present risks of environmental pollution. The use of alternative biological control agents needs to be examined.

The framework agreements with the development banks prescribe a participatory approach in the management of the property, particularly in relation to the issues concerning the Copán Ruins Community. The *Sociedad de Buenos Compadres* (Society of Good Repairers) was founded in 2004, by the communities adjacent to the Río Amarillo area, and the State Party reported that three meetings were held with this organization in 2005, and an agreement was reached deciding that the rights of the landowners, with lands situated within the different zones of the heritage property, would be conserved, as long as these respected the intended land use, as permitted in the zoning and land use study. Furthermore, INAH promised to establish regional mechanisms for communication, in order to obtain the participation and consultation of the local communities, that is, the people of Copán Ruinas. The State Party reports that the INAH is currently reviewing these concerns (point 6.4.1 of the State Party report).

The World Heritage Centre also requested the State Party to provide clear and accurate cartography, showing the official limits of the registered site. The State Party reports that the planned review will provide an opportunity to present clear and accurate maps of the boundaries of the World Heritage property, as well as the planned extension of the Archaeological Park and its buffer zone and the possible purchase of lands that would make it possible to link the Las Sepulturas area with the main Copán site.

Draft 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. Further 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) (C 414)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1987

Criteria:

(i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (vi)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions:

22 BUR V.54; 29 COM 7B.91

International Assistance:

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

Monitoring mission in 2004

Main threats identified in previous reports:

Urban development pressures in areas surrounding the property.

Current Conservation issues:

The State Party did not submit the design, adoption and implementation of the integrated Archaeological Site Management Plan as requested by the World Heritage Committee in 2005. Over the last two years, the State Party has undertaken several initiatives to update the existing Management Plan that was declared insufficient to address the recommendations of the reactive monitoring mission that took place in from 28 November – 4 December 2004.

The State Party submitted a State of conservation report that clearly stated the background of the problem, however, less detailed information was supplied in relation to the process of social participation within the framework of the management plan, and little information was submitted on the official agreements for territorial planning. A large, general chapter was included to explain the philosophy and the theoretical process followed in developing a management plan in Mexico.

The State Party confirmed its interest in providing a long term framework for the future, updated management plan. No specifications, nor detailed information, were submitted, either in terms of the processes or the methodology applied to enhance the participation process. No detailed information was given concerning the agents/institutions involved in the participatory process, and no calendar of actions or distributions of responsibilities between actors were received. The report mentioned the identification of values in the process of the preparation of the Management Plan, but did not develop the processes that had been followed to arrive at the conclusions made.

The State Party has set up both a planning and a follow up group to establish management priorities for the future Management Plan. The planning group, in charge of the coordination and follow up of the planning process, as well as the organization of the different workshops (research, conservation, legal and technical protection, public visits, administration, etc.) is composed of technical representatives from the Direction of Planning and Management of the national coordination of INAH (*Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia*), the Director of the site and a representative from the regional INAH.

Two planning workshops were organized, one devoted to awareness raising, as a preliminary phase to the participation process, to collectively define the models of organization and participation for the integrated conservation purposes. 38 organizations participated in the workshop, in which preliminary and general priorities were defined. The second was devoted to development projects within the archaeological area. A Protection Campaign was specially designed to face the challenges and risks on days with excessive visitation, such as during the spring equinox, and guidelines for visitors were published in electronic version.

The Campaign was designed to fulfil the following objectives:

- a) To elucidate the profiles of visitors to the site,
- b) To analyse the social meaning of large-scale visitation,
- c) To evaluate the visitors' perception of the previously foreseen security measures,
- d) To analyse the visitors' perception of new access ways, timetables, new potential itineraries and tourist facilities.

The World Heritage Centre did not receive the final report on the results of the survey. No decision to close the entrance to the Area A, as requested since 1994, has been taken. No news concerning the strategy to reduce the number of itinerant unauthorised vendors in the protected area was given.

