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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 second Session  
Quebec City, Canada  
2 - 10 July 2008

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

#### SUMMARY

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

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

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

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/2008/>



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## II. STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS

### CULTURAL PROPERTIES

#### AFRICA

#### 14. Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (United Republic of Tanzania) (C 144)

##### Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1981

##### Criteria

(iii)

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

2004

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

Deterioration and decay leading to the collapse of the historical and archeological structures for which the property was inscribed

##### Desired state of conservation the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

A Desired state of conservation is proposed in the draft Decision for adoption by the World Heritage Committee.

##### Corrective measures identified

- a) Implement urgent measures to halt sea-wave action;
- b) Survey and demarcate the boundaries of the property including extension;
- c) Improve and implement the management and conservation plans;
- d) Provide for on-site management staff;
- e) Halt the vegetation growth within and around monuments;
- f) Halt of illegal removal of monuments stone for private constructions.

##### Timeframe for the implementation of corrective measures

A timeframe is proposed in the draft Decision for adoption by the World Heritage Committee.

##### Previous Committee Decisions

**29 COM 7A.15; 30 COM 7A.15; 31 COM 7A.15**

### International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: Technical co-operation (USD 24,320 in 2002) for the preparation of a management plan and extension of the property.

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: Support from the French and Japanese governments to UNESCO project (USD 1,438,000). The Norwegian Funds-in-Trust provided support for UNESCO rehabilitation project (USD 201,390).

### Previous monitoring missions

23 – 27 February 2004: ICOMOS mission; 1-6 June 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission

### Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Deterioration of the architectural heritage fabric;
- b) Lack of approved statement of outstanding universal value;
- c) Lack of use the management plan as the main vehicle for managing the property,
- d) Lack of approved boundaries for core and buffer zones linked to the land-use plans and appropriate protection;
- e) Need to extend the property to include Kilwa Kivinje and Sanje ya Kati;
- f) Lack of functioning local consultative committee;
- g) Lack of implementation of the conservation and management plans.

### Current Conservation issues

In accordance with the World Heritage Committee's request at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission visited Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara from 1 to 6 June 2008. The World Heritage Centre received on 8 January 2008, from the State Party, a report entitled "Report on the state of conservation of the Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara Endangered World Heritage Site" as requested by the World Heritage Committee.

The report includes a detailed Statement of significance and a Statement of "authenticity and of integrity" which provide an extensive description of the property. However these have not been prepared in consultation with the World Heritage Centre or ICOMOS and do not correspond with the requirements of the *Operational Guidelines* in preparing Statements of outstanding universal value.

The World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS note that the report states that the boundaries of the core zones remain identical to those proposed in 1981 and that plans are in place to survey and delineate these boundaries. The report also proposes to define a buffer zone of 20 hectares for Kilwa Kisiwani and of 10 hectares for Songo Mnara, but precise boundaries are not proposed. Finally the report acknowledges the importance of extending the Property to include Kilwa Kivinje and notes that it is preparing a nomination to this end with UNESCO support.

Concerning the World Heritage Committee's request to evaluate efforts to respond to the recommendations of the 2004 mission report, while the State Party report contains no direct response to this request, substantial improvements may be noted for each recommendation:

- a) International documents, particularly UNESCO Conventions and Recommendations and ICOMOS charters are taken into account in the work.

- b) A sea wall has been built (2006) and mangroves extended to stop erosion of the beach at Kilwa Kisiwani, and to safeguard Gereza Fort and Malindi mosque.
- c) Gereza Fort has received urgent physical stabilisation and conservation attention and is the subject of a World Monuments Fund project.
- d) Considerable attention has been given to structurally weak buildings in Kilwa Kisiwani.
- e) Much attention has been given to reduce encroachments within the designated zones through increasing community involvement with heritage management, including development of local "Ruins Committees".
- f) Plans are being developed to include Kilwa Kivinje within the World Heritage property.
- g) Attention – still not yet sufficient however – has been given to improving the management structure and supporting mechanisms, on the site.

