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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

NATURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1983

Criteria

(ix) (x)

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

2003

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

No desired state of conservation has been established yet.

Corrective measures identified

The following corrective measures were identified during the 2006 World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission and adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006):

- a) Establish, as a matter of urgency, an effective system of control and patrolling for the whole property, in close collaboration with the armed forces, and giving priority to the development and rehabilitation of necessary infrastructures;
- b) Develop and initiate the implementation of a management plan for the property based on the management plan framework developed for the national system of protected areas. The management plan should give special attention to:
 - (i) Establishing a revised zoning system for the property to guide management activities that fully consider the status of the property as a World Heritage property and Biosphere Reserve;
 - (ii) Establishing participatory management arrangements with local communities to reduce pressures and impacts associated to the management of areas in particular on the periphery of the property;
- c) Enlarge the activities of the management structure to encompass the entire property;

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Five year timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

- 2007: Preparatory work and developing contacts for technical and financial support, as well as implementation of emergency measures linked in particular to surveillance of the property;

- 2008-2009: Preparation of a management plan and implementation of priority activities;
- 2009-2011: Implementation and monitoring of activities under the management plan.

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 7A.2; 30 COM 7A.2 ; 31 COM 7A.2

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 50,000 for Technical assistance.

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

Total amount provided to the property: The property received USD 20,000 in 2006 through the UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme for law enforcement and awareness activities.

Previous monitoring missions

2006: joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Conflict and political instability;
- b) Lack of management control and access;
- c) Poaching;
- d) Encroachment: human occupation and agricultural pressure;
- e) Bush fires.

Current conservation issues

A report on the state of conservation of the property was submitted the State Party on 12 March 2008. The report notes that since the peace agreement of Ouagadougou, the political situation in the country has improved substantially: the division of the country in several zones of influence has been terminated, local authorities have been put back in place and all military forces have been reunited in a mixed army brigade. The security situation in the park has also improved.

The report further mentions progress on surveillance activities, development of partnerships to help restore management control of the entire property and fund-raising, development of the management plan, and the decommissioning of the military base at Nassian. Despite this progress, poaching remains a severe threat together with the lack of an effective management system. The identified corrective measures have yet to be fully implemented. No ecological data on the status of the values of the property were provided.

The following progress in implementation of the corrective measures is noted:

- a) *Establish an effective system of control and patrolling for the whole property*

Fifteen park agents are currently deployed in the two sectors now accessible in the south and east of the property. The aim is to increase this number to 45 agents by June 2008 once a new director is in place and when access to at least three of the five park sectors is secured.

- b) *Develop and initiate the implementation of a management plan*

A management plan for the property is reported to be under development but no time frame is provided for its completion. The zoning, management units and management functions will be defined during a workshop with all stakeholders.

To help address issues of encroachment and poaching, community outreach activities are underway in the region neighbouring the property, including pilot projects in animal husbandry, agriculture and agro-forestry, in cooperation with the UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme. The local radio station is being used to promote these activities and raise awareness. IUCN and the World Heritage Centre note that it is crucial to involve the local communities in management of the property to enhance its governance.

c) *Enlarging the activities of the management structure to encompass the entire property*

The State Party has established a partnership agreement through the MAB Programme, with the national protected area authority (OIPR), the national programme for disarmament, and the Centre for Ecological Research (CRE), with the objective to restore control of the entire property during 2008. The partnership also aims to secure funding from the World Bank towards establishing effective management over the next four years and is seeking appropriate cofinancing.

The State Party further notes that poaching continues to represent the primary threat to the integrity of the property. However, surveillance and control of poaching are improving, with 120 days of patrolling conducted within the property leading to the identification of a commercial poaching network, several poaching tracks and seizure of poached game from traders. However, patrolling is hampered due to lack of resources for staffing and transport. Awareness-raising with local communities through the local radio has resulted in the abandonment of poaching tracks in the southern and eastern sectors of the property. A strategy to combat poaching and wild meat trafficking has been produced, but it has not been provided for review to the World Heritage Centre.

The 2006 reactive monitoring mission noted that due to local community population growth and their pressure for additional food production, some land within the property had been given to villagers in the Gorowi area for low-intensity agricultural use. However, the State Party report states that there is no human presence in the property.

The State Party is also working with two local NGOs and about twenty villages to help with fire management activities within the property and the wider biosphere reserve that surrounds it. However, no details on fire outbreaks and impacts were provided.

No progress was reported in a range of areas including research on resource use and conflict, re-establishing the research station, ecological research, and on establishing an ecological corridor with Burkina Faso and Ghana.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that, although some progress has been made towards implementing the corrective measures, much work is still required. With the improvement of security conditions, it seems crucial to increase funding to the property to fully resume management activities and expedite the implementation of the corrective measures and other recommendations of the 2006 mission.

Draft Decision: 32 COM 7A.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.2**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),*
3. *Welcomes the improvement of the security situation in the property which could allow the management authority to regain control over the entire property in the near future;*

4. Notes that some progress was made in the implementation of the corrective measures, in particular with regard to community outreach activities and reinforcing anti-poaching patrols;
5. Regrets that no ecological data were provided to assess the conservation status of the property and help define the boundaries of the management zones ;
6. Urges the State Party to increase its efforts to fully implement all the corrective measures and recommendations of the 2006 reactive monitoring mission within the timeframe set at the 30th session of the World Heritage Committee (Vilnius, 2006), in particular regarding the completion and implementation of the management plan;
7. Calls upon the international community to financially support the management and rehabilitation of the property;
8. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a draft Statement of outstanding universal value including the conditions of integrity and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a detailed report by **1 February 2009** on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the corrective measures and other recommendations of the 2006 monitoring mission, including a copy of the draft management plan, an overview of current and projected budgets for the management of the property and information on available ecological data, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
10. **Decides to retain Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1982

Criteria

(ix) (x)

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

1996

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

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

Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

The desired state of conservation has not yet been specified.

