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# World Heritage

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## UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

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

#### WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Thirty first Session

Christchurch, New Zealand  
23 June – 2 July 2007

#### Item 8B of the Provisional Agenda: Nominations to the World Heritage List

#### **Nominations to the World Heritage List**

#### SUMMARY

This Addendum presents the Draft Decisions concerning the nomination of the *Ecosystem and Relict Cultural Landscape of Lopé-Okanda (Gabon)*, minor modifications to the boundaries, creation of buffer zones and revision of Statements of Significance of already inscribed properties to be examined by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session in 2007.

**Decision required:** The Committee is requested to examine the Draft Decisions presented in this Addendum and take its Decisions in accordance with paragraphs 153, 163 and 164 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

In the presentation below, **ICOMOS Recommendations and IUCN Recommendations** are both presented in the form of **Draft Decisions** and are abstracted from *WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B1.Add* (ICOMOS) and *WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B2* (IUCN).

Though Draft Decisions were taken from ICOMOS and IUCN recommendations, in some cases, a few modifications were required to adapt them to this Document.

## A. NATURAL PROPERTIES

### A.1 LATIN AMERICA / CARIBBEAN

#### A.1.1 Minor modification to the boundaries of properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List

Property	<b>Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California</b>
Id. N°	<b>1182 Bis</b>
State Party	<b>Mexico</b>
Criteria proposed by State Party	<b>(vii)(ix)(x)</b>

**IUCN Evaluation:** Islas Marietas National Park and the Archipelago de San Lorenzo National Park add to the striking natural beauty and dramatic setting that characterize the Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California property. They also include terrestrial and marine areas that are representative of this property, add to the natural values and integrity of the property, and help maintain the ecological processes that support the high marine productivity and biodiversity of the property.

The planning and management of these two sites needs to be in line with the objectives and principles included in the Integrated Management Programme for the entire serial property, which was approved in 2000 and guides conservation and management activities in all of the protected areas of the Gulf of California. Particular attention should be given to controlling tourism development and fisheries in order to avoid negative impacts that could result from unsustainable practices.

IUCN commends the State Party, as well as the NGOs, other institutions and private partners working in this property, for their continued efforts in conserving this important property and in creating and managing new marine protected areas to enhance the conservation and integrity of this property.

#### Draft Decision: 31 COM 8B.53

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document *WHC-07/31.COM/8B.Add,*
2. Approves the minor modification of boundaries to include the Islas Marietas National Park and the Archipelago de San Lorenzo National Park as an

*extension to the serial property of the **Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California, Mexico,** already inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (vii), (ix) and (x);***

3. Recommends the State Party to plan and manage these two sites in line with the Integrated Management Programme for the entire serial property and to give particular attention to controlling tourism development and fisheries;
4. Commends the State Party as well as the NGOs, other institutions and private partners working in this property, for their continued efforts in conserving this important property and in creating and managing new marine protected areas to enhance the conservation and integrity of this property;
5. Reiterates its request included in Decision **29 COM 8B.9** to keep the Committee informed on progress achieved towards the development and implementation of the Marine Ecological planning of the Sea of Cortez.

## B. MIXED PROPERTIES

### B.1 AFRICA

#### B.1.1 Properties deferred or referred back by previous sessions of the World Heritage Committee

Property	<b>Ecosystem and Relict Cultural Landscape of Lopé-Okanda</b>
Id. N°	<b>1147 Rev</b>
State Party	<b>Gabon</b>
Criteria proposed by State Party	<b>(iii)(iv)(ix)(x) + CL</b>