The State Party's report section on management details a series of conservation activities, primarily being undertaken in Songo Mnara. The report comments on efforts to establish a National Coordination Office at the Ministry responsible for antiquities and to develop a proposal to establish a National World Heritage Committee to facilitate coordination and concerted efforts to better manage World Heritage properties in the United Republic of Tanzania. The report also documents activities carried out in the context of the management plan. However although the activities described provide a very positive contribution to the World Heritage property, there is no indication that the State Party is using the property's management plan as the main vehicle to assure co-ordination of all actions affecting it.

The World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS note that while, for the most part, the State Party report does not respond directly to the World Heritage Committee's requests, the report itself provides an extensive overview of works underway at the property and initiatives being developed. The report includes a concluding section which documents in great detail the natural and human threats to the property, and the very worthwhile successful efforts to stimulate community based involvement in long term protection of the property.

The joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission (2008) evaluated each of the existing and potential threats in relation to the outstanding universal value for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List, and concluded the following:

a) *Improve and implement management plan and conservation plan*

The mission drew attention to the conditions prevailing at the two sites, noting significant agricultural encroachment at Kilwa Kisiwani where the population resides around the standing monuments, where at Songo Mnara, the ruins are located away from the residential area. While the mission noted efforts to conserve some of the historical monuments, it also noted significant impacts from: :

- Human encroachment on the monuments through uncontrolled cultivation near the monuments and continued human and animal trampling on foundations of the ruins;
- Growth of vegetation within and around monuments often breaking up the masonry structures;
- Water and wind erosion, sea wave action, water penetration and infiltration into the masonry, weakening and washing out the lime mortar;
- Illegal removal of stone material for individual private constructions;
- Sea wave erosion particularly in Kilwa Kisiwani.

The mission confirmed the results of the State Party survey concerning the erosion and destruction of the monuments and the archaeological record of the historical city, as evidenced by the great loss of nearly all of the city walls. The mission noted that the sea wall protects several major monuments and that risks to the sea wall threaten the existence of much of the site and its future viability. The mission noted in particular that the rate of growth of mangrove plants planted in the shallow water on the shore of Gereza in Kilwa Kisiwani to protect the monuments from direct seawater splash has not been as rapid as expected and the threat from ocean flash still continues.

b) *Delimitation of the property*

The mission noted that the provision of details for the core area and the buffer zone, and development of related land-use plans for Kilwa and Songo Mnara as requested by the World Heritage Committee in the 31st session have yet to be addressed.

c) *Some achievements*

The mission also noted major achievements resulting from donor-assisted projects in Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara. The mission acknowledged the “Development of Cultural Tourism and Community Awareness Raising on the Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara Endangered World Heritage Site” to be financed by the French Embassy in United Republic of Tanzania. The mission was informed about an inventory and documentation exercise for cultural and natural heritage carried out under Marine Coastal Environmental Management Project (MACEMP) in 15 villages including Kilwa, a project intended to lead to further rehabilitation and restoration to some of the historical monuments. Furthermore, an “Antiquities Policy” expected to be approved during 2008 has been drafted and submitted to the Inter-ministerial Technical Committee for action. The objective of the new Policy is to address inadequacies of the present legal framework in protecting the heritage properties including Kilwa, and that the process for the development of a new Antiquities Law would be completed in the year 2010.

d) *Corrective measures*

The mission concluded that despite the existing political will, strong efforts of the Department of Antiquities and recent donor support from the international community, the site’s coastal and island location and human occupation result in unrelenting ocean and population pressures at a time when cultural heritage conservation budget and staffing levels are low, and when communities are not yet convinced of the benefits of preserving the property’s heritage values. The mission noted that site management problems can be attributed to inadequate infrastructure (including lack of dependable transportation by boat for the site’s managers), equipment, funding, and on site expertise as well as a lack of co-ordination mechanisms integrating concern for heritage values in all actions affecting the property, including the internationally supported projects noted above.

e) *Desired state of conservation*

The mission further identified a time framed Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, as described below.

*Changes within the next two years:*

- Delineate the boundaries for core and buffer zones of the property. This should also include the extension of the property to include Kilwa Kivinje and Sanje ya Kati.

*Changes within three years:*

- Implementation of the management plan should be advanced, and there should be signs of added rehabilitation of architectural heritage
- Management structures should be well established in each serial site with an operational office and staff;
- Establishment of a proper land-use plan to protect sites integrity and resolve future land conflicts.