Corrective measures identified

No corrective measures have been set for the part of the property situated in Côte d'Ivoire. For the part of the property situated in Guinea, following corrective measures were identified by the 2006 World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission and adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 31 session (Christchurch, 2007):

- a) Strengthen the capacities of the management authority CEGENS in the field, in particular by providing the necessary financial and technical resources to accomplish its mission;
- b) Strengthen the surveillance of the property in cooperation with the local communities, in particular by recruiting the ecoguards necessary and by strengthening the capacities of the newly created Village Surveillance Committees;
- c) Define a buffer zone for the property, in consultation with local stakeholders, with an appropriate legal status and strengthen the conservation of the property through sustainable management of the natural resources within this buffer zone;
- d) Put in place an ecological monitoring system and a geo-referenced database for all scientific data collected on the property;
- e) Conduct a feasibility study to define a sustainable finance mechanism for the property;
- f) Develop a strategy for the conservation of the Déré Forest and Bossou Hills;
- g) Prepare a management plan for the property and the biosphere reserve.

The mission also developed some recommendations with regard to the mining project, which have been included in Decision **31 COM 7A.3**.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified.

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 7A.3; 30 COM 7A.3; 31 COM 7A.3

International Assistance

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1988: World Heritage Centre mission; 1993: World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission; 1994: IUCN mission; 2000: World Heritage Centre mission; 2007: World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission to Guinea.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Mining;
- b) Influx of refugees;

- c) Agricultural encroachment;
- d) Deforestation;
- e) Poaching;
- f) Weak management capacity;
- g) Lack of resources;
- h) Lack of transboundary cooperation.

Current conservation issues

A report on the state of conservation of its part of the property was submitted by the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire in March 2008. The State Party of Guinea did not submit the report requested by the World Heritage Committee (Decision **31 COM 7A.3**).

The monitoring mission to the Côte d'Ivoire part of the property has been postponed since 2007 due to security concerns and is now planned for June 2008. The results of the mission to Côte d'Ivoire, will be presented orally at the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee.

Côte d'Ivoire

The State Party report confirms that in spite of the peace agreement, management activities in the reserve have not yet re-started. This is due to the inaccessibility of the area for park staff, as access roads are degraded and park infrastructure is still occupied by former rebel fighters. Poaching continues to be the main threat, although it is reported to have decreased as a result of the permanent presence of "village ecologists", working for researchers of Tokyo university. There is no agricultural encroachment.

In December 2007, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN received reports, describing the signing of a joint venture agreement between Tata Steel Production Company and the Côte d'Ivoire Society for Mining Development (Société d'Etat pour le Développement Minier de la Côte d'Ivoire - SODEMI) for the development of iron ore deposits in the Ivorian part of the Nimba mountains. The World Heritage Centre wrote a letter on 21 December 2007 to the Permanent Delegation of Côte d'Ivoire, requesting information on the agreement and if the planned activities would affect the property. To date, no official reply was received on this letter other than an acknowledgment of receipt. However, the Permanent Delegation convened a meeting on 14 March 2008 between the World Heritage Centre and officials from SODEMI and Tata Steel. In the meeting, the Director General of SODEMI and the representative of Tata explained that the Government had not informed them about the World Heritage status of the area. They confirmed that an agreement was signed for exploration activities to survey the iron deposits in the property, but that no formal agreement had been reached to start mining operations.

The State Party report of Côte d'Ivoire submitted in March 2008 did not mention any proposed or planned mining concessions within the property.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are of the opinion that any mining within the part of the property situated in Côte d'Ivoire would lead to an irreversible loss of the outstanding universal value of this property. They recall the position taken by the World Heritage Committee in previous similar cases, that mining is not compatible with the World Heritage status. They note that this principle has been endorsed by major companies in the industry, as outlined in the International Council on Mining and Metals Position Statement on Protected Areas (2003). The State Party is requested to respond to the World Heritage Centre letter concerning the current status of the proposed iron-ore mining in Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve.

Guinea

At the 31st session, the results of the World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission, which took place from 12 to 22 May 2007, were presented orally. The full mission report can be found on <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2007>.

The mission team concluded that the outstanding universal value for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List was still present but under increasing pressure. It identified two major threats to the property, namely a significant increase in poaching pressure and a degradation of the vegetation as a result of repeated heavy burning. Other important threats include unsustainable agricultural practices immediately adjacent to the property leading to deforestation and increasing pressures from livestock grazing. The mission noted that these pressures had increased significantly since the 1993 monitoring mission and threaten the integrity of the property. The mission also reported that the management of the property remains weak, with the management authority lacking the necessary resources to implement its mission. A 9 year UNDP/GEF project was expected to contribute to reinforcing the management and addressing the threats but had only just started its activities in the field. To address these issues, the mission proposed a set of corrective measures, which were adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 31 session (Christchurch, 2007).

The mission also noted the importance of clarifying the legal status of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and mining enclave as well as the two other core zones of the biosphere reserve.