#### Draft Decision: 31 COM 8B.54

*The World Heritage Committee,*

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

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

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

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

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

4. Congratulates the State Party on its efforts to secure international support for the management of Lopé National Park and commends the support provided by the EU, through the ECOFAC programme, and NGOs, in particular the Wildlife Conservation Society;
5. Requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre and IUCN on the approval of the new proposed Law on National Parks and on measures taken towards its enforcement in order to enhance the effective long-term conservation and management of the property;
6. Refers the nomination under cultural criteria of the **Ecosystem and Relict Cultural Landscape of Lopé-Okanda, Gabon**, exceptionally, in order to allow ICOMOS to carry out a mission to the site to consider boundaries and conservation arrangements, other documentation now being adequate. The existing nomination could be considered at the 32nd session of the Committee in 2008, in the light of the findings of the mission;
7. Recommends that high priority should be given to putting in place one or more staff with appropriate training for archaeological sites and cultural landscapes;

8. Also recommends that the preventive conservation measures and remedial work for the archaeological sites should be strengthened when staff are appointed with appropriate training.

## C. CULTURAL PROPERTIES

### C.1 AFRICA

#### C.1.1 Minor modification to the boundaries of properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List

Property	<b>Royal Palaces of Abomey</b>
Id. N°	<b>323</b>
State Party	<b>Benin</b>
Criteria proposed by State Party	<b>(iii)(iv)</b>

Draft Decision: **31 COM 8B.55**

The World Heritage Committee,

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

Property	<b>Island of Saint-Louis</b>
Id. N°	<b>956</b>
State Party	<b>Senegal</b>
Criteria proposed by State Party	<b>(ii)(iv)</b>

Draft Decision: **31 COM 8B.56**

The World Heritage Committee,

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

## C.2 ARAB STATES

### C.2.1 Minor modification to the boundaries of properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List

Property	<b>Archaeological Site of Volubilis</b>
Id. N°	<b>836</b>
State Party	<b>Morocco</b>
Criteria proposed by State Party	<b>(ii)(iii)(iv)(vi)</b>

*Draft Decision: 31 COM 8B.57*

The World Heritage Committee,

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

## C.3 ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

### C.3.1 Minor modification to the boundaries of properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List

Property	<b>Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa</b>
Id. N°	<b>707 Ter</b>
State Party	<b>China</b>
Criteria proposed by State Party	<b>(i)(iv)(vi)</b>

*Draft Decision: 31 COM 8B.58*

The World Heritage Committee,

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

Property	<b>Bam and its Cultural Landscape</b>
Id. N°	<b>1208</b>
State Party	<b>Islamic Republic of Iran</b>
Criteria proposed by State Party	<b>(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)</b>

*Draft Decision: 31 COM 8B.59*

The World Heritage Committee,

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

## C.4 EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

### C.4.1 Minor modification to the boundaries of properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List

Property	<b>Butrint</b>
Id. N°	<b>570 Bis</b>
State Party	<b>Albania</b>
Criteria proposed by State Party	<b>(iii)</b>

*Draft Decision: 31 COM 8B.60*

The World Heritage Committee,

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

Property	<b>Piazza del Duomo, Pisa</b>
Id. N°	<b>395</b>
State Party	<b>Italy</b>
Criteria proposed by State Party	<b>(i)(ii)(iv)(vi)</b>

*Draft Decision: 31 COM 8B.61*

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents and **WHC-07/31.COM/8B.Add** and **WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B1.Add**,
2. Approves the minor modification to the boundaries and the proposed buffer zone of the **Piazza del Duomo, Pisa, Italy**;

3. Recommends that the State Party consider putting in place further protection to the north and west of the inscribed property.

Property	<b>Monuments of Oviedo and the Kingdom of the Asturias</b>
Id. N°	<b>312 Bis</b>
State Party	<b>Spain</b>
Criteria proposed by State Party	<b>(i)(ii)(iv)</b>

Draft Decision: **31 COM 8B.62**

The World Heritage Committee,

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

Property	<b>Old Town of Ávila with its Extra-Muros Churches</b>
Id. N°	<b>348 Rev</b>
State Party	<b>Spain</b>
Criteria proposed by State Party	<b>(iii)(iv)</b>

Draft Decision: **31 COM 8B.63**

The World Heritage Committee,

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

#### C.4.2 Creation of Buffer Zone and Revision of the Statement of Significance

Item withdrawn.