As mentioned, within the framework of the preparation of the management plan, the State Party submitted a long introduction, including general information about the geographical or geomorphologic factors affecting the site, as well as on the evolution of landscape and the diachronic advances of the history of the excavations. This report includes a chapter devoted to the juridical framework that mentions the current regulations on protection, site visits, labour contracting, services, as well as a chapter devoted to the historic background of the protection and delimitation of the protected areas of the ZMAT (*Zona de Monumentos Arqueológicos de Teotihuacan*). The State Party declares the difficulty of coordinated action between local, national and federal authorities, within the framework of the protected areas defined by the ZMAT. The report includes a list of archaeological, social, legal and institutional impacts detected in the ZMAT area that originate from the environment of the

area, which have generated various social, political and economic conflicts. In 2000, the population tripled to 70,000 inhabitants, constituting an urgent issue to be dealt with. Estimations state that in 2020 the periphery of the protected perimeter will be occupied. Moreover, the surroundings of the ZMAT area are also affected by the development of the metropolitan area of Mexico City and the Valley of Teotihuacan. In the Regional Plan for National Development, there is no mention of how archaeological sites within these territorial reserves will be protected. Protection Area B registered invasions and no longer functions as an adequate buffer zone. The State Party stated its concern for the demographic growth of the Teotihuacan Valley and the urgency to develop an urban development plan for the valley, in co-ordination with the Ministry of Public Works, all the municipalities implicated and with the Department of technical and legal protection of the archaeological area.

The State Party stated that there is a lack of intersectorial policies to protect heritage properties at the federal level; the development plans did not require the institutional technical advice of archaeologists at national level, and at local level, municipalities continue to grant construction permits without the approval of INAH. No updated information was received on the inter-institutional rules of procedure before issuing permission for construction in the archaeological protected area for possible future major urban developments or single constructions.

Other works were mentioned:

- e) Maintenance work: clearing of vegetation from the archaeological monuments and the surroundings against fire risk. The restoration of the archaeological area of San Juan has been undertaken ;
- f) Archaeological research works in La Ventilla, mainly focused on laboratory analyses on the archaeological records ;
- g) Restoration of the Temple of Quetzalcoatl, mainly focused on humidity control and the formation of salts.

Draft 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 2009 for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.*

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1987

Criteria:

(ii) (iii) (iv) (v)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions:

29 COM 7B.103; 30 COM 7B.95

International Assistance:

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

N/A

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Pressure from Urban Development;
- b) Natural disasters (seismic instability and continued sinking of the city caused by the depletion of the aquifer);
- c) Water and environmental pollution.

Current Conservation issues:

On 1 February 2007, the World Heritage Centre received the state of conservation report on the property of Xochimilco through the Permanent Delegation of Mexico to UNESCO.

Concerning problems linked to water management, the management plan foresaw activities which focused on the creation of new treatment plants for solid waste, for topographical, geodesic and photogrammetric studies to design a system to maintain a stable water level in the channels, and on several types of infrastructure to regulate the circulation of water and to control the contaminating substance level. The Management Plan has since been finalized. The process of consultation and public participation as well as the criteria to improve the conservation of the site was published by the UNESCO Office in Mexico, with the Title of: *Xochimilco, un proceso de gestión participativa*. This report can be found at the following web address: http://www.unescomexico.org/xochimilco/docs/Publicacion_Intro.pdf

The *Comisión Interdependencial*, created with an agreement of the Government of the Federal District of Mexico in February 2004, for the conservation of the cultural and natural heritage of Tlahuac, Milpa Alta and Xochimilco, approved the Management Plan jointly elaborated with the UNESCO-Xochimilco Project of 11 August 2006. The document clearly establishes the guidelines for action, the new protection area for the site and the system of monitoring. In terms of awareness-raising, the publication of a management plan summary document is foreseen by the end of March 2007.

In the framework of the Management Plan, the following revised boundaries for the Xochimilco part of the property have been suggested following a wide public consultation:

- a) Core zones, as containing outstanding universal value, as well as other areas that could contribute to the support of these values in the future;
- b) Areas suitable for potential recovery, which comprised some parts in the buffer zone, which were affected by reversible damages;
- c) Buffer areas, which include important elements of the overall system but not attributes of outstanding universal value;
- d) Areas of influence, not directly affected by the Management Plan, but taken into account as potential threats, which could affect the values of the core zone.