The mission team further reviewed the on-going and planned mining activities by the Société des Mines de Fer de Guinée (SMFG) in the enclave. The mission also reviewed the efforts to clarify the boundaries of the mining enclave as adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 1993 and provided recommendations on the outstanding issues. It further concluded that the impact of the on-going exploration activities on the property was limited but identified major potential impacts of the planned mining in the enclave, namely climatic impacts, impacts on the biodiversity and impacts on the watershed:

- The planned open cast iron mining will create a breach in the mountain ridge, which will facilitate the penetration of dry harmatan winds into the property. This might affect the diversity of microclimates found in the Reserve, which is at the basis of its exceptional plant diversity;
- The mining activities in the enclave might impact on some of the key species, which are contributing to the outstanding universal value of the property. Recent studies revealed that 50% of the population of the endemic viviparous toad is living within the mining concession;
- Mining operations could affect different rivers and streams which originate in the enclave but afterwards enter the property.

The environmental impact assessment (EIA) will have to clarify to which extent these potential threats will affect the values and integrity of the property. Lack of baseline data are making this assessment especially challenging and at the time of the mission, several baseline data on the climate, hydrology and biodiversity were being collected. The mission requested that the mining company and the State Party would consult regularly with all stakeholders, including the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to discuss the implementation of the EIA and that any intermediary results would be submitted to the World Heritage Committee.

The State Party did not provide the report requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch 2007), and therefore no further information is available on the implementation of the corrective measures, or on progress in the delimitation of the property.

A delegation of SMFG visited the World Heritage Centre on 5 November 2007. During the meeting, the recommendations of the 2007 mission were discussed. Following the request of the World Heritage Committee to keep all stakeholders, including the World Heritage Centre and IUCN informed about progress in the EIA process, SMFG proposed to organise regular information meetings. A first meeting took place at UNESCO on 14 February 2008, with participation of IUCN, the World Heritage Centre and UNESCO MAB programme, UNDP and from Guinea the Ministry for the Environment, the Ministry of Mines, the UNESCO National Commission and the national MAB Committee. At the meeting, SMFG presented the different base line assessments currently conducted or planned and confirmed that the EIA is scheduled to start the second half of 2008. To conduct the EIA, SMFG will recruit an international consultant and the study will be conducted in compliance with the Guinean law and international good practice standards. Participants to the meeting proposed that the results of the EIA would be submitted to an international committee of experts to ensure its quality. The meeting also discussed the problem of the unclear legal status highlighted by the 2007 mission, but the representative of the Environment Ministry announced that a law was under development to address this issue. SMFG also explained that the remaining open issues with regard to the clarification of the boundaries of the mining concession will be resolved soon.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN urge the mining company to conduct the EIA and feasibility study for the mining project using the highest international standards to ensure that all potential direct and indirect impacts on the property, in particular those identified by the 2007 mission, are carefully assessed. The EIA should take into account the lifecycle of the mine, its waste storage and infrastructure requirements, and the ecological restoration of the landscape at the end of the lifespan of the mine.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are also concerned that no information was provided by the State Party on the implementation of the corrective measures to address the escalating threats identified during the 2007 mission. If the State Party of Guinea is unable to manage and reduce these threats, the impact of any mining activities could be compounded and lead to the greater loss of values and integrity of the property.

Draft Decision: 32 COM 7A.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.3**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),*
3. *Regrets that the State Party of Guinea did not submit the report on the state of conservation of the property and on progress in the implementation of the corrective measures and recommendations of the 2007 monitoring mission;*
4. *Also regrets that the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire did not inform the World Heritage Committee on the planned mining exploration in its part of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
5. *Expresses its utmost concern about the planned mining activities in the Côte d'Ivoire part of the property and considers it incompatible with the World Heritage status of the property and, if implemented, could lead to the irreversible loss of the outstanding universal value of this property;*

6. *Urges the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire to reconsider its plans for mining exploration or exploitation within the property and requests the State Party to confirm before its 33rd session in 2009 that all mining concessions within the property have been revoked;*
7. *Calls upon the holders of any mining concession covering the property to respect international standards with respect to mining in World Heritage properties, as outlined in the International Council on Mining and Metals Position Statement on Mining and Protected Areas (2003) and not to mine within World Heritage properties;*
8. *Urges the State Party of Guinea to implement the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007) and the other recommendations of the 2007 monitoring mission;*
9. *Reiterates its request to the State Party of Guinea and the mining company SMFG to conduct the environmental impact assessment of the mining project, in accordance with the highest international standards and collect the necessary baseline data in order to clarify and quantify the potential impact of the planned exploitation on the property, in close consultation with all stake holders, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, and to submit to the World Heritage Committee any intermediary results;*
10. *Also requests the States Parties, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a draft Statement of outstanding universal value including the conditions of integrity, as well as a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;*
11. *Further requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 **February 2009**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and on progress in the implementation of the corrective measures and other recommendations of the 2007 mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;*
12. ***Decides to retain Mont Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1978

Criteria

(vii) (x)

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

1996

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

- a) Depletion of the *Walia ibex* population and of other large mammals;

- b) Encroachment;
- c) Impacts of road construction.