*Changes within five years:*

- Recovery of most of architectural heritage for conservation should have been completed (though full recovery will take much longer and will require sustained effort for over a decade).

Useful indicators of recovery might include: reduction in the number of human activities encountered in and around the monuments; halted sea-wave action causing the deterioration of the heritage monuments; reviewed the existing management plan for Kilwa and established national legislative and administrative system for the protection of the property; fully completed and operational information/education centres for serial land and island sites; and a complete inventory and documentation of cultural heritage (and also natural heritage) of the property.

**Draft Decision:      32 COM 7A.15**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A. 15**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Commends the State Party for its continued efforts for the conservation and rehabilitation of the property, and particularly for the development of improved mechanisms for community involvement in the rehabilitation and the maintenance of the property;
4. Acknowledges receipt of a Statement of significance and a Statement of authenticity/integrity, but regrets that these are not in conformity with the Statement of outstanding universal value, including the conditions of authenticity and integrity, as outlined in the Operational Guidelines;
5. Notes with concern that the report does not provide detailed and explicit information on the progress made on delineating boundaries for core and buffer zones; requests the State Party to undertake this exercise as a matter of urgency and encourages the State Party to submit, if necessary a request for International Assistance for this purpose;
6. Reiterates its request to the State party to use the management plan as the main vehicle for managing the site and for ensuring co-ordination of all activities affecting the property;
7. Adopts the following as the Desired state of conservation for the property in view of its future removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger:
  - a) At least 70% rehabilitation of the heritage monuments;

- b) *Surveyed and demarcated boundaries as well as the extension of the property to include Kilwa Kivinje and Sanje ya Kati;*
  - c) *Established proper land-use plan;*
  - d) *Demonstrate progress in the implementation of the management and the conservation plan;*
  - e) *Fully established on-site administrative structures;*
  - f) *Halted sea-wave action;*
8. Adopts the following timeframe for the implementation of the above-mentioned corrective measures:
- a) *Changes within two years:*
    - (i) *Delineate the boundaries for core and buffer zones of the property. This should also include the extension of the property to include Kilwa Kivinje and Sanje ya Kati, the boundaries and the extension to be submitted for consideration by the 35th session of the Committee;*
  - b) *Changes within three years:*
    - (i) *Implementation of the management plan should be advanced, and there should be signs of added rehabilitation of architectural heritage;*
    - (ii) *Management structures should be well established in each serial site with an operational office and staff;*
    - (iii) *Establishment of a proper land-use plan to protect sites integrity and resolve future land conflicts;*
  - c) *Changes within five years:*
    - (i) *Recovery of most of architectural heritage for conservation should have been completed (though full recovery will take much longer and will require sustained effort for over a decade);*
9. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to assist the State Party in developing the previously requested Statement of outstanding universal value, including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, and in exploring how to ensure that the site's management plan can function as the key, central co-ordinating mechanism in managing the property, and finally to assess the progress made in improving the state of conservation of the property;
10. 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, including the progress in implementing the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
11. Decides to retain the **Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (United Republic of Tanzania) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## ARAB STATES

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

#### Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1981

#### Criteria

(ii) (iii) (vi)

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

1982

#### **Application of the Reinforced monitoring mechanism at the property since 2007 (31 COM 7A.18)**

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

(Document CLT 82/CH/CONF.015/8)

[...] they considered that the situation of this property corresponds to the criteria mentioned in the ICOMOS note and, in particular, to criteria (e) (significant loss of historical authenticity) and (f) (important loss of cultural significance) as far as "ascertained danger" is concerned, and to criteria (a) (modification of juridical status of the property diminishing the degree of its protection), (b) (lack of conservation policy) and (d) (threatening effects of town planning) as far as "potential danger" is concerned. [...]

#### Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

The political context does not allow the definition of a Desired state of conservation at this stage.

#### Corrective measures identified

Within the present context, only specific activities, such as the Action Plan developed within the initiative of the Director-General.

#### Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

As above, the timeframe is linked to the overall situation.