During the meeting on the follow up of the Periodic Reporting Exercise in Central America and Mexico (3-5 November 2006), a working visit was organized to Xochimilco. The participants had the opportunity to witness the participatory process built into the Management Plan and the constant effort to involve not only political and administrative bodies, but also the local population, which has always expressed interest and commitment. This was of major importance in this process. The participative approach of the management plan has been continued through the work implemented by the six technical working committees, in which experts, decision makers and civil society are equally represented to address issues of: (i) water management; (ii) historic centre and integral heritage; (iii) *chinampas* (floating gardens); (iv) productive activities related to heritage; (v) illegal occupation of public spaces; (vi) communication, promotion and education.

The composition of the *Comisión Interdependencial* was restructured in January 2007, following the presidential elections in December 2006, with the change in Government. The UNESCO Mexico Office has established bridges between the former and new officials through the induction workshops to avoid interruptions in communication and in institutional memory.

Over the last ten months, actions have been undertaken by public institutions, mainly focused on the cleaning of the channels, the consolidation of the banks of the *chinampas* and improvements in the credit system to help farmers achieve better conditions through subsidies.

New studies have started, within the framework of specific agreements signed with national universities to monitor fauna and flora species in the protected areas, especially migratory birds. Other agreements have been signed to complete the inventory and catalogue of the Chinampas by the *Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Unidad Xochimilco*.

The urgency of setting up a management unit, for the implementation of the approved management plan, has been agreed by local, regional and national authorities. The UNESCO Office in Xochimilco finalized its mandate for the realization and submission of the Management Plan by March 2007. The Management Plan has been submitted to ICOMOS for its review and comments.

Draft 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1985

Criteria:

(iii)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions:

28 COM 15B.104; 29 COM 7B.95; 30 COM 7B.97

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 75,550 for Emergency Assistance, Preparatory Assistance and Technical Assistance.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

Monitoring mission in 1999

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Intense temperature fluctuation;
- b) Rain and winds;
- c) Biological and microbiological growth;
- d) Water erosion and destabilisation of one of the main structures;
- e) Lack of a management plan.

Current conservation issues

The World Heritage Centre received the annual conservation report from the State Party in January 2007. The report provides an update on the conditions prevailing at the property, derived from the systematic assessment undertaken within the framework of the management plan. The State Party has continued its interventions at the national and regional level for the conservation and protection of the property, in spite of significant budgetary constraints during 2006. Activities focused on preventive conservation, particularly in areas at risk, concentrating on emergency works for the Galerias El Lanzon and Doble Mensula, which had been affected by the strong rainy season. In addition, several areas were intervened to enhance the protection of the property, specifically perimeter walls that limit the property at the West Field and the La Florida Sector. Emergency preparedness actions were undertaken to mitigate impacts from the rainy season. These included rehabilitating a drainage system and setting polyethylene fabrics on portions of the property that were susceptible to infiltration.

Archaeological research continued at the property, by Stanford University, at the Monumental area, La Banda Sector and at the town of Chavín. These works continue to provide important information to enhance the understanding of the property's cultural significance.

Regarding the Committee's request, development of the Management Plan has continued, having carried out three of the planning phases to date, only pending final review and editing of the proposals. Progress to date is at approximately 70% and it is expected the plan will be finalised by the fall of 2007. Within the planning initiative, two field sessions were carried out with the planning team to assess the state of conservation of the property, its significance and to engage in a participatory discussion for the zoning proposals and projects for the long term conservation of the property. The multi-stakeholder meetings convened representatives from public and private institutions on the national, regional and local level, as well as representatives from the Municipality and local communities. A consensus was reached with the communities and town of Chavín in regards of the future of the property and regulations pertaining to land use in surrounding areas and protection of archaeological remains within the town. It was important to have the representatives from La Banda and La Florida sectors who endorsed the proposals. No further conflicts have risen between these communities and the national entities in regards to land use at the area after the meeting. However, no information has been received relating to the identification of any possible route for the road that crosses this site at present.