Corrective measures identified

The following corrective measures were identified by the 2006 World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission and adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006):

- a) Finalize the extension of the Simien Mountains National Park (SMNP) to include the Silki Yared – Kiddis Yared Mountains and the Ras Dejen Mountain with the interlinking corridors;
- b) Gazette the new park boundaries, including the extensions of Lemalimo, Mesarerya, the Silki Yared – Kiddis Yared Mountains and the Ras Dejen Mountain, as well as the realignment of the boundary to exclude certain villages;
- c) Develop a strategy and action plan, as part of the planned management plan revision, to significantly reduce the impact of livestock grazing on the conservation of the property by introducing no grazing and limited grazing zones based on ecological criteria, and by setting up a strict management regime in zones where grazing will still be tolerated in the short to medium term, and secure funding for its implementation;
- d) Develop a strategy and action plan, as part of the planned management plan revision to support the development of alternative livelihoods for the people living within the park as well as its immediate vicinity, in order to limit in the medium term their impact on the natural resources of the property, and secure funding for its implementation.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

No precise timeframe was set so far although the World Heritage Committee mentioned that the corrective measures could be implemented in the short term (1-2 years).

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 7A.5; 30 COM 7A.9; 31 COM 7A.9

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 185,000 for technical cooperation and training. Additional support of USD 27000 was provided for technical support to review the draft management plan from the budget line for properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

UNESCO extrabudgetary funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2001 and 2006: World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring missions

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Declining populations of *Walia ibex*, Ethiopian wolf and other large mammal species;
- b) Increasing human populations and livestock numbers in the park;
- c) Agricultural encroachment;
- d) Road construction.

Current conservation issues

A detailed report was received from the State Party on 16 January 2008, with information on the implementation status of the corrective measures and on the implementation of other recommendations of the 2006 mission.

On 12 May 2008, the World Heritage Centre received a letter from the State Party requesting a postponement of the monitoring mission requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007). The letter states that although there is progress in the implementation of the corrective measures, lots of work remains to be done and the State Party therefore considers it premature for a monitoring mission to visit the property.

The report and the letter present the following information concerning the implementation of the corrective measures:

a) *Finalize the extension of SMNP with the interlinking corridors*

The report mentions that the extension to include the Silki Yared – Kiddis Yared Mountains and the Ras Dejen Mountain has now been demarcated in the field, with over 300 beacons being erected. Local communities and village elders as well as the local authorities were directly involved in the process. However, the relocation of the Arquazye village, which is located in the corridor connecting the extension to the property, has not yet started. The 2006 mission noted the importance of the corridor for the integrity of the extended national park. So far, a steering committee, which includes all stakeholders and a task force with relevant local authorities, has been established, a database with detailed information on the 130 people living in the village created and an alternative location 5 km away from the current location identified. The State Party submitted a request for International Assistance to support this process, which is currently being processed. It is expected that the relocation can be completed before the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee in 2009, if funds can be made available in time.

b) *Re-gazettment of the new park boundaries*

The newly proposed boundaries for the National Park, including the realignment and the two extensions, have been described in detail, using GPS coordinates, and maps have been produced. A re-gazettment proclamation has been drafted but still needs to be submitted to the regional government for approval before it can be submitted to the national parliament.

c) *Develop a strategy and action plan to significantly reduce the impact of livestock grazing on the conservation of the property and secure funding for its implementation*

A draft strategy to reduce grazing pressure in the park was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in September 2008. The document includes a detailed analysis of livestock husbandry practices in and around the park, food availability and stocking rates. The strategy itself is composed of five components:

- i) Introduction of a zoning system with areas in which grazing will no longer be tolerated in the ecologically most sensitive parts of the park and with controlled or limited grazing areas,
- ii) Introduction of optimum stocking rates for the controlled grazing zones and the restriction of access to these zones to eligible users of the local communities,
- iii) Reduction of livestock numbers through the introduction of more intensive livestock systems with feed production,
- iv) Improvement of animal health care and veterinary services, and
- v) Improvement of the cooperation between the park and communities to address conflicts.

The strategy also includes a proposal for a 3 year action plan for implementation. The total cost to implement the strategy is estimated at more than USD 11 million. The main challenge

now is to mobilize this funding. The strategy will also be included in the management plan, which is currently under preparation (see below).

- d) *Develop a strategy and action plan to support the development of alternative livelihoods for the people living within the park as well as its immediate vicinity and secure funding for its implementation*

As mentioned in last year's report, a detailed and comprehensive proposal for an alternative livelihood project was developed with financial support from the World Heritage Fund. The cost of implementation of the project is estimated at USD 8.7 million. Implementation of the project has not yet started, due to lack of funding.

The State Party report further provides information on progress in implementing some of the other recommendations of the 2006 mission.

On the Bwahit – Dilyibza road, the report confirms that after the conclusion of the technical design studies and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), the alternative route through the valleys outside the proposed extension has been approved. The report also notes the efforts to mitigate the impact of the Debark – Mekane Birhan road which is crossing the park, in particular measures to control soil erosion and the closure of the road to traffic at night. In addition, the regional government has in principle approved the opening of a new road from Debark to Mekeneberhan, which would provide a shorter alternative for much of the traffic currently using the road through the park and could greatly reduce its impact on the property. However, funding still needs to be mobilized to realize this project.