#### Previous Committee Decisions

**29 COM 7A.31; 30 COM 7A.34; 31 COM 7A.18**

#### International Assistance

N/A

#### UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

Total amount provided to the property: approximately USD 4,000,000 (since 1988)

### Previous monitoring missions

February-March 2004: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission; from September 2005 to May 2008: 6 experts missions within the framework of the elaboration of the Action Plan for the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem; February-March 2007: special World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission sent by the Director-General of UNESCO for the issue of the Mughrabi ascent; Missions for the application of the Reinforced monitoring mechanism: August 2007, January and February 2008.

### Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Natural risk factors;
- b) Lack of planning, governance and management processes;
- c) Alteration of the urban and social fabric;
- d) Impact of archaeological excavations;
- e) Deterioration of monuments;
- f) Urban environment and visual integrity;
- g) Traffic, access and circulation.

### Current conservation issues

Since the State of conservation report submitted to the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), a number of initiatives and projects have been developed, as listed below. In March 2008, the World Heritage Centre addressed letters to the Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian delegations to UNESCO, requesting contributions to prepare the present document. A report was transmitted by the Israeli National Commission for UNESCO to the World Heritage Centre on 13 April 2008.

#### **I. Report of the Israeli authorities:**

Since 1967, the Old City of Jerusalem is *de facto* administered by the Israeli authorities. Therefore, all new constructions and conservation projects are in principle subject to the administrative jurisdiction of the Municipality and usually supervised by the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA). The report of the Israeli authorities presenting on-going activities and projects is summarized hereunder:

##### **a) Status of plans affecting the Old City:**

###### *(i) Master Plan of renewal, revitalization, development and conservation of the Old City:*

The plan includes feasibility studies, an accessibility plan, a management plan for traffic and parking, and a detailed design of the model areas – all carried out with public participation.

###### *(ii) Management Plan:*

This Plan aims at providing means of upkeep and maintenance, renewal, development and marketing for the Old City.

###### *(iii) Public participation:*

The Municipality has started a programme for public participation and consultation in the preparation and implementation of the public works currently under discussion.

(iv) *Infrastructures renewal and maintenance projects:*

An eight-year action plan for replacing existing infrastructure, expanding facilities will be gradually carried out, closely joined by public participation. In addition, the street cleaning facilities have been privatized, enhancing the maintenance of the streets.

(v) *Visitors' services:*

The project for lighting of monuments, city walls and streets is being prepared, as well as the replacement of all the street signs, city-maps and models. A traffic and tourism plan is also being prepared, including the organisation of events.

(vi) *Cadastral mapping:*

A long-term project of cadastral mapping of the Old City public realm and rooftops is under way, aimed at facilitating planning and design decisions.

**b) Conservation and archaeological projects:**

(i) *Rehabilitation and preservation of monuments within the Old City:*

The goal of this project lead by the IAA is to consolidate an agreed list of monuments in the public realm, such as the Roman cardo, sabils (water fountains), etc.

(ii) *Rehabilitation and management of the Old City walls and gates:*

A comprehensive state of conservation survey was undertaken by the IAA and work started on the north-west corner of the Old City, continuing on the external slope of the moat beside the Citadel and on the Zion gate. The conservation project was accompanied by a survey of natural resources and urban nature inside and adjacent to the Old City walls.

(iii) *Haram ash-Sharif:*

The report received from the Israeli authorities also mentions works carried out by the Jerusalem Waqf within the Haram ash-Sharif, the main being the following:

- Repair of the outer wall of the Zawiyyeh al-Khanthaniyya, to the south of Al-Aqsa Mosque;
- Conservation work in the Al-Aqsa Mosque and on its roof to prevent leakage;
- Scientific studies and conservation work in the Dome of the Rock (by the Veneto School of Conservation from Venice).

The report also mentions the works related to the renewal of the electricity system feeding power to the Dome of the Rock that entailed the cutting of a trench around the Dome and south to Al-Aqsa. During the work, a section of an archaeological layer containing finds dated to the Iron Age II period was located. This work was shallow, and while being the cause of renewed controversy, it did not cause any noticeable damage to the antiquities of the site. The World Heritage Centre has received no written information from the Waqf related to those works.