An awareness workshop was carried out with the communities, which was well received. Similar activities have been considered within the management plan to promote awareness-raising in heritage endeavours. Also, within the context of the planning process, a broad consultancy and open collaboration was established with the Municipality to guarantee its commitment and participation with the implementation of the Management Plan, particularly in regards to regulating land use and new construction permits. An agreement was

subscribed within the National Institute of Culture and the Municipality of Chavín in this respect.

Another important issue reported on is progress on the construction of the Chavín National Museum. It is the result of intergovernmental collaboration between Peru and Japan. Plans and designs have been completed but, unfortunately the World Heritage Centre has not received any information as to the structure of the construction to gauge its potential impact on the property. Construction work will begin in April 2007 and its completion is expected for 2008. Furthermore, the World Heritage Centre has not received a copy of the Emergency Plan or the Chavín Conservation Project.

Draft 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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1994

Criteria:

(i) (iii) (iv)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions:

29 COM 7B.98; 30 COM 7B.99

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 50,000

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

N/A

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Damage caused by illegal mining and farming activities
- b) Continued vehicle traffic through the geoglyphs
- c) Lack of systematic monitoring of the site

Current conservation issues:

The World Heritage Centre received a very detailed State of Conservation Report in February 2007. According to the report, the establishment of two permanent police posts along the Pan-American Highway included in the Emergency Plan and approved by the Multisectorial Commission could not be established due to the lack of funds. The report specified that this action will be included in the 2007 project for the conservation of Nasca Lines.

The Ministry of Tourism and Exterior Commerce (MINCETUR) has given specialised equipment for the surveillance of the site. Frequent aerial control monitoring has been carried out in order to detect recent damage to the lines, and according to the State Party no new damage has been detected. However, the World Heritage Centre has received several media reports highlighting significant damage and continuing traffic through the protected area.

A co-operation agreement between the INC (National Institute of Culture) and the Ministry of Tourism and Exterior Commerce, for the funding of the Management Plan, was prepared during 2006 and is to be implemented within the framework of the National Programme for the restoration of Archaeological and Historic Monuments during 2007. The methodology will be the same as that promoted by the *Terra* Project in the Master Plan for the Conservation and management of the Chan Chan Complex. UNESCO Remote Sensing Unit's cooperation and assistance will be needed in order to obtain satellite images from the properties and surroundings.

Concerning the illegal settlements in the area of La Pascana, a judicial inspection involving the participation of several national institutions and representatives of the settlers took place in May 2006. After the inspection the illegal settlers are being requested to vacate this area.

Regarding the Cahuachi cemetery, the report states that the Antonini Museum, built in 1999 to host all the discoveries and present information concerning the site, has the INC's authorisation and inter-institutional agreement for the management of the collections recovered by the Italian institute in charge of the site.

According to the report, the Peruvian Government, represented by MINCETUR and the INC, is working on a new Integrated Plan as part of the National Programme for the Recuperation of Historic and Archaeological Monuments to be financed in 2007. The 5'000,000 *nuevos soles* required for the implementation of the Plan will be transferred from the fund recently created by Law N° 27889. This Plan includes the following conservation activities, which are to be implemented in coordination with the Multisectorial Commission:

- a) The construction of a road which would complement the already finished La Banda-San Miguel de La Pascana, in order to control the transit through the protected area;
- b) The establishment of two permanent police posts with incorporated satellite communication system and eight smaller posts for surveillance in 2007;

- c) The conservation and restoration of the damaged geoglyphs;
- d) The elaboration of a Management Plan in co-ordination with the INC to be carried out by 2008;
- e) The construction of a Site Museum, for which satellite images from UNESCO will be required;
- f) Construction of a tourist viewpoint and signage of the property;
- g) Construction of a National Airport and Urban Development Plan by the Municipality of Nasca and the Ministry of Transport.

Draft 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.*