On 4 May 2008, a new draft of the management plan was submitted to the World Heritage Centre. This new draft was prepared with financial assistance from the World Heritage Fund and with technical assistance from Frankfurt Zoological Society. The management plan presents a 10 year vision for the park and a detailed action plan for the first 3 years of its implementation. At the time of preparation of this report, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN had not yet been able to review the new draft but comments will be provided to the State Party as soon as possible. It is expected that the management plan will be finalized in the coming months.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN received information that the property has now been brought back under the direct control of the central government. No reference is made to this in the State Party report and it is unclear what the impact on the management of the property will be.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that the State Party has made progress in the implementation of the corrective measures and other recommendations of the 2006 monitoring mission. Important strategies and planning documents are currently being finalized and the major challenge ahead is to start their implementation as soon as possible, in order to address the remaining key threats, namely the grazing pressure and the impacts of the communities remaining in the property. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN support the assessment expressed by the State Party in its letter of 12 May 2008 that it is difficult to solve these long standing issues in a short timeframe and that the monitoring mission should be postponed for a year. As funding is currently the main bottleneck, it is proposed that a donor conference be organized by the State Party to mobilize the necessary resources. The Austrian Development Cooperation, which has provided substantial support for the management of the property in the past is also reported to support a new "livestock programme" for the wider North Gonder Zone, which will include the property but it is not clear how far that project can contribute to the implementation of the strategy to reduce grazing pressure in the property. As part of its report, the State Party also submitted initial drafts of a revised Statement of outstanding universal value and Desired state of conservation. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN propose that these drafts will be reviewed before the planned monitoring mission and discussed during the mission. The Desired state of conservation is required to provide a clear basis to decide on the potential removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 32 COM 7A.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.9**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes the request of the State Party to postpone the monitoring mission requested at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007) to allow for more time to implement the corrective measures;
4. Requests the State Party to continue to implement the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) and, in particular, to mobilize the necessary funding for and start the implementation of the management plan, which includes the strategy to address the grazing pressure and the alternative livelihoods project, as soon as it is finalized ;
5. Calls upon the international community to financially support the implementation of the management plan and encourages the State Party to organize a donor conference with the assistance of the World Heritage Centre, the UNESCO Office in Addis Abeba and IUCN to identify potential donors and funding. The State Party might want to apply for assistance from the World Heritage Fund to organize this conference;
6. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission to the property to assess its state of conservation and the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) in view of a possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
7. Takes note of the initial draft Statement of outstanding universal value and Desired state of conservation prepared by the State Party and requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to assist the State Party in finalizing them;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and progress in the implementation of the corrective measures and the other recommendations of the 2006 monitoring mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
9. **Decides to retain Simien National Park (Ethiopia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1991

Criteria

(vii) (ix) (x)

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

1992

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

Political instability and civil strife.

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

The Desired state of conservation has yet to be set.

Corrective measures identified

The following corrective measures were identified during the 2005 IUCN mission and adopted by the Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005):

- a) Re-establish physical presence of the management authority in Iférouane and provide adequate resources to the management authority to allow better control of natural resource use within the property;
- b) Establish Land Commissions (Commissions foncières) in the four Municipalities and clarify respective land-use and resource access rights for local residents;
- c) Significantly improve monitoring and surveillance of the property in order to address poaching and illegal natural resource extraction;
- d) Immediately halt all commercial collection of timber and thatch from the property;
- e) Initiate soil and vegetation stabilization actions to control soil erosion, and measures to reduce destabilization of soils by motorized traffic.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

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

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 7A.6; 30 COM 7A.10 ; 31 COM 7A.10

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 143,250, in particular USD 108,250 for projects for the urgent rehabilitation programme and support for inscription of the property as a mixed property.

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1998: World Heritage Centre mission, 2006: IUCN mission

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Political instability and civil strife;
- b) Poverty;

- c) Management constraints;
- d) Ostrich poaching;
- e) Soil erosion;
- f) Demographic pressure;
- g) Livestock pressure;
- h) Pressure on wood resources.

Current conservation issues

The State Party report was received on 22 May 2008. The report presents information on the declining status of many wildlife species, the continued degradation of the ecosystem and the continued threats affecting the integrity of the property. However, the report does not provide information on the progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005).

The report notes that since February 2007, the insecurity increased in the northern sector of the property, mainly North Gougaram and North Iférouane, with regular armed attacks taking place. The northern Agadez zone is currently under a state of alert and inaccessible to park staff. This instability reduces effective monitoring, surveillance and management by the forest rangers and the “Co-management of natural resources of Air-Ténéré and its surrounding areas” (COGERAT) project teams. However, staff maintains a presence in the southern part of the project area, allowing some management activities to take place.

The report provides information on the values for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage, and which appear to be substantially degraded. Whilst no systematic wildlife inventories were conducted since 1992, the report presents some trends in wildlife populations based on observations by park and project staff and data collected with the local communities. These data indicate a serious degradation of populations of key species since the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger. While scimitar Oryx and desert warthog probably were already extinct at the time of inscription (the last sightings dating back to the eighties), addax and several species of vultures and eagles became locally extinct since then. Many other species are at the brink of extinction, including red-neck ostrich (one male reported remaining in the wild), striped hyena, dama gazelle, and cheetah. Other species have seen serious declines including Barbary sheep and dorcas gazelle, whose population has fallen from 12,000 in 1991 to 7,000 in 2000 and has probably further declined since.