(iv) *Archaeological excavations:*

The report summarises the on-going excavations in the Old City, notably those in the Western wall tunnels, such as in the passage to the south of the "Great Bridge" to clear a path to the woman's prayer area. The excavation uncovered an important section of a building, probably a bathhouse that was built to the south of the bridge. Furthermore, a street leading from the cardo up to the road above the bridge was uncovered. Excavations are also carried out to clear spaces in the arches of the "Great Bridge" and the ones in the Struthion Pool have uncovered a section connecting the pool with the 'Hasmonean' aqueduct.

Major conservation works are being conducted in many sections of the site including Wilson's Arch, Warren Gate, in the vaults below Madrasa Baladiyya, the aqueduct, etc.

The report also mentions a number of excavations in and around the Old City connected to the different building projects, as follows:

- Western Wall plaza:– Remains of the cardo and evidence of urban change through the Umayyad and Abbasid periods; houses from Iron II period.
- Mughrabi Ascent: Remains of Umayyad palace, Mamluk and Ottoman houses.
- Houses in the Jewish quarter: small excavations in house basements; mostly Ottoman, Mamluk and Byzantine finds.
- Hurvah synagogue: Street of Byzantine period and ritual baths of the Herodian time.
- Ohel Yitzhak synagogue: Herodian, Roman, Byzantine, Umayyad remains; the Cardo and the Mamluk bathhouse of Hammam Daraj el-Ain; removal of debris from vaulted halls of Khan Fakhr el-Din.
- Bezeita / Burj el Laqlaq: Fifth season concentrated on houses from the Herodian, Abbasid and Mamluk periods.

The issue of the archaeological excavations carried out since 1967 by the Israeli authorities in the Old City of Jerusalem has been the object of several discussions at the sessions of the Governing Bodies of UNESCO. As mentioned in many reports, these archaeological campaigns seem to be in contradiction with article VI. 32 of the 1956 New Delhi *Recommendation on International Principles Applicable to Archaeological Excavations*, related to excavations in occupied territory.

### **c) Construction projects:**

#### *(i) Ohel Yizhak synagogue:*

The rebuilding of the synagogue, destroyed in the 1936 riots, continues. This synagogue is located on Al-Wad street, in the Muslim quarter, adjacent to the Hammam Al-Ain. Although the plans have not been made available to the World Heritage Centre, it can be expected that the height of the building will be much higher than the surrounding urban fabric.

#### *(ii) New building facing the Western Wall:*

There is a proposed zoning change for an educational building to the west of the Western Wall Plaza. For the time being, excavation work is on-going, revealing considerable remains, notably from the Roman period. The final plan will be evaluated only after the completion of the excavations. In the light of the importance of the discoveries, the World Heritage Centre recommends a thorough revision of the plan so as not to build above the remains.

#### *(iii) Zion gate underground parking:*

In order to further the restrictions of through traffic in the Old City, a proposal for an underground parking lot is being prepared and archaeological excavations in the area may proceed in the near future. The plan also proposes constructing a public piazza, 56 residential units and a small hotel, some commercial space, the rehabilitation of garden and Nea Church area together.

### **d) Projects outside the City walls:**

The report mentions several projects outside the City walls which might have a visual impact on the property such as the light rail and the related infrastructure, and the continuation of the "Mamilla" project, the foreseen extension of the "Mount Zion Hotel", the "Givati" car park. Landscaping and development of gardens and parks are also on-going or foreseen, around the Old City.

The Outline Town Planning scheme for the whole Municipal area is in the process of discussion and has undergone extensive public participation. It includes a precise definition of a "buffer zone". A survey of the visual basin of the Old City was undertaken in order to determine the exact boundaries of this visual basin, seen from different outlook points, and set a general policy for development restrictions in this realm. The project is now complete and about to be published.

## **II. Action Plan for the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem**

Within the framework of the Director-General's initiative for Jerusalem through the elaboration of an *Action Plan for the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem*, the activities foreseen in the first phase have been completed, thanks to funding from Italy (USD 450,000) and Spain (USD 40,000). A synthetic report on the Action Plan was presented at the 31st session of the World Heritage Committee (Document *WHC-07/31.COM/INF.7A.1*) and to the Executive Board of UNESCO; detailed reports on the implemented activities had been submitted to the concerned Delegations in December 2007.