#### C.4.3 Creation of Buffer Zone

Property	<b>Cistercian Abbey of Fontenay</b>
Id. N°	<b>165</b>
State Party	<b>France</b>
Criteria proposed by State Party	<b>(iv)</b>

Draft Decision: **31 COM 8B.65**

The World Heritage Committee,

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

Property	<b>Abbey Church of Saint-Savin sur Gartempe</b>
Id. N°	<b>230</b>
State Party	<b>France</b>
Criteria proposed by State Party	<b>(i)(iii)</b>

Draft Decision: **31 COM 8B.66**

The World Heritage Committee,

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

Property	<b>Vézelay, Church and Hill</b>
Id. N°	<b>84</b>
State Party	<b>France</b>
Criteria proposed by State Party	<b>(i)(vi)</b>

Draft Decision: **31 COM 8B.67**

The World Heritage Committee,

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

Property	<b>Mont-Saint-Michel and its Bay</b>
Id. N°	<b>80</b>
State Party	<b>France</b>
Criteria proposed by State Party	<b>(i)(iii)(vi)</b>

Draft Decision: **31 COM 8B.68**

The World Heritage Committee,

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

Property	<b>Roman Theatre and its Surroundings and the "Triumphal Arch" of Orange</b>
Id. N°	<b>163</b>
State Party	<b>France</b>
Criteria proposed by State Party	<b>(iii)(vi)</b>

Draft Decision: **31 COM 8B.69**

The World Heritage Committee,

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

Property	<b>Pont du Gard (Roman Aqueduct)</b>
Id. N°	<b>344</b>
State Party	<b>France</b>
Criteria proposed by State Party	<b>(i)(iii)(iv)</b>

Draft Decision: **31 COM 8B.70**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having \_\_\_\_\_ examined \_\_\_\_\_ Documents  
**WHC-07/31.COM/8B.Add** and  
**WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B1.Add,**
2. Approves the buffer zone for the **Pont du Gard (Roman Aqueduct), France.**

Property	<b>Strasbourg- Grande île</b>
Id. N°	<b>495</b>
State Party	<b>France</b>
Criteria proposed by State Party	<b>(i)(ii)(iv)</b>

Draft Decision: **31 COM 8B.71**

The World Heritage Committee,

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

Property	<b>Palace and Park of Versailles</b>
Id. N°	<b>83</b>
State Party	<b>France</b>
Criteria proposed by State Party	<b>(i)(ii)(vi)</b>

Draft Decision: **31 COM 8B.72**

The World Heritage Committee,

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

#### C.4.4 Revision of the Statement of Significance

Property	<b>Rock Drawings in Valcamonica</b>
Id. N°	<b>94</b>
State Party	<b>Italy</b>
Criteria proposed by State Party	<b>(iii)(vi)</b>

**Draft Decision: 31 COM 8B.73**

The World Heritage Committee,

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

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

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

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

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

Property	<b>Virunga National Park</b>
Id. N°	<b>63</b>
State Party	<b>Democratic Republic of the Congo</b>
Criteria proposed by State Party	<b>(vii)(viii)(x)</b>

**Draft Decision: 31 COM 8B.74**

The World Heritage Committee,

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

Virunga National Park is notable for its chain of active volcanoes and the greatest diversity of habitats of any

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

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

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

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

*with one third of the remaining mountain gorilla population in the world. The savanna areas of the park are home to a diverse population of ungulates, with one of the highest biomass densities of wild mammals ever recorded on Earth (314 tonnes/km<sup>2</sup>). Ungulates include the rare Okapi (*Okapi johnstoni*), endemic to the DRC, and the Ruwenzori duiker (*Cephalophus rubidus*), endemic to the Ruwenzori mountains. The park contains significant wetland areas, particularly important as wintering grounds for Palearctic bird species.*