Poaching pressure remains extremely high in the property, but also climatic factors such as drought are reported to play a role. The report further notes important changes in the vegetation since the time of inscription, with a generalized decreasing vegetation cover, the extinction of certain species and increasing problems with invasive species such as *Prosopis juliflora*. Poaching, thatch harvesting, overgrazing, firewood collection, fires, soil erosion and agricultural encroachment are continuing to put pressure on the fragile natural resources and these threats could lead to irreversible damage to the outstanding universal value of the property. These threats are further exacerbated by an increasing demographic pressure, as a result of the growth of urban centres in the Agadez region and the forced return of immigrants from neighbouring countries. The report also notes continued problems with the removal of archaeological artefacts from the region by professional groups and tourists, as a result of the limited surveillance in the area.

The COGERAT project, co-funded by UNDP and GEF, is providing essential support to the State Party to try to address these threats by engaging local communities and the 10,000 inhabitants of the property to encourage sustainable land use practices which have less impact on the natural values of the property. However, given the current state of degradation and the need to change current land use and resource use practices, it will take time to

reverse the current trends and achieve an ecological restoration of the property. The implementation of this ambitious project is further seriously hampered by the return of insecurity in the northern part of the property. The State Party further reports on some institutional changes, with the creation of a new Direction for National Parks and Reserves within the Ministry for Environment and expects that this will be beneficial for the management of the two World Heritage properties of the country. The State Party report also includes three project proposals to hold a workshop on the impact of armed conflict on the biodiversity of arid zones of the Sahara, to promote the value of peace in schools around the property and to support emergency actions linked to climatic factors.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are extremely preoccupied by the degradation of the natural resources in the property and by the fact that renewed insecurity is hampering the efforts of the State Party to address urgent threats. To allow a precise evaluation of the impact on the outstanding universal value, a comprehensive survey of the status of the values of the property, in particular population size and distribution of threatened species is considered necessary. The State Party should also consider working with the IUCN Species Survival Commission and its relevant specialist groups to discuss population recovery and rehabilitation programmes.

Draft Decision: 32 COM 7A.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.3**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),*
3. *Expresses its utmost concern about the continued degradation of the outstanding universal value for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List, in particular the reduction in key wildlife populations and the degradation of the vegetation cover as well as about the renewed insecurity in the northern part of the property, which is hampering efforts by the State Party to halt this degradation;*
4. *Calls upon the international donor community to increase its support to the State Party for the protection and ecological restoration of the property;*
5. *Notes the State Party's interest in holding a regional workshop looking at the impact of conflict on natural resources and biodiversity in the region and encourages the State Party to collaborate with partners to hold such a workshop with a focus on improving security and protection of World Heritage properties during times of conflict;*
6. *Requests the State Party to organize, in cooperation with the IUCN Species Survival Commission and its relevant specialist groups, a comprehensive survey of the property, in particular populations size and distribution of threatened species in order to evaluate the status of its outstanding universal value and to develop population recovery and rehabilitation programmes;*
7. *Urges the State Party to continue its work on the corrective measures adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005);*
8. *Reiterates its request to the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a draft Statement of outstanding universal value including the conditions of integrity, as well as a proposal for the Desired state of*

conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;

9. 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 on the status of the vulnerable species and ecosystems, as well as progress in the implementation of the corrective measures and the implementation of the COGERAT project, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
10. **Decides to retain Aïr and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

11. Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal) (N 253)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1981

Criteria

(x)

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

2007

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

- a) Poaching;
- b) Livestock grazing.

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

- a) 90% reduction in the number of signs of human activity encountered within the park;
- b) Extension of the area in which signs of large ungulates are encountered, from the present 34% to 85% of the area of the park;
- c) Increase in counts of all species of larger ungulate for three consecutive years; and
- d) Reduction in animal flight distances along selected sections of road in the park interior.

Corrective measures identified

- 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;
- g) Prioritise conservation of the property in national policy, planning and budgets and take proactive measures to solicit donor support for the management of the property;
- h) Develop Species Survival Plans for Giant Eland, Elephant, Hartebeest, Chimpanzee and other threatened species;
- i) Enhance trans-boundary cooperation and measures to protect buffer zones and ecological corridors outside the park;
- j) Revise the 2000 management plan and start its implementation.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

A 12 month time frame was set to implement measures a) to f) and a 3 year time frame for the other measures. If all measures could be implemented within the adopted timeframe, the mission considered that a positive trend towards the rehabilitation of the property would be notable after 5 years.

Previous Committee Decisions

25 COM VIII.96; 30 COM 7B.1; 31 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. Early 2008, an additional USD 25,000 was made available from the budget line for properties in Danger from the World Heritage Fund.

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2001 and 2007: World Heritage Center / IUCN monitoring missions

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Poaching, capture and relocation of wildlife;
- b) Illegal logging;
- c) Livestock grazing;
- d) Road construction;
- e) Potential dam construction;
- f) Potential mining activities.

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a concise report on the state of conservation of the property on 18 March 2008. The report notes that a workshop was organized in September 2007, which developed a 3 year priority action plan with a proposed budget of USD 14 Billion FCFA

(approximately USD 33 Million). However, neither a copy of the action plan nor details on how to mobilise the necessary funding was not provided. The report mentions that a number of urgent actions of the plan will be funded through the 2008 budget and that State Party is committed to establish a private public partnership to implement the action plan.