The following training and cultural activities focusing on cultural heritage training for young people were approved in February 2008 by the Italian authorities and will be implemented in the coming months:

- Development of an Apprenticeship programme supporting the costs of the training-on-the-job activity for young unemployed people (16-25 years old). This will generate the availability of local craftsmen with specialized conservation skills that meet the conservation and maintenance needs in the specific situation of the Old City of Jerusalem, where the available professional labour force is presently much reduced. Moreover, training young people would generate employment opportunities.
- Regarding the cultural activities, a World Heritage Education programme, the target group of which are 12-16 years old students, will be developed within the framework of the UNESCO Special Project "Young People's Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion", through workshops diffusing already available materials: the practical manual *Introducing Young People to Heritage Site Management and Protection* (adapting an activity initiated in 2002 in Petra by UNESCO and ICCROM to the case of Jerusalem) and the *World Heritage in Young Hands Kit* in Jerusalem secondary schools.

In 2008 a first project, among the project profiles developed in the Action Plan, has found a sponsor: the restoration of the Church of St. John the Baptist (also called St John Prodromos), belonging to the Greek-Orthodox Patriarchate, has been approved for funding over three years by the A. G. Leventis Foundation from Cyprus (270,000 Euros). The detailed conservation project will be prepared during the first year, while the restoration works should start after UNESCO receives the funds allocated by the donor for the second year.

The continued effective implementation of the Action Plan is crucial, particularly since the improvement of the urban and social environment are vital elements for the preservation of the outstanding universal value to which the Old City of Jerusalem owes its inclusion on the World Heritage List. In order to ensure concrete action on the ground, the implementation of the Action Plan will be sustained by a fund raising campaign to generate financial support for carrying out the identified projects.

## **III. Development of an Architectural heritage conservation institute**

An agreement was signed between UNESCO and the European Commission for an amount of 700,000 Euros, in order to develop a conservation institute for the training of professionals

in the field of architectural conservation. The project, implemented in partnership with the Welfare Association, is to last three years during which a full curriculum and training materials will be developed as well as on-the-ground pilot projects. The first phase is progressing, notably in terms of administrative setting. These last months were devoted to developing the curriculum and training materials, notably with ICCROM.

#### **IV. The Mughrabi ascent**

By Decision **31 COM 7A.18**, adopted in June 2007 at its 31st session in Christchurch, New Zealand, the World Heritage Committee decided “to recommend the application of the reinforced monitoring mechanism subject to the procedures in Document *WHC-07/31.COM/5.2* and Decision **31 COM 5.2** in monitoring the state of conservation of the Mughrabi ascent” and requested “a report every two months from the World Heritage Centre until its 32nd session in 2008”. It also requested the World Heritage Centre “to facilitate the professional encounter at the technical level between Israeli, Jordanian and Waqf experts, to discuss the detailed proposals for the proposed final design of the Mughrabi ascent, prior to any final decision”.

A first Reinforced Monitoring report was transmitted to the States Parties members of the World Heritage Committee, on 16 October 2007. As the encounter had not yet taken place, this report only presented information on the ongoing negotiations in this regard. The encounter between the Israeli and Jordanian experts (including the Waqf) finally took place in Jerusalem on 13 January 2008 and its results presented in a second Reinforced Monitoring report transmitted to the Members of the Committee on 5 February 2008. At the time of the encounter, the participants agreed to take part in a follow-up meeting that was organised on 24 February 2008. This meeting was also attended by the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee, ICOMOS and ICCROM, and by an independent expert.

During that period, the World Heritage Centre requested that the Advisory Bodies examine the proposal presented by the Israeli experts for the access to the Mughrabi Gate as well as the two draft proposals presented by the Jordanian experts. Their evaluations were forwarded to the concerned parties.

These professional meetings were conducted in a spirit of mutual trust and understanding and showed the importance of technical dialogue between experts to address complex issues that require consultation and consensus of different stakeholders. In that regard, it was strongly felt by all participants that the various proposals discussed during the meetings had helped to build a consensus in line with the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee, based on a true exchange of ideas, experiences and know-how. Recognizing the critical importance of using, when necessary, such a format for dialogue, both UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies proposed themselves as facilitators, as appropriate, for similar technical and professional exchanges in future.

A third Reinforced Monitoring report was transmitted to the Members of the Committee, on 4 March 2008, presenting the results of the follow-up meeting between the Israeli and Jordanian experts (including the Waqf), which took place in Jerusalem on 24 February 2008. The fourth report was sent on 5 June 2008 providing the latest information available.

The four Reinforced monitoring reports and their annexes are accessible on <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2008>).

The Israeli process of approving the planning scheme is still underway. As foreseen by the Planning and Building Law in Israel, the Israeli proposal for the final design was deposited for public objections for a period of 60 days on 6 January 2008. This period ended on 6 March 2008. On 16 May 2008, the World Heritage Centre received a letter from the Israeli National Commission for UNESCO, indicating that fourteen objections had been received by the District Planning Commission. Concurrently, the Israeli World Heritage Committee transmitted on behalf of the Ministry of Education a document comprising the three first Reinforced Monitoring reports, to the District and Local Planning Commissions, for their

consideration during the public hearings process. On 20 May 2008, the objections received were presented and the Commission will meet again in the coming weeks to ratify a final decision on the plan. It should be noted that appeals to the Commission may be put before the Commission, prior to the approved plan being gazetted. Subsequently, the process for delivering a building permit can be initiated, and evaluated in the context of the approved plan.

**Draft Decision:      32 COM 7A.18**

The Draft Decision will be presented to the World Heritage Committee in the form of an Addendum.

## LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

### 30. Coro and its Port (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (C 658)

#### Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1993

#### Criteria

(iv) (v)

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

2005

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

- a) Considerable decay of materials and structures resulting from lack of comprehensive conservation and maintenance and torrential rains in 2004 and 2005;
- b) Deterioration of architectural and urban coherence compromising the integrity and authenticity of the property;
- c) Lack of adequate and efficient management, planning and conservation mechanisms and institutional arrangements.

#### Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Presidential signature of the PLINCODE (*Plan Integral de Conservación y Desarrollo para Coro y La Vela*), submitted to the authorities in August 2006;
- b) Effective functioning of the management structure and institutional arrangements foreseen in the PLINCODE, with sufficient allocated resources;
- c) Completion of comprehensive drainage systems as well as the rehabilitation of underground networks, public spaces, sidewalks and streets in the historical area;
- d) Prioritized implementation of a comprehensive conservation plan.

#### Corrective measures identified

- a) Obtain official approval of the PLINCODE at the presidential level;
- b) Reinforce the Framework Agreement for Emergency Intervention in the area of Coro and La Vela that the IPC signed with the mayors of the municipalities of Miranda and the regional government on 14 February 2006;
- c) Create a Council to assist the Technical Office (OTAE) to plan the investment of resources, and to formulate and revise intervention projects on the infrastructure, buildings and public spaces of the property;
- d) Formulate and prioritize a comprehensive conservation plan to complement the existing PLINCODE by defining a precise course of action with intervention criteria and monitoring mechanisms to assess its effectiveness and implementation;
- e) Strengthen capacity building for conservation and restoration through existing opportunities of workshops with the schools of conservation in La Vela and in Coro;

- f) Create awareness in the local community through exhibitions and community involvement.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

- a) The Presidential Commission was established in 2005 and the Framework Agreement with the local government was signed in February 2006.
- b) A conservation plan was developed in 2007, and priority actions are currently being implemented (2008). Since PLINCODE has not been officially signed, the definitive timeframe has not been established. Following the Presidential signature to ensure its ratification, the necessary corrective mechanisms of PLINCODE can be fully implemented.

Previous Committee Decisions

**28 COM 15B.106; 29 COM 7B.92; 30 COM 7A.33; 31 COM 7A.31**

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 20,000 (Spanish Funds-in-Trust) for the planning, implementation and subsequent publications of participatory workshops and meetings with artisans and civil society in Coro and La Vela.

Previous monitoring missions

2002, 2005 and 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring missions

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Serious deterioration of materials and structures;
- b) Deterioration of the architectural and urban coherence and integrity of the property;
- c) Lack of adequate management, planning and conservation mechanisms.

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted its state of conservation report on the property to the World Heritage Centre on 23 April 2008. In response to the request made by the World Heritage Committee (Decision **31 COM 7A.31**), a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS mission was carried out in May 2008. The objectives of the mission were to assess the state of conservation of the property, to define corrective measures and benchmarks in view of removing the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger. Additionally, the mission assessed the implementation of recommendations by prior monitoring missions.