The report further documents the progress towards implementation of some of the corrective measures, requested by the World Heritage Committee (Decision **31 COM 7B.1**):

a) *Implement urgent steps to halt poaching*

Anti-poaching activities are reported to have been reinforced through the creation of an anti-poaching position, the mobile anti-poaching strike forces have received an extra all-terrain vehicle, and more park staff were recruited in December 2007. Efforts are also ongoing to involve local communities in the management of the property. The report does not mention the use of aerial surveillance combined with ground support and does not provide indicators to monitor progress in the control of poaching such as the number of patrol days, area covered by patrols, poaching rates, and successful interceptions, arrests and prosecutions of poachers.

b) *Provide urgent training to the newly-recruited staff in the park*

Newly recruited staff received training on laws relating to protected area management and the use of GPS during two workshops held in October and December 2007. It is unclear if this training included anti-poaching training or how many staff from the property were involved.

c) *Survey and demarcate the park boundary*

A workshop to finalise the zoning of the Biosphere Reserve was planned for April 2008, to be followed by the demarcation of the different zones, including the core zone coinciding with the National Park. It is unclear when this demarcation will take place.

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*

Meetings have been held with local pastoralists in May and July 2007, to determine areas within the buffer zone of the property where access to water for livestock can be allowed during certain periods, as there is shortage of watering holes in the region. The possibility of additional boreholes outside the park was also reviewed but it was considered that this might concentrate even more livestock around the park, thus increasing the risk of overgrazing. A planned forum on transhumance in the region will attempt to address the issue of livestock entering the property.

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;*

No information was provided on the status of the moratorium or the introduction of a hunting quota system based on reliable statistics. No wildlife statistics were provided by the State Party. However, a minimum 3km zone was put in place between the hunting zones and the property. The justification for the 3km exclusion zone is unclear.

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*

No indicators have been developed so far to monitor the progress or effectiveness of the implementation of the corrective measures. Currently, only elephants and giant eland are subject to specific monitoring programmes. In August 2007, a research group was established to study and monitor elephants and radio-tracking is underway for giant eland with the integrated ecosystem management programme of Senegal (PGIES) and UNDP. No results were presented on monitoring these two species.

- g) *Prioritise conservation of the property in national policy, planning and budgets and take proactive measures to solicit donor support for the management of the property;*

The State Party reported that it aims to prioritise the property in the 2008 budget. No further information is available on the implications of this in terms of increased operating revenue for the property.

- h) *Develop species survival plans for giant eland, elephant, hartebeest, chimpanzee and other threatened species;*

No information was provided in the report.

- i) *Enhance trans-boundary cooperation and measures to protect buffer zones and ecological corridors outside the park;*

Some transboundary activities have taken place including exchange visits of site managers with Guinea as part of the transboundary Niokolo-Biadiar ecological complex but no information was made available on the outcome of these exchanges on enhancing the management of the property.

- j) *Revise the 2000 management plan and start its implementation;*

No information on this issue was provided in the report.

It is noted that USD 25,000 was provided from the World Heritage Fund to facilitate some urgent actions in the site, in particular the purchase of anti-poaching and fire-fighting equipment and funds for the restoration of the Simenti water hole.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that although, the State Party has begun implementation of the corrective measures, it has been unable to complete the activities planned for the first 12 months, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session. The State Party report provides limited information on measures to address poaching and livestock grazing and no information was provided on the status of many of the threats to the integrity of the property. The status of illegal logging, road construction, the proposed dam at Mako on the Gambia river, and potential mining exploration and exploitation in the region is unclear. The threats remain severe and there is an urgent need for continued international and national efforts to halt and reverse the threats to the property.

Draft Decision: 32 COM 7A.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.1**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),*
3. *Regrets that the State Party has not been able to implement the urgent corrective measures within the 12 month timeframe set at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007) and that no information was provided on the status of wildlife populations or on progress in addressing threats from illegal logging, road construction, the proposed dam at Mako on the Gambia river, and potential mining exploration and exploitation in the region;*
4. *Urges the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the priority action plan that was developed and to provide information on its efforts to establish a private public partnership for the urgent implementation of the plan;*

5. *Calls upon* the international donor community to continue to support the implementation of the corrective measures set by the World Heritage Committee;
6. *Requests* the State Party and UNDP to report on the results and progress of the Integrated Ecosystem Management Programme (PGIES);
7. *Also urges* the State Party to speed up the implementation of the corrective measures and in particular the urgent measures recommended by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007);
8. *Reiterates* its requests to the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a draft Statement of outstanding universal value including the conditions of integrity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
9. *Also requests* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, including the status of wildlife populations, and on progress in implementing the corrective measures, information on the implementation of the priority action plan and status of the envisaged public private partnership,, 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 World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
10. *Decides* to retain **Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

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

See Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add.2*

ARAB STATES

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

See Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add.2*

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2005

Criteria

(i) (ii) (iii)

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) Extremely fragile nature of the buildings;
- b) Lack of maintenance for 40 years;
- c) Vandalism due to looting of re-usable materials;
- d) Damage caused by the wind.

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

The State Party is preparing a Desired state of conservation that will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

Corrective measures identified

- a) Establishment of the management team with adequate human and financial resources;
- b) Structural consolidation and rehabilitation works for several emblematic buildings, such as the public buildings, the housing sector and the industrial zone buildings, using available materials within the property;
- c) Security measures for the visitors in some buildings, such as those located in the industrial zone;
- d) Specific regulations for the buffer zone.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

- a) The work plan for the first phase includes security measures for visitors, cleaning and selection of materials, and low cost corrective measures. The second phase foresees the urgent structural consolidation of all the identified buildings which should be done by 2009;
- b) The implementation of the work plan is depending on the availability of funds.