The mission report recognizes the efforts made by the State Party to improve the state of conservation of the World Heritage Property and to respond to the decisions of the World Heritage Committee, as confirmed by:

- a) The implementation of the endowment of USD 32 million for the implementation of emergency measures at the property;
- b) The state of progress in the actions foreseen by the PLINCODE (*Plan Integral de Conservación y Desarrollo para Coro y La Vela*);
- c) The technical tasks undertaken by the OTAE (*Oficina de Atención a la Emergencia*) in addressing the most urgent problems, as well as the resources allocated to the implementation of projects that cease the main causes of decay;

- d) The implementation of financing systems for built heritage in public and private properties, and undertaking the structural consolidation of 147 buildings in the core and buffer zones of the property;
- e) The finalization of major interventions in 23 buildings and the rehabilitation of the Iglesia Catedral de Coro;
- f) The completion of the new integrated drainage system in Coro, and 85% completion in La Vela. The effectiveness of these projects can only be assessed definitively once the system is tested in response to natural conditions;
- g) The advance of research applied to the conservation of traditional earthen constructions affected by termites;
- h) The use of traditional mortars and pigments, in accordance with vernacular procedures.

Other progress:

- a) The preparation and implementation of a participatory plan in conjunction with civil society and artisans to identify the values of the core and buffer zones of the property, in view of including this vision in the PLINCODE;
- b) A campaign to enhance the technical and social role of the earthen artisans of the property, with the published results entitled, "Casas de Barro, Historias de Vida" (Houses of Earth, History of Lives), in order to improve the knowledge and awareness of the benefit of vernacular architectures among citizens. The activity has been financed by the Spanish Funds-in-Trust;
- c) The priority projects have been implemented in spite of the social, political and economic costs of more visible projects;
- d) The restriction of vehicle traffic throughout the Coro historic district;
- e) Training policies have been reinforced by the National University Francisco Miranda and the Escuela Taller of the Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional (AECI);
- f) A GIS database has been finalized for inventories and cadastral registration.

In December 2007, the Instituto del Patrimonio Cultural (IPC) organized a technical meeting involving international experts and representatives of ICOMOS of the Latin America and Caribbean Region. The meeting provided a forum to exchange views on the implementation of PLINCODE, identify common issues to be addressed regionally and generated recommendations for future action in conservation efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean, in accordance with the ongoing interventions which started in Coro and La Vela.

The 2008 mission underlined the important role played by the IPC, which has assumed a dynamic and essential mandate in linking the different governmental levels and in coordinating the diverse actions at the property, within the framework of an agreement with the municipalities of Miranda and Colina, the State of Falcon and Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A. (PDVSA).

Several benchmarks have yet to be reached: The PLINCODE has not been approved by the President of the Republic of Venezuela in order to officially set up the management structure to supersede what exists today. The State Party has planned to set up a Foundation to ensure the technical coordination of the ongoing intervention, the sustainable fundraising to implement the foreseen action of the PLINCODE and the financial support for conservation and management needs in the medium and long term.

The PLINCODE needs to be further developed through the inclusion of standardized and prioritized conservation plans for specific programmes and projects in which there is a clear

definition of intervention criteria, methodology for execution as well as monitoring mechanisms for effective and adequate implementation. In this regard the elaboration of specific directives for the protection of the Colina area is a matter of urgency.

**Draft Decision: 32 COM 7A.30**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.31**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes the important efforts made by the State Party to mitigate decay factors at the property and the actions implemented to date;
4. Also notes that the State Party has initiated participatory workshops to improve the awareness of earthen traditional techniques;
5. Urges the State Party to officially approve the PLINCODE (Plan Integral de Conservación y Desarrollo para Coro y La Vela) at the presidential level as to fully complete the Plan and its implementation;
6. Endorses the recommendations made by the reactive monitoring mission of May 2008 and encourages the State Party to implement them, by following the prioritized corrective measures identified to meet the Desired state of conservation and timeline for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
7. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of outstanding universal value, including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the progress made on the above for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
9. **Decides to retain Coro and its Port (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**