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 8B.51; 29 COM 8B.52; 30 COM7A.31; 31 COM 7A.29

International assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 30,000

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

October 2004: ICOMOS Evaluation mission; May 2007: World Heritage Centre mission

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Extremely fragile nature of the buildings that were constructed using local materials such as timber for frames, corrugated iron sheets for roofs and some walls, in addition to stucco and lightweight construction;
- b) Lack of maintenance over the past 40 years as well as vandalism at the property;
- c) Corrosion of metal cladding and dismantlement of some of the structural elements. A few buildings, such as the Leaching house, are liable to structural collapse if no support is given;
- d) Very little conservation work carried out;
- e) Damage caused by the wind.

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted its report on 8 April 2008. It addressed the issues identified by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007):

Structural consolidation programme for 30 main projects:

At the end of March 2008, work on the first stage of the Priority Interventions Programme was completed. This stage was to survey nine of the priority properties, propose emergency work, and execute that work, under the supervision of the National Monuments Council. This work was financed within the 2007 budget of the National Monuments Council and executed by the Saltpeter Museum Corporation at a cost of 29,988,000 Chilean pesos (around USD 61,840). The second stage of the Priority interventions programme is currently out for tender. This includes:

- a) Developing a diagnosis, analysis and design for the structural consolidation of the remaining 19 properties envisaged in the Priority interventions programme, and formulating proposals and budget for each property;
- b) Developing a proposal for authenticity and integrity indicators as well as for the state of conservation required for the property;
- c) Studying the structural condition of the buildings at the site and their building materials.

This second phase will be financed by World Heritage Fund and National Monuments Council funds. The World Heritage Committee approved an International Assistance Request to finance the elaboration of records and intervention projects for 19 out of the 29 properties considered in the Priority Interventions Programme.

The structural consolidation of the first nine buildings is the fundamental reference point for the future consolidations still to be undertaken. The works executed are said to safeguard the integrity and authenticity of the buildings and guarantee their preservation. The buildings withstood an earth tremor on 14 November 2007, due to the works undertaken. After the earth tremor a specialist was asked to conduct technical reports on the structural state and the construction of two buildings: the general store of the Humberstone Saltpeter Works and

the surgery of the Santa Laura Saltpeter Works. The State Party's report indicated that it hopes to continue with this work throughout 2008.

Specific regulations of the buffer zone:

The aim is to integrate the directives and parameters for the buffer zone as established in the management plan within the Municipality Zoning Plan of Pozo Almonte. The State Party reported that during 2007, the Municipality Zoning Plan had been submitted to the Environmental Impact Evaluation System, as established under Act 19300, but that little progress has been made.

Alternate route for the road A-16:

The State Party reported that the Concessions Department of the Ministry of Public Works had provided a study and proposal for an alternative layout of road A-16, undertaken by a private company. Taking into account the concerns expressed by the World Heritage Committee, as well as the requirements of the national bodies involved in the conservation of this site, the Concessions Department of the Ministry of Public Works has produced a layout plan for the southern area of the property, which proposes relocating the connection to road-5 further south. This solution would enable the Saltpeter works that are currently divided by road A-16 to be regrouped. It will provide access to its current use as the site museum and preserve the desert landscape to the north, providing an unspoiled view of the unique environment.

The National Monuments Council has approved the proposal to become a preliminary project during 2008 and to be further submitted to the Environmental Impact Evaluation System (Act 19300). As part of this process a topographic survey, financed by the National Monuments Council, was made. The survey provides accurate geo-referenced information regarding the limits and concessions of the sites.

In 2007, the Highways Department of the Ministry of Public Works formally issued a total ban on any roadside publicity along road A-16, a decision that is very important for the visual integrity of the site and its buffer zone.

Management plan: implementation and participatory process:

On 3 October 2007, the Saltpeter Museum Corporation in collaboration with the National Monuments Council organized a workshop with the Pampa community to consider the strategic plan for the Saltpeter Museum Corporation and the participation and use of the site by associations. Some 50 participants attended the workshop that was highly valued by the community. It notably studied the museum's use modalities and conditions; the requirements and description of the interventions to be done on the houses assigned to the Pampa associations; and the site management on the framework of the annual Saltpeter Week celebrations, which attract a large number of visitors including former Saltpeter workers and their families.

Comprehensive study of potential structural risks:

The State Party reported that, within the framework of the Heritage restoration programme, two projects are envisaged for 2008. One of them involves fencing off the boundary around the project works and the second is a structural study of the buildings belonging to the industrial zone of the Humberstone Saltpeter Works.

As explained in the report, this project is the beginning of a long process of consolidation for the whole complex. A comprehensive study of potential structural risks is underway.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note the considerable progress made with re-routing the road A-16 and completing the first phase of the Priority interventions programme. They also note that progress is yet to be made on defining controls on the buffer

zone, on carrying out a comprehensive structural assessment and defining a detailed costed programme for stabilizing and conserving the remaining priority buildings.

Draft Decision: 32 COM 7A.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision 31 COM 7A.29, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes with satisfaction the progress made with re-routing the road A-16, the completion of the first phase of the Priority interventions programme and the participation process for management plan implementation;
4. Requests the State Party to undertake a comprehensive structural assessment of priority buildings and to seek actively the necessary funds for stabilizing and conserving the remaining 21 buildings;
5. Reiterates its request 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, and a proposal for the desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, an updated report on the progress made in the above mentioned areas and in the implementation of the management plan, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
7. **Decides to retain the Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

See Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add.2